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17-19 November 2021

REPORT

North American Forest Commission

Thirty-first Session

REPORT

of the

THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

of the

NORTH AMERICAN FOREST COMMISSION

**Mexico
17-19 November 2021**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rome, 2021

PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION

First session	Mexico, D.F., Mexico	24-29 July 1961
Second session	Ottawa, Canada	17-22 July 1963
Third session	Washington, D.C., USA	18-22 October 1965
Fourth session	Mexico, D.F., Mexico	2-7 October 1967
Fifth session	Ottawa, Canada	15-20 September 1969
Sixth session	Washington, D.C., USA	27-31 March 1972
Seventh session	Mexico, D.F., Mexico	4-8 February 1974
Eighth session	Ottawa, Canada	23-27 February 1976
Ninth session	San Juan, Puerto Rico, USA	13-17 February 1978
Tenth session	Pátzcuaro, Mich., Mexico	18-22 February 1980
Eleventh session	Victoria, B.C., Canada	16-19 February 1982
Twelfth session	El Paso, Texas, USA	21-24 February 1984
Thirteenth session	Chetumal, Quintana Roo, Mexico	3-7 February 1986
Fourteenth session	Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada	14-17 October 1987
Fifteenth session	San Diego, California, USA	6-9 February 1990
Sixteenth session	Cancun, Mexico	10-14 February 1992
Seventeenth session	Jasper (Alberta), Canada	26-30 September 1994
Eighteenth session	Asheville (North Carolina), USA	18-22 November 1996
Nineteenth session	Villahermosa, Mexico	16-20 November 1998
Twentieth session	St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada	12-16 June 2000
Twenty-first session	Kailua-Kona, Hawai, USA	22-26 October 2002
Twenty-second session	Veracruz, Mexico	25-28 October 2004
Twenty-third session	Vancouver, Canada	23-24 October 2006
Twenty-fourth session	San Juan, Puerto Rico, USA	9-13 June 2008
Twenty-fifth session	Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico	3-7 May 2010
Twenty-sixth session	Quebec City, Quebec, Canada	8-9 May 2012
Twenty-seventh session	Madison, Wisconsin, USA	11-13 June 2014
Twenty-eighth session	Campeche, Mexico	11-14 January 2016
Twenty-ninth session	Edmonton, Alberta, Canada	19-21 September 2017
Thirtieth session	Missoula, Montana, USA	9-12 September 2019

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OPENING OF THE SESSION (Item 1)

1. The Thirty-first Session of the North American Forest Commission (NAFC) was hosted online by Mexico, from 17 to 19 November 2021. The session was attended by participants from the three member countries of the Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization United Nations (FAO) and observers. The agenda of the session is attached as *Annex A*, the list of participants as *Annex B*, and the list of documents submitted for consideration by the Commission as *Annex C*.

2. Mr Luis Meneses Murillo, Chairperson of NAFC, welcomed participants on behalf of the host country and opened the session. Ms Mette Wilkie, Director, Forestry Division, delivered opening remarks on behalf of Qu Dongyu, Director-General of FAO. H.E. María Luisa Albores Gonzalez, Mexico's Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, welcomed the session in a video message.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Item 2)

3. The Agenda was adopted as presented.

COUNTRY REPORTS (Item 3)

Canada (Items 3.1)

4. Canada's Commissioner, Beth MacNeil, expressed her gratitude to Mexico's National Forestry Commission for hosting the meeting and highlighted the Natural Resources Canada's Canadian Forest Service (NRCan-CFS) priorities and leadership in Sustainable Forest Management through nature-based climate solutions.

5. The CFS is a science-based organization, with a strong policy and programme presence, working with many partners/stakeholders, both nationally and internationally – such as through the NAFC – to advance these priorities. The CFS' vision is to promote a resilient, innovative, and competitive forest sector rooted in sustainable forests. Strategic priorities that help achieve this vision include: advancing science relating to climate change and wildfire, supporting forest sector competitiveness, optimizing forest value, and advancing environmental leadership.

