



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

منظمة  
الغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

E

# FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

## Thirty-fourth Session

Mexico City (Mexico), 29 February - 3 March 2016

### Summary of the Recommendations of the Regional Technical Commissions

## I. LACFC Report

### A. General information

#### Establishment, functions and members

1. The Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC) was established at the Fourth Session of the FAO Conference (1948). Its primary function is to serve as a neutral forum for the Member Nations of the region to discuss forestry issues. The Commission has 33 Member Nations working in subregional groups (Caribbean, Mesoamerica, Amazon and Southern Cone) to prepare their work programmes within the LACFC framework.

#### Date, place and number of participants at the last session

2. LACFC held its 29th Session in Lima from 9 to 13 of November 2015 at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Peru. Delegates from 20 Member Nations and representatives of 12 organizations, including observers, United Nations System Agencies and international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations attended.

### B. Introduction and sectoral context

3. Latin America and the Caribbean have abundant forest resources. The total forest area of the region is 935.5 million hectares, which is equivalent to 46.4 percent of the total surface area of the region. This corresponds to 23.4 percent of the world's total forest area. The largest area of forests is found in the Amazon subregion, which has a forest cover of 58 percent while the Southern Cone has a forest cover of only 15 percent. Mesoamerica and the Caribbean have a forest cover of 35 percent and 32 percent respectively.

4. The loss of forest in the LAC region continues, but the rate of loss is slowing down from 4.45 million hectares between 1990-2000 to 2.18 million hectares per year between 2010-2015. This slowdown is mainly due to Brazil reducing the rate of annual forest loss from 2.54 million hectares in the period 1990-2000 to 0.98 million hectares in the period 2010-2015. However, the subregions of

*This document can be accessed using the Quick Response Code on this page; an FAO initiative to minimize its environmental impact and promote greener communications. Other documents can be consulted at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)*



mp623

Mesoamerica and the Southern Cone also show a reduction of annual forest loss. The Caribbean subregion is the only one to show a net increase of forest area. Approximately 50 percent of the forest area in the region is considered primary forest, 2 percent of the forest area is planted forest, and the remaining 48 percent is naturally regenerated forest. This is in comparison to global averages where about 33 percent is primary forest, 7 percent is planted and the remaining 60 percent is naturally regenerated forest.

5. On the whole and in spite of the positive results in the reduction of the rate, deforestation and forest degradation are still one of LAC's most important environmental problems, putting the livelihoods of millions of people who are directly or indirectly linked to forests at risk. In order to tackle this, the region's countries have created diverse policies and programmes aimed at reducing deforestation inside and outside of the sector, including environmental policies driven by various countries resulting in substantial benefits in the conservation of forests and the development of environmental services. The region has also noted significant changes in land tenure. Approximately 250 million hectares have been assigned to indigenous peoples and other rural communities, promoting major change in the management and handling of forest resources.

### **C. Relevant activities during the period**

6. The LACFC Secretariat reported on the activities carried out as follow-up to the recommendations made at the previous LACFC Session and, in particular, on the support given to countries to strengthen South-South Cooperation, the continuation of identifying exemplary cases of sustainable forest management, the analysis of environmental policies that lead to a reduction in deforestation, the development of a small-scale forest enterprises programme, the revamp of forestry education in the region and the implementation of a mechanism to restore forests and forest landscapes.

7. The delegates recognized the work of FAO in the intersessional period and stated the importance of continuing to promote the exchange of experiences and cooperation between countries.

### **D. Main conclusions and recommendations**

#### **Recommendations for the attention of the FAO Regional Conference**

8. The Commission recommended the following to the Regional Conference:
- a) Analyse financial contribution and the contribution of forest externalities, including agrosilvopastoral systems, to food security, family farming, territorial development, the sustainable use of natural resources, adaptation to climate change and risk management.
  - b) Encourage the development of intersectoral agendas that link agricultural, forestry and environmental issues in a holistic territorial approach. Another recommendation made to the Regional Conference included facilitating access to international agricultural product markets from sustainable systems.

#### **Recommendations for the Committee on Forestry (COFO)**

9. The Commission recommended the following to COFO:
- a) Promote the debate on integration between the forest sector and other sectors that manage land use, and diverse economic and productive activities, in a process that involves social inclusion for development without deforestation, and also to highlight the role played by forests in food security and the eradication of hunger and poverty. It was also recommended that discussions on forests and the green economy should be progressed further.
  - b) Continue the debate on climate change and forests, especially in terms of forest health, fires and the escalation of natural disasters. Begin definition of socio-environmental and economic indicators to assess the effect of climate change on forests and forest management.

