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# LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

## THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

Montevideo, Uruguay, 2 - 6 September 2019

### 5. Report of FAO on follow-up activities to the recommendations and requests of the 30th Session of the Commission

#### Secretariat Note

#### Forests, food and nutrition security, and the 2030 Agenda

<p><i>...highlight the contribution of forests and its ecosystem services to the 2030 Agenda. (Paragraph 91)</i></p> <p><i>...there should be due recognition of all the goods (wood and non-wood forest products) and ecosystem services provided by forests to society, including the generation of rural employment. The Commission recommended FAO to develop a methodology for measuring that contribution. (Paragraph 18)</i></p>	<p>FAO prepared and delivered <a href="#">The State of the World's Forests 2018</a> (SOFO 2018) report, which provides new information that can help recognize the interlinkages that exist with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and understand that policy on forests and trees goes beyond SDG 15 on Life on Land, and can contribute to the achievement of many other 2030 Agenda objectives and goals.</p> <p>(See Secretariat Note FO:LACFC/2019/2, that presents an overview of this publication and highlights relevant information for the region)</p>
<p><i>... requested FAO to ensure the wide dissemination of the document "Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition" (...) and to develop a project on success stories relating to the contribution of forests and sustainable forest management to food security. (Paragraph 2)</i></p>	<p>The High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition's report entitled "Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition" was delivered at the 35<sup>th</sup> session of the Regional Conference.</p> <p>The report has been widely distributed at different fora and consultations of the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism (CSM) for relations with the Committee for Food Security (CFS), including a high-level online consultation on the scope of the report in the context of the 2030 Agenda. Additional</p>