6. Commissioner MacNeil noted CFS' horizontal and collaborative support for the forest sector. From basic research to solution deployment, CFS programmes and expertise provide partners and stakeholders diverse opportunities to advance innovation, transformation and growth. She further noted forest sector challenges, mentioning Canada's response to COVID-19 (whereby forestry was deemed an essential service), and pests such as the ongoing mountain pine beetle infestation. The Commissioner thanked Mexico for its support during the 2021 wildland fire season, during which time 202 Mexican firefighters were deployed to Canada.

7. Commissioner MacNeil concluded with a focus on Canada's 2 Billion Tree program being rolled out as part of the country's approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change through nature-based solutions. Her presentation is available on the FAO website.

United States of America (Items 3.2)

8. Associate Chief Angela Coleman, representing Commissioner Randy Moore, Chief of US Forest Service (USFS), provided a brief overview of forest conditions in the United States. The USFS has a robust Research and Development mission area, and its researchers regularly assess forest conditions. Forested watersheds, timber, non-wood products, bioenergy and urban forests providing a range of important ecosystems services, play an important role in the U.S. economy. Forest fragmentation and nonnative invasive species, however, threaten forests and habitats for native species in many parts of the United

States. Disturbances such as insects, diseases and wildfires affect about 3 percent of the nation's forests each year, and these are among the biggest forest threats. Average annual forest mortality nearly doubled from 2006 to 2016 due to wildfires, drought, and insect infestations.

9. The USFS' five national priorities are pandemic relief, economic recovery, climate change, racial equity and environmental justice, and improving the workforce and workplace environment. Associate Chief Coleman noted several initiatives under these five priorities including the Forest Service Climate Adaptation Plan and Climate Scorecard to help identify climate-related risks and potential actions on national forests, as well as the Wood Innovations Program and the Community Wood Grant Program, that go to minority-owned and women-owned businesses as well as to Tribal projects supporting wood products and wood energy market development, among others.

10. The USFS is preparing a 10-year framework for reducing wildfire risk that will increase fuel and forest health treatments by up to four times over the current treatment levels in the West. To reduce wildfire risk, it will be necessary to thin overgrown forests at the right scale and then reintroduce fire to fire-adapted landscapes at a far greater scale than ever before. Associate Chief Coleman thanked Canada and Mexico for sending firefighting crews in 2020 and 2021 to the U.S. to support suppression efforts.

Mexico (Items 3.3)

11. Commissioner Luis Meneses Murillo, Director General of the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR), presented an overview of the national forest sector, emphasizing the social and environmental aspects of Mexico's forest policy, highlighting the programs implemented by CONAFOR. The presentation is available on the NAFC website.

12. He emphasized that Mexico's current forest policy focuses on promoting justice and social and economic change in favor of the people, with specialized guidance and close support to ejidos, communities and indigenous peoples, and small landowners, or those who live in these territories.

13. Mexico prioritizes the social approach in its programs and actions, in this sense, CONAFOR seeks to halt and reverse deforestation processes to preserve biodiversity and mitigate climate change, with emphasis on generating economic benefits and better living standards for the inhabitants of forest communities. To this end, CONAFOR provides support, via subsidies, through 5 components: community forest management and value chains; commercial forest plantations and agroforestry systems; forest restoration of micro-watersheds and strategic regions; environmental services; and forest protection.

14. Lastly, Commissioner Murillo referred to Mexico's National Strategy for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (ENAREDD+) 2017-2030, which promotes integrated land management and low-carbon sustainable rural development through coordinated actions between different sectors and levels of government.

FAO (Item 3.4)

15. The secretariat informed the Commission about key development in FAO and Forestry, including key outcomes of 25th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and the endorsement of the Committee's report by the FAO Council and Conference; main outcomes and decisions of the 42nd Session of the Conference including the Medium-Term Plan 2022-2025 and the FAO Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23; the new strategic framework and in particular the Four Betters (Better Production, Better Nutrition, Better Environment, Better Life) and the related 20 Priority Programme Areas.

16. The secretariat also informed about FAO's signature programmes: digitalization, One Country One Primary Product and the Hand in Hand Initiative. Forestry's signature programmes include the "Turning the tide on deforestation" initiative and the implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. In order to enable enhanced implementation and remain responsive to the emerging tasks, the Forestry

Division is going through a “fit for purpose” exercise to align its internal structure and working modalities with the new framework.

