

REPORT

of the

TWENTY SECOND SESSION

of the

LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS

FAO REPORTS

State of forestry in the Region

1. The Commission recommended that the Secretariat present the forest cover data for the Latin America and Caribbean Region separately from that for the North America Region, so as to more clearly describe the status within the Latin America and the Caribbean Region. (para. 14).
2. The Commission recommended the inclusion of information on market trends and behaviour, illegal felling and trade of forest products, instruments for the promotion of trade, the state of the forest industry, and the emergence of new forest products. It also requested the inclusion of information on the status of research, education and training in the sector. (para. 17).

Review of FAO Regular and Field Programmes, including follow-up to the recommendations and requests of the 21st Session of the Commission

3. The Commission took note of advances made in the implementation of FAO's Forestry Regular Programme. However, it recommended that greater attention be given to certain thematic areas, including the identification and valuation of forest environmental services; the contribution of the forest sector, in its entirety, to the National Gross Domestic Product; more efficient mechanisms for rural community access to forest resources and greater emphasis on the economic potential of forests in order to attract investment. (para. 19).

Progress of the Project on Forest Information and Outlook Study of the Forestry Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean

4. The Commission recommended a more comprehensive understanding of the environmental services of forests, the generation of information on these services and their valuation, and identification of the beneficiaries who should cover the costs of these services. (para. 25).
5. The Commission recommended to FAO to support implementation of the recommendations formulated by the workshops held under the project. (para. 26).

National Forest Programme Facility

6. The Commission recommended that FAO strengthen its efforts in identifying and help countries in mobilizing sources of funding and technical cooperation that would help the countries of the Region to overcome their difficulties in implementing their national forest programmes. (para. 29).

IN-SESSION TECHNICAL PANELS

Integration of forest policies with policies of other sectors

7. Based on the discussions of the Technical Panel, the Commission recommended:

To national governments to:

- Define forest priorities in the national context and have these detailed in the national forest programmes.
- Establish mechanisms to improve the valuation of the contribution of forest goods and services in national accounts.
- Design forest policies with the effective participation of the main sectoral players.
- Establish mechanisms to review and adjust national forest policies so that these are more sustainable and conforming with the development policies of other sectors.

To the Committee on Forestry (COFO):

- Request the Forestry Department to continue and broaden actions relating to cross-sectoral linkages of forestry with other sectors, especially with agriculture, fisheries, water, mining, petroleum and other sectors.

To other international fora with a potential impact on forest development:

- Identify synergies between forest policies and those proposed by forest-related agreements and conventions.
- Ensure that representatives of other sectors, especially financial agencies, participate in the definition of international forest policies.
- Involve all aspects of trade in forest products, including environmental services, in the international dialogue.

(para. 56).

Forest certification

8. The Technical Panel suggested and the Commission recommended to the Forestry Department to provide countries with guidance on future trends of the certification process and markets for certified products. (para. 58).

Illegal forest extraction

9. Based on the discussions of the Technical Panel, the Commission recommended:

To FAO to:

- Foster dialogue and seek information on this subject in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Promote the exchange of information on experiences in the Region.

To countries to:

- Pay greater attention to the prevention of illegal forest extraction rather than to its repression.
- Seek clear and precise legal instruments and strengthen institutional capacity for effective control.
- Utilize the market mechanisms to reduce or eliminate illegal forest extraction.

(para. 61).

IN-SESSION SEMINAR: NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMMES

10. The Commission recognized the importance of regional and subregional interactive efforts to each country, and recommended that these should be promoted through the Commission's Subregional Groups and should receive technical support from FAO. (para. 64).

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

11. The Commission took note of advances made in the implementation of FAO's Forestry Regular Programme. However, it recommended that greater attention be given to certain thematic areas, including the identification and valuation of forest environmental services, the contribution of the forest sector, in its entirety, to the National Gross Domestic Product, more efficient mechanisms for rural community access to forest resources and greater emphasis on the economic potential of forests in order to attract investment. (para. 67).

12. The Commission also recommended that FAO strengthen its efforts in identifying and help countries in mobilizing sources of funding and technical cooperation that would help the countries of the Region to overcome their difficulties in implementing their national forest programmes. (para. 68)

13. The Commission recommended the Committee on Forestry to request the Forestry Department to continue and broaden actions relating to cross-sectoral linkages of forestry with agriculture, fisheries, water, mining, petroleum and other sectors. (para. 69)

14. The Commission recommended the Committee on Forestry to support the countries in linking and harmonizing the national and regional agendas for the follow-up and implementation of the proposals and initiatives of the international conventions related to forests, to achieve complementarities, avoid duplications and to allow a more efficient application of sustainable forest management in the countries. (para. 70)

15. The Commission recommended the Committee on Forestry to urge the United Nations and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, on the need that exists in the countries of the Region to adequately reflect in the national accounts the contribution of the forestry sector to the National Gross Domestic Product. (para. 71).

16. The Commission recommended the Committee on Forestry to request the Forestry Department to provide orientation to the countries relating to the future of the forest certification process and information on markets for certified wood products. (para. 72).

INTRODUCTION

1. The Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) held its 22nd Session from 7 to 11 October 2002 in Buenos Aires, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Argentina. The session was attended by delegates from 24 member countries, and representatives of nine United Nations specialized agencies, international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as observers. The agenda is given in *Appendix A*, the list of participants in *Appendix B*, the list of documents submitted for the consideration of the Commission in *Appendix C*, and the work plans of the Subregional Groups in *Appendix D*.

2. Ms Maria Angela Andrade Pérez, serving Chair of the LACFC, presided over the inaugural session. Mr Hosny El-Lakany, Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department of FAO, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Director-General of FAO, and Mr Carlos Merenson, Secretary for the Environment and Sustainable Development, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Argentina and declared the session open. Mr Eduardo Rodríguez Vergez, Programme Officer of the United Nations Development Programme, was also present at the session.

3. Mr. El-Lakany thanked the Government of the Republic of Argentina for the excellent arrangements provided for the session. He mentioned the important role of the forestry sector in the economic renewal of Argentina and highlighted the key role of the Regional Forestry Commissions as fora for discussing emerging forest policy issues, as well as common problems and solutions in the Region and providing guidance to FAO. Mr. El-Lakany noted that the reduction of forest area and the degradation of forest resources, among others, are of grave concern. He also referred to the establishment of a National Forest Programme Facility to support national capacity building and, specifically, that the Facility has already started its support to the Central American Forestry Strategy and was analyzing requests from other countries in the Region.

