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para la
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Agricultura

COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

Rome, Italy, 24-28 September 2012

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REGIONAL FORESTRY COMMISSIONS FOR FAO

Executive Summary

1. The present document presents a synthesis of the recommendations of the six regional forestry commissions (RFCs), which met from October, 2011 through May, 2012. Each Commission identified priority areas of work for the Organization. This was done by using the template and method elaborated by the COFO Steering Committee and by which the regional forestry commissions communicated these recommendations to each other in a coordinated manner, together with the issues they suggested for COFO to address. The full set of recommendations is submitted to COFO as input into the overall corporate priority-setting process for the FAO Forestry Programme. (Annex 1)

2. This document is to be seen in conjunction with COFO2012/9.1: *Main Findings of the Strategic Evaluation of FAO's Role and Work in Forestry*; COFO2012/9.2: *Outline of the Reviewed Strategic Framework and Programme Priorities for FAO in Forestry*, and COFO2012/8: *Decisions and Recommendations of FAO Bodies of Interest to the Committee*. Together, these documents provide the basis for the Committee to provide its views on future programme priorities for the FAO Forestry Programme.

3. It is noted that the Organization is implementing the programme of work for Strategic Objective E (Sustainable management of forests and trees) during the 2012-13 biennium. At the same time, a review of the current Strategic Framework 2010-19 and preparation of the next MTP for 2014-17 is being undertaken as part of the normal planning cycle, driven by the Strategic Thinking Process launched in January 2012 by the Director-General to determine the future strategic direction of FAO (COFO/2012/9.2). The FAO Council welcomed the process of identifying fewer and more cross-cutting Strategic Objectives for FAO and requested the Secretariat to include guidance from the Technical Committees of the Organization on sustainable management of natural resources, including on forestry from COFO.

4. Further to the recommendations of the regional forestry commissions the Committee's attention is drawn to ongoing work related to the renewal of two forestry statutory bodies, the Advisory Council on Paper and Wood Products and the International Poplar Commission (Annex 2 and Annex 3). The aim of the renewal process is to ensure that these bodies continue to be responsive

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to emerging challenges and provide guidance and service on their area of competence. The Committee may wish to consider these proposals and provide its views.

Points for consideration:

5. The Committee is invited to take note of the recommendations arising from the six regional forestry commissions and the ongoing initiatives presented in the annexes and to provide guidance on areas of priority in the context of the new Strategic Framework to allow FAO Forestry work to contribute most effectively to the three Global Goals of FAO. In particular, the Committee may wish to endorse the RFC recommendations and provide additional views on the priorities expressed, focusing on:

- areas of cross cutting work highlighted by the RFCs, where it believes the Organization should strengthen the integration of the Forestry dimension to better contribute to the goals of food security and poverty reduction;
- other areas of work to strengthen in further elaborating the action plans for the proposed Strategic Objectives in the Outline of the Reviewed Strategic Framework;
- emerging issues of priority for FAO work in forestry.

ANNEX 1:

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REGIONAL FORESTRY COMMISSIONS FOR THE ATTENTION OF COFO REGARDING FAO PROGRAMME OF WORK

Priorities for the FAO programme of work	Objectives for work on the priorities	Regional Forestry Commission	Category
Clarify, enhance and communicate the contribution of forests and forest sector to green pathways for sustainable development	Comprehensive approach to greening the economy.	EFC	Forestry and sustainable development
Clarify, enhance and communicate the contribution of forests and forest sector to green pathways for sustainable development	Assist member countries in formulating and implementing related policies and programs.	APFC	
Play a role in highlighting the positive interaction between agriculture and forestry and the potential for the forest sector to play a prominent role in the development of bioproducts and biomaterial for a green economy		NAFC	
Bring attention and awareness to forests and recommended that FAO should not overlook forests in its current focus on food security and livelihoods		NAFC	
Utilize cross-sectoral collaboration, landscape level approaches and strengthen forest governance to respond to multiple challenges in forestry		NAFC	
Clarify, introduce and communicate the concept of a green economy in the region's forests and forestry sector to green pathways for sustainable development	Comprehensive approach to greening the economy	NEFRC	