- c) Promote fair trade of legal forest products, providing recognition of national certification and traceability systems of these products, without having to turn to complex international certification systems, which adversely affect the food security of local populations.
- d) Continue with global dialogue to set up a Global Forest Fund to support countries in the implementation of international agreements on forests. Identify synergies between agreements and multilateral organizations working on the environment and forests.
- e) Identify funding sources to ensure and broaden the participation of delegates from developing countries and developing small island states in Commission and Committee meetings and other international fora for dialogue on forests. The Secretariat was also urged to promote face-to-face and virtual meetings between sessions and specific workshops on priority technical issues.

### **Recommendations for the attention of FAO Programme of Work**

10. The Commission recommended FAO include the following in its programme of work:
  - a) Development of methodologies to evaluate the contribution of plantations to the generation of environmental goods and services for sustainable development and food security.
  - b) Implementation of training procedures for firefighting and local community fire management.
  - c) Resumption of work to define and review the concepts and to expand the glossary of forest terminology.
  - d) Continue to strengthen national and subregional capacities on forest health and control of invasive species, and implementation of cooperation mechanisms.
  - e) Continue implementation of forest-based programmes that contribute to the development and improvement of the livelihoods of local communities.
  - f) The relationship between forests and the green economy.
  - g) Continue supporting forest inventories under development by countries and REDD+.
  - h) Continue research on forest concessions and community-based enterprise development, as an input for the design and redesign of public policies.

## **II. CLDLAC Report**

### **A. General Information**

#### **Establishment, functions and members**

11. The Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean (CLDLAC) was established by FAO at the request of Member Nations by Council Resolution 1/92 of 1987. Beginning in 1998, Member Nations agreed to convene biannual meetings of subregional chapters in response to differences in agro-ecological, production, trade and socio-economic contexts, in line with regional integration agreements: the Southern Cone and Andean Chapters (Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) and the Mesoamerican Chapter (Central America, Mexico, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic).

#### **Date, place and number of participants at the last meeting**

12. The 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Mesoamerican Chapter (Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic, November 2015) was held during the last biennium. The number of participants, including delegates and observers, was 70 in total.

### **B. Introduction and sectoral context**

13. It is estimated that by 2050 there will be a considerable rise in global demand for meat, eggs and dairy products. The highest rise in demand for protein will take place in developing countries as a result of greater urbanization and increased revenue.

14. At present, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) globally account for more than a quarter of beef production and more than 20 percent of poultry production. Meat production in the Western Hemisphere is moving to South America, and above all to Brazil, especially as livestock numbers in the United States continue to fall and are struggling to recover after several years of devastating drought.

15. The growth of livestock inventories and production efficiency continues to drive the production of meat and milk in LAC. The three countries with the greatest production output account for 50 to 70 percent of all LAC livestock inventories, and the five largest producers account for 70 to 80 percent of the total.

16. The recent fall in oil prices and feed grain is facilitating a change in LAC's livestock industry to more intensive production practices.

17. With some notable exceptions, proven and innovative livestock production technologies that improve food security, the economy and environmental sustainability of high-income countries are not being used fully in Latin America, given that extension and technological innovation systems are weak and family farmers have limited access to technology and rural services.

18. One of the region's main livestock challenges is to increase the level of competition between its producers, by reducing production costs and increasing the added value of products. Achieving this goal depends to a large extent on the stakeholders in the chain and their capacity to work together in a coordinated manner. Associations and strategic alliances are considered as tools to help achieve this goal.

19. In terms of animal health, it is estimated that approximately 85 percent of South America's cattle population is now recognized as being free of foot-and-mouth disease; there is also recognition of the progress made by Mesoamerica in health issues in the subregion and there are also territories free of disease, which is a great asset. Nevertheless, there are still significant challenges in improving epidemiological surveillance systems in terms of climate change and integrated management of animal health, ecosystem health and public health under a one health strategy.

