

REPORT

Kingston,
Jamaica,
06 - 10 September,
2021

Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission

Thirty-Second Session



Previous sessions of the commission

1 st Session	Río de Janeiro, Brazil	23 May 1949
2 nd Session	Lima, Peru	14 November 1949
3 rd Session	Santiago, Chile	11 December 1950
4 th Session	Buenos Aires, Argentina	16-23 June 1952
5 th Session	Caracas, Venezuela	4-15 October 1955
6 th Session	Antigua, Guatemala	4-15 November 1958
7 th Session	Mexico City, Mexico	3-6 August 1960
8 th Session	Santiago, Chile	13-19 November 1962
9 th Session	Curitiba, Brazil	5-12 November 1964
10 th Session	Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	4-9 December 1967
11 th Session	Quito, Ecuador	11-21 November 1970
12 th Session	Havana, Cuba	2-7 February 1976
13 th Session	Pátzcuaro, Michoacán, Mexico	18-22 February 1980
14 th Session	Lima, Peru	15-18 November 1982
15 th Session	San José, Costa Rica	6-10 October 1986
16 th Session	Kingston, Jamaica	18-22 April 1988
17 th Session	Ciudad Guayana, Venezuela	18-22 February 1991
18 th Session	Maldonado, Uruguay	6-10 December 1993
19 th Session	Ciudad de Panama, Panama	17-21 June 1996
20 th Session	Havana, Cuba	10-14 September 1998
21 st Session	Santa Fe de Bogota, Colombia	4-8 September 2000
22 nd Session	Buenos Aires, Argentina	7-11 October 2002
23 rd Session	San José, Costa Rica	18-22 October 2004
24 th Session	Santo Domingo, Dominican Rep.	26-30 June 2006
25 th Session	Quito, Ecuador	29 September-3 October 2008
26 th Session	Guatemala City, Guatemala	24-28 May 2010
27 th Session	Asunción, Paraguay	5-9 March 2012
28 th Session	Georgetown, Guyana	9-13 September 2013
29 th Session	Lima, Peru	9-13 November 2015
30 th Session	Tegucigalpa, Honduras	25-29 September 2017
31 st Session	Montevideo, Uruguay	02-06 September 2019

Report

of the

Thirty-Second Session

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Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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Summary of recommendations and requests

The Commission:

- a) **Congratulated** FAO for
 1. the follow-up actions carried out, especially on important issues such as climate change, landscape restoration and forest fires. (Paragraph 10)
 2. its timely presentation of the topic, challenges, and opportunities at the global and regional levels. (Paragraph 20)
 3. its efforts to foster policy dialogues and technical exchanges among the Regional Forestry Commissions. (Paragraph 33)

- b) **Acknowledged**:
 1. the efforts of the countries and the support of FAO to access climate and environmental finance, and shared experiences, initiatives, lessons learned, and challenges related to this issue. (Paragraph 17)
 2. FAO's support on restoration of Forests and other Ecosystems. (Paragraph 23)
 3. the high quality of the information provided by FAO as well as the cooperation and collaboration that has been established among the countries of the region, with donors and international agencies, in the field of fire management. (Paragraph 26)
 4. FAO's work on the preparation of the FRA 2020 and expressed its appreciation for the support it provided for the preparation of the national reports, for making new tools available and for training countries in their use. (Paragraph 30)

- c) **Stressed** the importance of FAO's work in the preparation of FRAs and SOFOs and highlighted its contribution to decision making in the forestry sector. (Paragraph 40)

- d) **Requested** FAO to:
 1. assess the impacts of the pandemic on the forestry sector at the global and national levels, upon requests from countries, considering the cost of the impact in monetary terms and including data on the socio-economic impacts on forest-dependent communities. (Paragraph 15. a)
 2. support the identification of new markets for wood and non-wood forestry products and that the countries promote incentives for restoration; it also called upon the private sector to channel investment into restoration. (Paragraph 15. b)
 3. support the development of a comprehensive programme for the restoration of degraded lands, with viable community production alternatives and innovative mechanisms, in order to reduce pressure on forests and natural resources. (Paragraph 15. c)
 4. promote synergies between forestry and agriculture in regional initiatives and projects through COVID-19 recovery measures. (Paragraph 15. d)
 5. promote the exchange of information and knowledge on best practices and lessons learned to secure sustainable financing to halt deforestation and forest degradation, support restoration programs and the preservation/conservation and sustainable use of forest resources. (Paragraph 18. a)
 6. support member countries, upon request, to develop projects targeting forest lands investing in key public goods and services to enable the transition to sustainable agri-food systems and their interaction with forests, reduce investment risk and the use of public financing to encourage private investment. (Paragraph 18. b)
 7. be actively involved in and support the integration and role of sustainable forest management in any intergovernmental multilateral deliberations or negotiations within the UN system that address or seek to define nature-based solutions. (Paragraph 18. c)

8. facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences in promoting private sector investment in climate and environmental projects and initiatives. (Paragraph 18. d)
9. strengthen the role and participation of men, women and youth, indigenous peoples and local communities in climate and environmental programs and projects. (Paragraph 18. e)
10. further strengthen its intersectoral work through activities aimed at reducing deforestation and promoting sustainable agriculture and forest management in ways that would lead to more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agri-food systems. (Paragraph 21. a)
11. consider regionally specific initiatives on halting deforestation while greening agri-food systems, taking into considerations the regionally specific deforestation dynamics and drivers. (Paragraph 21. b)
12. continue promoting the territorial and ecosystem approach (landscape approach) through mechanisms and instruments such as territorial planning and forest zoning. (Paragraph 21. c)
13. continue developing an integrated vision at the farm level, considering forestry, agroforestry, agro-silvopastoral, agricultural and livestock activities, including access to incentives and investment mechanisms for small producers. (Paragraph 21. d)
14. continue supporting countries in accessing funding for restoration actions and developing public/private partnerships to facilitate investments in restoration processes. (Paragraph 25. a)
15. provide technical support, to enhance enabling conditions and support restoration of degraded ecosystems. (Paragraph 25. b)
16. further develop and share good practices and provide advice to support forest and landscape restoration actions and the use of the tools and methodologies, to help countries to scale up their efforts and monitor progress. (Paragraph 25. c)
17. support national partners in Latin American to access public and private international funding for medium-term projects in forest and landscape restoration from bilateral or multilateral financial instruments. (Paragraph 25. d)
18. facilitate coordination among the United Nations System Agencies, supporting the countries in their restoration efforts and monitoring the progress of these initiatives. (Paragraph 25. e)
19. support the EU-driven Regional Expert Group on Forest Fires in collaboration with FAO through its technical capacity, projects, and network of country offices, by promoting the articulation of existing formal and informal networks thereby generating synergies and avoiding duplication of functions. (Paragraph 29. a)
20. support coordination between the different regional fire management initiatives, including the Regional Expert Group. (Paragraph 29. b)
21. promote fire management and prevention as an integral part of restoration activities during the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, in order to prevent restoration efforts from being negatively affected by forest fires. (Paragraph 29. c)
22. strengthen its technical team, allowing it to accompany and strengthen national technical and institutional capacities with respect to fire management. (Paragraph 29. d)
23. maintain and strengthen its support for countries on national and global forest monitoring, by, inter alia, strengthening the capacity of forest administrations in the implementation of their national forest monitoring systems and integrating national forest inventories into FAO's Hand-in-Hand initiative. (Paragraph 32. a)
24. complete the FRA global participatory remote sensing assessment and provide support to countries by providing them with tools and methodologies to generate better data on the contribution of forests to the SDGs, and to the NDCs in accordance with the UNFCCC Enhanced Transparency Framework. (Paragraph 32. b)
25. continue supporting the consolidation of the Latin American Network of National Experts on National Forest Inventories as a mechanism for South-South cooperation, and facilitate the sharing of experiences, technologies and systems related to forest monitoring. (Paragraph 32. c)
26. continue work to improve reporting on forest characteristics, including primary forests, and report on the first results of the work at the 26th Session of COFO. (Paragraph 32. d)