4. Mr. Carlos Merenson welcomed delegates and representatives attending the session. He stated that the objectives of conservation and sustainable utilization of all types of forests is feasible within a framework of sustainable development. He underscored the three interdependent pillars of sustainable development: poverty eradication; the modification of unsustainable patterns of production and consumption; and the protection and management of a natural resource base for economic and social development. Mr. Merenson underlined the opportunities offered by the forestry activities for environmental protection and for social and economic development.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Item 1)

5. The Provisional Agenda was adopted without change.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Item 2)

6. In accordance with 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 unanimously elected:

Chair:	Jorge Luis Menéndez (Argentina), Southern Cone Subregional Group
Vice-Chairs:	Carlos Alberto Calvo (Costa Rica), Central America and Mexico Subregional Group Carlos Salinas (Peru), Amazon Subregional Group James Singh (Guyana), Caribbean Subregional Group
Rapporteur:	Atilio Ligrone (Uruguay)

Mr Carlos Marx R. Carneiro, Senior Forestry Officer of FAO, acted as Secretary.

FAO REPORTS (Item 3)

3a) STATE OF FORESTRY IN THE REGION

7. The Secretariat introduced document FO:LACFC/2002/2 "State of Forestry in the Latin American and Caribbean Region", which had been prepared on the basis of available country reports for the period 2000-2001, and other important sources of information. The document was considered as provisional. It would be updated and expanded in greater detail after the session, once all the reports had been received, and on the basis of the outcome of the discussions during the session.

8. The Secretariat indicated that natural and plantation forest cover in North America, Central America, the Caribbean and South America amounted to 1 435 million hectares in 2000, which corresponded to 37.1% of the world's forest cover and 36.9% of the Region's total surface area.

9. The Commission was informed that total loss of forest cover in the Region was slightly less in the 1990s than in the 1980s, but was still significant and a cause of concern to countries.

10. The Commission noted that sustainable forest management was a goal for most countries and that many had indicated progress in this direction. However, there still existed political, economical and institutional determining factors and conditions that limited widespread application of these practices. It also noted that almost all countries were involved in one of the processes of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management and that progress had been made in their implementation. Another trend that was noted, was the increase in the area of forests that have been certified.

11. The Secretariat reported that total round wood production in the year 2000 in North America, Central America, the Caribbean and South America had amounted to 1 121 million cubic metres, equal to 33% of the world's total production. As regards imports and exports of forest products, these were worth US\$37 000 million and US\$53 000 million respectively, representing 24% and 36% of world forest imports and exports for that same year.

12. The Commission noted that there had been significant progress in the formulation and implementation of forest policies, in the passing of new forest legislation and in the processes of reform of the forest institutions.

13. The Commission was informed that there had been a lower occurrence of extensive forest fires than in the previous period but that these continued to be a significant cause of forest degradation.

14. The Commission recommended that the Secretariat present the forest cover data for the Latin America and Caribbean Region separately from that for the North America Region, so as to more clearly describe the status within the Latin America and the Caribbean Region.

15. The Commission noted the importance of including information on strategic alliances in the forestry sector among countries in the Region, as a contribution to the development of this sector.

16. The Commission considered important to include the planting of illicit crops as another cause of deforestation in the Region, due to its incidence in some countries.

17. The Commission recommended the inclusion of information on market trends and behaviour, illegal felling and trade of forest products, instruments for the promotion of trade, the state of the forest industry, and the emergence of new forest products. It also requested the inclusion of information on the status of research, education and training in the sector.

3b) REVIEW OF FAO REGULAR AND FIELD PROGRAMMES, INCLUDING FOLLOW-UP TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS OF THE 21ST SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

18. The Secretariat introduced document FO:LACFC/2002/3 "Review of FAO Regular and Field Programmes, including follow-up to the recommendations and requests of the 21st Session of the Commission".

19. The Commission took note of advances made in the implementation of FAO's Forestry Regular Programme. However, it recommended that greater attention be given to certain thematic areas, including the identification and valuation of forest environmental services; the contribution of the forest sector, in its entirety, to the National Gross Domestic Product; more efficient mechanisms for rural community access to forest resources and greater emphasis on the economic potential of forests in order to attract investment.

20. The Secretariat informed the Commission that the process of decentralizing the Field Programme in the Region had been successfully concluded. The financial administration and the operation of national projects were now under the responsibility of the FAO Representative in each country.

21. The Commission drew attention to the strengthening of projects in order for these to play a greater role in rural poverty alleviation programmes. It stressed that this was already an objective of the national forest programmes given that they encompassed policy and strategy frameworks.

22. The Commission was also informed about, and welcomed, the actions that had been taken as follow-up to the recommendations and requests it had made at its 21st session on the analysis of forest administrations, the use of the subregional groups as support mechanisms for the national forest programmes, the organization of the upcoming III Latin American Congress on Watershed Management (2003), the valuation of the environmental benefits of forests in mountain areas, *inter alia*.

3c) PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT ON FOREST INFORMATION AND OUTLOOK
STUDY OF THE FORESTRY SECTOR IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE
CARIBBEAN

23. The Secretariat presented document FO:LACFC/2002/4 "Progress of the Project on Forest Information and Outlook Study of the Forestry Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean".

24. The Commission noted that the Project had completed its first phase involving analysis of the current state of forestry information in a variety of subject areas and the formulation of recommendations to substantiate this information. The project outputs have been documented in 22 publications containing 158 reports, which are available at the following website: www.rlc.fao.org/proyecto/rla133ec. The Commission was also informed that the forestry outlook study had recently been initiated as a second phase of the Project. This study would provide a perspective of the possible development of the forestry sector in the Region up to the year 2020.

25. The Commission recommended a more comprehensive understanding of the environmental services of forests, the generation of information on these services and their valuation, and identification of the beneficiaries who should cover the costs of these services.

26. The Commission recommended to FAO to support implementation of the recommendations formulated by the workshops held under the project.

3d) NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMME FACILITY

27. The Secretariat introduced document FO:LACFC/2002/5 "National Forest Programme Facility" informing the Commission about the Facility and its main objectives, structure, administration and mechanisms of access by interested countries and sectors.

28. The Commission expressed its confidence in that the Facility would be able to strengthen the formulation and implementation of national forest programmes and knowledge sharing.

29. The Commission recommended that FAO strengthen its efforts in identifying and help countries in mobilizing sources of funding and technical cooperation that would help the countries of the Region to overcome their difficulties in implementing their national forest programmes.

3e) INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF MOUNTAINS

30. The Secretariat presented document FO:LACFC/2002/6 "International Year of Mountains".

31. The Commission took note of the activities that had been carried out to observe the International Year of Mountains (IYM); in particular those organized in Latin America and the Caribbean, where a total of 16 National Committees had been set up, as at the end of August 2002. It welcomed the significant achievements that had been made by FAO in its role as lead agency in preparing and coordinating the observance of the IYM.

