

MOVING FORWARD

Selected achievements of the
FAO Forestry Programme 2008–2009

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FOREWORD

Forests, trees and woodlands cover almost one-third of the Earth's land area. They are a crucial source of food and income for more than a billion people around the globe. They provide a variety of wood and non-wood products and vital ecosystem services – preventing erosion from wind and water, preserving water quality, shading crops and livestock, absorbing carbon which contributes to countering climate change, and providing habitat for many species of plants and animals, thus helping to conserve the planet's biological diversity. Forests are also valued as beautiful natural settings for recreation and spiritual reflection.

One of the strategic goals of FAO is the sustainable management of the world's forests and trees. In the past biennium, as the search for solutions to climate change has reached the top of the global agenda, this goal has become more important than ever. Sustainable energy use and the inseparable linkages between forestry, agriculture and other land uses have further focused the spotlight on the sector. Reversing deforestation and forest degradation has become an explicit part of the prescription for counteracting climate change and furthering sustainable development. Funding for the sector is increasing, but so are the challenges. The FAO Forestry Department has restructured its work to meet these challenges.

The FAO Forestry Department works to balance social, economic and environmental objectives so that present generations can reap the benefits of the Earth's forest resources while preserving them to meet the needs of future generations. FAO serves as a neutral forum for policy dialogue, as a reliable source of information on forests and trees and as a provider of expert technical assistance and advice to help countries develop and implement effective national forest programmes. FAO works in partnership with governments, international organizations and agencies, non-governmental groups, the private sector, communities and individuals. Activities are carried out through its headquarters in Rome, through a network of decentralized but closely coordinated offices at country, subregional and regional levels; and through field projects.

I am honoured to have joined the FAO Forestry Department, and proud to share with you some of its recent achievements. Given the great number of themes addressed and activities supported, a booklet of this size cannot be comprehensive. The aim has therefore been to present as various as possible a sampling of the achievements of the 2008–2009 biennium. Readers can interpolate, from these few highlights, FAO's vital contribution to ensuring the future of the world's forests. It is with pleasure that I anticipate moving this work forward.



Eduardo Rojas-Brialess

Assistant Director-General, FAO Forestry Department



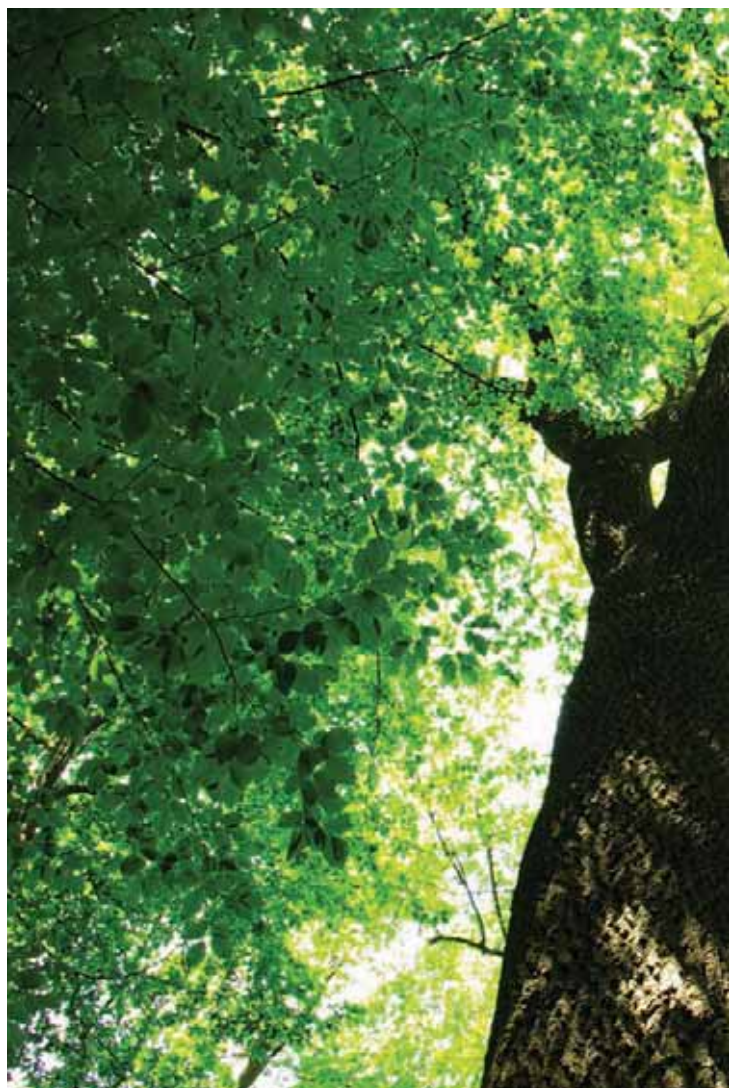
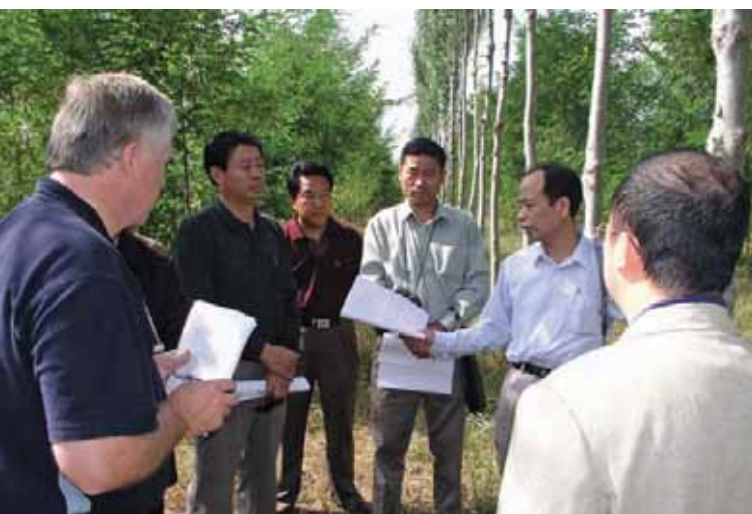
FRAMEWORK

New FAO Forestry strategy

As requested by the eighteenth session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) in 2007, FAO developed a new Strategy for Forests and Forestry, elaborated in 2008 through a consultative process and endorsed by COFO in 2009. The new strategy is aligned with ongoing reforms in FAO, and in particular with the new framework of results-based management adopted by the Organization in accord with the recommendations of an Independent External Evaluation carried out from 2005 to 2008. The new strategy outlines three global goals for society and six organizational results, which form the structure for this booklet.

