

REPORT

Rome,
Italy,
24-28
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**Committee
on Forestry**
Tenth session



**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations**

PREVIOUS SESSIONS

First session	— Rome, 8-13 May 1972
Second session	— Rome, 22-29 May 1974
Third session	— Rome, 22-27 November 1976
Fourth session	— Rome, 15-19 May 1978
Fifth session	— Rome, 26-30 May 1980
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REPORT

of the

TENTH SESSION

of the

COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

held in

Rome, Italy,
24 - 28 September 1990

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Rome, 1990

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MATTERS REQUIRING ATTENTION BY THE COUNCIL

The attention of the Council is drawn to:

- (i) Forestry research
The Committee stressed the need to strengthen national research capabilities and recommended that governments, international organizations and donor agencies attach higher priority to forestry research and that it be given increased priority in planning and formulating action plans at national and regional/sub-regional levels. It also recommended that existing close linkages between FAO and the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations' Special Programme for Developing Countries be further strengthened (paras. 6 to 14).
- (ii) Forestry and the environment
The Committee supported the concept of an international instrument on the conservation and development of forests as a significant means to find solutions to current socio-economic and environmental problems and to foster international cooperation. The Committee agreed that FAO continue its efforts to contribute to the preparation of the legal and technical scope and content of such an instrument in close collaboration with the Secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and international organizations concerned, as well as with the full involvement of states in all stages, but without diverting any resources from FAO's support to the Tropical Forestry Action Plan (TFAP). The Committee requested that FAO offer assistance to the UNCED Secretariat to prepare a comprehensive report on forests and forestry for the second session of the UNCED Preparatory Committee in Geneva, March 1991 (paras. 15 to 31).
- (iii) Women and forestry
The Committee recommended that FAO continue to promote the integration of women as equal partners in designing and implementing forestry activities and to strengthen gender-sensitive monitoring of its field projects. It requested that support be provided to member countries' initiatives to assure women's equal access to forest products, land, inputs and credit (paras.32 to 43).
- (iv) Forest conservation and interim report on Forest Resources Assessment 1990 project
The Committee recognized the need for participation of local people in forest conservation programmes and of developing countries for additional concessional funding of such programmes. The Committee noted with concern the increased rate of deforestation in many tropical areas and recommended that FAO maintain a permanent capability to provide information on the state of forest resources world-wide on a continuing basis (paras. 47 to 56).
- (v) FAO's programmes in forestry
The Committee expressed satisfaction with the quality of the field programme's performance and recommended that field projects be sustained over longer periods; it recommended that increased levels of funding be provided from all sources in order to redouble FAO's efforts to fulfil its mandate. It underlined the effectiveness of FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme and recommended its continuation and strengthening. The Committee endorsed the proposed objectives and strategies outlined in the medium term plan, but suggested a reordering of priorities. It strongly recommended that FAO's Regular Programme allocation to forestry be substantially increased (paras. 57 to 77).
- (vi) Tropical Forestry Action Plan
The Committee recognized that the TFAP had recently been under critical scrutiny, and supported five of the six recommendations of the Independent Review of the TFAP. It recommended that the priority accorded to TFAP in the Organization be fully reflected in the development of the forestry programmes and urged FAO's allocation of more Regular Programme resources. The Committee strongly recommended that FAO take the initiative as soon as possible to promote the effectiveness of TFAP implementation through better collaboration among the co-sponsors, clearer definition of goals and objectives and improved appropriate institutional arrangements (paras. 78 to 95).

INTRODUCTION

1. The tenth session of the Committee on Forestry of the FAO Council was held at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, from 24 to 28 September 1990.

2. The session was attended by delegates from 97 Member Countries of the Committee, by observers from five other Member Nations, one UN Member State and the Holy See; by representatives from the following UN organizations: United Nations Economic Commissions for Africa and for Europe, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; from the European Economic Community and the World Bank, and by observers from 11 intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations. The full list of participants is given in Appendix B.

3. In the absence of the outgoing Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, Mr Abderrajak El Adab, opened the session. The Committee observed one minute's silence in honour of Mr Brahim Ben Salem, FAO Regional Forestry Officer for the Near East, who had passed away in August. The Director-General, Mr Edouard Saouma, gave the opening address, the text of which was circulated separately.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Item 1)

4. The agenda was adopted and is set out in Appendix A. The list of documents considered by the Committee is given in Appendix C.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DESIGNATION OF DRAFTING COMMITTEE (Item 2)

5. The Committee elected by acclamation Mrs Ivonne Garcia (Dominican Republic) to the Chair, and Mr J.C. Mercier (Canada) as First Vice-Chairman. As Vice-Chairmen representing the other FAO regions, the Committee elected:

Africa	Isaie Mutungirehe	(Rwanda)
Asia	N.M. Prasad	(India)
Europe	André Grammont	(France)
Near East	Hassan Osman Abdel Nour	(Sudan)
Southwest Pacific	John Valentine	(New Zealand)

The Committee appointed the following to the Drafting Committee:

Chairman:	Robert Vineberg	(Canada)
	Jean-Jacques Faure	(France)
	P. Estivallet de Mesquita	(Brazil)
	George Igugu	(Nigeria)
	John Valentine	(New Zealand)
	Ralph Roberts	(Canada)
	T. Yanga	(Cameroon)
	Doddy S. Sukadri	(Indonesia)
	Abdelouahab Karmouni	(Morocco)
	Sture Theolin	(Sweden)

FOREST POLICY ISSUES

Forestry research (Item 3)

6. The Committee welcomed the inclusion on the agenda of an item on forestry research. It stressed the importance of research in providing the basis for all sound programmes of conservation and sustainable development of forest resources.

7. The Committee noted with concern that forestry research institutions had not attained an adequate level of development, especially in many developing countries. It stressed the need to strengthen national research capabilities, with particular reference to the development of the needed human resources. It suggested that international support to scientific institutions in developing countries be increased in order to improve both their infrastructure and facilities for research activities. It recommended that governments,

international organizations and donor agencies concerned attach higher priority to forestry research and increase their overall support to well-focused research activities in priority areas.

8. The Committee stressed the need for adequate coordination, at the national level, of governmental and non-governmental programmes, including private institutions active in the field of forestry research, and for strong linkages between the researchers and the users through extension and dissemination of information and know-how.

9. The Committee stressed that the benefits and efficiency of research could be considerably strengthened by the establishment of international research centers and by the development of cooperation at international, regional and sub-regional levels. Also, it expressed the wish that there be increased participation of scientific institutions of developing countries in international research programmes.

10. The Committee welcomed the increased priority given by FAO to forestry research and the establishment of a Forestry Research, Education and Training Branch in its Forestry Department. It recognized FAO's central role in the international coordination and promotion of global, regional and sub-regional collaboration in technical assistance in forestry research, technology transfer and dissemination of information in this field.

11. The Committee noted with interest the recent initiative by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) to include forestry and agroforestry research within its mandate. The proposed inclusion of the International Council for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) within the CGIAR system was welcomed by some delegations. While recognizing the value and mutual benefits of strengthening the links between agricultural and forestry research, it stressed that this could only partially meet the wide range of forestry research needs in developing countries. Several delegations expressed concern that, in the integrated forestry/agroforestry option proposed at the last meeting of the CGIAR, forestry research might not receive the priority and prominence needed.

12. The Committee took note of the achievements and planned activities of the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations's (IUFRO) Special Programme for Developing Countries (SPDC) in forestry research planning, training and dissemination of information. It recommended that existing close linkages between FAO and the SPDC be further strengthened.

13. The Committee stressed the important role that the Tropical Forestry Action Plan (TFAP) could play in promoting and supporting forestry research as an integral part of forestry and rural development. It recommended that forestry research be given increased priority in planning and formulating forestry action plans at national and regional/sub-regional levels.

14. The Committee recognized the need to accord greater importance to some pressing research problems in Europe, particularly those related to the sustainability of forest ecosystems and to forest decline attributed to air pollution.

Forestry and the environment (Item 4)

Proposal for a Convention on Conservation and Development of Forests

Progress report on the draft International Convention on Biological Diversity

15. The discussion of this item of the Agenda was based on three documents, prepared by the Secretariat, which were examined jointly by the Committee: (i) Forestry and the Environment (COFO-90/3), which reviewed the main policy issues; (ii) Progress Report on the Draft International Convention on Biological Diversity {COFO-90/3(b)}; and (iii) Proposal for an International Convention on Conservation and Development of Forests {COFO-90/3(a)}.

16. The Committee recognized the important role that forests play in environmental conservation at local, national and global levels. It emphasized the multifunctional character of forestry activities and their social, economic, ecological and cultural dimensions. In that context the Committee underlined that all types of forest -tropical, subtropical, mediterranean, temperate and boreal - needed to be considered. It stressed the importance of people's participation in the sustainable management of forest resources and in enhancing their value.

17. The Committee expressed concern about the trend of forest resources degradation and its negative impact on land and water resources, climate and biological diversity. In this regard, the Committee called for intensified efforts in promoting environmental impact assessment, research and monitoring, education and training, and technical assistance. It emphasized that environmental problems related to forestry did not depend on internal factors alone and that influences outside the forestry sector were often more important.

18. The Committee stressed that the economic and social benefits of countries needed to be met through sustainable utilization of the available resources. It further stressed the complementarity of sustainable utilization of forests and environmental conservation, and also noted the strong links between economic viability and forest conservation.

