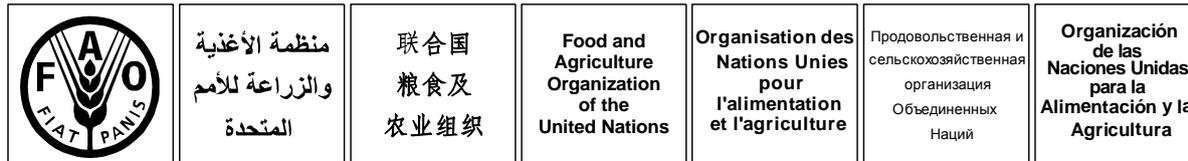


June 2012



COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

Rome, Italy, 24-28 September 2012

Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Committee

Executive Summary

- This document contains the draft Multi-Year Programme of Work 2012-15 of the Committee developed by the secretariat in consultation with the Steering Committee.

1. Under the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal (IPA):
"The Council, Programme and Finance Committees, CCLM, Regional Conferences and Technical Committees will each:
 - a) *prepare a multiyear programme of work of at least four years duration, once per biennium which will be reviewed by the Council and/or Conference (in accordance with their respective reporting lines);*
 - b) *prepare a report of their progress against the Programme of Work once every two years also for review by the Council and/or Conference"*¹.
2. At its 20th session the Committee *"requested the secretariat to prepare, in consultation with the Steering Committee, a draft Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for the period 2012-2015 for consideration at its 21st Session in 2012"*².
3. In preparing the draft MYPOW, substantive input was collected from the six Regional Forestry Commissions which had their sessions in the period of October 2011–May 2012. The Commissions were invited to consider the MYPOW and the input to COFO as two interlinked processes to increase efficiency and coordination. It was noted that the input to COFO was meant to shape the agenda of the forthcoming session, the MYPOW is expected to help Member Nations

¹ C 2008/4 actions 2.70, 2.71, 2.72

² COFO/2010/REP paragraph 38

evaluate COFO's performance in exercising its mandate. The Commissions formulated their recommendations on this basis.

I. Overall Objectives for the Committee on Forestry for 2012-2015

4. The Committee conducts periodic reviews of the situation of forests and forestry worldwide, with a view to advising Member Nations and the Organization on forest issues with emphasis on integrating all environmental, economic and social aspects and the promotion of sustainable forest management. It provides sound advice and action-oriented recommendations to the Council on matters pertaining to the priorities, programmes and budgets of the Organization, and to the Conference on global policy and regulatory matters, in its areas of mandate. The Committee works closely with the Regional Forestry Commissions and develops its agenda in close cooperation with them in order to facilitate policy and programme coordination between the global and regional levels.

II. Results for 2012-2015

A. Strategy, priority setting, and budget planning

5. Result

- The FAO Council and Conference are provided with up-to-date information on the world situation in forests and forestry and with sound recommendations and guidance for decisions on the Organization's priorities, programmes, organizational structures and budgets pertaining to the forest programme.

6. Indicators and targets

- Publication on the world situation in forests and forestry (State of the World's Forests 20XX) is available for consideration by the regular sessions of the Committee;
- Recommendations made in a timely manner to the FAO Council through the Programme and Finance Committees regarding FAO's priorities, programmes, organizational structure and budgets;
- The Committee's recommendations relating to the Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan (MTP) and the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) are reflected in the FAO Council and FAO Conference reports;
- The Committee's guidance on forest issues receives due attention in other relevant bodies, including other global technical committees, and the Regional Conferences and Regional Forestry Commissions.

7. Output

- Clear, precise and consensual recommendations on priorities, programmes, organizational structure and budgets for the forest programme.

8. Activities

- Review the current situation in the Committee's areas of mandate, including issues of topical significance to the international community;
- Review decisions and recommendations from other FAO governing and statutory bodies and sub-committees;
- Review decisions and recommendations from other global and regional fora relevant to forests;
- Review implementation of the PWB in areas falling within the Committee's competence;

- Formulate recommendations and guidance for areas falling within the Committee's competence.

9. Working methods

- Collaboration with the Regional Forestry Commissions facilitated by the Steering Committee and the Chairperson of COFO and supported by the secretariat;
- Inter-sessional work by the Steering Committee, facilitated by the secretariat;
- Building on the outcomes from statutory bodies in the area of forestry;
- Collaboration with other relevant FAO governing and statutory bodies.

B. Advise on global policy and regulatory matters

10. Result

- The Committee's recommendations provide a sound basis for decisions by the FAO Conference on global policy and regulatory matters.

11. Indicators and targets

- Clear and specific recommendations made in a timely manner by the Committee to the Conference regarding global policy and regulatory matters in its areas of mandate;
- The Committee's recommendations made on global policy and regulatory matters are reflected in the Conference Report;
- Member Nations and the Regional Forestry Commissions benefit from the deliberations of the Committee, using its recommendations in developing national and regional policies.

12. Output

- Clear, precise and consensual recommendations for the Conference on policy and regulatory frameworks or instruments.

13. Activities

- Review the status of relevant international instruments pertaining to forests and forestry;
- Consider the recommendations from Regional Forestry Commissions, other FAO governing and statutory bodies as well as meetings, related to policy or regulatory matters;
- Review new and emerging issues in areas relevant to its mandate;
- Formulate recommendations and guidance for the consideration of the Conference for areas falling within the Committee's competence;
- Formulate recommendations with a view to support actions by Member Nations and Regional Forestry Commissions.

14. Working methods

- Consideration of global and regional trends in sectoral policies and regulations;
- Liaison with other international organizations, instrument and processes relevant for forests and forestry;
- Liaison with FAO governing bodies as well as forestry and other relevant statutory bodies and consideration of the outcomes of their deliberations;
- Collaboration with the Regional Forestry Commissions facilitated by the Steering Committee and supported by the secretariat;

- Regular contacts between the Chairperson of the Committee and the chairpersons of other relevant bodies and FAO management.

C. Work planning and working methods

15. Result

- The Committee works effectively and efficiently, in an action-oriented, inclusive way.

16. Indicators and targets

- The Committee agendas are focused, responsive also to emerging needs;
- Committee reports are concise and contain specific, action-oriented recommendations to Council, Conference and Member Nations;
- Committee documents are made available in all FAO languages four weeks before the session commences;
- Continuity in terms of inter-sessional work.

17. Outputs

- Multi-Year Programme of Work, adopted in 2012;
- Progress report on the Committee's work in 2014;
- Method of work is reviewed and improvements sought regularly.

18. Activities

- Set agenda and format of the Committee session through a consultative process with strong coordinated input from Regional Forestry Commissions;
- Consider ways to improve the conduct of sessions, including more efficient use of the time available and exploit fully the potentials in holding the World Forest Week in conjunction with the sessions;
- Facilitate coordination with other Technical Committees;
- Review the status of implementation and assess the impact of the recommendations of the Committee;
- Regular review of methods of work, including through indicators and targets specified in the MYPOW.

19. Working methods

- Consult with Member States, through the Chairperson of the Committee and the Steering Committee;
- Cooperate closely with the Regional Forestry Commissions;
- Intersessional work through the Steering Committee between biennial sessions;
- Regular contacts between the Chairperson of the Committee and the chairpersons of other relevant bodies and FAO management.