

July 2012

E



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة للأمم
المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and
Agriculture
Organization
of the
United Nations

Organisation des
Nations Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones Unidas
para la
Alimentación y la
Agricultura

COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

Rome, Italy, 24-28 September 2012

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF FAO BODIES OF INTEREST TO THE COMMITTEE

I. FAO CONFERENCE

1. At its 37th session, the FAO Conference¹:

- a) conferred the Edouard Saouma Award for 2010-2011 to the Forest Management Bureau of the Philippines for their outstanding role in the implementation of TCP project on, "Advancing the Application of Assisted Natural Regeneration for Effective Low-cost Forest Restoration".
- b) endorsed the report of 20th Session of the Committee on Forestry and:
 - i) noted the need to include fire management in reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries (REDD-plus) programmes and in broader land-use and landscape policies and programmes;
 - ii) invited countries to strengthen their efforts to address the challenges of forest governance in collaboration with other sectors, and recommended that FAO support countries' efforts in this regard;
 - iii) recommended that countries and FAO highlight forests' contributions to the global developmental agenda in the preparations for the Rio+20 (2012), and that they pay particular attention to vulnerable areas such as dry lands;
 - iv) noted further the quality of work on Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) and encouraged its further development by strengthening the reliability of the information rather than broadening it;
 - v) welcomed the programme priorities for Strategic Objective E, and encouraged FAO to continue building on its comparative advantages in future priority settings.
- c) noted the importance of finalizing the negotiations concerning the "Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests" during the forthcoming CFS-led meeting from 12 to 15 July 2011 and encouraged Members to participate actively in this exercise.

¹ C 2011/REP

- d) welcomed the report on the International Year of Forests and FAO's contribution to its celebration, and recognized the importance of raising public awareness on the contribution of forests to sustainable development and encouraged collaboration with other sectors in this regard
 - i) noted the active engagement of Members in the International Year of Forests and the role of enhanced cooperation at all levels;
 - ii) welcomed the cooperation within the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and requested FAO to continue its efforts in coordinating these activities during the International Year of Forests and beyond;
 - iii) noted the important role of an International Day of Forests in promoting sustainable forest management;
 - iv) supported the establishment of an International Day of Forests, and considered that FAO could coordinate activities related to the celebration of that day, noting requests for caution with regard to proliferation of activities and cost implications.
- 2. **The Committee is invited to consider document COFO/2012/7.1 for details on follow-up actions to the recommendations of the Conference. The Committee may wish to give guidance for further actions when addressing agenda item 9.b. Programme Priorities for FAO in Forestry.**
- 3. At the same session, the FAO Conference adopted Resolution 6/2011 *Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal* and decided, among others, that
 - a) in performing its oversight functions regarding IPA implementation, the Council shall receive inputs from the Finance Committee, the Programme Committee and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, and from the Regional Conferences and the Technical Committees, according to their respective mandates.
- 4. **The Committee may wish to note for the Council the consideration of its Multi-year Programme of Work for the period of 2012-2015 for adoption as a major contribution to the IPA implementation.**

II. FAO COUNCIL

- 5. **At its 140th session, the FAO Council²:**
 - a) endorsed the report of the 20th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO).
 - b) requested FAO:
 - i) to continue its work towards a further strengthened Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) in 2015, prepare a long-term strategy for the FRA programme, and continue to lead international coordination in this area. The Council recognized the need for a Voluntary Trust Fund to enhance country capacities in this field;
 - ii) to support countries to utilize the potential contributions of forests and trees outside forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation, including the reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD-plus), while focusing on the areas of its comparative advantage;
 - iii) to support countries to achieve their goals in strengthening domestic forest law enforcement and governance; and
 - iv) to use the International Year of Forests 2011 as an opportunity for highlighting the role of forests in sustainable development, and to support countries' efforts in this regard.

² CL 140/REP

- c) recommended that FAO:
 - i) develop a comprehensive Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources and assist countries in integrating conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in sustainable forest management;
 - ii) continue to review critical issues related to forests, water and soil, and support Member countries in this area, and
 - iii) continue its leading role in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.
- d) endorsed the offer of South Africa to host the XIV World Forestry Congress, and noted with appreciation the gesture of India to withdraw its bid in favour of the African Continent.

6. **At its 143rd session, the Council³** approved the report of the 37th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (Rome, 17-22 October 2011) and noted the various recommended actions, *inter alia*: a) the urgent need for an additional negotiation session to finalize the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.

