



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON SUSTAINABLE
FOREST-BASED
INDUSTRIES (ACSFI)

Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACSFI)

ACSFI 64th Annual Meeting

Thursday 25th May 2023

14.00 – 18.00pm Central European Summer Time (CEST)

Virtual

Meeting Minutes



Attendees

Members	
Name	Affiliation
Mr Andrew Large	Confederation of Paper Industries, Director-General, United Kingdom
Mr Charles Nyanjui	Farm Forestry Smallholder Producers Association of Kenya (FFSPAK), Chairperson, Kenya
Mr David Rhodes	New Zealand Forest Owners Association, Chief Executive, New Zealand
Ms Françoise Van de Ven	Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux (ATIBT), President, France
Ms Giulia Fadini	Confederation of European Paper Industries, Innovative Projects Manager, Belgium
Mr Göksel Korkmaz	Turkish Forest Industry and Businessmen Association, President, Turkey
Ms Heidi Brock	American Forest and Paper Association, President and Chief Executive, United States of America
Mr Hüseyin Güler	Business Planning & Innovation Director, Kastomonu Entegre, Turkey
Ms Jane Molony	Paper Manufacturers Association, Executive Director, South Africa
Mr José Carlos da Fonseca Junior (Vice Chair)	Brazilian Tree Industry (IBA), Institutional Director, Brazil
Mr Kwame Asamoah Adam	Ghana Timber Millers Association, CEO, Ghana
Mr Lorenz Freiherr Klein von Wisenberg	International Family Forest Alliance, Germany
Mr Ngo Sy Hoai	Vietnam Timber & Forest products Association (VIFOREST), Vice President & Secretary General, Vietnam
Mr Paul-Antoine Lacour	Union Française des Industries des Cartons, Papiers et Celluloses (COPACEL), Directeur général, France
Mr Ross Hampton (Chair)	Australian Forest Products Association, Counsellor International Affairs, Australia
Mr Scott Jones	American Forestry Landowner Association, CEO, United States
Mr Shobhan Mittal	Greenpanel Industries Limited, Managing Director and CEO, India
Ms Silvia Melegari	European Confederation of Woodworking Industries, (CEI-Bòis),



Mr Tsunehiro Ogawa	Japan Paper Association, President, Japan
Ms Viveka Beckeman	Swedish Forest Industries, Director General, Sweden
Mr Wu Shengfu	China Wood Culture Association, President, China
Observers	
Ms Angela Graham Brown	World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), Director of Forest Solutions Group, Switzerland
Ms Barbara Tavora-Jainchill	Programme Management Officer, Forest Affairs, UN Forum on Forests Secretariat, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United States
Mr Barney Chan	Trade Advisory Group, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), International
Mr Jayaraman Durai	The International Network for Bamboo and Rattan, (INBAR), Director of Global Programmes, International
Mr Jukka Kantola	Founder and CEO at World Bioeconomy Forum, International
Ms Kerry Patterson-Baker	Forest Products Association of Canada, Vice President Communications and Public Affairs, Canada
Ms Mariana Marshall Parra	Alternate Permanent Representative of Brazil to FAO, WFP and IFAD, Italy
FAO	
Ms Francesca Bertola (Rapporteur)	Consultant, Forest-based Bioeconomy Team, Forestry Division
Ms Lyndall Bull (Rapporteur)	Forestry Officer, Forest-based Bioeconomy Team, Forestry Division
Ms Malgorzata BuszkoBriggs	Senior Forestry Officer, Secretary of the Committee on Forestry (COFO)
Mr Sven Walter (Secretary)	Team Leader, Forest-based Bioeconomy Team, Forestry Division
Mr Zhimin Wu	Director, Forestry Division
External presenters	
Ms Sarah Price	Director Sustainability, Sappi
Ms Tamara Streefland	Head of Networks, Built by Nature



64th Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest Based Industries (ACSF)

Annual Meeting

Agenda

Thursday 25 May 2023

(Virtual)