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<p>... recommended the Regional Conference to disseminate report of the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition entitled “Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition”, to highlight the contribution of forests to food security and nutrition. (Para graph 98)</p>	<p>information can be found in the <a href="#">2017-2018 reports</a> of the CSM Working Group on Sustainable Forestry Activity for Food Security and Nutrition and in the <a href="#">background document and recommendations</a> of the Report on Agroecological Approaches and other Innovations for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems that enhance food security and nutrition. It is important to highlight that the Community of Latin America and the Caribbean States (CELAC) requested FAO to support countries in the preparation of a regional strategy for agroecology, including community forestry management, agroforestry practices, and agroenvironmental policies, hence the presentation of the above mentioned report within the working group.</p> <p>(See Secretariat Note FO:LACFC/2019/4)</p>
<p><b>Intersectoral coordination and the achievement of the SDGs</b></p>	
<p>... requested FAO to strengthen cross-sectoral dialogue to demonstrate the role played by forests in achieving the SDGs. (Paragraph 55)</p> <p>... recognized that to achieve a good governance of forests, political will is required to enhance intersectoral coordination and complementarity between different sectors. Therefore, it requested FAO to promote the exchange of experiences between countries in that area. (Paragraph 61)</p> <p>... recommended that Regional Conference provide spaces for cross-sectoral coordination, in particular between forest, agriculture and environmental sectors. (Paragraph 96)</p> <p>(...) highlight that the forest sector is subject to multiple international agendas and demands from other sectors that are unclear, contradictory and make it difficult to implement sustainable forest management. (Paragraph 95)</p>	<p>FAO has been working on several initiatives and programmes to strengthen cross-sectoral dialogue and forest governance towards the achievement of the SDGs.</p> <p>Under the FAO-Brazil International Cooperation Programme, the <a href="#">Strengthening Agro-Environmental Policies in Latin America and the Caribbean through dialogue and exchange of national experiences</a> project was in operation from 2012 to 2018. The concept of agro-environmental policies used in this effort implies the sustainable production system of food, goods, services in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture. It includes a set of articulated strategic instruments for planning and governance adopted by government. The concept includes explicit sustainability principles for agriculture, forestry, fishery and aquaculture production, and aims at extending the potential environmental benefits of these activities and at reducing the negative impact generated for ecosystems and food and nutrition security in a scenario of climate change. National studies in nine countries in the region systematized productive policy tools, incorporating environmental variables, the outcomes of which have been discussed at national and regional level participatory forums. Drawing on the different realities and lessons learned and following an extensive process of multi-sector consultations and debates, the Voluntary Guidelines (VGs) for Agro-Environmental Policies in Latin America and the Caribbean were drawn up. In the framework of the VGs, a key voluntary instrument for supporting countries in implementing agro-environmental policy, and in synergy with SDG indicators, a proposal of indicators for agro-environmental policies was developed as a tool to support the implementation and monitoring of VG tenets and the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p>In 2018, FAO and the Government of Mexico organized the <a href="#">High Level Regional Dialogue on the Integration of Biodiversity in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DRANIBA)</a>. In attendance were delegates of productive sectors from 11 countries of the region; representatives of international and cooperation organizations; civil society and academia. The outcomes of this regional dialogue contributed to the FAO Strategy on Biodiversity and COP14 for the CBD, held in Egypt in 2018. The following conclusions are underscored:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The recognition of the role played by FAO in gathering a diversity of sectors and stakeholders and in strengthening the combined effort with the Convention on Biological Diversity. This has helped shore up the link between biodiversity and the financial and ecological benefits it provides to the agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture sectors.</li> <li>• The connection between mainstreaming biodiversity criteria in the agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture sectors, and its implications for the sustainability of food production, diet diversification, improved nutrition and its conservation and management.</li> <li>• It was recommended that a platform for operational and/or scientific assessment indicators or criteria be developed to measure progress in biodiversity mainstreaming at a national and sub-national level in the agricultural, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture sectors.</li> </ul> <p>Additionally, programmes and initiatives leveraged by FAO, together with other partners such as the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan, REDD+ projects and programmes including the UN-REDD, the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF), and the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM) apply concepts and approaches to achieve intersectoral collaboration.</p> <p>The 35<sup>th</sup> session of the Regional Conference held in March 2018 focused on three policy issues (hunger and malnutrition, sustainable rural development and climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture) and offered an opportunity to enhance cross-sectoral coordination.</p> <p>(See Secretariat Notes FO:LACFC/2019/4 on the priority topics for the 36<sup>th</sup> session of the Regional Conference, FO:LACFC/2019/8 on forests and climate change, FO:LACFC/2019/9 on restoration of forests and landscapes, FO:LACFC/2019/11 that contains information regarding measures to prevent illegal logging, and FO:LACFC/2019/12 on forests, biodiversity, protected communities and local communities).</p>
<p><i>... requested FAO, in preparing its country programs, to include the topic of conflict resolution arising around the forest sector, in particular those generated in the establishment of forest plantations and the interaction of environmental and forest sectors. (Paragraph 62)</i></p> <p><i>... recommend creating space for dialogue and strategic partnerships, with a view to developing guidelines leading to the attainment of global zero net deforestation. (Paragraph 101)</i></p>	<p>FAO is supporting countries in the preparation of national strategies and project proposals on sustainable forestry management, forest landscape restoration and agroforestry practices. FAO is recognized for its comparative advantage for the integration of forestry practices in a broader scenario of land use management, and the incorporation of forestry issues for poverty alleviation, food security and natural resources management, with more than 40 projects under implementation in the region, to reduce deforestation, and promote forest landscape restoration, working towards zero net deforestation.</p> <p>Projects are designed following the FAO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, recognizing their right to decide the kind of development that takes place among their people, their land and territories. <a href="http://www.fao.org/3/i1857e/i1857e00.pdf">http://www.fao.org/3/i1857e/i1857e00.pdf</a></p>
<p><i>... and recommended COFO to establish spaces for dialogue for tribal and indigenous people and</i></p>	<p>The Government of Nicaragua, the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC) and FAO organized the <i><a href="#">Regional Dialogue of Indigenous Peoples</a></i></p>