27. support the identification of resources to strengthen forest inventories and forest monitoring in countries. (Paragraph 32. e)
28. continue work to develop, make available and train countries in the use of open-source tools, such as Collect Earth y SEPAL. (Paragraph 32. f)
29. synchronize the schedule of future LACFC meetings with the schedule of meetings of the Regional Conference, in order to provide more timely input from LACFC to the Regional Conference. (Paragraph 35. a)
30. invite the LACFC Chair to attend the Regional Conference and to improve inter-sessional activities, thereby optimizing interaction between LACFC and Regional Conference members, including Rome-based delegations, with a view to strengthening cross-sectoral policy dialogue and ensuring that important regional forestry issues are incorporated into the themes of the Regional Conferences. (Paragraph 35. b)
31. conduct a detailed review of the LACFC with the purpose of strengthening its functions in order to raise its relevance, and communicate the results to the next LACFC session. (Paragraph 35. c)
32. prioritize the topics to be discussed during the LACFC, according to issues of common interest. (Paragraph 35. d)
33. promote SOFO 2022 within and outside the forestry sector. (Paragraph 45. a)
34. actively participate in the promotion of the UN Secretary-General's "Turning the Tide on Deforestation" initiative and related activities. (Paragraph 45. b)
35. continue to play an active role as Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and, through it, leverage forest advocacy in relevant global processes and initiatives. (Paragraph 45. c)

e) ***Recommended*** that COFO:

1. identify mechanisms to strengthen forestry financing, including the mobilization of new and additional resources needed by the countries of the region, in order to move forward with reactivating the forestry sector. (Paragraph 38. a)
2. address the impact and damage caused by the COVID 19 pandemic to the forestry sector in monetary terms and propose response measures. (Paragraph 38. b)
3. suggest mechanisms to achieve sustainable and deforestation-free agricultural and livestock production, including certification systems. (Paragraph 38. c)
4. promote measures to strengthen the capacity of the countries in integrated fire management, including fire monitoring. (Paragraph 38. d)
5. promote measures to strengthen the capacity of local communities and forestry sector organizations for self-governance and effective participation in the national forestry dialogue, including the institutionalization of incentive programs. (Paragraph 38. e)
6. discuss opportunities for the development of timber and non-timber forestry product chains to promote the bioeconomy as a tool for sustainable forest management and climate change mitigation. (Paragraph 38. f)
7. promote measures to prevent and reduce illegal logging, as well as the promotion of legal trade of forest products. (Paragraph 38. g)
8. provide opportunity for sharing successful experiences in forest restoration, reduction of deforestation and land degradation, conservation and rational use of forests, forest traceability system, forest incentives, forest genetic resources, and forest zoning. (Paragraph 38. h)
9. strengthen guidelines and policies on sustainable management of plantations and native forests, including biodiversity aspects. (Paragraph 38. i)
10. strengthen and promote the role of statutory bodies, such as the International Commission on Poplar and other Fast-Growing Trees. (Paragraph 38. j)
11. continue to support countries in integrating the forestry sector into NDCs. (Paragraph 38. k)
12. discuss how to facilitate access to forestry education in countries with limited access to forestry education, such as the SIDS. (Paragraph 38. l)
13. promote the development of urban forestry. (Paragraph 38. m)

- f) **Recommended** that the Regional Conference:
1. consider food security, agriculture, forestry, and other aspects of rural development in an integrated manner. (Paragraph 39. a)
 2. include the forestry sector in National Development Plans to promote rural livelihood opportunities. (Paragraph 39. b)
 3. strengthen strategies and the coordinated actions to prevent deforestation. (Paragraph 39. c)
 4. promote the inclusion of trees in agriculture through agroforestry and silvopastoral systems, promote sustainable forest management for climate change mitigation and adaptation and community empowerment. (Paragraph 39. d)
 5. support the creation of enabling conditions for the management and mobilization of financing, in order to facilitate the restoration of production landscapes. (Paragraph 39. e)
 6. discuss the subject of forest fires and promote the integrated management of fire in agricultural and forestry systems. (Paragraph 39. f)
- g) **Adopted** the report by consensus. (Paragraph 49)

Opening of the Session (item 1)

1. The Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) held its Thirty-Second Session from 6 to 10 September 2021 virtually, at the kind invitation of the Government of Jamaica. The session was attended by delegates from 32 member countries and of 22 observer organizations, including 6 agencies of the United Nations system, and 16 international, inter-governmental, and non-governmental organizations attending as observers. The agenda of the meeting may be found in *Appendix A*, the list of participants in *Appendix B*, and the list of documents submitted for consideration by the Commission in *Appendix C*.

2. The opening of the meeting was held in the presence of the Honourable Parnel Charles Jr., Minister of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment and Climate Change of Jamaica, Mr. Ainsley Henry, CEO and Conservator of Forests of the Forestry Department of Jamaica, Ms. Mette Wilkie, Director of the Forestry Division, FAO, Mr. Crispim Moreira, FAO Representative in Jamaica, Mr. Pedro Soust, Chair of LACFC, and Mr. Pieter van Lierop, Secretary of LACFC.

3. Mr. Soust, in his capacity as Chair of LACFC, welcomed the participants to the Thirty-Second Session of LACFC and thanked the government of Jamaica for hosting the meeting and FAO for facilitating its virtual organization.

