

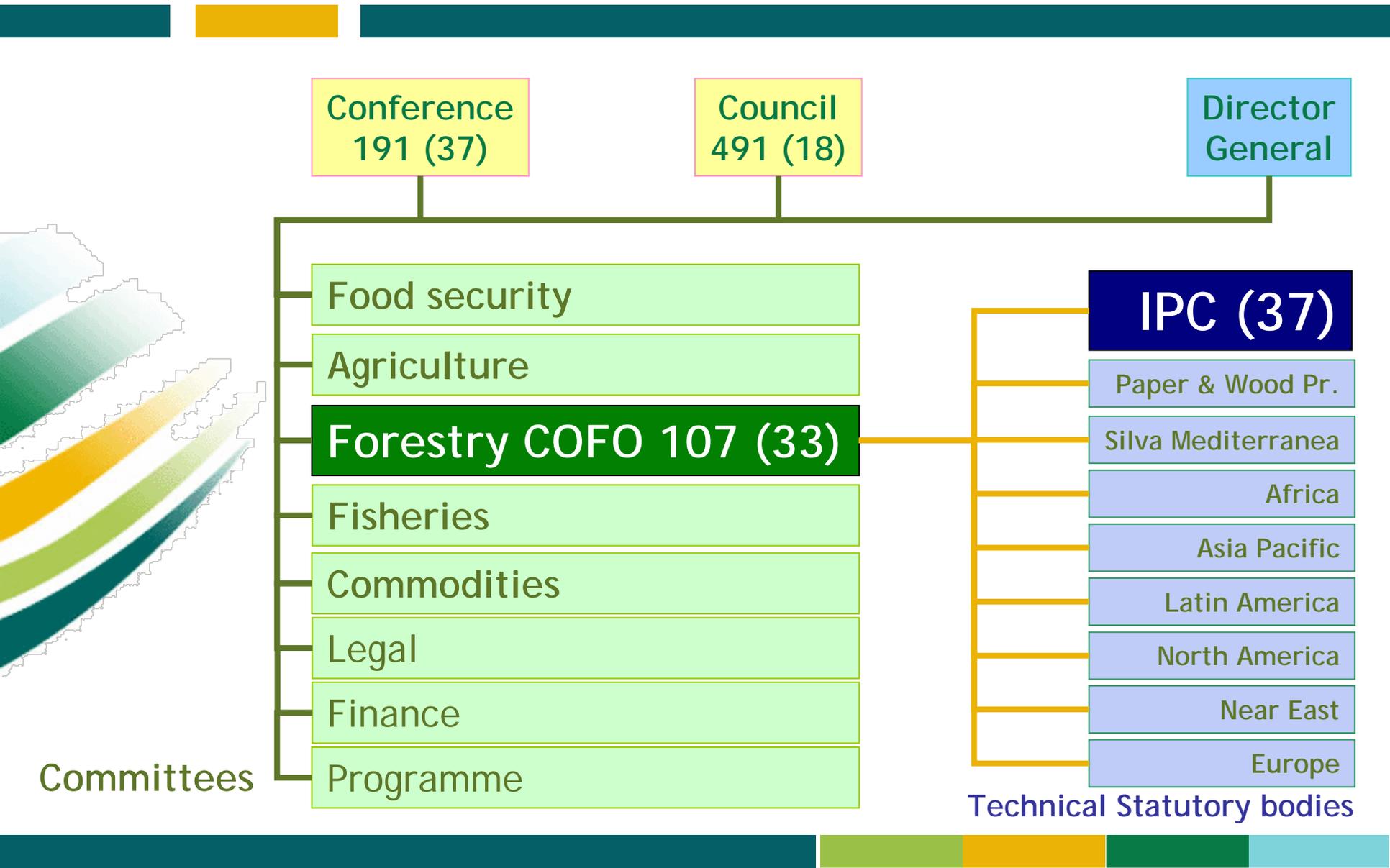


International Poplar Commission
23rd Session
Beijing, 27-30 October 2008

Conclusions and Recommendations



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Conclusions

Poplars and Willows account for at least 80 million ha of natural and planted forests globally. They are among the fastest-growing trees in temperate regions, are easy to cultivate and form an **important component of forestry and agricultural systems**, often for **small-scale farmers**.