### **C. Relevant activities during the period**

20. Within the framework of the Classical Swine Fever (CSF) Eradication Plan for the Americas, and with support from the Technical Secretariat of the FAO plan, there was a series of combined efforts resulting in a joint mission to the Dominican Republic and Haiti tasked with evaluating the current situation with CSF national programmes. This joint mission included FAO, the International Office of Epizootics (OIE) and the Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health (RIOPPAH). As a result of the evaluation, a report listing strategic recommendations was drafted to support, guide and improve the programmes. A provisional work plan was also drafted on thematic areas identified for regional South-South Cooperation (SSC) and is still ongoing.

21. A regional workshop was held to improve the management and coverage of health risks. The workshop was on “Strengthening capacity to respond to animal disease emergencies in Latin America and the Caribbean”, which was jointly organized with FAO, using the experience from the Crisis Management Centre - Animal Health (CMC-AH), and RIOPPAH. The region’s official veterinary services have consequently improved their national and regional capacities for efficient preparation, control and management of transboundary disease emergencies.

22. Within the framework of recommendations of the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission, there was a joint proposal with the Pan American Dairy Federation (FEPALE), the Central American Federation of the Dairy Sector (FECALAC) and the Central American Federation of the Beef Industry (FECESCABO) to guide the set-up and implementation of a Mesoamerican observatory for milk. All of this is helping in the process of formation and design of public policies for the livestock sector, which is able to count on reliable information that contributes to decision-making based on evidence.

23. An additional contribution to strengthening the region’s sustainable development of the livestock sector was a workshop held on FAO’s Agricultural Stress Index System (ASIS), which uses satellites to detect hotspots throughout the world where crops could be affected by drought, and verifies agrometeorological models with data obtained from the national meteorological network.

24. Within the framework of the regional project for the recovery of degraded pastures (TCP/RLA/3405), bioeconomic models have been developed based on technical, economic and environmental indicators for the development of programmes to recover degraded pastures and improve production efficiency. This has been managed by an ad-hoc livestock and environmental group from CLDLAC and the tool will help livestock producers and stakeholders to make more accurate decisions in order to invest in the recovery of pastures while also contributing to the mitigation of the effects of climate change.

25. During the Commission’s 13<sup>th</sup> session held in the Dominican Republic, different experiences were presented and discussed on: a) livestock challenges and contributions to formulating a subregional strategy to achieve global Sustainable Development Goals post-2015; b) policy guidelines and lessons learned for the mitigation of livestock emissions in Central America; c) strengthening participation of producer associations in CLDLAC; d) an observatory for the Latin American and Caribbean dairy sector, with advances made in Mesoamerica; e) course of action and challenges in the control and eradication of transboundary diseases in Mesoamerica; f) advantages and opportunities of South-South Cooperation (SSC) to strengthen livestock sector capacities in the region’s countries.

### **D. Main conclusions and recommendations**

*(CLDLAC, Mesoamerican Chapter)*

26. The Commission supports the significant efforts of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger 2025. The contribution that the different stakeholders from the livestock sector can make towards this initiative is particularly noteworthy. It recommends supporting dialogue geared towards the development of sector policies and strategies facilitating the incorporation of issues such as food and nutrition security as the primary objective of these strategic frameworks.

27. The Commission has taken note of the global agenda for the sustainable development of livestock initiative. It highlights the different development approaches of the different regions. It notes the low participation levels of stakeholders that represent the region in the guide group. It urges the global agenda to include stakeholders in the guide group that are identified by the Commission to represent the region's interests. It recommends ensuring that global agenda work plans represent regional priorities as defined by CLDLAC, Mesoamerican Chapter.
28. The Commission ratifies and highlights the importance of strengthening family livestock production as a motor for rural development and a significant way of mitigating poverty and food insecurity in rural areas, through targeted policies for the production subsector geared towards an initiative based on social innovation and local production.
29. The Commission draws attention to the existence of different funding mechanisms, which can be used to support the formulation and implementation of environmentally sustainable livestock systems that contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation processes. The establishment and strengthening of interinstitutional and intersectoral coordination mechanisms is recommended (agriculture/environment, livestock organizations, academia, etc.) for joint policy formulation, enabling a clearer definition of courses of action to follow in order to achieve sustainable and inclusive livestock development.
30. The Commission concludes that clear policies are required urgently to prevent and manage risks, including integrated policies on One Health (public health, animal health and ecosystem health), in line with sustainable rural development policies, which enable the reduction of the risks and impacts of climate change and improve the resilience of the most vulnerable rural communities, as well as making the most of the potential of creating so-called green jobs.
31. The Commission highlights that it is of vital importance for the region of Mesoamerica to promote fora for discussion between public and private sectors in order to identify, formulate and implement joint strategies for the sustainable development of the livestock sector.
32. The Commission emphasizes the need for reliable information that facilitates evidence-based decision-making. One of the main challenges for designing public policy instruments is the significant lack of statistical information on the region's livestock sector.

