

REPORTS

Held in Havana, Cuba
2-7 February 1976

**OF THE
TWELFTH SESSION OF THE
LATIN AMERICAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
AND OF THE
FOURTH SESSION OF THE
COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS
AND WILDLIFE**



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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R E P O R T S
of the
TWELFTH SESSION
of the
LATIN AMERICAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

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FOURTH SESSION
of the
COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE

held at Havana, Cuba, 2-7 February 1976

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Rome, 1976

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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Addressed to Member Governments

(a) Trends and perspectives in forestry

1. Forestry institutions in countries should participate actively in the second stage of the study on trends and perspectives in the forestry sector in Latin America, so as to assure proper coordination of activities at the national level. (para. 24)

(b) Modernization of public administration in the forestry sector

2. Forest plans should be straightforward and practical, and an integral part of the national socio-economic development plans. (para. 41(a))

3. Member countries should augment their exchanges of information and share as fully as possible their experiences in forest development through meetings, working groups and other arrangements; in particular, working groups should be set up on: forest administration; organizational patterns for forest production; the development of commercial forest plantations; and the development of pulp and paper industries, with special attention to medium-sized plants. (para. 41(b))

4. Member countries and FAO should make an effort to establish a regional-level project for studying the possibilities and problems of agro-silvi-pastoral management in Latin America and promote the rational utilization of renewable natural resources through a balanced combination of their various uses. (para. 41(c))

5. The interchange of forest seed should be intensified, on a commercial scale whenever possible. (para. 41(d))

6. In the education and training of forestry staff at the professional and technical levels, greater weight should be given to the disciplines of administration, organization and especially sociology in its application to forestry work, and training should be more closely related to the occupational aspects. (para. 41(e))

7. The countries should promote studies and exchanges of information on the safety, hygiene and organization of forest work. (para. 41(f))

8. Interested countries and FAO should promote research on Latin American moist tropical forests, creating a new research centre for Latin America and/or strengthening the existing ones and coordinating their work. (para. 41(i))

(c) National parks and wildlife

9. Countries interested in having established in their territory a regional centre for the training of national park and wildlife personnel should transmit their proposals to FAO and indicate what counterpart resources they would make available for the project and the suggested financing conditions. (Appendix G, para. V(i))

10. Countries should request the inclusion in forestry projects of experts in wildlife and national parks. (Appendix G, para. V(iii))

11. Countries should give special attention to setting up national systems of national parks and other protected areas that include scientifically selected samples of the ecosystems represented in their territories, so that the country reports presented to the

Fifth Session of the Committee may make it possible to lay the foundations for the Latin American system of national parks and other protected areas. (Appendix G, para. V(v))

12. Countries should give highest priority to the establishment of national parks and other protected areas to ensure the conservation of the highly important ecosystems of the region's coastal belts and moist tropical forests. (Appendix G, para. V(vi))

13. Where the protection of ecosystems or species is dependent on close coordination conducive to consistent management, frontier national parks and other protected areas should be established in which the countries concert their administrative and management policies. (Appendix G, para. V(vii))

14. Countries that have not yet ratified the "Washington Convention on International Trade in Threatened Species of Flora and Fauna" should make every effort to do so as soon as possible. (Appendix G, para. V(viii))

15. Countries should promote the development of intensive management and breeding grounds for the wildlife species most seriously threatened because of their high economic value, with the particular object of contributing to the social development of the local human population. (Appendix G, para. V(ix))

16. Countries should establish the necessary contacts with countries on their borders or in the area, on which the protection of certain species depends, with a view to arriving at agreements for harmonizing wildlife laws and their application, and control measures. (Appendix G, para. V(x))

B. Addressed to FAO

(a) Trends and perspectives in forestry

1. The second stage of the study on trends and perspectives in the forestry sector in Latin America should be executed. (para. 22)

2. The study should take account of the situation in each and every country, so that its results could be of genuine use in the drafting of national policies and plans for forestry development. (para. 23)

3. In order to help countries to participate actively in the study, FAO should prepare a practical, simple handbook on obtaining, compiling and processing statistical data. (para. 24)

4. A fuller study should be made of future trends in the supply of and demand for finished forest products, particularly in the following areas of interest:

- causes and effects of the depletion of forest resources, with particular emphasis on analysis of the effects of agrarian structures on the depletion of forest resources in the region and of the role of forests in environmental protection, the production of goods and recreation;
- the potential of operable natural forests and of man-made forests;
- the costs of a supply of industrial wood in the countries of the region.

Second priority should be given to the study of trends and prospects for non-wood forest products and of the institutional factors, which should be analyzed to the extent of their relevance to an appraisal of the future supply-demand balance for wood products (paras. 25 and 26)

5. Emphasis should be given to the study of the interdependencies between the use of forest resources and agriculture. (para. 27)

6. The efforts made to study the problems and potential of forest species that have not yet gained the desired acceptance on markets should be intensified. (para. 28)

7. FAO should set up a group of regional planning experts to meet, on a continuing basis, the specific needs of each country in Latin America; or else expand its current Forest Industries Planning and Development Group by adding the subject of forestry development planning. (para. 29)

(b) The shortage of pulp and paper

8. The second phase of the work programme drawn up by FAO, the UNDP, the World Bank, UNIDO and other international organizations to combat the projected shortage of paper and pulp in developing countries should give special attention to the possibility of setting up small mills employing modern technologies. (para. 34)

9. FAO should compile, update and make available to governments all existing information on paper and pulp, and perform studies in Latin America on the supply of and demand for paper and pulp, and projections on the future situation, to include details on prices, the raw materials employed, existing mills, their processes and capacities; studies should also be started with the object of evolving or refining technologies for the use of mixed tropical hardwoods. (para. 35)

10. FAO should propose to the next meeting of the Latin American Economic System: the constitution of an action committee to shepherd through all their stages, from inception to execution, projects for the establishment of pulp and paper mills; and the establishment of a regional technological research centre as a joint effort of interested Member Nations, for the utilization for this purpose of existing natural resources. (para. 36)

11. FAO should coordinate the efforts being made through the various projects in progress in the United Nations system and relating to problems in the pulp and paper sector, in order to avoid duplication. (para. 37)

(c) Modernization of public administration in the forestry sector

12. FAO and member countries should make an effort to establish a regional-level project for studying the possibilities and problems of agro-silvi-pastoral management in Latin America and promote the rational utilization of renewable natural resources through a balanced combination of their various uses. (para. 41(c))

13. The FAO/SIDA Seminar on the Development of Forestry Education, to be held in Quito in 1976, should study how to connect the academic and occupational aspects in forestry training. (para. 41(g))

14. FAO should intensify its forestry education and training work, chiefly through the publication of practical manuals tailored to the needs of the region; in particular, it should publish a manual on the collection, compilation and use of statistical data of practical interest to forest administrations. (para. 41(h))

15. Interested countries and FAO should promote research on Latin American moist tropical forests, creating a new research centre for Latin America and/or strengthening the existing ones and coordinating their work. (para. 41(i))

