

26th Session of the Committee on Forestry

8.6. Dialogue with Statutory Bodies in Forestry

This agenda item will focus on presenting progress reports on activities of the Forestry Statutory Bodies and the Working Group of the Committee on Forestry:

1. Regional Forestry Commissions (RFCs), held between September 2021 and August 2022, including:
 - the 29th Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC), 22-25 February 2022, virtual session (Mongolia);
 - the 32nd Session of the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC), 6-10 September 2021, virtual session (Jamaica);
 - the 31st Session of the North American Forest Commission (NAFC), 17-19 November 2021, virtual session (Mexico);
 - the 41st Session of the European Forestry Commission (EFC), 4-7 November 2021, hybrid session Rome, (Italy);
 - the 25th Session of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission (NEFRC), 19-21 October 2021, virtual session (Egypt); and
 - the outcomes of the recently held 23rd Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC), hybrid session (Democratic Republic of the Congo), 22 to 26 August 2022.
2. Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions *Silva Mediterranea*, including:
 - outcomes of its 24th Session held on 22-25 March 2022 in Antalya, Türkiye;
 - update on the World Restoration Flagship nominations of the Mediterranean region in the context of the United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration;
 - progress report from the working groups of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions- *Silva Mediterranea*; and
 - update on the next edition of the State of Mediterranean Forests.
3. Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACFSI), including:
 - Outcomes of its 62nd and 63rd Sessions; and
 - Key messages of the Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-Based Industries to COFO26.
4. The International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment (IPC), including:
 - the outcomes of 26th Session of the IPC; and
 - overview of the IPC Strategy 2022-2032, including its technical focus.
5. Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems, including:
 - the 2nd Session of the Working Group hosted virtually by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania from 17 to 18 November 2021; and
 - progress of the activities of the Working Group.

Regional Forestry Commissions

The Committee is invited to:

- continue providing guidance on strategic issues to the RFCs; and
- stress the importance for the RFCs to have a more policy-relevant role in the FAO Regional Conferences;

The Committee may wish to recommend FAO to:

- continue to review and consult with Members on ways to further improving RFCs as well-established mechanisms for policy dialogue and exchange, with a view to further strengthen coordination and collaborative actions across sectors and stakeholders, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement and the Global Forest Goals.

Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions *Silva Mediterranea*

The Committee may wish to:

- invite *Silva Mediterranea* to further align the work plans of the *Silva Mediterranea* Working Groups with global and regional agendas; and
- recommend FAO to support enhanced access by Members, at their request, to climate finance opportunities such as the Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund, particularly for forest fire prevention and post-fire restoration initiatives.

Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACFSI)

The Committee may wish to:

- take note of the ACFSI key messages to COFO26; and
- invite the ACFSI to continue fostering strategic actions and facilitating partnerships between FAO and the private sector to promote a forest-based bioeconomy and healthy, productive ecosystems including through ecosystem restoration to achieve the SDGs, in particular in developing countries.

The International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment (IPC)

The Committee may wish to:

- take note of the new Strategy of the IPC and of progress made in its implementation, welcoming the alignment of the technical focus of the IPC to FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-31 and FAO's priorities in forestry;
- encourage FAO Members - in particular tropical countries engaged in ecosystem restoration and development of sustainable wood value chains - to consider membership in the IPC in view of its new mandate; and
- encourage the IPC to pursue efforts to communicate its achievements, raise awareness of its new mandate and expanded geographical scope; and mobilize resources and partnerships for the implementation of the new Strategy.

Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems

The Committee may wish to:

- take note of the progress made in the work of the Working Group;
- encourage the Working Group to support the preparations for the UN International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists in 2026, by mobilizing and facilitating cross-regional expertise exchange and to promote innovative and inter-connected sustainable agrosilvopastoral systems; and
- encourage members to support resource mobilization efforts, as appropriate, for the Working Group to organize its sessions and implement its activities (2022-2024).

Malgorzata Buszko-Briggs, Secretary of the Committee on Forestry, Forestry Division, FAO