19. Some countries pointed out that the concern about the greenhouse effect should be largely addressed at its major source - the emission of carbon dioxide. It was noted, also, that afforestation and sustainable utilization of forests contributed to sequestering of carbon dioxide.

20. The Committee supported the concept of an international instrument on the conservation and development of forests as a significant means to find solutions to current socio-economic and environmental problems and to foster international cooperation. The Committee agreed, however, that it would be premature to express an opinion on the nature of the instrument or the forum or modalities of any negotiations. Some countries expressed the view that the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED) should be the appropriate forum. Nevertheless, it was agreed that FAO continue its efforts to contribute to the preparation of the legal and technical scope and content of such an instrument.

21. Several countries envisaged that the proposed instrument could be a framework convention which would cover the basic principles, objectives, institutional arrangements and financial mechanisms, while protocols would be developed subsequently to deal in detail with specific matters or regions. This proposed instrument would be resource-based, multiple-purpose (including conservation, sustainable development and socio-economic aspects) and global in character and should take into account the needs of populations living in and near the forest.

22. The Committee stressed that all international organizations concerned, governmental and non-governmental, should be intimately involved in the preparatory process of any instrument on forests. To this end, the Committee welcomed the proposal to convene, as soon as possible after this session of the Committee, a meeting of the representatives of Unesco, UNEP, WMO, ITTO, IUCN, the Secretariat of UNCED, the sponsors of the TFAP and other international organizations concerned. It agreed that states should be fully involved, at all stages, in the preparation of any instrument. Considering the importance of boreal and temperate forests in the USSR, the Committee suggested that an invitation be addressed to that country to be associated with the preparation of such an instrument.

23. The Committee further stressed the need to avoid duplication and to ensure strong linkages and complementarity with other related initiatives and, in particular, with the proposed Conventions on Biological Diversity and Climate Change. In this connection, it stressed that any preparation for the envisaged instrument should be pursued in close collaboration with the Secretariat of the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development in the light of the decision for combating deforestation adopted at the first session of the Preparatory Committee for UNCED (Nairobi, 6-31 August 1990). The Committee requested FAO to offer its assistance to the Secretariat of the UNCED in the preparation of the comprehensive report on forests and forestry, to be presented at the second session of the Preparatory Committee (Geneva, March 1991), and to provide on that occasion information on FAO's preparations with respect to the envisaged instrument on conservation and development of forests.

24. The Committee noted that the preparation of a proposed instrument might be a complex task and should not be undertaken in haste. It hoped that such an instrument would be open for signature, if possible, at the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil in 1992.

25. Some delegations felt that, due to lack of time to study the documentation a position could be taken only when the matter was discussed at the next session of the FAO Council (November 1990). Member countries would then be in a better position to take decisions based on a thorough analysis of the proposals. However, the preparatory work, including the meeting mentioned in paragraph 22, should not be delayed.

26. Some delegations felt that no definitive decision on the drafting of an instrument should be taken until the comprehensive report on forests, requested for by the Preparatory Committee for UNCED, was examined at its second session to be held in Geneva in March 1991.
27. The Committee urged that FAO's participation in the development of an instrument on conservation and development of forests should not result in any resources being diverted from those devoted to support the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, which was the main priority of FAO's Forestry Department.
28. The issues of climate change and biological diversity formed only a small part of the broad range of forest-related issues. For this reason there was a need for a comprehensive international instrument on the conservation and development of forests.
29. As the only agency with a mandate that embraced all aspects of forest conservation and development, the Committee recognized that FAO would naturally play a leading role in the preparation of proposals for the envisaged instrument and indicated that FAO had, in fact, the machinery for preparing the various technical and legal options that required identification for negotiations to get started.
30. The Committee noted that more than 50% of the plant and animal species were found in forest ecosystems. In this connection, it acknowledged that the objectives of the proposed Convention on Biological Diversity could only be accomplished if the high economic and social value of these resources, including non-wood forest products, were better recognized, if the sustainable forest management could be implemented and if trade barriers were liberalized. The Committee took note of the progress report on the draft International Convention on Biological Diversity and supported FAO's active role in its preparation. It stressed the need for this Convention to have appropriate linkages, at policy and operational levels, with the proposed instrument on forests.
31. The Committee took note of Japan's proposal for an international charter for the world's forests and of the offer of the Government of Japan to sponsor a meeting, in a developing country, and with the full and balanced representation of all interested parties, in order to discuss Japan's proposals for the international charter on forests before the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the 1992 U.N. Conference on Environment and Development.

