

April 2008



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

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

E

THIRTIETH REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Brasilia, Brazil, 14 to 18 April 2008

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

1. The statutes of the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission list its functions as advising FAO on the formulation of forestry policies and reviewing and coordinating their implementation at regional level; exchanging information and, through ad hoc subsidiary bodies, generally advising on the most suitable methods and measures for technical problems; and making appropriate recommendations on the above.
2. Membership of the Commission is open to all Member Nations and Associate Members of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations whose territories are totally or partially situated in the Latin America region, as defined by the Organization, or that are responsible for the international relations of one of the non-autonomous territories of the Region. Applicants need to meet these conditions and should notify their interest to the Director-General of the Organization.
3. The Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission held its 24th Session from 26 to 30 June 2006 in Santo Domingo, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Dominican Republic. The session was attended by delegates from 22 member countries and representatives of 16 UN agencies and international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, attending as observers.
4. A summary of the recommendations and requests of the Twenty-fourth Session of the COFLAC is given in paragraphs 5 to 20.

Overview of forestry activities of interest to the Region

5. The Commission recommended that the FAO Forestry Department support the identification and mobilization of funds to strengthen the technical capacity of countries of the Region to conduct FRA 2010 and to assist the compilation of information.
6. The Commission recommended to the FAO Forestry Department that decisions on FRA 2010 relating to the Region be more decentralized, with a more active involvement of LACFC and appropriate collaboration with other organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

For reasons of economy, this document is produced in a limited number of copies. Delegates and observers are kindly requested to bring it to the meetings and to refrain from asking for additional copies, unless strictly indispensable.
Most FAO meeting documents are available on Internet at www.fao.org

7. The delegates expressed their concern at the future financing of the FAO Field Programme in the Region. The Commission recommended that the matter be brought to the attention of COFO and also recommended that the FAO Forestry Department and the Commission duly follow up on the matter.

8. The Commission highlighted the importance of the Regional Forestry Commissions and recommended to the FAO Forestry Department that they play a more active role in the collaboration and dialogue between the UNFF and the regional processes, and in helping their members collectively support sustainable forest management actions and other aspects of global strategic forest objectives. It was agreed to bring the matter to the attention of COFO.

Special Session: Implementing sustainable forest management

9. The Commission welcomed the decision that the study be carried out under the aegis of LACFC and determined that it should be broad-based and participatory. The methodology aspects and criteria for the selection of case studies would be defined by a group of experts of the Region, whose selection would also involve the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of LACFC. In particular, the Commission recommended to the FAO Forestry Department that the study be prepared in collaboration with organizations that had experience in this field, including the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Centre (CATIE), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the Indigenous and Peasant Coordinating Association of Central American Community Agro-forestry (ACICAFOC) and the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Model Forests.

10. With regard to the document "Code for the Responsible Management of Planted Forests" that was presented for information and discussion, some countries considered the term "code" to be inappropriate because of its regulatory and binding connotation. They requested that the FAO Forestry Department reconsider the matter and substitute the term "code" with "voluntary guidelines". Some countries also voiced their concern that an instrument of such significance had not been sufficiently discussed, with extensive country involvement.

11. The Commission was informed of progress made towards a fire management code, an initiative resulting from the Ministerial Meeting on Forests and the Seventeenth Session of COFO held in March 2005. Although the code was not yet available for country comment, it would soon be posted on the FAO website. The above reservations regarding the term "code" were reiterated in this case, and the Commission requested that the FAO Forestry Department review the matter.

12. The recommendations were examined by the Commission which acknowledged the work done by the countries and urged them to apply the established strategies. It also requested that the FAO Forestry Department support the countries in this initiative.

13. The Commission was informed of the findings of the pre-Commission workshop. The recommendations were examined by the Commission which acknowledged the work done by the countries and urged them to strengthen their structures and actions for the development of National Forest Programmes and to establish mechanisms that would foster regional and subregional dialogue in the context of those programmes. It also requested that the FAO Forestry Department support them in this regard.

Regional issues identified by the Commission for the attention of the Committee on Forestry

14. The Commission recommended that the FAO Forestry Department support the identification and mobilization of funds to strengthen the technical capacity of countries of the Region to conduct FRA 2010 and to assist the compilation of information.

15. The Commission recommended to the FAO Forestry Department that decisions on FRA 2010 relating to the Region be more decentralized, with a more active involvement of LACFC

and appropriate collaboration with other organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

16. The delegates expressed their concern at the future financing of the FAO Field Programme in the Region. The Commission recommended that this matter be brought to the attention of COFO and also recommended that the FAO Forestry Department and the Commission duly follow up on the matter.

17. The Commission highlighted the importance of the Regional Forestry Commissions and recommended to the FAO Forestry Department that they play a more active role in the collaboration and dialogue between the UNFF and the regional processes, and in helping their members collectively support sustainable forest support management actions and other aspects of global strategic forest objectives. It was agreed to bring the matter to the attention of COFO.

18. The countries underscored the importance of the National Forest Programme Facility in supporting the formulation and application of the National Forest Programmes with the broad participation of civil society. They requested that the FAO Forestry Department and donor countries continue supporting the countries of the Region through this mechanism.

19. The Commission recognized that the increased involvement of civil society in intergovernmental dialogue was enriching and more productive with the inclusion of actors affected by government policies. The Commission therefore recommended that this matter be brought to the attention of COFO to promote intergovernmental dialogue with private enterprises, non-governmental organizations, and community and indigenous groups as a mechanism of cooperation.

20. The Commission requested the support of COFO to consolidate the formation of Latin American and Caribbean regional and subregional cooperation networks on wildfire management and to facilitate and support the implementation of the cooperation strategies that had been established and presented at LACFC 2006.