



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
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 6.2 of the Provisional Agenda

Sixteenth Regular Session

Rome, 30 January - 3 February 2017

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Paragraphs
I. Introduction.....	1 - 4
II. Follow-up to the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources	5 - 22
III. Integration of forest genetic resources within the FAO Forestry Programme	23 - 24
IV. Guidance sought.....	25
<i>Appendix A: Voluntary guidelines for preparing a national strategy for forest genetic resources - Draft outline</i>	

*This document can be accessed using the Quick Response Code on this page;
an FAO initiative to minimize its environmental impact and promote greener communications.
Other documents can be consulted at www.fao.org*



mr415

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In response to the first report on *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*¹, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Commission), at its Fourteenth Regular Session in April 2013, considered draft strategic priorities for action on forest genetic resources and agreed on them as the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources* (Global Plan of Action).² Subsequently, the FAO Conference, at its Twenty-eighth Session in June 2013, adopted the Global Plan of Action.³
2. At its Fifteenth Regular Session, the Commission adopted its *Strategy for the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources*⁴ (the Strategy). The Strategy aims to identify tools and mechanisms through which the Commission can support and strengthen the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.
3. The Commission also called upon countries to implement the Global Plan of Action and to assist others in this endeavour. It further also requested FAO to assist in the mobilization of funds and appealed to donors to make funding available. The Commission also requested FAO to continue integrating forest genetic resources within its Forestry Programme and requested its Secretary to report to the Commission on this matter.
4. This document summarizes the activities undertaken by FAO in cooperation with its partners since the Fifteenth Regular Session of the Commission in the areas identified by the Strategy. It also provides information on the integration of forest genetic resources within the FAO Forestry Programme.

II. FOLLOW-UP TO THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES

Advocacy and international awareness

5. As requested by the Commission at its Fifteenth Regular Session⁵, FAO has made available on its website country reports prepared for the report on *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*⁶. The summaries and main conclusions of seven expert-led thematic studies were published in a special issue of *Forest Ecology and Management*⁷. This special issue was prepared in collaboration with Bioversity International, the World Agroforestry Centre and a total of 54 experts from around the world. FAO also published, in collaboration with Bioversity International, a thematic study on the role of forest genetic resources in ecosystem restoration⁸ and is currently finalizing another four thematic studies⁹ for publication.
6. FAO continued its efforts to increase international awareness of the Global Plan of Action and of the importance of forest genetic resources. In May 2015, the Brazilian Agricultural Research Institute for Forests (EMBRAPA Florestas) and FAO organized an International Symposium on Forest

¹ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3825e.pdf>

² CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 52.

³ C 2013/REP, paragraph 77.

⁴ CGRFA-15/15/Report, *Appendix E*.

⁵ CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 44.

⁶ Country Reports, <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3825e/i3825e01.htm>

⁷ Global Forest Genetic Resources: Taking Stock (special issue of *Forest Ecology and Management*) (open access). <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/03781127/333>

⁸ Bozzano et al. (eds) 2014. Genetic considerations in ecosystem restoration using native tree species.

<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3938e.pdf>

⁹ Gradual et al., Indicators of forest genetic diversity, erosion and vulnerability; Alfaro et al., Role of forest genetic resources in adaptation to biotic and abiotic factors in a changing climate; Dawson et al., The value of trees and tree genetic resources for the livelihoods of rural communities in the tropics; Ratnam et al., Effects of management practices on forest genetic diversity.

Biotechnology for Smallholders in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil. Bioversity International and FAO also organized a side event on forest genetic resources at the XIV World Forestry Congress, held in Durban, South Africa in September 2015. In addition, a World Café session was held during the XIV World Forestry Congress focusing on building resilience with forest genetic resources. In October 2015, FAO briefed the Annual Meeting of the OECD Scheme on Forest Seed and Plant on the Global Plan of Action and organized in Prague, in collaboration with the Czech Republic, a workshop on forest policy and forest genetic resources for selected Eastern European and Central Asian countries. Furthermore, FAO organized an international symposium on agricultural biotechnologies in Rome in February 2016 and the topics of this symposium also included forest genetic resources. FAO will continue, together with its partners, contributing to this type of awareness-raising activities, subject to the availability of financial resources.

