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Australia
3-6 October
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Commission**
Thirtieth session

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REPORT

of the

THIRTIETH SESSION

of the

ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY COMMISSION

**Sydney, Australia
3-6 October 2023**

**REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Bangkok, 2023**

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PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION

First session	Bangkok, Thailand	9-17 October 1950
Second session	Singapore/Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	1-13 December 1952
Third session	Tokyo, Japan	9-21 April 1955
Fourth session	Bandung, Indonesia	8-12 June 1957
Fifth session	New Delhi, India	12-18 February 1960
Sixth session	Hong Kong	12-17 September 1962
Seventh session	Rotorua, New Zealand	22 September-2 October 1964
Eighth session	Seoul, Republic of Korea	1-8 May 1969
Ninth session	Canberra, Australia	20-28 September 1973
Tenth session	Kathmandu, Nepal	6-10 June 1977
Eleventh session	Suva, Fiji	6-10 April 1981
Twelfth session	Bangkok, Thailand	19-23 March 1984
Thirteenth session	Beijing, China	30 March-3 April 1987
Fourteenth session	Manila, Philippines	12-16 March 1990
Fifteenth session	Colombo, Sri Lanka	9-13 August 1993
Sixteenth session	Yangon, Myanmar	15-20 January 1996
Seventeenth session	Yogyakarta, Indonesia	23-27 February 1998
Eighteenth session	Noosaville, Queensland, Australia	15-19 May 2000
Nineteenth session	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	26-30 August 2002
Twentieth session	Nadi, Fiji	19-23 April 2004
Twenty-first session	Dehradun, India	17-21 April 2006
Twenty-second session	Hanoi, Viet Nam	21-25 April 2008
Twenty-third session	Thimphu, Bhutan	9-11 June 2010
Twenty-fourth session	Beijing, China	7-11 November 2011
Twenty-fifth session	Rotorua, New Zealand	5-8 November 2013
Twenty-sixth session	Clark Freeport Zone, Philippines	22-26 February 2016
Twenty-seventh session	Colombo, Sri Lanka	24-27 October 2017
Twenty-eighth session	Incheon, Republic of Korea	17-21 June 2019
Twenty-ninth session	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (virtual meeting)	22-25 February 2022

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

For the attention of FAO

The Commission recommended:

- support Members, upon request and availability of extra-budgetary resources, with technical expertise to enhance the legality, sustainability, productivity and value added of wood and NWFP value chains, including in both domestic and international markets, thereby contributing to the transformation of sustainable agrifood systems and ensuring the balanced commercialization and traditional use of NWFPs;
- explore the potential for the ‘Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World’ initiative to upscale its market development initiatives and other activities in the Asia-Pacific region;
- assist members, upon request and availability of extra-budgetary resources, to improve and facilitate access for rural producers and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to knowledge, innovation and finance and in creating conducive conditions for access to markets and inclusion in value chains;
- continue efforts to develop an enabling environment to achieve sustainable forest management, including through: (a) encouragement of regional policy dialogues; (b) facilitation of technical exchanges and provision of technical expertise; (c) promotion of capacity building to promote up-scaling of sustainable wood and non-wood forest product usage; and (d) supporting national initiatives to achieve net-zero emission activities;
- continue work on modelling of global fibre demand and supply to support both global and domestic policy development;
- continue to support its Members, in upscaling FLR in the region in line with the Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Forest and Landscape Restoration in Asia-Pacific and other relevant global commitments, and report on progress made at its next Session;
- promote an informal network of FLR practitioners for technical knowledge exchange and building synergies, and continue, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources, to develop tools and approaches, and enhance capacities for upscaling FLR;
- support its Members, upon request and subject to the availability of resources, in the implementation of the GBF, through technical assistance to building capacity, development of relevant tools and knowledge products, supporting monitoring of progress and support to develop collaborative investment strategies;
- consider the use of sustainable forest management frameworks, such as the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators and Criteria and Indicators for the Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests (ITTO 2016), in development of the Global Programme on Biodiversity Mainstreaming in Forestry;
- consider traditional practices and knowledge in its work on sustainable use and conservation of forests;
- continue to support its Members in improving national assessment and reporting on primary forests, including in terms of increased consistency across countries;