3f) PREPARATIONS FOR THE XII WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS, CANADA, 2003

32. The Secretariat introduced document FO:LACFC/2002/7 "Preparations for the XII World Forestry Congress, Canada, 2003".

33. The Secretariat announced that the XII World Forestry Congress would be held from 21 to 28 September 2003 in Quebec, Canada, with the theme "*Forests, source of life*", and encouraged the Commission delegates to submit papers to the Congress and to inform as many people as possible in the Region about the Congress. Related details can be found at the following website: www.wfc2003.org.

34. The Commission enthusiastically welcomed the convening of this Congress.

35. The Delegate of Costa Rica announced that the 5th Central American Forestry Congress would be held in Panama in April 2003 and urged the countries of the Region to participate.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE UNFF AND THE JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT (Item 4)

36. The Secretariat presented document FO:LACFC/2002/8 "Follow-up to the UNFF and the Johannesburg Summit".

37. The Secretariat indicated that, with the establishment of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), the international community had demonstrated a strong commitment towards advancing the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forest. In addition to facilitating implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF), the UNFF aims to: provide a forum for continued policy development and dialogue; intensify cooperation and programme coordination; foster international and cross-sectoral cooperation; monitor and evaluate progress and, on this basis, consider future actions. At the second session of the UNFF (New York, 4-15 March 2002), the Ministerial Segment produced a declaration that was transmitted to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg.

38. The Secretariat also referred to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) which comprises 13 international forest-related organizations, institutions and convention secretariats and whose objective is to support the work of the UNFF. The CPF is chaired by FAO and is supported by the Secretariat of the UNFF.

39. As regards the WSSD, the Secretariat reported that the two principal outcomes of the Summit had been the political declaration agreed at the level of Head of State or Government and the WSSD Implementation Plan that called for action towards poverty eradication, a change in unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, and the management and protection of the natural resource base. The Plan recognizes sustainable forest management as an essential ingredient for the achievement of sustainable development and as an important means of eliminating poverty, reducing deforestation and halting the loss of forest biological diversity, as well as improving food security and access to clean drinking water and available energy.

REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT (Item 5)

40. The Secretariat introduced document FO:LACFC/2002/9 "Report of the International Conference on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management".

41. The Commission was informed that the International Conference to be held in Guatemala in 2003, organized by Guatemala and with the support of the governments of the United States of America and Finland and in collaboration with FAO and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). The objectives of the Conference were to: enhance the development and implementation of criteria and indicators; foster political commitment towards application of the criteria and indicators as a tool for sustainable forest management; strengthen institutional capacity and stakeholder participation; and contribute to the work of the UNFF and to international initiatives on indicators for sustainable development, in the framework of the national forest programmes.

II LATIN AMERICAN FORESTRY CONGRESS (CONFLAT). CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (Item 6)

42. Document FO:LACFC/2002/10 "Second Latin American Forestry Congress (CONFLAT) Conclusions and Recommendations" was introduced by a representative of the Organizing Committee of the Congress.

43. The Commission was informed about the conclusions and recommendations of the Second Latin American Forestry Congress (CONFLAT) held in Guatemala City, from 1 to 3 August 2002, under the theme "*Forestry goods and services: source of sustainable development*" and was attended by more than 700 participants.

44. The Congress recommended that the Commission:

- Monitor the implementation of agreements arising from the international dialogue on forests and to use the national forest programmes as appropriate instruments to implement this dialogue at country level.
- Give its technical and institutional endorsement to the Congress so that it could act as a regional forum for discussion on forestry matters and complimentary to LACFC.

45. To this end, the Congress recommended that FAO and the ITTO make their technical support available and help the Congress in mobilizing sources for funding.

46. The Commission took note that the Third Latin American Forestry Congress would be held in Colombia in 2004 or 2005.

FORUM OF DIRECTORS OF FORESTRY RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS OF THE IUFRO (Item 7)

47. The process and conclusions of the Forum of Directors of Forestry Research Organizations of the Latin American and Caribbean Region of the IUFRO, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 6 October 2002, were presented by the Chairman of the Forum.

48. The Commission was informed that the Forum had been formally set up at the meeting of the Latin American and the Caribbean Forest Information Network (RIFALC) held in July 2001 in Mérida, Venezuela, with the participation of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Peru, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela, as well as representatives of IUFRO, FAO and IICA. The main purpose of the Forum was to broaden interaction among forest research organizations through cooperative research, development, and training programmes and the transfer and exchange of forest-related information.

49. Forum discussions led to the establishment of cooperation initiatives between institutions, featuring programmes of common research and dissemination of information in the Region, with the support of international agencies. The research topics generally relate to sustainable forest management.

50. The Commission fully endorsed the Forum's view that priority should be given to the sustainable management of forest resources, because of its direct and indirect impact on improvement of quality of life. The Commission also noted that some countries were considering water management and its direct association with forest management as a matter of national security and citizens' co-responsibility in environmental management as a constitutional principle.

51. The Commission also agreed with the position that research needed to be carried out in a collaborative manner, so that the Region's researchers could have broad access to information and to the limited resources available. The practice of sharing research resources and findings should be adopted as common policy by the Region's public and private institutions.

ACTIVITIES OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL/ INTERGOVERNMENTAL / NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE REGION (Item 8)

52. The Executive Director of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) gave a brief presentation of some of its activities. He stated that one of ITTO's priorities was to develop criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management and that ten national workshops had been organized in all the regions to implement these criteria and indicators. The ITTO was working very closely with FAO on this matter. A key challenge facing the ITTO was for sustainable forest management to become economically feasible and for forest land to be as competitive as other forms of land use. He underlined the excellent working relations between the ITTO and FAO.

IN-SESSION TECHNICAL PANELS (Item 9)

9a) REGIONAL PARTICIPATION IN FUTURE GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENTS

53. Document FO:LACFC/2002/11 "Regional participation in future global forest resources assessments" was introduced by the outgoing Chair of the Commission who stated that the purpose of the Technical Panel was to examine the participation of the countries of the Region in future global forest resources assessments and to formulate ideas and recommendations in this regard.

54. The Technical Panel proposed the following recommendations which the Commission examined and resolved to forward to the FRA 2000 Programme at FAO:

- Promote the development of participatory integrated methodologies, validated through specific projects, for the evaluation of forest ecosystems.
- Develop regional protocols for the evaluation and validation of general information, in particular information on changes in sequestered carbon.
- Promote the development of forest assessments for shared or transboundary ecosystems in Latin America and the Caribbean, such as the Amazon, the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor, the Pacific Biological Corridor, the Caribbean Islands and the Chaqueño Forest Subregion.
- Exchange technical and methodology information between countries of the Region.
- Include the requirements of technical information of other relevant conventions in the global assessments.