14.00 – 18.00 CEST

	Item	Who
1.	Welcome & adoption of the agenda	Mr Ross Hampton (ACSF Chair)
2.	Message from the Director of FAO Forestry Division	Mr Wu Zhimin Director FAO Forestry Division
3.	Noting of 63rd ACSF meeting minutes and update on action items	Mr Ross Hampton (ACSF Chair)
ACSF priorities – Bioeconomy & Ecosystem Restoration		
4.	Update on ACSF priority areas of work: Bioeconomy and Ecosystem Restoration	ACSF Secretariat
5.	Presentation on Ecosystem Restoration	Ms Sarah Price Director Sustainability Sappi
6.	Presentation on Bioeconomy	Ms Tamara Streefland, Head of Networks, Built by Nature
7.	Discussion on COP28	Mr Ross Hampton (ACSF Chair)
8.	Status of the global bioeconomy	Mr Jukka Kantola, Founder and CEO World Bioeconomy Forum
	Q&A	
	Coffee BREAK	
ACSF Governance and workplan		
9.	Welcome to new ACSF members and observers	ACSF Secretariat
10.	Update on ACSF Strategic Framework 2020 - 2030 and proposed ACSF Workplan 2023	Secretariat



		Ms Malgorzata BuszkoBriggs COFO Secretary
11.	2024 ACSFI Annual Meeting location	
Towards an ACSFI mid-term review: Further enhancing impact and effectiveness (workshop)		
12.	Introduction	ACSFI Secretariat
	Break out group discussions	All
	Coffee BREAK	
	Report back	All
	Wrap up	Mr Ross Hampton (ACSFI Chair)
13.	Any Other Business	Mr Ross Hampton (ACSFI Chair)
14.	Meeting close	Mr Ross Hampton (ACSFI Chair)



Agenda Item 1 Welcome & adoption of the agenda

Discussion:

The ACSFI Chair Mr Ross Hampton, opened the meeting at 14.00 Central European Summer Time. The Chair welcomed members, observers, secretariat, FAO staff and presenters to the 64th Annual Meeting of the ACSFI.

The agenda was adopted.

Agenda Item 2 Message from the Director of FAO Forestry Division

Discussion:

The Chair welcomed Mr Zhimin Wu, Director of FAO's Forestry Division.

Mr Wu gave a warm welcome to the participants and congratulated the ACSFI for the work completed in the last year, including the:

- Representation of the ACSFI from the ACSFI Chair, Mr Ross Hampton, at COFO 26 in October 2023.
- Participation of several members of the ACSFI in World Forest Week side events.
- Collaborated with ACSFI member organizations' (AFPA and ibá) for delivery of the event at COP27 – [“Keeping 1.5°C alive through the growing contribution of climate-smart forest products to the bioeconomy.”](#)
- Review of the report, Building a sustainable circular bioeconomy in Africa through forest products
- Provision of case studies to the UNECE led study series on Forests and the Circular Economy

Mr Wu then highlighted that the ACSFI is fulfilling its role in advising FAO, in particular in the area of ecosystem restoration, a strategically important topic for the work of the FAO Forestry Division.

Mr Wu thanked the Secretariat for its support to this Committee.

He provided afterwards, an overview of FAO's priorities.

FAO is moving forward with the implementation of its Strategic Framework 2022-31. To implement the Strategic Framework, FAO has established 20 Programme Priority Areas.

Priority areas relevant for the Forestry Division include:

- Green innovation
- Small-scale producers' equitable access to resources
- Climate change mitigating and adapted agri-food systems
- Bioeconomy for sustainable food and agriculture; and
- Scaling up investment

Finally the Director highlighted the upcoming events that are significant for the Forestry Division:



- Upcoming meetings of FAO Regional Forestry Commissions – particularly those in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia Pacific, North America and Europe.
- International Day of Forests 2024. The theme will be Innovation in Forestry.
- State of the Forests 2024, also on the topic of Innovation in Forestry.
- Committee on Forestry 27 (COFO) which will be held at FAO headquarters in July 2024.

Mr Wu thanked everyone and wished all participants a successful meeting.

Agenda Item 3	Noting of 63rd ACSFI Annual Meeting minutes and update on action items
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Discussion:

Minutes of the 2023 63rd ACSFI Annual Meeting were accepted with no amendments. The ACSFI met all the action points raised at that meeting.

Agenda Item 4	Update on ACSFI priority areas of work: Bioeconomy and Ecosystem Restoration
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Discussion:

Ms Lyndall Bull provided an update of the work completed since the 63rd Annual ACSFI meeting.

These outputs were structured around the two areas of strategic priority identified by the ACSFI Strategic Framework 2020-2030, Bioeconomy and Ecosystem Restoration.