17. FAO also provided a complete report on the activities undertaken in response to the decisions of the 30th Session of NAFC. The activities are described in detail in document FO: NAFC/2021/2.

REPORT OF THE BUREAU OF ALTERNATES (Item 4)

18. The report (FO:NAFC/2021/3) is available on the FAO website.

19. The Commission welcomed the report and noted the useful role of the Bureau of Alternates (BoA) in the intersessional work of NAFC, as well as in supporting preparations for NAFC meetings, in processing funding requests from Working Groups, and in working to address the Commission's recommendations, especially those related to new areas of collaboration on illegal logging, and gender inclusion and equity.

REVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING GROUPS (Item 5)

5.1 Climate, Atmospheric Change and Forests

20. The Commission welcomed the report (FO:NAFC/2021/4.1) and commended the Working Group for its activities.

21. Members of the Working Group collaborate through other initiatives such as the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) and through various unilateral funding sources from each country and utilize the NAFC as a framework under which the coordination is done among the member countries.

22. Members of the Working Group participated in the research and publication of a trilateral synthesis comparing greenhouse gas emissions under different forest types and management and mitigation scenarios. The working group would like to continue and expand this work and is actively seeking funding for these efforts. The Commission expressed support for the work and requested additional information be shared with the BoA for consideration regarding the funding request.

5.2 Fire Management

23. The Commission took note with appreciation of document FO:NAFC/2021/4.2 and commended the Working Group for its activities.

24. The Working Group continues to actively support and participate in international programs with fire management agencies throughout the world by developing and promoting activities that support international cooperation and development, and promote and demonstrate equity, diversity and inclusion.

25. The Working Group noted the development of the trilateral fire danger map that is now available on the three agencies' fire-related websites. The three countries continue to work bilaterally to provide firefighters and other support as needed during the fire seasons; the Canada-Mexico Operation Plan is signed and the Mexico-US plan is currently under review. The various study tours and regional exchanges between Commissions have been and are being held virtually due to COVID-19.

5.3 Forest Genetic Resources

25. The Commission welcome the report (FO:NAFC/2021/4.3) and congratulated the Working Group for its activities.

26. The Working Group has advanced with several activities; the Seedlot Selection Tool is now available for all three countries (a version in Spanish is being translated), and a paper summarizing case studies from Canada and Mexico on field assisted migration trials was published, among other activities. The Working Group presented a brief video highlighting the assisted migration study and is seeking funding to continue this research. The Commission expressed support for the work to continue and requested additional information be shared with the BoA for consideration from the Working Group regarding the funding required, for consideration by the BoA.

27. The Working Group continues its commitment to train Mexican students and forest technicians, and plans to explore new possibilities for training include Mexican exchanges with Canada/US institutions.

5.4 Forest Inventory, Monitoring, and Assessment

28. The Commission took note with appreciation of document FO:NAFC/2021/4.4 and commended the Working Group for its activities.

29. The Working Group welcomed new members from the US, and more recently, a new chair, M. Rick Cooksey, USFS. The report highlighted disruptions in its activities due to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including international travel restrictions implemented by several countries in March 2020, which forced the cancellation of a multi-agency knowledge and technology transfer workshop on early detection and rapid response to gypsy moth, a plant pest of concern to the three member countries.

30. Over the next two years, the working group will revisit its strategic plan and will focus on updating a long-standing NAFC publication on insects and disease of concern to Canada, Mexico and United States, as well as on enhanced forest health monitoring.

31. The WG recommended that the NAFC considers reviewing the scope (i.e. focusing strictly on insects and diseases). The BoA was tasked to discuss the issue during its next call.

5.5 Forest Insects and Diseases and Invasive Plants

32. The Commission welcomed document FO:NAFC/2021/4.5 and the activities of the Working Group.

33. The Working Group informed that although in-person activities have not taken place since 2019, virtual meetings have been held to share information regarding national forest inventories and the effects of COVID-19. The Working Group reported the work done on primary forests assessments, on which two virtual meetings were organized, and presented the North American Forest Database as its most emblematic activity.