Women and forestry (Item 5)

32. The Committee commended FAO on following up the FAO Plan of Action for integrating women into development, especially in the forestry sector where the involvement of women was so apparent and necessary.
33. The Committee recognized that women had long been involved in forestry activities as an integral part of rural livelihoods. It emphasized the importance of women's knowledge of forest products and of their efforts to sustainably manage forest resources. It urged an interdisciplinary, systems approach to women in forestry development programming and recommended that FAO continue to promote the integration of women as equal partners in the design and implementation of forestry activities. It noted the importance of keeping adequate gender-specific statistics.
34. The Committee emphasized the desirability of working through non-governmental organizations, especially local women's groups, in organizing women-specific activities or in assuring the appropriate development of integrated forestry efforts. The Committee also drew attention to the potential for information exchange and networks to encourage women to share their views, ideas and experiences.
35. The Committee underlined the need for women to have access to the forest and its products, land, inputs and credit. It urged member countries to look actively into the policies and legal environments needed to assure equal access to these resources and requested FAO to provide support to such initiatives.
36. The Committee emphasized the crucial role which non-timber forest products and small-scale forest-based enterprises played in providing women with income, and the need to make these activities more profitable. It also noted the necessity for women and men to derive equitable income from forestry employment.

37. The Committee noted the importance of participatory approaches, including decentralized planning and local management, as methods to include women more effectively in decision-making in forestry activities. It requested FAO to continue working on the development of tools and training for foresters in these approaches.

38. The Committee emphasized the basic importance of education and training and urged member countries and FAO to support increased opportunities for women in both general and technical education.

39. The Committee stressed the need for better integration of women into professional positions throughout the field of forestry - in policy, research, field activities and extension - in order to integrate women's concerns in all aspects of forestry at local, national and international levels, including FAO.

40. The Committee took note of the new guidelines FAO had developed on integrating women more effectively into community forestry planning and related activities and requested governments to follow these guidelines.

41. The Committee acknowledged the importance of cultural environment for women and urged FAO to work with other international organizations in supporting appropriate development approaches for women in forestry.

42. The Committee recommended that Regional Forestry Commissions take up the issue of women in forestry development and provide to the Secretariat region-specific information with case studies, and requested FAO to report back to the Committee at a future session.

43. The Committee also requested FAO to look into its reporting system on field projects to improve the availability of information on women's participation and on the specific effects of forestry activities on both women and men.

MATTERS REFERRED TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE (Item 6)

(a) Decisions of FAO's Governing Bodies of interest to the Committee

(b) Recommendations of Regional Forestry Commissions and of other FAO Statutory Bodies in forestry of interest to the Committee

(c) Progress report on follow-up to the recommendations of the ninth session of the Committee

44. The Committee noted the information provided in the three relevant documents (COFO-90/5, 90/6 and 90/7) regarding, in particular, the all-pervasive issues of environment, agroforestry, the Tropical Forestry Action Plan and institutional strengthening, especially in the areas of planning, manpower development, research, information and extension.

45. The Committee expressed satisfaction with the follow-up action taken on the recommendations of the governing bodies concerned and with the emphasis given to non-wood products and wood energy. With regard to the latter, the Committee expressed its appreciation of the support provided by FAO to the Wood Energy Network in Latin America and to the Amazonian Treaty in respect of its role in the utilization of forest mass for energy production.

46. The Committee noted with satisfaction the number of publications in English on people's participation and recommended that, in view of their importance to activities aimed at community development, they be made available also in the other working languages of the Organization.

Forest conservation (Item 7)

47. The Committee reaffirmed the decision taken at its seventh session that forest conservation be a standing item on its agenda. Several delegations reported on the situation of forest and wildlife resources in their countries and on the relevant ongoing and planned forest conservation programme.

48. The Committee recognized the importance for forest conservation and development programmes to take into account the needs of local people in order to secure their participation and to provide them with suitable alternatives to the over-exploitation of forest and wildlife resources on which they depend for subsistence.

49. The Committee stressed the important role of forest management and agroforestry, as tools for conservation of forest resources and protection of endangered species.

50. The Committee recognized the need of developing countries for additional concessional financial support to implement forest conservation programmes. It noted with interest the ongoing negotiations for the establishment of an environmental fund and the potential benefits for forest conservation of the debt-for-nature swaps.

51. The Committee noted that forests of developed countries were also subject to various threats. It was informed of the preparations for the Pan European Ministerial Conference on Protection of Forests to be held in Strasbourg (France) on 18 and 19 December 1990. The aim of the Conference was to adopt for the European countries cooperative programmes in various fields, including forest genetic resources for which the collaboration of FAO and its European Forestry Commission will be sought.

Interim report on Forest Resources Assessment 1990 Project

52. The Committee welcomed the report provided by the Secretariat on the work and preliminary results of the Forest Resources Assessment 1990 Project and the verbal account given by the Director of the Joint FAO/ECE Agriculture and Timber Division on the progress achieved and the timetable of the assessment of forest resources of the developed temperate zone countries.

53. The Committee noted with concern the increased rate of deforestation in many tropical areas.

54. The Committee strongly supported the Forest Resources Assessment 1990 Project. It requested FAO to disseminate the preliminary information in a form suitable for the media and the public at large, with appropriate caveats about the limitations of the data.