Implement FRA long-strategy as adopted by COFO	FRA programme satisfies the growing intergovernmental need for information on forests.	EFC	Information and analysis
Assist member countries in developing common and appropriate methodologies for assessing forest cover deforestation and forest degradation		AFWC	
Assist member countries in wildlife resource assessment		AFWC	
Provide technical assistance for the development of methods and tools that strengthen national forest monitoring systems	Strengthen countries' national capacity for forest monitoring.		
Assist member countries with more training on data collection in the region	(i) Improve the quality of country reports (ii) Increase the number of women trained (iii) Apply remote sensing or other technologies to monitor resources	NEFRC	
Additional attention to monitoring, reporting and verification aspects of forestry	(i) Potential needs to revisit forest definitions. (ii) Methodologies to measure forest degradation and trees outside forests. (iii) Preparation of voluntary guidelines and other support for conducting forest inventories and assessments, with particular focus on requirements for REDD+ reporting. (iv) Development of Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) reporting methodologies that provide greater interpretative capacity for key forestry statistics. (v) Support to strengthen capacities for reporting to the FRA 2015 assessment.	APFC	
Additional attention to monitoring and evaluation of projects and programmes	(i) Increased ability to evaluate project and programme outcomes (ii) Improved planning for future projects and	NEFRC	

	programmes in the region		
Continue and enhance programme in forest sector outlook studies	Provide solid basis for policy and strategy development in the forest sector.	EFC	
Create regional climate change adaptations platforms and promote science policy interface and learning. Improve the understanding of the role of forest products in climate change mitigation	Facilitate science policy interface in climate change; help better integrate the forest sector in mitigation and adaptation policies and actions	EFC	Climate change and REDD
Promulgate forestry information to mitigate against natural disasters, including floods, cyclones/typhoons and tidal surges, landslides, tsunamis, and wildfires	Reduce the incidence and severity of natural disasters through better forest planning and management.	APFC	
Support the development of REDD+ readiness and adaptation to climate change	Assist countries to share experiences in climate change adaptation and to help further refine national climate change adaptation strategies; and to help countries develop national action plans on climate change adaptation.	APFC	
Facilitate capacity development and information exchange on REDD+ at all levels and assist countries in identifying actions of high REDD potentials, and support implementation		AFWC	
Seek funding and promote climate change projects under development and sub-regional programmes; disseminate best practices; and strengthen capacity	Ensure projects and programmes are implemented in the region	NEFRC	
Support member countries to enhance public and private financial support to forest and wildlife management through necessary capacity building and knowledge sharing		AFWC	Forest finance
Apply environmental accounting practices and analyze forest and rangelands' real contribution to GDP	Clearer and more accurate quantitative results on how the forests and range sector contributes to GDP		

Assist member countries in enhancing institutional capacities and promoting knowledge sharing on PES at the national and subregional levels and promote South-		AFWC	
South cooperation			
Provides technical assistance for developing mechanisms for assessing the contributions of the forest sector (including ecosystem services) and promoting the establishment of financial mechanisms (including incentives) for creating value chains for forest resources to complement market mechanisms	Demonstrate the forest sector's contribution to the Region's economic and social development.	LACFC	
Support members in their efforts to deepen the understanding and to design, introduce and implement community based forest and wildlife management programmes; and also help build the capacity building programmes for local communities		AFWC	Community based management
Continue assisting member countries in HWC prevention and mitigation, and mobilize additional resources to support growing demand for technical assistance		AFWC	HWC
Assist members in developing national strategies, policies and action plans for fire management and establish a multi donor trust fund in FAO for fire		AFWC	Fire and health
Assist members in developing infrastructure, develop early warning programmes, investigate indirect and transboundary effects of forest fires through a multi-donor trust fund	(i) Improved country capacity in fire management and training (ii) Greater knowledge of the impacts of forest fires in the region	NEFCR	
Assist in strengthening national forest health programmes, and develop regional early warning and coordinated pest and disease control systems.	Strengthen the national capacities for improving forest health.	LACFC	

