

REPORT

Quito,
Ecuador,
26 - 30 June,
2023

Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission

Thirty-Third Session



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
30 th Session	Tegucigalpa, Honduras	25-29 September 2017
31 st Session	Montevideo, Uruguay	02-06 September 2019
32 nd Session	Kingston, Jamaica	06-10 September 2021

Report

of the

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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

The LACFC:

- a) **Recognized** the importance of:
 1. the bioeconomy, associated with wood and non-wood products, to the economy and in strengthening the livelihoods of communities that live in and/or are reliant on forests, and in creating jobs. (Paragraph 13)
 2. the participatory role played by indigenous and forest-dependent communities in forest conservation. (Paragraph 29)
 3. of technical networks for capacity building and the exchange of experiences and knowledge on sustainable forest management in the region and that it was a challenge to keep them operational. (Paragraph 48)
- b) **Welcomed and endorsed** the process of developing a new FAO Forestry Framework Document 2024-2031, highlighting the importance of it containing a sound strategic approach to addressing challenges and promoting sustainable development in forestry globally providing recommendations on aspects to be considered in its development. (Paragraph 35)
- c) **Strengthened** its commitment to continue participating actively in the Commission, which, together with the other Regional Commissions, is the main instrument for bringing together the global and regional forestry sectors. (Paragraph 37)
- d) **Urged** FAO and the members of the Commission to encourage the participation of local communities and indigenous peoples, including men, women and different generations, in initiatives and investments related to wood and non-wood forest product chains. (Paragraph 13)
- e) **Urged** its members to:
 1. participate in policy dialogues at regional, sub-regional and national levels convened by FAO and other institutions to exchange knowledge and identify priorities to advance the development of sustainable wood value chains and the use of sustainable wood products. (Paragraph 15)
 2. collaborate with the private sector (including small and medium-sized enterprises), forest communities and their organizations, the scientific community, civil society and international organizations to strengthen the governance of responsible production and consumption of wood from natural and planted forests for international, regional and national markets. (Paragraph 15)
 3. take measures to support the development of sustainably planted forests to meet the expected increase in demand for wood products. (Paragraph 15)
 4. participate in the International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment, which provides a forum for the exchange, training and access to resources and up-to-date information. (Paragraph 15)
 5. promote public investments to boost production and productivity, sustainable management and development of sustainable value chains and advocate for soft credit lines with the private sector. (Paragraph 15)
 6. improve collaboration across sectors to promote inclusive policy coherence that can contribute to concurrently addressing nutritional challenges, as well as biodiversity loss and the climate crisis. (Paragraph 17)

7. enhance regional collaboration to improve data collection and monitoring of NWFPs and forest ecosystem services. (Paragraph 17)
8. promote the sustainable development of nutritious and biodiverse value chains based on NWFPs to enhance physical and economic access to healthy diets and resilient livelihoods. (Paragraph 17)
9. develop national forest financing strategies to identify and access financing for forest management, supplementing public sector financing with private sector financing. (Paragraph 20)
10. support the private sector in accessing markets, innovation and sustainable value chains for wood and non-wood forest products financing (e.g., loans and joint ventures). (Paragraph 20)
11. actively participate in the activities of the United Nations Decade, thereby strengthening forest and forest landscape restoration. (Paragraph 23)
12. implement the "Plan of Action for the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration in Latin America and the Caribbean", adopted by the XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. (Paragraph 23)
13. consider including restoration in their national forest and sustainable development strategies, in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of the Paris Agreement, and in REDD+ strategies. (Paragraph 23)
14. participate in the respective forest fire expert groups, such as the South American Regional Expert Group, the Fire Working Group of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development, and the Amazon Network for Integrated Fire Management, and use them as platforms to further the exchange of experiences and knowledge, as well as mutual support. (Paragraph 26)
15. invest more in fire reviews and assessments to adopt a more strategic approach to mitigating fire risk, and to raise awareness at the community level. (Paragraph 26)
16. strengthen the "One Health" approach to enhance effective collaboration between sectors and partners at different levels to successfully protect forest health. (Paragraph 30)
17. upon the occurrence of a forest health emergency, conduct a comprehensive investigation of the biotic and abiotic causes to determine the underlying causes, in the framework of integrated pest and disease management, including future prevention measures. (Paragraph 31)
18. incorporate integrated pest and disease management into restoration work planning. (Paragraph 31)
19. include preventive silviculture actions in forest health and sanitation measures. (Paragraph 31)

f) ***Recommended*** that FAO:

1. create opportunities for exchanges on sustainable wood and non-wood harvesting systems, with innovations in production systems such as agroforestry and technologies that add value to forest products, improving social and economic benefits for local communities, under an intercultural, gender and generational approach. (Paragraph 14)
2. conduct an assessment on the potential of the circular bioeconomy for the forestry sector, including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and community forestry producers. (Paragraph 14)
3. support the development of methodologies for analysing public and private forest-related domestic resource flows. (Paragraph 21)
4. continue supporting national forestry authorities in the implementation of forest-related projects or initiatives, promoting coordination between the agricultural sector and the from a sustainable landscape approach. (Paragraph 21)
5. facilitate access to financing, through the GEF, GCF and other new funds, to increase local and value-added production, including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and the participation of indigenous peoples, local communities, and small farmer organizations, with the aim of generating greener economies. (Paragraph 21)

6. facilitate a channel for coordinating with other agencies and organizations, such as the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, the Technical Forestry Group of the Central American Commission for the Environment and Development of the Central American Integration System (CCAD-SICA), and the United Nations Forum on Forests, to strengthen the countries' capacities to negotiate financing for sustainable forest management (GCF, GEF, LEAF, EU, and others). (Paragraph 21)
7. support the adoption of the next phase of the REDD+ Program and make it a standing initiative. (Paragraph 21)
8. promote the eradication of perverse incentives affecting forests and biodiversity by way of sensible policies and coordination between the agricultural, forestry, and environmental sectors. (Paragraph 21)
9. support countries in the form of tools, methodologies, and capacity building initiatives to expand forest restoration efforts, share best practices and monitor their progress. (Paragraph 24)
10. provide technical support and facilitate access to bilateral or multilateral financing instruments for forest ecosystem restoration, such as the Integrated Program for Ecosystem Restoration under the Global Environment Facility (GEF-8) and the Green Climate Fund. (Paragraph 24)
11. promote the consolidation of local governance in restoration issues and ensure the participation of different stakeholders, such as the government, local communities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, considering a gender, intercultural and generational approach. (Paragraph 24)
12. support the re-establishment and strengthening of the Network of Southern Cone Countries on Invasive Alien Species in Forest Ecosystems to combat transboundary invasive species and facilitate its ties with other LAC regional networks, taking into consideration previous activities and working through each country's forestry services and institutions responsible for the forestry sector. (Paragraph 32)
13. ensure that the Commission's recommendations are submitted to the Secretariats of the Committee on Forestry and the Regional Conference. (Paragraph 38)
14. share LACFC recommendations with the other Regional Forestry Commissions. (Paragraph 38)
15. strengthen collaboration and coordination between the Committee on Forestry and the Committee on Agriculture. (Paragraph 38)
16. support and develop mechanisms for sustainable forest management, such as forest certification, land-use planning and zoning considering the farm and landscape levels. (Paragraph 43)
17. promote the exchange of experiences and knowledge on innovations in chain-of-custody and traceability issues, in the context of combating illegal logging. (Paragraph 43)
18. facilitate horizontal cooperation between countries (South-South) for the exchange of best practices and lessons learned on various issues related to the forestry sector. (Paragraph 43)
19. suggest mechanisms to encourage the sustainability of technical networks, such as the establishment of partnerships with other organizations, donors and other networks. (Paragraph 48)

g) ***Requested*** that FAO:

1. facilitate technical expertise to strengthen policy, legal and institutional frameworks, access to technology, knowledge and capacity building through South-South cooperation. (Paragraph 16)
2. facilitate access to resources to promote sustainable wood value chains, fostering legality and traceability. (Paragraph 16)
3. support countries, in collaboration with the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, to identify market opportunities and develop innovative financing strategies to support the inclusive development of the wood value chain, by taking advantage of climate change mitigation opportunities in the construction sector. (Paragraph 16)