#### **For the attention of FAO**

33. The Commission emphasized the following priorities for FAO technical cooperation in the region:
- a) Strengthen CLDLAC, Mesoamerican Chapter information and communication channels and mechanisms through FAO representations and other organizations participating in the Commission, with the aim of managing implementation of the recommendations for each country.
  - b) Support governance of countries to complement efforts to strengthen sustainable livestock development policies for family livestock production and programmes for prevention, control and eradication of transboundary diseases.
  - c) Strengthen and facilitate dialogue in the subregion for discussion and analysis on sustainable livestock development. Consider the support of existing bodies such as the CELAC Family Farming Group and national committees on family farming.
  - d) Together with RIOPPAH, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and other regional and international organizations, strengthen cost-accounting mechanisms for transboundary diseases and zoonoses in order to prioritize investment and funding of prevention, control and eradication programmes of notable diseases in the region.
  - e) Define creation of mechanisms to implement South-South Cooperation in Mesoamerica.

#### **For the attention of the Regional Conference**

34. With regard to the strategic contribution made by the regional livestock sector in providing the world's food, to LAC's food and nutrition security, to the wellbeing of small rural producers in the

fight against poverty, and to the challenge faced by countries in protecting their livestock heritage, reducing risks linked to animal and public health, and consolidating their sustainable livestock development programmes and adaptation to climate change, the Commission requests the following from the FAO Regional Conference:

- a) Adopt and incorporate recommendations from the Livestock Development Commission, Mesoamerican Chapter into its biannual programme of work, in terms of technical cooperation for the livestock sector.
- b) Manage the increase in South-South Cooperation between LAC countries to strengthen capacities and exchange experiences, especially from those countries that have made progress on hunger and poverty reduction goals, particularly on issues addressed at the 13<sup>th</sup> CLDLAC Meeting: sustainable development of the livestock sector, family livestock production, animal health, cooperation and others. Private sector investments can also help in the South-South exchange between countries.
- c) Support fora for dialogue within the framework of the CELAC Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger 2025 in order to steer development policies and strategies of the livestock sector.
- d) Work together with other regional and international organizations and national bodies on proposals for strategic public and private investment plans, and support ministers of agriculture in the management and coordination with other ministries (economy, trade, health etc.) to get approval and delivery of investments. Raise these proposals to the highest level in order to reduce risks to public health, loss of trade opportunities, loss of productivity and costs resulting in health risks.

### **III. WECAFC report**

#### **A. General information**

##### **Establishment, functions and members**

35. The Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) was established in 1973 by FAO Council Resolution 4/61 and currently comprises 33 countries and the European Union as members. Almost all Caribbean and Central American countries are WECAFC members.

36. The Commission's objective is to promote the conservation, management and development of living marine resources in the WECAFC area of operation, in line with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and to address common fisheries management and development problems faced by WECAFC members.

##### **Date, place and number of participants at the last meeting**

37. The Commission's 15th meeting was held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from 26 to 28 March 2014. 29 FAO members out of the 34 members of this FAO Technical Commission participated (i.e. 85% of the membership). Observers from five Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) and five intergovernmental organizations participated. Quorum to make decisions was reached.

#### **B. Introduction and sectoral context**

38. The current limited cooperation in fisheries in the region leads to overexploitation and may lead to depletion of fisheries resources. Landings declined with some 40% over the last two decades. The WECAFC area is the most over-exploited region in the world. Some 55% of the commercially harvested fisheries stocks in the region are overexploited or depleted and some 40% of the stocks are fully exploited at present.

39. Fisheries sector production and its contribution to food security, income and livelihoods in the region can be increased by investing in regional fisheries management and aquaculture development. Rebuilding of fish stocks and marine fisheries production to the levels of the 1970 and early 1980s will require collaborative fisheries management and better general governance of the sector.

40. WECAFC covers FAO area 31 and the northern part of area 41. The total water surface covered by WECAFC is 18,368,333 square km. This is equivalent approximately to twice the size of the USA and four times the size of the European Union. 51% of the WECAFC area is high seas and 89% of its mandate area is deep sea (below 400 meters).