(d) The role of the Regional Forestry Commissions

16. The Report of the Twelfth Session of the Latin American Forestry Commission should be submitted as a supporting document to the 14th FAO Regional Conference for Latin America, to be held in Lima in April 1976, in order that the forestry sector might receive the attention it deserved at the highest national level. (para. 47)

17. FAO should include among the items for discussion at the Thirteenth Session of the Commission the subject of "Remote Sensing", for which the North American Forestry Commission was requested to make available the findings of its Study Group concerned with these matters. (para. 48)

18. The Commission should meet every four years. (para. 49)

(e) Eighth World Forestry Congress

19. The Commission recommended as the subject for the Eighth World Forestry Congress "Forest management in the context of rural development". (para. 51)

(f) National parks and wildlife

20. FAO should take the necessary steps to support the establishment in the region of a centre for the training of national park and wildlife personnel to turn out middle-level management staff and professional specialists in wildlife utilization and in the planning and administration of national parks and other protected areas. (Appendix G, para. V(i))

21. The Commission emphatically recommended approval of the project "Planning and Management of Natural Resources in Wildland Areas" submitted to UNEP, voiced the need to consider where to locate its headquarters, and suggested the advisability that the project add to its proposed objectives the functions of secretariat to the Committee on National Parks and Wildlife. (Appendix G, para. V(ii))

22. FAO should suggest the inclusion in forestry projects of experts in wildlife and national parks. (Appendix G, para. V(iii))

23. Before the next meeting of the Committee on National Parks and Wildlife, FAO should submit to the countries for consideration a proposed nomenclature adapted to the social and ecological situations of the region and duly coordinated with the Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. (Appendix G, para. V(iv))

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Latin American Forestry Commission of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations held its Twelfth Session from 2 to 7 February 1976 in Havana, at the kind invitation of the Government of Cuba.

2. The Session was attended by delegates from the following member countries: Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, France, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Panama, Peru, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago and the United Kingdom; by observers from Canada and Spain; and by representatives of the United Nations Development Programme, the Instituto Forestal Latinoamericano de Investigación y Capacitación (IFLAIC) and the World Bank. The full list of participants is given in Appendix B.

3. Mr. L. Huguet, Director of the FAO Forestry Department's Operations Service, also participated in the Session as representative of Dr. E. Saouma, Director-General of FAO, and of Dr. K.F.S. King, Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department. Mr. S. Salcedo, FAO Regional Forestry Officer, acted as Secretary.

4. The inaugural meeting was chaired by Mr. J. Ponce Dias, President of the Instituto Nacional de Desarrollo y Aprovechamiento Forestales (INPAF) of Cuba, who bade the delegates welcome on behalf of the Government of Cuba. In his statement he said that in most countries forestry was the field that most clearly showed the effects of destruction of natural resources by foreign interests which, by selective cutting and without any protective measures, had caused the accelerated degradation of this resource. He further said that, in the search for a solution to these problems, the Latin American Forestry Commission was vested with very important functions within the United Nations, and he reminded the delegates that their proceedings would generate guidelines for charting the forestry programmes, strategies and policies to be implemented by FAO. At the same time, he emphasized, this contribution would be more fruitful if it sprang from a joint effort and concerted position of all the participants in order to give Latin America a stronger voice within the United Nations system, and particularly within FAO. The full text of Mr. Ponce Dias' address is given in Appendix D to this report.

5. Mr. L. Huguet, Director of the Operations Service in the FAO Forestry Department, thanked the Government of Cuba for agreeing to host this session of the Latin American Forestry Commission and for its excellent organization of the gathering. He conveyed the deep regret of his Assistant Director-General at not having been able to attend this session. Mr. Huguet explained that this was because the new Director-General of FAO needed his closest associates in Rome to draw up the Programme of Work of FAO for the biennium 1976-77 as quickly as possible. He summarized the new orientation to be given to the activities of FAO so that the delegates could be r them in mind when drafting their recommendations, and suggested, to the extent possible, to frame concrete recommendations, so that the Programme of Work of the Forestry Department for 1976-77 could conform to this new policy, stated as follows: "having renounced all paternalism toward the countries it serves, FAO must review its programmes in a constructive spirit in order to rid them of every trace of academicism, make them more immediately and practically useful and give a new dimension to the Organisation by committing it more and more to the identification, preparation, and even, as far as its means permit, to the financing of agricultural development projects." He recalled that the programme previously prepared in the Forestry Department and now being revised, contained the following four areas of concentrations:

- tropical forestry;
- development of pulp and paper industries in the developing countries;
- promoting the integration of silviculture with agriculture, particularly through what has been called "agri-silviculture", in order to contribute to integrated rural development and to employment;
- promotion of trade in forest products, particularly those deriving from tropical forests.

The full text of Mr. Haguet's address is given in Appendix E to this report.

6. In his capacity as a member of the Executive Committee of the Latin American Forestry Commission, Mr. K. Hall, speaking on behalf of the Chairman of the Commission, thanked the Government of Cuba for its hospitality and for the opportunity afforded to the delegates to see at first hand the great beauty of this country and the impressive development and progress that had taken place in Cuba over the last decade. Finally, he expressed appreciation for the work done by the FAO Secretariat to prepare this Session.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7. The Provisional Agenda (FO/LAF/C/16/1), included as Appendix A, was adopted without comment.

8. The documents listed in Appendix C were presented to the delegates for their consideration.

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

9. In accordance with Articles II-1 and II-5 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission elected a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. The following members of the Commission were elected unanimously:

Chairman	:	J. Ponce Díaz (Cuba)
Vice-Chairmen	:	L. Tortorelli (Argentina) J. Vázquez Soto (Mexico) B. Ramdial (Trinidad and Tobago)
Rapporteur	:	T.R. Suárez Mantilla (Ecuador)

IV. THE STATE OF FORESTRY: COUNTRY STATEMENTS

10. This item was discussed on the basis of statements by the delegates of the various countries, who summarized the major developments since the previous session of the Commission.

11. In the field of forest policy, legislation and administration the Commission noted the progress made in the countries since the last Session in the formulation of socio-economic development plans and the strengthening of forestry services. There was emphasis on efforts to strengthen public ownership, and the establishment in various countries of (Ejidal) community forest enterprises, other kinds of associations, and decentralized agencies.

12. In almost all the countries notable progress had been made in recent years in the field of national parks and wildlife conservation.

13. The Commission noted with great satisfaction the enormous reforestation effort made and being planned in many of the countries, designed to exploit the extraordinary ecological conditions of Latin America as compared with other regions. To this end it was deemed necessary to provide against a possible demand for certified forest seed that the various Latin American countries would be needing. The planting was being done to reduce dependence on external sources for forest products, chiefly pulp and paper, and to a lesser extent for protecting the environment.

14. Despite the great advances noted in forestry education and training, it was generally recognized that much remained to be done in this field.

15. Several countries cited their efforts in the control of forest fires, one of the most delicate problems frequently encountered in the region.