4. collaborate with countries, public and private sectors, international organizations and research institutions to systematize and disseminate good practices on legal and sustainable production and trade of wood energy, including charcoal, and support the transition from traditional to modern use of woodfuels. (Paragraph 16)
5. support countries to optimize the environmental and socio-economic benefits resulting from restoration interventions, considering the planting of fast-growing trees for commercial purposes, as appropriate, including in agroforestry systems and with the participation of smallholders. (Paragraph 16)
6. promote and give visibility to the social and environmental contribution of sustainable wood value chains. (Paragraph 16)
7. strengthen and capitalize on the role of statutory bodies, especially the International Commission on Poplar and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment. (Paragraph 16)
8. support countries to better coordinate policy responses aimed at strengthening agriculture-forestry linkages. (Paragraph 18)
9. facilitate intersectoral dialogues and the exchange of knowledge and good practices in the region to continue identifying opportunities to improve linkages between the agriculture and forestry sectors. (Paragraph 18)
10. promote the sustainable use and consumption of forest-based foods to contribute to safeguarding biodiversity, through a regional initiative. (Paragraph 18)
11. conduct a gap analysis in terms of legal and institutional frameworks in non-wood forest products value chains. (Paragraph 18)
12. facilitate the production of methodologies and tools to improve the system for collecting and analysing data on non-wood forest products and contribute to capacity building at the national level. (Paragraph 18)
13. continue promoting and leading a common approach to integrated fire management among all United Nations agencies in the region. (Paragraph 27)
14. promote integrated fire management as a management tool in agricultural and forestry systems, reinforcing inter-sectoral coordination. (Paragraph 27)
15. promote common terminology for integrated fire management. (Paragraph 27)
16. support and provide technical guidance to the South American Regional Expert Group on Forest Fires (European Union), the Wildfire Working Group of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development and the Amazon Network for Integrated Fire Management (ACTO), in partnership with other organizations. (Paragraph 27)
17. produce exchanges between countries on country-level coordination of strategies and funds for fire prevention and firefighting actions. (Paragraph 27)
18. redouble its efforts to develop the Global Fire Management Centre (FAO/UNEP), to better support regional and national capacity building. (Paragraph 27)
19. strengthen the "One Health" approach to enhance effective collaboration between sectors and partners at different levels to successfully protect forest health. (Paragraph 30)
20. support countries in developing a methodology to assess the risk of introducing exotic species that could possibly become invasive. (Paragraph 33)

h) ***Recommended*** that the FAO Committee on Forestry consider the following topics in its next session's agenda (Paragraph 44):

- Sustainable forestry management and restoration with an emphasis on:
 - Natural forests and plantations, dry forests, secondary forests, mangroves.
 - Community forestry management
 - Traceability systems (value chains that promote avoiding deforestation at the agricultural and forestry production sources)
- Bioeconomy and value chains:
 - Mainstreamed throughout national strategies.
 - Wood and non-wood forestry products, construction lumber.
- Forests, agrifood systems and their contribution to better livelihoods

- Forest financing:
 - National forest financing strategies
 - Legal instruments and forestry policies
 - Plantations.
 - Integrated fire management:
 - Coordination between the forestry and agriculture sectors, for instance, by designing a multisectoral coordination protocol.
 - Capacity building and standardizing criteria
- i) **Recommended** the Regional Conference to consider the following topics in its next session's agenda (Paragraph 45):
- Intersectoral coordination:
 - Agricultural and forestry approaches and practices to make production and conservation compatible.
 - Value chains that promote avoiding deforestation at the agricultural and forestry production sources, including the analysis of legal vacuums.
 - Socio-environmental conflict management, such as landownership related conflicts.
 - Integrated fire management.
 - Importance of trees and forests in food production, biodiversity and quality of life:
 - Promoting agroforestry and silvopastoral systems, through incentives, for example.
 - Incorporating the tree component in urban and peri-urban areas (urban agroforestry).
- j) **Adopted** this report by consensus. (Paragraph 53)

Opening of the Session (item 1)

1. The Latin America and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) held its 33rd Session from 26 to 30 June 2023 in Quito, at the kind invitation of the Government of Ecuador. The Session was attended by delegates of 21 member countries and observers of 12 organizations, including three United Nations agencies or fora, and nine international, intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations. The agenda for the session is provided in *Appendix A*, the List of Participants in *Appendix B*, and the List of Documents submitted to the Commission for consideration in *Appendix C*.

2. The Session was opened in the presence of His Excellency José Antonio Dávalos Hernández, Minister of the Environment, Water and Ecological Transition of Ecuador (MAATE); Ms Gabriela Saavedra, Director of Forestry of MAATE; Mr Mario Lubetkin, Assistant Director-General and FAO Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean; Mr Zhimin Wu, Director of the FAO Forestry Division; Mr Günter Walkner, Chairman-in-Office of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO); Mr Ainsley Henry, Acting Chair of the LACFC; and Mr Pieter van Lierop, FAO Regional Forestry Officer for Latin America and the Caribbean.

3. Mr Henry welcomed the participants of the 33rd Session, and extended thanks to the Government of Ecuador for hosting the session and FAO for facilitating its virtual organization.

4. Mr Wu highlighted the importance of forests, the challenges they face and the need to take actions to protect, to restore them and to ensure their sustainable use. He reinforced the links between forestry and agriculture, and the potential for both sectors to work together to achieve sustainable development. He noted that LACFC is discussing important issues such as forest fires, deforestation, pests and inadequate management, which are degrading forests. He emphasized the importance of integrated approaches to address these challenges, such as integrated fire management promoted by FAO, and such approaches that seek both forest production and forest conservation. He also mentioned that FAO is in the process of developing, in consultation with its members, a FAO Roadmap for Forestry: from Vision to Action (2024-2031) to be presented to COFO 27 in 2024. He urged to work together to improve political will and actions on the ground to reverse the trend of forest loss, substantially increase the surface area of forests and take better advantage of the multiple uses they have to offer.

5. Mr Walkner congratulated the LACFC for drafting a comprehensive agenda, which focuses on forest management involving other sectors to address the challenges arising from deforestation, forest fires, biodiversity loss and opportunities such as the promotion of wood and non-wood value chains, climate and environmental financing, and integrated fire management. He urged that the LACFC recommendations to the Committee on Forestry 2024 consider the regional challenges that remain to be addressed for the sustainability of forests, food and agriculture systems.

6. Mr Lubetkin extended thanks to the Government of Ecuador for its generous offer to host the Session and for its efforts in organizing the event. In the context of the major challenges facing Latin America and the Caribbean, such as deforestation, serious natural hazards, forest fires and other climate change-related hazards, Mr Lubetkin emphasized that the forestry sector is a priority area of work for FAO. The sector provides social, economic and environmental benefits for small holders and communities that live in and rely on forests, and contributes to industrial development and the health of the planet. He noted the high potential of non-wood products and the bioeconomy, which are increasingly important in development agendas. He invited the LACFC to identify new synergies and partnerships in favour of forest value chains, ensuring the protection of biodiversity and the livelihoods of local communities. He stressed that the 2024 Regional Conference in Georgetown, Guyana, will be very mindful of the deliberations and recommendations that will emerge from this Session.

7. Mr Dávalos said that it was an honour for him to open the thirty-third session of the LACFC. He emphasized the importance and relevance of this meeting, which will increase technical coordination, strengthen sustainable forest management in Latin America and the Caribbean and provide recommendations from the countries for FAO work in the forestry sector. He highlighted the richness of the topics on the Agenda of the Session, the importance of regional collaboration and the ongoing renewal of the countries' commitments, highlighting the recent summit of the member countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization in Ecuador. He thanked the delegates for their participation and welcomed them, urging them all to work for a healthy and dignified planet worth living on.

Adoption of the Agenda (item 2)

8. The agenda was adopted without amendment. (Doc: FO: LACF/2023/1).

Election of Officers (item 3)

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

Chair: Gabriela Saavedra (Ecuador), Amazon Subregional Group

Vice-Chairs: Denny Dipchansingh (Trinidad and Tobago) Caribbean Subregional Group
Vaneska Bethancourt (Panama) Mesoamerican Subregional Group
Esteban Borodowski (Argentina) Southern Cone Subregional Group

Rapporteur: Edwin Oliva (Guatemala)

10. Mr Pieter Van Lierop, FAO Regional Forestry Officer for Latin America and the Caribbean, acted as Secretary.

Follow-up activities to the recommendations and requests of the 32nd Session of the Commission (item 4)

11. The LACFC Secretariat introduced document FO:LACFC/2023/2 entitled "Follow-up activities to the recommendations and requests of the 32nd Session of the Commission (September 6-10, 2021)."

Technical Sessions (item 5)

Forest-based bioeconomy in Latin America (item 5.1)

12. The Secretariat introduced document FO:LACFC/2023/3 entitled "Sustainable wood value chains," (item 5.1.1) and document FO:LACFC/2023/4 entitled "Non-wood forest products for healthy food, nutrition for all and bioeconomies for sustainable agriculture and food" (item 5.1.2).

13. The Commission **recognized** the importance of the bioeconomy, associated with wood and non-wood products, to the economy and in strengthening the livelihoods of communities that live

in and/or are reliant on forests, and in creating jobs. The Commission urged FAO and the Members of the Commission to encourage the participation of local communities and indigenous peoples, including men, women and different generations, in initiatives and investments related to wood and non-wood forest product chains.

14. The Commission **recommended** that FAO:

- i. create opportunities for exchanges on sustainable wood and non-wood harvesting systems, with innovations in production systems such as agroforestry and technologies that add value to forest products, improving social and economic benefits for local communities, under an intercultural, gender and generational approach.
- ii. conduct an assessment on the potential of the circular bioeconomy for the forestry sector, including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and community forestry producers.