Continue focusing on fire management		NAFC	
Provide strong emphasis to SFM and protected areas, the management of forests and rangelands in LFCCs, reconciliation of institutional and legislative aspects in NE countries, forest production, and NWFPs in the NEFRC countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Improved understanding of how to promote natural forests where incorrect forest management techniques have occurred; (ii) Greater area under SFM (iii) Strengthened institutions and governance in NEFRC countries (iv) Good examples/practices of NWFPs from the region identified, studied and shared and presented at subsequent sessions of NEFRC 	NEFRC	Technical assistance to conservation and restoration
Provide technical assistance for establishing programmes for the conservation and restoration of degraded forest ecosystems including the use of land	Restoration of degraded forest ecosystems, including forest land.	LACFC	
Provides technical assistance for completing the forest genetic resources assessment and provide technical assistance to programmes of conservation that allow the safeguarding of the resources for the benefit of countries	Enhance knowledge and protection of forest genetic resources and promote the fair distribution of their benefits.	LACFC	
Support and build capacities for forest law enforcement and improved governance	Greater attention to FLEG-T measures in national forest programmes.		FLEG
Bring attention and awareness to forests and recommended that FAO should not overlook forests in its current focus on food security and livelihoods		NAFC	Communication
Establish and support an Asia-Pacific Forestry Communications Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Share experiences and knowledge related to forestry communications among member countries and international partner organizations. (ii) Exchange communication materials, photographs, mailing lists, expertise, etc. and facilitate the access to other resources for effective information 	APFC	

	management. (iii) Strengthen member countries' capacities to effectively address communication issues and challenges.		
Promote messages and lessons learned from the IYF	The momentum from the Year carried forward to future years and greater awareness raised on forests and forestry issues	NEFRC	
Continue to provide support to forest communication both on national and regional levels		AFWC	
Provide technical assistance for implementing a forest communication, education and awareness strategy	Raise the visibility of forests enhancing their importance and contribution to human welfare.	LACF	
Recommended that FAO take further steps to support countries in forestry education and research; undertake a situation analysis and mapping of existing forestry education institutions and networks, with the view to facilitating cooperation		AFWC	Education
Suggest FAO assist in conducting regional needs assessment, conduct short term training, and work in conjunction with other research and regional bodies, and endorsed the concept of an APFK	(i) Improved capacity at the university level and strengthening of know-how for the current and next generation of foresters		
Support the preparation of regional guidelines for formulating, amending and adjusting national forest policies, harmonizing them with the development policies of other sectors	Contribute to sustainable forest management and the conservation of forest resources and to their contribution to human welfare.	LACFC	Policy support

ANNEX 2:**RENEWAL OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP OF A FAO
STATUTORY BODY (ARTICLE VI.2): ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PAPER AND WOOD
PRODUCTS (ACPWP)**

I. BACKGROUND

1. Private sector is an important partner in demonstrating innovative and efficient solutions to developmental challenges. FAO and its Forestry Programme need to integrate the views and experiences of the private sector more closely to their work. In 2011 FAO approved its Strategy on Partnership with the Private Sector. The strategy works on three areas: development of technical programmes, norm and standard-setting, and policy dialogue. Three cross-cutting actions add up to its implementation: advocacy and communication, knowledge management and dissemination, and mobilization of resources.
2. The FAO Advisory Committee on Paper and Wood Products (ACPWP) is a statutory body established in 1960 under Article VI.2 of the FAO Constitution. Its mandate was renewed in 1997 to cover all three primary processing segments of the forest industry, i.e. pulp and paper, sawn wood and wood-based panels.
3. The ACPWP provides for the FAO Forestry Department the private sector views on policy processes relevant to the sustainable development in forestry and industries. In a self-assessment made at the ACPWP Working Meeting (Rome, 18 Oct. 2011), it was concluded that the Committee is disassociated from the forestry governing bodies and priority-setting of FAO.
4. Furthermore, in the second Working Meeting (Rome, 27 Feb. 2012) it was suggested that more efficient channels and mechanisms to voice ACPWP views within FAO's forest policy work and in international policy processes are needed for take full advantage of this long lasting cooperation. At the same time the ACPWP members should liaise more closely with their national delegates attending to various FAO governing bodies, to promote work and initiatives in their immediate areas of interest.
5. It was agreed that the ACPWP Secretariat will outline a process and a detailed proposal for making the Committee more effective. This objective was also communicated to the Director-General of FAO at a meeting held on 27 Feb. 2012.
6. This paper summarizes the outcomes of the final consultation held in conjunction with the ACPWP-53rd Annual Meeting (New Delhi, 23-24 May 2012).

