



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
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Agriculture
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the
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des
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Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda

**COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

Seventh Session

Rome, 15-23 May 1997

**EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE
ON FORESTRY (COFO)**

Rome, 10-13 March 1997

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THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY**

Rome 10-13 March 1997

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**MATTERS REQUIRING ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL**

**(iv) Conservation and sustainable utilization of forest genetic resources**

The Committee:

- recognized the work done by FAO in the forest genetic resources field over several decades. It recommended that efforts to explore, conserve, evaluate and better utilize forest genetic resources be continued and further strengthened in collaboration with national institutes and international governmental and non-governmental partners (para. 24);
- noted the recent broadening of the mandate of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) and recommended that the Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources continue to provide advice to the CGRFA in its fields of competence (para. 26).

**MAJOR FOREST POLICY ISSUES**

**Conservation and sustainable utilization of forest genetic resources (Item 8)**

22. The Committee recognized that the conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources were of high priority to all countries. It stressed that the conservation and sustainable utilization of forest genetic resources were integral to sustainable forest management, and helped underpin overall sustainable development.

23. The Committee highlighted the need to integrate forest genetic resources considerations into national forest programmes or other action frameworks at national or regional level.

24. The Committee recognized the work done by FAO in the forest genetic resources field over several decades. It recommended that efforts to explore, conserve, evaluate and better utilize forest genetic resources be continued and further strengthened in collaboration with national institutes and international governmental and non-governmental partners.

25. The Committee welcomed the cooperation established by FAO with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and encouraged further strengthening of collaboration. It stressed the need to continue close collaboration in the forest genetic resources field also with traditional partners such as the Centres of the CGIAR (notably IPGRI, CIFOR, ICRAF), and concerned NGOs, including IUFRO.

26. The Committee noted the recent broadening of the mandate of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA). It recommended that the Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources continue to provide advice to the CGRFA in its fields of competence. Some delegations suggested that the Panel review the institutional options and Terms of Reference of a possible inter-governmental technical working group on forest genetic resources, if established.

27. There was no consensus concerning a global plan of action on forest genetic resources. Some delegations were of the opinion that efforts to consider a global plan of action on conservation and sustainable utilization of forest genetic resources were premature. Other delegations considered that FAO should pursue efforts to develop regional plans of action for the conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources as a first step to develop a global plan of action.

experiences and know-how. Efforts in this regard, which rested on the principles of national sovereignty over natural resources, as set out in the Forest Principles and the Rio Declaration, should be country-driven, in recognition of the fact that the most appropriate action varied according to environmental, social and economic circumstances, institutional and legal frameworks, and prevailing needs and priorities of countries concerned.

29. The Committee noted the Council's discussion that action proceed in a stepwise, country-driven manner, respecting national sovereignty, within the overall framework of the CGRFA and, in addition, with the technical and scientific advice of the Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources.

30. FAO, in conjunction with Regional Forestry Commissions and countries that request it, could convene regional and sub-regional forest genetic workshops complementary to those already held in 1995 for boreal and temperate zones.