15. In the context of promoting sustainable wood value chains as a contribution to addressing the challenges of climate change, ecosystem restoration and other strategies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the Commission **urged** its members to:

- i. participate in policy dialogues at regional, sub-regional and national levels convened by FAO and other institutions to exchange knowledge and identify priorities to advance the development of sustainable wood value chains and the use of sustainable wood products.
- ii. collaborate with the private sector (including small and medium-sized enterprises), forest communities and their organizations, the scientific community, civil society and international organizations to strengthen the governance of responsible production and consumption of wood from natural and planted forests for international, regional and national markets.
- iii. take measures to support the development of sustainably planted forests to meet the expected increase in demand for wood products.
- iv. participate in the International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment, which provides a forum for the exchange, training and access to resources and up-to-date information.
- v. promote public investments to boost production and productivity, sustainable management and development of sustainable wood value chains and advocate for more attractive credit lines for the private sector.

16. In this same spirit of promoting sustainable wood value chains, the Commission **requested** that FAO:

- i. facilitate technical expertise to strengthen policy, legal and institutional frameworks, access to technology, knowledge and capacity building through South-South and Triangular cooperation.
- ii. facilitate access to resources to promote sustainable wood value chains, fostering legality and traceability.
- iii. support countries, in collaboration with the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, to identify market opportunities and develop innovative financing strategies to support the inclusive development of sustainable wood value chains, by taking advantage of climate change mitigation opportunities in the construction sector.
- iv. collaborate with countries, public and private sectors, international organizations and research institutions to systematize and disseminate good practices on legal and sustainable production and trade of wood energy, including charcoal, and support the transition from traditional to modern use of woodfuels.
- v. support countries to optimize the environmental and socio-economic benefits resulting from restoration interventions, considering the planting of fast-growing trees for commercial purposes, as appropriate, including in agroforestry systems and with the participation of smallholders.

- vi. promote and give visibility to the social and environmental contribution of sustainable wood value chains.
 - vii. strengthen and capitalize on the role of statutory bodies, especially the International Commission on Poplar and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment.
17. In the context of promoting non-wood forest product (NWFP) value chains for healthy food, nutrition for all and sustainable agrifood systems, the LACFC **urged** countries to:
- i. improve collaboration across sectors to promote inclusive policy coherence that can contribute to concurrently addressing nutritional challenges as well as biodiversity loss and the climate crisis.
 - ii. enhance regional collaboration to improve data collection and monitoring of NWFPs and forest ecosystem services.
 - iii. promote the sustainable development of nutritious and biodiverse value chains based on NWFPs to enhance physical and economic access to healthy diets and resilient livelihoods.
18. In the same context, the Commission **requested** that FAO:
- i. support countries to better coordinate policy responses aimed at strengthening agriculture-forestry linkages.
 - ii. facilitate intersectoral dialogues and the exchange of knowledge and good practices in the region to continue identifying opportunities to improve linkages between the agriculture and forestry sectors.
 - iii. promote the sustainable use and consumption of forest-based foods to contribute to safeguarding biodiversity, through a regional initiative.
 - iv. conduct a gap analysis in terms of legal and institutional frameworks for non-wood forest products value chains.
 - v. facilitate the development of methodologies and tools to improve the system for collecting and analysing data on non-wood forest products and contribute to capacity building at the national level.

Scaling up of finance for sustainable forest management: national experiences (item 5.2)

19. The Secretariat introduced document FO:LACFC/2023/5 “Scaling up of finance for sustainable forest management: national experiences.”
20. The Commission **urged** its Members to:
- i. develop national forest financing strategies to identify and access financing for forest management, supplementing public sector financing with private sector financing.
 - ii. support the private sector in accessing markets, innovation and sustainable value chains for wood and non-wood forest products financing (e.g., loans and joint ventures).
21. The Commission **recommended** that FAO:
- i. support the development of methodologies for analysing public and private forest-related domestic resource flows.
 - ii. continue supporting national forestry authorities in financing and implementation of forest-related projects or initiatives, promoting coordination between the agricultural and environmental sector with a sustainable landscape approach.
 - iii. facilitate access to financing, through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and other new funds, to increase local and value-added production, including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and the participation of indigenous peoples, local communities, and small farmer organizations, with the aim of generating greener economies.

- iv. facilitate a channel for coordinating with other agencies and organizations, such as the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, the Technical Forestry Group of the Central American Commission for the Environment and Development of the Central American Integration System (CCAD-SICA), and the United Nations Forum on Forests, to strengthen the countries' capacities to negotiate financing for sustainable forest management (GCF, GEF, LEAF, EU, and others).
- v. support the adoption of the next phase of the REDD+ Program and make it a permanent initiative.
- vi. promote the eradication of perverse incentives affecting forests and biodiversity by way of sensible policies and coordination between the agricultural, forestry, and environmental sectors.

Implementation of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 (item 5.3)

22. The Secretariat introduced document FO:LACFC/2023/6 "Update on the implementation of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030."
23. The Commission **urged** its Members to:
 - i. actively participate in the activities of the United Nations Decade, thereby strengthening forestry and forest landscape restoration.
 - ii. implement the "Plan of Action for the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration in Latin America and the Caribbean", adopted by the XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.
 - iii. consider including restoration in their national forest and sustainable development strategies, in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of the Paris Agreement, and in REDD+ strategies.
24. The Commission **recommended** that FAO:
 - i. support countries in the form of tools, methodologies and capacity building initiatives to expand forest restoration efforts, share best practices and monitor their progress.
 - ii. provide technical support and facilitate access to bilateral or multilateral financing instruments for forest ecosystem restoration, such as the Integrated Program for Ecosystem Restoration under the GEF and the GCF.
 - iii. promote strengthening of local governance in restoration issues and ensure the participation of different stakeholders, such as the government, local communities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, considering a gender, intercultural and generational approach.

Our forests keep burning (item 5.4)

25. The Secretariat introduced document FO:LACFC/2023/7 "Integrated Fire Management."
26. The Commission **urged** its Members to:
 - i. participate in relevant forest fire expert groups, such as the South American Regional Expert Group, the Fire Working Group of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development, and the Amazon Network for Integrated Fire Management, and use them as platforms to further the exchange of experiences and knowledge, as well as mutual support.
 - ii. invest more in fire reviews and assessments to adopt a more strategic approach to mitigating fire risk, and to raise awareness at the community level.
27. The Commission **requested** that FAO:
 - i. continue promoting and leading a common approach to integrated fire management among all United Nations agencies in the region.

- ii. promote integrated fire management as a management tool in agricultural and forestry systems, reinforcing inter-sectoral coordination.
- iii. promote common terminology for integrated fire management.
- iv. support and provide technical guidance to the South American Regional Expert Group on Forest Fires (European Union), the Wildfire Working Group of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development and the Amazon Network for Integrated Fire Management (ACTO), in partnership with other organizations.
- v. facilitate exchanges between countries on country-level coordination of strategies and mobilization of funds for fire prevention and firefighting actions.
- vi. redouble its efforts to develop the Global Fire Management Centre (FAO/UNEP), to better support regional and national capacity building.

Forest health in Latin America and the Caribbean (item 5.5)

28. The Secretariat introduced document FO:LACFC/2023/8 “FRA 2020: The State of the Forestry Sector in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region.

29. The Commission **recognized** the importance of the participatory role played by indigenous and forest-dependent communities in forest conservation.

30. The Commission **urged** its Members and **requested** FAO to strengthen the One Health approach to enhance effective collaboration between sectors and partners at different levels to successfully protect forest health.

31. The Commission **urged** its Members to:

- i. in case of a forest health emergency, conduct a comprehensive investigation of the biotic and abiotic causes to determine the underlying causes, in the framework of integrated pest and disease management, as well as future prevention measures.
- ii. incorporate integrated pest and disease management into restoration planning.
- iii. include preventive silviculture actions in forest health and sanitation measures.

32. The Commission **recommended** that FAO support the re-establishment and strengthening of the Network of Southern Cone Countries on Invasive Alien Species in Forest Ecosystems to combat transboundary invasive species and facilitate its ties with other LAC regional networks, taking into consideration previous activities, while working through each country’s forestry services and institutions responsible for the forestry sector.

33. The Commission **requested** that FAO support countries in developing a methodology to assess the risk of introducing exotic species that could possibly become invasive.

Input to FAO Governance and FAO Forestry Strategic Planning (item 6)

FAO Framework for Forestry 2024- 031 (item 6.1)

34. The Secretariat introduced document FO:LACFC/2023/9 "FAO Framework for Forestry 2024-2031", informing on the process to develop a framework document guiding FAO’s work in forestry between 2024 and 2031. The four priority areas of FAO's work in forestry approved by the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry and the 171st Session of the FAO Council in 2022 will form the basis of the goals and targets: i. Halting Deforestation and Increasing Resilience; ii. Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Restoring Forest Ecosystems; iii. Enhancing Sustainable Production, Use and Livelihoods; and iv. Data, Statistics and Analysis. The Secretariat presented the roadmap formulation and endorsement process.