Global goals for forests and forestry

- Decision-making across sectors is informed, better coordinated, transparent and participatory.
- The benefits from trees, forests and forestry are increasing, widely recognized and appreciated.
- Forest resources are increasing in a majority of countries and ecosystem services are increasingly recognized and valued.



Organizational results

- 1 Policy and practice affecting forests and forestry are based on timely and reliable information.
- 2 Policy and practice affecting forests and forestry are reinforced by international cooperation and debate.
- 3 Institutions governing forests are strengthened and decision-making improved, including involvement of forest stakeholders in the development of forest policies and legislation, thereby enhancing an enabling environment for investment in forestry and forest industries. Forestry is better integrated into national development plans and processes, considering interfaces between forests and other land uses.
- 4 Sustainable management of forests and trees is more broadly adopted, leading to reductions in deforestation and forest degradation and increased contributions of forests and trees to improve livelihoods and to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- 5 Social and economic values and livelihood benefits of forests and trees are enhanced, and markets for forest products and services contribute to making forestry a more economically viable land-use option.
- 6 Environmental values of forests, trees outside forests, and forestry are better realized; strategies for conservation of forest biodiversity and genetic resources; climate change mitigation and adaptation, rehabilitation of degraded lands, and water and wildlife management are effectively implemented.



PROVIDING TIMELY AND RELIABLE INFORMATION

Remote sensing survey to reinforce FRA 2010

In the 2008/2009 biennium, FAO carried out the major part of the work towards completing the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010 (FRA 2010)– the latest effort in FAO's programme to coordinate and support information collection on forest resources at 5 to 10 year intervals. The project was launched in March 2008 with a technical meeting in Rome attended by 265 assessment specialists from 154 countries. This work entailed close collaboration with national correspondents and other forest-related organizations and reporting processes. As a complement to the country reporting process, a global remote sensing survey was launched in 2008. In 2008-2009 methodologies, tools and software were developed and tested and more than 56 000 image samples were pre-processed, now available through an Internet-based portal. FAO held several regional training workshops in 2009 to foster exchange of local experience and build capacity in developing countries to use remote sensing techniques for generation of consistent data on changes in forest area over time. The study will be finalized in late 2011.

Educational magazine based on FRA results

In 2008, FAO and the United States Forest Service produced the *World's forests* edition of the *Natural Inquirer*, a science education journal for students aged 11 to 14 years, with an initial run of 50 000 copies. By agreement, the Forest Management Institute in the Czech Republic has translated it into Czech, and the Mexican Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources has produced a Spanish edition that includes data from Mexico's national forest inventory. The publication has also been produced in Arabic, Chinese and French. In answer to a request from an NGO received in 2009, FAO shipped 10 000 copies to Kenya for distribution to schools and communities to enhance forestry and environmental education and awareness.







National Forest Monitoring and Assessment programme and country projects

FAO's National Forest Monitoring and Assessment (NFMA) programme has provided support to more than 50 countries to strengthen national capacity for field-based forest inventory while promoting South-South cooperation. Several projects completed during the biennium furthered the use of integrated approaches, both across land uses and across functions of forests. Both the integrated land-use assessment in Zambia and Nicaragua's multipurpose national forest inventory, achieved with intersectoral collaboration, recognize the role of forests and trees in poverty reduction, food security and mitigation and adaptation to climate change. FAO also provided technical support for multipurpose NFMAs to Angola, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cameroon, the Comoros, the Congo, Kenya and Kyrgyzstan.

FAO Forest Products Yearbook celebrated 60-year anniversary in 2009

The yearbook provides statistical data on volume of production and volume and value of trade of forest products for all countries and territories of the world. Statistical information in the yearbook is based primarily on data provided to FAO by the countries through questionnaires or official publications.

NMFA project in Angola boosted capacity in remote sensing

Almost half of Angola's territory is covered by forests, and the forest sector is of major food security and economic importance for the population (fuelwood, charcoal, wood and non-wood forest products). After several decades of civil war, the technical capacities of the national staff in Angola required strengthening. A project was initiated in 2008 to help establish a long-term monitoring, management and information system to fill in gaps in knowledge on national forest resources. The Angolan Government provides more than two-thirds of the budget and the Forest Development Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for project execution, with the technical assistance of the FAO. The project is based on field inventories and remote-sensing cartography. It provided, for example, intensive training for young civil servants on theoretical and practical aspects of mapping and remote sensing. The methodology used for image validation was adapted from that used in the FRA 2010 remote sensing survey.



Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook to 2020

The second Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study brought together national experts from the region to examine the evolution of key forest issues and synthesize forestry scenarios to 2020. From information gathered in the first phase of the study, in 2008–2009 the study team carried out in-depth analysis of nearly 50 national and thematic reports on status and trends of all aspects of Asia-Pacific forestry. The final output, the regional report *Asia-Pacific forests and forestry to 2020*, was published in 2010. The study analyses key factors driving changes in forestry in the region and identifies the range of outcomes, and implications for forestry, that may arise from actions taken today, with the main purpose of supporting policy review and reform.

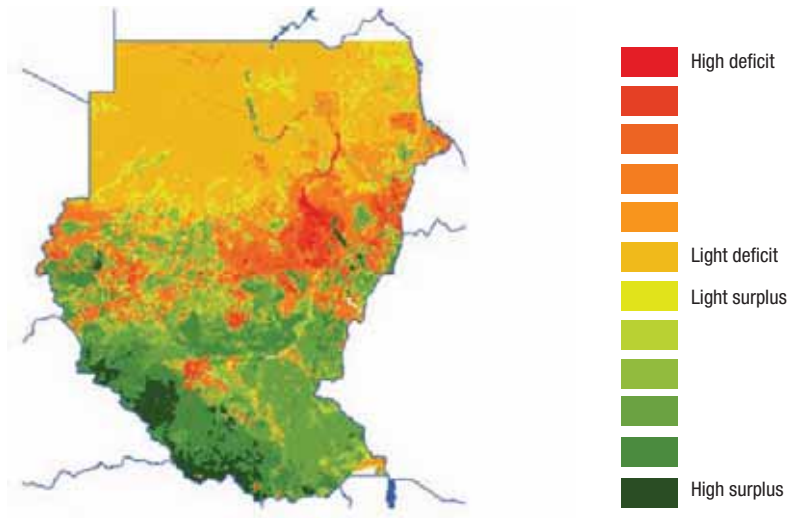


Wood energy mapping supports country-level planning

FAO’s Forestry Department and Natural Resources Management and Environment Department have been working jointly to map the current and potential use of woody biomass for energy. The first phase of the Woodfuel Integrated Supply/Demand Overview Mapping (WISDOM) analysis, the Supply Module, was completed in 2009. It provides an overview of the worldwide stock of woody biomass potentially available for energy uses and its sustainable annual productivity. The project also includes related carbon accounting and analysis of the wood energy situation in relation to poverty and food security in developing countries.

