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	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura
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## CONFERENCE

### Thirty-eighth Session

Rome, 15-22 June 2013

### Report of the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry (Rome, 24-28 September 2012)

#### Executive Summary

The Committee on Forestry (COFO) held its 21<sup>st</sup> Session from 24 to 28 September 2012 and covered the following matters:

- 1) State of the World's Forests 2012 (paragraphs 10-15)
- 2) Translating the Outcome of Rio+20 into Action (paragraphs 16-23)
- 3) Strengthening Forestry's Cross-Sectoral Linkages
  - a) Integrating forests with environmental and land-use policies at all levels (paragraphs 24-28)
  - b) Forests, trees and people together in a living landscape: A key to rural development (paragraphs 29-31)
  - c) Broadening the financial basis for sustainable forest management: wood and non-wood products, services, innovations, markets, investments and international instruments (paragraphs 32-35)
  - d) Sound information and knowledge base for better policies and good governance (paragraphs 36-39)
- 4) Follow-up on the Recommendations of the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of COFO
  - a) Report on progress and experiences of the International Year of Forests (IYF) 2011 (paragraphs 40-42)
  - b) Review of the activities of forest and rangeland bodies in the Near East Region (paragraphs 43-45)
  - c) Long-term strategy for forest resources assessment (paragraphs 46-50)
  - d) Enhanced work on vegetation fires (paragraphs 51-52)
  - e) Multi-year programme of work (MYPOW) for COFO for the period 2012-2015 (paragraph 53)
- 5) Decisions and Recommendations of FAO Bodies of Interest to the Committee (paragraphs 54-56)
- 6) Programme Priorities for FAO in Forestry
  - a) Main findings of the strategic evaluation of FAO's role and work in forestry (paragraphs 57-59)

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Other documents can be consulted at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)*



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- b) Strategic framework and programme priorities for FAO in forestry (paragraphs 60-72)
  - i) Outline of the Reviewed Strategic Framework
  - ii) Recommendations of the Regional Forestry Commissions for FAO
  - iii) Renewal of the Terms of Reference and Membership of an FAO Statutory Body: (Article Vi.2): Advisory Committee on Paper and Wood Products (ACPWP)
  - iv) Thematic Expansion of the International Poplar Commission (IPC)
  - v) Strengthening Forest Education and Research Activities in Forestry

### **Matters Requiring the Attention of the Council**

The Twenty-first Session of the Committee:

- welcomed the launch of the State of the World's Forest 2012 and recommended that FAO support countries in enhancing the contribution of forests and forest products to economic development.
- requested FAO to seek ways to maximize forests' contribution to greening the economy; work on cross-sectoral communication and collaboration; and further develop the content of the sustainable forest management (SFM) toolbox, to support countries to implement SFM.
- recommended that FAO support countries in promoting the important role of forests in maintaining the productivity of agriculture and natural resources and in strengthening forestry and agriculture linkages across sectors and policies and agencies to improve food security.
- recommended that FAO support countries to achieve their development goals for wood energy, especially in relation to the formulation, implementation and monitoring of targeted and holistic wood energy policies and technology transfer and training on wood energy;
- recommended FAO to support countries in strengthening governance mechanisms and integrating forest issues into key environmental and land use policies at all levels; and through hosting and supporting the Forest and Farm Facility.
- recommended FAO to identify its role in achieving the Bonn Challenge and strengthen its capacity in land use planning.
- recommended FAO to promote the sustainable management of forests and trees in an integrated approach across the landscape and engage in more cross-cutting and inter-departmental work to support integrated approaches; and continue engagement with the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration.
- requested FAO to support national efforts to strengthen the financial basis for SFM, including by developing an enabling environment for investment in the sector; and demonstrating the multiple values and benefits arising from public and private investment in SFM and introducing new revenue streams.
- recommended FAO to support countries in strengthening national forest information systems and promoting inter-organizational collaboration at all levels to strengthen the information and knowledge base for forest-related governance.
- recommended FAO to increase support to the development of improved tools and mechanisms for enhanced financing of the forestry and rangelands programme(s) in member countries in the region, including South-South cooperation.
- endorsed the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) Long-Term Strategy and requested FAO to prepare a set of voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring.
- requested FAO to strengthen the FAO fire management programme, propose a coordination mechanism between different UN agencies and programmes; and develop a set of international guidance tools for managing wildfire-related risks at the landscape level.
- endorsed its MYPOW and requested FAO to further explore how future MYPOWs could be more efficient in setting priorities, avoiding overlaps and helping to determine resource needs.
- recommended FAO to make the best possible use of inputs from Regional Conferences in future COFO sessions.
- recommended FAO to take into account the recommendations of the strategic evaluation, explore greater cooperation between the Committees on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries;