16. The Commission heard with great interest of the progress made in and concrete prospects for national management and utilization of tropical mixed forests designed to solve the difficult problem of marketing a large number of species little known on national and international markets.

17. The Commission recognized that greater strengthening of public forestry institutions would make it possible to exert effective control over natural resources and the activities based on them, facilitating elimination of the harmful effects of shifting cultivation, selective cutting and uncontrolled utilization of species, as well as those caused by the activities of transnational enterprises - damages which constitute the main reasons for the great deterioration in the forest resources of Latin America.

18. The Commission noted with great interest the progress made in forest inventories and the interesting programmes of forest management on steep terrain going forward in some countries.

19. Some important achievements were noted in forest production but, on the whole, the greater results were expected to materialize in the coming years with the implementation of many projects now in execution and planning, particularly in the pulp and paper sector.

20. In their statements, the delegates of Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Peru, Surinam and Trinidad and Tobago expressed appreciation of the collaboration received from the UNDP and FAO in the forestry sector through the field projects in operation in their countries.

7. TRENDS AND PERSPECTIVES IN FORESTRY IN LATIN AMERICA

21. The Commission took note of document FO/LAFG/76/2, "Trends and Perspectives in Forestry in Latin America: Interim Report". The Secretariat reported to the Commission that this document had been prepared in accordance with a recommendation made by the heads of the forestry services in an informal meeting held during the last World Forestry Congress.

22. Following lively discussion, the countries expressed interest in continuing their efforts to learn more about trends and perspectives in forestry in the region; the Commission accordingly recommended execution of the second stage of the study proposed in the Secretariat document.

23. The Commission recommended that the study take account of the situation in each and every country, so that its results could be of genuine use in the drafting of national policies and plans for forestry development.

24. The Commission recommended that forestry institutions in countries participate actively in the second stage of the study so as to assure proper coordination of activities at the national level. In order to help countries to participate actively in this type of study, the Commission recommended that FAO prepare a practical, simple handbook on obtaining, compiling and processing statistical data.

25. The Commission recommended a fuller study of future trends in the supply of and demand for finished forest products, particularly in the following areas of interest:

- causes and effects of the depletion of forest resources, with particular emphasis on analysis of the effects of agrarian structures on the depletion of forest resources in the region and of the role of forests in environmental protection, the production of goods and recreation;

- the potential of operable natural forests and of man-made forests;
- the costs of a supply of industrial wood in the countries of the region.

26. It was recommended that second priority be given to the study of trends and prospects for non-wood forest products and of the institutional factors, which should be analyzed to the extent of their relevance to an appraisal of the future supply-demand balance for wood products.

27. The Commission recommended emphasis on the study of the interdependencies between the use of forest resources and agriculture, which not only provided the latter with factors for the protection of soil and water, but also constituted important elements in the generation of rural employment, improvement of the environment, and the production of several inputs, such as construction materials and paper, essential for the development and improvement of the level of living of the peoples in the region.

28. There was commendation for the efforts made by the Forestry Department of FAO to study the problems and potential of forest species that had not yet gained the desired acceptance on markets, and it was recommended that efforts in this direction be intensified in the second stage of the study.

29. Observing that the impact of this type of study on concrete decisions was largely dependent on the existence of an appropriate forestry planning group in each of the Latin American countries, the Commission recommended that FAO set up a group of regional planning experts to meet, on a continuing basis, the specific needs of each country in Latin America, or else that it expand its current Forest Industries Planning and Development Group by adding the subject of forestry development planning.

30. Finally, the observers from the World Bank and CIDA cited the need in their respective institutions for studies of _____ provide a regional frame of reference for analysis and decision-making in connection with the study, approval, financing and technical support of specific development projects, and voiced their satisfaction with the Commission's decision to recommend continuation of the study of forestry trends in Latin America.

VI. THE SHORTAGE OF PULP AND PAPER

31. The Commission discussed with great interest the item on the shortage of pulp and paper, which was presented to the delegates for consideration in a statement by the FAO representative.

32. There was consensus on the need to concentrate efforts to eliminate the region's dependence on foreign sources to meet the demand for forest products, mainly pulp and paper, by making use of the extensive forest and bagasse resources in the region and the unusually favourable ecological conditions prevailing in most of the countries for the accelerated growth of trees in man-made forests.

33. The Commission recognized that financial profitability was not the only consideration in decisions on the establishment of forest plantations and of pulp and paper mills, for there were other highly important socio-economic factors that could counsel such action, such as: provision of abundant rural employment, multiplier effects on the economy, the need to prepare and train national technicians, save foreign exchange, ensure national independence and domestic supply, etc.

34. The Commission recommended that the second phase of the work programme drawn up by FAO, the UNEP, the World Bank, UNIDO and other international organizations to combat the projected shortage of paper and pulp in developing countries, give special attention to the possibility of setting up small mills employing modern technologies.

35. The Commission recommended that FAO compile, update and make available to the Governments all existing information on paper and pulp, and that it perform studies in Latin America on the supply of and demand for paper and pulp, and projections on the future situation, to include details on prices, the raw materials employed, existing mills, their processes and capacities; and that at the same time studies be started with the object of evolving or refining technologies for the use of mixed tropical hardwoods.

36. Bearing in mind Resolution No. 20/75 of the Eighteenth FAO Conference on relations between FAO and the Latin American Economic System, which cites the decision of the Latin American and Caribbean countries to establish SELA as the region's agency for coordinating international relations and intensifying cooperation among the countries of the region in the sphere of international economics, the Commission recommended to FAO that, in the framework of those relations, it propose to the next meeting of SELA: the constitution of an action committee to shepherd through all their stages, from inception to execution, projects for the establishment of pulp and paper mills; and the establishment of a regional technological research centre as a joint effort of interested Member Nations, for the utilization for this purpose of existing natural resources.

37. Similarly, on the basis of the available information and of the offer made by FAO in paragraph 17 of document FO:LAFU/76/3, the Commission recommended to FAO that it coordinate the efforts being made through the various projects in progress in the United Nations system and relating to problems in the pulp and paper sector, in order to avoid duplication.

38. Moreover, the Commission emphasized the need of active participation by the Governments in these regional projects from study stage to approval, which would make them more successful and assure a contribution by and further training for national technicians.

VII. MODERNIZATION OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN THE FORESTRY SECTOR IN LATIN AMERICA

39. The Commission considered document FO:LAFU/76/4, "Modernization of Public Administration in the Forestry Sector in Latin America", together with supporting document FO:MISC/75/22, "Comparative Study of Latin American Public Forestry Administrations" (draft version). Many countries joined in the discussion and contributed information on their major problems and accomplishments in institutional development in the forestry field. The discussion clearly conveyed how dynamically many Latin American public forest administrations were acting to improve the performance of their present tasks and cope with new circumstances.