55. The Committee endorsed the following recommendations made by the second expert consultation on the project:

- (i) the scope of forest inventories should be expanded to produce a database which will have a high degree of flexibility. Inventories should be responsive to a great variety of user needs and applications, such as addressing global climate change and biodiversity;
- (ii) national forestry action plans should give priority to the strengthening of the institutional infrastructure and technical capabilities to support the implementation of national continuous forest resources monitoring;
- (iii) the scope of the FAO Forest Resources Assessment 1990 Project should be expanded to provide coordination and support for national continuous forest resources inventories and to undertake global forest resources monitoring programme.

56. Regarding the third recommendation, the Committee recommended that FAO maintain a permanent capability to provide information on the state of forest resources worldwide on a continuing basis.

REVIEW OF FAO'S PROGRAMMES IN FORESTRY (Item 8)

(a) Review of forestry field programmes

57. The Committee took note of the review and stated that it complied fully with the decisions of the twenty-fifth session of the FAO Conference which had requested a systematic review of the field operations by the technical committees of the Council.

58. The Committee recognized the high quality of the forestry field programme's performance, which had been maintained in spite of the overall financial stringency of the Organization.

59. While noting a further significant increase in the forestry field programme, the Committee concluded that current funding levels were not commensurate with requirements. The Committee requested governments and funding institutions to increase their commitments to forestry.

60. The Committee stressed that FAO's role in UNDP-funded field activities should be reinforced and recommended that governments accord higher priority to forestry projects within UNDP country programmes.

61. The Committee expressed appreciation for the increased contributions by Trust Fund donors, including funding of the Associate Professional Officer Scheme, to FAO's forestry field programme and recommended further support for sustainable forest development.

62. The Committee underlined the effectiveness of FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) as a catalyst for the promotion of technical cooperation and investment, training and emergencies. It recommended that the TCP be continued and strengthened.

63. The Committee supported efforts resulting in the expansion of the forestry field programme in the Africa and Asia-Pacific regions and affirmed that these efforts should be continued. The Committee also supported the efforts to increase FAO's forestry field operations elsewhere, and particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as in the Near East and Europe.

64. The Committee endorsed FAO's leadership role in technical cooperation programmes in forestry and recommended that member countries work to provide FAO with the financial means to redouble its efforts to fulfill this mandate.

65. The Committee commended FAO for focusing its forestry field programme on strengthening national institutions, training and human resources development. It underscored the need for sustained efforts in these priorities.

66. The increasing complexity and multi-disciplinarity of the forestry field programme was recognized. The Committee recommended that agricultural, animal husbandry and rural development projects should include forestry components in order to improve environmental quality and promote sustainable development.

67. The Committee expressed appreciation for the attention paid by FAO to increased monitoring and evaluation of its field programme and for the analysis of the findings. It stressed the need to recognize the value of lessons learnt from evaluations in designing and implementing future programmes. The Committee suggested that it would be useful to provide similar reports in the future. In this context the Committee pointed out the need for an analysis of the role of women in the forestry field programme.

68. The Committee stressed the long-term nature of forestry and recommended that forestry field projects be sustained over longer periods and that Member Governments secure long-term commitment to forestry.

(b) Review of progress made in 1988-89 and main features of the programme of work in forestry for 1990-91

(d) FAO's medium-term perspectives and programme priorities in forestry

69. The Committee considered these two items of the agenda together. It noted with interest the information provided regarding progress made in 1988-89 and the main features of the 1990-91 programme of work. It expressed its satisfaction that the medium-term perspectives and priorities for the forestry programme were being presented in compliance with the recommendation of the twenty-fifth session of the FAO Conference in November 1989. It stressed the important role of this Committee in developing such medium-term orientations.

70. The Committee noted that medium-term planning needed to be flexible, as FAO's forestry programmes should adapt to changing priorities. Such emerging issues as those related to research, global warming and acid rain, which were identified during the current session, should be reflected in further plans.

It was stressed that such plans should be characterized by vision, foresight, quality, consensus, target setting, efficiency and follow-up. FAO should also indicate how its plans and priorities complement those of other international institutions working in the same areas.

71. The Committee endorsed the proposed objectives and strategies. Also, it suggested that, in future, such plans and their relative priorities be more focused and specific, at which time high priority should be given to the following: forest policy formulation, the TFAP, the development of databases and forestry statistics, outlook studies, market development, the integration of socio-economic and environmental aspects in multipurpose forestry, and women in forestry.

72. Furthermore, the Committee stressed the importance of incorporating the needs and problems identified in TFAP implementation. By the same token, the mix of disciplines found in the Department should be mobilized in support of TFAP and broadened to include agronomists, social scientists, and planners.