and report back to COFO at its next session in 2014 on measures and actions taken.

- requested FAO to give greater recognition to the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of natural resources, and to the benefits of forests and trees in the formulation of the Strategic Objectives; to better reflect the guidance given on all five Strategic Objectives.
- requested FAO to provide information to Members, outlining the intended steps for strategic planning over the next nine months and clarity on how work on forests will be budgeted, and emphasized the need for an adequate forestry budget in FAO.
- endorsed the RFC recommendations and recommended further collating and making full use of inputs from the regions to identify synergies and ensure a strategic approach to forestry work.
- supported the renewed approach of the ACPWP and recommended that FAO consider similar arrangements and bodies at regional levels to streamline and avoid duplication of efforts and including important non-wood forest products such as bamboo, rattan or cork.
- recommended that its next session be held in 2014 and the final date be decided by the FAO secretariat in consultation with the COFO Steering Committee.

### **Matters Requiring the Attention of the Conference**

The Twenty-first Session of the Committee:

- invited Members to emphasize and promote the contribution of forests to the green economy in the context of sustainable development.
- invited countries to strengthen dialogue and cooperation between forestry and other land use sectors at all levels in order to enhance effectiveness in achieving development goals and fulfilling international commitments.
- recommended that countries develop suitable strategies and actions for sustained financing for SFM and strengthen regional and international cooperation in this area.
- invited countries to integrate fire management into national, rural land and forest management policies.
- invited countries to provide inputs to the Strategic Thinking Process and urged its Members to ensure that the views expressed in this session are reflected in revised versions of the Strategic Objectives.

*Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:*

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**Table of Contents**

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	Pages
I. Opening of the Session.....	5
II. Adoption of the Agenda .....	5
III. Election of Officers and Designation of the Drafting Committee .....	5
IV. State of the World's Forests 2012.....	6
V. Translating the Outcome of RIO+20 into Action.....	6
VI. Strengthening Forestry's Cross-Sectoral Linkages.....	7
VII. Follow-up on the Recommendations of the 20th Session of COFO .....	9
VIII. Decisions and Recommendations of FAO Bodies of Interest to the Committee .....	11
IX. Programme Priorities for FAO in Forestry .....	11
X. Date and Place of the next Session.....	13
Appendix A - Agenda for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Session of COFO.....	15
Appendix B - List of Documents .....	17

## I. Opening of the Session

1. The Twenty-first Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) was held at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, from 24 to 28 September 2012, in conjunction with the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Forest Week.
2. The session was attended by delegates from 129 countries and one Member Organization. Representatives of 7 United Nations Agencies and Programmes, the Holy See, and observers from 25 intergovernmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations were also in attendance.
3. Mr Anders Lönnblad, Chairperson of the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of COFO, opened the session and highlighted the timeliness of the topics to be addressed at the session. He introduced the speakers at the opening session: Her Excellency Izabella Teixeira, Minister for the Environment of Brazil; His Excellency Dr. Hasan Mahmud, Minister for the Environment and Forests of the People's Republic of Bangladesh; Mr Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); Mr Sven Alkalaj, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE); His Excellency Dr. Pieter Willem Mulder, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of South Africa; and Director-General of FAO, Mr José Graziano da Silva. Mr Eduardo Rojas-Briales, Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department, welcomed delegates to the opening session and noted that, with valuable guidance from member countries, FAO's new strategic framework would enable FAO to unlock its full potential in all areas of its mandate.
4. One delegation (the European Union and its 27 Member States) delivered an opening statement.