- a) **The Committee is invited to consider document COFO/2012/7.1 for details on follow-up actions to the recommendations of the Council. The Committee may wish to give guidance for further actions when addressing agenda item 9.b. Programme Priorities for FAO in Forestry.**

7. **At its 144th session, the Council⁴:**

- a) recognized that the definition of the Strategic Objectives was work in progress, to be further elaborated along with preparation of results-based action plans, indicators and targets. The Council emphasized that in the Strategic Thinking Process more attention should be given to sustainable management of natural resources and to the contribution of agriculture, fisheries and forests as stated in the Third Global Goal of FAO.
- b) requested the Secretariat to include the following elements in further elaborating the Strategic Objectives and in preparing the results-based Action Plans:
 - i) guidance of the Technical Committees of FAO, especially on sustainable management of natural resources in the fields of agriculture, fisheries, forests, agricultural heritage, genetic resources and food safety within the context of global climate change.

8. **The Committee may wish to provide its guidance to the Strategic Thinking Process and the formulation of the Strategic Objectives for the consideration of the 145th session of the FAO Council when discussing item 9.b. Programme Priorities for FAO in Forestry of the agenda.**

III. Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

9. **At its 38th (Special) session, the CFS⁵:**

- a) endorsed the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT);
- b) encouraged all stakeholders to promote, make use of and support the implementation of the VGGT when formulating strategies, policies and programmes on food security, nutrition, agriculture and the tenure of land, fisheries and forests;
- c) decided to transmit the VGGT to the governing bodies of FAO, WFP and IFAD;

³ CL 153/REP

⁴ CL 144/REP

⁵ CL 144/9 (C 2013/20)

- d) decided to request the United Nations General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, to further endorse the VGGT and ensure their wide dissemination to all relevant UN Bodies and Agencies;
 - e) requested FAO to ensure that the VGGT are included as a priority in the new Strategic Framework that FAO is developing and in relevant work programmes.
10. **The Committee may wish to consider also document COFO/2012/6.1 and provide advice on appropriate follow-up actions related to the VGGT.**

IV. COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

11. **At its 13th Session, the Commission:**
- a) welcomed progress made in the preparation of *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*. It supported the participatory and integrated approach.
 - b) urged donors and relevant international organizations to make available extra-budgetary financial resources and in-kind support for the preparation of Country Reports, including for national and regional consultations; and countries to nominate National Focal Points to ensure the timely delivery of Country Reports for The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources. It stressed the need for countries to prepare and deliver their Country Reports on time based on the guidelines provided by FAO, in order for them to contribute to *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*.
 - c) invited countries to integrate the timely preparation of Country Reports on Forest Genetic Resources, as well as any follow-up activities, into their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.
 - d) requested FAO to provide sufficient regular programme funds, subject to the availability of such funds, and other resources, to support the preparation of *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*, including the preparation of Country Reports. It requested FAO to prepare a synthesis paper on priority areas for action based on Country Reports, for regional consultations.
 - e) The Commission requested its Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources to meet, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary funds, prior to the Commission's Fourteenth Regular Session (in April 2013), to review the draft report on *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* and priority areas for action, as identified in Country Reports and regional consultations; and to review and evaluate options for a follow-up, and make recommendations to the Commission.
12. **The Committee may wish to consider the implications of these decisions when addressing item 9.b. Programme Priorities for FAO in Forestry of the agenda.**

V. REGIONAL CONFERENCES

13. The Regional Conferences considered and welcomed the successful conclusion of the consultations on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, and recommended its adoption by the CFS, as contained in paragraph 9 of this document.

Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific

14. The 27th Regional Conference for Africa⁶:

- a) appreciated that a companion document had been prepared to integrate fisheries, livestock and forestry in the CAADP⁷ and recommended that these areas be better integrated in the process of CAADP implementation;
- b) confirmed that the main challenges are consistent with the conditions in the Region and emphasized the importance of focusing the work of FAO on key challenges faced by countries so as to achieve measurable progress through the effective and efficient use of available resources on a limited number of activities, aligned with FAO's comparative advantage;
- c) endorsed RAF 2012-13 and 2014-15 priority areas, expanding the agricultural productivity scope to forestry, fisheries, livestock and aquaculture, and focusing attention on the value chain approach, water management, soft infrastructure and climate change.

15. The 31st Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific⁸:

- a) requested FAOs' support in addressing the key challenges of increasing agricultural productivity, managing natural resources and promoting effective responses to food price volatility, by assisting member countries in:
 - i) developing better gender-disaggregated agricultural, fisheries and forestry statistics
 - ii) developing forests and forestry as a means of sustaining livelihoods, generating income, reducing poverty, preserving cultural heritage and maintaining environmental and biodiversity values
- b) The Conference noted that the identified emerging main global challenges for food and agriculture were consistent with conditions in the region, and emphasized the following region specific needs:
 - i) increasing agricultural production and productivity, while addressing natural resource constraints (water, land, genetic resources, climate change) and higher energy prices.