In addition to the global study the project has carried out 19 country case studies since 2003, including the following completed in 2008-2009: Argentina, Central Africa Republic, Rwanda and Spain’s largest region of Castilla y León. In the Sudan, the study has collected field data on changes in consumption patterns as a result of conflict, which are being used to analyse the vulnerability of the population and the impact of woodfuel use on the natural environment. Even before its completion, the study has already been widely used by UNEP, UNDP, WFP and NGOs to identify priority areas for local emergency action in the Darfur region.

Wood energy balance in the Sudan



REINFORCING POLICY AND PRACTICE BY INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEBATE

FAO forestry statutory bodies raise their profile

In 2008 and 2009, FAO reached out to expand partners' participation in its major biennial meetings – two of the regional forestry commissions and the Committee on Forestry (COFO) – by holding them in conjunction with the first Asia-Pacific Forest Week, European Forest Week and World Forest Week, respectively. Other regions followed suit in 2010, starting with the first African Forestry and Wildlife Week in February.

Approximately 20 special World Forest Week events were held with COFO in March 2009, which attracted over 550 participants.

Under the banner of European Forest Week, held in October 2008, over 150 organizations in 32 countries held national and local forest-related events. With logo and key messages provided by the co-organizers (FAO, UNECE, MCPFE and the European Union), and the opportunity for any organization to publicize its events on the EFW Web site (hosted by FAO), the dissemination of the week's messages throughout Europe was hailed as a success of forest-related communication.

World's largest forestry gathering

From 18 to 23 October 2009, Argentina and FAO co-hosted the XIII World Forestry Congress, the largest gathering of its kind ever, in Buenos Aires, under the theme "Forests in development: a vital balance". The congress offered almost 300 technical presentations, as well as discussions, meetings and exhibits, for more than 7 000 forest watchers and workers of every kind. It concluded with a final declaration affirming that sustainable forest management, although not sufficient alone to address the multitude of challenges facing forests, contributes to achieving the vital balance between humanity and nature that is needed for sustainable development.





Para combatir y afrontar el cambio climático

CONSEJO FORESTAL SOSTENIBLE

- estrategias basadas en la lucha contra el cambio climático
- políticas y legislación adaptadas
- ordenamiento forestal eficaz
- recursos forestales seguros y equitativos
- monitoreo y evaluación de los bosques
- mejores prácticas de información forestal
- innovación y financiamiento sostenible
- cooperación intersectorial

LA EMO:

- fortalecer la información precisa
- mejorar las capacidades de los países
- promover la cooperación regional
- mejorar la acción internacional

www.fao.org/forestry/congress



CFM 2009
WFC 2009
18 - 23 OCTUBRE 2009
Buenos Aires | Argentina

XIII Congreso Forestal Mundial
XIII World Forestry Congress
XIII Congrès forestier mondial

ORGANIZACIÓN FORESTAL
EQUILIBRIO VITAL



Mountain Partnership alerts climate change convention to climate change impacts in mountain areas

Mountains are more severely affected by fluctuations in climate than many other ecosystems, yet relatively little attention has been paid to the special needs of mountain people. The Mountain Partnership Secretariat, which is hosted by the FAO Forestry Department, co-organized a side event at the fifteenth Conference of the Parties of UNFCCC in Copenhagen, Denmark in December 2009 to inform delegates about the impact that climate change is having on mountain communities and fragile mountain environments. The event, organized together with the Governments of Switzerland and Liechtenstein, included a scientific overview by a prominent glaciologist on the extent of climate change effects in mountains, testimonials by representatives of mountain communities from all continents, and recommendations from government ministries and development agencies. A short film of the event is being disseminated and distributed to a wide variety of stakeholders to create more awareness about climate change in mountains.

Short course on mountain development created

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat, together with the University of Turin, Italy, set up the International Programme on Research and Training on Sustainable Management of Mountain Areas (IPROMO), which organizes a two-week course every year on a mountain-specific topic. The first course (July 2008) was devoted to “mountain environment and global changes”. In 2009 the theme was “developing economic opportunities for mountain areas”.

About 30 participants from all over the world are selected from around 200 applications received each year. Instructors come from both the academic world and international organizations. Some fellowships are available for participants from developing countries, supported by international partners. Participants are encouraged to develop links for future collaboration. Some have proposed to develop similar programmes on a regional scale, as mountain development is an often neglected theme even in important mountain countries.





International collaboration in developing guides for forest practices

Many national forest policies and international commitments emphasize the importance of voluntary tools for successful implementation of sustainable forest management. In recent years, FAO has worked with a wide range of international stakeholders to develop voluntary guidelines on a range of topics, from detailed operational practices to broader policy guidance, addressed to the regional or global level.

A team of forestry contractors, workers, scientists and public authorities, supported by FAO forestry experts, has drafted a guide to good practices in contract labour in forestry. The guide was developed at the request of the FAO/UNECE/ILO Network of Experts for the Implementation of Sustainable Forest Management. It was presented at the end of 2008 at a workshop organized by the European Network of Forest Entrepreneurs (ENFE). After incorporation of recommendations from stakeholders, the final version will be printed in 2010. The guide mainly focuses on contract labour in Europe and North America. However, it is sufficiently generic to be useful in any country.



Coming in 2010 are guidelines for effective forest policy development and for implementation of phytosanitary standards in forestry, both global in scope and elaborated through extensive collaborative processes. These will complement existing guidelines on forest harvesting, planted forests, fire management, and forestry and range practices in arid lands.

CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR FORESTRY AND FOREST INDUSTRIES

Democratic Republic of the Congo: forest regulations developed through a participatory process



As a part of its post-war reform and renewal in the forest sector, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo published a new forest code in 2002. To develop regulations for its implementation, the Forest Minister opted for an unprecedented participatory approach. FAO facilitated the process, with financial assistance from the European Commission, UNEP and WWF.

The development of the forest regulations began in 2005. After the first two years devoted to reinforcing capacity (identifying stakeholders, establishing working committees and training some 20 lawyers from the Ministry for

Forests in legal drafting), the bulk of the content development, debate and drafting was completed in 2008 and 2009. To date, 25 regulations have been approved, signed by the minister and published in the official gazette; two are awaiting approval, ten are being developed and six are still under study.

The involvement of different social groups in developing both content and form of the regulations contributed to creating a climate of trust and an enabling environment for improving forest governance. The government intends to capitalize on the experience in the elaboration of future environmental and conservation regulations.







Improving forest law enforcement, governance and trade in ACP countries

In 2009, FAO established the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Support Programme for African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP-FLEGT Support Programme), with funding from the European Union. The programme issues calls for proposals and provides grants to forest authorities, NGOs and private-sector organizations in the ACP region in areas they identify as priorities for improving forest law compliance and governance – including capacity building and training, timber verification systems, transparency and monitoring, community-based FLEGT initiatives and policies, legislation or regulations. The programme has a four-year mandate and has already provided support to 21 countries and one regional organization. Examples include help in amending Jamaica’s Forest Policy and Forestry Act through a participatory process, and support to a local NGO in Papua New Guinea to strengthen community forest tenure through forest certification.

National Forest Programme Facility support to participatory processes: the case of Uzbekistan

The National Forest Programme Facility, hosted by FAO, supports participation in national forest programmes (NFPs) in more than 70 partner countries, through grants awarded in an open and competitive process. Activities supported by the Facility and implemented by the stakeholders include analysis and formulation of forest policies, training, knowledge management, awareness raising, and information sharing and networking.

In Uzbekistan, three years of NFP Facility support, including the sharing of theoretical and practical experiences from other countries, have stimulated the interest of local communities in sustainable forest management and use. With encouragement from the Facility, the government began to apply participatory methods – e.g. surveys, interviews, forest mapping and Venn diagrams – to help local communities and other stakeholders share their perceptions. The government welcomed the democratic aspects of empowering, enabling and entitling people to contribute to sustainable forest management.

Establishing mechanisms for joint management of forests in Tunisia

Tunisia is a low-forest cover country with only about 6 percent forest cover and fragile natural ecosystems due to high aridity. Climate change, which is having particularly strong impacts in the Mediterranean region, is creating challenges for the resilience of Tunisia's forest ecosystems, which are inhabited by a rural population of about 1 million people. An FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project in 2008–2009 helped design and develop a sound process for co-managing Tunisia's forest resources under a new concession system introduced in 2005 by legislation supporting a policy to devolve forestry activities to local communities, NGOs and the private sector. The project assisted the national forestry administration with institutional adaptation, practical modalities (e.g. for offering forest concessions through tender), capacity strengthening and development of new technical norms, specifications and tools (e.g. a contract template).

The results were considered outstanding. Despite its small size, the project brought together in an unprecedented way a large number and great range of stakeholders from the grassroots to the highest level of government – for example, in a national debate on legal issues related to forestry concessions – raising awareness of forestry as never before.



Assessing forest tenure

In the context of emerging issues such as forest governance and law compliance and efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, the issue of forest tenure has come into the spotlight. It is argued that without secure tenure of forests and trees, people will not have an incentive to conserve these resources. FAO undertook an extensive assessment of global forest tenure in Africa, South and Southeast Asia, Latin America and Central Asia and Caucasus, focusing on existing tenure arrangements and their impact on sustainable forest management and poverty reduction. The study revealed that recognized management of public forests by communities is increasing, but is still insignificant when compared to forest areas managed by the State or as concessions by private companies.



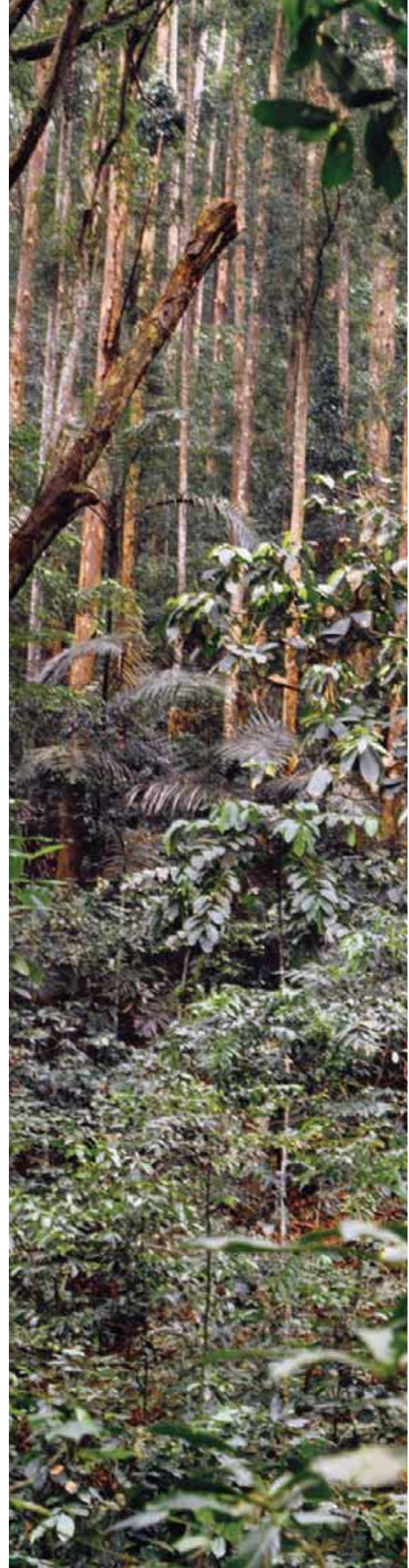
FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS AND TREES