41. The fisheries situation in the Western Central Atlantic can be describes as follows:

- a) Fish production is currently around 1.4 million tonnes, which is 300 thousand tonnes below the 30 year average.
- b) Main fish producers in the region are: USA, Mexico, Brazil, CRFM, Venezuela, OSPESCA, European Union and Cuba.
- c) The total off-vessel value generated by the sector in the WECAFC mandate area is some 3.2 billion USD annually.
- d) The region is a net importer of fish; imports of fish and fisheries products are 8.5 billion USD higher than exports.
- e) The fisheries sector provides direct employment for 1.3 million people in the region and supports the livelihoods of 4.5 million people.
- f) Fish consumption per capita is on average some 20 kg on Caribbean islands and between 6 and 12 kg in Central America, contributing between 2 and 15% to protein intake of the population in the region.
- g) 19 of the 34 WECAFC members are member of other Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs) in the Atlantic or elsewhere.
- h) Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing is estimated at between 20 and 30% of total reported production levels.

### C. Relevant activities during the period

42. In the intersessional period 2014 -2015 some 80% of the agreed Programme of Work was carried out; 31 WECAFC members participated in its activities; eight of the ten (joint) Working Groups (Queen conch, spawning aggregations, fish aggregating devices (FADs), lobster, recreational fisheries, flying fish, shrimp and groundfish, deep sea fisheries) have been active; 8 Working Group meetings were organized by WECAFC and partners; 10 regional technical workshops were held; 48 FAO projects supported work on fisheries and aquaculture of WECAFC members; and 10 FAO-WECAFC publications were issued. Six hundred and twelve stakeholders participated in WECAFC workshops and meetings in 2014 and 2015, including 35% women. Resources in the order of seven hundred and eighty thousand USD were mobilized by the WECAFC secretariat and used to make the above working group meetings and capacity building possible.

43. Following the recommendation by WECAFC 15 that an independent cost-benefit assessment be conducted of the options for Strategic Reorientation of the Commission, such a study was conducted in 2015 and a 2nd WECAFC Strategic reorientation workshop was held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago on 1-2 December 2015. The workshop was attended by 48 participants from 25 member countries as well as partner organizations (CRFM<sup>1</sup>, OSPESCA, CLME+, UNEP and NEAFC), international experts and FAO.

44. The WECAFC members had chosen a cost-benefit assessment of the following three options:

- a) WECAFC should remain a regional level fisheries advisory commission as a FAO Article VI body and continue to coordinate joint work with the sub-regional advisory/management bodies (CRFM, OSPESCA and perhaps OLDEPESCA)
- b) WECAFC should become a regional fisheries management organization (RFMO) as a FAO Article XIV body, with a mandate to make legally binding decisions.
- c) WECAFC should become a regional fisheries management organization (RFMO) independent of FAO with a mandate to make legally binding decisions.

### D. Main Conclusions and Recommendations

45. WECAFC 15 adopted 9 of the 10 presented regional fisheries management recommendations and resolutions; thanked FAO for the Performance Review; adopted the Strategic Plan 2014-2020, approved the Programme of Work (2014-15), endorsed the WECAFC – FIRMS partnership, adopted the revised Rules of Procedures and discussed the options for strategic reorientation. No decision was taken on starting a transition process of WECAFC into a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) as members required additional information, to be collected in the period 2014 -2015.

46. WECAFC 15 was the best attended session of the Commission in its 40 years history. For the first time non-binding fisheries management measures were presented and adopted. The current set-up with joint Working Groups with other RFBs and the partnership with FIRMS appears to be highly productive and successful. Financial constraints of FAO are being mitigated by extra-budgetary funding from partners and members. The revised Rules of Procedure of the Commission allows for greater collaboration with the partners and transfers part of the translation/interpretation cost implications to the members.