## II. Adoption of the Agenda

5. The Agenda (*Appendix A*) was adopted. The documents considered by the Committee are listed in *Appendix B*.

## III. Election of Officers and Designation of the Drafting Committee

6. The Committee elected Mr Felician Kilahama (United Republic of Tanzania), representing the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission, as Chairperson of the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of COFO.
7. In accordance with Rule I of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee adopted by the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of COFO, the six Chairpersons of the FAO Regional Forestry Commissions will act as Vice-chairpersons for the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of COFO.
8. The Committee elected as Vice-Chairpersons:
  - Colonel Théophile Kakpo (Benin), representing the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission;
  - Mr Su Chunyu (China), representing the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission;
  - Mr Andrey Filipchuk (Russian Federation), representing the European Forestry Commission;
  - Mr Luis Torales Kennedy (Paraguay), representing the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission;
  - Mr Ali Temerit (Turkey), representing the Near East Forestry and Range Commission;
  - Mr Tom Tidwell (United States of America), representing the North American Forest Commission.
9. The following Members were elected to the Drafting Committee for the COFO Report: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, Finland, Japan, New Zealand, Peru and the Russian Federation. Mr Anatoli Petrov, representative of the Russian Federation was elected Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, and the representative of Afghanistan, Mr Abdul Razak Ayazi, was elected Vice-Chairperson.

#### IV. State of the World's Forests 2012

10. The Committee welcomed the launch of *State of the World's Forest 2012* (SOFO 2012) and supported its messages concerning the integration of forests and forestry into countries' policies, programmes and strategies for greening the economy, including the promotion of the use of wood from sustainable origins as an environmentally friendly material.
11. The Committee invited the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) to consider the findings of SOFO 2012 at its 10<sup>th</sup> Session on Forests and Economic Development in 2013.
12. The Committee recommended that FAO support countries in enhancing the contribution of forests and forest products to economic development by:
- creating an enabling environment to develop and sustain small enterprises for wood and non-wood products;
  - promoting sustainable forest industries;
  - broadening the range of forest products by including new and innovative products;
  - educating the public on the benefits of forest products, including for carbon storage and rural livelihoods;
  - creating a favourable investment climate for forestry;
  - promoting sustainable forest management, including an integrated approach between forest production and protection.
13. The Committee invited members to take the key messages of SOFO 2012 into account.
14. The Committee discussed possible topics for *State of the World's Forests 2014*, including cross-sectoral linkages to food security, water management and livelihoods, the integrated approach, the role of forests and trees outside forests in contributing to poverty eradication, gender balance, forest dependent communities, and providing input to the review of the international arrangement on forests in 2015.
15. The Committee invited FAO to:
- continue its active participation in UN efforts to achieve the sustainable management of forests;
  - continue playing an active role in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF);
  - support further efforts in preparation for the 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNFF in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2013.

#### V. Translating the Outcome of RIO+20 into Action

16. The Committee invited countries to emphasise and promote the contribution of forests to the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, as part of national and international policy debates and national implementation.
17. The Committee requested FAO to seek ways to maximize forests' contribution to greening the economy, noting that the green economy approach is not a rigid set of rules and is one of several approaches to sustainable development and poverty eradication. The Committee also requested FAO to work on cross-sectoral communication and collaboration, including with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), regional economic organizations, and others. The Committee welcomed the ongoing preparation of the UNECE/FAO green economy action plan for the forest sector.
18. The Committee recommended that FAO support countries, especially in relation to:
- promoting the important role of forests in maintaining the productivity of agriculture and natural resources;
  - highlighting ways in which forestry and agriculture linkages can be strengthened across sectors and amongst land management policies and agencies to improve food security;

- providing information, knowledge and assistance to countries to enhance the use of forest products from sustainably managed forests;
- helping countries raise awareness about the multiple benefits of forests.