Assisted natural regeneration for low-cost forest restoration and enhanced biodiversity in the Philippines



In the Philippines, a Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project demonstrated the benefits of assisted natural regeneration (ANR), a simple cost-effective method for forest restoration based on supporting and accelerating natural succession processes. Launched in 2006 with a total budget of US\$253 000, the three-year project established demonstration sites and provided hands-on training for over 200 foresters, NGO staff and community representatives. A cost-effectiveness assessment confirmed that ANR can reduce the costs of reforestation by 50 percent over conventional planting,

while successfully preventing fires and enhancing local biodiversity. Despite its small size, the project attracted extensive media interest and catalysed commitment for future ANR application among policy-makers, local people and the private sector. Based on the experience of the TCP project, the government's newly initiated Upland Development Programme allocated 20 percent of its total funding to supporting ANR practices on over 9 000 ha. Perhaps the most creative innovation emerging from the project is an "over-the-counter" carbon trading scheme in which Makati City (Metropolitan Manila) will offset part of its carbon footprint by supporting forest restoration through ANR in the hinterlands of Danao.



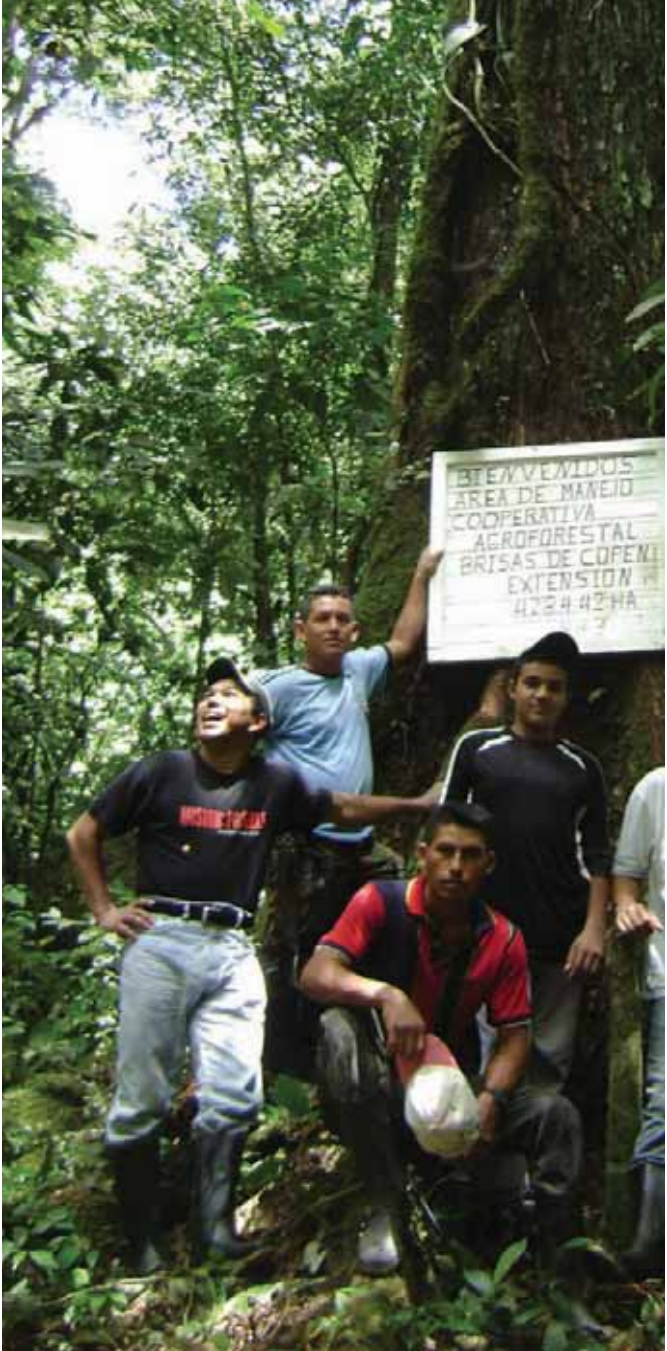


Exemplary cases of sustainable forest management in Latin America and the Caribbean

Under the auspices of the Latin America and Caribbean Forestry Commission, FAO carried out a study to identify and publicize cases of exemplary forest management in the region, replicating the “In search of excellence” studies previously carried out in Central Africa and in Asia and the Pacific. A panel of experts, together with the project’s technical team, evaluated nominations and selected 35 cases from 14 countries which demonstrate the great diversity of experiences in the region. The project results are documented in a book (to be published in 2010) which demonstrates the growing emphasis on environmental issues, social inclusiveness and integrated multiple-use approaches in the region’s vision of forestry.

Implementation of the voluntary guidelines for fire management

During the biennium FAO intensified activities to implement *Fire management: voluntary guidelines*, finalized in 2007. The guidelines, already existent in FAO’s official languages, were produced locally in Bahasa Indonesian and Korean, and translations to Nepalese, Portuguese, Macedonian and Croatian have been initiated by national authorities. FAO held two subregional workshops for Asian countries and two for Caribbean countries to help them undertake needs analyses, prepare five-year action programmes and identify funding opportunities for implementation of integrated and community-based fire management approaches as outlined in the voluntary guidelines.





Poplar afforestation transforms a county in China

As Secretariat of the International Poplar Commission (IPC), FAO continued to support an Italian funded project promoting poplar cultivation for sustainable livelihoods and land use in China, which culminated in the conclusion of a formal Memorandum of Understanding between China and Italy in early 2010.

In Siyang County, Jiangsu Province, the project has enabled a remarkable economic transformation, showing how forestry and agroforestry can provide a successful way to address poverty, hunger and environmental degradation. Since the 1970s, the planting of poplars on more than 100 000 ha of flood plains and marginal lands has increased Siyang's forest cover from 7 to 48 percent. Poplars stabilize river banks, mitigate soil erosion and help to lessen the impact of sand- and windstorms. The sustainable management of poplars in smallholder woodlots and agroforestry systems has led to a thriving local wood industry; the resources of the poplar plantations account for 50 percent of Siyang's gross domestic product.

Poplars have made such a positive impact in the county that local authorities have built the world's only poplar museum and hold a biennial poplar festival that attracts more than 100 000 people, with national media attention. The State Forestry Administration of China presented Siyang County with an award for outstanding environmental achievement and the nickname "Hometown of Poplar Culture".



