

REPORT OF THE

held at San Juan, Puerto Rico
13-17 February 1978

NINTH SESSION
OF THE NORTH AMERICAN
FORESTRY COMMISSION



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION

First Session	Mexico, D.F., Mexico	24-29 July 1961
Second Session	Ottawa, Canada	17-22 June 1963
Third Session	Washington, D.C., U.S.A.	18-22 October 1965
Fourth Session	Mexico, D.F., Mexico	2-7 October 1967
Fifth Session	Ottawa, Canada	15-20 September 1969
Sixth Session	Washington, D.C., U.S.A.	27-31 March 1972
Seventh Session	Mexico, D.F., Mexico	4-8 February 1974
Eighth Session	Ottawa, Canada	23-27 February 1976

FO:NAFC/78/REP.

R E P O R T
of the
NINTH SESSION
of the
NORTH AMERICAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

held at San Juan, Puerto Rico, U.S.A.

13-17 February 1978

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rome, 1978

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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Addressed to Member Governments

1. The Commission recommended that member countries press for a more appropriate proportion of FAO's budget to be allocated to the Forestry Department, and that they seek to include forestry representation in their delegations to FAO Conference and Council sessions. (para. 55)
2. The Commission recommended that potential host countries organize shorter World Forestry Congresses in future. (para. 59)

B. Addressed to FAO

1. The Commission recommended that the Forestry Department focus its programme on a limited number of high priority problem areas. (para. 55)
2. The Commission requested that FAO carefully consider the scheduling of COFO sessions so that Commission recommendations and suggestions would flow quickly and regularly into the system for COFO and FAO Forestry Department planning and programming. (para. 60)

C. Addressed to NAFC Subsidiary Bodies

1. The Commission recommended that Chairmen of Study Groups make every effort to keep each other and the Committee of Alternates informed of planned meetings where there might be inter-group benefits. Joint meetings of Study Groups and other opportunities for cooperation and coordination were looked upon favourably by the Commission as a means of stimulating the exchange of ideas and information among Member Countries. (para. 35)
2. The Commission agreed that the Study Group on Forest Tree Improvement proceed with its efforts to formalize contacts with its counterpart in the Latin American Forestry Commission. (para. 36)
3. The Commission agreed that the name of the Fire Research Committee of the Study Group on Forest Fire Management be changed to "Fire Technology Committee" in order to broaden the base for deliberations by this committee. (para. 37)
4. The Commission directed the Committee of Alternates to work with the Chairman of the Study Group on Forest Insects and Diseases in seeking funds for publication of the "Manual on Seed and Cone Insects of North America" and other manuals. (para. 38)
5. The Commission directed the Committee of Alternates to study how the "Directory of Remote Sensing Practitioners", proposed by the Study Group on Remote Sensing, might be printed and distributed. (para. 39)
6. The Commission decided to leave the name of the Study Group on Silviculture unchanged, with the understanding that the Group would concentrate its efforts on tropical silviculture for the immediate future. (para. 40)

7. The Chairman of the Study Group on Outdoor Recreation was directed to convene a meeting of the Study Group to jointly develop a programme of work. (para. 41)

8. The Commission directed the Committee of Alternates to draft a tentative charter for a new Study Group on Forestry on Small Land Holdings and to report to the Commission at its next session. (para. 49)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Ninth Session of the North American Forestry Commission was held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, from 13 to 17 February 1978, at the generous invitation of the Government of the United States. The list of participants is given as Appendix B.

2. The Session was opened by the Chairman, Mr. John R. McGuire, Chief, Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture, who introduced Mr. Fred Soltero Harrington, Secretary for Natural Resources, Puerto Rico. Mr. Soltero welcomed the Commission on behalf of the Governor and expressed his wishes for a successful meeting. He described briefly the forest resources of Puerto Rico and indicated that forests would play an increasingly important role in local development.

3. Mr. Alf Leslie, Director of the Forest Industries Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), greeted the Commission delegates on behalf of Director-General Edouard Saouma and Assistant Director-General in charge of forestry, Dr. Kenneth F.S. King, and thanked the Governments of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for hosting the Commission. Mr. Leslie also conveyed Dr. King's regrets at being unable to attend due to the pressure of other duties.

4. Mr. Leslie outlined the current FAO policies directed to develop forestry in tropical areas as a priority in the current programme of work of the Forestry Department of this Organization and invited the participants in the Session to consider what the NAFC could do to assist FAO in carrying out the mandate it had received from its Member States.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Commission approved the Provisional Agenda without change. It appears as Appendix A. The list of documents considered by the Commission appears as Appendix C.

III. THE STATE OF FORESTRY IN THE REGION

6. Statements on progress, problems and policies in the national forests were given by the delegate from each Member Country.