**II. PROPOSAL TO RENEW THE ACPWP STRATEGY, TERMS-OF-
REFERENCES AND WORKING AGENDA**

7. FAO is undergoing a step-wise process to prepare the revised Strategic Planning Framework (SPF) 2010-2019, the Medium-Term Plan (MTP) 2014-2017 and Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2014-2015. It is envisaged that the approval of a revised Strategic Planning Framework and new MTP for 2014-2017 will come at the FAO Conference in June, 2013.
8. Discussion on the ACPWP renewal recognizes the past relevance of the out-going FAO Strategic Objective E: *Sustainable management of forests and trees*. This has been the anchor of the

ACPWP to FAO's MTP, SPF, and to the formulation of PWB. As of 2014, the changes in the FAO's Corporate Strategic Objectives will have to be taken into account, as these changes coincide with ACPWP renewal process. Some of the cross-cutting issues will be food security, sustainable use of natural resources, poverty eradication, gender, etc.

9. At its 53rd Session the ACPWP welcomed the proposed new FAO strategic objectives in which forestry and forest-based products play a vital role. Members supported the view that forestry and forest-based industries are strategically positioned close to rural communities, and provide livelihoods and contribute to the eradication of hunger globally. Forests and forest products were envisaged to offer solutions to many of the world's most pressing problems including climate change mitigation and sustainable energy.

10. The following revised **Strategy** is proposed for ACPWP in order to reflect better the particularly timely challenges that forest industries and also the FAO Forestry Program is facing:

- a) The Committee advises the Director-General on FAO's programme in the field of sustainable production and consumption of forest industry products, and on consistent support on related policy work and regulatory matters.
- b) The Committee helps FAO in identifying key issues across the forest industry value chains related to the economic, environmental, social and cultural aspects of private forest ownership, sustainable forest management, harvesting, processing, investments, trade, consumption, and associated benefits in carbon balance and in other ecosystem services.
- c) The Committee seeks to maximize the potential of multiple forest sector benefits from innovations and more efficient small, medium and large-scale processing of mechanical, chemical and energy products of roundwood, logging residues, recycled forest products and industry waste.
- d) The Committee works to improve communication, knowledge and information exchange and training on best practices between members, private sector experts and FAO.

11. The revised **Terms of Reference** (TOR) allow the ACPWP to assume a more effective role by:

- a) Advising FAO in concepts, projects, policy work and fundraising in the relevant forest sector work through bilateral or multilateral donor institutions and International Financial Institutions (IFI) and/or the Private Sector Partnership Committee.
- b) Advising on how to serve of countries at their requests to solve specific problems in forestry, forest products and forest industries.
- c) Suggesting new activities for FAO, and reviewing studies and statistical data compiled by FAO on forests, products and forest industries.
- d) Suggesting for and organizing jointly with FAO international meetings and events.
- e) The Committee shall provide input to FAO Forestry priority setting and Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) in order to incorporate the private sector perspectives.
- f) A specific item in the agenda of COFO shall be provided to the Committee in order to report to COFO about its work and provide during the deliberations the view of the private sector into the consideration of the Committee.

ACPWP **Statutes** will be revised to accommodate these changes in Strategy and TOR with the guidance of the FAO Legal Department and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM).

12. It is proposed that the changes in ACPWP Statutes will reflect among others the following:

- a) Helping FAO achieving its new Strategic Objectives, currently being discussed by governing bodies.