<p><i>ethnic communities on issues of their interest, to be addressed on negotiation forums. (Paragraph 92)</i></p>	<p><a href="#">of Latin America and the Caribbean</a>, which brought together key stakeholders and generated <a href="#">recommendations</a> to help address the negative impacts of climate change on indigenous peoples and all of humanity. Knowledge and experiences were examined in detail on the implementation of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Indigenous Peoples Policy from the initial stage of identifying projects to strategic decision-making.</p> <p>The Forestry Department compendium <a href="#">FAO's work with indigenous peoples in forestry</a>, which includes project experiences and initiatives in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Guatemala, Guyana, Panama, Paraguay and Peru, was noted.</p> <p>(See Secretariat Note FO:LACFC/2019/9 on restoration of forests and landscapes)</p>
<p><b>Forest resources assessment, reporting and monitoring and the SDGs</b></p>	
<p><i>... requested FAO to revise the definitions used in the FRA referring to the notions in question, and to facilitate the provision of support to strengthening national capacities in that regard. (Paragraph 34)</i></p>	<p>Since the completion of the FRA 2015, the FRA reporting process and content have been thoroughly reviewed and revised on the basis of a user survey and guidance provided by the Expert Consultation, FRA Advisory Group as well as the FAO Governing Bodies. The reporting content was streamlined and the number of variables reduced to avoid overlaps with other data collection process as well as to reduce the reporting burden on countries. The revised reporting tables allow now also more detailed reporting on forest characteristics. In addition, FRA 2020 collects information on national definitions of forest degradation, as well as on related monitoring systems and their results.</p> <p>The national capacities to monitor forest resources and report on them has been strengthened through a series of capacity building events. The reporting process was initiated in a global <a href="#">technical meeting</a> of FRA National Correspondents and CFRQ partners in March 2018 in Toluca, Mexico. The meeting was followed by a number of regional and sub-regional workshops, including two workshops for Latin America and the Caribbean that took place in Panama and Barbados in August 2018. In addition, FAO has initiated further capacity development in the context of the FRA Global Remote Sensing Survey (RSS), which will be conducted in a participatory manner. The implementation plan of the RSS foresees altogether 6 national and sub-regional capacity development events in the region during 2019-2020.</p> <p>(Additional information can be found in the <a href="#">FRA 2020 Guidelines and Specifications</a>)</p>
<p><i>... requested the assistance of FAO in efforts to improve the capacity to monitor the indicators of the 2030 Agenda, with the aim of informing the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, highlighting the contribution of forests to the achievement of sustainable development. (Paragraph 44)</i></p>	<p>As the custodian agency for 21 SDG indicators and as a way to encourage countries to develop databases and capacities to track, monitor and evaluate progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, FAO offers e-learning courses on methodologies and for calculating several indicators, among them, <a href="#">15.1.1 and 15.2.1 indicators on forest area and sustainable forest management</a>.</p> <p>Also, in the context of the Strengthening Tracking and Reporting Capacities of Sustainable Development Goals in South American Countries project (TCP/RLA/3611), the FAO Regional Office organized <a href="#">training workshops</a> for country staff on how to calculate 18 SDG indicators, three of them under SDG 15. The Organization has also published an <a href="#">overview of the most relevant aspects of the</a></p>