7. Canada: Dr. R.J. Bouchier, Director General of the Canadian Forestry Service, outlined recent developments on the Canadian forestry scene, including the present state of the forest economy and programmes of federal, provincial and other agencies (FO:NAFC/78/2(a)).

8. Present problems that face the Canadian forest industry in general are: high wood, equipment and transportation costs, and a need for modernization and modification of some mills for increased utilization.

9. Provincial governments, in response to increased demands for wood and for ecologically responsible management, have responded in various ways with changes in their management policies. Trends are apparent for (i) greater financial input to forest management by direct funding from stumpage dues or other charges to licensees, (ii) more shared government industry responsibility for silvicultural programmes, (iii) a shift towards volume agreements rather than agreements involving land tenure.

10. Work on a national forest policy for Canada is continuing under the aegis of the Canadian Council of Resource and Environment Ministers (CCREM).

11. The Canadian Forestry Service, in close cooperation with provincial agencies and industry, has undertaken a comprehensive programme for the production of national forestry statistics. First reporting is expected in 1978.

12. In remote sensing, large-scale photographic techniques have been refined and a new satellite-image interpretation system will be operational this year.

13. In forest products research, emphasis is on making the industry more self-sufficient for energy. The production of liquid fuels is being studied, as is the use of wood and foliage for animal feed.

14. The eastern spruce budworm (Choristoneura fumiferana) remains the most serious forest pest in Canada. Alternatives to chemical pesticides are being intensively studied. In 1977, the United States and Canada signed an agreement on a joint spruce budworm research and development programme to design and evaluate control strategies.

15. In fire control, infra-red devices are now in operational use for wildfire mapping and detection. Range burning, wildfire suppression and post-logging slash burning techniques have been improved by the use of incendiary capsules and a helicopter-mounted drip torch.

16. Projected wood shortages and inadequate regeneration on many cut-over areas have stimulated increased seedling production and tree improvement programmes. Present annual seedling production in Canada is about 230 million.

17. Canada has continued its international contacts with organizations such as FAO, IUFRO, ECE, etc. A number of forestry experts were assigned to forestry projects in developing countries. Five exchanges took place with the Soviet Union under the aegis of the Canada/USSR Working Group on Forestry and Forest-Based Industries. Revision of this agreement with the USSR is planned. In 1977, Canadian initiatives sparked the establishment of the International Council for Research in Agro-Forestry.

18. Mexico: Ing. Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, Under-Secretary of Forests and Wildlife, presented Mexico's report (FO:NAFC/78/2(b)). In opening, pleasure was expressed in regard to the meeting location in Puerto Rico since the history and traditions are so closely related to those of Mexico.

19. In-depth changes are being made in the Mexican Forest Service in both organization and programmes in an effort to increase understanding and awareness of the forest potential in the country. Stress was placed on the importance of the optimum social and economic utilization of the forest resources and the need to increase and protect them.

20. Among the goals and achievements during the 1976-1978 period, the near completion of the first evaluation and qualification of Mexico's forest resources is of paramount importance. The data reveals that of a total land area of 196.7 million hectares, some 137.6 million are in forests.

21. Mention was made of the problems of forest industry relating to a lack of raw material supply and the lack of planning and coordination at the national level.

22. Mexican forests have been over-exploited in the past due to obsolete regulations and the inability of forest engineers to convince the authorities of the need to change regulations and to give more attention to protection of the resource. Some problems such as selective cutting and lowered regeneration capacity still persist.
23. The change in forest activities has stimulated a new orientation of research. Along with the addition of new programme areas such as forest economics, inventory, and engineering, a reinforcement and decentralization of ongoing programmes has taken place.
24. Forest fire prevention and combat campaigns have been stepped up. Both the numbers of fires and the land area burned have been reduced dramatically over the past two years.
25. Sixty-six official forest tree nurseries produced 35 million plants last year. A massive reforestation effort is planned.
26. National parks for welfare and recreation are being developed, maintained and improved. Studies and promotional programmes to increase the development of new parks are under way in several states.
27. New forest laws are being drafted and will be submitted for consideration by the Congress. Zoning into production units is proposed to facilitate the establishment of technical services, to speed up administration procedures and to encourage investment in forestry.
28. United States: Mr. John R. McGuire, Chief of the Forest Service, declared that in the United States people have re-established relationship with the environment and have discovered their dependence upon forest and range resources. Many changes in programmes, practices and policies have been initiated over the last decade.
29. The Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 continued to exert tremendous impact through its requirement for periodic Renewable Resource Assessments and the Renewable Resource Program.
30. The National Forest Management Act of 1976 provides new policy and processes for land management planning, requires extensive public participation in Forest Service decision making, and establishes guidelines for timber management practices.
31. A major new review and evaluation of National Forest roadless and undeveloped areas has been undertaken under the RARE II study to recommend lands for wilderness or other major uses.
32. The disposition, management and use of the lands and resources in Alaska continues to be a major resource issue. In 1975, 93 percent of Alaska's lands were in federal ownership. By 1980, a large portion of this land is to be divided among the State, Alaska natives, and various federal agencies.
33. Forest Service research programmes are emphasizing four general areas: explore the potential of forests for energy production; increase the ability to manage fire, insects and diseases; intensify the culture and utilization of timber; develop a scientific base for improved multiple use forest management.
34. Converting research results into practice is a continuing concern. The current policy is to emphasize the transfer of technology for resource management from research to practical utilization as rapidly as possible.