The following main achievements were presented:

Bioeconomy

- ✓ Release of preliminary findings of the report [“Building a Sustainable Bioeconomy in Africa Through Forest Products: Trends, opportunities and challenges”](#) at AFWC, (July 2022)
- ✓ Release of the report: [“The role of wood residues in the transition to sustainable bioenergy: Analysis of good practices and recommendations for the deployment of wood residues for energy”](#), (January 2023)
- ✓ Led and/or participated in the following events at the **World Forestry Congress (WFC) 2-6 May 2022:**
 - [Sustainable investments in forests for people, profit and nature](#)
 - [Sustainable forests and green energy: Sustainable bioenergy for energy transition towards net zero emissions](#)
 - [The contribution of a forest circular bioeconomy to sustainable development](#)
 - [Advancing decent work, green jobs and sustainability in the forest sector](#)
 - [Innovation in the forest sector: New paths to growth and sustainability](#)
 - [Wood the most ancient raw material taking us to the future](#)
 - [Sustainable pathways for building a green, healthy and resilient future](#)
- ✓ Participation of ACSFI members in the following events of **the COFO26 World Forest Week (3-7 October 2022):**



- [*“Beyond numbers: income, employment and decent work in forestry”*](#)
- [*“Sustainable production and consumption of forest products can help forest conservation, increase forest value and boost climate mitigation efforts”*](#)
- [*“Indonesia's plans for carbon-positive forests by 2030 and launch of the state of Indonesia's forests 2022”*](#)
- ✓ Collaborated with ACSFI member organizations' (AFPA and ibá) event at COP27: [*“Keeping 1.5°C alive through the growing contribution of climate-smart forest products to the bioeconomy”*](#) (November 2023).

Ecosystem Restoration

- ✓ Organization of the [Roundtable on “Enhancing the forest sector engagement in ecosystem restoration”](#) as a satellite meeting to COFO, (October 2022).
- ✓ Participation in the Forests Dialogue Restoration Scoping Dialogue (January 2023).
- ✓ Launch of [ACSFI Statement on Ecosystem Restoration](#) at Yale University, (January 2023).

Ms Lyndall Bull recognized the support provided by the ACSFI Secretariat and participation and contributions of ACSFI members to the above-mentioned events.

Action items	Responsibility	Deadline
Once complete, distribute final report on “Building a Sustainable Bioeconomy in Africa Through Forest Products: Trends, opportunities and challenges	Secretariat	20 August 2023 (or as soon as available)
Once complete, distribute final report “Status, challenges and opportunities of private forestry sector commitments to unleash sustainable financing solutions for ecosystem restoration”	Secretariat	30 November 2023 (or as soon as available)

Agenda Item 5 Presentation on Ecosystem Restoration

Discussion:

Ms Sarah Price, Director Sustainability at Sappi, provided the ACSFI with an understanding of why Sappi is motivated to engage in, and lead, various initiatives related to ecosystem restoration. Ms Price recognized the work of the ACSFI to enhance the engagement of the private forest sector in ecosystem restoration.

The presentation included information about [Sappi Khulisa](#), their [Water Stewardship project](#), and [management of conservation areas in Southern Africa](#). During the Q&A session reflections were made on:

- The monitoring of forests in sustainable forest lands.



- The ambiguity of natural restorations and ensuring that is locally appropriate.

Agenda Item 6 Presentation on Bioeconomy

Discussion:

Ms Tamara Streefland, Head of Networks, Built by Nature, provided an overview on the work of Built by Nature, highlighting how sustainable mass-timber and other bio-based materials play a key role in transforming our built environment to operate within planetary boundaries.

[Built by Nature](#) collaborates with industry and cities to accelerate an uptake in demand in the construction sector.

The Q&A session included reflections on the inclusion of Africa into the renewable use of timber and the challenges that could be faced from the political, cultural, and economical point of view.

Agenda Item 7 Discussion on COP28

Discussion:

ACSF Chair, Mr Ross Hampton, invited members to a discussion to consider the ACSF's participation at the upcoming UNFCCC COP28 to be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 30 Nov – 12 Dec 2023.

The discussion saw the participants express concerns about how climate goals are going to be achieved in developing countries. The importance of timber and its potential was showcased.

Reflections were made also on how bioeconomy links to climate mitigation.

Recognition was given to the successful event led by ACSF members at past COP27, and the possibility of a joint event between FAO and ACSF members at COP28 was mentioned.

It was highlighted that the number of pavilions at COP28 will be reduced compared to COP27.