9b) INTEGRATION OF FOREST POLICIES WITH POLICIES OF OTHER SECTORS

55. Document FO:LACFC/2002/12 "Integration of forest policies with policies of other sectors" was presented by the former Vice-Chair of the Caribbean Subregional Group who pointed out that the purpose of the Technical Panel was not so much to strengthen the broad consensus that already exists on the need to integrate forest policy with the policies of other sectors, but rather to develop ideas and recommendations for countries on how to implement this integration, and for these to be discussed by regional and international fora on forests or forest-related issues.

56. Based on the discussions of the Technical Panel, the Commission recommended:

To national governments to:

- Define forest priorities in the national context and have these detailed in the national forest programmes.
- Establish mechanisms to improve the valuation of the contribution of forest goods and services in national accounts.
- Design forest policies with the effective participation of the main sectoral players.
- Establish mechanisms to review and adjust national forest policies so that these are more sustainable and conforming with the development policies of other sectors.

To the Committee on Forestry (COFO):

- Request the Forestry Department to continue and broaden actions relating to cross-sectoral linkages of forestry with other sectors, especially with agriculture, fisheries, water, mining, petroleum and other sectors.

To other international fora with a potential impact on forest development:

- Identify synergies between forest policies and those proposed by forest-related agreements and conventions.
- Ensure that representatives of other sectors, especially financial agencies, participate in the definition of international forest policies.
- Involve all aspects of trade in forest products, including environmental services, in the international dialogue.

9c) FOREST CERTIFICATION

57. Document FO:LACFC/2002/13 "Forest Certification" was introduced by the Chairman of the Commission who stated that the purpose of the Technical Panel was to discuss the concept and application of forest certification and to offer guidance to Member Countries of the Commission and to FAO.

58. The Technical Panel made the following observations, requests and recommendations which were endorsed by the Commission:

- Identify mechanisms and exchange information on experiences to avoid small producers being penalized by the economies of scale resulting from the fixed cost of certification.
- Recognize the process of certification as a relationship between producers and consumers and not one between States.
- Recommend to the Forestry Department to provide countries with guidance on future trends of the certification process and markets for certified products.
- Promote the existence of several certification systems to avoid the disadvantages of monopolistic situations.

9d) ILLEGAL FOREST EXTRACTION

59. Document FO:LACFC/2002/14 "Illegal Forest Extraction" was presented by the former Vice-Chair of the Central America and Mexico Subregional Group who stated that the purpose of the Technical Panel was to examine and discuss aspects relating to illegal forest activities.

60. The Technical Panel reached the following conclusions:

- Most countries lack reliable information and the means to accurately assess the scale of illegal forest extraction. There was consensus on the fact it is a problem throughout the region, varying in magnitude and economic, social and environmental impact.
- Illegal forest extraction is defined in national legislations and therefore differs from one country to another.
- It is necessary to differentiate illegal forest extraction from legal extraction; the latter is not necessarily sustainable.
- Excessive regulatory measures stimulate illegal practices in the production chain.
- As the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) has proven to be efficient in controlling illegal trade of forest products, it is recommended to analyze this experience in order to evaluate what can be used to strengthen the national mechanisms of controlling illegal trade of forest products.

61. Based on the discussions of the Technical Panel, the Commission recommended:

To FAO to:

- Foster dialogue and seek information on this subject in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Promote the exchange of information on experiences in the Region.

To countries to:

- Pay greater attention to the prevention of illegal forest extraction rather than to its repression.
- Seek clear and precise legal instruments and strengthen institutional capacity for effective control.
- Utilize the market mechanisms to reduce or eliminate illegal forest extraction.

IN-SESSION SEMINAR: NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMMES (Item 10)

62. The Secretariat introduced document FO:LACFC/2002/15 "In-Session Seminar: National Forest Programmes".

63. The Commission was informed that the purpose of the in-session seminar was to examine the present situation and the future of the national forest programmes, and to draw a two-year programme for action to strengthen these programmes within countries and the Region. It was also briefed on regional activities relating to the national forest programmes that had been organized with the support of bi- and multilateral agencies.

64. In line with the seminar programme, the Commission discussed different mechanisms established in some countries of the Region for the coordination, facilitation and promotion of national forest programmes and the role of focal points, and concluded that such mechanisms should be determined by the particular needs of each country and should not, by any means, replace the responsibilities of the forest governing and normative bodies of each country. The Commission also recognized the importance of regional and subregional interactive efforts to each country, and recommended that these should be promoted through the Commission's Subregional Groups and should receive technical support from FAO.

65. With regard to the development of the national forest programmes, the Commission took note of the main areas identified in the replies to the FAO survey on programme status. It decided that these topic areas should be reviewed by the Commission's Subregional Groups within the framework of discussions on their two-year workplans. The outcome of these discussions would enable FAO to formulate its programme of support to the national forest programmes of the Region.

PRESENTATIONS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBREGIONAL GROUPS TO THE COMMISSION; PREPARATION AND PRESENTATION OF WORKPLANS FOR 2002-2004 (Item 11)

66. The Commission took note that in developing this item of the agenda, the Subregional Groups review the previous workplan and prepare a new workplan with priorities and activities feasible to undertake before the next session of the Commission. The resulting proposals are given in *Appendix D*.

REGIONAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (Item 12)

67. The Commission took note of advances made in the implementation of FAO's Forestry Regular Programme. However, it recommended that greater attention be given to certain thematic areas, including the identification and valuation of forest environmental services, the contribution of the forest sector, in its entirety, to the National Gross Domestic Product, more efficient mechanisms for rural community access to forest resources and greater emphasis on the economic potential of forests in order to attract investment.

68. The Commission also recommended that FAO strengthen its efforts in identifying and help countries in mobilizing sources of funding and technical cooperation that would help the countries of the Region to overcome their difficulties in implementing their national forest programmes.

69. The Commission recommended the Committee on Forestry to request the Forestry Department to continue and broaden actions relating to cross-sectoral linkages of forestry with agriculture, fisheries, water, mining, petroleum and other sectors.

70. The Commission recommended the Committee on Forestry to support the countries in linking and harmonizing the national and regional agendas for the follow-up and implementation of the proposals and initiatives of the international conventions related to forests, to achieve complementarities, avoid duplications and to allow a more efficient application of sustainable forest management in the countries.

71. The Commission recommended the Committee on Forestry to urge the United Nations and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, on the need that exists in the countries of the Region to adequately reflect in the national accounts the contribution of the forestry sector to the National Gross Domestic Product.

72. The Commission recommended the Committee on Forestry to request the Forestry Department to provide orientation to the countries relating to the future of the forest certification process and information on markets for certified wood products.