47. The cost-benefit assessment study, supported by the discussion at the 2nd WECAFC Strategic reorientation workshop, recognized that the establishment of either type of RFMO (FAO or an independent Inter-Governmental Organization) would result within a short period 5 to 10 years in substantial positive impacts that include:

---

<sup>1</sup> Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), Organization for Fisheries and Aquaculture of Central America (OSPESCA), Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project (CLME), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)

- a) *Stocks*: rehabilitation of some key commercially targeted stocks, through implementation of binding management measures, reduced IUU fishing and an increase in ecosystem services provided by the area.
- b) *Fisheries volume*: increase in production with 300 thousand tonnes within 10 years to a fisheries production level of around 1.72 million tonnes in Area 31, and an estimated increase of 20 to 40 thousand tonnes in the northern part of Area 41.
- c) *Fisheries value*: off-vessel value of fisheries products will be annually more than 20% higher than currently the case, adding an estimated 700 million USD to the current 3.2 billion USD, generating thus additional value also further in the value chain.
- d) *Employment*: Create additional direct employment in the fisheries sector for some 250 to 300 thousand people.
- e) *Food security*: Increased supply fish for an additional 20 to 25 million people (at current per capita consumption levels), or allowing a substantial increase in consumption levels of fish of the Caribbean people, while dependence on import of fish and fisheries products will reduce slightly with a growing population.
- f) *Trade*: the negative trade balance for fish and fisheries products will improve in favour of the region.

48. Moreover, the workshop recognized amongst others that:

- a) Pursuant to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS), the relevant states have a duty to cooperate in the conservation and management of shared stocks.
- b) RFMOs are an effective way to implement duties under international law, conserving fisheries resources and for securing long-term income from fisheries.
- c) OSPESCA and CRFM member states can make binding decisions if their governing bodies decide so. These two organizations would be able to cover all shared stocks in the EEZs of these members, covering almost 20% of total production of the region.
- d) A transformation of WECAFC into an RFMO would be able to bring under cooperative management the remaining 80% of the fisheries production as well as 51% of the current mandate area that is high seas areas.
- e) An RFMO will have an umbrella function and should not replace effective existing institutions (CRFM and OSPESCA) at sub-regional level.
- f) Institutional set-up testing, with non-binding measures, is on-going under the interim coordination arrangement for sustainable fisheries, supported by the CLME+ project.
- g) The large fish producing countries might have to increase their contributions to sustainable fisheries management at regional level.
- h) With small contributions of 1 USD/tonne of fisheries production an RFMO can work effectively and be sustained; however, alternative scenarios to calculate the scale of member contributions to the functioning of an RFMO should also be investigated

#### **For the attention of the FAO Programme of Work**

49. Assist de Commission in its ongoing re-orientation and/or restructuring process with legal and policy advice.

50. Allocate sufficient resources from the FAO Regular Programme to enable the Secretariat to organize the WECAFC sessions and meetings of its statutory bodies, taking into account the essential contribution of WECAFC to implementation FAO's Strategic Objectives in the RLC region and the promotion of COFI decisions at regional level.

51. Assist the Commission and its Secretariat in finding extra-budgetary resources to implement the 2016-2017 Programme of Work of WECAFC, including, amongst others:

- a) Technically assist the development of fisheries management plans and support their implementation.
- b) Increase capacity building support to fisheries and aquaculture data collection, analysis and sharing.

- c) Continue to assist the Commission in building capacity for the implementation of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.
- d) Increase attention to the unsustainable harvests of sea cucumber and sharks in the Caribbean and the possibility of address trade measures of those species that are listed under CITES.
- e) Develop measures and tools for climate change adaptation in the Caribbean fisheries and aquaculture sector.

#### **For the attention of the governments**

52. The Commission calls for its member governments to implement the recommendations and resolutions of WECAFC 15, available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3790t/index.html>

53. Governments should review the conclusions and recommendations of the independent cost-benefit assessment of WECAFC and determine their position with regards to the potential transformation of WECAFC into a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO). In this respect it is essential that senior level government officials participate in the 16th session of WECAFC, scheduled to be hosted by the Government of France in Guadeloupe on 20-24 June 2016. At WECAFC 16 capacity building on regional fisheries governance will continue and a decision on a way forward with WECAFC is expected to be taken.

54. Governments should continue to incorporate the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), including adaptive management concepts in the management of their fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

55. Expenses related to participation of experts and staff of national fisheries authorities in WECAFC meetings, as well as working groups and projects, should be budgeted for by the governments, to allow for proper representation and participation by all members in the activities of WECAFC.

#### **For the attention of the Regional Conference**

56. The Regional Conference is invited, following endorsement of the report of WECAFC 15 by LARC 33, to:

- a) Recognize the improvements in functioning and performance of WECAFC and its increased collaboration with CRFM and OSPESCA,
- b) take note of the potential benefits for the region if WECAFC would be transformed into an RFMO, and recognize that an RFMO can develop very positive synergies among members to boost effective regional cooperation in fisheries, and
- c) request allocation of adequate resources to support the transformation process of WECAFC into an RFMO if members desire so at WECAFC 16.

