



# NORTH AMERICAN FOREST COMMISSION

## THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

17-19 November 2021<sup>1</sup>

## URBAN FOREST PROGRAMS WORKING GROUP (UFPWG) REPORT

*Queries on the content of this document may be addressed to:*

**NAFC Secretariat  
Forestry Division**  
[NAFC31-Secretariat@fao.org](mailto:NAFC31-Secretariat@fao.org)

**PERIOD: September 2019 – July 2021**

## REPORT OF THE UFPWG

### 1. WORKING GROUP COMPOSITION

Chairperson	Country	Organization
Ramón Silva Flores	México	CONAFOR
Members	Country	Organization
Liza Paqueo	USA	United States Forest Service
Rick Scott	USA	United States Forest Service
Rachel Sheridan	USA	United States Forest Service

<sup>1</sup> Rescheduled from 15-17 September 2021

Christian Couture	Canada	Canadian Forest Service
Ken Farr	Canada	Canadian Forest Service
Verna Crossman	Canada	Canadian Forest Service
Richard Verbisky	Canada	Canadian Forest Service
José Ricardo Sánchez Velázquez	México	CONAFOR
Andrea Melo Ancira	México	CONAFOR

## 2. LIST OF ACTIVITIES COMPLETED DURING THE PAST 2 YEARS

Meetings	Location	Date
Working group meeting	<i>Teleconference</i>	<i>24 April 2020</i>
Quarterly meeting	<i>Teleconference</i>	<i>19 June 2020</i>
Quarterly meeting	<i>Teleconference</i>	<i>19 November 2020</i>
Working group meeting	<i>Teleconference</i>	<i>17 December 2020</i>
Working group meeting	<i>Teleconference</i>	<i>20 May 2021</i>

### ACTIVITIES:

- **Chairmanship was transferred from Canada to Mexico.**
- **Case study: The urban forests network of Guadalajara**

Presentation given by Karina Aguilar, representative of Guadalajara's Urban Forest Metropolitan Agency, in which the Working Group shared their commitment and actions for the conservation and improvement of the ecosystems of urban parks and forests in the metropolitan area of Guadalajara, as well as the main projects they have worked on.

- **Evaluation of the quality of the trees in the Chapultepec Urban Forest in Mexico City**
  - o Héctor Benavides, a professional from the National Institute for Forestry, Agriculture and Livestock Research, presented the “Evaluation of the quality of the trees in the Chapultepec Urban Forest in Mexico City”. The research projects include carbon capture and storage as well as the use of the iTree Eco System to Mexican’s Cities conditions to provide more accurate information on the contribution of urban forests in Mexico.
- **Urban forests of the third most populated city in Mexico, Monterrey. Fundidora park case.**

- Cosijooopi Montero, Eduardo Flores y Ernesto Enkerlin (Nature Conservation and Sustainability in Fundidora Park and Reforestation Extrema A.C.) presented the case of Parque Fundidora, an urban forest of the third most populated city in Mexico: Monterrey.
- **I.T.E.S.O., University forest and contribution to the Primavera Forest.**
  - Pedro Alcocer Santos and Sergio Nuño Cuevas, professors at the Technological and Higher Studies Institute of the West (ITESO) gave a presentation about ITESO's university forest. ITESO carried out activities to contribute to the care, management and use of technologies to monitor trees on their campus as well as boost activities for the conservation and restoration of the Primavera Forest.

### 3. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT 2 YEARS

Activity	Location	Date	Status (ongoing/new)
Quarterly meeting	<i>Teleconference</i>	<i>July 2020</i>	<i>On-going</i>
Quarterly meeting	<i>Teleconference</i>	<i>October 2020</i>	<i>On-going</i>
In-person meeting of the Working Group	<i>Guadalajara, Jal. Mexico</i>	<i>Dec. 2021</i>	<i>On-going</i>

### 4. WORKING GROUP FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS AND/OR NETWORKING

None

### 5. REQUEST FOR FUNDING AND/OR OTHER SUPPORT

None

### 6. CLOSING REMARKS

The NAFC Urban Forest Programs Working Group promotes actions and knowledge that contribute to attending to and improving the social conditions of the population living in cities, with the support and coordination of activities with public and private entities and NGO's.

Despite the difficulties of operation and mobility in the last year derived from the COVID-19 pandemic, the UFPWG has worked to remain very productive, providing knowledge and innovative tools that support urban forests, management and conservation in North America. Although face-to-face meetings have not been achieved, collaboration has been maintained through the format of video-conferences that facilitate the exchange of information on key issues of mutual interest to Canada, the United States, and Mexico (for example, the relationship between human health and forests). The possibility of having an in-person meeting at the end of 2021 in Guadalajara, Jalisco, will be explored, in which the elements and actions necessary to transfer the leadership of the Working Group to colleagues of the United States will be discussed.

The activities of the members of the Working Group have been carried out with the objective of exchanging valuable information regarding urban forestry, community participation and the identification of forms of collaboration within specific communities in Canada, the United States and Mexico. The participation of the countries has been quite enriching, so the objective is to maintain the same effort in the following years.