OTHER BUSINESS (Item 13)

73. The Commission requested the Forestry Department to examine the technical-political convenience that the LACFC institutionalize the Latin American Forestry Congress, so that the Congress be officially recognized as a regional forum of proposals and analysis of the forestry sector in Latin America. In addition, this examination should include the feasibility of linking this Congress with the World Forestry Congress.

74. The Commission put to the attention of the LACFC and the Forestry Department the following themes to act upon in the Region:

- Increase training activities and dissemination of information in areas such as: formulation of forest policies, management of forestry resources (plagues, forest fires, forest management, addition of value to agroforestry systems, valuation and payment of environmental services, carbon markets, alternatives of sustainable financing for plantations in particular for medium and small producers).
- Publication of a Directory of Forestry Research Organizations in the Region.

- Strengthening of interactions with governmental and non-governmental organizations, associations and institutions involved in regional and subregional forestry development (CEDEFOR, MERCOSUR, IUFRO, CATIE, IUCN, among others).

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION (Item 14)

75. The Commission welcomed the offers of the Delegations of Mexico and Costa Rica to host the Twenty-third Session of the Commission in 2004.

APPENDIX A**AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Election of Officers.
3. FAO reports:
 - a) State of forestry in the Region
 - b) Review of FAO Regular and Field Programmes, including follow-up of the recommendations and requests of the 21st Session of the Commission. (For information).
 - c) Progress of the Project on Forest Information and Outlook Study of the Forestry Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean. (For information).
 - d) National forest programme Facility. (For information).
 - e) International Year of Mountains. (For information).
 - f) Preparations for the XII World Forestry Congress, Canada, 2003. (For information).
4. Follow-up to the UNFF and the Johannesburg Summit. (For information)
5. Report on the FAO/ITTO International Conference on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management. (For information)
6. II Latin American Forestry Congress (CONFLAT). Conclusions and recommendations. (For information)
7. Forum of Directors of Forestry Research Organizations – IUFRO. (For information)
8. Activities of other international/intergovernmental/non-governmental organizations in the Region.
9. In-session technical panels:
 - a) Regional participation in future global forest resources assessments.
 - b) Integration of forest policies with policies of other sectors.
 - c) Forest certification.
 - d) Illegal forest extraction.
10. In-session seminar: national forest programmes.
11. Presentations of the activities of the Subregional Groups of the Commission, preparation and presentation of workplans for 2002-2004
 - a) Presentations by the Vice-chairpersons of the activities of the Subregional Groups in the period 2000-2002.
 - b) Workshops of the Subregional Groups of the Commission on past and on going activities, and preparation and presentation of workplans for the 2002-2004 period.
 - c) Presentation in plenary of workplans for 2002-2004.
12. Regional issues identified by the Commission for the attention of the Committee on Forestry.
13. Other business.
14. Date and place of next session.
15. Adoption of report.

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APPENDIX C**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

Agenda item	Code	Title
1	FO:LACFC/2002/1	Provisional Agenda
3a	FO:LACFC/2002/2	State of forestry in the Latin American and Caribbean Region: Period 2000-2001
3b	FO:LACFC/2002/3	Review of FAO Regular and Field Programmes, including follow-up to the recommendations and requests of the 21 st Session of the Commission
3c	FO:LACFC/2002/4	Progress of the Project on Forest Information and Outlook Study of the Forestry Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean
3d	FO:LACFC/2002/5	National forest programme Facility
3e	FO:LACFC/2002/6	International Year of Mountains
3f	FO:LACFC/2002/7	Preparations for the XII World Forestry Congress, Canada, 2003
4	FO:LACFC/2002/8	Follow-up to the UNFF and the Johannesburg Summit
5	FO:LACFC/2002/9	Report of the International Conference FAO/ITTO on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management
6	FO:LACFC/2002/10	II Latin American Forestry Congress, CONFLAT. Conclusions and recommendations
9a	FO:LACFC/2002/11	In-session technical panel. Regional participation in future global forest resources assessments
9b	FO:LACFC/2002/12	In-session technical panel. Integration of forest policies with policies of other sectors
9c	FO:LACFC/2002/13	In-session technical panel. Forest certification
9d	FO:LACFC/2002/14	In-session technical panel. Illegal forest extraction
10	FO:LACFC/2002/15	In-session seminar. National forest programmes

Information documents

FO:LACFC/2002/INF.1	Information Note
FO:LACFC/2002/INF.2	Provisional timetable
FO:LACFC/2002/INF.3	List of documents

Country reports received from:

Argentina
Bolivia
Brazil
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cuba
Chile
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Guatemala
Nicaragua
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
St. Lucia
Trinidad and Tobago
Uruguay

APPENDIX D**PLANS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION'S SUBREGIONAL GROUPS:
CARIBBEAN, CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO, AMAZON
AND SOUTHERN CONE*****REPORT AND WORKPLAN OF THE CARIBBEAN SUBREGIONAL GROUP***

Countries participating in the meeting of the Group: Cuba, Guyana, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America. Guyana holds the Vice-Chair of the Caribbean Subregional Group for the period 2002-2004.

Activities implemented from October 2000 to October 2002

The Caribbean Subgroup embraces all the Caribbean islands and three continental countries (Belize, Guyana and Suriname) plus dependant territories of the United States, Great Britain and France. The Subgroup is very diverse, it includes countries with large extensions of forest (Guyana and Suriname) and countries with very little forest like Haiti and Antigua and Barbuda. Also the population density varies a lot, it ranges from an average of four persons per km² in Suriname and Guyana to 626 persons per km² in Barbados. The average population density in the islands is six times higher than in the continental countries of Latin America, it is 155 persons per km² as compared to 24 persons/km². The 16 countries of the Subgroup represent only 4% of the total forest cover and 7% of the total population of the Latin American and the Caribbean.

In response to the above mentioned diversity the Subgroup took the decision at the LACFC Session in Havana, Cuba, in 1998 and confirmed this decision at the 21st LACFC Session in Bogota, Colombia, in 2000 to realize the majority of its activities in smaller working groups. The main objective of the small working groups is to better focus the cooperation by concentrating the collaboration among countries with similar ecological and social conditions.

Up to now activities were realized within three main groups:

1. Countries with large extensions of forest (Belize, Guyana, French Guyana, Suriname).
2. French and Spanish speaking islands (Cuba, Haiti, Dominican Republic)
3. Small and medium size English speaking islands (Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados).

Defining these working groups is not exclusive. The participation in whatever regional activity finally depends on the interest of the respective country. Countries from different sub-regional groupings participated in past regional workshops and meetings of other working groups.