57. The Regional Conference is invited to identify priority activities for discussion and incorporation by WECAFC 16 in the WECAFC Programme of Work (2016 - 2017).

## **IV. COPESCAALC Report**

### **A. General information**

#### **Establishment, functions and members**

58. The Commission for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPESCAALC) was established by FAO Council Resolution 4/70, adopted at the Council's 70<sup>th</sup> Session (Rome, 29 November to 9 December 1976) pursuant to Article VI.1 of the FAO Constitution. Member countries identified the need to introduce amendments to its statutes to incorporate aquaculture and broaden coverage of both sectors to the Caribbean; statutes were amended and new statutes were adopted in November 2010 at the 140<sup>th</sup> FAO Council. At present, the Commission has 21 Member Nations from Mesoamerica, South America and the Caribbean. A number of fisheries and aquaculture organizations in the Region also attend meetings as observers.

#### **Date, place and number of participants at the last session**

59. COPESCAALC held its 14<sup>th</sup> Session in Lima from 1 to 3 February 2016 at the kind invitation of the Government of Peru. The meeting was attended by 23 delegates from 16 countries of the Commission and by observers from the Organization of Fishing and Aquaculture in Central America (OSPESCA), and national observers invited by the delegation of Peru.

### **B. Introduction and sectoral context**

60. After growing steadily for more than a decade, the region's inland catch peaked in 2004 with 536 000 tonnes. Since then, however, the catch declined slightly to 489 000 tonnes in 2013 and included a wide variety of native (from the Amazon River and the Río de la Plata Basin) and exotic (mainly tilapia) species. The exact production volume is unclear because of the geographical spread of fishing communities with many of them coming from indigenous communities, which makes reporting catches difficult and leads to under-reporting. Nevertheless, there has been an overall increase in the regional volume of catches due to the increased use of fishing technology and probably also due to improved statistics registered by the region's countries. Even though inland fish production is far lower than in marine fisheries, it is a major source of food and employment, perhaps more so than for marine fisheries and aquaculture. Inland fisheries make a significant contribution towards food and nutrition security of several river communities given that fish is their sole source of animal protein.

61. Fishery resources in countries that have open-access regimes make artisanal fishing an economical and productive activity providing food and household income during times of crisis in other agroproduction sectors. As a result, the occasional productive redeployment of crop farmers or small-scale livestock producers as fishers provides thousands of families in the region with access to food and income when their own sector faces constraints. This type of redeployment has intensified over the last few years, particularly after the rise in frequency and intensity of climate-related phenomena.

62. The region's aquaculture continues to grow and can potentially meet product demand currently met by imports from other continents. With more than 2.4 million tonnes of aquaculture products in 2013, Latin America and the Caribbean constitute 3 percent of global production, with a sustained average annual growth rate of 6 percent over the past five years. However, production in the region is very uneven as four countries (Chile, Brazil, Ecuador and Mexico) account for more than 81 percent of the region's aquaculture volume and, together with the COPESCAALC's other member countries, for 99.6 percent of the region's aquaculture production volume. Nearly all of the region's countries engage in aquaculture to varying degrees and they play a significant role in food security, employment and territorial economies. More than 600 000 families throughout the region practice resource-poor aquaculture (equivalent to family farming). Many of these producers are family farmers practicing aquaculture as a supplementary activity, generating a major contribution to the economy and food production in rural areas.

### C. Relevant activities during the period

63. During the biennial intersessional meetings and the Commission's 14<sup>th</sup> Regular Session, it was reported that over 90 percent of the activities recommended had been carried out successfully by the Secretariat.

64. Significant action was also taken to support development of resource-limited aquaculture through capacity-building and agro-aquaculture demonstration farms operating successfully in several COPESCAALC member countries, and to help draft national aquaculture and fisheries development policies. Action was supported for the implementation of voluntary regulations for sustainable small-scale fisheries, as well as for the strengthening of institutional capacities within the framework of the Agreement on Port State Measures to eliminate illegal fishing. A regional meeting was held for aquaculturists with limited resources, enabling a successful producer-to-producer exchange of experiences. Several activities took place to increase the contribution of aquaculture and fisheries to food and nutrition security and poverty alleviation, the highlight of which was the development of an integrated agro-aquaculture production model for peasant families in Central American countries, which will produce the protein required to cover dietary needs for the whole year.