40. The following conclusions emerged from the discussions:

- Forest policy should faithfully translate in the forest sector the general socio-economic guidelines of the country.
- The public forest administration is the principal instrument for implementation of the government's forest policy. Hence the public forest administration should be placed on a level of authority consistent with the present and potential importance of the forest sector.
- The public forest administration should be so organized as to strengthen and decentralize the territorial structures with a view to operational efficiency, while leaving the principle of normative centralization intact, and the activities of the forest service should be integrated with those of the other public services in order to harmonize the various uses of land and contribute to rural development.

- In addition to the public forest administration it is necessary to reinforce the indirect instruments of forest policy, particularly taxation, cooperation and credit.
- A staff well trained at all levels and actuated by the idea of service for the public good is the principal engine of forest development.

41. The Commission recommended:

- (a) that forest plans be straightforward and practical, and an integral part of the national socio-economic development plans;
- (b) that the member countries augment their exchanges of information and share as fully as possible their experiences in forest development through meetings, working groups and other arrangements; it recommended in particular that working groups be set up on:
 - (i) forest administration
 - (ii) organizational patterns for forest production
 - (iii) the development of commercial forest plantations
 - (iv) the development of pulp and paper industries, with special attention to medium-sized plants;
- (c) that the member countries and FAO make an effort to establish a regional-level project for studying the possibilities and problems of agro-silvi-pastoral management in Latin America and promote the rational utilization of renewable natural resources through a balanced combination of their various uses;
- (d) that the interchange of forest seed be intensified, on a commercial scale whenever possible;
- (e) that in the education and training of forestry staff at the professional and technical levels, greater weight be given to the disciplines of administration, organization and especially sociology in its application to forestry work, and that training be more closely related to the occupational aspects;
- (f) that the countries promote studies and exchanges of information on the safety, hygiene and organization of forest work;
- (g) that the FAO/SIDA Seminar on the development of forestry education, to be held in Quito in 1976, study how to connect the academic and occupational aspects in forestry training;
- (h) that FAO intensify its forestry education and training work, chiefly through the publication of practical manuals tailored to the needs of the region. In particular, FAO should publish a manual on the collection, compilation and use of statistical data of practical interest to forest administrations;
- (i) that interested countries and FAO promote research on Latin American moist tropical forests, creating a new research centre for Latin America and/or strengthening the existing ones and coordinating their work.

42. The Commission decided to record in the report of this Session its support for the "Comparative Study of Latin American Public Forestry Administrations" and its congratulations to the authors thereof.

VIII. ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION'S SUBSIDIARY BODIES

(a) Committee on National Parks and Wildlife

43. The Commission took note of the report of this Committee's Fourth Session (Appendix C) and endorsed the recommendations made in this report.

(b) Committee on Forestry Research

44. The Secretariat informed the Commission that organizational difficulties had prevented the convening of the Third Session of the Latin American Committee on Forestry Research. However, thanks to the cooperation of Mr. Frank H. Wadsworth, Chairman of that Committee, the study "Public Forestry Research in Latin America" (FO:LAFC/76/5) could be submitted to the Commission for consideration. The Commission noted with great interest the contents of this paper, which cited the more critical needs for the progress of forestry research in the region: (1) specialized training for professional personnel, (2) organizational stability leading to prestige and attractive careers, and (3) funds for facilities and operation.

IX. MATTERS TO BE REFERRED TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

(a) Activities of the Forestry Department of FAO

45. The Secretariat presented this item for consideration by the Commission in two parts, the first embracing all matters relating to the Regular Programme of FAO, for which the delegates were supplied with the Secretariat Note "FAO Forestry Department Regular Programme Activities of Interest in the Latin American Region" (FO:LAFC/76/6). The FAO representative summarized this document and explained that the medium-term objectives of the Forestry Department of FAO and the principal features of the Programme of Work for 1976-77 had not yet been approved, being under revision in Rome for the purpose of making the changes needed so that this programme could faithfully reflect FAO's new policy and be presented to the Council for approval next July.

46. The second part of the item on the activities of the Forestry Department related specifically to forestry field operations, in connection with which Secretariat Note "FAO Forestry Field Operations in the Region" (FO:LAFC/76/7) was presented to the Commission for consideration. In response to the concern voiced by some delegates over the delay in filling posts provided in national projects, the Secretariat reported that this had been due to the financial crisis besetting the UNDP at this time, and that it was hoped to solve this problem in the course of next year. The UNDP Representative said that these problems had sprung from two causes: the rise in costs occasioned by the world-wide inflation, and the fact that programmed projects were lately being implemented, particularly in Latin America, in shorter times than had been scheduled.

(b) The Role of the Regional Forestry Commissions

47. The Commission considered the role of the Regional Forestry Commissions on the basis of a Secretariat Note (FO:LAFC/76/8). The Commission concurred fully in the importance that the Committee on Forestry attached to the Regional Commissions as forums for the discussion of problems in the forestry sector, and recommended that the Report of the Twelfth Session of the Latin American Forestry Commission be submitted as a supporting document to the 14th FAO Regional Conference for Latin America, to be held in Lima in April 1976, in order that the forestry sector might receive the attention it deserved at the highest national level.

48. The Commission also recommended to FAO that it include among the items for discussion at the Thirteenth Session of the Latin American Forestry Commission the subject of "Remote Sensing", for which the North American Forestry Commission was requested to make available the findings of its Study Group concerned with these matters.

49. There was consensus on the desirability that the Commission meet every two years, but it was agreed that this was not very practical because several countries found it difficult to send delegations; it was therefore recommended that the Commission meet every four years, provided that the countries were able to organize working groups on specific subjects so that their findings could be submitted for consideration by the Latin American Forestry Commission.

(c) Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics

50. The Commission was informed that the next session of the Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics would be held in Rome during the second half of 1976, and would be of a special character in that much of the material that had been prepared for the Technical Conference on Tropical Moist Forests would be presented for the consideration of the participants in this meeting, the Conference, scheduled to be held in 1975 in Brazil, having unfortunately had to be cancelled for reasons of force majeure.

(d) Eighth World Forestry Congress

51. The Secretariat provided the participants with the document on "The Eighth World Forestry Congress" (FO:LAF/C/76/9). After an exchange of ideas on its programme, the Commission recommended the subject of "Forest management in the context of rural development".

X. BUSINESS OF THE COMMISSION

(a) Date and place of next session

52. The Commission decided that the Director-General of FAO, in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission, would determine the date and place of its Thirteenth Session.

(b) Other business

53. The Secretariat informed the Commission of the publication of the Bulletin prepared by the FAO Regional Office, entitled "Latin American Forestry Information", which was at the disposal of interested countries to make known matters of interest for the region.

(c) Adoption of the Report

54. The draft report was adopted, with some modifications which have been incorporated into the present document.

55. The Session was closed by His Excellency Daniel Solana Piñera, Minister and Vice-President of the National Institute for Agrarian Reform. The text of his address is given in Appendix F.

56. The FAO representative, Mr. Huguet, expressed the gratitude of FAO to the Cuban authorities for the facilities made available for the organization of the meeting and congratulated the delegates from participating countries for their valuable contribution to the work of the Commission.