34. Over the next year, the Working Group will carry out two in-person meetings and four virtual meetings to follow up on activities regarding the release on the book on national forest inventories in Latin America, expert consultations on FRA 2025, primary forest assessments, and the phase two of the North American Forest Database.

35. The Working Group would like to hire the services of a specialist to support a pilot study on primary forests coordinated by FAO, for so, funds were requested for consideration. The BoA was tasked to consider the request.

5.6 Silviculture

36. The Commission took note with appreciation of document FO:NAFC/2021/4.6 and commended the Working Group for its activities.

37. The Working Group informed that membership has been significantly changed this year, because of the retirement of many long-time collaborators. Building new relationships among the members will be the first priority.

38. The Working Group has resumed communication in order to facilitate knowledge exchange on silviculture science, practices and policies between Mexico, USA and Canada, to foster networking among managers and specialists by supporting knowledge exchange projects between the three countries.

39. The Working Group proposed a new project to create a prototype of a web-based database and interface for the new version of the Silvics of North America in English, French and Spanish, and adapt them more to current needs from the forest sector with regards to current issues such as adaptation to climate change. Funding is needed to hire forestry students to populate the prototype database. This project is a stepping-stone for a larger project, aka. "The revision of the Silvics of North America (SNA)", which is a fundamental reference document to support silviculture practice and research, in particular in the context of adaptation to climate change. The current version of the SNA has been largely used in Canada and USA since its publication in 1990. The revision of the document would require the input from experts from different fields; the SWG noted the potential to collaborate with other NAFC working groups to support the revision of this document. The BoA will consider the request for funding of USD 15 000.

5.7 Urban Forests

40. The Commission took note with appreciation of the report FO:NAFC/2021/4.7 and commended the Working Group for its activities.

41. The Working Group informed that four meetings were held, in which representatives of Mexico's urban forests in Guadalajara, Mexico City and Monterrey, shared information and experiences related to the management of the urban forest and its contributions to the population living in those cities. The use of the iTree Eco System to provide more accurate information on the contribution of urban forests in Mexico was highlighted as a major impact of the Working Group.

42. Commissioners highlighted the relevance of this group as an example of how dynamic NAFC's work can be and welcomed the achievements of this relatively young Working Group. They encouraged the group to continue working on the connection between urban forests, human health, and social justice. They also noted the importance of the topic within and beyond the region suggesting also this being a topic for COFO's consideration.

5.8 BoA Recommendation on the North American Forest Communicators Network

43. The Forest Communicator Network is aimed at promoting best practices in forest communication and implementing effective communication campaigns. Since 2018, there has been a formal network in each of the FAO regions, but the network in North America has become quite inactive. Mexico offered to take the lead to re-convene a NAFC Communicators Network.

44. The Commission welcomed the recommendation of the Bureau of Alternates to relaunch the Forest Communicators Network, which could offer a great opportunity to improve communication, especially in terms of forest management and science. It was agreed to hold a trilateral meeting in 2022, under the leadership of Mexico, to resume the discussions previously held, and to define the scope of this collaboration. The results should be brought to the attention of the BoA for decision.

5.9 Way Forward on Illegal Logging

45. Mexico presented the results of the illegal logging webinar series. The 30th Session of NAFC identified the topic of illegal logging as shared interest of the Members and requested the areas of collaboration under NAFC to be reviewed. Over the past year, the countries held three webinars and a BoA meeting on different aspects of illegal logging, including individual country contexts and challenges,

innovative tools and technologies to combat illegal logging, and inter-agency collaboration. The BoA met on November 8th to review the outcomes of the webinars and identify areas for future collaboration.

46. Given the shared interest in this topic, the Commission recommended the formation of an ad hoc Illegal Logging Working Group to continue research collaboration and information sharing. The Commission requested that the BoA take the lead on establishing this working group, including requesting that each country identify potential members, and ensuring that a working group meeting is held to develop and formalize the group charter and work plan.