4. Ms. Wilkie greeted the participants on behalf of FAO and thanked the government of Jamaica for its generosity in offering to host the session and for its hard work in organizing the event. She emphasized that the virtual format of this meeting allows for a broad participation by countries and FAO. She noted that FAO will listen attentively to the different issues, challenges and lessons learned as presented by the countries, in order for the region to share solutions, especially in times of crisis brought about by COVID-19.

5. Mr. Moreira took the floor on behalf of Mr. Julio Berdegué, Assistant Director-General and FAO Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean. He called attention to FAO's priority programme areas in support of the transformation towards more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agri-food systems under the four betters—better production, better nutrition, better environment, and better livelihoods—leaving no one behind. He emphasized the importance of forests in achieving this transformation, in the context of post-pandemic recovery through job creation, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, using sustainable building materials, improving the water cycle, and incorporating biodiversity aspects. He stressed the importance of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the opportunity that forests offer as a solution for restoration and sustainable recovery. He wished participants a fruitful discussion and the generation of concrete inputs for the work of FAO, the Regional Conference and the Committee on Forestry.

6. Hon. Minister Parnel Charles Jr. expressed his appreciation and congratulated FAO and the Commission for the meeting, which provides a platform to discuss critical issues in the forestry sector. He also emphasized the commitment of the government of Jamaica to forests at the country, regional and global levels and remarked on the progress and achievements in the implementation of national forest plans and strategies. He drew attention to the challenge of identifying funding for the continued implementation of the National Forest Management and Conservation Plan. He pointed out the efforts at the country level in the implementation of a green bond project under the Jamaica Stock Exchange, which aims to raise resources to facilitate climate and environmental initiatives.

Adoption of the agenda (item 2)

7. The agenda was adopted without amendment.

Election of officers (item 3)

8. In accordance with the provisions of articles II-1 and II-5 of its rules of procedure, the Commission elected a chair, three vice-chairs and a rapporteur. The following members of the Commission were elected unanimously:

Chair: Mr. Ainsley Henry (Jamaica), Caribbean subregional group

Vice-Chairs: Mr. Mario Martinez (Honduras), Mesoamerican subregional group
Ms. Silvana Chulde (Ecuador) Amazonian subregional group
Ms. Cristina Goralewski (Paraguay), Southern Cone subregional group

Rapporteur: Mr. Edwin Oliva (Guatemala)

9. Ms. Pieter van Lierop, Forestry Officer of the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, served as Secretary.

FAO report on follow-up activities to the recommendations and requests of the 31st Session of the Commission (item 4)

10. The Commission welcomed the presentation of document FO:LACFC/2021/2 "FAO Report on follow-up activities to the recommendations and requests of the 31st Session of the Commission," made by the LACFC Secretariat and *congratulated* FAO for the follow-up actions carried out, especially on important issues such as climate change, landscape restoration and forest fires.

Presentation of the priority themes for the 37th Session of the Regional Conference (item 5)

11. The LACFC Secretariat informed the Commission about the priority themes related to the forestry sector proposed for the 37th Session of the Regional Conference. The Commission acknowledged the information shared by the Secretariat.

Informative sessions (item 6)**COVID-19 impact on forestry sector and communities, and recovery (item 6.1)**

12. The Secretariat presented information document FO:LACFC/2021/3, entitled "COVID-19 Impacts on the Forestry Sector and Communities in LAC and Recovery." The delegates thanked FAO and acknowledged its work in preparing the document.

13. The Commission recognized that:

- a) rural communities and community forest enterprises were heavily impacted by COVID 19.
- b) restoration and recovery actions are long-term investments.

- c) investing in restoration and rural development reduces the risk of deforestation and illegal logging.
14. In this context, the Commission ***recommended*** that the countries prioritize resources to promote investments in agriculture and forestry for the integrated development of rural areas.
15. The Commission ***requested*** FAO to:
- a) assess the impacts of the pandemic on the forestry sector at the global and national levels, upon requests from countries, considering the cost of the impact in monetary terms and including data on the socio-economic impacts on forest-dependent communities
 - b) support the identification of new markets for wood and non-wood forestry products and that the countries promote incentives for restoration; it also called upon the private sector to channel investment into restoration
 - c) support the development of a comprehensive programme for the restoration of degraded lands, with viable community production alternatives and innovative mechanisms, in order to reduce pressure on forests and natural resources
 - d) promote synergies between forestry and agriculture in regional initiatives and projects through COVID-19 recovery measures.

The New FAO Strategic Framework and Forestry (Item 6.2)

16. The Secretariat presented informational document FO:LACFC/2021/4, entitled “The new FAO Strategic Framework and Forestry.” The Commission welcomed the information.

Technical Sessions (item 7)

Access to Climate and Environmental Finance (item 7.1)

17. The Secretariat presented document FO:LACFC/2021/5 "Access to Climate and Environmental Finance." The Commission ***acknowledged*** the efforts of the countries and the support of FAO to access climate and environmental finance, and shared experiences, initiatives, lessons learned, and challenges related to this issue.

18. The Commission ***requested*** FAO to:
- a) promote the exchange of information and knowledge on best practices and lessons learned to secure sustainable financing to halt deforestation and forest degradation, support restoration programs and the preservation/conservation and sustainable use of forest resources.
 - b) support member countries, upon request, to develop projects targeting forest lands investing in key public goods and services to enable the transition to sustainable agri-food systems and their interaction with forests, reduce investment risk and the use of public financing to encourage private investment.
 - c) be actively involved in and support the integration and role of sustainable forest management in any intergovernmental multilateral deliberations or negotiations within the UN system that address or seek to define nature-based solutions.
 - d) facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences in promoting private sector investment in climate and environmental projects and initiatives.
 - e) strengthen the role and participation of men, women and youth, indigenous peoples and local communities in climate and environmental programs and projects.

19. The Commission invited countries to:
- a) step up efforts to create enabling conditions necessary to mobilize financing for the environment and climate, promoting integrated programs and initiatives that address the challenges of deforestation and forest degradation, while making agri-food systems more sustainable, when applicable, and improving the livelihoods of small land holders, owners or tenant farmers and local communities that depend on forests
 - b) improve the coherence of regulatory policies and strategic public investments with additional fiscal policies that provide incentives to producers to optimize prices, reduce deforestation and forest degradation, and reduce investment risk
 - c) step up efforts to improve the way funding reaches local stakeholders as an opportunity to boost their involvement and foster a long-term and sustainable approach to managing forests and stopping deforestation.
 - d) request, through the appropriate channels, that the Green Climate Fund provide a more expeditious way of accessing funds.

Integrating Forestry in FAO's work on Food Systems (item 7.2)

20. The Secretariat presented document FO:LACFC/2021/7, entitled "Integrating Forestry in FAO's work on food systems." The Commission *congratulated* FAO for its timely presentation of the topic, challenges, and opportunities at the global and regional levels.