PROMOTING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC VALUES AND LIVELIHOOD BENEFITS OF FORESTS AND TREES

Supporting forest financing strategies and instruments



FAO, together with the NFP Facility and other partners, supports a number of countries in developing forest financing strategies and instruments. One focus is on improving dialogue between stakeholders in forestry and those in finance (e.g. ministry of finance, pension funds, commodity exchanges, microfinance institutions, development and commercial banks). This is done through workshops, educational field trips, working groups and informal meetings.

In Guatemala, this improved dialogue resulted in the creation of a Forest Finance Intelligence Unit within the forest agency to develop finance instruments, disseminate forest finance information, provide

training opportunities for foresters and finance professionals and facilitate investment initiatives. In 2009, a National Alliance of Community Forest Organizations was created to provide a forum for 11 umbrella organizations and 400 grassroots organizations to influence the design of forest funding programmes such as REDD-plus and PINFOR (a large public incentive programme for forestry). This level of coordination among communities and indigenous groups was unprecedented in Guatemala.

Similar initiatives are under way in Paraguay, El Salvador, Ecuador, Uganda and the Philippines. At the subregional level, FAO and the NFP Facility are also supporting the development of financing instruments for small producers, communities and indigenous organizations in Central America and in West Africa.







Strengthening entrepreneurial capacities in Central Africa – an entry point for poverty alleviation

A multi-partnership project for mobilization and capacity building for small and medium-sized enterprises involved in non-wood forest product (NWFP) value chains, funded by the European Union and implemented by FAO and its partners, has demonstrated how promoting NWFPs through small-scale forestry could help alleviate poverty in Central African villages. The project, which continues to the end of 2010, uses the market analysis and development approach to assist community-based organizations and other stakeholders in developing income-generating enterprises while managing their natural resources in sustainable way.

In 2008–2009, 14 local NGOs were trained in enterprise development at six project sites in Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and these in turn trained 233 groups in 87 villages (more than 3 000 people). The groups have finalized 110 enterprise development plans for pilot enterprises owned by groups that are enthusiastic despite their lack of start-up capital.

Forest Connect: linking small forest enterprises

FAO, together with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), co-manages Forest Connect, an international alliance created in 2007 to help reduce poverty by linking small and medium forest enterprises (SMFEs) to other small forest entrepreneurs; existing and emerging markets; service providers and national forest programmes.

In the 2008–2009 biennium, the alliance facilitated an in-depth analysis of the legal, institutional, policy and economic constraints for selected small NWFP enterprises in Burkina Faso, which among others contributed to the government's decision to establish an agency for promotion of NWFPs – the first of its kind in West Africa. Forest Connect demonstrated the value of the Internet in marketing bamboo and rattan products in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. It also initiated a national-level association of producers' groups and community enterprises for herbal products in Nepal, and created a Web directory representing around 850 SMFEs. The initiative hosts a social networking site that facilitates communication and knowledge sharing among supporters in 58 countries. Financial support for Forest Connect comes from the National Forest Programme Facility, FAO, IIED and the Program on Forests (PROFOR).



Monitoring standards for tropical timber products in international markets

Several tropical countries have expressed concerns that evolving regulations and standards in consumer markets (e.g. product standards, environmental credentials, safety codes, health and building practices), while important safeguards, might create unfair obstacles to international trade in wood products and furniture. In order to promote further processing and trade of these products, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) commissioned a study from FAO to analyse, document and disseminate technical and environmental standards for tropical wood products in selected international markets. The study, presented to the International Tropical Timber Council in November 2009, concluded that today's complex global trade in wood products and furniture would not have been possible without the internationally agreed trade regulatory system provided by the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements and standards for willing users, as they have greatly lowered the risk of disputes over product quality, dimensions, performance and safety.



PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES OF FORESTS, TREES OUTSIDE FORESTS AND FORESTRY

Communities steer watershed management project in Tajikistan



FAO's work on a watershed project in the Dangara District of southern Tajikistan was awarded recognition for outstanding results by the World Bank, on whose behalf the project was implemented. The design of the project in the Thoirsu watershed emphasized the establishment of bottom-up institutional mechanisms (Community Interest Groups, Municipality Development Committees), an innovation for Tajikistan. The villages in the watershed proposed, prioritized and implemented more than 400 sub-projects in such areas as water management, forestry, livestock, pasture management, horticulture, soil conservation and drinking-water supply, many of them innovative. The project helped give people confidence in their ideas, skills, initiative and responsibility.







UN-REDD Programme launched

A United Nations collaborative initiative on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) in developing countries was launched in September 2008 to assist developing countries in preparing and implementing national REDD-plus strategies. The UN-REDD programme joins the expertise of FAO, UNDP and UNEP. The programme is funded by Norway, Spain and Denmark. In FAO, the programme is executed by two departments: Forestry and Natural Resources.

Currently the programme supports REDD-plus readiness activities in nine pilot countries: Bolivia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam and Zambia. Additional countries will be included as new resources are made available. At the global level, UN-REDD facilitates knowledge management and exchange and develops concepts and methodologies, e.g. related to measurement, reporting and verification (MRV), benefit distribution and safeguards.



International conference on adaptation to climate change, with emphasis on forest health

Together with the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), FAO co-hosted the international conference "Adaptation of Forests and Forest Management to Changing Climate with Emphasis on Forest Health: A Review of Science, Policies and Practices", held in Umeå, Sweden in August 2008. The meeting brought together about 330 researchers, managers and decision-makers from 50 countries, and furnished the content of a special double issue of *Unasylva* (Vol. 131/132), published in 2009.