- b) Strengthening coherence in the Committee's work.
- c) Ensuring technical consistency and predictability of financial resources.
- d) Improving the effectiveness of knowledge and information exchange among members, and between the private sector experts and FAO.
- e) Advising FAO on subjects requiring the immediate expertise of ACPWP and its relevant Working Groups.

13. The first two-year **Working Agenda** is proposed to contain the following activities:

- a) Validating and advocating the benefits of forest product value chains in climate change mitigation and low-carbon bio-economy.
- b) Supporting the transformation of collaborative business models and partnerships along forest product value chains and innovation for sustainable consumption and living.
- c) Continuous improvement of communication and participation in stakeholder dialogues in international *fora* on issues of interest to the Committee.
- d) Contribution to FAO forest resources assessments, regional / thematic outlook studies, and fiber supply studies.

The first two themes have already been integrated into the Forestry Department's Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) for 2012-2013.

14. ACPWP's access to FAO Events and Projects will be enhanced by sharing the thematic Work Plans in FAO's Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) for 2012-2013 and onwards. The Committee may choose projects where it sees added value for its collaboration, and agree on inputs along the project cycle with the Project Lead Technical Officer (LTO) and Lead Technical Unit (LTU). Possible inputs range from conceptualization of new projects to technical inputs, quality assurance and peer reviews and dissemination of results.

15. ACPWP continues to be effectively managed by the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson (from International Council of Forest & Paper Associations, ICFPA) and with the support of FAO. The convenience of running ACPWP and ICFPA meetings back-to-back has been much appreciated and this arrangement is suggested to be continued.

16. The ACPWP's **name** and **internal governance** are suggested as follows:

- a) The new name is Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACSFI).
- b) The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson are selected from among the ACPWP private sector members, and they lead the ACPWP work with support from the ACPWP Secretary designated by FAO.
- c) A 4-6 person Steering Committee (SC) is established to meet regularly in person and in a virtual working space for reviewing meeting agendas, supporting the ACPWP Chairperson, and providing guidance for the Secretary.
- d) Thematic Working Groups will be established among the ACPWP member association experts and FAO to address the key Working Agenda subjects (see paragraph 13).
- e) More significant Steering Committee and ACPWP inputs would be solicited every two years to inform COFO, PWB, resource allocation and Medium Term Plan of the FAO.

The following procedures are envisaged:

- The ACPWP reports to the FAO Director-General and COFO on the Committee's work and participates in FAO priority-setting.
- The Steering Committee reviews progress in work implementation during and at the end of biennium.
- The Steering Committee and the Working Groups make inputs to project formulation and implementation (mainly in October Working Meetings).

- The ACPWP Secretary ensures that a geographic representativeness is appropriately reflected in all the deliberations of the Committee.

III. PROPOSAL TO RENEW THE ACPWP MEMBERSHIP

17. ACPWP moves, within its statutory remit, through a careful assessment, selection and rotation of **membership** towards a more balanced structure.

Current members are listed in the Attachment, valid for the period 2011-2012. The following principles have been adopted in proposing membership in ACPWP for 2013-2014:

- Keep membership within a limit of max. 30 private forest industry leaders who continue to serve in personal capacity.
- Allow for membership of one global private forest owners association.
- Improve geographical balance: increase the representation of forest-rich developing economies in general, and currently non-represented regions in particular.
- Create better balance between the three sub-segments of the industry; i.e. move away from the dominance of pulp and paper associations.
- Whenever feasible, reduce overlaps between ACPWP and ICFPA memberships, i.e. consolidate members from same industry segment within a region under an existing umbrella association.
- Continue to invite out-going members as Advisers to the Committee meetings.
- Establish an Observer status for partners who are not eligible but competent to represent a broadly useful constituency in the regular Committee meetings.

18. All nominations of new and old Members are subject to the FAO Director-General's approval and a non-objection letter from the relevant Ministries of the Members' home countries. Renewals and new invitations for membership for the period of 2013-2014 will be communicated to the relevant Ministries through an official letter from the Director-General.