- continue the implementation of the GEF8 IM CFB IP, including through the promotion of cross-sectoral linkages and policy coherence in support of mainstreaming primary forest considerations into relevant agricultural sector policies and practices, facilitate sharing of experience and lessons learned with other countries with similar conditions and other relevant initiatives, and report on progress made at its next Session;
- continue capacity building, knowledge exchange and resource mobilization in disaster risk management and address relevant factors that affect the health and vitality of forests, including through the Global Fire Management Hub and related initiatives;
- incorporate the Landscape Fire Governance Framework into its work on integrated fire management;
- continue to promote the One Health approach through collaborative efforts to improve the health and resilience of forests and rangelands, including through the APFISN;
- to continue work on the contributions of both large- and small-scale farming to deforestation to better understand the key drivers and identify alternative livelihood options that are less harmful to forests;
- to share examples of good practice from the Global Environment Facility-funded regional GEF8 Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biome Integrated Programme to strengthen the broader region's capacity in sustainable forest management;
- to continue to support its Members in implementing the Commission's recommendations and report on progress made at its next Session;
- to follow up on options identified for the APFC Governance Review, as appropriate, and report on progress made at a next Session as well as to the Twenty-seventh Session of COFO;
- ensure that its Members are consulted on FAO forestry strategic planning and given an opportunity to comment on the draft Roadmap before COFO27;
- ensure that future Sessions of COFO provide space for RFCs to provide updates on their progress and achievements; and
- ensure that recommendations are presented to the secretariats of COFO and the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference as well as to other RFCs.

INTRODUCTION

1. At the invitation of the Australian Government, the Thirtieth Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) was held in Sydney, Australia from 3 to 6 October 2023, with a pre-Session Dialogue Day convened on 2 October 2023. Delegates from 25 Member States, 1 Observer State, and 1 United Nations organization participated in the Session, along with representatives from 14 regional and international inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations. A list of participants is given in Appendix B.

Opening ceremony

2. The opening ceremony featured introductory addresses by Tara Moriarty, New South Wales Minister for Agriculture, and Zhimin Wu, Director of FAO Forestry Division, and a keynote address by Michael Shawn Fletcher, Director, Indigenous Knowledge Institute, University of Melbourne.

3. Honorable Tara Moriarty, New South Wales Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales welcomed participants to Sydney and to the Session. She noted that the Session theme, “Sustainable forests for a sustainable future” provides a visible commitment to forging a sustainable future. She noted that Australian forestry is a repository for world leading expertise in several areas including wildfire management, forest health and forest carbon sequestration. She told participants that plantation forests constitute an important part of the sustainable forest management equation in Australia, with capacity to alleviate pressure on natural forest ecosystems, contribute to restoration of degraded areas, sequester carbon and provide a sustainable alternative to many other building products. The Minister informed delegates that New South Wales plans to release a new “Roadmap for forestry” in the near future.

4. Mr Wu Zhimin, Director, Forestry Division, FAO welcomed participants on behalf of FAO and expressed his appreciation to the Australian Government for its hosting and excellent organization of the Session. He reaffirmed FAO’s commitment to supporting its Members to advance sustainable forest management in the Asia-Pacific region. He noted the relevance of the Session theme, “Sustainable forests for a sustainable future” and emphasized that the theme presents both challenges and opportunities. Among the issues to be discussed during the Session, he identified catastrophic wildfires as a major and increasing threat to forests and to human and planetary health. Mr Wu noted that FAO is developing a new Roadmap for Forestry 2024-31 to better address continuous global forest loss, raise a new focus on forest food and nutrition, and harness the potential of ecosystem services provided by forests.

5. Mr Michael Shawn Fletcher, University of Melbourne, noted a need to re-write the narrative of indigenous land management in Australia, which he explained is currently built on misinterpretation and myth. He noted that the current narrative encourages a utilitarian view of forests as a resource and also discourages development of appropriate relations between people and the land, including creation of “wilderness” and attempts to exclude people from lands and forests. He noted that Australian landscapes were extensively modified by aboriginal people using fire as a principal tool. Mr Fletcher showed that the arrival of Europeans and the removal of cultural burning practices is highly correlated with the advent of catastrophic fire events due to massive recruitment of trees and acceleration of fuel loads in traditional grassland areas. He concluded by emphasizing that the key driver of bushfires is effectively cultural, rather than only climate-based. He argued that the way forward might be led by a reintroduction of cultural burning practices, which may lead to higher net levels of carbon sequestration by reducing losses through catastrophic wildfires.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Item 1)