19. The Committee requested FAO to further develop the content of the sustainable forest management (SFM) toolbox, including educational materials, voluntary guidelines and communication platforms, to support countries, where requested, in their efforts to implement SFM, while avoiding overlap and duplication and taking into consideration national and regional needs, approaches and processes.

20. The Committee encouraged FAO to proactively perform its role as member and Chair of the CPF.

21. The Committee endorsed and encouraged countries and partners to contribute to the International Conference on Forests for Food Security, to take place at FAO headquarters in May 2013.

22. While recognizing the role of forestry in a green economy, including the sustainable production and consumption of all forest products, the Committee invited countries to consider how the development of wood energy could improve access to sustainable and modern energy services and strengthen SFM.

23. The Committee recommended that FAO support countries to achieve their development goals for wood energy, especially in relation to:

- information on woodfuel production and consumption in national and international statistics;
- the formulation, implementation and monitoring of targeted and holistic wood energy policies that promote access to sustainable and modern energy services;
- cross-sectoral communication and collaboration to support sustainable and resource-efficient production, consumption and trade in wood energy;
- technology transfer and training in wood energy;
- ways to optimize the different uses of wood in terms of increasing the value, employment and carbon balances over the complete life cycle of different uses.

## **VI. Strengthening Forestry's Cross-Sectoral Linkages**

### **a) Integrating forests with environmental and land-use policies at all levels**

24. The Committee invited countries to strengthen dialogue and cooperation between forestry and other land-use sectors at all levels in order to enhance effectiveness in achieving development goals and fulfilling international commitments.

25. The Committee further invited member countries to implement the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests.

26. The Committee recommended FAO to support countries in particular in:

- strengthening governance mechanisms, including through national forest programmes and through hosting and supporting the Forest and Farm Facility;
- promoting integration of forest issues into key environmental and land-use policies at all levels, including through supporting the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests;
- promoting the sustainable contribution of forests to livelihoods, food and energy security, thereby strengthening the role of forests in achieving national development goals and in helping countries to fulfil their international commitments;
- strengthening interorganizational and intersectoral dialogue and cooperation at regional levels promoting action towards SFM.

27. The Committee recommended FAO to identify its role in achieving the Bonn Challenge and strengthen its capacity in rural land use planning in an interdisciplinary way through both normative work and project support to countries.

28. The Committee invited the CPF to make strengthening cross-sectoral collaboration in forestry the focus of its next analysis in the context of the Global Forest Expert Panels initiative.

**b) Forests, trees and people together in a living landscape: A key to rural development**

29. The Committee invited countries to:

- consider the added value of addressing agriculture, livestock, forestry and fisheries management through more integrated land management and strengthened intersectoral cooperation amongst various land management agencies;
- support actions towards the achievement of the Bonn Challenge, targeting the restoration of at least 150 million hectares of degraded forest lands by 2020.

30. The Committee recommended FAO to:

- collect and document integrated approaches to forests and intersectoral coordination around the world, and analyze their benefits and costs;
- seek further cooperation with partners to promote restoration and rehabilitation of degraded forest and other lands in an integrated approach and invited all partners, and in particular the members of the CPF, to help enhance such cooperation;
- promote the sustainable management of forests and trees in an integrated approach across the landscape and their integration into agriculture and other land use systems, where appropriate;
- engage in more cross-cutting and interdepartmental work to support integrated approaches to achieve greater food security, poverty eradication, climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources;
- seek support for its field programme to enable FAO to increase its support to member countries for capacity development in intersectoral planning, institutional development and application of integrated approaches;
- continue engagement with the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration.