Between October 2000 and October 2002 the following regional workshops and expert consultations were realized:

- Workshop on "Concepts and Methods in Participatory Forest Management" and on "Capacity-building in Managing Forestry-related Conflicts".
- Workshop on vegetation mapping.
- Expert consultation on "Ideas to promote Forestry Activities on Private Land".
- Expert consultation on "Forestry Education and Training in the Caribbean".

- Two technical meetings of the working group of Caribbean countries with large extensions of forests on “How to monitor forest concessions”.

In addition to above two meetings for forestry directors of the Caribbean Subgroup were held:

- On 2nd March 2002 eight representative from the national forest administrations met to discuss future activities of the Caribbean Subgroup.
- With the intention to initiate an *ad-hoc* working group among Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, a meeting was held in Santo Domingo in October 2001.

Workplan for the period 2002 - 2004

Thematic areas for capacity building

Revising the current work plan as agreed upon in the Subregional meeting in Jamaica on 2nd March 2002, the regional training needs were revisited and grouped in short and medium term priorities.

Short-term priorities:

- Techniques for the preparation of comprehensive forest inventories and forest cover maps (for timber production and all other forest functions).
- Participatory forest management, including conflict management in forestry.
- Development of criteria and indicators for good forest management.
- Management of forest resources for eco-tourism.
- Forest management for non-timber forest products.
- Watershed management.

Medium-term priorities:

- Environmental Impact Assessment.
- Techniques for the establishment and promotion of appropriate agroforestry systems.
- Monitoring growth and development in natural forests.
- Dry forest management.
- Watershed management.

Development of criteria and indicators for good forest management

The process of developing criteria and indicators for good forest practice should follow participatory principles. It was suggested that as a first step each country should initiate the process with a revision of existing standards.

Facilitate capacity building in forestry at the regional level by utilizing established capacities

The Caribbean has a number of forest training institutions (e.g. Forestry Schools in Cuba, Guyana, Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago), which could be utilized to offer specific training courses to forest practitioners from the Caribbean especially during school holidays when the schools are not used otherwise. It was agreed that the forest administrations explore possibilities to implement such courses with their respective schools or national institutions.

In addition to the above it was agreed upon that forest administrations with experience from specific projects would offer their knowledge to other forest administrations. Especially

mentioned, as an example was the dissemination of knowledge and experience from the participatory forestry project in Guyana.

Exchange and management of information

To facilitate the exchange of information the following decisions were taken:

- It was agreed that forest administrations, which have access to a web-page platform or maintain their own web page, offer available forestry-related information in their respective web pages.
- It was recommended that the International Institute of Tropical Forestry (IITF) and the Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean explore possibilities to establish information links between the respective web-pages in order to establish a forestry-related information net for the Caribbean.
- It was agreed that forest administrations, which yet have no access to present their information on a respective web-page, send their documents of regional interest to FAO's Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean so that FAO can facilitate the dissemination of this information.

Activities of the working group among Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti

In the meeting in Santo Domingo in October 2001 between Cuba and the Dominican Republic it was decided to form a working group among the participating countries and it was agreed upon to intensify the collaboration in the following technical areas:

- Inventory and forest ordination.
- Forest fire fighting.
- Criteria and indicators.
- Forest education and training.

Working group of countries with extensive forest cover

The working Group of Caribbean countries with large extensions of forests (Belize, Guyana, French Guyana, Suriname) propose a forth-technical meeting in relation to the main theme of the group: "Management and Monitoring of Forest Concessions".

REPORT AND WORKPLAN OF THE CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO SUBREGIONAL GROUP

Countries participating in the meeting of the Group: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua. Costa Rica holds the Vice-Chair of the Central America and Mexico Subregional Group for the period 2002-2004.

Activities implemented during the 2000 –2002 period

Subregional Group Implementation report for the 2000-2002 period

- Central American Forest Strategy (CAFS)

The CAFS was formulated within the framework of the Central American Council on Forests and Protected Areas (CACF-PA) of the Central American Commission on Environment and

Development (CCAD), which established targets up to 2005, 2010 and 2025. The CACF-PA is requested to articulate actions to harmonise with those of the Ministries of Agriculture and Livestock, mainly in the countries in which forestry institutions are hierarchically dependent on the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, MAG.

- Central American Strategy on Climatic Change

The II Latin American Forestry Congress was carried out in Guatemala, from 1 to 3 August, 2002. The Subregion was amply involved in achieving the success of this event. Seven hundred delegates from Latin America, the Caribbean, North America and Europe attended the Congress. Conclusions and recommendations were submitted regarding six subject areas: sustainable forest management; recognition of the economic value of forest environmental services; civil participation in forest management; industry and trade of forest goods and services; forest information and the international dialogue on forests and, the role of national forest programmes. A digital and physical record of this event was produced.

- Plan Puebla Panama

This Central American and Mexican integration Plan is being strongly accompanied by the countries, especially the Mesoamerican Programme on Biologic Corridors. In general there is great interest in the Subregion regarding the problems of forest fires, pests and diseases and other trans-border issues such as watershed management and deforestation of natural forests.

- Forest Policies and Planning

An intensive international course on the formulation of forest policies, was carried out, jointly with the United Nations University for Peace, FAO and other organisations, in San José, Costa Rica, in August 2001, with the participation of delegates from 14 countries.

Additionally, support was given to the integration of the outlook study of the forestry sector of Latin America and the Caribbean in the framework of the national forest programmes of all the countries of the Region.

- Forest Protection (fires and pests)

A Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) for a strategy to control the pine beetle was prepared and approved for an amount of US\$ 385,000, for a two year period, and Honduras was elected as the headquarters of this regional project. The National Coordinators in each country and a Regional Coordinator have already been appointed.

A Regional Workshop on Forest Fires was carried out in Siguatepeque, Honduras, in August 2002, and regional efforts to integrate the subject of forest and agricultural fires were conducted on the level of the Presidents of the Central American area. Likewise, an international seminar on forest fires was organized in Mexico City, in December 2001.

- Criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management

Each country is in the process of defining and validating their criteria and indicators within the framework of the Lepaterique Process.

Guatemala, jointly with the United States of America, the ITTO and FAO, has undertaken to organize the International Conference on Criteria and Indicators, to be held in February 2003, in Guatemala.

- Knowledge regarding forestry research

Exchange of information between the countries of the Subregion has been promoted and facilitated and a close relationship has been maintained with CATIE and CIFOR.

- Forest Products and Services (valuation and markets)

A course on “Economic Valuation of Environmental Goods and Services” was carried out in the year 2000, with the support of FAO and the National Biodiversity Institute.

National Biodiversity Institute conducts a course on the subject of valuation of environmental services provided by the water resource, every year.

Conclusions

The Subregional Group for Central America and Mexico implemented the actions defined in the work plan. Mention should be made of the Project on Information and Analysis for Sustainable Forest Management, which has provided a diagnosis of the state of information in the Region. The preparation of the Central American Forest Strategy, among other efforts of the countries, should also be mentioned.