5.10 Emerging Areas of Work

47. Members noted that the Commission has several new areas of work underway including the formation of an ad hoc illegal logging working group, the re-development of a forest communicators network, the incorporation of gender and equity issues into all of the working groups, and the development of a new website and file sharing system, and not recommended further activities at this stage.

IN-SESSION SEMINAR: FORESTS AS NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE (Item 6)

48. An in-session seminar entitled “Forests as nature-based solutions to climate change”, was held within the framework of NAFC. It was moderated by Enrique Serrano Gálvez, Director of the Forestry Sciences Division of the Autonomous University of Chapingo, in which 3 experts participated, Anne-Hélène Mathey, Executive Director of Natural Climate Solutions of CFS; Christian Anton Wehenkel, Research Professor at the Institute of Forestry and Wood Industry at the Universidad Juárez del Estado de Durango; and Mary Ann Fajvan, Researcher at the Northern Research Station of the USFS. They made presentations on “Canada's National Call to Action: Planting 2 Billion Trees as a Natural Climate Solution”; “Adaptive Forestry: A New Approach for Mexico”; and “Responsible Forestry is Better than Nature”, respectively.

FAO GOVERNANCE ITEMS (Item 7)

7.1 Overview of Major Global Processes and Events

49. The secretariat presented document FO: NAFC/2021/5.1. The presentation is available on the Commission's website.

50. Canada noted recent high-level political dialogues and commitments on forests (FACT Dialogue, COP26 Forest and Land Use event, the Nature Compact and others) were welcomed, but also expressed concern over multiple complimentary forest related initiatives diluting global efforts. FAOs unique structure brings forests and agriculture together, and in that regard Canada appreciated the attention FAO has given to halting deforestation and forest degradation through closer collaboration with agriculture. FAO will prepare a paper for both COFO and COAG on drivers of deforestation, potential existing solutions and on synergies within agri-food systems.

51. The Commission welcomed:

- the topical focus of FAO's flagship publication “The State of the World's Forests” 2022, titled “Forestry and Green Recovery, Building Inclusive and Sustainable Green Economies”;
- FAO's efforts in mainstreaming forest-related issues into the preparations of the UN Food Systems Summit and its Pre-Summit;
- the developments under the UN Secretary-General's Initiative on Turning the Tide on Deforestation;
- the themes of the International Day of Forests 2022 and 2023.

The Commission requested FAO to:

- promote SOFO 2022 within and outside of the forest sector;
- take an active part in advancing the UN Secretary-General's Initiative on Turning the Tide on Deforestation and related activities;
- continue to take an active role as the Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and through this enhance advocacy on forests through relevant global processes and initiatives.

7.2 Regional analysis of FRA2020

52. The secretariat presented the document FO:NAFC/2021/5.2.

53. The Commission commended FAO for the improvements in the FRA platform and welcomed ongoing investment in data management tool enhancements enabling further improvements to data quality, completeness, findability, accessibility, interoperability and reusability. The collaboration and coordination with the Inventory and Monitoring Working Group was noted as an excellent way for the region to support global efforts, including by hosting two international expert workshops on improving primary forest reporting and piloting primary forest reporting improvements in the region and the pan-boreal biome.

54. The Commission invited Members to:

- continue their active participation in the FRA process through in-kind contributions to the work on improved reporting on primary forests and other forest characteristics;
- collaborate with FAO and partner institutions to further improve the FRA process and its data collection, analysis and dissemination processes;
- participate actively, including through the NAFC Working Group on Forest Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment, in the preparation of the next reporting cycle, FRA 2025.

55. The Commission requested FAO to:

- continue improving the FRA platform to support easy and transparent reporting on forest resources, their management and uses;
- continue the work on improved reporting on primary forests and report the first results of the work in the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO);
- complete the FRA Remote Sensing Survey and continue capacity development on remote sensing;
- provide increased clarity to members on how estimates of forest area and forest area changes using global FAO Remote Sensing Survey will be compared or reconciled with reported country data, especially in cases where data discrepancies exist; and how FAO will guide users on interpreting these differences;
- support policy analyses and outlooks on sustainable management of forests, trees and rangelands in the region;
- continue to report and improve data on manufacturing and employment in the forest sector, and possibly expand to report on the full value of employment in forestry and logging, pulp and paper manufacturing, and wood product manufacturing rather than limit forestry-related employment to those jobs located directly on forest land.