Development and support of relevant global and regional networks

7. Regional networks on forest genetic resources play an important role in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. These networks have been established in different parts of the world as platforms for regional collaboration on forest genetic resources and they made significant contributions to the report on *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*. The networks include the Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN), the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN), the Latin America Forest Genetic Resources Network (LAFORGEN) and the Sub-Saharan Africa Forest Genetic Resources Programme (SAFORGEN). Furthermore, regional collaboration of forest genetic resources is also taking place under the aegis of the Pacific Community and the FAO North American Forest Commission.

8. During the reporting period, FAO continued collaborating with these networks and contributed to strengthening them. In December 2015, FAO provided inputs to a planning workshop for the establishment of a regional training centre on forest genetic resources in China under the umbrella of APFORGEN. The workshop, held in Binzhou City, was organized by the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutes (APAFRI) and Bioversity International in collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Forestry and a private Chinese company working on tree breeding and ecological restoration. In April 2016, Bioversity International and FAO organized a regional workshop for the national coordinators of SAFORGEN in Douala, Cameroon. The workshop identified regional priorities for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action in Sub-Saharan Africa and also prepared a regional strategy for this purpose. Similar regional strategies were already prepared by APFORGEN and LAFORGEN in 2014. In Europe, EUFORGEN has identified regional priorities for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and developed a regional conservation strategy for forest genetic resources. Subject to the availability of the necessary financial resources, FAO will continue supporting the regional networks to strengthen their role in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

9. The Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (Working Group), at its Fourth Session, recommended that the Commission encourage countries to support, as appropriate, the regional networks on forest genetic resources and forest invasive species, and contribute to the activities of these networks to strengthen regional collaboration in these areas.

Supporting countries in the development of national and regional strategies for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action

10. The Strategy requests FAO to develop guidelines for the preparation of national forest programmes, as well as regional and national strategies and action plans for the conservation, sustainable use and development of forest genetic resources and, as appropriate, to develop synergies with other relevant instruments and strategies, such as national biodiversity strategies and action plans.¹⁰

¹⁰ CGRFA-15/15/Report, *Appendix E*, III.

11. However, FAO has already prepared guidelines for the preparation of national forest programmes (NFPs) and for the formulation of forest policy.¹¹ Furthermore, several regional networks on forest genetic resources have already developed regional strategies. Therefore, the guidelines to be developed should focus on the preparation of national strategies for forest genetic resources. Consequently, the draft outline prepared by FAO for consideration of the Working Group addresses the development of national strategies for forest genetic resources.¹² The proposed guidelines would support the integration of forest genetic resources into NFPs and other relevant instruments and strategies.

12. The Working Group, at its Fourth Session, recommended that the Commission request FAO to prepare draft *Voluntary guidelines for preparing a national strategy for forest genetic resources* (Voluntary Guidelines) in line with the outline contained in *Appendix A* to this document, and taking into account existing guidelines for the preparation of NFPs and for the formulation of forest policy. The Working Group noted that the Voluntary Guidelines should encourage the full involvement of stakeholders and relevant organizations in the preparation and implementation of national strategies, and that they should also emphasize the need to take existing national policies and strategies as well as national circumstances into account.

Supporting countries in securing adequate and sustainable funding for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action

13. Strategic Priority 27 calls for assistance to countries and stakeholders to design appropriate programmes for the conservation, sustainable use and development of forest genetic resources and to secure adequate and sustainable funding. The Strategy requests FAO to collect, maintain and regularly update on its web site information on donor mandates, policies, eligibility criteria and procedures for submitting funding proposals for the conservation, sustainable use and development of forest genetic resources.