73. More specifically, the Committee suggested a re-ordering of priorities for the programme on Forest Resources and Environment, as follows: the integration of forests and trees in land use systems for food, fodder and fuelwood production; inventory and management of existing natural and plantation forests; research and tree improvement including improved seed production; preservation of ecosystems, conservation of forest genetic resources, wildlife, national parks and protected areas management; arid zone forestry, integrated watershed management, and fire management.

74. The Committee suggested giving priority to sustainable harvesting of non-wood forest products in the programme on Forest Industries and Trade. It also stressed the importance of small-scale forest-based enterprises and the critical role that they can play in reducing the demographic pressure on forests by providing much needed income to rural people and thus increasing awareness of the value of the forest.

75. While endorsing the priorities proposed for the programme on Forest Investment and Institutions, the Committee indicated the possibility of collaborating with ITTO in activities related to trade statistics. It also stressed the need for forestry planning to reflect cross-sectoral interests.

76. The Committee emphasized the increased demands being placed on FAO's forestry programmes due to heightened, global awareness of the importance of the world forestry situation and its relation to sustainable development. It also recalled the magnitude of technical assistance needs in forestry for the developing world. It strongly recommended a substantial increase in FAO's Regular Programme budget allocation to the forestry programme, a point already emphasized in earlier sessions.

77. Concerning the programme of work for 1990-91, attention was drawn to the need for FAO's assistance to develop pilot activities in forest management on a scientific basis, to organize regional seminars for the exchange of experience on agroforestry systems and to improve dissemination of accurate information on tropical timber trade and tropical forest management.

(c) Progress in the implementation of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan (TFAP)

78. The Committee welcomed the Director-General's initiative in commissioning a high-level Independent Review of the TFAP and expressed appreciation for the work carried out by the Review team. The late circulation of the Report of the Independent Review and of the Director-General's comments was regretted.

79. Throughout the ensuing discussion, the Committee recognized that the TFAP had recently been under increasing criticism, including not being sufficiently sensitive to the importance of environmental issues, NGO participation and inter-agency cooperation. The Committee reiterated the importance of the TFAP as a unique framework for the conservation and sustainable use of tropical forest resources for the development of the countries concerned and for environmental stability. The Committee stressed the importance of continuing support to the TFAP and the need to continuously improve the effectiveness of its implementation.

80. The Committee reaffirmed that the TFAP was an internationally shared undertaking and responsibility, in which developing countries were major actors working with the collective cooperative support of the international community. However, the goals, objectives and strategies of the TFAP needed to be clarified in order to determine exactly what could be expected of the TFAP at national and

international levels. It would be important also, in this process, to strike an appropriate balance between conservation and development. Further efforts were required to promote better understanding of the TFAP and its objectives, as well as proper commitment to its implementation. It was stressed that TFAP must be revitalized in order to demonstrate its effectiveness and achieve tangible results. In particular, there was a need to establish measurable targets within a time-frame for monitoring progress and evaluating impacts.

81. The Committee expressed serious concern about the state of the world's tropical forests, with deforestation steadily increasing in most areas, often as a result of pressures such as growing population, migration, inappropriate land use practices and the general economic situation, particularly the debt burden of developing countries. This often resulted in aggravated rural poverty and increased landlessness. The causes of deforestation must be addressed both within and outside the forestry sector. The time factor was crucial and it was essential for TFAP to promote urgent action, especially as significant results through sustainable forestry development will require time and sustained commitment.

82. The Committee noted with concern that funding support for the implementation of TFAP national plans had been slow and at a level far below the expectations of both the recipient and donor countries. It recommended that the funding process be accelerated and that rigidities in the process of decision-making and allocation be removed in donor agencies, in developing countries and in the international organizations concerned. In particular, the declared political support of the donor community should be translated into proportionate, prompt and adequate financial and technical support for the preparation and implementation of national TFAP action proposals. At the same time, continuous efforts should be made to improve the quality of these action proposals.

83. The Committee examined in detail the six recommendations which emerged from the Independent Review, together with the Director-General's comments.

84. On recommendation one, the Committee endorsed the proposal that the TFAP become a long-term programme aimed at the conservation and sustainable development of tropical forest resources and be renamed the Tropical Forestry Action Programme. The Committee further stressed the need to develop a more decentralized, country-driven, process-oriented approach in which individual countries would shoulder their responsibilities and play the leading role. Under the proposed Programme, there should also be considerable scope for regional and sub-regional initiatives and inter-action in sustainable tropical forestry development. International support under the TFAP should be extended to all developing countries where forest resources play or can play an important role for socio-economic development and environmental stability.