35. The Commission **welcomed and endorsed** the process of developing a new FAO Forestry Framework Document 2024-2031, highlighting the importance of it containing a sound strategic approach to addressing challenges and promoting sustainable development in forestry globally. LACFC recommended that in developing the FAO Framework for Forestry 2024-2031, FAO consider:

- i. supporting processes for drafting national forest strategies in the countries, which contribute substantially to meeting the targets associated with the United Nations conventions on climate, biodiversity and combating desertification.
- ii. supporting countries in producing data and evidence related to forests and the forestry sector for decision-making that contributes to improving public policies on related matters, for instance, deforestation and changes in land use.
- iii. facilitating dialogue and coordination for the analysis and incorporation of criteria to promote avoiding deforestation in agricultural and forestry production.
- iv. strengthening international and cross-national cooperation for sustainable forest management, integrated fire management, restoration, reducing deforestation and forest degradation, and forest and biodiversity conservation.
- v. strengthening technical capacity, exchange of good practices, lessons learned and knowledge on forests and related issues.
- vi. that the framework development process is a participatory process.
- vii. provide technical and financial incentives for initiatives aimed at the implementation of climate change adaptation measures in the AFOLU sector.

Input to FAO Governance (item 6.2)

36. The Secretariat introduced document FO:LACFC/2023/10 “Input to FAO Governance” (item 6.2).

37. The Commission members **reinforced** their commitment to continue participating actively in the Commission, which, together with the other Regional Commissions, is the main instrument for bringing together the global and regional forestry sectors.

38. The Commission **recommended** that FAO:

- i. ensure that the Commission's recommendations are submitted to the Secretariats of the Committee on Forestry and the Regional Conference.
- ii. share LACFC recommendations with the other Regional Forestry Commissions.
- iii. strengthen collaboration and coordination between the Committee on Forestry and the Committee on Agriculture.

Formulation of Workplans of the Subregional Groups of the Commission for the 2024-2025 period, including recommendations to the FAO forestry program, the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and the Regional Conferences (RC) (item 6.3)

39. The Subregional Groups formulated their work plans for the 2014-2025 period and recommendations to the FAO Forestry Program, COFO and the RC.

40. The work plans formulated by the Subregional Groups are provided in *Appendix D*. The main items identified were:

- institutional strengthening and national capacity building, under a gender approach.
- bioeconomy and wood and non-wood value chains.

- sustainable forest management (at the landscape level), forest restoration strategies and forest governance.
- sustainable agricultural and forestry landscape initiatives and value chains that encourage avoiding deforestation at the agricultural and forestry production source and their monitoring.
- integrated fire management, forest health and sanitation, and Invasive alien species.
- climate change mitigation and adaptation in the AFOLU sector and ecosystem benefits and environmental functions.
- forest knowledge management, forest monitoring, including national forest inventory.
- technological research and development.
- domestication of native species, genetic improvement and forest seed bank.
- strengthening protected areas and park rangers.

41. The recommendations to the FAO forestry work program, COFO and the RC as formulated by the Groups are provided in *Appendix E*.

Systemization of recommendations for the FAO forestry program and prioritization of recommendations for COFO and the Regional Conference (item 6.4)

42. The LACFC Secretariat led and facilitated the process of systematizing the recommendations that the Commission submits to FAO, in addition to those submitted during the sessions devoted to other matters addressed during the Session and systematizing and prioritizing the recommendations made to COFO and the RC.

43. As regards to the Agenda of this Session, in addition to technical session recommendations, the Commission **recommended** that FAO:

- i. support and develop mechanisms for sustainable forest management, such as forest certification, land-use planning and zoning considering the farm and landscape levels.
- ii. promote the exchange of experiences and knowledge on innovations in chain-of-custody and traceability issues, in the context of combating illegal logging.
- iii. facilitate horizontal cooperation between countries (South-South) for the exchange of best practices and lessons learned on various issues related to the forestry sector.

44. The Commission made eleven recommendations for the attention of the Committee on Forestry (issues to be considered for preparations of the Agenda) (Appendix X), five of which were prioritized. Two topics were proposed by three subregions:

- Sustainable forestry management and restoration with an emphasis on:
 - Natural forests and plantations, dry forests, secondary forests, mangroves.
 - Community forestry management
 - Traceability systems (value chains that promote avoiding deforestation at the agricultural and forestry production sources)
- Bioeconomy and value chains:
 - Mainstreamed throughout national strategies.
 - Wood and non-wood forestry products, construction timber.

Three topics were proposed by two subregions:

- Forests, agrifood systems and their contribution to better livelihoods
- Forest financing:
 - National forest financing strategies
 - Legal instruments and forestry policies
 - Plantations.
- Integrated fire management

- Coordination between the forestry and agriculture sectors, for instance, by designing a multisectoral coordination protocol.
- Capacity building and standardizing terminology

45. The Commission made nine recommendations for the attention of the Regional Conference (issues to be considered for preparations of the Agenda) (*Appendix F*), two of which were prioritized:

- Intersectoral coordination:
 - Agricultural and forestry approaches and practices to make production and conservation compatible.
 - Value chains that promote avoiding deforestation at the agricultural and forestry production, including the analysis of legal vacuums.
 - Socio-environmental conflict management, such as landownership related conflicts.
 - Integrated fire management.
- Importance of trees and forests in food production, biodiversity and quality of life:
 - Promoting agroforestry and silvopastoral systems, through incentives, for example.
 - Incorporating the tree component in urban and peri-urban areas (urban agroforestry).

Global and regional initiatives and processes (item 7)

46. The Secretariat introduced document FO:LACFC/2023/11 “Update on global and regional initiatives and processes of relevance for the Commission.”

47. The Commission **took note** of the global and regional processes and initiatives associated with the forestry sector and forests and **appreciated and thanked** FAO for its support in this area.

48. The Commission **recognized** the importance of technical networks for capacity building and the exchange of experiences and knowledge on sustainable forest management in the region and that it was a challenge to keep them operational. The Secretariat **recommended** that FAO suggest mechanisms to encourage the sustainability of technical networks, such as the establishment of partnerships with other organizations, donors and other networks.

49. The Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) read a speech reporting on the UNFF18, which included topics such as financing, carbon credits according to the legal framework of each country, and good agricultural practices that can support sustainable forest management. It also reported on preparations for UNFF19, where Forum members will deliberate on the Midterm Review of the International Arrangement on Forests. The UNFF Secretariat stressed the importance of cooperation with other organizations at the regional and sub-regional levels for the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests and the Global Forest Goals and Targets. The UNFF Secretariat highlighted and invited countries to participate in the Global Forest Finance Facilitation Network (GFFFN), underlining the role of national forest financing strategies in mobilizing, accessing and improving the effective use of existing and emerging financial resources from all possible sources for sustainable forest management. The full speech and additional information on how to participate in the Network are provided in *Appendix G*.

Other business (item 8)

50. The Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) read a statement in which it pointed out that their participation in the 32nd Session of the Commission is an excellent opportunity to explore possibilities for joint work. The Secretariat informed that, during the week prior to the LACFC, ACTO member countries met in Ecuador, where they prioritized the ACTO Forest Program, adopted in mid-2021, and drafted an operational work plan for the period 2023-2025. He stressed the collaborative work and the desire for coordinated efforts with the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests and FAO to enable ACTO to continue to comply with its forest-related mandates, in line with the Latin American and global agendas. The full speech is provided in *Appendix G*.

51. The Regional Coordinating Body of the Latin American Network for Technical Cooperation on National Parks, other Protected Areas, Wild Flora and Fauna (RedParques) for the period 2023-2023 (CONANP-México) whose Technical Secretariat has been run by FAO since its establishment, reported to the Members about the network, technical cooperation, and capacity building and exchange on protected areas and biodiversity issues during its 40 years of existence. He reported that the body is planning a face-to-face meeting of Redparques and invited the members of the network to join efforts to hold it in November 2023. In the context of post-COVID-19 reactivation, the purpose of this meeting will be to renew member commitments and strengthen the network's positioning and visibility as a platform for technical cooperation in the areas of protected areas and biodiversity, both regionally and internationally.

Place and date of the next Session of the Commission (item 9)

52. Panama expressed interest in organizing the next Session of the Commission, with a tentative date for the first half of 2025.

Adoption of the report and closing of the Session (items 10 and 11)

53. The Commission **adopted** this report by consensus.

The Session was closed by Ms Eve Crowley, FAO Deputy Regional Representative for Latin America and Caribbean and FAO Representative ad interim in Ecuador, and Ms Gabriela Saavedra Forestry Director of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE), Ecuador.