14. The establishment and running of a web portal providing the information identified by the Strategy would require substantial extra-budgetary resources, which are not available for the time being. However, FAO made efforts and will continue to mobilize extra-budgetary resources to support the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

Development of international technical standards for forest genetic resources and support to implement them

15. The Strategy requests FAO to strengthen collaboration with relevant partners and calls for further development of international technical standards, protocols and indicators for inventories of forest genetic resources and for the characterization and monitoring of trends and risks.¹³

16. The document, *Monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources*¹⁴, proposes targets and indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. Furthermore, the document provides information on the monitoring process and presents a draft schedule for monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. As monitoring activities should be closely integrated with the preparation of *The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* (Second Report) the proposed monitoring schedule also refers to key steps required for the preparation of the Second Report.

¹¹ FAO 1987. Guidelines for forest policy formulation. FAO Forestry Paper 81; FAO 2006. Understanding national forest programmes: Guidance for practitioners; FAO 2012. NFPs in practice: Ways to improve the implementation of national forest programmes; FAO 2010. Developing effective forest policy: A guide. FAO Forestry Paper 161.

¹² CGRFA/WG-FGR-4/16/5.

¹³ CGRFA-15/15/Report, *Appendix E.VI*.

¹⁴ CGRFA-16/17/20

17. In May 2016, FAO also organized an informal seminar during which examples of national inventories of forest genetic resources and related international efforts were presented. FAO will continue collaborating with relevant partners in this area and supporting countries in their efforts to improve inventories of forest genetic resources.

Funding strategy for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action

18. As the effective implementation of the Global Plan of Action depends, in particular in developing countries, on the availability of additional financial resources, the Strategy calls for the development of a funding strategy for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.¹⁵ Obviously, additional funds are needed at national, regional and international levels to ensure the successful translation of the strategic priorities of the Global Plan of Action into action. Securing adequate and sustainable funding, particularly for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, is crucial. FAO has explored the interest of different donors to support the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. However, to date no extra-budgetary funds have been received for this purpose.

19. FAO has provided, based on requests received from its member countries, financial support for field projects that focus, or include a component, on forest genetic resources through its decentralized Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). Such TCP projects are developed and implemented by the FAO country and regional offices, and they typically last two years with a budget ranging from USD200 000 to USD500 000. Recently, a TCP project was launched in Burundi to strengthen the national tree seed programme¹⁶. Additional projects that contribute to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action are being developed in several other countries. The development of such TCP projects is based on the identification of forest genetic resources by a country as a priority in the Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) which define the development priorities for collaboration between FAO and the Member.

20. FAO also explored options and modalities of a possible funding strategy and is currently analysing lessons learnt from existing funding strategies, e.g. the Funding Strategy for the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources and the Benefit-sharing Fund of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. FAO is also considering various existing forest-related funding mechanisms and institutions that take a more holistic view in supporting the development of the forest sector. Furthermore, FAO is investigating emerging and new funding instruments that could support countries' efforts to strengthen the management of their forest genetic resources.

21. At its Fourth Meeting, the Working Group recommended that the Commission request FAO to continue pursuing extra-budgetary funds and developing the funding strategy to support the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, and to encourage donors to provide support to its implementation.

Monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and the status and trends of forest genetic resources

22. Activities related to monitoring and reporting the implementation of the Global Plan of Action are summarized in the document, *Monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources*.¹⁷

III. INTEGRATION OF FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES WITHIN THE FAO FORESTRY PROGRAMME

23. As requested by the Commission at its Fifteenth Regular Session¹⁸, FAO has continued integrating forest genetic resources within its Forestry Programme. In the area of forest health, FAO

¹⁵ CGRFA-15/15?Report, Appendix E.VI.

¹⁶ TCP/BDI/3603 : Appui à l'amélioration de la base génétique forestière et agroforestière au Burundi

¹⁷ CGRFA-16/17/20

¹⁸ CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 48.

contributed to the work of regional networks dedicated to combat invasive species affecting forest genetic resources. In June 2015, FAO organized a regional seminar in Budapest, Hungary, for European and Central Asian countries to promote the implementation of phytosanitary standards in forestry. FAO also held in February 2016, in collaboration with the Asia Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN), a three-day workshop on the management of transboundary forest invasive species in Clark Freeport Zone, Philippines. Another training workshop on the insect pests of eucalypts and pines was held in Pretoria, South Africa in April 2016 in the context of the Forest Invasive Species Network for Africa (FISNA). Furthermore, FAO organized an inception meeting of the new Forest Invasive Species Network for Europe and Central Asia in Minsk, Belarus in September 2016 and a meeting of the Near East Forest Health and Invasive species Network (NENFHIS) in Tunis, Tunisia, in October 2016. FAO also held, in collaboration with the Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, a symposium on forest invasive species and a training workshop on identification, monitoring and management of bark beetles and palm pests in Haikou, China, in October 2016.