IV. PROCEDURE

19. The following procedure is recommended for the renewal of the ACPWP in accordance with the agendas and meeting schedules of the FAO governing bodies:

- Deliberations of the reform concept during the 21st session of the Committee of Forestry and Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (Oct. 2012).
- Present revised documents to the 145th session of the FAO Council in Nov. 2012. If approved, the revised changed will be effective from 1.1.2013.

V. POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION

20. The Committee may wish to consider this proposal in the context of the new Strategic Framework and programme priorities for FAO in forestry and provide its views and support to the basic elements of the reform of the ACPWP including a new name, strategy and TOR, membership, strengthened reporting to COFO, and enhanced inputs to setting and implementing the Forestry Program.

Attachment: ACPWP Membership in 2011-2012**ARGENTINA**

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ANNEX 3:**THEMATIC EXPANSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL POPLAR COMMISSION (IPC)**

1. The International Poplar Commission (IPC) is a technical statutory body within the framework of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). It was founded in 1947 by 9 European countries and now comprises 37 member countries¹. To date, the IPC aims to promote the cultivation, conservation and utilization of poplars and willows of the *Salicaceae* family. It carries out its mandate by supporting research and management activities through six international, cross-disciplinary working parties dealing with genetics, conservation and tree improvement; production systems; environmental applications; insect pests; diseases; and the harvesting and utilization of poplar wood. One of the major projects of the working parties for the past 10 years has been the compilation of a comprehensive world-monograph on poplars and willows that will be published by a commercial publishing company by the end of 2012.
2. The IPC is the only international forum that brings together poplars and willow managers, users and researchers to facilitate the exchange of ideas and the discussion of topics that are of concern to the member countries. IPC is also the only international authority for the registration of the names of cultivars and clones of poplars (decision taken in 1958 by the International Commission for the Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants). It has had an important role in the development of the forest and timber sectors in rural areas, largely through the transfer of knowledge on poplar and willow cultivation and the exchange of technologies and breeding material.
3. Poplars and willows are multi-purpose species and form an important component of forestry and agricultural production systems worldwide, often owned by small-scale farmers. They provide a long list of wood and fibre products (sawn lumber, veneer, plywood, pulp and paper, packing crates, pallets, poles, furniture and small handicraft), non-wood products (animal fodder), environmental services (rehabilitation of degraded lands, forest landscape restoration, climate change mitigation) and are grown increasingly in bio-energy plantations for the production of biofuels. These attributes make poplars and willows ideally suited for supporting rural livelihoods, enhancing food security, alleviating poverty and contributing to sustainable land-use and rural development.
4. Poplars and willows are limited to temperate and temperate-warm climates, while in other regions many of the economic and environmental benefits of planted forests are provided by other genera successfully growing in short-rotation forestry and agroforestry production schemes, which have gained in significance through new silvicultural methods, tree improvement and hybridization techniques.
5. Taking into account the experience and knowledge generated through IPC in its 65 years of existence the Committee on Forestry may wish to encourage the Executive Committee of the International Poplar Commission, which will meet in Dehradun, India, on 29 October 2012, to consider the opportunity of expanding the IPC thematic scope. While maintaining the existing mandate on poplars and willows, the IPC may wish to consider the inclusion of other tree genera with similar attributes in order to broaden the interest of FAO's member countries in the Commission, to strengthen the impact of tree planting on the sustainable development of national forest and timber sectors in rural areas, and to attract more funding options for an enlarged membership and outreach of the Commission's mandate.

¹ Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Croatia, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lebanon, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, USA

ANNEX 4:

STRENGTHENING FOREST EDUCATION AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN FORESTRY

VI. INTRODUCTION

1. In 1964, FAO established an Advisory Committee on Forest Education (ACFE) that operated until 1997, when the FAO Conference decided to reduce the number of advisory committees within FAO. The abolition of the ACFE occurred in parallel with a decline in FAO activities relating to forest education.
2. Despite this, the 2010 and 2011-2012 FAO Regional Forestry Commissions (RFCs) and attendees at COFO sessions (1999, 2005 and 2010), the XIII World Forestry Congress in 2009, have called upon FAO to re-establish its forest education programme, potentially through an enlarged project portfolio.
3. This note provides an overview of activities to further FAO Forestry's education initiatives globally and steps taken to establish an Advisory Panel on Forest Knowledge (APFK) to promote education and knowledge initiatives worldwide.