31. The Committee supported the transition of the National Forest Programme Facility to the Forest and Farm Facility and requested further information on how the new Facility would operate.

**c) Broadening the financial basis for sustainable forest management: wood and non-wood products, services, innovations, markets, investments and international instruments**

32. The Committee recommended that countries develop suitable strategies and actions for sustained financing for SFM and strengthen regional and international cooperation in this area.

33. The Committee noted the accomplishments of CPF in support of forest financing<sup>1</sup> and invited CPF members to strengthen their collaboration in this area, including by sharing and disseminating best practices and providing updated data on forest finance, including from the private sector.

34. The Committee requested FAO to support national efforts to strengthen the financial basis for SFM, including by:

- developing policies, institutional capacities and technical expertise that will support an enabling environment for investment in the sector;
- demonstrating the multiple values and benefits arising from public and private investment in SFM;
- integrating the evaluation of ecosystem services provided by forests into national forest assessment and monitoring, forest management planning and national accounting;

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<sup>1</sup> For example, the study for the Advisory Group on Finance and the Organization Led Initiative on Forest Financing <http://www.cpfweb.org/78477/en/>.

- introducing new revenue streams and other innovative approaches to create opportunities for investment by all stakeholders;
- strengthening governance and security of land tenure to improve the conditions for both public finance and private investment;
- building capacity to more effectively access international financial mechanisms to support forest and wildlife management.

35. The Committee noted that forest finance needs to be broader than REDD+ and discussed several options for expanding the scope and mechanisms for forest financing, including voluntary funding. Building on the ideas developed during the CPF's Organization-led Initiative on Forest Financing and COFO, the Committee invited FAO to continue to explore options, together with the CPF members, to enhance the enabling conditions for investment in SFM.

#### **d) Sound information and knowledge base for better policies and good governance**

36. The Committee welcomed FAO's work on capacity building and tools to strengthen national forest information systems, and invited countries to strengthen their forest and natural resources information systems to better support evidence-based and future-oriented policy-making and to make measurable progress towards enhancing SFM.

37. The Committee invited member countries to strengthen their information and knowledge base on forest governance, including through the use of the FAO/World Bank Framework for Assessing and Monitoring Forest Governance.

38. The Committee welcomed FAO's work with ITTO, UNECE, the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, the Commission for Forests of Central Africa/the Observatory for the Forests of Central Africa, the Economic Community of West African States and other relevant institutions and members of the Montreal Process on streamlining data gathering and reporting, and on refinement of the collaborative forest resource questionnaire.

39. The Committee recommended FAO to support countries, in particular through:

- guidance, capacity building and tools to strengthen national forest information systems that are aligned with national policy priorities and facilitate monitoring of the biophysical, socio-economic and governance dimensions of SFM, including through forest-related criteria and indicators;
- promote voluntary transfer, on mutually agreed terms, of applicable and cost effective new technologies, including information systems and remote sensing for forest resource monitoring;
- capacity building for the application of the Framework for Assessing and Monitoring Forest Governance, including on data collection<sup>2</sup>;
- promoting inter-organizational collaboration at all levels to strengthen the information and knowledge base for forest-related governance.

## **VII. Follow-up on the Recommendations of the 20th Session of COFO**

### **a) Report on progress and experiences of the International Year of Forests (IYF) 2011**

40. The Committee welcomed the report on progress in implementing the decisions of the 20<sup>th</sup> session.

41. The Committee encouraged FAO to build on the achievements from the IYF in carrying out future communication activities to promote greater knowledge about forest issues.

42. The Committee further encouraged FAO to implement the new Communication Strategy, and supported the establishment and enhancement of regional communication networks, such as the

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.fao.org/climatechange/27526-0cc61ecc084048c7a9425f64942df70a8.pdf>

UNECE/FAO Forest Communicators Network. It noted the need for better communication between the FAO Forestry Programme and other programmes within the Organization.