Well-received video on forests and climate change

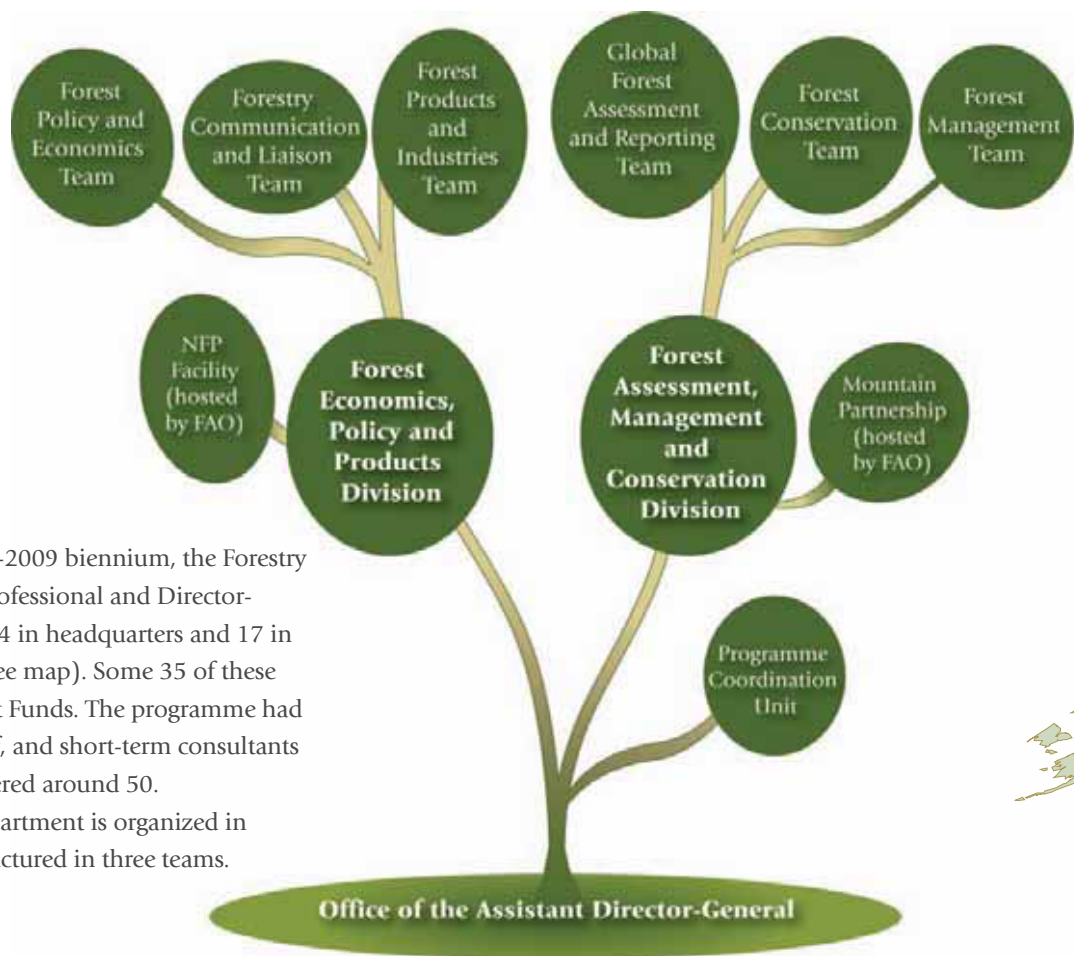
In 2008, FAO and the Forestry Commission of the United Kingdom co-produced the 17-minute video presentation *Forests and climate change: a convenient truth*, to show a wide audience how forests can contribute to the mitigation of climate change. The video stresses the importance of reversing forest loss, of using wood as a renewable energy source and raw material, and of adapting and planning ahead for the expected changes. With striking imagery and simple language, the informative presentation is suitable for classroom, conference hall and individual viewing.

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish versions were released on a multilingual DVD and on YouTube. Through efforts by partners in many countries, the video has now been produced in such languages as Czech, Danish, Italian, Japanese, Nepali and Vietnamese. Continuing demand has resulted in numerous reprints. A partner in New Zealand, for example, has sent a copy to every secondary school in the country.



FAO FORESTRY PROGRAMME IN FIGURES

FAO Forestry Department headquarters structure



Human resources

At the end of the 2008–2009 biennium, the Forestry Programme had 101 Professional and Director-level staff members – 84 in headquarters and 17 in decentralized offices (see map). Some 35 of these were funded from Trust Funds. The programme had 32 General Service staff, and short-term consultants in headquarters numbered around 50.

The FAO Forestry Department is organized in two divisions, each structured in three teams.