AGENDA

FIRST PLENARY

1. Procedural matters
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda
 - (b) Election of Officers
2. Trends in forestry in the region
 - (a) The state of forestry: national statements
 - (b) Trends and perspectives in forestry in Latin America
 - (i) Interim report
 - (ii) Problem analysis
 - (iii) Future work
3. The shortage of pulp and paper

WORKING PARTIES

4. Fourth Session of the Committee on National Parks and Wildlife
5. Modernization of public administration in the forestry sector in Latin America
 - (a) Principles and strategies of administrative reform for development functions
 - (b) The institutional base for forestry development and environment protection in Latin America (comparative study of public forestry administrations in Latin America)

SECOND PLENARY

6. Activities of the Commission's subsidiary bodies
 - (a) Committee on National Parks and Wildlife
 - (b) Committee on Forestry Research
7. Matters to be referred to the attention of the Committee on Forestry
 - (a) FAO Forestry Department activities
 - (i) Review of Forestry Department activities of interest to the region since the last session of the Commission
 - (ii) The Forestry Department's medium-term objectives and Programme of Work 1976-77
 - (iii) Forestry field operations in the region
 - (b) The role of the Regional Forestry Commissions
 - (c) Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics
 - (d) The Eighth World Forestry Congress
8. Business of the Commission
 - (a) Date and place of next session
 - (b) Other business
 - (c) Adoption of the report

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LIST OF DOCUMENTS

<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Title</u>
1	FO:LAFG/76/1	Provisional agenda
2(b)	FO:LAFG/76/2	Trends and perspectives in forestry in Latin America: interim report
3	FO:LAFG/76/3	The shortage of pulp and paper
5	FO:LAFG/76/4	Modernization of public administration in the forestry sector in Latin America
6(b)	FO:LAFG/76/5	Public forestry research in Latin America
7(a)	FO:LAFG/76/6	FAO Forestry Department Regular Programme activities of interest in the Latin American region
"	FO:LAFG/76/7	FAO forestry field operations in the region
7(b)	FO:LAFG/76/8	The role of the Regional Forestry Commissions
7(d)	FO:LAFG/76/9	The Eighth World Forestry Congress
7(c)	FO:LAFG/76/10	Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics

Background documents

2		Trends in production, consumption and trade in forest products in Latin America (FO:MISC/75/2)
"		Appraisal of the forest resources of the Latin American region (PLAT)
"		Appraisal of the non-wood forest resources of the Latin American region
"		Appendices extracted from a special study on "The Marketing of Tropical Wood: B. Wood species from South American moist tropical forests"
"	FO:MISC/76/14	Regional tables of production, trade and consumption of forest products: world, economic classes and regions
"	FO:MISC/76/16	Country tables of production, trade and consumption of forest products: Latin America
5	FO:MISC/75/22	Comparative Study of Latin American Public Forestry Administrations
"	FO:MAFP/LA/75/2	Principles and strategies of administrative reform for development functions

<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Title</u>
5		Seminar on Modernization of Public Forestry Administration in the Forestry Sector of Latin America: conclusions and recommendations
7(c)		Management possibilities of tropical high forest in Africa

Information documents

FO:LAFG/76/Inf.1	General information
FO:LAFG/76/Inf.2	Annotated provisional agenda
FO:LAFG/76/Inf.3	Provisional timetable
FO:LAFG/76/Inf.4	List of documents

Opening Address

APPENDIX D

by

José Pérez Díaz
President of the Instituto Nacional de
Desarrollo y Aprovechamiento Forestales

The Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Delegates, Observers and Guests:

The Instituto Nacional de Desarrollo y Aprovechamiento Forestales and the Revolutionary Government of Cuba take pleasure in bidding you most cordially welcome.

This is our first opportunity to receive the Latin American Forestry Commission in our country and we do so with great satisfaction. It is always agreeable to receive friends, colleagues and visitors. But when the people we receive, as we do now, are officers - many of them forestry specialists - who have come to our country to make a joint effort to shed light on problems of common interest, to hear views and present their own and to promote the improvement of society and of the natural resources it needs, satisfaction becomes joy.

It is precisely in forestry, because of characteristics that are the same in many - not to say most - of the countries here represented, that the effects of unremitting plundering of natural wealth by the powers that have held sway in different periods of history are most poignantly apparent. Indiscriminate felling, accelerated degradation, and the age-old condemnation of all natural wealth to destruction have been decried time and again by many of the countries, no longer in Latin America alone, but in Africa and other parts of the world as well.

The country whose hospitality you today enjoy for the holding of this meeting, has a history of the same origins, the same ravages and the same heritage; from a country of valuable forests we have become, as repeated statements have by now made public knowledge, an entirely deforested one.

The work our Government has done since 1959 to reverse this so unhappy legacy can be appreciated more fully in the report that our Delegation will make on the subject to this Latin American Forestry Commission.

In the United Nations system and in FAO, the Latin American Forestry Commission is invested, in our view, with highly important functions in the search for solutions to these problems.

Its proceedings serve to channel the concerns and intentions of the countries in the region to meet the needs of the portion of mankind that does not yet enjoy the benefits that technological progress affords and human rights hold out.

These possibilities are extensive and the rights are just, but the needs are still very great, and urgent besides. It is because the advisory and governing bodies of the United Nations system recognize this, that a Latin American Forestry Commission has a place in its structure. The Committee on Forestry of FAO, in compliance with suggestions made by the Conference of that Organization, weighed and reaffirmed the need for and importance of this Commission. What is more, for this Twelfth Session the Commission has been invited to present its own views on the subject; and, as yet further evidence of its importance, we may recall that FAO, its Conference and its Committee on Forestry, need - and they themselves stress this - regional forestry commissions that are independent and thus free to make a real contribution to the charting of policies, strategies and programmes in FAO for forestry development through international cooperation. It is actually

the member countries themselves, our own governments, that want this, and it is they, too, which lay down the courses we must follow, the changes to be made, and the standards to be applied. So it is that in the United Nations community, which today rings more than ever with the clamour of the deprived peoples of the earth, we are told of their decision to establish a "new international economic order", of their resolve to give "new dimensions to international cooperation", of their intention to support "rural development", of their policy of promoting "cooperation among developing countries", and of their strategies in the Second United Nations Development Decade. These are circumstances that give particular significance to the efforts that this Commission will make to convey the contribution that every delegation wants to make, and that contribution will yield better fruit if it springs from a joint effort by all the participants in this gathering.

The items on the agenda proposed by FAO for this Twelfth Session include specific matters in which the statements of the Latin American Forestry Commission will constitute valuable guideposts for the formulation and conduct of that agency's programme of work. You have come here to make contributions that will surely be valuable, and we are proud to welcome you and to join you in this effort.

We wish you a pleasant stay in Cuba and we invite you to learn about our people, their work, their struggles and achievements. If we can help in any way to make your visit to this country more agreeable and interesting, to help you get about or to sort out any difficulties, you will always find every member of the Cuban delegation most willing to provide any assistance or information you may need.