85. On recommendation two, the Committee felt that insufficient consideration had been given to identifying options for improved institutional arrangements. It reiterated the mandate given to FAO as the international coordinator of the TFAP; it stressed the need to mobilize fully the expertise of the Forestry Department as well as other disciplines available inside and outside the Organization. The Committee considered that the coordination and administrative responsibility for the TFAP should remain in the Forestry Department, but that the Coordinating Unit must draw widely on all other related disciplines in FAO and outside, as necessary. However, the Committee recognized the need to study without delay possible institutional options to improve the effectiveness of TFAP planning and implementation and the cooperation with other international partners. The Committee recommended that the priority accorded to TFAP in the Organization be fully reflected in the development of FAO's forestry programmes and it urged that FAO allocate more Regular Programme resources to forestry in line with its importance for sustainable development.

86. The Committee considered recommendation three which called for the establishment of a Tropical Forestry Fund financed by the donor community for the purpose of assisting countries which participate in the TFAP. The Committee agreed on the need for better mobilization of resources for the TFAP and many member countries felt that the Tropical Forestry Fund would provide all countries with equal access to international funding support and assistance for strengthening their national capabilities. However, some member countries thought that a new Tropical Forestry Fund might not be the best solution. The Committee suggested that FAO explore the matter further, and emphasized the need to analyze the scope, nature and possible institutional arrangements for the establishment and management of the fund.

87. The Committee endorsed recommendation four on the establishment of new guidelines for TFAP implementation, which should further define goals and objectives and lay down the process with which all participants in the TFAP would be expected to comply. The Committee noted with satisfaction the current work on improving the existing guidelines; it stressed the importance of involving a broad range of interested parties in the process and suggested that this be pursued urgently. However, it was emphasized that there must be no attempt to introduce a code of conduct.

88. The Committee strongly supported recommendation five which proposed that Country Capacity Projects be launched to provide a rapid response to the needs of participating countries. It recommended that priority be given to funding these projects, designed to strengthen forest policies and planning capabilities and provide training at the national level, in support of the preparation and implementation of national action plans.

89. The Committee took note of recommendation six calling for the preparation of an International Forest Convention, the scope of which should cover all forests, both temperate and tropical. This matter was further discussed under agenda item 4.

90. The Committee strongly recommended that: (i) FAO take the initiative to promote the effectiveness of TFAP implementation and coordination and, in particular, to accelerate and intensify significantly the level of action in addressing tropical deforestation; (ii) FAO organize a high-level meeting with the World Bank, UNDP, and the World Resources Institute, as co-sponsors of the TFAP, in order to better define TFAP goals and objectives in the context of their cooperation and to develop effective mechanisms for better collaboration among the institutions concerned, and for FAO, after consultation with the co-sponsors, to establish as soon as possible an ad hoc group of experts, representing developing countries, donor agencies, developed countries and NGOs, to:

- analyze and propose options for improved appropriate institutional arrangements for all interested parties;
- make proposals for clarification of goals and objectives;
- suggest ways and means to strengthen FAO's coordinating function;
- examine the financial implications of the options; and
- report back as soon as possible, and preferably within three months, for immediate action; the report, on receipt by FAO, to be made available to the other co-sponsors and other TFAP participants.

91. The Committee noted with satisfaction that steps had already been taken to organize a high-level meeting. It expressed its satisfaction that FAO would submit a progress report to the Council in November 1990.

92. The Committee noted that implementation of the recommendations in paragraph 90 would not delay implementation of national TFAPs.

93. The Committee also re-emphasized that slow funding of the implementation of national plans had limited the impact of TFAP initiatives and it appealed to the donor community to increase its efforts to provide prompt and adequate financial and technical support for the preparation and implementation of national TFAPs.

94. The Committee recognized the declaration made by the countries of Latin America at Santiago on 4 May 1990 which strongly supported the importance of the TFAP to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

95. It was emphasized that the preparation of status reports on national TFAPs, both ongoing and completed, was of great importance for revitalizing and gaining new momentum for their implementation and support.

OTHER MATTERS

Tenth World Forestry Congress (Item 9)

96. The Committee was informed by the French Secretary-General of the preparations for the tenth World Forestry Congress to be held in Paris in September 1991 under the general theme "Forests, a heritage for the Future". An organization committee had been set up in Paris, headed by a Secretary-General, while FAO had set up a parallel Associate Secretariat to provide technical support.

97. Information regarding the Congress had been sent to 160 countries and further details of participation and facilities would be released in January 1991. It was emphasized that voluntary papers were most welcome. It was the intention of the Organizing Committee to have the Congress papers published before the Congress, while the proceedings and the Paris Declaration would be published after the Congress.

Other business (Item 10)(a) Activities of other international organizations

98. The Committee welcomed the statement presented by the Executive Director of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Mr F. Freezailah, and recommended that collaboration between ITTO and FAO be strengthened.

(b) Proposal for the revision of the Customs classification of forest products

99. The Committee took note of the information contained in document COFO-90/Inf. 4 and Annex, outlining a proposed revision of the Customs Cooperation Council Harmonized System concerning 44.03, wood in the rough.

