

	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
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## ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY COMMISSION

### TENTH MEETING OF THE APFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chiang Mai, Thailand, 21-22 October 2014

### SUMMARY OF 22<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF COFO

This document summarizes proceedings and outcomes of the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of COFO.

#### a) 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO)

1. The FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) is the highest FAO Forestry statutory body and brings together heads of forestry agencies and other senior government officials to identify emerging policy and technical issues, to seek solutions, and to advise FAO and others on appropriate strategies and actions. Participation in COFO is open to all FAO member countries.

2. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of COFO and the Fourth World Forest Week were convened concurrently 23-27 June 2014, in Rome, Italy. The session was attended by 617 delegates from 117 countries and one Member Organization, representatives of six United Nations Agencies and Programmes and observers from 28 intergovernmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations. Six FAO Member Nations had sought new membership in COFO prior or during to the session.

3. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of COFO discussed issues related to the socioeconomic benefits from forests aimed at reviewing forests' cross-sectoral linkages to several areas of sustainable development, including livelihoods, food security, jobs and gender equality.

4. Formal COFO sessions were complemented by several events organized as part of World Forest Week, which served to engage a wider spectrum of participants than traditional plenary events with formal prepared interventions. World Forest Week events included 53 seminars, technical sessions, panel discussions, focus group discussions, information sessions, etc.

#### b) Recommendations from the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of COFO

Overall, COFO made 94 recommendations for FAO. Among those recommendations, of particular relevance for Asia and the Pacific, were the following:

5. Building capacity to implement the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.

6. Support countries in reviewing and revising national forest programmes to address people's benefits from forests more explicitly and directly in forest policies, programmes and plans of action and to address efficiency of production and waste reduction along value chains.

7. Support countries in strengthening tenure rights and governance processes, including through implementing the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests.
8. Support countries in enhancing and aligning capacities of forest-related public administrations to more effectively govern sustainable forest resource management and use, and to adapt to changing conditions and emerging challenges.
9. Support countries in establishing inclusive value chains of innovative and competitive forest products which bring benefits to local communities.
10. Support countries in strengthening forest industries, producer associations, and community-based forest organizations, in order to raise productivity and efficiency of the entire forestry sector, and thereby promoting innovations and cross-sectoral planning (for example agriculture, food security and energy).
11. Promoting sub-regional, inter-organizational and public-private cooperation, for capturing better comparative advantages in producing innovative forest products and bioenergy.
12. Continue to work on strengthening the link between forests and food security.
13. Continue to support the creation and strengthening of forest-and-farm producer organizations, including through the Forests and Farm facility and in partnership with other programmes.
14. Support countries in increasing understanding and knowledge of how forests and trees can address the Zero Hunger Challenge through adopting more inclusive, cross-sectoral national policies.
15. Support countries in promoting the vital contributions that forests and forest foods make in addressing hunger and malnutrition.
16. Support countries in support efforts and investments in agroforestry and sustainably managed land in order to contribute to increased land productivity to reduce pressure on forests.
17. Support countries in developing mechanisms to improve data collection, monitoring and reporting related to the role of forests in food security and nutrition, including through future Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) data collection.
18. Support countries by strengthening capacity and providing technical support for gender mainstreaming and the collection of gender-disaggregated data in the forest sector.
19. Support country efforts to plan and implement forest landscape restoration, through activities of the FLR mechanism in collaboration with other global partnerships and initiatives, such as GPFLR, International Model Forest Network, the Landscape for People, Food and Nutrition initiative and members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.
20. Continue to support the regional forest communication networks, including through providing coordination at global and regional levels.

## **DISCUSSION**

21. The Executive Committee is invited to reflect on the participation of APFC members in the 22nd Session of COFO; how linkages between APFC and COFO may be enhanced; and how APFC may contribute in supporting the recommendations of COFO.