We trust that, when you return to your respective countries, you will carry with you the satisfaction of having done good work and the assurance of leaving us with the pleasure of having had you among us in this land and of having shared in your concern and in your labours.

Thank you.

OPENING ADDRESS

by

Louis Huguet
Director, of the Operations Service
Forestry Department, FAO

Distinguished Delegates and Observers,

First of all I wish to thank the Government of Cuba on behalf of the Director-General of FAO for having agreed to host this session of the Latin American Forestry Commission and, on the basis of what I have seen so far, to express my appreciation of the excellent way this has been organized.

I should also like to tell you how sorry my Chief, Dr. King, the Assistant Director-General of the Forestry Department, was that he could not attend this session. It would have been a great honour and privilege for him, as it is for me, to be able to come to Cuba to work with you. Moreover, Dr. King has a personal interest in the work of this Commission, since he is a native of this region, and his heart is here, while only part of mine is, a very large part though, after having spent nine years of my life in this region. It has therefore fallen to me to try to deputize for, to take the place of Dr. King.

If our Director-General has been unable to attend this session, it is because something is happening in Rome, almost a revolution. As you are aware, the FAO Conference which met in Rome last November elected a new Director-General for six years, Dr. Saouma, who wants to make the Organization of which he is in charge a more operational and more efficient instrument, working towards the solution of concrete problems in the developing world. This is the latest news that I heard just four days ago regarding the new policy which the Director-General of FAO wishes to apply in line with the instructions that he received from the FAO Conference last November.

Very briefly, this new policy, of which you ought to be informed so that it can guide you in your work, may be summed up in three lines. Dr. Saouma wishes to avoid studies, reports and purely academic work which are not reflected in concrete action or which do not produce short-term results directed towards raising the economic, social and cultural standard of living, the well-being and dignity of the inhabitants of the developing countries. For this reason he has decided, and in this he enjoys the full backing of the FAO Conference, not to increase the Headquarters staff but to reinforce FAO's representation and action directly at the country level.

As the Conference had already approved a considerable increase in the budget in real terms, this increase is going to be devoted to concrete work in these countries, as well as to strengthening our representation there, so as to meet their technical assistance requirements.

Dr. King has had to remain in Rome to cooperate in the preparation of the new plan of work and the new FAO budget for 1976/77. In fact, you should know that the FAO Secretariat had prepared a programme of work and budget for the 1976/77 biennium, but it had been prepared by the retiring Director-General - it is curious that an outgoing Director-General should prepare the programme and budget for the incoming Director-General and that the incoming Director-General should have to carry out a programme for two years

about which he was never consulted and which could hardly coincide with his ideas. As it happened, the Conference did not approve this programme of work and budget and after having elected the new Director-General almost unanimously - which shows the confidence enjoyed by the new Director-General - it ordered him to revise the programme of work and budget in accordance with the foregoing principles, that is to say, without increasing the staff at Headquarters, avoiding purely academic work and concentrating FAO's action on the achievement of concrete work at the country level capable of producing short-term results.

We have not much time left in which to finalize this revision work since after preparation by the Director-General, it has to be printed and translated into three languages and submitted first to the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee in April and then submitted for final approval in July 1976 to the FAO Council which has been delegated by the Conference to approve the new programme. Therefore, at this very moment the five Assistant Directors-General are working full-time on the preparation and revision of the programme for the 1976/77 biennium.

As far as the Forestry Department is concerned, we have to demonstrate that our programme, or our revised programme, fulfils the essential rules of the new policy of FAO which I have just described. Document LAFD 76/6 which is going to be discussed any day now outlines the programme which was drawn up last year before the new FAO policy was known. However, we sincerely believe that this programme with a few changes will fit in with this new policy.

In a more specific way, you will find on page 5 of the above-mentioned document the four areas of concentration on which it is proposed that our Forestry Department should work in the 1976/77 biennium. These areas of concentration have been discussed in the past with the different Regional Forestry Commissions and approved by the Forestry Committee. These areas of concentration are the following:

- Firstly: Priority will be given to studies on tropical forests. You know that tropical forests are a complex, little known, fragile world, but that they have very important resources. In many regions they have been destroyed or impoverished due to migratory cultivation or irrational harvesting. So far only the best species have been felled, because the greatest concern was to earn money and not to look after the well-being of the population who could benefit from these resources. Logs have been exported and not, in general, woodwork which could have increased the occupational level and had a multiplier effect on the national economy.
- The second very important point on which the Forestry Department proposes to concentrate its activities is the development of the pulp and paper industry in developing countries, the paradox being that at present these poor countries which own more than half the forests of the world and which have great plantation possibilities only produce 6% of the cellulose manufactured in the world.
- The third point on which the Department proposes to concentrate its activities is the contribution of silviculture to rural development and employment or, in other words, the integration of silviculture with agriculture, particularly by means of what is called "agri-silviculture". In fact, silviculture and forest management, windbreaks, etc., provide protection for croplands and contribute towards increased yields and soil conservation. In addition, wood, cases and paper are needed for a better distribution of food.
- The last subject matter field which the Department wishes to cover is the expansion of trade in forest products from tropical forests. There is great wealth in the developing countries which has not been properly utilized; only a few species are exported and it is necessary to make an effort to increase a number of species for the benefit of the countries concerned, at the same time avoiding the impoverishment of the forests.

I suggest that when the various items before this Conference are discussed, you bear these four priorities in mind and I also suggest that, if possible, this Commission make concrete recommendations, that is to say, recommendations which we can submit to our Director-General and prove that they are not purely academic, but that their fulfilment will be reflected by concrete action directed towards improving the most compelling needs of the developing countries.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-Minister, distinguished Delegates and Observers, since the last session of this Commission which was held in 1970 in Ecuador, the world has changed rapidly and I think that this Session has to take these changes into account, so as to adapt our forest policy to this new world which is being forged. Some examples of these changes are as follows:

Thanks to the effect, which we might term catalytic, of the fuel crisis, the poor countries of the southern hemisphere have discovered their strength and are now discussing on equal terms with the rich countries.

Last year the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted two highly important resolutions, one on "Raw Materials and Development" and the other on "the New International Economic Order" to which the Chairman of the INDAF has already referred.

Various agreements are already in force between the rich and the poor countries; for instance, the Lome Agreement, which was signed by the countries of the European Common Market and various developing countries in Africa, Latin America and the Pacific. This agreement guarantees a steady income to those countries for their exports.

Just now the representatives of the underdeveloped countries of the southern hemisphere and of the northern industrial countries are meeting in Paris for the purpose of reaching an agreement on their economic relationship.

The SELA (Latin American Economic System), with which FAO decided to cooperate, has just been created.