7.3 Input to FAO Governance

56. The secretariat presented document FO: NAFC/2019/5.3.

57. The Commission suggested to bring to the attention of the Informal Regional Conference that the global goal of zero-net GHG emissions, as well as the success of many of the SDGs depend considerable on having more forests, and healthier, more productive forests. Since agriculture is the biggest driver of deforestation globally, FAO should continue and increase work on cross-sectoral collaboration. Enhanced cross-sectoral integration of forests with food security is crucial to increase the perceived value of forests,

halt deforestation and reach net-zero.

58. The Commission:

- developed its recommendations for the COFO agenda and the programme priorities for FAO, as shown in Annexes 1 and 2;
- requested the Secretariat to share these recommendations with other Commissions as well as the secretariats of the Informal Regional Conference and COFO;
- considered ways to further enhance the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the Regional Forestry Commissions and other FAO Statutory Bodies including ensuring that COAG and COFO consider the same background papers relating to deforestation from agriculture; and that representative(s) from both division are present at the sessions to foster cross-sectoral dialogue on the issue;
- invited the Chairperson of the Informal Regional Conference to give adequate attention to the recommendations of the Commission in the agenda of the Conference;
- welcomed the preparations for the XV World Forestry Congress, supported the theme and agreed with the areas of focus reflected in the six sub-themes, and recommended collaboration with relevant global processes and instruments and to create synergies to implement the Congress' outcomes;
- invited countries to support the XV World Forestry Congress by encouraging and facilitating good attendance; and countries in a position to do so, by providing financial support to the Congress to enable balanced participation.

FORESTRY ACTIVITIES / EVENTS OF INTEREST TO THE REGION (Item 8)

59. The U.S. informed that the third annual The Nature of Cities (TNOC) festival will take place virtually on 29-31 March 2022. This festival bridges science, art, stories, skills around urban ecology – from social to environmental dimensions. Thousands of people will attend the virtual event, which will run for 24 hours the whole week. 70. Canada noted that after careful consideration, the Wildland Fire Canada Conference (WFCC) has been postponed to the Fall of 2022 and will be held in Edmonton, Alberta from 31 October to 4 November 2022. This biennial conference focuses on wildland fire management, ecology, and science. The Wildland Fire Canada Conference (WFCC) brings together wildland fire management agencies, partners, and collaborators in Canada and around the world. The upcoming conference will focus on the diversity of fire-prone environments that bring a unique perspective to wildland fire challenges and opportunities.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Item 9)

60. The following officers were elected by the Commission to hold office till the conclusion of the 32nd Session:

Chairperson: Beth MacNeil (Canada)
 First Vice-Chairperson: Randy Moore (USA)
 Second Vice-Chairperson: Luis Meneses Murillo (Mexico)

61. Bureau of Alternates positions were reaffirmed as follows:

Canada (Chairperson): Jeff Biggs
 United States of America: Val Mezainis
 Mexico: Camilo Ovideo Bautista

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION (Item 10)

62. Canada offered to host the 32nd Session of the Commission. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer to host the next meeting.

63. The Commission charged the BoA and the secretariat with advising the NAFC on a precise date and location of the 32nd Session.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (Item 11)

64. A task team was established with a representative of each country and FAO to draft the session's report and submit it for review and eventual adoption by the Commissioners after the session.

CLOSING CEREMONY (Item 12)

65. The Commission thanked Commissioner Luis Meneses Murillo for the excellent chairing of the session and expressed its appreciation to the Government of Mexico and its staff involved, for their great organization of the 31st Session.