100. The Committee supported the proposal and recommended that FAO make appropriate submissions to the Customs Cooperation Council to secure revision of the harmonized system.

Date and place of next session (Item 11)

101. In accordance with Rule XXXI of the General Rules of the Organization, the Committee agreed that past practice be continued and that its next session be held in Rome early in 1992, the exact date to be established as provided by this Rule.

Adoption of report (Item 12)

102. The report was adopted, subject to amendments which have been incorporated into the final document.

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Election of Officers and designation of Drafting Committee

FOREST POLICY ISSUES

3. Forestry research
4. Forestry and the environment
 - Proposal for a Convention on Conservation and Development of Forests
 - Progress report on the draft International Convention on Biological Diversity
5. Women and forestry

MATTERS REFERRED TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE

6.
 - (a) Decisions of FAO Governing Bodies of interest to the Committee
 - (b) Recommendations of Regional Forestry Commissions and of other FAO Statutory Bodies in forestry of interest to the Committee
 - (c) Progress report on follow-up to the recommendations of the ninth session of the Committee
7. Forest conservation
 - Interim report on Forest Resources Assessment 1990 project

REVIEW OF FAO'S PROGRAMMES IN FORESTRY

8.
 - (a) Review of forestry field programmes
 - (b) Review of progress made in 1988-89 and main features of the Programme of Work in forestry for 1990-91
 - (c) Progress in the implementation of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan
 - Review of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan
 - (d) FAO's medium-term objectives and programmes in forestry

OTHER MATTERS

9. Tenth World Forestry Congress
10. Other business
 - Proposal for the revision of the Customs classification of forest products
11. Date and place of next session

APPENDIX B
APPENDICE B
APENDICE B

LIST OF DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS
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LISTA DE DELEGADOS Y OBSERVADORES

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APPENDIX C

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Title</u>
1	COFO-90/1	Provisional agenda
3	COFO-90/2	Forestry research
4	COFO-90/3	Forestry and the environment
	COFO-90/3(a)	Proposal for a Convention on Conservation and Development of Forests
	COFO-90/3(b)	Progress report on the draft International Convention on Biological Diversity
5	COFO-90/4	Women and forestry
6(a)	COFO-90/5	Decisions of FAO Governing Bodies of interest to the Committee
6(b)	COFO-90/6	Recommendations of Regional Forestry Commissions and of other FAO Statutory Bodies in forestry of interest to the Committee
6(c)	COFO-90/7	Progress report on follow-up to the recommendations of the ninth session of the Committee
7	COFO-90/8	Forest conservation
	COFO-90/8(a)	Interim report on Forest Resources Assessment 1990 project
8(a)	COFO-90/9	Review of forestry field programmes
8(b)	COFO-90/10	Review of progress made in 1988-89 and main features of the Programme of Work in forestry for 1990-91
8(c)	COFO-90/11	Progress in the implementation of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan
	COFO-90/11(a)	Review of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan
8(d)	COFO-90/12	Medium-term perspectives and programme priorities for forestry
<u>Information documents</u>		
	COFO-90/Inf. 1	Provisional timetable
	COFO-90/Inf. 2	List of documents
	COFO-90/Inf. 3	Rules of Procedure and current and past officers
	COFO-90/Inf. 4	Proposal for the revision of the Customs classification of

**MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE 1990-91
(as at 30 September 1990)**

Algeria	Kenya
Angola	Korea, Republic of
Argentina	Lebanon
Australia	Lesotho
Austria	Liberia
Bangladesh	Libya
Belgium	Madagascar
Bolivia	Malawi
Brazil	Malaysia
Bulgaria	Mexico
Burkina Faso	Morocco
Burundi	Myanmar
Cameroon	Nepal
Canada	Netherlands
Cape Verde	New Zealand
Central African Republic	Nicaragua
Chile	Niger
China	Nigeria
Colombia	Norway
Congo	Oman
Côte d'Ivoire	Pakistan
Cuba	Panama
Cyprus	Peru
Czechoslovakia	Philippines
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Poland
Denmark	Portugal
Dominica	Rwanda
Dominican Republic	Senegal
Ecuador	Sierra Leone
Egypt	Spain
El Salvador	Sudan
Equatorial Guinea	Swaziland
Ethiopia	Sweden
Fiji	Switzerland
Finland	Syria
France	Tanzania
Gabon	Thailand
Gambia	Togo
Germany	Tonga
Ghana	Trinidad and Tobago
Greece	Tunisia
Guinea	Turkey
Guyana	Uganda
Honduras	United Kingdom
India	United States of America
Indonesia	Uruguay
Iran, Islamic Republic of	Venezuela
Iraq	Yemen
Ireland	Yugoslavia
Israel	Zambia
Italy	Zimbabwe
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