Workplan for the 2002-2004 period

Justification

The workplan incorporates the most recent activities which constitute the subregions' actions, and will permit developing the forestry sector of the countries, in addition to finding integral solutions to common problems, as well as identifying sources of international financing which may help implement subregional work, which because of its magnitude exceeds the resources of the countries.

General Objective

Implement the work plan of the Subregional Group for Central America and Mexico, for the 2002 – 2004 period.

Specific Objectives

- Execute the second phase of the Project on Information and Analysis for Sustainable Forest Management (GCP/RLA/133/EC).
- Define a control strategy for illegal felling and illegal trade of wood and non-wood forest products for the Subregion.
- Implement the Central American Forest Strategy.
- Define an Action Plan on Fire Management for Central America.

Main activities and period

- The countries should articulate actions among the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment, for forest protection, particularly in connection with forest fires caused by the habit of agricultural scorching. It is proposed to hold a meeting between the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment, for the purpose of linking their agendas, in addition to negotiating, in the Subregion, a definition for an action plan on fire management.
- Give continuity to Project GCP/RLA/133/EC on Information and Analysis for Sustainable Forest Management.
- The countries will work together to support illegal felling and illegal trade of wood and non-wood forest products, through the definition and implementation of a control strategy.
- Support the implementation of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management by validating and applying them.
- Support the exchange of experiences between the countries of the Subregion regarding payment of environmental services.
- Mexico will report to the other countries of the Subregion regarding the scope of the Panama Puebla Plan, in connection with the Environmental Impact Studies.
- A national dialogue will be promoted on the commitments of the NFP, to participate in the United Nations Forum on Forests, for the purpose of seeking a regional position.
- The countries will endeavour to implement the Central American Forest Strategy, for which they will negotiate with cooperating agencies to obtain funds for its implementation.

Expected results

- The Ministries of Agriculture and Environment, coordinating efforts for forest protection, mainly as regards forest fires and a defined Action Plan on Fire Management for the Subregion.
- Second Stage of the Project on Information and Analysis for Sustainable Forest Management, GCP/RLA/133/EC, implemented.
- Strategy to control illegal felling and illegal trade of wood and non- wood forest products, defined.
- Criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management validated and being implemented.
- Exchanged experiences, on payment for environmental services between the countries of the Subregion.
- Countries of the region participating in the United Nations Forum on Forests, presenting a regional position.
- Central American Forest Strategy being implemented.

Financing sources

- Funds from FAO and the European Community for Project GCP/RLA/133/EC.
- Funds are being requested from FAO for the Central American Forest Strategy, in addition to the possibility of requesting funds from donors to implement specific projects or actions arising from same.
- The budget of the countries of the Subregion, for actions developed internally.
- CCAD funds for work falling within the Central American Council on Forests and Protected Areas.

General recommendations

- The countries will articulate actions between the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment for the protection of forests and other inter and trans-sectorial matters, particularly in connection with forest fires caused by the habit of agricultural scorching. For the purpose of linking their agendas, the Vice-chair of LACFC will organize, a regional meeting in CATIE, between the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment.
- The countries will work jointly to support the actions to control illegal felling and illegal trade of wood and non- wood forest products, through the definition and execution of a control strategy to be formulated under the coordination of the LACFC Vice-chair for the Subregion.
- Support the implementation of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management through their validation and application.
- Support the exchange of experiences between countries of the Subregion regarding payment for the environmental services of forests. To this end, efforts will be made to organize a subregional meeting in the framework of CCAD, for information and definition of a subregional agenda in the framework of the CAFS.
- Mexico will report to the other countries of the Subregion on the scope of the Panama Puebla Plan, regarding the studies on environmental impact in the Subregion.
- National dialogues will be promoted through specific workshops on the commitments of the national forest programmes and their relationship with the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), in order to consolidate regional positions and maximise national efforts to revise, update, execute and evaluate their national forest programmes.
- The LACFC Vice-chair for Central America and Mexico will seek to support the countries of the Subregion in relation with the implementation of the Central American Forest Strategy (CAFS), for which they will negotiate with cooperating agencies to obtain funds for its execution.

Recommendations for subregional support to national forestry programmes

- That CCAB-AP be the instance for following up the work of national forestry programmes, and the Vice-chair of the Subregional Group for Central America and

Mexico of LACFC will inform the Commission regarding progress in the actions of the national forestry programmes.

- It is recommended that the Subregional Group meet at least twice between normal LACFC sessions, for the purpose of giving continuity to the efforts of the Group in the implementation of their work plan.
- It is recommended that FAO give continuity to the actions of the present GCP/RLA/133/EC Project on forest information for sustainable forest management, as well as to the outlook study of the forestry sector for Latin America.

REPORT AND WORKPLAN OF THE AMAZON SUBREGIONAL GROUP

Countries participating in the meeting of the Group: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. Peru holds the Vice-Chair of the Amazon Subregional Group for the period 2002-2004.

Activities implemented over the 2000 – 2002 period

Most of the countries in the Amazon Subregional Group are implementing their national forestry programmes. Brazil, with its National Programme on Forests; Colombia, with its National Plan on Forestry Development; Ecuador, with the Forest Action Plan of Ecuador; Peru, with the National Strategy for Forest Development, and Bolivia with its Forest Action Plan of Bolivia which is being retaken by the new National Government.

An important training course on forest and forest fire monitoring methodologies at the INPE, São José dos Santos, Brazil, with the participation of delegates from 15 countries was organized during this period. In addition, a project for the formulation of integrated forest inventories for four countries of the Amazon region, was prepared and submitted to the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO).

On the other hand, FAO continued supporting the TCP Project on forest inventories for Venezuela; Colombia initiated the implementation of a project on mangroves financed by ITTO. An international workshop on integrated mangrove management was also organized in Colombia, in February 2002.

Several activities were organized within the framework of the International Year of Mountains in all the countries, among them the Summit on Mountains in Huaráz, Peru, in Mendoza, Argentina, in Santiago, Chile, and in Quito, Ecuador, on mountain population.

Workplan for the 2002 – 2004 period

Justification

The work of the Amazon Subregional Group must be consolidated within the framework of LACFC to ensure its continuity and strengthen its participation in international instances for agreements and discussion. This calls for the determination of joint positions and the management of information, regionally validated and accepted through the different existing communication channels. Likewise, joint efforts are required to continue with the analysis and

implementation process of criteria and indicators for the sustainable management of natural forests.

Specifically, in regard to the latter, the Amazon countries have started joint and individual processes for the adoption of criteria and indicators for sustainable management of natural forests. It is necessary to continue these efforts and through concerted action seek to make them consistent and compatible. On the other hand, this subject has become consolidated as one of the priorities of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF).