Appendix A**AGENDA****Items**

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Election of Officers
4. Follow-up activities to the recommendations and requests of the 32nd Session of the Commission
5. Technical sessions
 - 5.1. Forest based Bioeconomy in Latin America and the Caribbean
 - 5.1.1. Sustainable wood value chain in Latin America
 - 5.1.2 Non Wood Forest products for healthy diets, nutrition for all, and bioeconomies for sustainable food and agriculture
 - 5.2. Scaling Up Finance For Sustainable Forests Management: National Experiences
 - 5.3 Implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2023
 - 5.4 Our Forests Keep Burning
 - 5.5 Forest Health in Latin America and the Caribbean
6. Input to FAO governance and FAO Forestry strategic planning
 - 6.1 FAO Framework for Forestry 2024-31
 - 6.2 Input to FAO governance
 - 6.3 Formulation of work plans of the Subregional Groups of the Commission for the period 2024-2025, including recommendations to FAO Forestry work plan, to the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and to the Regional Conference (RC)
 - 6.4. Prioritization of the recommendations to FAO forestry work plan, to the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and to the Regional Conference (RC)
7. Update on global and regional initiatives and processes of relevance for the Regional Forestry Commission
8. Any other business
9. Venue and date of the next Session of the Commission
10. Adoption of the Report
11. Closing of the Session

Side events

- Forests, forests products, and Forestry: Cornerstones for the transition to a sustainable bioeconomy in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Agreements of the 5th Meeting of Forestry Authorities of ACTO member countries
- LAC National Forest Inventory Network: Achievements and areas of work for strengthening national forest inventories in Latin America and the Caribbean

Appendix B**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

Chair: Ms. Gabriela Saavedra, Amazonian subregional group

Vice-Chairs: Mr. Denny Dipchansing, Caribbean subregional group
Ms. Vaneska Betancourt, Mesoamerican subregional group
Mr. Esteban Bodorowski, Southern Cone subregional group

Rapporteur: Mr. Edwin Oliva (Guatemala)

COUNTRY	NAME	POSITION
Argentina	Emilio Bonifacino	Coordinator of the Sustainable Productions Directorate, Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries
	Sabina Vetter	National Director of Forestry and Industrial Development, Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishing
	Luis Olmo	Director of Forestry Industry, Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishing
	Natalia Acosta	Coordinator of Sustainable Forest Management, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries
	Esteban Borodowski	Director of Forestry Production, Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries
	Julieta Bono	Responsible for the National Monitoring System of Native Forests, National Directorate of Forests, Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.
Bahamas	Winston Pinnock	Bahamas Ambassador to the FAO
Barbados	Kim Downes Agard	Senior Environmental Officer, Biodiversity Conservation and Management
Belize	Eugenio Sabido	Chief Forest Officer, Forest Department
Bolivia	Omar Gustavo Tejerina Vértiz	Director General of Forestry Management and Development, Vice-Ministry of Environment, Biodiversity, Climate Change and Forestry Management and Development Ministry of Environment and Water
	Rolando Gutiérrez Choquehuanca	Head of the Forest Management and Conservation Unit Vice-Ministry of Environment, Biodiversity, Climate Change and Forestry Management and Development, Ministry of Environment and Water
	Franz Callisaya Poma	Head of Forestry Management and Development Unit

Brazil	Humberto Navarro de Mesquita Júnior	Coordinator-General of Forestry Information, Ministry of the Environment
	Clarisse Cruz	General Coordinator (nominated) of the Department of Bioeconomy Stimulation Policies; Ministry of the Environment.
	René Luiz de Oliveira	Coordinator-General for Combating Deforestation, Ministry of the Environment
	Fernando Castanheira Neto	Coordinator-General of Forestry Development and Substitute Forestry Development Director, Ministry of the Environment
	Sandra Regina Afonso	General Coordinator of Forestry Bioeconomy, Ministry of Environment
	Rosiane de Jesus Pinto	Environmental Analyst
	António Carlos Martinez Sanches	Environmental Analyst
	Luciana de Oliveira Rosa Machado	Environmental Analyst
	Mónica de Faria Franco Negrão	Environmental Analyst

	Alexandra Gurgel Valente da Costa	Environmental Analyst
	Mariana Marshall Parra	Alternate Permanent Representative of Brazil to FAO, IFAD and WFP, Permanent Representation of Brazil to FAO, IFAD and WFP.
Chile	Roberto Lisboa	National Forestry Corporation (CONAF), Ministry of Agriculture
Colombia	Adriana Rivera	Director of Forestry, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, Directorate of Forestry, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
	Rubén Darío Guerrero	Contractor, Directorate of Forests, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.
	Luz Stella Pulido	Specialized Professional, Directorate of Forestry, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
	Yazmin Pérez Cortes	Directorate of Forestry, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
Costa Rica	Carlos Isaac Pérez	Vice-Minister of Strategic Management, Ministry of Environment and Energy
	Natalia Vega Jara	Advisor to Mr. Carlos Isaac Pérez, Vice Minister, Ministry of Environment and Energy
	Federico Zamora	Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations Agencies based in Rome
	Carla Sierra	Counselor and Alternate Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations Agencies based in Rome
Cuba	Antonio Guzmán Torres	Deputy Director of Forestry, Flora and Wildlife of the Ministry of Agriculture
Ecuador	José Antonio Dávalos	Minister of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition
	Carlos Ponce	Directorate of Forestry, Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition

	Patricia Llanga	Directorate of Forestry, Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition
	Gabriela Saavedra López	Director of Forestry, Directorate of Forestry, Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition
	Ximena Herrera	Specialist in Forestry Regulations, Directorate of Forestry, Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition.
	Milton Ordoñez	Specialist in Forest Management and Control, Forestry Directorate, Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition.
	Alejandra Medina	International Cooperation, Directorate of Forestry, Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition, Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition
	Fausto Mejía	National Forestry Control System Project, Forestry Directorate, Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition.
	Fidel Quispe	Forestry Specialist
	Gustavo Aldás	Manager, Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition
	Ruben Ponce	Specialist in Forest Management and Control, Forestry Directorate, Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition.
	Alex Quizhpe	Forestry Governance Coordinator, REM,
	Carlos Morales	Manager, REM
El Salvador	Edgar Cruz	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG)
	Amilcar López	La Montaña Community
Guatemala	Edwin Oliva	Head of Forest Governance Department, National Forest Institute (INAB)
Grenada	Anthony Jeremiah	Chief Forestry Officer (Ag.), Forestry and National Parks Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Honduras	Roxana Yamilet Torres Argueta	Head of the Forest Health and Sanitation Department, Forest Conservation Institute (ICF)
Jamaica	Ainsley Henry	CEO & Conservator of Forests, Forestry Department
	Sharlene Gowdie-Reid	Assistant to the CEO & Conservator of Forests
	Donna Lowe	Principal Director- Forest Science and Technology Services Division
	Francine Black Richards	Responsible for Communications, Jamaica Forestry Department
	Ian Wallace	Forestry Department
	Tamara Nicholson	Forestry Department
	Shawnette Russell-Clennon	Forestry Department
	Damart Williams	Forestry Department
	Tanika Stewart	Forestry Department
	Amanda Bethune	Forestry Department
	Alicia Edwards	Forestry Department
	Upton Edwards	Forestry Department
	Howard Beckford	Forestry Department
	Randy Aird	Forestry Department
Mexico	Luis Meneses Murillo	Director General of the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR)
	Pedro Antonio Plateros Gastelum	General Coordinator of Production and Productivity, National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR)
	Eduardo Vargas Pérez	General Coordinator of Conservation and Restoration, National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR)
	Ernesto Ladrón de Guevara Alafita	General Coordinator of Institutional Development and Special Projects, National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR)
	Jorge David Fernández Medina	General Coordinator of Planning and Information, National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR)

	Carlos Manuel Pérez Medina	Head of the International Affairs and Financial Development Unit, National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR)
	Miguel Angel Zerón Cid	Head of the International Affairs Coordinating Unit (UCAI), Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT)
	Alfonso de la Torre Vega	Director for the Gray Agenda, Coordinating Unit for International Affairs, Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT)
	José Vicente Palafox Gómez	Head of Project Portfolio, Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT)
Nicaragua	Indiana Fuentes	Co-Director of the National Forestry Institute
	Luis Valerio	Director of Forestry Monitoring and Information, National Forestry Institute
	Roberto Domínguez	Director of Forestry Promotion, Development and Protection, National Forestry Institute
Panama	Ing. Vaneska Bethancourt	Forestry Cooperation and Financing Coordinator, Forestry Directorate, Ministry of the Environment
	Arcenio González	Forestry Engineer, Forestry Directorate, Ministry of the Environment
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	Carmela Gina Quintanilla Centenaro	Office of Cooperation and International Affairs, General Office of Planning and Budgeting, Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation
	Hornero Alejandro Chaccha Córdova	Forestry Specialist, Natural Resources Evaluation and Climate Change Directorate, General Directorate of Agrarian Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation.
	Alberto Apolinario Cortez Farfán	Specialist in Physiography and Soils, Directorate for the Evaluation of Natural Resources and Climate Change, General Directorate of Agrarian Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation.
	Danny Oswald Peñaloza Macha	Director of Policy and Regulation, National Forestry and Wildlife Service (SERFOR)
	Leoncio Calderón Acosta	Director of the Office of International Cooperation, National Forestry and Wildlife Service (SERFOR)
	Alex Cruz Huaranca	Wildlife Conservation Specialist, Policy and Regulation Directorate, National Forestry and Wildlife Service (SERFOR)