Action items	Responsibility	Deadline
Create a Call for Expression of Interests to join a subgroup of ACSF members who are going to COP28, for information sharing	Chair	30 Aug 2023
Update ACSF members on FAO Forestry Division's engagement at COP28	Secretariat	30 Sept 2023



Agenda Item 8 Status of the global bioeconomy

Discussion:

Mr Jukka Kantola, CEO Founder of the World Bioeconomy Forum, provided ACSFI members with an overview of the work of the World BioEconomy Forum and an update about an on-going survey regarding a proposal for [a global hub for the bioeconomy](#).

Particular focus was given to a study that is being finalized, on selected biostrategies/actions in a range of selected countries and regions including Brazil, USA, Canada, EU, India and China.

Agenda Item 9 Welcome to new ACSFI members and observers

Discussion:

Mr Sven Walter welcomed eight new ACSFI members who were officially endorsed by the FAO Director-General on 12 May 2023:

1. Mr Alexander von Reibenitz, Chief Executive Officer, DIE PAPIERINDUSTRIE e.V., Germany
2. Mr Göksel Korkmaz, President, Turkish Forest Industry and Businessmen Association, Turkey
3. Mr Ngo Sy Hoai, Vice President & Secretary General, Vietnam Timber & Forest products Association (VIFOREST), Vietnam
4. Mr Charles Nyanjui, Chairperson, Farm Forestry Smallholder Producers Association of Kenya (FFSPAK), Kenya
5. Ms Françoise Van de Ven, President, Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux (ATIBT), International
6. Mr Scott Jones, CEO American Forestry Landowner Association, International
7. Ms Silvia Melegari, Secretary General, European Confederation of Woodworking Industries, (CEI-Bòis), International
8. Ms Viveka Beckeman, Director General, Swedish Forest Industries Federation, Sweden

In addition to the new members, four additional experts were confirmed as new ACSFI observers:

1. Mr Barney Chan, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO, Trade Advisory Group)
2. Mr Matthew Reddy, Senior Private Sector Specialist, Global Environment Facility (GEF)
3. Mr Jukka Kantola, Founder and CEO, World Bioeconomy Forum (WCBEF)



4. Mr Jayaraman Durai, Director of Global Programmes, The international network for bamboo and rattan, (INBAR)

Action items	Responsibility	Deadline
Arrange introductory meetings with new ACSFI members	Secretariat	30 Sept 2023
Include new ACSFI members and observers in the ACSFI newsletter mailing list	Secretariat	15 July 2023

Agenda Item 10 Update on ACSFI Strategic Framework 2020 - 2030 and proposed ACSFI Workplan 2023

Discussion:

Mr Sven Walter, provided an update on the main achievements and action points as per the [ACSFI Strategic Framework 2020-2030](#) with particular focus on actions related to governance, programme and priorities, partnerships and the enhancement of the Committee's impact.

The main achievements since the launch of the ACSFI Strategic Framework 2020-2030, as outlined by Sven Walter include:

Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Membership broadened to include additional relevant parts of the forest sector, additional technical expertise, and more representative geographical coverage. ✓ Processes for endorsing new members understood by the Secretariat. <p>Transparency increased through regular updates and documentation posted on the ACSFI Homepage.</p>
Programme and priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Agreed on two priority topics of focus (Bioeconomy and Ecosystem Restoration). Facilitated information sharing through virtual meetings with members for dialogue on topical issues. ✓ Workplan shared during ACSFI Annual meetings and calendar of ACSFI events established. ✓ Increased information sharing through newsletter and bilateral meetings with ACSFI members on selected topics. ✓ Criteria for priorities established through the writing of the Strategic Framework.



Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increased outreach through regular newsletters circulated, webinars provided and ACSFI page regularly updated. ✓ Internal partnerships increased through ACSFI members engagement with FAO Governing bodies (e.g. ACSFI members' active participation at COFO). ✓ Endorsement of new ACSFI observers. ✓ Identification of the forest-based industries' role to achieve relevant SDGs through the release of ACSFI statements and reports.
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Areas of impact defined and aligned with FAO biannual programme of work. ✓ Ongoing distribution and update of the ACSFI Workplan. ✓ Actively implementing the ACSFI 2020 – 2030 Strategic framework. ✓ Interaction between ACSFI members and FAO Staff (Chair visiting FAO Headquarters, ACSFI members actively participating in COFO events organized from FAO Staff). ✓ Organization of webinars.

Mr Walter then provided an outline of the work of 2023, to continue enhancing the impact of the ACSFI in its strategic areas of focus.

The workplan 2023 presented is particularly focused on the ACSFI's participation in the six FAO Regional Forestry Commissions (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America and Caribbean, Near East and North America).

