



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
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the
United
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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

COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

NINETEENTH SESSION

Rome, Italy, 16-20 March 2009

MATTERS DISCUSSED BY FAO GOVERNING BODIES AT SESSIONS HELD IN 2007/8 OF INTEREST TO COFO

I. FAO COUNCIL

132nd Session of the FAO Council (June 2007)

1. The Council endorsed the Report of the Eighteenth Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO).
2. The Council requested FAO to continue its leadership role in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and to strengthen its activities in the area of monitoring, assessment and reporting on forests at the national, regional and international levels. The Council requested FAO to enhance cooperation with the United Nations Forum on Forests to achieve the purposes of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests.
3. The Council requested FAO to continue the recent efforts to strengthen the Regional Forestry Commissions, stressing the importance of an effective regional link between global forest policies and COFO, and implementation on the ground. The Council recognized FAO support for national forest programmes, including the work of the National Forest Programme Facility.
4. The Council requested FAO to assist interested Member Nations to develop comprehensive strategies for bioenergy. Some Members stressed the increasingly important role that wood would play in meeting the energy needs in many developing countries. The Council requested FAO to prepare an analytical report on the social, economic and environmental impacts of changes in the use of wood for energy generation.
5. Noting the important role of forests in mitigating climate change through carbon sequestration, as well as the potential negative impacts that climate change could have on forest health, the Council requested FAO to continue to accord high priority to forests and climate change, and to work with Member Nations in assisting them to develop more effective strategies

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for adaptation. The Council noted the potential benefits of reduced deforestation in reducing carbon emissions, and requested FAO to continue to work with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on this issue.

6. The Council stressed the important contribution of forests to sustainable livelihoods and poverty and hunger eradication. In this regard, it requested FAO to continue its efforts in assisting developing countries to implement sustainable forest management by addressing the social, economic and environmental dimensions of forests and trees outside forests.

7. The Council recognized the important role that FAO played as a global centre for knowledge and information about forests, and requested FAO to continue support to countries in developing their capacities for forest information.

8. While reiterating concern at the increasing dependence of the core work of the Forestry Department on extra-budgetary funding, the Council noted the concern expressed by COFO that resources allocated for forestry were insufficient for FAO to respond effectively to emerging issues identified by the Committee.

II. FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCES 2008

(a) 29TH FAO Regional Conference for the Near East (Cairo, Egypt, 1-5 March) - Round Table Discussion on Climate Change: Implications for Agriculture in the Near East

The Conference requested FAO to:

9. prepare studies specific to the Region that would examine the possible impact of climate change on agriculture, food security and natural resources at the regional and national levels;

10. assist member countries in the identification, development and promotion of practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions or sequester carbon, while contributing to sustainable development;

11. work with concerned international, regional and national organizations to improve the use of tools to assess the impact of weather conditions on crops (crop yield forecasting), the use of weather and climate forecasts in farm-level decision-making;

12. provide technical assistance to member countries to study how small farmers could benefit from opportunities within the framework of the *Clean Development Mechanism* (including *carbon tax*); and

13. promote integration of climate change, biodiversity conservation, and desertification control into natural resources management programmes and activities in the Region.

(b) 30th FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (Brasilia, Brazil, 14 to 18 April 2008)

For the attention of FAO

14. The Conference stressed the need for the LACFC to pursue lines of work on payment for environmental services, sustainable forest management, including the responsible management of forest plantations, the prevention of wildfires and the management of forest statistics, including environmental variables.

15. The Conference was pleased to note that the 13th World Forestry Congress would be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 18 to 25 October 2009 and called for extensive participation by the countries of the Region.

The Conference:

16. Requested that the LACFC pursue lines of work on payment for environmental services, sustainable forest management, including the responsible management of forests plantations, the prevention of wildfires and the management of forest statistics, including information on environmental variables.

(c) 25th Regional Conference for Africa (Nairobi, Kenya, 16-20 June 2008)

17. In some countries the forestry sector is the second contributor to GDP, but deforestation poses a serious threat to the region.

(d) 26th FAO Regional Conference for Europe (Innsbruck, Austria, 26 and 27 June 2008)

18. The Conference noted the significant interlinkages between climate change and agriculture, forestry and water management. It was suggested that agriculture, forestry and fisheries have the potential to contribute to the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, through (i) labelling of products with their corresponding climate change impacts.

19. The Conference underlined the importance of climate change issues and urged FAO to set a high priority on its activities in this field, particularly with regard to adaptation measures in agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The Conference recognized the need for additional resources for the efficient implementation of a special programme on climate change issues, and endorsed the proposal to establish and FAO intergovernmental trust fund earmarked for activities on climate change mitigation and the adaptation of agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

Recommendations of the Conference (for the attention of FAO)

20. urged FAO to set a high priority and allocate sufficient resources for activities in this field, including analyses of climate change causes, policy scenarios and outlook studies with regional focus, particularly with regard to adaptation measures in agriculture, forestry and fisheries and recommended that FAO develop a special integrated programme on climate change

issues and collaborate on this subject with other specialized United Nations agencies such as UNFCCC, IPCC and GEF.

21. recognized the need for additional resources for the implementation of a special programme on climate change, and endorsed the proposal to establish an FAO intergovernmental trust fund for these activities.

22. recommended that FAO should include the East European and Central Asian region in its analyses, in close collaboration with the European Commission on this subject (para 21);

23. recommended that a specialized FAO Climate Change Assessment Unit should initiate the elaboration of a region-specific “ Strategy on FAO activities related to climate change mitigation and adaptation” and urged FAO to organize workshops and a high-level meeting on climate change impacts and adaptation measures for Europe.