65. The Parliamentary Forum on Fisheries and Aquaculture in Latin America and the Caribbean was established as a legislative mechanism to strengthen activities aimed at increasing the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to Food Security and Nutrition (FSN), rural employment and family earnings. The agreement to begin efforts to include fish in school feeding and public procurement programmes was also a highlight. This mechanism has helped build bridges with the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger, in partnership with country governments, and is starting to coordinate activities to support FSN, alleviate poverty, and improve social protection and the working conditions of fishermen and fisherwomen.

66. An intersessional meeting was held at the request of the Commission, in which countries proposed concrete actions to increase the contribution of COPESCAALC to the new FAO strategic framework. A brainstorming meeting was held at the request of member countries to examine how appropriate it would be to incorporate artisanal marine fishery sectors in the Commission goals. It was decided that a road map would be prepared for this in the short term.

### D. Main conclusions and recommendations

67. The Commission's 14<sup>th</sup> Regular Session produced the following recommendations:

#### For the attention of FAO

68. Continue providing technical assistance and support on different processes in the country and the region whilst taking into account the following recommendations:

- a) Prioritize fisheries and aquaculture to the same degree as other food production sectors, recognizing their contribution to food and nutrition security, the alleviation of poverty and rural territorial development.
- b) Promote and facilitate South-South Cooperation between the region's countries for the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture.
- c) Promote the exchange of successful experiences on public policies aimed at the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture in the region, especially those that offer a multisectoral territorial approach.
- d) Promote the inclusion of fisheries and aquaculture in the CELAC Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger 2025, strengthening reach and fulfilling its objectives.

#### For the attention of governments

- The Commission reiterated its call to the fisheries and aquaculture governing bodies of member countries to officially designate a focal point for the Commission with the power to make decisions in the name of the represented governments.

- The Commission reiterated the importance of member countries redoubling their efforts to develop, strengthen and coordinate the collection and processing of statistical data and information on fisheries and aquaculture with the quality and frequency required for the sustainable management of fishery and aquaculture resources.
- The Commission recommended that member countries provide the international community with areas of strength and possible demands on fisheries and aquaculture in order to identify opportunities for South-South Cooperation activities.
- The Commission suggested that member countries carry out censuses on the fishing and aquaculture sectors to update dimensioning and profiling in both sectors, in order to make more informed decisions and develop public policies based on the best possible information.
- The Commission recommended that member countries channel resources to create an information system using environmental and vulnerability issues related to climate change experienced by fisheries and aquaculture as a basis for establishing sectoral adaptation strategies.
- The Commission recommended that member countries include artisanal fishers and aquaculturists with limited resources in their policies and improve working conditions in accordance with the principles of the voluntary guidelines for the sustainability of small-scale fisheries.

#### **For the attention of the Regional Conference**

69. To understand the importance of fisheries and aquaculture for food and nutrition security, alleviating poverty and their general contribution to rural territorial development.
70. To understand that environmentally and socially sustainable aquaculture is a driving force for rural economies especially for those economies that are extremely poor.
71. To understand the high level of vulnerability of fisheries and aquaculture to climate change, which demands the driving of multisectoral strategies to strengthen adaptation capacity, by both institutions and communities.
72. The Commission recommends to the 34<sup>th</sup> FAO Regional Conference on Latin America and the Caribbean that the following areas of common interest of its member countries should be prioritized:
- e) Assist countries to prepare and implement fisheries and aquaculture policies to strengthen rural territorial development, and include these sectors in the FSN-CELAC Plan, boosting the scope of its objectives.
  - f) Outreach and assistance to implement voluntary guidelines to ensure the sustainability of small-scale fisheries and FAO guidelines for aquaculture in the region's countries.
  - g) Strengthening aquaculture and fisheries extension services, as well as associational and organizational processes of fishers and aquaculturists in the region's countries.
  - h) Assist in strengthening health and safety systems of products in the region's fisheries and aquaculture.
  - i) Assist in strengthening monitoring, control and surveillance mechanisms for fisheries and aquaculture to ensure the sustainable use of resources.
  - j) Assist in strengthening the resilience of fishing and aquaculture communities against climate change.
  - k) Develop national and regional strategies to increase the consumption of fish and seafood, with an emphasis on the inclusion of these products in school feeding and public procurement programmes.