	<p><a href="#">methodology for calculating indicators</a> and an <a href="#">overview of FAO's support in achieving the SDGs in South America</a>.</p> <p>FAO has also worked on raising awareness among practitioners, professionals, academics, civil society representatives, the private sector and government agencies on how to adapt the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs to the national context and implement it in the region; in this context, three online sub-regional seminars were carried out in 2018 and 2019 in <a href="#">South America</a>, <a href="#">Mesoamerica</a> and the <a href="#">Caribbean</a>, with over 600 participants from countries in the region.</p>
<p><i>... recommended continue providing forums for the exchange of experience in forest inventories, including social and economic aspects, the state of forests, carbon and biodiversity, in addition to ensuring that such inventories serve as tools for appropriate forest management in the field. And develop concepts and methodologies for conducting forest inventories in the Caribbean. (Paragraph 101)</i></p>	<p>The <a href="#">Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring</a> were published in 2017 drawing on the experiences and lessons learned in FAO Member countries. The voluntary guidelines are designed as a technical reference that can be adapted to the national context.</p> <p>FAO continues to support countries to develop or strengthen their National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) for generating reliable forest-related information resources for national policy development and planning and as a tool for appropriate forest management in the field... FAO's <a href="#">Open Foris</a> and <a href="#">SEPAL</a> tools provide a set of free and open-source software that facilitates more flexible and efficient data collection, analysis and reporting for field and satellite data..</p> <p>In March 2019 Central American countries shared their technical experience in developing methodologies and institutionalized forest inventory systems as well as in South-South cooperation exchanges on forest monitoring and inventories. <a href="http://www.fao.org/honduras/noticias/detail-events/ar/c/1196849/">http://www.fao.org/honduras/noticias/detail-events/ar/c/1196849/</a></p>
<p><b>Funding, restoration of ecosystems and productive landscapes, and climate change</b></p>	
<p><i>... recognized the importance of incentives and financing mechanisms to promote sustainable forest management, which had been designed primarily for small and medium-scale owners and tenants of land suitable for forestry and for the provision of compensation for ecosystem services. The Commission requested FAO to document good practices and experiences that had been gathered in different countries on this matter and to explore new incentive mechanisms associated with the restoration of productive landscapes. (Paragraph 84)</i></p> <p><i>... requested FAO to provide technical support for their proper management, sustainable use of wood and nonwood products coming from these forests and also for activities to restore degraded areas in this forest type. (Paragraph 85)</i></p> <p><i>... recommended differentiating land use change from illegal deforestation, as part of the development of</i></p>	<p>In 2018, FAO participated in the execution of 29 GEF projects in 25 countries focusing on sustainable forest management, restoration, regeneration, conservation, forest connectivity, plantation, agroforestry and marketing of non-wood forest products in : Antigua and Barbuda; Argentina; Bahamas; Barbados; Belize; Bolivia; Brazil; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Cuba; Dominica; Ecuador; El Salvador; Grenada; Guyana; Haiti; Jamaica; Mexico; Peru; Dominican Republic; Surinam; Trinidad and Tobago; Uruguay and Venezuela; and two Capacity Building Initiatives for Transparency (CBIT) projects in Cuba and Nicaragua.</p> <p>REDD+ projects in Argentina, Ecuador, Chile, Colombia and Central America are under implementation. Argentina, Chile and Colombia are preparing their submission of result based payments proposals to the Green Climate Fund. Please check FO:LACFC/2019/8</p> <p>The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration in March 2019 with FAO and UN Environment heading its implementation. The Decade is a global call to action to draw together political support, generate scientific research and mobilize financial resources to scale up restoration from successful pilot initiatives that are currently underway. The Decade will fast-track Bonn Challenge goals, which aim to restore 350 million hectares, and in Latin America and the Caribbean is set within Initiative 20x20 that aims to restore 20 million hectares of</p>

<p><i>agreements to national policies of countries (Paragraph 101)</i></p>	<p>degraded land by 2020, and which in June 2019 set sights on restoring 30 million hectares by 2030.</p> <p>Countries are implementing national restoration programmes to advance Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and national adaptation and mitigation plans. FAO prepared the document <a href="#"><i>The agricultural sectors in nationally determined contributions: Priority areas for international support</i></a>. FAO also prepared the document <a href="#"><i>Turning Nationally Determined Contributions into action – Support to countries</i></a>, which examines the main challenges countries encounter when implementing their NDCs: transparency; coherence in national policy; research and analysis and tools; capacity development; resource mobilization, with proposed action to address these challenges.</p> <p>(See Secretariat Notes FO:LACFC/2019/9, FO:LACFC/2019/10, FO:LACFC/2019/11, FO:LACFC/2019/12 and FO:LACFC/2019/13)</p>
<p><i>... requested FAO to strengthen its role as the implementing agency for the Green Climate Fund, as a financial support mechanism enabling countries to meet their commitments under the Convention on Climate Change. (Paragraph 51)</i></p> <p><i>... recommended the Regional Conference to encourage the inclusion of trees in family farms as a means of generating income, conserving soils, protecting water resources and enhancing resilience to climate change in rural areas. (Paragraph 99)</i></p>	<p>In 2018, FAO advanced in the design of 18 projects for the different modalities of the Green Climate Fund with a total value of approximately USD 845 million in 13 countries: Bolivia, Chile, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Panama and Paraguay.</p> <p>Two of these projects were approved in 2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paraguay’s PROEZA “Poverty, Reforestation, Energy and Climate Change Project”, designed with support from FAO, were approved by the GCF for a total of USD 90 million, with the GCF providing USD 25 million and the Government of Paraguay USD 65 million.</li> <li>• The RECLIMA project in El Salvador, also designed with support from FAO, was approved by the GCF for a total de USD 127.7 million: with the Fund providing USD 35.9 million and the Government of El Salvador USD 91.8 million.</li> </ul> <p>The Regional Conference at its 35<sup>th</sup> session “Promoted the inclusion of trees in family estates as mechanisms for the generation of economic income, soil conservation and protection of water resources and their contribution to increasing resilience to climate change in rural areas..” See FO:LACFC/2019/4.</p>
<p><b>Forest health</b></p>	
<p><i>... recommended the Regional Conference to consider harmonized phytosanitary regulations related the trade of timber and forest products. (Paragraph 100)</i></p> <p><i>...recommended developing methodologies for evaluating and monitoring the impact of invasive species. (Paragraph 101)</i></p>	<p>(See Secretariat Note FO:LACFC/2019/11 that address forest protection issues)</p> <p>The Regional Conference did not discuss phytosanitary regulations related to the trade of timber and forest products at its 35<sup>th</sup> session.</p>
<p><b>Strengthening institutional, legal and policy frameworks for the MFS and trade of forest products</b></p>	