Annex 1

NAFC recommendations for the COFO Agenda

<i>Priority issues for COFO to consider</i>	<i>Expected outcome (information/discussion/decision)</i>	<i>Possible follow up activities for COFO and FAO</i>	<i>RFC</i>
Strengthening Fire management and suppression capacity in countries, in particular cross-regional training within and between different regions	Discussion/decision	Inclusion in the PWB	
Urban Forestry – in particular urban forests’ role in helping communities resiliency to climate change	Discussion/decision		
Environmental justice – how are countries addressing environmental programming and services to historically underserved or vulnerable communities	Information/discussion		
Avoided Deforestation from Agriculture	Discussion/decision	Discussion at COAG	
Deforestation-free agricultural value chains	Discussion/decision		

Annex 2

NAFC Recommendations for the FAO programme of work priorities in forestry

NAFC recommendations for the FAO Programme of Work in Forestry (related to the agenda of the current session)				
<i>Area/ action for FAO programme of work</i>	<i>Priority (H, M, L, De-emphasis)</i>	<i>Type (new, continued)</i>	<i>Level of action (sub-regional/ regional./global)</i>	<i>GFGs</i>
Strengthening Fire management and suppression capacity in countries, in particular cross-regional training within and between different regions	High	continued	regional/global	1, 3
Urban Forestry – in particular urban forests’ role in helping communities resiliency to climate change	High	continued	regional/global	3, 5, 6
Environmental justice – how are countries addressing environmental programming and services to historically underserved or vulnerable communities	High	new	regional/global	2, 4, 5, 6
Avoided Deforestation from Agriculture – in particular cross-sectoral dialogue between COAG and COFO	High	continued	global	1, 5, 6
Continued work to help countries build capacity with forest monitoring and inventory, including increasing their ability to report to FRA	High	continued	regional/global	4
Sustainable use of forest products	High	continued	regional/global	2, 3
Forest restoration and afforestation	High	continued	regional/global	1, 3

ANNEX A**AGENDA**

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Country Reports
 - 3.1 Canada
 - 3.2 USA
 - 3.3 Mexico
 - 3.4 FAO
4. Report of the Bureau of Alternates (BoA)
5. Review of the Activities of the Working Groups
 - 5.1 Climate, Atmospheric Change and Forests
 - 5.2 Fire Management
 - 5.3 Forest Genetic Resources
 - 5.4 Forest Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment
 - 5.5 Forest Insects and Diseases and Invasive Plants
 - 5.6 Silviculture
 - 5.7 Resiliency (ad hoc)
 - 5.8 BoA Recommendation on the North American Forest Communicators Network
 - 5.9 Way Forward on Illegal Logging
 - 5.10 Emerging Areas of Work
6. In-Session Seminar: Forests as Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Change
7. FAO Governance Items
 - 7.1 Overview of Major Global Processes and Events
 - 7.2 Regional Analysis of FRA2020
 - 7.3 Input to FAO Governance
8. Forestry Activities / Events of Interest to the Region

9. Election of Officers
10. Date and place of the next session
11. Adoption of the Report
12. Closing ceremony

ANNEX B**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****CANADA**

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ANNEX C**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

FO:NAFC/2021/1	Provisional Agenda
FO:NAFC/2021/2	Progress in Implementing Previous Decisions of the Commission
FO:NAFC/2021/3	Report of the Bureau of Alternates
FO:NAFC/2021/4.1	Climate, Atmospheric Change and Forests Working Group Report
FO:NAFC/2021/4.2	Report of the Fire Management Working Group
FO:NAFC/2021/4.3	Report of the Forest Genetic Resources Working Group
FO:NAFC/2021/4.4	Report of the Forest Insects and Diseases and Invasive Plants Working Group
FO:NAFC/2021/4.5	Report of the Forest Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment Working Group
FO:NAFC/2021/4.6	Report of the Silviculture Working Group
FO:NAFC/2021/4.7	Report of the Urban Forest Programs Working
FO:NAFC/2021/5.1	Overview of Major Global Processes and Events
FO:NAFC/2021/5.2	FRA2020 Experience, Regional Key Findings and the Way Forwards
FO:NAFC/2021/5.3	Input to FAO Governance
FO:NAFC/2021/Inf.1	Provisional Timetable
FO:NAFC/2021/Inf.2	List of Documents
FO:NAFC/2021/Inf.3	Information note for participants
Miscellaneous documents	International Conference on Forest Education Informal Note

ANNEX D

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