General objective

Establish mechanisms for discussion and agreement to design common strategic positions for the Amazon Subregion.

Specific objectives

- Establish joint strategies for the Amazon Subregion to negotiate with international agreements and covenants associated with forestry subjects.
- Continue with the process of analysis and implementation of criteria and indicators for sustainable management of natural forests.
- Promote a Regional Information System on forest resources and value chains.

Main activities

1. Establish joint strategies for the Amazon Subregion to negotiate with international agreements and covenants associated with forestry subjects.
 - Define the international forums in which the Amazon Subregion is to participate, which, among others, are the United Nations Forum on Forests 2003-2004; the Forum on Conservation of Biologic Diversity; meetings of the Convention on Climatic Change; the Convention of the CITES Parties; the World Forest Congress, Canada.
 - Obtain the subject agendas of these participation scenarios (in charge of the Vice-Chair of the Amazon Subregional Group).
 - In consultation with the focal points in each country, define the priority subjects on which a joint position will be sought.
 - Each country must produce relevant information on the priority subjects and share it with the other countries of the Subregion (such as forest inventories, valuation of environmental goods and services, value chains).
 - Hold official meetings prior to the forums to agree on joint positions.
2. Continue with the Analysis and implementation process of criteria and indicators for sustainable management of natural forests.
 - Promote discussion on the various initiatives on criteria and indicators for the purpose of seeking consensus regarding their consistency and compatibility in the subregional area.
 - Identify the possibilities and limitations for implementing each proposal within each country.

- Follow-up of the incorporation of criteria and indicators of the Tarapoto Process, in national forestry policies
- Exchange and dissemination of experiences between the countries of the Subregion
- Promote a Regional Information System on forest resources and value chains.
 - Identification of information requirements by user type (politicians, technicians, entrepreneurs, researchers).
 - Harmonisation of methodologies for information surveys and systematisation.
 - Identification of channels for the exchange of information.

Operativity mechanisms and possible sources of financing

- Establish a virtual forum to discuss priority subjects, activities and progress in implementing the workplan.
- Conduct at least two presential meetings a year to discuss and agree on subjects and actions with the countries of the Subregion.
- Representatives must take advantage of the events in which the countries of the Subregion participate to work on the subjects of common interest and related with the workplan.
- Recommend to FAO to maintain continuity of the process between LACFC sessions and of support in identifying co-financing sources.

REPORT AND WORKPLAN OF THE SOUTHERN CONE SUBREGIONAL GROUP

Countries participating in the meeting of the Group: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. Argentina holds the Vice-Chair of the Southern Cone Subregional Group for the period 2002-2004.

Activities implemented during the period 2000-2002

Jointly with the Amazon Group, the Southern Cone Subregional Group organised, with FAO support, the Training Course on Forest and Forest Fire Monitoring Methodologies, carried out by FAO/RLCO, the Brazilian Aerospace Research Institute (INPE), and the Brazilian chapter of the Latin American Society of Remote Sensing Specialists (SELPER). The course took place at INPE, in São José dos Santos, São Paulo, Brazil, between 11 – 15 March, 2002, with the participation of 15 representatives from 12 countries.

In the field of forest information, the Latin American Workshop on Dendroenergy was organised in Buenos Aires in December 2001, in the framework of Project GCP/RLA/133/EC “Information and Analysis for Sustainable Forest Management: Integrating National and International Efforts in 17 Tropical Countries in Latin America”, executed by FAO, with the participation of more than 40 representatives from 17 countries of the Region.

In November 2001, a meeting was held in Buenos Aires, jointly with Chile, Mexico and Argentina, and FAO and UNDP support, in which the Latin American Network on Model Forests was established, and which will receive support from the International Secretariat of Model Forests of Canada.

To support Argentine efforts in the framework of Model Forests and the International Mountain Year, Argentina submitted a project proposal to FAO for the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) to strengthen the “Los Pericos-Manantiales” Model Forest, in the Province of Jujuy, which was approved by FAO and initiated in August 2002.

The proposals on Criteria and Indicators for the Sustainable Management of Temperate Forests-Montreal Process, have received constant support from the Southern Cone Subregional Group.

Workplan for the period 2002-2004

1. Strengthening of Forest Information Systems for the formulation of Criteria and Indicators in the Subregion.

Justification: There is not enough information to build, validate and implement criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management.

General objective: Improve Forest Information Systems (FIS) of the Subregion.

Specific Objective: Design a project to make it possible to apply Criteria and Indicators in the countries.

Main Activity: Carry out a workshop on Available Forest Information Systems on the level of the Southern Cone countries and hold a seminar to evaluate the results, proposals for action and recommendations in relation with identified deficiency situations.

Expected Results: Learn about the situation and functioning of present Forest Information Systems of the countries of the Subregion in order to make a diagnosis of their level of efficiency and propose suitable measures for their improvement, either with respect to the capture of statistical data, consistency, non response and degree of homogeneity of the information.

Prepare proposals based on the supply (production) of statistical data in line with new demand from the sectors and the need to implement the gathering of useful information for the construction of Criteria and Indicators.

Source of financing proposed: FAO

Budget: US\$ 140,000

Expected date of implementation: 2nd Semester, 2003

2. Mechanisms to expand competitiveness and aggregate value

Justification: need to expand the income generating capacity in the sector.

General objective: Increase the economic capacity of forest producers adding value to forest products.

Specific objectives:

- **Certification:** Identify the role of the different actors related with the process: private, certifying and State enterprises. And, define joint action strategies at the subregional level.
- **Carbon Market:** Evaluate the benefits of capturing carbon applied to small and medium producers.

- Valuing of Environmental Services: Quantify and value environmental services such as: contribution to biodiversity, control of soil erosion, protection of water resources, landscape, tourism, among others.

Main activities:

- Organisation of national workshops and regional seminar.
- External and national consultancies.
- External and national consultancies.

Expected Results: Obtain an efficient diagnosis of the three specific objectives mentioned above.

Source of financing proposed: FAO

Total Budget: US\$ 60,000

Budget per Activity:

- US\$ 20,000
- US\$ 20,000
- US\$ 20,000

Expected implementation date: 2nd and 3rd quarters 2003.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

Argentina	Honduras
Barbados	Jamaica
Belize	Mexico
Bolivia	Netherlands
Brazil	Nicaragua
Chile	Panama
Colombia	Paraguay
Costa Rica	Peru
Cuba	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Dominican Republic	St. Lucia
Ecuador	Suriname
El Salvador	Trinidad and Tobago
France	United Kingdom
Guatemala	United States of America
Guyana	Uruguay
Haiti	Venezuela