The very fact that this Commission has been able to meet today in Cuba proves that the world is changing, at least as far as the Latin American community is concerned. In fact, who would have imagined six years ago in Quito that this session could have been held in Cuba, with so many nations represented and with so many delegates and, as I sincerely hope, with such success. The fact that we are all here in Cuba working in a friendly and cooperative spirit also proves that something has changed in the world in general and in Latin America in particular.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Opening Speech

by

the Minister Vice-President of the
Instituto Nacional de Reforma Agraria,
Mr. Daniel Solana Pinera

Mr. Chairman, Delegates, Observers and Guests,

It is for me a signal honour to close the Twelfth Session of the Latin American Forestry Commission, which has made clear the will of our countries to come together once again to analyze the forestry problems of the region.

It was at Quito in 1970 that the Revolutionary Government of Cuba offered to host this meeting and, as we were told by Mr. Euguet in his opening speech, "the mere fact that this Commission has already been able to convene in Cuba shows that the world is changing, at least as far as the Latin American community is concerned".

This significant fact is no accident, just as it is no accident either that, in view of the admittedly inescapable need for far-reaching structural changes to pave the way for the attainment of socio-economic objectives of benefit to the entire population, our region has been a supporter of the New International Economic Order approved by the Sixth Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, and a promoter of the Charter of the Economic Rights and Duties of States, the praiseworthy initiative of Mr. Luis Echeverria, President of Mexico.

In the same way Latin America is today witnessing major undertakings in international economic cooperation, such as SELA, the Committee of the Caribbean, OLADÉ and MAUCAR, which justify the assertion that the ideas of Bolívar, San Martín, Juárez, O'Higgins and José Martí as advocates of Latin American Unity and the protection of its interests are to be realized.

This is why in this gathering we have had yet another demonstration of the urgent need that the Governments achieve the objectives I mentioned before, which embody the just aspirations of our peoples. Nor should the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations disregard these ideas and principles in their efforts of cooperation with Third World countries.

The Revolutionary Government of Cuba has been working systematically since its inception toward the attainment of these objectives, which in their application to silviculture, have been put before you in the Report presented by our Delegation to this Commission.

It is well known in the international community that the present state of forest resources poignantly reflects the plundering to which they have been unremittingly subjected by the developed capitalist countries in the pursuit of their colonialist and neocolonialist policies.

This is why the countries of Latin America, Africa and Asia have time and again denounced indiscriminate cutting in forests, their accelerated degradation and destructive exploitation by the trans-national corporations, all of which confirmed the need of our countries to ensure full sovereignty over their own natural resources and the economic activities relating to them in keeping with their political, economic and social independence.

In consequence, national policies must be instituted that aim at the integral development of our natural resources - a concept incidentally bound up with forest development in the agricultural sphere and with the problem of agrarian structures - in order to attain as the ultimate objective the well-being of the entire population, including general and specialized education and the unrestricted right to employment, food, housing and health.

The situation in Cuba before the triumph of the Revolution was very similar to the one that persists today in most developing countries. 8 percent of the landowners held more than 70 percent of all rural land, which conveys the extent to which our agriculture laboured under the domination of large landed interests. In addition, 25 percent of the most fertile lands in the country were owned by United States transnational corporations.

These giant estates were worked on an extensive basis, and our peasants and farm workers lived in sub-human destitution.

The two agrarian reform laws in effect in our country limited the size of estates to 400 and 67 ha respectively, which enabled 100 000 peasant families occupying land as share-croppers, tenants and squatters to acquire ownership of the lands they cultivated, in addition to which the Government had a policy of supplying the peasants with the resources and inputs needed for production, and with credit, and of setting fair prices.

At the same time, it brought 70 percent of the total agricultural area into the public domain.

From the beginning of the revolutionary period and particularly since 1966 there has been a strong flow of investment to lay down the agrarian infrastructure needed to guarantee continuing development, which is grounded in the specialized use and integral development of the land on a scientific basis; i.e., in terms of the factors of soil, climate, the availability of water, the possibility of building dams, new communities, schools, cultural centres, roads and services in general.

In this setting, the essential factor in the process has been Man, and in the course of these years we have guaranteed full employment for our field workers and obtained appreciable results in education and public health.

Moreover, agriculture today has more than 3 000 technicians of university level - a figure that will more than double during the next five years - as well as 23 000 middle-level technicians and 50 000 skilled workers, which figures will also rise significantly in the next few years.

The combination of study with work that our students engage in has enabled us to carry out an educational revolution that is contributing to the emergence of the new Man and benefitting the country's economy. Students of our basic secondary and pre-university schools are participating in the work of the forest and fruit tree nurseries and in the harvesting of crops, among other activities.

It would take too long to describe the achievements made in Cuban agriculture during these 17 years of strenuous labour. Suffice it to cite as examples that in 1958 we had only 9 000 tractors and today we have more than 50 000; that in the hydraulic field the country's water impounding capacity has expanded from a mere 30 million m³ to more than 4 000 million m³, the irrigation area has increased by more than 100 000 ha, the rural roads have tripled, and thousands of agricultural installations have been built.

Further, important levels have been reached in the production and development of crops of sugar cane, rice, citrus fruits, tobacco, tubers and vegetables, in the genetic upgrading of our cattle and in the production of milk, eggs and poultry, and pig meat, all of which has allowed us to increase our exportable surpluses and the level of living of our population.

It must be said that we still have an enormous effort to make and innumerable shortcomings to overcome. Today, however, we can tell you that our agriculture is moving ahead satisfactorily and its prospects are extremely optimistic. Our efforts are directed at the attainment of high productivities that can bring us to these levels of development in the foreseeable future.

The discussions of this gathering have brought out the lively interest there is in the region in forest problems. Important among these are the shortage of pulp and paper and the modernization of public administration in the forestry sector in Latin America.

I need not dwell on the consequences for the economic and social development of our peoples of the shortage of pulp and paper, which emerges most clearly in the field of education and of cultural development in general.

It is truly significant that the developing countries have 55 percent of the standing timber in the world and produce 4 percent of the world's wood pulp, in contrast with the developed countries which, with 45 percent of the standing timber, produce 96 percent of the total wood pulp supply.

This fact, joined to the low industrial level of the Third World countries, causes them to remain in such a state of dependence as to be obliged to invest every year larger volumes of foreign exchange.

The high cost of processing plants, the lack of financing, the lack of access to advanced technologies and deteriorating terms of trade are the causes of this situation, which has prevented the emergence of basic alternatives in the neocolonial structure of economic relations between the capitalist developed world and the developing world.

This is why we have noted with pleasure the Commission's emphasis on putting an end to this dependence on the outside world, a concern that in our region has led to the establishment of the Latin American Economic System (SELA), an agency designed to promote economic development and cooperation in the region in pursuit of the interests of the Latin American and the Caribbean countries alone.

The Commission's recommendation to FAO that, in the framework of its relations with SELA, it propose to this agency the establishment of an action committee to further projects for the establishment of pulp and paper mills is a highly significant outcome of this gathering.

In regard to the modernization of public administrations, it is just as encouraging to observe the concern expressed about the attention that the governments should give to the dynamic development of this sector, with Man in his technical-economic and socio-cultural development as the central object.

In our country, the only way to approach the solution of the problems inherited from the pre-revolutionary stage was to change the political and socio-economic base, and so effect a complete transformation of public administration based on the principle that such administration cannot be divorced from the development of the society.