6. Under the guidance of Mr Oyunsanaa Byambasuren (Mongolia), the outgoing Chair of the Commission, the provisional agenda was adopted as presented in document APFC/2023/1 (see Appendix A). Documents considered by the Commission are listed in Appendix C.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Item 2)

7. The Commission unanimously elected the following individuals to hold office until the commencement of the Thirty-First Session:

- | | | |
|-------|--------------------|---|
| (i) | Chairperson: | Mr Keiran Andrusko (Australia) |
| (ii) | Vice-Chairpersons: | Mr Phub Dhendup (Bhutan)
Mr Naoki Hayasaka (Japan)
Mr Marcial Amaro Jr. (Philippines) |
| (iii) | Rapporteur: | Mr Preecha Ongprasert (Thailand) |

Ms Sheila Wertz-Kanounnikoff, Senior Forestry Officer, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific served as Secretary of the Commission.

SUSTAINABLE FORESTS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE (Item 3)

8. On the basis of Secretariat Note APFC/2023/2 and the keynote addresses in the opening ceremony, the Commission discussed issues surrounding the Session Theme, *Sustainable forests for a sustainable future*. Delegates identified contributions that forests and forestry can make to a sustainable future, with a particular focus on important roles for wood and non-wood forest products.

9. The Commission:

- a. emphasized the importance of collaborative approaches, with partnerships among communities, interest groups, private sector and government agencies, in developing a collective response to the Ministerial Call on Sustainable Wood;
- b. noted the benefits of developing legality and verification systems to ensure that non-wood forest products (NWFP) are harvested from sustainably managed forests, while also recognizing a need to ensure this does not compromise the use rights of local communities;
- c. invited its Members to:
 - (i) share experiences, detailing measures taken, and initiatives launched to enhance the sustainable management of forests, particularly in relation to fostering sustainable production and consumption of wood and NWFPs;
 - (ii) contemplate strategies to upscale the development of NWFP value chains and strengthen existing traditional systems of use; and
 - (iii) consider how the Asia-Pacific region can constructively respond to the Ministerial Call on Sustainable Wood, with the aim of markedly increasing the utilization of sustainable wood-based solutions within Nationally Determined Contributions by 2030.

- d. invited FAO to:
- (i) support Members, upon request and availability of extra-budgetary resources, with technical expertise to enhance the legality, sustainability, productivity and value added of wood and NWFP value chains, including in both domestic and international markets, thereby contributing to the transformation of sustainable agrifood systems and ensuring the balanced commercialization and traditional use of NWFPs;
 - (ii) explore the potential for the ‘Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World’ initiative to upscale its market development initiatives and other activities in the Asia-Pacific region;
 - (iii) assist members, upon request and availability of extra-budgetary resources, to improve and facilitate access for rural producers and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to knowledge, innovation and finance and in creating conducive conditions for access to markets and inclusion in value chains;
 - (iv) continue efforts to develop an enabling environment to achieve sustainable forest management, including through: (a) encouragement of regional policy dialogues; (b) facilitation of technical exchanges and provision of technical expertise; (c) promotion of capacity building to promote up-scaling of sustainable wood and non-wood forest product usage; and (d) supporting national initiatives to achieve net-zero emission activities; and
 - (v) continue work on modelling of global fibre demand and supply to support both global and domestic policy development.

FOREST AND LANDSCAPE RESTORATION IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (Item 4)

10. Based on Secretariat Note APFC/2023/3, the Commission considered key issues and actions needed for further upscaling forest and landscape restoration in the region, including progress made through implementation of the Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Forest and Landscape Restoration in Asia-Pacific and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.
11. The Commission:
- a. welcomed the comprehensive suite of activities being delivered across the Asia-Pacific region during the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration;
 - b. emphasized the importance of regional collaboration in capacity-building and sharing of information, best practices, experiences, and resources, as well as community engagement where appropriate, to efficiently upscale forest landscape restoration initiatives in Asia and the Pacific;
 - c. noted the potential for adverse climate weather events to severely impact forested areas and a need to ensure that climate risks and post-event recovery are factored into forest and landscape restoration efforts and consider the potential role of FLR efforts in post-event recovery;
 - d. noted further the potential for strengthening links between forest and landscape restoration and REDD+ for achieving mitigation and adaptation synergies;
 - e. invited its Members to:

- (i) welcome the progress made in implementing the Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Forest and Landscape Restoration in Asia-Pacific and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration;
 - (ii) consider actions to strengthen the enabling environment and upscale FLR investments and actions at all levels, including by leveraging existing partnerships, to advance the implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and meet the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and
 - (iii) provide guidance on needs and strategic entry points for FAO to support its Members in further upscaling FLR in the region.
- f. encouraged FAO to:
- (i) continue to support its Members, in upscaling FLR in the region in line with the Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Forest and Landscape Restoration in Asia-Pacific and other relevant global commitments, and report on progress made at its next Session; and
 - (ii) promote an informal network of FLR practitioners for technical knowledge exchange and building synergies, and continue, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources, to develop tools and approaches, and enhance capacities for upscaling FLR.

FORESTS AND BIODIVERSITY: A FOCUS ON PRIMARY FORESTS (Item 5)

12. On the basis of Secretariat Note APFC/2023/4, the Commission considered the topic of forests and biodiversity with a particular emphasis on key opportunities and challenges in enhancing the conservation and sustainable management of primary forests in Asia and the Pacific.

13. The Commission:

- a. highlighted a critical need to engage with, and promote livelihood opportunities for, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the sustainable use and conservation of primary forests;
- b. noted the potential of participatory approaches for biodiversity monitoring and the value of biodiversity indicators for the monitoring of ecosystem health, the transition between different stages of degradation, and the impacts of climate change on forests and other ecosystems;
- c. recognized the value of developing state-of-the-art technology and tools to support conservation and sustainable use of primary forests and their biodiversity;
- d. invited its Members to:
 - (i) share forest-related priorities for regional exchange and coordination as regards the implementation of the GBF including in relation to the conservation and sustainable use of primary forests and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs);
 - (ii) provide guidance on needs and strategic entry points for FAO to support its Members in upscaling the conservation and sustainable use of primary forests in the Asia-Pacific region;
 - (iii) welcome the GEF8 Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biome Integrated Program (GEF8 IM CFB IP), as an opportunity for upscaling action on primary forests in the Asia-Pacific region; and

- (iv) consider the genetic conservation value of primary forests and to integrate actions to conserve, restore and sustainably use this diversity into broader conservation programmes, including through collaboration under the Asia-Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Network (APFORGEN).
- e. recommended FAO to:
- (i) support its Members, upon request and subject to the availability of resources, in the implementation of the GBF, through technical assistance to building capacity, development of relevant tools and knowledge products, supporting monitoring of progress and support to develop collaborative investment strategies;
 - (ii) consider the use of sustainable forest management frameworks, such as the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators and Criteria and Indicators for the Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests (ITTO 2016), in development of the Global Programme on Biodiversity Mainstreaming in Forestry;
 - (iii) consider traditional practices and knowledge in its work on sustainable use and conservation of forests;
 - (iv) continue to support its Members in improving national assessment and reporting on primary forests, including in terms of increased consistency across countries; and
 - (v) continue the implementation of the GEF8 IM CFB IP, including through the promotion of cross-sectoral linkages and policy coherence in support of mainstreaming primary forest considerations into relevant agricultural sector policies and practices, facilitate sharing of experience and lessons learned with other countries with similar conditions and other relevant initiatives, and report on progress made at its next Session.

BUILDING RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE: A FOCUS ON FOREST FIRES AND PESTS AND DISEASES (Item 6)

14. Secretariat Note APFC/2023/5 provided the basis for the Commission to consider mainstreaming the building of forest resilience in Asia and the Pacific, with a particular focus on integrated fire management and management of pests and diseases.
15. The Commission:
- a. appreciated opportunities for regional collaboration and capacity building provided by the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN);
 - b. recognized a need for research programmes aimed at developing tree varieties that exhibit greater resistance to forest fires, diseases, and pests;
 - c. noted the value of greater regional coordination and cooperation as regards fire, pests and disease control;
 - d. encouraged increased attention to the role of prescribed burning as part of integrated fire management systems;
 - e. noted the value of collaborative arrangements among countries to provide on-the-ground support for fighting large-scale wildfires;
 - f. encouraged development of reliable, information-based forest fire forecast and pre-warning systems and innovative systems and technologies for fire prevention and restoration of such wildfire impacted areas;