24. As part of its Dryland Forestry programme, FAO coordinated a country-driven process for the preparation of the *Global guidelines for the restoration of degraded forests and landscapes in drylands: building resilience and sustainable livelihoods*. The English version of the guidelines¹⁹ was launched in October 2015 and the French version²⁰ in November 2016. Through the workshops and events that led to the compilation and validation of these guidelines and their dissemination, FAO supported capacity development of stakeholders to promote the use of native tree species and their genetic resources for restoration in drylands. Furthermore, under the framework of the Action Against Desertification initiative²¹, which aims to restore drylands and degraded lands in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific to tackle the detrimental social, economic and environmental impact of land degradation and desertification, FAO and its partners have explored ways to reinforce national tree seed systems. This work supports the implementation of the Africa's Great Green Wall initiative and the UNCCD commitments. In January 2016, FAO and the National Agency of the Great Green Wall of Nigeria organized a regional workshop in Abuja, Nigeria to develop detailed plans for large-scale restoration efforts in West Africa. In February 2016, FAO conducted, in collaboration with the Kenya Forestry Research Institute, a similar regional workshop in Nairobi, Kenya, for East African countries with the participation project partners in the Caribbean and the Pacific. In addition to discussing how the increasing demand for forest reproductive material created by extensive restoration efforts can be met, these workshops also analysed issues related to the deployment of germplasm and species across different sites, and ways to match the needs of local communities with those of large-scale restoration programmes.

IV. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

25. The Commission may wish to:
- i) Call upon countries to continue implementing the Global Plan of Action to contribute to sustainable forest management, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and other relevant international commitments on forests, as appropriate;
 - ii) Encourage countries to support, as appropriate, the regional networks on forest genetic resources and forest invasive species, and contribute to the activities of these networks to strengthen regional collaboration in these areas;
 - iii) Request FAO to continue coordinating and supporting the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, in collaboration with regional networks and relevant international organizations;

¹⁹ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5036e.pdf>

²⁰ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5036f.pdf>

²¹ <http://www.fao.org/in-action/action-against-desertification/en/>

-
- iv) Request FAO to prepare *Voluntary guidelines for preparing a national strategy for forest genetic resources* in line with the proposed outline given in *Appendix A* and taking into account existing guidelines for the preparation of national forest programmes and for the formulation of forest policy; and
 - v) Request FAO to continue pursuing extra-budgetary funds and developing the funding strategy to assist countries in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, and encouraging donors to provide support.

APPENDIX A

VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING A NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES**- DRAFT OUTLINE -****Preface****I. Introduction**

- Forest genetic resources (definition, value and importance, status, etc.)
- Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources
- Targets and indicators for forest genetic resources
- Need for a national strategy on forest genetic resources
- National strategies as building blocks of regional strategies on forest genetic resources
- Purpose of the guidelines and how to use them

II. Preparing the national strategy for forest genetic resources

- Establishing a coordinating mechanism at national level (e.g. national FGR programme or similar arrangement) and its linkages with relevant national processes and mechanisms
- Aligning national FGR strategy with relevant national policies and strategies (e.g. national forest policy, national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national adaptation strategies to climate change, national poverty reduction strategies)
- Assessing the status of conservation, sustainable use and development of forest genetic resources, as well as related policies, institutions and capacities (compilation and analysis of information and data available)
- Setting national targets
- Agreeing a road map to reach the targets
- Preparing national action plans
- Endorsing the national strategy

III. Implementing the national strategy for forest genetic resources

- Mobilizing resources
- The role of national forest programmes and other relevant national processes and mechanisms
- Monitoring and evaluation

IV. Concluding remarks**References and annexes**