	Dennis Armas Chávez	Forestry Business and Market Specialist, Directorate of Policy and Regulation, National Forestry and Wildlife Service (SERFOR)
	Omar Amador Carrion Moreno	Directorate of Sustainable Management, National Forestry and Wildlife Service (SERFOR)
	Nataly Manrique Salas	Professional of the International Cooperation Office, National Forestry and Wildlife Service (SERFOR)
	Jessica Moscoso Guerrero	Director of the Directorate of Promotion and Competitiveness, National Forestry and Wildlife Service (SERFOR)
	Sergio Cardoso Villacorta	National Coordinator of the National Forestry Program, Directorate of Agrarian Technological Development, National Institute for Agrarian Innovation (INIA).
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	Ymber Flores Bendezú	Researcher of the National Forestry Program of the EEA Pucallpa, Directorate of Agrarian Technological Development, National Institute for Agrarian Innovation (INIA).
	Rosa María Cabrera Pintado	Biotechnology Specialist / Head of the Biology Applications Area, Directorate of Genetic Resources and Biotechnology, National Institute for Agrarian Innovation (INIA).
	Ciro Barrera Roja	Specialist of the Sub-Directorate for the Promotion of Agricultural Innovation, Directorate for the Management of Agricultural Innovation, National Institute for Agricultural Innovation (INIA).
	Lizzy Kanashiro Díaz	Specialist in Ecosystem-Based Adaptation, General Directorate of Climate Change and Desertification, Ministry of Environment (MINAM)
	Carlos Sánchez Díaz	Mitigation Specialist for LULUCF and Agriculture Sectors, General Directorate of Climate Change and Desertification, Ministry of Environment (MINAM)
	Walter Huamani Anampa	Forest Biodiversity Specialist, General Directorate of Biological Diversity, Ministry of the Environment (MINAM)
	Fabiola Núñez Neyra	CITES I Specialist, General Directorate of Biological Diversity, Ministry of the Environment (MINAM)
	Carlos Jaime Montoya Montero	Minister Counselor, Deputy Director for Global Environmental Affairs, Directorate of Environment, General Directorate for Multilateral and Global Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MRE)
	Gustavo Eduardo Mostajo Ocola	Staff member of the Permanent Representation of Peru to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
	Jhon Sebastian Llenque Carrasco	Legal Specialist, Environment Directorate, Directorate General for Multilateral and Global Affairs

Dominican Republic	José Elías González	Vice-Minister of Environment and Natural Resources
	Máximo Aquino	Director of Forestry and Forest Management, Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources
	Ramón Díaz	Head of Forestry Monitoring, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Fitzgerald Providence	Director of Forestry Forestry Department Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Suriname	Rene Somopawiro	Director Research and Development, Foundation for Forest Management and Production control(SBB)
	Seth Panka	Senior Policy Advisor, Foundation for Forest Management and Production control (SBB)
	Rewichand Matai	Director Forestry Economics, Foundation for Forest Management and Production control (SBB)
	Ajaysingh Gangabisoeningh	Policy Advisor Research and Development, Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control (SBB)
Trinidad and Tobago	Mr. Denny Dipchansingh	Forestry Director, Forestry Division, Ministry of Agriculture land and Fisheries
	Avinash Singh	Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries
	Dave Samayah	Project Director, Northern Range Reforestation Project, Forestry Division, Ministry of Agriculture land and Fisheries
Venezuela	Zoraima Echenique	General Director of Forest Patrimony, Ministry of the People's Power for Ecosocialism (MINEC)
	José Ignacio Azuaje González	General Director of the Territorial Management Office, Ministry of the People's Power for Ecosocialism (MINEC)
	Danmar Herrera Girón	Forestry Research Line Director, Forestry Patrimony General Directorate, Ministry of People's Power for Ecosocialism (MINEC)

**OBSERVERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND NON-
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

ORGANIZATION	NAME	POSITION
National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP)	José Feliciano González Jiménez	General Director of Institutional Strengthening and International Issues
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)	Andrés Mondaini	Associated Officer of Economic Affairs, Natural Resources Division
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	Marvin Centeno	Head of Regional Forestry Projects. Landscape restoration program liaison with the Executive Secretariat of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD)..
Embassy of Hungary in Ecuador	Miklos Tamas Paczuk	Ambassador
United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)	Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo	Director
	Barbara Tavora-Jainchill	Programme Management Officer, Forest Affairs
International Forestry Students Association (IFSA)	Agustin Rosello	President
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	Gabriel Quijandria	Regional Director in the South America office
Joint Research Centre (JRC), European Commission	Jesus San Miguel	Programme Officer

Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)	Alexandra Moreira	Secretary General
	Carlos Salinas	Director PS ACTO
	Ruth Medina	Coordinator of ACTO member countries
International Bamboo and Rattan Organization (INBAR)	Pablo Fernando Jácome Estrella	Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean
	Pablo Izquierdo	Regional Technical Officer for Latin America and the Caribbean
Permanent Representation of the Republic of Austria to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)	Günter Walkner	Permanent Representative, and Chair of COFO,
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Syulan Wong	Regional Advisor to PNUD Regional Center

HOST COUNTRY SECRETARIAT

COUNTRY	NAME	POSITION
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	Carlos Ponce	Forestry Department, Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition,
	Patricia Llanga	Forestry Department, Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition,

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)

HQ Forestry Division	Zhimin Wu	Director NFO
	Malgorzata Buszko-Briggs	COFO Secretary
	Sven Walter	Senior Forestry Officer
	Diego Fallas	Policy and programme support specialist • ESA
	Maria Clara Queiroz Mauricio	Support, logistics and knowledge management consultant
	Lara Steil	Forestry Officer, Fire Management
	Theresa Loeffler	Forestry Officer
	Arianna Evans	Consultant
	Francesca Bertola	Knowledge Management Consultant
	Thais LinharesJuvenal	Senior Forestry Officer
	Anssi Pekkarinen	FRA Team Leader/ Senior Forestry Officer
	Christopher Besacier	Forestry Officer
	Kenichi,Shono	Forestry Officer
	Thomas Hofer	Senior Forestry Officer
	Carla Ramirez	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification AFOLU sector REDD+ advisor - Latin America
	Amy Duchelle	Senior Forestry Officer
	Arvydas Lebedys	Forestry Officer
	Lyndall Bull	Forestry Officer
Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean	Mario Lubetkin	Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative
	Pieter van Lierop	LACFC Secretary
	Barbara Jarschel	Lead Technical Project Consultant, LACFC Secretariat
	Magdalena Elizalde	LACFC Secretariat
	Pablo Morales	Audio Visual – Video Conference Assistant

	Johnny Velasquez	Support to hybrid/virtual events
	Sergio Martin Zalba	Biodiversity and protected area management specialist
Sub-regional office for the Caribbean	Claus Eckelmann	Forestry Officer for the Caribbean
Sub-regional office for Mesoamerica	Juan Ferrando	Forestry Officer for Mesoamerica
FAO Ecuador	Eve Crowley	Representantative a.i.
	Maria Belén Herrera	Support Consultant to the FAO Ecuador programme
	Paula Lanata	Communications
	Sofia Narvaez	Asistente, Técnica en alianzas estratégicas para el pilar 1 del MPP
	Jenny Pineda	IT Assistant
FAO Mexico	Naomi Valdes	International themes Assistant, CONANP

INTERPRETERS

NAME
Hollie Beth Lawton
Juan Pinto

Appendix C

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

AGENDA ITEM	CODE	TITLE
2	FO: LACFC/2021/1	Provisional Agenda
4	FO: LACFC/2021/2	Follow-up activities to the recommendations and requests of the 32nd Session of the Commission (September 6-10, 2021)
5.1.1	FO: LACFC/2021/3	Sustainable Wood Value Chains
5.1.2	FO: LACFC/2021/4	Non-wood forest products for healthy diets, nutrition for all, and bioeconomies for sustainable food and agriculture
5.2	FO: LACFC/2021/5	Scaling Up Finance For Sustainable Forests Management: National Experiences
5.3	FO: LACFC/2021/6	Implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2023
5.4	FO: LACFC/2021/7	Our Forests Keep Burning
5.5	FO:LACFC/2021/8	Forest Health in Latin America and the Caribbean
6.1	FO: LACFC/2021/9	FAO Framework for Forestry 2024-31
6.2	FO: LACFC/2021/10	Input to FAO governance
7	FO: LACFC/2021/11	Update on global and regional initiatives and processes of relevance for the Commission
INFORMATION DOCUMENTS		
•	FO:LACFC/2021/Inf.1	Provisional timetable
•	FO:LACFC/2021/Inf.2	List of documents

Appendix D

WORK PROGRAMMES OF THE SUB-REGIONS

SOUTHERN CONE Sub-Region Work Programme

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Expected Outcome</i>	<i>Responsible or Lead Country(ies)</i>
Wood value chain	Work programme for wood value chain development, with emphasis on promoting wood as a building material to mitigate climate change.	Argentina
Sustainable forest management at landscape level	Exchanges of experience in: - certification of forest plantations - installation of forestry/cellulose industry, in view of the experience of Uruguay, Argentina, Chile as input to Paraguay.	Paraguay and Argentina
Forest Health & Sanitation and Invasive Alien Species	Re-establishment of the Southern Cone Countries Network on Forest Health and Invasive Alien Species in Forests: - consider existing work and information from previous work of the network, especially on the issue of Forest Health. - generate specific exchanges on Forest Health (interest of Paraguay and Argentina). - Discuss and agree on the extension of the previous focus of the network (Forest Health) to Invasive Alien Species.	Argentina and Paraguay
Forest fire prevention and management	Formation of a Southern Cone Network for forest fire prevention and management Exchange information on the management of national and/or international funding for fire prevention and firefighting actions.	All countries