It was mentioned that two impactful studies are under preparation to support the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025. One is about the "Assessment of emerging employment and decent work opportunities and challenges in the forest sector" and the other on "Forest product demand and supply perspectives in a bioeconomy transition in the context of climate change dynamics".

No objections were made to the proposed ACSFI's work for 2023. The workplan was approved by the Committee.

The Committee on Forestry (COFO) Secretary, Ms Malgorzata BuszkoBriggs, joined the discussion to provide ACSFI members with a greater understanding of COFO and on the role of the ACSFI in COFO.

Action items	Responsibility	Deadline
Circulate among ACSFI members the call for expression of interest for new Steering Committee members	Secretariat	15 July 2023
Keep ACSFI members informed on potential engagement in FAO Regional Forestry Commissions	Secretariat	Ongoing



Inform ACSFI members about COFO27 and related World Forest Week events and look for opportunities for collaboration	Secretariat	Ongoing
Share with members draft ACSFI Key messages COFO27	Secretariat	30 March 2024

Agenda Item 11 2024 ACSFI Annual Meeting location

Discussion:

It was proposed to hold the 65th Annual ACSFI meeting in Rome, prior to the FAO Committee on Forestry meeting (COFO26) 22 – 26th July, 2024.

The decision on the arrangements for the next ACSFI meeting will be communicated to members by the end of October 2023.

It was noted that due to the need to create practical global travel requirements for members from around the world, it is important to try to align dates with the International Council of Forest and Paper Associations, which shares a number of members with ACSFI.

It was suggested that the date and location for both ACSFI and ICFPA meetings might be every two years (from 2024) at the commencement of COFO in Rome and in the alternate year at a location and date of ICFPA choosing.

The ACSFI secretariat will discuss with the ICFPA secretariat.

Action items	Responsibility	Deadline
Formalize and communicate to ACSFI members and observers, date and location of ACSFI 65 th Session in consultation with ICFPA	Secretariat	30 October 2023
ACSF Secretariat to liaise with ICFPA Secretariat	Secretariat	30 September 2023

Agenda Item 12 Towards and ACSFI mid-term review: Further enhancing impact and effectiveness (workshop)

Discussion:

Ms Lyndall Bull introduced the approach to a workshop discussion on “further enhancing impact and effectiveness of the ACSFI”.

Members were then divided into groups and invited to:

- 1) Highlight the strengths of the ACSFI with particular focus on what has worked well since the launch of the ACSFI Strategic Framework.



- 2) Provide two recommendations for improvement for the ACSFI Secretariat to consider.
- 3) Should the ACSFI Secretariat proceed with a mid-term review in 2024 (of the ACSFI Strategic Framework 2020 – 2030).
- 4) Provide two top priority topics where the ACSFI should be focusing 2025 – 2030.

The table below summarizes the themes and outcomes from the breakout groups:

Item	Themes and outcomes from breakout groups
ACSFI Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for collaboration and information sharing useful and important. • ACSFI Secretariat has delivered improved efficiencies, focus and increased the ACSFI's credibility. • New members and observers have improved the diversity of the ACSFI.
Opportunities for improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider longer term planning, including for meetings (i.e. at least 2 year cycles). • Increased social media presence could deliver benefits. • Additional members, including from Asia and the breadth of forest product value chains should continue to be considered. • Consider benefits of additional events such as an Investors Roundtable. • Ensure effective communication and working relationship with ICFPA. • Consider thematic interest groups within the ACSFI. • Ongoing work to quantify the benefits of forest (e.g. employment, ecosystem services) continues to be a high priority.
Benefits of a mid term review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The possibility to conduct a mid-term review remains open. • There is an option to carry out mid-term review during 65th ACSFI session.
Proposed topic/s of focus for 2025 – 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current areas of focus on bioeconomy and ecosystem restoration remain relevant. • Further focus within those areas could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Circularity concepts for forest products ○ Deep dives according to different forest types e.g. tropical, temperate etc ○ Improved understanding of supply and raw materials issues ○ Continue to include a focus on pulp and paper

Action items	Responsibility	Deadline
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Integrate the proposed topics in the overall areas of strategic focus and ACSFI work plan for 2023/24	Secretariat	Ongoing
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Agenda Item 13 Any Other Business

Discussion:

A request for Any Other Business item to be raised, was made. No requests were made.

Agenda Item 14 Meeting close

Discussion:

The meeting closed at 18.00 Central European Summer Time.