21. The Commission *requested* FAO to:

- a) further strengthen its intersectoral work through activities aimed at reducing deforestation and promoting sustainable agriculture and forest management in ways that would lead to more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agri-food systems.
- b) consider regionally specific initiatives on halting deforestation while greening agri-food systems, taking into considerations the regionally specific deforestation dynamics and drivers.
- c) continue promoting the territorial and ecosystem approach (landscape approach) through mechanisms and instruments such as territorial planning and forest zoning.
- d) continue developing an integrated vision at the farm level, considering forestry, agroforestry, agro-silvopastoral, agricultural and livestock activities, including access to incentives and investment mechanisms for small producers.

22. The Commission *recommended* that Member Countries:

- a) promote coherent policies and an integrated approach so as to minimize deforestation associated with agricultural production; and
- b) promote efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agri-food systems that contribute to the sustainable management of forested areas; and
- c) intensify efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation without negatively impacting food security.

Restoration of Forests and other Ecosystems (item 7.3)

23. The Secretariat presented document FO:LACFC/2021/6, entitled "Restoration of Forests and other Ecosystems." The Commission thanked FAO for the information provided and *acknowledged* its support in this area. It expressed its commitment to restoration and shared its achievements in the development and implementation of restoration plans, initiatives, and

projects for forest landscape restoration, with outstanding environmental, economic and social results. The Commission highlighted the link between restoration actions and forest fire prevention, and identified the financing of restoration projects and initiatives as one of the main challenges.

24. The Commission reaffirmed its commitment to:

- a) continue its support for countries in accessing funding for restoration actions and in developing public/private partnerships to facilitate investments in restoration processes.
- b) actively participate in the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, by strengthening forest and landscape restoration activities, both for production and protection purposes, and ensuring that such activities support economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic.
- c) implement the "Action Plan for the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration in Latin America and the Caribbean," which was developed within the framework of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) and adopted by the XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.
- d) considering the inclusion of restoration in national strategies for sustainable development, in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement, in REDD+ strategies, and in COVID-19 national recovery plans.
- e) taking into consideration the intersectoral nature of the development of national restoration strategies and action plans and promoting the involvement of all relevant authorities and stakeholders.

25. The Commission requested FAO to:

- a) continue supporting countries in accessing funding for restoration actions and developing public/private partnerships to facilitate investments in restoration processes.
- b) provide technical support, to enhance enabling conditions and support restoration of degraded ecosystems.
- c) further develop and share good practices and provide advice to support forest and landscape restoration actions and the use of the tools and methodologies, to help countries to scale up their efforts and monitor progress.
- d) support national partners in Latin American to access public and private international funding for medium-term projects in forest and landscape restoration from bilateral or multilateral financial instruments.
- e) facilitate coordination among the United Nations System Agencies, supporting the countries in their restoration efforts and monitoring the progress of these initiatives.

Integrated Fire Management (item 7.4)

26. The Secretariat presented document FO:LACFC/2021/9 "Integrated Fire Management." The Commission acknowledged the high quality of the information provided as well as the cooperation and collaboration that has been established among the countries of the region, with donors and international agencies, in the field of fire management.

27. The countries emphasized the use of the 5Rs (Review, Risk Reduction, Readiness, Response and Recovery), and the importance of incorporating the concept of integrated fire management into country level discussions, in order to promote public policies designed to address the problem of forest fires, with emphasis on the underlying causes.

28. The Commission encouraged countries to:
- a) consider as part of the various analyses the role of communities and traditional and ancestral knowledge concerning fire, to bring out the role of women, and the need to learn how to co-exist with fire by managing high-risk landscapes.
 - b) participate in the Regional Expert Group on Forest Fires and recognize its potential for being the first step towards a Fire Management Network.
 - c) consider community forestry management as an appropriate fire management tool.
29. The Commission ***requested*** FAO to:
- a) support the EU-driven Regional Expert Group on Forest Fires in collaboration with FAO through its technical capacity, projects, and network of country offices, by promoting the articulation of existing formal and informal networks thereby generating synergies and avoiding duplication of functions.
 - b) support coordination between the different regional fire management initiatives, including the Regional Expert Group.
 - c) promote fire management and prevention as an integral part of restoration activities during the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, in order to prevent restoration efforts from being negatively affected by forest fires.
 - d) strengthen its technical team, allowing it to accompany and strengthen national technical and institutional capacities with respect to fire management.

FRA 2020 Situation of the Forestry sector in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean (item 7.5)

30. The Secretariat presented document FO:LACFC/2021/8, entitled "FRA 2020: The State of the Forestry Sector in the Region of Latin American and Caribbean". The Commission ***acknowledged*** FAO's work on the preparation of the FRA 2020 and expressed its appreciation for the support it provided for the preparation of the national reports, for making new tools available and for training countries in their use. It recognized the importance of timely and quality forest information for decision-making, forest management planning, policy making, policy improvements and implementation.

31. The Commission reaffirmed its commitment to:
- a) proposing steps on how to improve coordination to achieve better articulation between forestry information and country and regional policies related to forests, agriculture, food, land use and rural development, in order to regulate land use changes more effectively.
 - b) continuing its active participation in the FRA process and promoting ways to improve data to assess the current and potential contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda and NDC reporting, with consideration for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's Enhanced Transparency Framework.
 - c) fostering cooperation and knowledge and information sharing and collaboration at the regional level and with FAO and other institutions, with the objective of improving national forest monitoring systems, the FRA process, and the quality of information produced and disseminated.
32. The Commission ***requested*** FAO to:
- a) maintain and strengthen its support for countries on national and global forest monitoring, by, inter alia, strengthening the capacity of forest administrations in the

- implementation of their national forest monitoring systems and integrating national forest inventories into FAO's Hand-in-Hand initiative.
- b) complete the FRA global participatory remote sensing assessment and provide support to countries by providing them with tools and methodologies to generate better data on the contribution of forests to the SDGs, and to the NDCs in accordance with the UNFCCC Enhanced Transparency Framework.
 - c) continue supporting the consolidation of the Latin American Network of National Experts on National Forest Inventories as a mechanism for South-South cooperation, and facilitate the sharing of experiences, technologies and systems related to forest monitoring.
 - d) continue work to improve reporting on forest characteristics, including primary forests, and report on the first results of the work at the 26th Session of COFO.
 - e) support the identification of resources to strengthen forest inventories and forest monitoring in countries.
 - f) continue work to develop, make available and train countries in the use of open-source tools, such as Collect Earth y SEPAL.