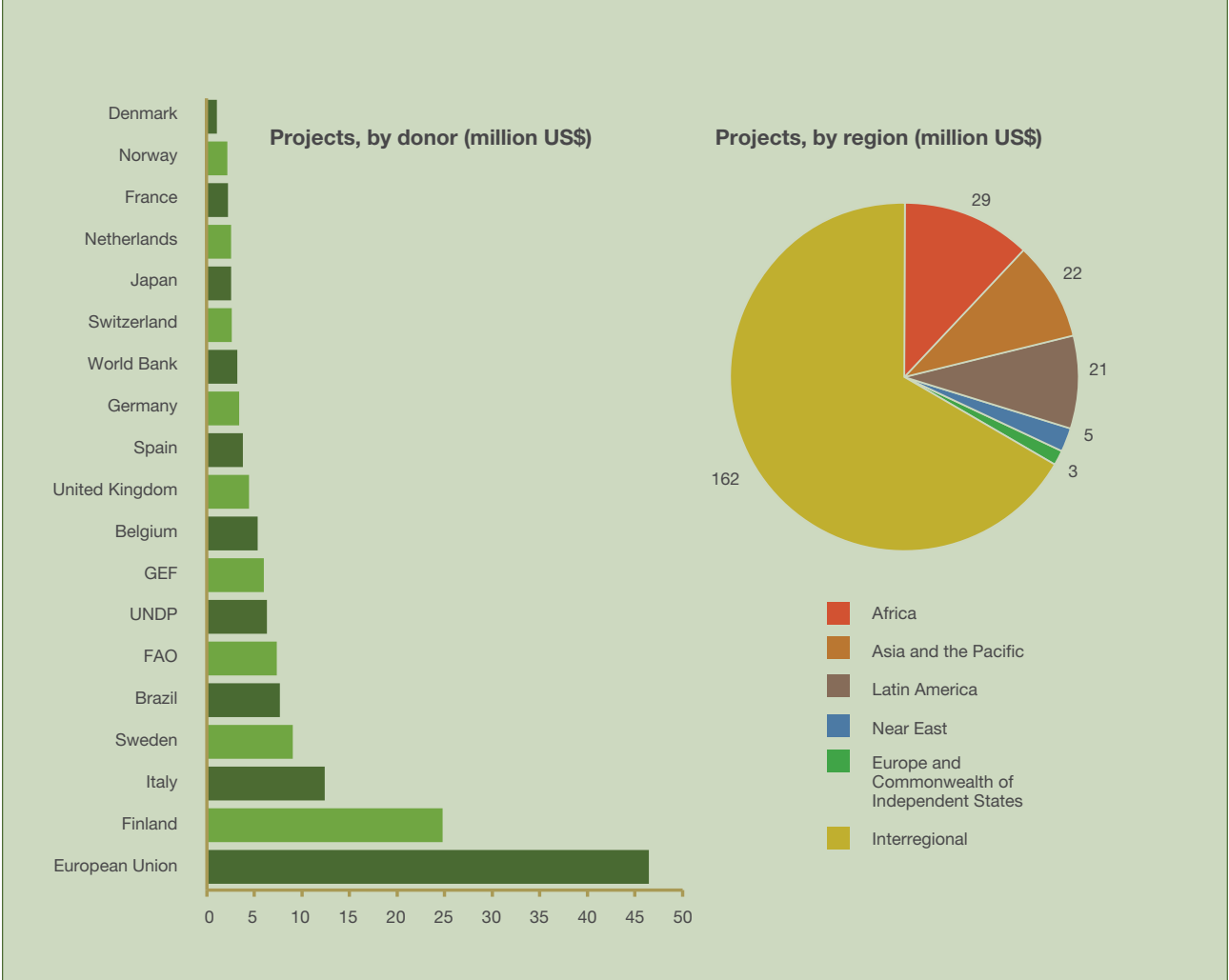
Financial resources

Forestry Programme funding from the Regular Programme for the biennium 2008-2009 was US\$32.3 million, representing 3.5 percent of the total FAO Regular Programme resources.

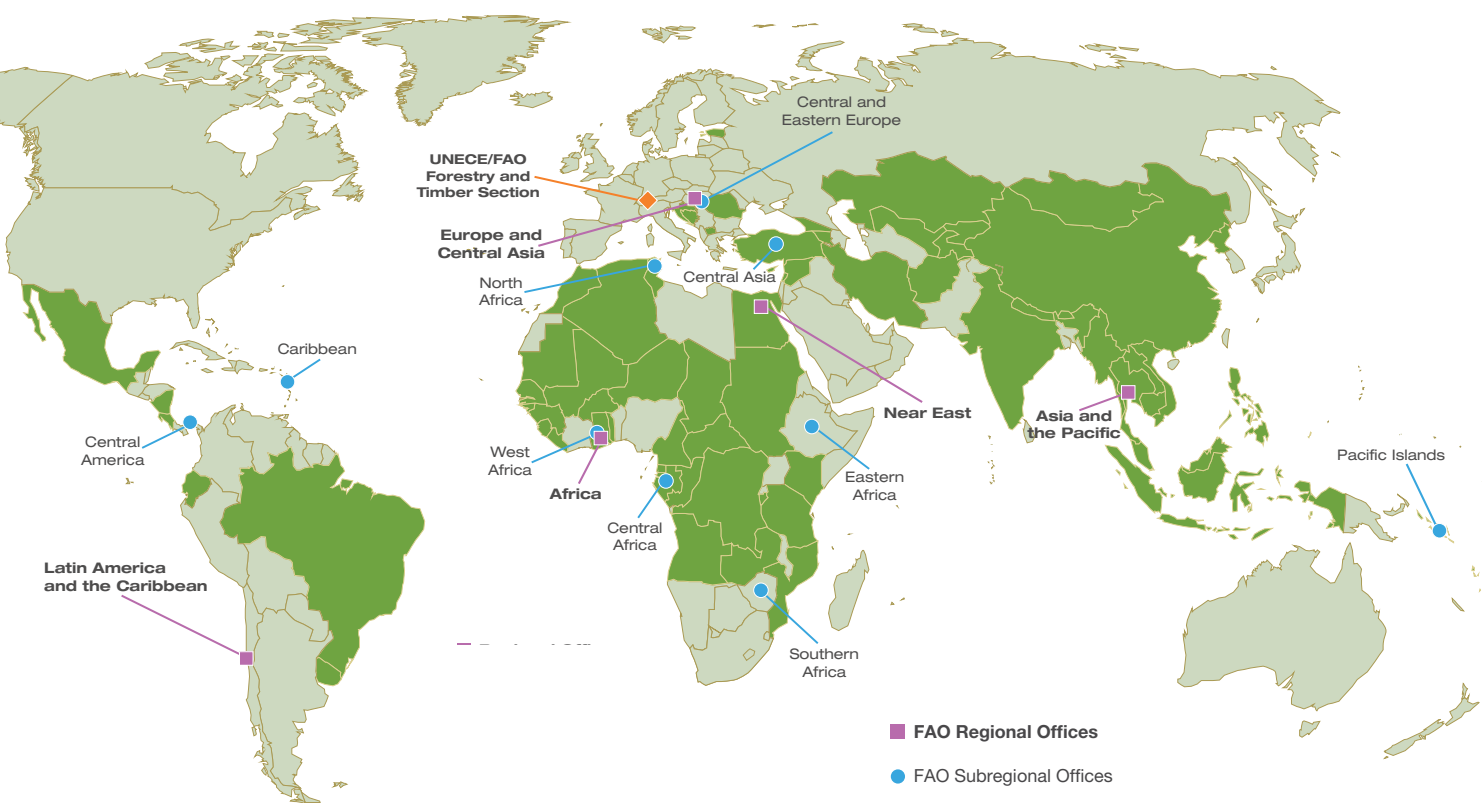
Trust Fund resources are an important source for funding the Forestry Programme; for every dollar spent from the Regular Programme, Trust Funds provide about six additional dollars. In the 2008–2009 biennium, the Forestry Programme had more than 100 ongoing projects in at least 120 developing and transition countries, with

a total project budget of US\$242 million. The Forestry Department in headquarters led implementation for about 30 of these projects. The rest are implemented either by field offices or FAO’s Emergency Programme.

Africa enjoys the highest share of projects. However, the largest share of resources is in interregional projects – activities mainly implemented from headquarters to develop methodologies and norms, which in the end benefit all member countries.



Countries assisted by forestry projects, 2008–2009





www.fao.org/forestry

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