AMAZON Sub-Region Work Programme (based on the ACTO Forest Programme for the Amazon Basin and Region)

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Expected Outcome</i>	<i>Responsible or Lead Country(ies)</i>
Institutional Strengthening	Exchange on policies, plans, strategies, regulations and institutional framework on the conservation, management and use of forests and ecosystem services for the Amazon; position and dissemination of progress and efforts of Amazon Region countries in regional/international conventions and processes; drafting projects and seeking funds and financing.	
Sustainable Forest Management / Integrated and Sustainable Forest Management	Exchange of SAF and green business experiences; capacity building in the management of primary and secondary natural forests, non-wood forest products, ecosystem restoration; strengthening the implementation of a plan to prevent, control, combat and monitor deforestation; publication of methodologies, regulations, reduced impact SFM / Integrated Landscape Management processes; implementation of the Amazonian Network of Integrated Fire Management.	
National Capacity Building	Share projects and studies on the information platform, create a research and development module on the information platform.	
Research and Technological Development	Include forestry module on information platform, exchange of experiences on SFM, conservation and restoration	
Regional Forestry Information and Knowledge Management	Strengthening networks and exchanges, promoting courses and trainings, upload information to the forest information module, coordinating early warnings.	
Ecosystem Benefits/Environmental Functions/Environmental Services	Exchanging experiences, strengthening enterprises, creation of regional incentive fund/programme for compensation, criteria for reduced impact exploitation, seed exchange network.	

MESOAMERICA Sub-Region Work Programme (based on the CCAD/SICA Forest Working Group)

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Expected Outcome</i>	<i>Responsible or Lead Country(ies)</i>
AFOLU Sector CC Mitigation and Adaptation (AFOLU 2040 Initiative)	Roadmap or plan, capacity building, monitoring systems	
Strengthening forest governance	Establishment or strengthening of roundtables or spaces for dialogue within the forestry and agricultural sectors.	
Forest restoration strategy / sustainable agro-landscapes / bio-economy initiative	SICA 10 million ha by 2030; Mexico 1 mm ha by 2024 (sowing life)	
Forest health and sanitation, fire management, preventive silviculture and strengthening forest rangers/guards.	Implementation of SICA regional strategy and strengthening of technical network Implementation of forest health and sanitation strategy, each country is expected to have its own national strategies.	
Jurisdictional monitoring for agro-landscapes or others to demonstrate net-zero deforestation commodity chains	Technically and economically feasible methodological proposal at agro-landscape level.	
Domestication of native species, genetic improvement and forest seed bank.	Proposal to strengthen the network of seed banks in Mesoamerica	
Support for forest monitoring including national forest inventory, FRA and others	Continue the work of the inventory network, follow-up to the FRA RSS initiative.	

CARIBBEAN Sub-Region Work Programme

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Expected Outcome</i>	<i>Responsible or Lead Country(ies)</i>
Chains of Custody for Caribbean Countries	Develop pilot as a step towards certification	Trinidad and Tobago
Value chain development with a focus on forest products	Mapping of value chain of selected timber species or forest products	Jamaica
Marketing of non-wood forest products	Piloting different techniques for selected commodities	Suriname

Appendix E

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUBREGIONAL GROUPS TO THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY, THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE AND THE FAO FORESTRY WORK PROGRAMME

**LACFC recommendations for the attention of the Committee on Forestry (COFO)
(items to be considered in the preparation of the Agenda)**

<i>Sub-Region</i>	<i>Priority Issues for Consideration by COFO</i>	<i>Expected Outcome (information/discussion/guidance)</i>
SOUTHERN CONE	Sustainable value chain: use of wood in construction	Information and guidance
	Forest financing: mobilisation of new and more resources for sustainable forest management of forest plantations, considering their contribution to biodiversity conservation, in accordance with the strategic guidelines of funds such as the GEF and GCF.	Guidance
	Forest restoration: experiences related to the implementation of restoration plans - governance, prioritisation of areas, funding and financing.	Information and guidance
	Sustainable forest management: native and planted forest management models	Information and guidance
	Forest fires: promoting integrated fire management, including coordination of the forestry and agricultural sectors.	Discussion and guidance
AMAZON	Strengthening networks of regional and sub-regional Forestry Authorities, as well as Sustainable Forest Management, Integrated Fire Management, Monitoring, Restoration.	Technical guidance on how regional and sub-regional networks can be set up and strengthened.
	Forest genetic resources associated with climate change (seeds)	Receive technical guidance (access, among others) and share experiences at the sub-regional and global level on the issue of Forest Genetic Resources associated with CC.
	Community-based forest management (experiences and financing)	Exchange experiences and funding to implement projects on Sustainable Community Forest Management.
	Management of secondary forests, natural pastures, dry forests, mangrove forests	Discuss and prioritise the management of these ecosystems; include measures and actions in the FAO Forestry Strategy 2024 - 2031.
	Bioeconomy and non-wood forestry product value chains	
	Strategic partnerships, resources for forest research	
	Mechanisms to reduce deforestation such as tax incentives, certificates of good forestry practices, conservation offsets, etc.	
MESOAMERICA	Importance of forests as an input to agri-food systems	Identify exemplary cases of (quantified) forest-related food inputs per country
	Funding and international cooperation should be targeted and coordinated to support the	Increased flow of financial resources to forestry projects and programmes (next phase of

	implementation of national forestry policy and legal instruments.	REDD and other payments for environmental services) mainly countries that have not received information on available grant and investment funds.
	Introduce the bioeconomy as a cross-cutting theme in national forestry plans and strategies.	Technical assistance and capacity building on how to implement it in national contexts.
CARIBBEAN	How to assess forest degradation	Guidelines to report on forest degradations
	Support forest-based livelihood opportunities	Strategies/guidelines for forest-based business facilitation

**LACFC recommendations for the attention of the Regional Conference (RC)
(items to be considered in the preparation of the Agenda)**

<i>Sub-Region</i>	<i>Priority Issues for Consideration by the RC</i>	<i>Expected Outcome (information/discussion/guidance)</i>
SOUTHERN CONE	Forest fires: promoting integrated fire management, including coordination of the forestry and agricultural sectors.	Discussion and guidance
	Agroforestry and silvopastoral systems: support programmes for the implementation of agroforestry and silvopastoral systems to promote sustainable forest management, climate change mitigation and adaptation.	Discussion and guidance
	Sustainable native forest management and conservation: agricultural and forestry approaches and practices to reconcile production and conservation.	Discussion
	Deforestation and land use change: early warnings	Discussion
AMAZON	Forest genetic resources associated with CC (seed exchange).	Recognise the importance of accessing forest genetic resources and strengthening networks between countries.
	Wood, non-wood forest resource and ecosystem service value chains to promote the development and quality of life of population groups.	Investigate mechanisms to strengthen wood, non-wood forest resource and ecosystem service value chains to promote the development and quality of life of population groups.
	Human-wildlife co-existence and human-wildlife conflict management	Draft a human-wildlife conflict management strategy; link to the Environment and Agriculture Authority.
	Socio-environmental land tenure conflicts	Regional level study on the socio-environmental conflicts over land tenure
MESOAMERICA	Ministry of Agriculture to stop promoting agricultural and livestock activities in forest territories, activities must be compatible with forestry activities.	Declaration on the need for countries to implement national agricultural sector policies and strategies and action plans in the short, medium and long term.
	Promote zero deforestation agro-productive chains including analysis of legal loopholes.	Declaration on the need for countries to implement national agricultural sector policies and strategies and action plans in the short, medium and long term.
	Importance of forests as an input to agri-food systems	Recognition and action plans
	FAO should encourage horizontal cooperation between countries	Promote and finance
	Making visible the link between forests, (scaled-up) community forestry and the achievement of the SDGs.	Invite countries to document these links and make them visible.
CARIBBEAN	Integration of tree crops in agricultural production systems through the promotion of agroforestry practices.	
	Develop appropriate incentive systems to upscale agroforestry as an integral element of agricultural production systems.	