Activities of the Commission's subregional groups (item 8)

Recommendations for Better Linking the work of COFLAC with the work of FAO and other Forest-Related Policy Areas (item 8.1)

33. The Secretariat presented document FO:LACFC/2021/10, entitled "Linking the work of FAO forest-related Statutory Bodies with relevant policy areas, and facilitating policy dialogues and technical exchanges." The Commission *congratulated* FAO for its efforts to foster policy dialogues and technical exchanges among the Regional Forestry Commissions.
34. The Commission invited Member countries to strengthen the intersectoral work of LACFC, especially on forestry and agri-food system issues, by providing relevant and useful inputs to its Members, to FAO (including through LARC) and to other international processes concerning forest-related issues.
35. The Commission *requested* FAO to:
 - a) synchronize the schedule of future LACFC meetings with the schedule of meetings of the Regional Conference, in order to provide more timely input from LACFC to the Regional Conference.
 - b) invite the LACFC Chair to attend the Regional Conference and to improve inter-sessional activities, thereby optimizing interaction between LACFC and Regional Conference members, including Rome-based delegations, with a view to strengthening cross-sectoral policy dialogue and ensuring that important regional forestry issues are incorporated into the themes of the Regional Conferences.
 - c) conduct a detailed review of the LACFC with the purpose of strengthening its functions in order to raise its relevance, and communicate the results to the next LACFC session.
 - d) prioritize the topics to be discussed during the LACFC, according to issues of common interest.

Formulation of work plans of the Subregional Groups of the Commission for the period 2022-2023 (item 8.2), and recommendations for COFO and the FAO Regional Conference (item 8.3)

36. Delegates formed sub-regional working groups and prepared recommendations and submissions for consideration by COFO, the Regional Conference, and prepared the Subregional Groups work program. Details of the proposals are provided in *Appendix E*.

37. The main subjects identified were:

- a) Forest integration and agricultural and livestock production
- b) Restoring forest landscapes
- c) Forest protection (integrated fire management and forestry health is included in forest health)
- d) Strengthening forest legislation and institutional framework for good forest governance
- e) Increasing the value of the forest
- f) Forest monitoring and inventory
- g) Forest zoning
- h) Prevention and control of illegal logging
- i) Promoting and encouraging community forestry
- j) Forest resilience
- k) Use of non-timber forest products
- l) Forestry education
- m) Forest plantations and bioeconomy as a sustainable development tool
- n) Incentives for production and conservation plantations
- o) Conservation and sustainable use of native forests
- p) Forestry and wildlife information management
- q) Biodiversity and forest genetic resources

38. The Commission ***recommended*** that COFO:

- a) identify mechanisms to strengthen forestry financing, including the mobilization of new and additional resources needed by the countries of the region, in order to move forward with reactivating the forestry sector.
- b) address the impact and damage caused by the COVID 19 pandemic to the forestry sector in monetary terms and propose response measures.
- c) suggest mechanisms to achieve sustainable and deforestation-free agricultural and livestock production, including certification systems.
- d) promote measures to strengthen the capacity of the countries in integrated fire management, including fire monitoring.
- e) promote measures to strengthen the capacity of local communities and forestry sector organizations for self-governance and effective participation in the national forestry dialogue, including the institutionalization of incentive programs.
- f) discuss opportunities for the development of timber and non-timber forestry product chains to promote the bioeconomy as a tool for sustainable forest management and climate change mitigation.
- g) promote measures to prevent and reduce illegal logging, as well as the promotion of legal trade of forest products.
- h) provide opportunity for sharing successful experiences in forest restoration, reduction of deforestation and land degradation, conservation and rational use of forests, forest traceability system, forest incentives, forest genetic resources, and forest zoning.
- i) strengthen guidelines and policies on sustainable management of plantations and native forests, including biodiversity aspects.

- j) strengthen and promote the role of statutory bodies, such as the International commission on Poplar and other Fast-Growing Trees.
 - k) continue to support countries in integrating the forestry sector into NDCs.
 - l) discuss how to facilitate access to forestry education in countries with limited access to forestry education, such as the SIDS.
 - m) promote the development of urban forestry.
39. The Commission ***recommended*** that the Regional Conference:
- a) consider food security, agriculture, forestry, and other aspects of rural development in an integrated manner.
 - b) include the forestry sector in National Development Plans to promote rural livelihood opportunities.
 - c) strengthen strategies and the coordinated actions to prevent deforestation.
 - d) promote the inclusion of trees in agriculture through agroforestry and silvopastoral systems, promote sustainable forest management for climate change mitigation and adaptation and community empowerment.
 - e) support the creation of enabling conditions for the management and mobilization of financing, in order to facilitate the restoration of production landscapes.
 - f) discuss the subject of forest fires and promote the integrated management of fire in agricultural and forestry systems.

Global Initiatives and processes (item 9)

40. The Secretariat presented document FO:LACFC/2021/11, entitled “Update on Global Initiatives and Processes of relevance for the Regional Forestry Commissions.” The Commission ***stressed*** the importance of FAO's work in the preparation of FRAs and SOFOs and highlighted its contribution to decision making in the forestry sector.

41. The Commission considered the updated information on international forest-related developments and processes, as reflected in this document, to facilitate policy dialogues and technical exchanges, and to help achieve Members' objectives and contributions to international processes and objectives.

42. The Commission noted that FAO's flagship publication “The State of the World's Forests” 2022, will focus on the topic of “Forestry and Green Recovery, Building Inclusive and Sustainable Green Economies;”

43. The Commission welcomed:

- a) FAO's efforts to mainstream forest-related issues in the preparations for the UN Food Systems Summit and its Pre-Summit.
- b) the progress made in the framework of the UN Secretary-General's “Turning the Tide on Deforestation” initiative.
- c) The themes of the International Day of Forests 2022 and 2023 and to take them into account during preparations for celebrating events in the region.

44. Regarding the XV World Forestry Congress (WFC), the Commission invited countries to:

- a) Identify key areas and messages for the outcomes of the WFC.
- b) Recommend ways and means to better collaborate with relevant global processes and instruments and create synergies, including in the implementation of the outcomes of the WFC.
- c) Support the XV WFC by encouraging and facilitating good attendance.

45. The Commission ***requested*** FAO to:

- a) promote SOFO 2022 within and outside the forestry sector.
- b) actively participate in the promotion of the UN Secretary-General's "Turning the Tide on Deforestation" initiative and related activities.
- c) continue to play an active role as Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and, through it, leverage forest advocacy in relevant global processes and initiatives.

46. The Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) read a speech acknowledging collaboration with FAO in the area of sustainable forest management. He reported on the assessment of the impacts of COVID-19 on the forestry sector and sustainable forest management, carried out at the request of UNFF15, and the launch of the Global Forest Goals Report 2021. He reported on preparations for UNFF17 to be held in 2022. The full speech is contained in *Appendix D*.