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- g. welcomed the inception of the ‘Assuring the Future of Forests through Integrated Risk Management (AFFIRM)’ mechanism;
 - h. noted advice from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) on the potential for countries to submit proposals to GCF for projects and programmes with an explicit focus on forest fire management;
 - i. invited its Members to:
 - (i) strengthen the One Health approach with focused efforts to minimize health-related threats and enhance the resilience of forests under a changing climate;
 - (ii) strengthen Integrated Fire Management approaches through improving review and analysis of fires and collaborating to reduce wildfire risk; and
 - (iii) promote and invest in innovations to monitor and mitigate threats to the health and vitality of forests.
 - j. invited FAO to:
 - (i) continue capacity building, knowledge exchange and resource mobilization in disaster risk management and address relevant factors that affect the health and vitality of forests, including through the Global Fire Management Hub and related initiatives;
 - (ii) incorporate the Landscape Fire Governance Framework into its work on integrated fire management; and
 - (iii) continue to promote the One Health approach through collaborative efforts to improve the health and resilience of forests and rangelands, including through the APFISN.

REPORT OF FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION (Item 7)

16. Based on Secretariat Note APFC/2023/6, Members reviewed progress in implementing the recommendations and decisions of the Twenty-Ninth Session of the Commission.

17. The Commission:

- a. welcomed the progress made in implementing the recommendations;
- b. commended FAO on the publication of the Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study (2023), the Asia-Pacific Roadmap for Innovative Technologies in the Forest Sector (2022), and the Asia-Pacific Roadmap for Primary Forest Conservation (2022) as well as the State of the World’s Mangroves 2000-2020 (2023);
- e. commended FAO on the co-leadership of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded regional GEF8 Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biomes Integrated Programme;
- f. appreciated FAO’s provision of capacity building and technical support for *inter alia* forest landscape restoration and national forest and land monitoring;

- g. appreciated the development and evolution of Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) platform reforms, capacity building through FRA regional workshops, and the development of guidelines in anticipation of the publication of the FRA 2025;
- h. invited FAO:
 - (i) to continue work on the contributions of both large- and small-scale farming to deforestation to better understand the key drivers and identify alternative livelihood options that are less harmful to forests;
 - (ii) to share examples of good practice from the Global Environment Facility-funded regional GEF8 Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biome Integrated Programme to strengthen the broader region's capacity in sustainable forest management; and
 - (iii) to continue to support its Members in implementing the recommendations and report on progress made at its next Session.

UPDATE ON GLOBAL INITIATIVES AND PROCESSES OF RELEVANCE FOR THE COMMISSION (Item 8)

18. On the basis of Secretariat Note APFC/2023/7 and a statement by the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), the Commission considered major outcomes of global policy processes with strong relevance to forestry.
19. The Commission:
- a. appreciated the update on global forest initiatives including the roles undertaken by FAO in advancing these;
 - b. welcomed “Forests and innovation” as the theme for International Day of Forests 2024 and for the next edition of the State of the World’s Forests 2024; and
 - c. commended the FRA process for its successful implementation of recent sub-regional workshops to support the FRA 2025 reporting process and for significant efforts in strengthening and simplifying its online reporting platform.

APFC GOVERNANCE REVIEW (Item 9)

20. On the basis of Secretariat Note APFC/2023/8 the Commission considered progress made in the review of APFC modalities and governance.
21. The Commission:
- a. emphasized the value of strengthening APFC’s intersessional activities especially by utilizing virtual technology to enhance efficiency or holding events in conjunction with other significant events to maximize participation;
 - b. recognized the value of APFC strengthening linkages with other regional and global initiatives and processes, including those identified in Secretariat Note APFC/2023/8;
 - c. appreciated the potential value in developing a set of strategic priorities and a work plan aimed at improving planning, communication, coordination, and reporting in alignment with APFC's priorities and recommendations;