I would not wish to close without thanking the delegations and the FAO Secretariat for their great efforts to make this meeting a success.

We hope that the results of the Twelfth Session of the Latin American Forestry Commission are such that, as you return to your countries, you will be imbued with new energy to redouble your efforts to give them effect.

Finally, we hope your stay in our country has enabled you to appreciate the sense of solidarity and unbreakable friendship among our peoples.

Thank you.

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE

FOURTH SESSION

(Havana, Cuba, 4 February 1976)

REPORT

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Fourth Session of the Committee on National Parks and Wildlife was held in Havana on 4 February 1976 at the kind invitation of the Government of Cuba.

2. Delegates attended from Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, France, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Panama, Peru, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Kingdom, and observers from Canada, Spain, the UNDP, the World Bank and IFLAIC.

II. AGENDA AND DOCUMENTATION

3. The Provisional Agenda was amended and adopted in the form given in Appendix G-a. The documents listed in Appendix G-b were presented to the Committee for its consideration. At the suggestion of the Chairman, it was agreed that matters relating to national parks would be dealt with separately from those on wildlife.

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

4. Dr. M. Dourojeanni (Peru) was elected Chairman of the Committee, Messrs. J.A. Ponce Salazar (Ecuador) and J.R. Gómez Ricaño (Cuba) were elected Vice-Chairmen, and Mr. L. Sangri Namur (Mexico) was elected Rapporteur. Mr. K. Thelen (FAO) served as Secretary to the Committee.

IV. THE PRESENT SITUATION AND TRENDS

5. Since the Third Session of the Committee, in 1970, the number of national parks in the region has increased by about 20, embracing more than three million hectares. There are at present more than 104 parks, covering almost 20 million hectares, not counting national reserves, sanctuaries and other protected areas. It was remarked that analysis of the situation was greatly hindered by differences among the national terminologies on the subject.

6. Training courses for people at the professional and sub-professional levels, in addition to university courses and fellowships, had augmented the availability of qualified staff in the region, though not to a sufficient level.

7. One important accomplishment in many countries had been the preparation and launching of plans for the management of national parks. Proper attention was also beginning to be given to the establishment of national park systems in several countries.

8. Programmes of education on the environment had progressed significantly in a few countries, and interest was growing in the others.

9. The management of some wildlife species had improved and in many countries wildlife management was attracting considerable attention for its social and economic potential.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

(i) Considering the urgent need of specialized personnel for the management of national park and reserve programmes and of those concerning wildlife conservation, the Committee requested that FAO take the necessary steps to support the establishment in the region of a centre for the training of national park and wildlife personnel to turn out middle-level management staff and professional specialists in wildlife utilization and in the planning and administration of national parks and other protected areas. It also recommended to countries interested in having this training centre established in their territory that they transmit their proposals to FAO and indicate what counterpart resources they would make available for the project and the suggested financing conditions.

(ii) Considering the encouraging results obtained by the "Wildland Management and Environmental Conservation" project, which will terminate in March 1976, and that a continuation and expansion of this project, designated "Planning and Management of Natural Resources in Wildland Areas", has been submitted to UNEP, the Committee emphatically recommended its approval, voiced the need to consider where to locate its headquarters, bearing in mind the requests of countries that have not yet benefited, and suggested the advisability that the project, if approved, add to its proposed objectives the functions of secretariat to the Committee on National Parks and Wildlife.

(iii) Considering that in many forestry projects in progress the countries had not requested the participation of experts in national park and wildlife matters, or that such participation had been very limited, despite the urgent need to cover all the problems of the ecosystems concerned, the Committee recommended that the countries request and that FAO suggest the inclusion of experts in wildlife and national parks in forestry projects.

(iv) Bearing in mind the serious difficulties that arise from the lack of a nomenclature on national parks and other protected areas accepted by all or most of the countries in Latin America, the Committee recommended that, before the next meeting of the Committee, FAO submit to the countries for consideration a proposed nomenclature adapted to the social and ecological situations of the region and duly coordinated with the Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

(v) Considering that, despite the efforts that some countries in the region had made to set up national systems of national parks and other protected areas that included scientifically selected samples of the ecosystems represented in their territories, the coverage obtained was not yet satisfactory, the Committee recommended that the countries give special attention to this matter toward the end that the country reports presented to the Fifth Session of the Committee might make it possible to lay the foundations for the Latin American system of national parks and other protected areas.

(vi) Considering the great length of the region's coastal belts and the vastness of its moist tropical forests, which was probably why the necessary measures to safeguard them had not yet been taken, the Committee, in view of the threat of severe deterioration that loomed over these ecosystems, recommended to the countries that they give highest priority to the establishment of national parks and other protected areas to ensure the conservation of these highly important ecosystems.

(vii) Bearing in mind that many highly interesting ecosystems straddle frontiers and that their protection or that of given species is dependent on close coordination conducive to consistent management, the Committee repeated its recommendation that in such cases frontier national parks and other protected areas be established in which the countries concert their administrative and management policies, expressed its satisfaction with the initiatives taken in this direction by Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela to conserve the Amazonian biota, and by the Central American countries to

protect the threatened ecosystems in their region, and extended its wishes for the successful conclusion of the enterprises so begun.

(viii) Considering the importance for conservation of the "Washington Convention on International Trade in Threatened Species of Flora and Fauna", the Committee recommended to countries that had not yet ratified it to make every effort to do so as soon as possible.

(ix) Considering that the populations of the economically most valuable species in the region are still diminishing at an alarming rate despite the intensification of conservation programmes, and bearing in mind the remarkable success obtained in some countries from intensive management, including the establishment of breeding areas, the Committee recommended that the countries promote the development of intensive management and breeding grounds for the wildlife species most seriously threatened because of their high economic value, with the particular object of contributing to the social development of the local human population, and suggested that special attention be given to primates, crocodiles and capybaras as well as to game species.

(x) Considering the impossibility of ensuring the conservation of certain wildlife species, particularly migratory birds, in the absence of harmonisation of the wildlife legislations of the several countries, and of close coordination in the application of these laws and in control measures, the Committee recommended that the countries establish the necessary contacts with countries on their borders or in the area, on which the protection of certain species depended, with a view to arriving at agreements for harmonizing these laws and their respective application and control measures.

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE

FOURTH SESSION

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Election of Officers
3. National parks and other protected areas in Latin America: present situation and prospects
4. Conservation and development of natural environments
5. Wildlife in Latin America: present situation and prospects
6. Future programme of work
7. Other business
8. Adoption of report

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE

FOURTH SESSION

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

<u>Item of Agenda</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Title</u>
1	FO:LAFW/NPW-76/1	Provisional agenda
3	FO:LAFW/NPW-76/2	National parks and related areas: present situation and trends in Latin America
4	FO:LAFW/NPW-76/3	Wildlife, a natural resource in Latin America: present situation and trends
6	FO:LAFW/NPW-76/5	A methodology for wildland and national park planning

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