Any other business (item 10)

47. The Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) read a communiqué highlighting the work that Member Countries have done within the framework of ACTO, in particular under the Memorandum of Understanding for the Integral Management of Fire and the Amazon Network for Integral Fire Management, and the Forest Program for the Amazon Basin and Region. The full speech is documented in *Appendix D*.

Venue and date of the next session of the Commission (item 11)

48. Ecuador expressed its interest in being the host country of the next Session of the Commission, tentatively scheduled for the second trimester of 2023.

Adoption of the report and closure of the Session (items 12 and 13)

49. The Commission ***adopted*** the report by consensus.

50. The session was adjourned by the Honourable Pearnel Charles Jr., Minister of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment and Climate Change of Jamaica, Ms. Eve Crowley, FAO Deputy Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean and Representative in Chile, and Mr. Ainsley Henry, Chief Executive Officer and Conservator of Forests of the Forestry Department of Jamaica.

Appendix A**AGENDA****Items**

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Election of Officers
4. Follow-up activities to the recommendations and requests of the 31st Session of the Commission
5. Presentation of the priority topics for the 37th Session of the Regional Conference
6. Information sessions:
 - 6.1 COVID-19 Impacts on the Forest Sector and Communities in LAC and Recovery
 - 6.2 The New FAO Strategic Framework and Forestry
7. Technical sessions (Each session to be introduced by short video from Jamaica):
 - 7.1. Access to Climate and Environmental Finance
 - 7.2. Integrating Forestry in FAO's work on Food Systems
 - 7.3. Restoration of Forests and other Ecosystems
 - 7.4. Integrated Fire Management
 - 7.5. Regional FRA2020
8. Activities of the Subregional Groups of the Commission
 - 8.1. Linking the work of FAO forest-related statutory bodies with relevant policy areas, and facilitating policy dialogues and technical exchanges
 - 8.2. Formulation of work plans of the Subregional Groups of the Commission for the period 2022-2023
 - 8.3. Recommendations for COFO and the FAO Regional Conference
9. Update on Global Initiatives and Processes of Relevance for the Regional Forestry Commissions
10. Any other business
11. Venue and date of the next Session of the Commission
12. Adoption of the report
13. Closing of the Session

Side events:

1. Presentation of publication: Sustainable management of logged tropical forest in the Caribbean to ensure long-term productivity.
2. Presentation of publication: Indigenous and tribal peoples and forest governance.

Appendix B

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 Ms. Silvana Chulde (Ecuador) Amazonian subregional group
 Ms. Cristina Goralewski (Paraguay), Southern Cone subregional group

Rapporteur: Mr. Edwin Oliva (Guatemala)

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Appendix C**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

AGENDA ITEM	CODE	TITLE
2	FO: LACFC/2021/1	Provisional Agenda
5	FO: LACFC/2021/2	Report of FAO on follow-up activities to the recommendations and requests of the 31st Session of the Commission
6.1	FO: LACFC/2021/3	Information paper: COVID-19 Impacts on the Forest Sector and Communities in LAC and Recovery
6.2	FO: LACFC/2021/4	Information paper: The new FAO strategic framework and Forestry
7.1	FO: LACFC/2021/5	Access to Climate and Environmental Finance
7.2	FO: LACFC/2021/6	Restoration of Forests and other Ecosystems
7.3	FO: LACFC/2021/7	Integrating Forestry in FAO's work on food systems
7.4	FO:LACFC/2021/8	FRA 2020: The State of the Forestry Sector in the Region of Latin America and the Caribbean
7.5	FO: LACFC/2021/9	Integrated Fire Management
8.2	FO: LACFC/2021/10	Linking the work of FAO forest-related Statutory Bodies with relevant policy areas, and facilitating policy dialogues and technical exchanges
9	FO: LACFC/2021/11	Update on Global Initiatives and Processes of relevance for the Regional Forestry Commissions
INFORMATION DOCUMENTS		
•	FO:LACFC/2021/Inf.1	Provisional timetable
•	FO:LACFC/2021/Inf.2	List of documents

Appendix D**OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT OF THE
AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION (SP/ACTO)**

Thank you Chair.

A cordial greeting to all present.

As this is the first time that we are participating in this meeting, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), in addition to thanking FAO for its invitation to this LACFC, would like to congratulate the work of the Chair, LACFC and FAO for their various presentations and the corresponding observations and comments from the countries, particularly those of the ACTO Member Countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela, two more than in the Amazonian subgroup of LACFC.

In particular, we have heard several references from our Member Countries concerning the work they have carried out within the framework of ACTO and the most recent results achieved, especially by two of them:

The MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON INTEGRAL FIRE MANAGEMENT and the AMAZONIAN NETWORK FOR INTEGRAL FIRE MANAGEMENT in the process of implementation; and the FORESTRY PROGRAM FOR THE AMAZONIAN BASIN REGION, both of which were approved last June.

Regarding the first one, in addition to yesterday's remarks by ACTO Member Countries, after the presentation on the topic, we posted in the meeting's chat the MOU document and a summary of it, that highlights the strengthening of regional cooperation to promote, among the Member Countries, integrated fire management.

An agreement has been reached, under the Forest Program, on the development of regional coordination, cooperation, and implementation actions to promote the conservation and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)/Integrated and Sustainable Management of Amazonian Forests; and to build the capacity needed to meet the new requirements and deadlines of the global Forest and Biodiversity agendas.

Accordingly, the strategic actions for the development of new projects and sub-programs are aimed at aligning the countries' capacities and developing and strengthening at the regional level: institutional interaction among national authorities related to forestry and the institutionalization of dialogue; forest monitoring and integrated fire management activities; harmonization and uniformity of criteria; and the implementation of Criteria and Indicators for SFM.

In addition to the above, there is the design and implementation of a Forestry Training and Experience Exchange Program; support for forestry research and innovation, the dissemination of forestry technological tools or processes; the creation of the Forest Module of ACTO's Amazon Regional Observatory (ORA), and the development of regional reports on the status of forests in the Amazon region aligned with the FRA.

The benefits of ecosystems/environmental functions/environmental services have also been addressed through support for the strengthening of national actions regarding their care and/or improvement, the dissemination of good national management practices and the exchange of experiences and knowledge at the regional level, and the promotion and consolidation of national policies.

All of this is backed by our commitment to expand these efforts to achieve greater and better outcomes leading to the balanced development and preservation of the environment in the Amazon Region.

This Program will be presented in the near future during a webinar to which you will all be cordially invited.

Thank you very much.

September 2021
Source: ACTO

**OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY THE UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS
SECRETARIAT(UNFF)**

Excellencies,

Colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) is honored to attend this meeting. I would like to thank Jamaica for organizing the event and the Secretariat for the excellent documentation. We very much appreciate our collaboration with FAO not only as far as regional and subregional cooperation goes, but in every area related to sustainable forest management. We are particularly looking forward to our joint activities planned to take place next year during the World Forestry Congress.