VII. KEY OUTCOMES

4. FAO is tasked to provide highest quality technical output. Working at the frontiers of knowledge requires close collaboration with research institutions. In forestry, despite close collaboration with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) institutes (including the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)), International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), EFI and various others, there are many education institutions that remain outside FAO's reach. A more institutionalized and focused approach would result in more valuable research-based information inputs to FO's work and added-value to forestry initiatives around the world.
5. Capacity building has been an emerging issue identified by the Independent External Evaluation of FAO. Education is a major element of capacity building for which the Office of Knowledge Exchange, Research and Extension (OEK) is the focal point for FAO. Nevertheless, forestry education activities currently included in 'capacity building' initiatives are not fully representative of on-the-ground needs of countries in forest education. Taking into consideration that various regional networks of forest education already exist and the limited staff resources, FAO activities in education could be carried out through an enlarged project portfolio.
6. In this connection, an Advisory Panel seems crucial in order to coordinate guidance from the main regional stakeholders regarding complementarities and the value added that FAO could contribute in the fields of forest education and knowledge. The excellent experience of a similar body, the Advisory Committee on Paper and Wood Products (ACPWP), encourages FO to take action in this field and form an advisory panel drawing on expertise in global forestry education and research.

VIII. MEETINGS AND CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

A. 20th session of the Committee on Forestry

7. To explore the above concepts, an informal meeting of education and knowledge experts from a variety of institutions was called in October 2010, on the fringes of the 20th session of COFO. Representatives from several research and education organizations as well as FAO-OEK attended to informally ascertain support for the proposed APFK; agree on its scope and mandate; agree on short and mid-term actions; review the list of proposed members in order to avoid overlaps and significant gaps; and decide on further steps (e.g. next meetings). General support for the concept of an APFK was expressed by the majority of participants. They agreed that the overall purpose of the body, with FAO acting as the Chair, would be to act as a catalyst for forest education and research programmes, projects and other activities at the global and regional levels, building on the unique strengths, existing priorities, and comparative advantages of forest-related organizations and institutions.

8. Participants agreed that FAO would seek support for the APFK from its member countries and various regional stakeholders during the coming 2 years, noting that its general purpose would address two complementary aspects 1) education and 2) research to coordinate efforts on global and regional projects, programmes and research. Participants agreed that FAO should explore the possibility to convene short parallel meetings focusing on regional issues. The FAO Legal Department has also been asked to provide guidance for the appropriate short- and long-term formalities to be followed for the establishment of the proposed new panel.

B. Initial concept agreed

9. Based on outcomes from the October 2010 informal meeting, the APFK concept was further developed. Participants noted that the APFK would obtain input from main regional stakeholders on the development and implementation of an enlarged project portfolio and programmes on forest education. It would help the Forestry Department create a more institutionalized and focused approach on forest knowledge, resulting in more valuable and streamlined research-based inputs to projects and programme and support broader capacity building initiatives of FAO-OEK. It would generate greater outreach with forestry education institutions and facilitate closer collaboration with research institutions and professional networks to ensure the broadest distribution of FAO's and other international bodies' employment opportunities, attract the most qualified professionals and provide the strongest technical outputs.

10. The APFK and broader education programme would rely on regional networks and would communicate via electronic means as a way to enhance connections and strengthen inputs to the centralized process. Members of the APFK would be from regional and/or global networks and limited membership would allow efficient meetings and strong commitment while ensuring broad representation. Proposed members could include: IUFRO; CGIAR, especially CIFOR and ICRAF; the International Partnership for Forestry Education; the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions; the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation; the Latin American Forestry Education Network; the African Network for Agriculture, Agroforestry, and Natural Resource Education; Silva/ICA in Europe; the Centre for International Forestry Research; the World Agroforestry Centre; the European Forestry Institute; the International Students Association; African Forest Forum; Association of Forestry Deans; the University of British Columbia; and other networks of regional forest professionals associations and institutions from the US, Russia and China.