**b) Review of the activities of forest and rangeland bodies in the Near East Region**

43. The Committee took note of document COFO/2012/7.2 and the information contained therein.

44. The Committee recommended FAO to increase support to the development of improved tools and mechanisms for enhanced financing of the forestry and rangelands programme(s) in member countries in the region, including South-South cooperation.

45. Noting their special challenges the Committee was informed of the planned ministerial meeting on low forest cover countries (LFCCs) to be held in Tehran, Iran, in December 2012.

**c) Long-term strategy for forest resources assessment**

46. The Committee endorsed the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) Long-Term Strategy as reviewed by the six Regional Forestry Commissions, noting the need for a detailed implementation plan.

47. The Committee supported the implementation of FRA 2015 as a next step in implementing the Long-Term Strategy and recommended including trees outside forests and agroforestry in the assessment, requesting FAO to prioritize its efforts with a focus on improving data quality, making better use of third party data and producing results that are consistent over time.

48. The Committee emphasized the need for capacity building and encouraged countries and donors to support the critical capacity building efforts needed in 2013-2014 to prepare FRA 2015.

49. The Committee noted the importance of harmonizing and streamlining data collection, welcomed the progress made in this regard, and invited other governing bodies, in particular those of the CPF member organizations, to support this work further and make best use of its achievements in their decisions.

50. The Committee requested FAO to work in close collaboration with member countries and relevant organizations to prepare a set of voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring, which takes into account the requirements for REDD+ reporting and is in line with the principles and goals of the Forest Instrument.

**d) Enhanced work on vegetation fires**

51. The Committee welcomed FAO's work on vegetation fires and invited countries to integrate fire management into national, rural land and forest management policies.

52. The Committee requested FAO to:

- strengthen the FAO fire management programme by actively seeking financial support for the Multi-Donor Trust Fund proposal;
- propose a coordination mechanism between the different UN agencies and programmes working on topics related to fire management by making full use of its comparative advantages and avoiding duplication with the work of other agencies such as the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC);
- develop, in partnership with other relevant institutions and based on the Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines, a set of international guidance tools for managing wildfire-related risks at the landscape level, including transboundary fire issues.

**e) Multi-year programme of work (MYPOW) for COFO for the period 2012-2015**

53. The Committee endorsed its MYPOW. The Committee requested FAO to further explore how future MYPOWs could be more efficient in setting priorities, avoiding overlaps and helping to determine resource needs.

## VIII. Decisions and Recommendations of FAO Bodies of Interest to the Committee

54. The Committee invited countries to provide inputs to the Strategic Thinking Process and the formulation of the Strategic Objectives for the consideration of the 145<sup>th</sup> session of the FAO Council.

55. The Committee considered how to strengthen further the linkage between the regional and global levels and recommended FAO to make the best possible use of inputs from Regional Conferences in future COFO sessions, focusing on issues of common interest by several Regional Conferences and Commissions.

56. The Committee was informed of the successful cooperation between the European Forestry Commission and the UNECE Timber Committee.

## IX. Programme Priorities for FAO in Forestry

### a) Main findings of the strategic evaluation of FAO's role and work in forestry

57. The Committee welcomed the main findings of the FAO strategic evaluation of FAO's role and work in forestry and noted that the management response was not yet available.

58. The Committee noted the nine evaluation recommendations and recommended FAO to:

- take into account the recommendations made by the strategic evaluation, including in the functioning of the Organization, in the review of the strategic framework and in strengthening collaboration with CPF members and the regions;
- explore greater cooperation between the Committees on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, such as a joint COAG-COFO Panel of Experts;
- report back to COFO at its next session in 2014 on measures and actions taken.

59. The Committee supported an enhanced role of FAO at the regional and subregional levels and urged FAO to increase its cooperation with relevant regional bodies and processes.