<p>... requested FAO to support the promotion of good practices and policies in the area of forest concessions and value chains, including wood and non-wood forest products, and to encourage the exchange of experiences and lessons learned in the countries of the region. (Paragraph 67)</p> <p>...</p>	<p>Two important FAO contributions to value chains and forest concessions are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <a href="#">Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World</a> initiative has put together the work developed by FAO, CIFOR, ITTO, World Bank and WWF to strengthen sustainable wood value chains. It will provide direct policy support to interested countries, leveraging enabling conditions so that sustainable value chains based on wood products can contribute to achieving the SDGs and climate change mitigation. The objective of this collaborative initiative is to draw together like-minded partners and create a coalition for promoting sustainable wood products and halt unsustainable and illegal practices.</li> <li>• The FAO Forestry Paper <a href="#">Making Forest Concessions in the Tropics Work to Achieve the 2030 Agenda: Voluntary Guidelines</a> provides a guide for turning forest concessions into effective vehicles, driving progress towards sustainable forest management and reliable sources of sustainably harvested forest products.</li> </ul> <p>(See also Secretariat Note FO:LACFC/2019/11, which addresses the issue of legal logging trade).</p>
<p>... noted the importance of the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) and requested FAO to ensure that the Facility's second phase, which is to start in 2018, would involve additional beneficiary countries. They also requested support from FAO in documenting the success stories of associations of small forest producers, and the promotion of microenterprise development. (Paragraph 75)</p> <p>The Commission requested FAO to document good practices and experiences that had been gathered in different countries on this matter and to explore new incentive mechanisms associated with the restoration of productive landscapes. (Paragraph 84)</p> <p>... recommended supporting the association of small-scale forest producers to ensure the conservation of forests and the maintenance of the welfare of forests dependent populations. (Paragraph 101)</p>	<p>The FFF, together with governments, directly supports forest and farm producers and their organizations, so they can become agents of change for climate resilient landscapes and improved livelihoods. For the second phase (2018 – 2019) the countries selected in Latin America were Bolivia and Ecuador, as primary partners, and Guatemala and Nicaragua, as member countries of the network</p> <p>The FFF also promotes producer exchanges. An experience sharing event will be held in Puebla, Mexico, in October 2019 in the context of the Decade on Family Farming for forest and farm producers in the native cocoa, honey, vanilla, coffee and nopal value chains. Representatives of producer organizations from Latin America, Africa and Asia are expected to attend.</p> <p>The FFF launched a call for proposals for 2019 for global and regional forest and farm producer organizations (i.e., present in more than one country) or partnerships to support regional and global forest and farm producer organizations.</p> <p>As for the work with small-scale forest producers, the recently published report <a href="#">Small-scale forest enterprises in Latin America: Unlocking their potential for sustainable livelihoods</a> is noted. The publication focuses on small-scale forest enterprise development documenting their current state and recent trends, identifying key challenges and opportunities, and formulating a set of recommendations to strengthen the sector in the region.</p> <p>(See Secretariat Note FO:LACFC/2019/9 on restoration of forests and landscapes)</p>