- d. supported APFC fostering greater engagement with other relevant stakeholders, where appropriate, including Youth, Indigenous Peoples and the private sector;
- e. encouraged APFC to further enrich its repository of knowledge resources to better address the diverse challenges faced by countries in the Asia-Pacific region concerning sustainable forest management;
- f. supported APFC seeking greater in-kind contributions from members including through secondments, internships and similar arrangements;
- g. encouraged APFC to foster greater engagement and collaboration among countries within and outside the region, particularly in the fields of capacity building and innovations;
- h. invited its Members to:
 - (i) welcome the progress made in the APFC Governance Review and invite feedback on the proposed initial reform steps; and
 - (ii) explore ways to contribute to strengthening the financial background of the Commission.
- i. invited FAO to follow up on options identified, as appropriate, and report on progress made at a next Session as well as to the Twenty-seventh Session of COFO.

INPUTS TO FAO GOVERNANCE AND FAO FORESTRY STRATEGIC PLANNING (Item 10)

22. On the basis of Secretariat Notes APFC/2023/9.1 and APFC/2023/9.2, the Commission considered major developments within global policy initiatives and processes with strong relevance to forestry.
23. The Commission:
- a. welcomed the process to develop FAO's forestry roadmap 2024 - 2031;
 - b. encouraged FAO to give attention in the new Roadmap to seek alignment with the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2030, and SDGs, while also considering a variety of key topics in developing the Roadmap, including: forest-agricultural linkages; enhancing forest resilience; mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem restoration; forest restoration, reforestation and afforestation; role of forests and NWFPs in food security; sustainable production, use and livelihoods, including sustainable use of wood and wood fibre; global forestry statistics, analysis and reporting; and biomass resources assessment and reporting;
 - c. identified the following recommendation for the attention of the forthcoming Sessions of COFO and the Regional Conference (issues to be considered for the preparation of the agenda): decoupling agricultural production from forest and other biodiversity loss;
 - d. identified a number of other priority topics for the FAO Programme of Work in Forestry. These included: climate resilient agriculture and forestry systems; modelling of global and regional wood and fibre supply and demand; further work on key forestry terminology and definitions including on "forest degradation"; major upscaling of forest financing; forest contributions to food security; forestry-agriculture interfaces; forest data collection in support of evidence-based decision making; forest certification; integrated fire management; and forest and landscape restoration;

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- e. invited countries to continue to actively support the Regional Forestry Commissions (RFCs) as the main instruments in forestry for linking the global and regional levels under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31;
- f. invited FAO to:
- (i) ensure that its Members are consulted and given an opportunity to comment on the draft Roadmap before COFO27;
 - (ii) ensure that future Sessions of COFO provide space for RFCs to provide updates on their progress and achievements; and
 - (iii) ensure that recommendations are presented to the secretariats of COFO and the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference as well as to other RFCs.

OTHER BUSINESS (Item 11)

24. The Commission was informed of activities implemented by three of its working groups and four other initiatives:

- TeakNet;
- Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN);
- Asia-Pacific Forest Communication Network (APFCN);
- Asia-Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN);
- COFO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems;
- Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACSFI); and
- Green Climate Fund Secretariat.

25. The Commission welcomed the updates from the various networks, organizations and programmes and encouraged FAO to seek brief updates from other forestry organizations that are active in the region – for example, the International Forestry Students Association (IFSA) and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) – at future Sessions.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION (Item 12)

26. The Commission noted with appreciation the interest of the delegation from Thailand to host its thirtieth-first session.

AGENDA

“Sustainable forests for a sustainable future”

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Election of officers
3. Sustainable forests for a sustainable future
4. Forest and landscape restoration in Asia and the Pacific
5. Forests and biodiversity: a focus on primary forests
6. Building resilience to climate change: a focus on forest fires and pests and diseases
7. Report of follow-up activities to the recommendations and decisions of the Twenty-Ninth Session of the Commission
8. Update on global initiatives and processes of relevance for the Commission
9. APFC Governance Review
10. Inputs to FAO governance and FAO forestry strategic planning
11. Other business
12. Date and place of the next session
13. Adoption of the report

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chairperson:	Keiran Andrusko (Australia)
Vice-Chairpersons:	Phub Dhendup (Bhutan) Naoki Hayasaka (Japan) Marcial Amaro Jr. (Philippines)
Rapporteur:	Preecha Ongprasert (Thailand)
Secretary:	Sheila Wertz-Kanounnikoff (FAO)

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