### b) Strategic framework and programme priorities for FAO in forestry

#### Outline of the Reviewed Strategic Framework

60. The Committee welcomed the Strategic Thinking Process to determine the future strategic direction of the Organization. The Committee noted that the formulation of the Strategic Objectives was a work in progress and that the Reviewed Strategic Framework to be presented to the Programme Committee in November and the Council in December would include updated versions of all the proposed Strategic Objectives.

61. The Committee supported in principle the move to fewer strategic objectives of a cross-cutting nature and thus help to better link FAO's work on forests and trees to the achievement of FAO's global goals addressing poverty eradication, food security and sustainable development.

62. The Committee received a presentation of the latest thinking on Strategic Objective 2 and appreciated that its focus had been expanded from sustainable production to also include the sustainable provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The Committee appreciated the information as a development in the right direction but nevertheless recalled that the formulation of the Strategic Objectives was still a work in progress.

63. The Committee noted that the Strategic Objectives were currently focused mainly on food and agriculture and did not adequately reflect the contributions of natural resources, including forests and trees. It requested FAO to give greater recognition to the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of natural resources and to the benefits of forests and trees related to the provision of ecosystem services, support livelihood development and sustainable production and consumption in the formulation of the Strategic Objectives and action plans.

64. The Committee requested FAO in the further development of the strategic objectives to better reflect the following points:

- Regarding Strategic Objective 1: strengthen the recognition of forests in their contribution to food security.
- Regarding Strategic Objective 2: reflect a better balance between production and conservation, restoration and sustainable management of natural resources, including the provision of ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation.
- Regarding Strategic Objective 3: capture the role of forests in livelihoods and employment, poverty reduction and gender aspects as well as other social and cultural dimensions of forestry.
- Regarding Strategic Objective 4: include explicitly forest sector industries, including forest bioenergy, and capture the concept of sustainable production and consumption as well as consider addressing governance elements.
- Regarding Strategic Objective 5: include natural resource based resilience due to the strong linkage between the natural resource base and preventing and reducing the risk associated with threats and crisis.

65. Looking forward to a broad and inclusive consultative process, the Committee requested FAO to provide information to members outlining the intended steps for strategic planning over the next nine months and clarity on how work on forests will be budgeted, and emphasized the need for an adequate forestry budget in FAO.

66. The Committee urged its members to work through their own FAO representations in Rome and in their capitals to ensure that the views expressed in this session are reflected in revised versions of the Strategic Objectives.

#### Recommendations of the Regional Forestry Commissions for FAO

67. The Committee noted the recommendations arising from the six Regional Forestry Commissions (RFCs) and the ongoing initiatives presented in the annexes that provide guidance on areas of priority in the context of the new Strategic Framework to allow FAO Forestry work to contribute most effectively to the three global goals of FAO.

68. The Committee endorsed the RFC recommendations and recognized FAO's efforts to strengthen the connection of the RFCs' input into the work of the Forestry Programme. Noting these regional inputs as very important, the Committee recommended further collating and making full use of inputs from the regions to identify synergies and ensure a strategic approach to forestry work.

#### Renewal of the Terms of Reference and Membership of an FAO Statutory Body (Article Vi.2): Advisory Committee on Paper and Wood Products (ACPWP)

69. COFO supported the new Terms of Reference and the renewed approach of the ACPWP, emphasizing the importance of linkages with and inputs from the private sector to the work of FAO and COFO. The Committee recommended that FAO consider similar arrangements and bodies at regional levels to streamline and avoid duplication of efforts and including important non-wood forest products such as bamboo, rattan or cork.

#### Thematic Expansion of the International Poplar Commission (IPC)

70. Taking into account the experience and knowledge generated through the IPC in its 65 years of existence, the Committee took note of the proposal to expand the thematic coverage of the IPC and requested FAO to provide further information on the proposal while sharing it with the next IPC session.

#### Strengthening Forest Education and Research Activities in Forestry

71. Noting the existing networks of forestry education institutions and groups, the Committee discussed the pros and cons of FAO strengthening its forestry education and knowledge initiative.