Poplars and willows provide a valuable feedstock for industries for a diverse range of forest products for poles, pulp and paper, panel boards, plywood, veneer, sawn timber, packing crates, pallets, furniture manufacturing and increasingly for bioenergy/biofuel production. They also provide a range of **non-wood products** such as fodder for livestock and valuable medicines. Poplars and willows can also provide **valuable environmental and social services**. They provide shelter, shade and protection of soil, water, crops, livestock and dwellings; play an important role in phyto-remediation of severely degraded sites, rehabilitation of fragile ecosystems (including combating desertification), forest landscape restoration (often integrated with agriculture, horticulture, viticulture and apiculture); and as fast growing species, are effective at sequestering carbon. They create **employment**, boost exports and contribute to **social and economic development and sustainable livelihoods in rural areas**. They are also used to beautify urban and peri-urban parks, schools, lakes, waterways, recreational areas and highways as green buffers. Poplars in particular, are also leading the way in **application of advanced biotechnology, genomic research, molecular breeding and development**.

The Chinese Forestry Society, Beijing Forestry University, Chinese Academy of Forestry and FAO, supported by the Ministry of Agriculture and the State Forest Administration were commended for successfully hosting the 23rd Session.

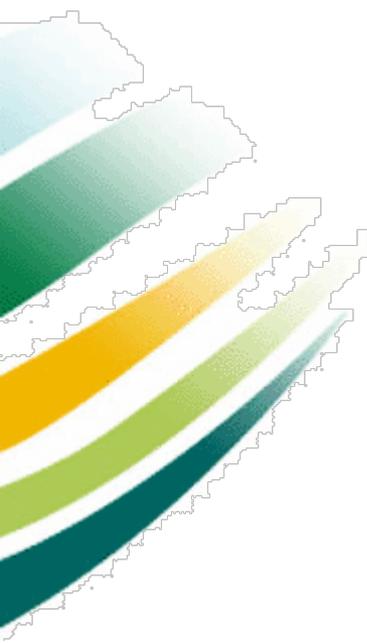
Recommendations



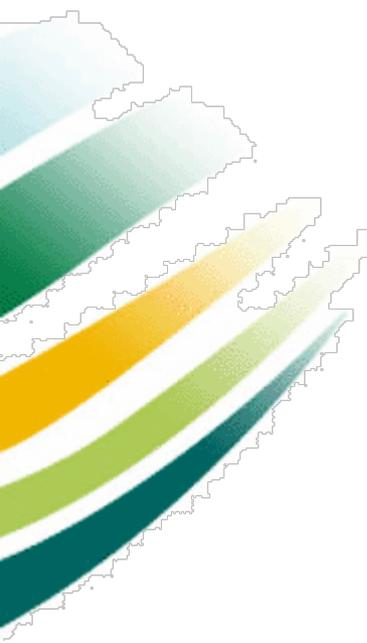
The International Poplar Commission, through the Secretariat, Working Parties and National Poplar Commissions recommend:



Strengthening transfer of science, policy, planning and management knowledge and technology to support implementation of Phase I of the FAO-Italy supported project “Poplars and Willows for Sustainable Livelihoods and Land-use” in the East Mediterranean and Central Asian regions and assist in preparation of Phase II of the project.



Recognition of the Chinese Academy of Forestry, Beijing Forestry University, Nanjing Forestry University, State Forest Administration as international centres of excellence in forestry education, training and outreach and **be welcomed into the international networks to transfer knowledge and technology**, particularly with regards to the research, development and management of Poplars and Willows.



Supporting networks and partnerships between researchers, academics, policy makers, planners, managers (including the private sector and smallholders) to achieve sustainable management of Poplar and Willow resources in natural and planted forests, agroforestry systems and trees outside forests, to better integrate forestry and agriculture in more diversified landscapes, with emphasis on developing countries.