16. The 28th Regional Conference for Europe⁹:

- a) welcomed the successful cooperation between the European Forestry Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Timber Committee, resulting in provision of unique statistics and resource assessments;
- b) recognized the importance of FAO to continue working on sustainable forest management as a component of a green economy, including green jobs, as well as FAO inputs to the RIO + 20 process.
- c) recommended FAO servicing negotiations on the legally binding agreement on sustainable forest management in Europe. The importance of forest management and good practice in adaptation to and mitigation of climate change impacts and sustainable water resources management was underlined. The significance of the multiple benefits of forests, the role of forests in food security and sustainable livelihoods, and addressing forestry issues at regional and international levels with focus on involving the Central Asia countries were recommended for FAO attention.
- d) expects FAO to continue working on forestry issues within its mandate and recommended that forestry be integrated in a visible way into the new Strategic Framework.
- e) In reviewing the challenges and priorities for the region, the Conference emphasized: support to smallholder agriculture while managing natural resources in a more sustainable manner including reduction of post-harvest waste; more attention to fisheries and forestry issues; work on land degradation and improved land use; addressing nutrition and climate change; and mainstreaming gender in all activities.

⁶ ARC 12/REP

⁷ Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme

⁸ APRC 12/REP

⁹ ERC/12/REP

17. **The 32nd Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean¹⁰:**

- a) considered important policy issues for the Region: (a) governance of food and nutritional security; (b) investment in and sustainable intensification of crop and livestock farming, as well as sustainable forest, fisheries and aquaculture management, with the emphasis on family farming; and (c) access to food and changes in consumption patterns.
- b) recognized the importance of climate change adaptation to the Region's crop, livestock, forest and fisheries sectors, recalling the three dimensions of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental.
- c) supported the recommendation by the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC) that greater visibility should be given to the forest sector in regard to climate change, as well as to food security and the economic development of family farming. Special emphasis should be given to the forest sector's role in the sustainability of rural production systems and its relationship with soil and biodiversity conservation, as well as with sustainable water management and use. In particular the Conference recommended seeking better positioning for forests at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).
- d) endorsed the broad and inclusive strategic thinking process initiated by the Director-General and agreed on the need to continue discussing on a broad and participatory basis, in the relevant bodies, the main global challenges identified by the Secretariat in the areas of agriculture, fisheries and forestry.
- e) The Caribbean and Mesoamerican Subregions requested that, alongside the predefined regional priorities, priority should be given to the forestry sector and to fisheries and aquaculture.
- f) The South American Subregion made a preliminary review of the proposed seven global challenges and noted that:
 - i) the first challenge needs to include explicitly the development of family farming, small-scale fisheries, aquaculture and forestry; and that
 - ii) priority should be given to adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change, rather than to mitigation.

18. **The 31st Regional Conference for the Near East¹¹:**

- a) noted the need to increase participation and awareness amongst all stakeholders including Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and to harmonize monitoring tools, standards and development of vulnerability indicators to improve risk assessments, preparedness and response. The Conference urged member countries to improve financing the livestock, fishery and forestry sectors by greening the economy, and strengthen community capacities and livelihoods to cope with and adapt to climate change.
- b) requested FAO to assist Member countries of the Region in enhancing their technical capacity to deal with and tackle the impacts of climate change on the forest and rangeland ecosystems, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture resources and requested FAO to assist member countries address problems affecting natural resources from an integrated perspective through special studies and in-depth analyses elaborating appropriate national policies, strategies and programs to be implemented in mitigating the impact of Climate Change. The conference urged Member countries to have a coordinated position towards accessing the "Cancun Agreement - Climate Green Fund" for forestry and rangelands in the Near East.

¹⁰ LARC 12/REP

¹¹ CL 144/8 (C 2013/18)

19. **The Informal Conference for North America¹²:**

- a) considered areas of priority for the FAO's work:
 - i) focus on the FAO's comparative advantage in forest resource monitoring and information; developing and promoting sustainable forest management practices, strategies, and guidelines;
 - ii) enhance cross-sectoral integration of forests with other issues, in particular food security and water;
- b) identified key implementation items under the current strategic objectives structure:
 - i) increase focus on the Forest Department's forest resource monitoring and information, with emphasis on further incorporating remote sensing data; refining the designated functions and governance indicators of the Global Forest Resources Assessment; and further expanding the type of data collected to allow for an improved understanding of the full benefits that forests have to livelihoods and society.
 - ii) continue Department of Forestry's leadership as Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), which engages both member states and civil society through key international forest-related organizations and processes.
 - iii) continue efforts to improve sustainable forest management practices, for example on wildfire management and forest climate change adaptation.

20. **The Committee may wish to consider how to strengthen further the linkage between the regional and global levels and give guidance for appropriate responses to the recommendations of the Regional Conferences under item 9.b. Programme Priorities for FAO in Forestry of the agenda.**

¹² CL 144/LIM/4 (C 2013/LIM/1)