72. The Committee held different opinions on the establishment of an Advisory Panel on Forest Knowledge within FAO, noting the importance of working with other existing partnerships such as the CPF, and requested more information on the operation and the implications of such a Panel.

### **X. Date and Place of the next Session**

73. The Committee recommended that its next session be held in 2014 and suggested that the final date would be decided by the FAO secretariat in consultation with the COFO Steering Committee, following review of the FAO Calendar of Governing Body Sessions for the next biennium by the Council.



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**Appendix A -  
Agenda for the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of COFO**

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Election of Officers and Designation of the Drafting Committee
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  - b) Review of the activities of forest and rangeland bodies in the Near East Region
  - c) Long-term strategy for forest resources assessment
  - d) Measuring governance indicators
  - e) Enhanced work on vegetation fires
  - f) Multi-year programme of work for COFO for the period 2012-2015
8. Decisions and Recommendations of FAO Bodies of Interest to the Committee
9. Programme Priorities for FAO in Forestry
  - a) Main findings of the strategic evaluation of FAO's role and work in forestry
  - b) Strategic framework and programme priorities for FAO in forestry
10. Date and Place of the Next Session
11. Adoption of the Report
12. Closure of the Session



## **Appendix B - List of Documents**

<b>Document symbol</b>	<b>Title</b>
COFO/2012/2	Provisional Agenda
COFO/2012/4	State of the World's Forests 2012 - Forests at the heart of a sustainable future
COFO/2012/5.1	Translating the Outcome of Rio+20 into Action
COFO/2012/5.2	Translating the Outcome of Rio+20 into Action - Wood energy for a sustainable future
COFO/2012/6.1	Strengthening Forestry's Cross-Sectoral Linkages - Integrating forests with environmental and land use policies at all levels
COFO/2012/6.2	Forests, Trees and People Together in a Living Landscape: A key to rural development
COFO/2012/6.3	Broadening the Financial Basis for Sustainable Forest Management
COFO/2012/6.4	Strengthening Forestry's Cross-Sectoral Linkages - Sound information and knowledge base for better policies and good governance
COFO/2012/7.1	Follow-up on the Recommendations of the 20 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry
COFO/2012/7.2	Inter-Sectoral Cooperation on Forests and Rangelands: Review of the activities of forest and rangeland bodies in the Near East region
COFO/2012/7.3	Supporting Sustainable Forest Management through Global Forest Resources Assessment: Long-Term Strategy 2012-2030
COFO/2012/7.5	Strengthening the FAO Fire Management Programme
COFO/2012/7.6	Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Committee
COFO/2012/8	Decisions and Recommendations of FAO Bodies of Interest to the Committee
COFO/2012/9.1	Main Findings of the Strategic Evaluation of FAO's Work in Forestry
COFO/2012/9.2	Outline of the Reviewed Strategic Framework
COFO/2012/9.3	Recommendations of the Regional Forestry Commissions for FAO

**Information Documents**

COFO/2012/Inf.1	Provisional Timetable
COFO/2012/Inf.2	List of Documents
COFO/2012/Inf.3	List of Participants
COFO/2012/Inf.4	Statement of Competence and Voting Rights Submitted by the European Union and its Member Countries
COFO/2012/Inf.5	Strategic Evaluation of FAO's Role and Work in Forestry - Final Report
COFO/2012/Inf.6	Strategic Evaluation of FAO's Role and Work in Forestry - Annexes
COFO/2012/Inf.7	Strategic Evaluation of FAO's Role and Work in Forestry - Report of the Expert Panel
COFO/2012/Inf.8	Country Analysis of some Key Aspects of FAO Forestry's Work - Findings of the survey conducted during the 2011-2012 sessions of the regional Forestry Commissions
COFO/2012/Inf.9	Outline of the Reviewed Strategic Framework (Extract from Report of the 144 <sup>th</sup> Council Session)