



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная  
организация  
Объединенных  
Наций

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## NORTH AMERICAN FOREST COMMISSION

### TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, 3 – 7 May 2010

## XIII WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS: OUTCOME

1. The XIII World Forestry Congress, co-organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Government of Argentina, took place from 18 to 23 October 2009 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
2. More than 7000 participants from 160 nations attended, representing international organizations, governments, academia, students, private sector and civil society. The theme of the congress was “Forests in Development: A Vital Balance” and topics discussed included:
  - forests and biodiversity;
  - producing for development;
  - forests in the service of people;
  - caring for our forests;
  - development opportunities;
  - organizing forest development; and
  - people and forests in harmony.
3. In addition to 60 technical sessions, two roundtables were organized. One on forests and energy addressed current technologies for bioenergy production, the social and environmental impact of bioenergy production and bioenergy policies and measures. The other focused on forests and climate change, including aspects related to land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF), impacts on forests and people, the challenges and opportunities associated with Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) and REDD initiatives for early action.
4. Altogether, some 130 side events were organized; two special events aimed at strengthening global business networks and forest industry clusters; and seven poster sessions with more than 600 posters.

5. The Final Declaration of the Congress proposed 27 strategic actions, including:
  - a call for the forestry community to play a greater role in social and political discussions;
  - an increased emphasis on the multifunctional role of forests;
  - generation of new types of financing for forest management;
  - more and improved inter-sectoral discussions;
  - more attention to the rehabilitation of degraded forests areas, management of secondary forests and fragile ecosystems and reforestation; and
  - improvement of governance and the creation of the political and institutional conditions for effective forest management, with an emphasis on land ownership and sustainable production and trade.
  
6. The Congress also finalized a message to convey to the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Copenhagen, Denmark, December 2009, which stated that the Congress “notes with concern the impacts of climate change on forests and strongly emphasises the important role forests play in climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as the need for forest-dependent people and forest ecosystems to adapt to this challenge”. It also emphasised the need for sustainable forest management and the contribution that this can make not only to preventing deforestation and forest degradation but also to combating poverty. The point of this was to note that forests represent far more than just carbon sequestration (a fact that is sometimes forgotten in the context of climate change discussions).
  
7. During the closing plenary session of the Congress, India and South Africa indicated their intention to offer to host the XIV WFC. The Assistant-Director General, FAO, informed countries that they should formally confirm their interest in hosting this event at the next session of the FAO Committee on Forestry which will take place in Rome, Italy, from 4-8 October 2010.