	Develop programs to increase food production and biodiversity conservation and quality of life in urban landscapes.	
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LACFC recommendations for the FAO Forestry work programme related to the meeting agenda

<i>Sub-Region</i>	<i>Area/Action for FAO Forestry Work Programme</i>	<i>Priority (High, Medium, Low, De-emphasise)</i>	<i>Type (new, ongoing)</i>	<i>Level of action (subregional/regional)</i>
SOUTHERN CONE	Southern Cone Network for forest fire prevention and management	High	New	Southern Cone, collaboration with other existing networks
	Produce information on the management of funding at the national and/or international level for fire prevention and firefighting actions.	High	Ongoing	Southern Cone and Regional
	Promote and make visible the contribution of sustainable timber value chains.	Media	Ongoing	Regional
	Support and develop mechanisms for sustainable forest management, such as forest certification, land-use planning and zoning (farms/landscape).	Media	Ongoing	Regional
	Strengthen and capitalise on the role of statutory bodies, mainly the International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment to encourage regional work in the development of the industrial forestry sector by reaching out to local stakeholders.	Baja	Ongoing	Regional
AMAZON	Undertake transboundary projects or programmes on forest control, fire, illegal trade.			
MESOAMERICA	Preventive forest and silviculture health and sanitation			
	Collaboration between COAG and COFO			
	Supporting technical networks (forest inventories, seed/germplasm bank, others)			
	Circular economy in the forestry sector including community forestry, regional diagnosis and the sector's potential in terms of bio-efficiency.			
	Inter-agency plan for the prevention and control of agricultural forest and bush fires			
	Strengthening technological and innovative methods for chain of custody and traceability in the context of combating illegal logging!			
	FAO should promote horizontal cooperation between countries on various issues, sharing good practices and lessons learned, facilitating forums, discussions, etc., depending on the resources available.			
CARIBBEAN	Support member countries to make available soft loans to private sector actors for forest value chain development			

Appendix F

**SYSTEMATIZATION AND PRIORITIZATION OF ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED BY
THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY AND THE FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

Number	Priority issues for consideration by the Forestry Committee on the agenda of the next meeting
1*	Sustainable forest management (native and planted forest models; management of community forests, dry forests, mangrove forests, secondary forests) (3) *Include restoration (VE, AR, EC), strengthening of traceability systems (deforestation-free products) (EC)
2	Bioeconomy (national strategies) and value chains (wood, wood and non-wood forest products) (3)
3	Forests and agro-food systems / support for forest-based livelihoods (2)
4	Forest financing: plantations, legal instruments and forest policies (2) *Incorporate development of national forest financing strategies (SP)
5	Integrated fire management: coordination of forestry and agricultural sectors (2) *Include capacity building and standardization of criteria (EC); Design multisectoral coordination protocol (BO)
1*	Forest restoration (experiences in restoration plans) (1) *Priority topic (RD), an update will be provided on the progress of the COFO27 2024 Decade - experiences, good practices (FAO-HQ) *Include restoration in item 1
6	Degradation measurement (1) * Priority topic (PN), Topic addressed at COFO26 (FAO-HQ)
7	Mechanisms to reduce deforestation (1)
8	Strengthening forest-related networks / Partnerships (1)
9	Forest genetic resources (1)

Number	Priority issues for consideration by the Regional Conference on the agenda of the next meeting
1	Trees outside forests: Promotion of agroforestry and silvopastoral systems / incentive systems (2) * Adding trees in urban and peri-urban areas / urban agroforestry (PA, PE, JA, CU, NI, VE)
2	Role/importance of forests in food production, biodiversity and quality of life/urban landscapes / Importance of forests for agri-food systems (2)
3*	Agricultural activities must be compatible with forestry activities / Sustainable management and conservation of native forests: agricultural and forestry approaches and practices to make production and conservation compatible (2) *Include socio-environmental conflicts (land tenure) *Include integrated fire management: coordination of forestry and agricultural sectors
4	Deforestation and changes in land use: Early warnings / deforestation-free production chains, including gap analysis (2)
3*	Integrated fire management: coordination of forestry and agricultural sectors (1) *Priority (AR, NI) Move to 3.
5	Value chains and ES to promote development and quality of life (1)
6	Wildlife/human conflict management (1)
3*	Socio-environmental conflicts (land tenure) (1) * Move to agricultural and forestry coordination (EP)
7	Support to horizontal cooperation between countries / south-south cooperation (1)
8	Forest genetic resources (1)
9	Restoration: Reclaimed Fallow Land (BO)

Appendix G**OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY THE UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS
SECRETARIAT (UNFF)**

Excellencies,

Dear colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) is honored to attend the 33rd Session of FAO's Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission. In this regard, we express our gratitude to the Government of Ecuador for hosting this meeting and the Secretariat for the excellent documentation.

Life is getting back to normal after the pandemic, but we cannot forget the lessons of this traumatic experience. Our planet needs to be healthy so that animals and human beings remain healthy. Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) is fundamental in improving the health of our planet, and all stakeholders must work together to ensure a healthy future for our planet.

With this in mind, the Bureau of the Forum's 18th Session, which took place in New York last month, ensured that pertinent non-State actors were included in the technical discussions. For instance, there was a panel with regional development banks' representatives on financing SFM and an information session on carbon credits. Moreover, UNFF 18 held an event conceptualized and organized by the Forum's Business and Industry Focal Point, together with Reforest' Action, a French company focused on reforestation projects throughout the world, which discussed how agriculture done right can support the sustainable management of forests.

We are now getting ready for UNFF 19 which is scheduled to take place in New York from 6 to 10 May 2024. UNFF's next session will be very important, since members of the Forum will deliberate on the midterm review of the International Arrangement on Forests. The preparations are ongoing, with expert group meetings providing input on various aspects of the Forum's work.

From 10 to 13 October 2023 an Ad Hoc Expert Group (AHEG) Meeting will be held in Vienna to take stock of all input received from the various expert group meetings. Finally, taking into account the outcome of the AHEG, the UNFF 19 Bureau will conduct informal consultations with members of the Forum and prepare and submit to UNFF 19 the zero draft of the resolution on the international arrangement on forests beyond 2024.

Dear colleagues,

Regional/subregional cooperation is of the utmost importance for the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) and the Global Forest Goals. UNSPF states that these entities provide 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. We very much appreciate the work from our regional/subregional partners and are always happy to learn of the progress in implementing SFM in the region.

In this regard, we would like to mention an important event the UNFF Secretariat held in Brasília last February jointly with the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO). Representatives from the eight ACTO Member Countries participated in the Training Workshop

for the Development of Forest Financing Strategies and Resource Mobilization in the ACTO region, carried out under the UNFF mechanism of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN).

This workshop raised awareness of the work of the GFFFN and the role of national forest financing strategies in mobilizing, accessing, and improving the effective use of existing and emerging financial resources from all possible sources for sustainable forest management. It was also an opportunity for ACTO Member Countries to confirm the need for the regional forest financing strategy and subsequently the development of the strategy itself, considering national and regional policies, strategies, and priorities.

The GFFFN is a financing facilitation mechanism for sustainable forest management that is at the disposal of interested UNFF Member States. It serves countries with forests, as well as with trees outside forests and low forest-covered countries. If you would like to learn more about GFFFN, please contact the UNFF Secretariat at unff@un.org.

Thank you very much.

June 2023
Source: UNFF

**OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT OF THE
AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION (SP/ACTO)**

Good morning, Madam Chairperson Gabriela Saavedra, and through you I would like to greet the other participants.

On behalf of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (PS/ACTO) I would like to express my congratulations to the Government of Ecuador and FAO for the excellent organization of this event, the quality of the documentation presented, and the discussions held on the different topics considered during this week.

Since the installation of the PS ACTO in Brasilia in 2002, our Organization has been accompanying the different LACFCs and supporting, as far as possible, the participation of the Amazonian sub-regional sub-group of the Commission.

Our participation in this particular LACFC allows us to support the alignment and coordination of regional actions on forests in the Amazon countries, in line with the Latin American and global agenda on this issue. It also gives us the opportunity to explore possibilities for joint work with FAO in the four priority areas of its work in the forestry sector: i) Halting Deforestation and Increasing Resilience, ii) Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Restoring Forest Ecosystems, iii) Improving Sustainable Production, Use and Livelihoods, and iv) Data, Statistics and Analysis.

It is important to highlight that as part of the preparations for this event, last week (June 21-23), thanks to the support of the Ecuadorian Government and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency ABC, the SP/OTCA resumed the meetings of the Forestry Authorities of the ACTO MPs in Quito after a seven-year hiatus.

In this regard, it should be noted that at these meetings the forest authorities of the MPs evaluated the progress of the ACTO Forest Agenda 2010 -2018 (currently being updated) and also served as preparatory meetings for the sessions of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF).

During this V Meeting, with the purpose of implementing the ACTO Forestry Program, approved by the MPs in mid-2021, the MPs identified and prioritized actions detailed in the Program, formulating an operational work plan for the period 2023-2025. They also preliminarily identified possible strategic partners, inputs for updating the Sub-theme: Forests in the new Strategic Agenda for Amazonian Cooperation, priorities in South-South Cooperation in the forestry area and promoted the regional preparatory dialogue for the LACFC.

In addition to the above, regional work is being carried out in collaboration with the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), which is currently supporting the SP ACTO and its MPs in the development of a regional forest financing strategy within the framework of the Global Forest Finance Facilitation Network (GFFFN).

Also complementing the above, it is worth mentioning the forthcoming presentation of a project to the Amazon Fund of the Brazilian BNDES that will also facilitate the implementation of the Program's strategic actions.

We hope that these coordinated efforts with UN mechanisms such as the UNFF and organizations such as FAO will allow ACTO to continue to fulfill the mandates on forests that will emerge after the next presidential summit, which will be held in August in Belém do Pará, Brazil. We thank all participants for their commitment and contribution to these important advances in regional forest cooperation. We are confident that, through these joint efforts, we will

succeed in protecting and conserving the invaluable forest wealth of the Amazon region for the benefit of present and future generations.

June 2023
Source: ACTO