Since we last met the world has changed. We are facing an unprecedented pandemic and now mankind must rethink its relationship with nature. At the UNFF Secretariat we are contributing to this important moment by providing elements on a green recovery from this crisis for consideration by our Members and partners.

On the opening day of the Forum's 16th Session, which gathered virtually last April, a High-level Round Table on major forest-related developments was held and participants considered impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on forests and the forest sector. The discussions highlighted the critical importance of preservation, conservation, and restoration of nature, in particular forests, for preventing infectious and zoonotic diseases through "one-health approach", and offsetting many of the social, economic, and environmental impacts of the pandemic and other global challenges.

The opening day also featured the launch of the first flagship publication 'Global Forest Goals Report 2021'. The report provides an overview of actions taken by Members of the Forum and progress made towards the achievement of the six Global Forest Goals (GFGs) and 26 targets of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) by 2030. The report was based on information from countries' voluntary national reports and voluntary national contributions and supplemented with data from FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020. Production of the publication was a key milestone in the Forum's work on monitoring, assessment, and reporting.

The report highlights that while the world had been making progress in key areas, such as increasing overall forest area, increasing protected areas, and securing forest carbon stocks, such progress is under threat from climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation, and other global crises. Given the critical role of forests as a nature-based solution – investing in forests is essential for creating a sustainable future.

Moreover, as mandated by UNFF 15, an assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on the forest sector and sustainable forest management, was presented to the Forum's 16th Session; UNFF 16 instructed the Secretariat to conduct a second assessment to identify the broad range and long-term impacts of the pandemic on sustainable forest management, as well as potential solutions and recovery measures in collaboration with countries, partners, and stakeholders.

On the issue of means of implementation, including operations and resources of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN), the phase I of the GFFFN clearing house was launched during UNFF16. The clearing house comprises a website and three databases on

funding opportunities, information and learning materials for obtaining access to resources for sustainable forest management and lessons learned and best practices.

We are now preparing for UNFF's 17th Session, scheduled to take place from 9 to 13 May 2022. In this regard, I would like to call your attention to the questionnaire we sent to our Member States' focal points and stakeholders, including our regional and subregional partners.

In accordance with the program of work of the Forum for the period of 2022-2024, and its provisional agenda, UNFF 17 will consider and decide on the preparations for the midterm review in 2024 of the effectiveness of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) in achieving its objectives.

It is important to note that the Forum will undertake the actual midterm review of the IAF in 2024 during its nineteenth session (UNFF19). Therefore, what is expected to be discussed and decided at UNFF17 is the actions, events and outputs which need to be carried out during the period between UNFF 17-UNFF 19 to facilitate the midterm review of the IAF in 2024 by UNFF 19.

To trigger the intersessional work on this matter and to ensure broad involvement of Members and stakeholders of the Forum in this important process, the UNFFS has prepared a concise questionnaire. Considering the relevant resolutions, this questionnaire contains questions on the main elements which could be part of the midterm review preparatory process.

We kindly ask that our Members and partners provide their timely input to this important process. The deadline is 18 September 2021.

Thank you very much.

September 2021
Source: UNFF

Appendix E

**PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUBREGIONAL GROUPS (SRG) TO
COFO AND REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE PERIOD 2020-2021**

Proposed recommendations for the attention of COFO

<i>Priority issues</i>	<i>Expected outcome (information, discussion, decision)</i>	<i>Possible follow up activities for COFO and FAO</i>	<i>Reference to other RFC recommendation</i>
Subregional group - Caribbean			
Strengthening the capacity of local community groups and forest sector organisation for self-governance and effective participation in the national forest dialog including the institutionalisation of incentive programmes	Discussion	Development of training material	Social Forestry Agenda of FAO Forestry Department
Access to Forest Education for SIDS countries	Discussion Increased awareness among the general public	Preparation of guidelines and training material.	Formal forest education Public awareness Influencing political decision makers
Discuss opportunities of forest value chain development linking wood as building material to mitigate climate change	Discussion	FAO assistance required to develop the link between climate change and use of wood as a climate friendly building material Building the capacity towards income and value-added forest production.	Support from FAO HQ to Forest based value chain Development
Subregional Group - Mesoamerica			
Prevention and reduction of illegal logging and promotion of legal trade in forest products.	Decision		
Seeking and securing technical and financial resources to implement forestry projects.	Decision		
Forest fire control and prevention.	Decision		
Quantifying, in monetary terms, the damage caused to the forestry sector (national and global) by the COVID-19 pandemic.	Discussion and decision		
Sharing knowledge and successful experiences on i) forest landscape restoration, ii) reducing deforestation and forest land degradation, iii) conservation	Decision		

and rational use of forests, iv) forest traceability systems, among other topics.			
<i>Subregional Group – Amazon Region</i>			
Support for and exchange of experiences on forest zoning, technologies and related legal frameworks for conservation and sustainable forest production	Information and discussion.		
Support for the NDCs from the forestry sector.	Decision		
Sharing and building capacity for experiences, fire monitoring and fire ecology research on integrated fire/forest fire management,	Information		
Promote/encourage the integration of legal markets for non-timber forest and wildlife products at different levels (bioeconomy).	Decision		
Promote sustainable and deforestation-free agricultural production, including certification systems.	Information and discussion		
Promote exchanges on forestry and wildlife information systems for their sustainable management	Information		
Sharing experiences and lessons learned on standards and other instruments to prevent illegal deforestation/logging	Information		
Exchanges on technological experiences to add value to timber and non-timber forest products.	Information		
<i>Subregional Group – Southern Cone</i>			
Regional network for forest fire prevention and management.			
Contribute to strengthening forestry financing, including through the mobilization of new and increased resources needed by low- and middle-income countries, in order to advance the reactivation of the forestry sector in the region.			
Strengthen guidelines and policies to proceed towards sustainable management of forest plantations.			
Promote resource mobilization for the sustainable management of cultivated forests, thereby facilitating the incorporation of biodiversity aspects.			
Promote the sustainable use of native forests, including timber use.			
Strengthen and capitalize on the role of statutory bodies, mainly the International Poplar Commission and other trees that support the population and the environment to encourage regional work on developing the industrial forestry			

sector by reaching out to local stakeholders.			
To make environmental and forestry agendas compatible.			
Promote the exchange of experiences and studies on forest genetic resources.			
Promote the bioeconomy as a tool for sustainable forest management.			
Promote programs and financing for forest and landscape restoration.			
Promote the exchange of experiences and studies on forest genetic resources (LAFORGEN).			