C. Proposed snapshot of activities

11. After informal education-related meetings held in Bangkok, Thailand, at the Asia Pacific Forest Week in 2011 and at the Near East Forestry and Range Commission in 2012, participants suggested FAO education initiatives could be stepped up to broaden existing work such as 'Kids to Forests' and address new work. For instance, new project work in the regions could be created to simulated interest and further training in forestry matters. Forestry could also broaden its existing work using e-learning platforms on subjects of interest to members and utilize partnerships with Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) members to create new methods of learning for kids to young adults. Youth (ages 6-16) and young adults/university students (ages 17-25) would be the primary target of such future activities. It is also hoped that research opportunities and the forestry research community would be broadened and strengthened as a result of this work.

IX. COMPLEMENTARY PROCESSES AND INITIATIVES

i) IUFRO Task Force on Education in Forest Sciences

12. The objective of the IUFRO Task Force on Education in Forest Sciences (EFS IUFRO TF) is to improve practice of Education in Forest Sciences worldwide. It aims at contributing to the development of standards for Education in Forest Science, which meet current requirements, using experiences and examples of good practice in the IUFRO community and cooperation with higher education experts. Activities of the TF are evolving, but focus mostly on supporting exchange of good practices between universities and research centres in forest education at the university level; developing a framework for required competencies of graduates of education in forest sciences; the design and implementation of IUFRO Summer Schools focusing on upper level forestry education; and to publish findings in scientific articles and books.

13. The TF met in Poland in February 2011 to discuss the development of these concepts. At the conclusion of the meeting, the TF agreed upon plans to explore the applicability and further development of forestry curricula and forming a programme for IUFRO Summer Schools focusing on upper-level forestry courses. A website dedicated to TF activities has also been established and will be further developed based on the inputs of members. The TF is organized and run by a steering group consisting of the TF coordinator and deputies assisted by a TF secretary. The TF would act as a complement to the proposed APFK.

ii) Bologna Process

14. The Bologna Process is a coordinative process focussed on higher education in Europe. It is driven by the 46 participating countries and international organizations with the purpose of, inter alia, providing Europe with a broad, high-quality knowledge base. It helps ensure individuals can move from one education system or country to another with ease. Participants at the last informal FAO Forestry education meeting in October 2010 suggested drawing on parts of the Bologna Process during the development of the APFK.

iii) Kids to Forest Programme

15. Led by the FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (FAO RAP), this non-traditional education initiative is designed to teach early and middle school children about forest issues by physically taking them into forests. FAO RAP piloted the initiative in Thailand and the NFP Facility

supports the initiative in seven countries in Asia. Material related to the initiative has been produced and activities are being implemented in schools in all pilot countries as of August 2011.

X. POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION

16. Based on the strong networks of forest education institutions and groups that exist globally, the Committee could discuss ways to strengthen forestry education and knowledge initiatives within FAO Forestry.

17. The Committee may wish to endorse the roles of the APFK to advise FAO Forestry on:

- Developing and conducting a forest education programme, both normative and operational, in coordination with existing regional forest faculties' networks and other institutions to ensure value-added, complementarities and long-lasting efforts. The setting should favour the establishment of joint projects. FAO's country presence and project implementation capacity can contribute as a key value added to those of other partners.
- Establishing a close relationship with regional and/or global forest research networks in order to channel the best available knowledge for FAO Forestry normative and project work, implement joint projects and contribute to defining mid- and long-term research priorities.
- Establishing an efficient mechanism of dissemination of FAO's and other international institutions' vacancies in order to attract the best candidates.
- Strengthening regional and global networks in forest education, research and profession.

18. The Committee may also wish to discuss the membership and operations of such a permanent advisory body. It is proposed that the new APFK could meet every two years within the framework of COFO and/or regionally within the Regional Forestry Committee meetings. Opportunities to inform COFO regularly about the work of the APFK should be sought.