LACFC recommendations for the attention of the Regional Conference

<i>Priority issues</i>	<i>Expected Result (information, debate, decision)</i>	<i>Possible FAO complementary activities</i>
<i>Subregional group - Caribbean</i>		
The Caribbean Subgroup recommends promoting the inclusion of trees in farming systems to facilitate income generation, soil conservation and safeguarding of water resources, towards the mitigation of extreme climate conditions.	Increased: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food security • Safe water supplies • Soil conservation • Climate amelioration • Income opportunities 	Revive support for agroforestry in the Region.
The Caribbean Subgroup recommends prioritizing forest and the forest sector in National Development Plans to promote forest based rural livelihood opportunities	Increased prominence and visibility of forest/ry in National Development Plans	
The Caribbean Subgroup recommends improving the management of wildfires and agricultural fires.	Development of Guidelines to reduce the use of fire in land preparation for agriculture	FAO providing technical inputs towards the preparation integrated wildfire management plans
<i>Subregional group - Mesoamerica</i>		
The Mesoamerica Subgroup recommends promoting the adoption of more efficient agri-food and forestry systems (thereby promoting synergies between forestry, agriculture, livestock, and other activities related to rural development).	Discussion and decision	
The Mesoamerica Subgroup recommends supporting the creation of enabling conditions for managing, securing, and mobilizing financing to sustainably manage forests and facilitate restoration processes, in order to help improve the environment and mitigate the effects of climate change.	Discussion and decision	
The Mesoamerica Subgroup recommends, as an integral part of forest restoration, promoting proper fire management to	Decision	

prevent and reduce forest fires and their consequences.		
The Mesoamerica Subgroup recommends strengthening the national institutional framework for adequate forest monitoring, implementing national monitoring systems.	Decision	
<i>Subregional Group - Amazon Region</i>		
The Amazon Region Subgroup recommends supporting the regional construction of an Amazon forest information system.	Information/discussion on interoperative systems	
The Amazon Region Subgroup recommends guidelines on forest policies, inventories, financing management and forestry development to strengthen strategies for the restoration of degraded forest ecosystems.		
The Amazon Region Subgroup recommends strengthening strategies and coordination of actions to prevent deforestation in the region.		
The Amazon Region Subgroup recommends establishing methodologies for forest monitoring to assess the state of forests in Latin America.		
<i>Subregional Group - Southern Cone</i>		
The Southern Cone Subgroup recommends reactivating programs for the implementation of agroforestry and silvo-pastoral systems to promote sustainable forest management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and community strengthening.		

WORK PLANS OF THE SUBREGIONAL GROUPS OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2023

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Expected Result</i>	<i>Country Leader / Collaborating institutions</i>
<i>Subregional Group - Caribbean</i>		
Forest Resilience	Develop a regional project proposal “Mainstreaming climate and disaster risk resilience into REDD strategic and forestry related framework in the Caribbean” to be presented to the GCF Readiness Facility with the support of interested member countries Countries interested: All Island states	CANARI
Use of Non-Timber Forest Products	Development of a regional project to explore business opportunities for Bamboo management and Bamboo products in the Caribbean consolidated and presented to possible donors with the support of interested member countries.	INBAR and FAO
Forest Education	Development of a knowledge-sharing platform to facilitate the participation of forestry staff in training activities offered throughout the Caribbean. Piloting of 2-3 virtual training sessions for foresters in the Caribbean on topics of general interest.	Jamaica supported by Guyana
<i>Subregional Group - Mesoamerica</i>		
Forest protection (fire management, forest health and sanitation).	Development and implementation of national strategies for fire management and forest health and sanitation.	President Pro Tempore of the Forestry Technical Committee (CTB)
Forest landscape restoration	Development and implementation of national forest landscape restoration strategies. Exchange of experiences in order to standardize the conceptualization of restoration and its criteria and indicators. Search for and obtain economic-financial mechanisms for forest landscape restoration.	President Pro Tempore of the Forestry Technical Committee (CTB)
	Strengthen platforms for participation and sectoral dialogue (national and regional). Facilitate processes, agreements and norms that guarantee access and rights to forest benefits in order to promote sustainable forest management.	President Pro Tempore of the Forestry Technical Committee (CTB)
Strengthening forestry legislation and institutions for good forest governance	Strengthen organizational capacities (business and technical) to add value to forest goods and services. Promote, in public institutions, the purchase of legally-obtained forest products and that have met sustainability criteria. Seek due recognition of the goods and services provided by forests.	President Pro Tempore of the Forestry Technical Committee (CTB)
Increasing the value of the forest	Strengthen forest monitoring systems, by creating institutional capacity to implement them using their own funds. Promote the consolidation of the Latin American Network of National Experts in National Forest Inventories. Seek access to state-of-the-art technology on forest monitoring. Design and implement forest inventories.	President Pro Tempore of the Forestry Technical Committee (CTB)
Forest monitoring	Promote healthy and responsible agri-food production. Promote the implementation of REDD programs and strategies.	President Pro Tempore of the Forestry Technical Committee (CTB)

	Seek synergies between agro-silvo-pastoral production systems, through agroforestry systems and community forestry, thereby promoting increased productivity of the systems, through more efficient use of soil.	
	Develop and implement national strategies for the prevention and control of illegal logging, illegal transport and marketing of forest products. Sharing experiences on national strategies for the prevention and control of illegal logging, as well as forest traceability systems and the deconcentration and decentralization of forest management. Strengthening the traceability of the forest chain in order to promote and encourage the consumption and production of legal forest products.	President Pro Tempore of the Forestry Technical Committee (CTB)
	Include the issue of community forestry on national agendas, as a fundamental pillar for sustainable agricultural, forestry and livestock development.	President Pro Tempore of the Forestry Technical Committee (CTB)
Subregional Group - Amazon Region		
Share experiences on incentives for production and conservation of forestry plantations	Discussion	Ecuador
Exchange experiences on forest zoning	Discussion	Peru
Exchange experiences on integrated fire management and forest fire monitoring	Discussion	Peru, Ecuador
Share experiences in forestry and wildlife information management	Discussion	Peru
Exchange experiences in community-based forest management	Discussion	Colombia
Share information on inventories and data collection	Discussion	Peru
Subregional Group – Southern Cone		
Strengthen the conservation and sustainable use of native forests.		
Promote forest plantations as a tool for sustainable development.		
Contribute to strengthening forest resource monitoring and inventory activities.		
Promote the exchange of experiences and studies on forest genetic resources, forest health and experiences and lessons learned on how to achieve or obtain greater resources for financing the conservation of native forests.		
Promote the bioeconomy as one of the tools of sustainable management, by encouraging sustainable production practices and the use of timber and non-timber forest products.		

Regional forest fire prevention and management network.	Development of early warning and rapid response program. Review of intervention protocols between countries.	
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