IV. REVIEW OF STUDY GROUP ACTIVITIES

35. The Commission received with appreciation reports by all eight study groups (documents FO:NAFC/78/3(a), 3(b), 3(c), 3(d), 3(e), 3(f), 3(g) and 3(h)). These reports were presented by the Study Group Chairmen. The Commission was generally pleased with the reporting and commended several of the Chairmen for both plans and accomplishments of their respective groups. The Commission recommended that Chairmen of Study Groups make every effort to keep each other and the Committee of Alternates informed of planned meetings where there might be inter-group benefits. Joint meetings of Study Groups and other opportunities for cooperation and coordination were looked upon favourably by the Commission as a means of stimulating the exchange of ideas and information between Member Countries. Similarly, suggestions to enlarge the size of Study Group memberships met with generally positive response in that delegates from Member Countries offered to supply Chairmen with lists of names of prospective candidates.

36. The Chairman of the Study Group on Forest Tree Improvement reported that of the 24 tasks undertaken to date, 16 had been completed and 7 tasks were still open. The Commission noted that over the years, the work of the Study Group had evolved in response to changing needs and new problems, i.e., from a more traditional forest genetics and tree improvement work to areas such as amenity forestry and energy plantations. The Commission approved the preparation of a glossary of terms commonly used in forest genetics and tree improvement work in three languages, namely Spanish, French and English. The available English version entitled "Glossary for Forest Tree Improvement Workers" by E.B. Snyder would be used as the basis for this work. The Commission agreed that the Study Group proceed with its efforts to formalize contacts with its counterpart in the Latin American Forestry Commission in order to exchange information and seek collaboration on problems of mutual interest.

37. The Commission considered three recommendations made by the Study Group on Forest Fire Management. Wider use of the international symbols on fire prevention was agreed to in principle, provided the Study Group explored the production and distribution mechanisms and reported back to the Commission. The U.S. and Canadian fire posters had not arrived in the mail and the Study Group's proposal for exhibition at the meeting could not be met. It was agreed that the name of the Fire Research Committee be changed to "Fire Technology Committee" to broaden the base for deliberations by this committee.

38. The Commission took note of the New Orleans and Valle de Bravo meetings of the Study Group on Forest Insects and Diseases held since the last session of the Commission. In regard to the recommendation relating to funding of the "Manual on Seed and Cone Insects of North America" and other manuals, the Committee of Alternates was directed to work with the Study Group Chairman in seeking such funds. The Committee of Alternates was also instructed to assist in contacting plant protection organizations of the three Member Nations, stating the views of the Commission as expressed in the Study Group recommendations. With respect to the recommended cooperation and coordination between Study Groups of the NAFC, the Committee of Alternates was asked to monitor activities and report to the Commission.

39. The Commission endorsed the proposal of the Study Group on Remote Sensing to prepare a "Directory of Remote Sensing Practitioners" and directed the Committee of Alternates to study how such a directory might be printed and distributed. The Commission approved a meeting of the Study Group scheduled for August or September 1978.

40. The Commission endorsed the proposal made by the Study Group on Silviculture to hold a workshop on tropical silviculture in southern Mexico in summer 1978. The Committee of Alternates and FAO were requested to prepare an invitation to the Latin American Forestry Commission to participate in the activities of the Study Group. The Commission decided to leave the name of the Study Group as it is with the understanding that the Group would concentrate its efforts on tropical silviculture for the immediate future.

41. The Commission did not approve the plans of the Chairman of the Study Group on Outdoor Recreation to conduct an International Symposium on "Tourism and the Next Decade". The Symposium was seen as a unilateral effort and, if conducted, should be without endorsement by the NAFC. The Chairman was directed to convene a meeting of his Study Group and jointly develop a programme of work. Landscape assessment and urban forestry should both be discussed by the Study Group and, if approved, could be brought before the Commission for its consideration.

42. A proposed first meeting of the Study Group on Wildlife scheduled for March 1978 in Phoenix, Arizona was endorsed by the Commission. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference. Study Group direction and tasks will be developed at the organizational meeting.

43. The Commission complimented the Chairman of the Study Group on Forest Engineering on his efforts to initiate group activities and endorsed the proposed meeting in Mexico in March 1978. The Study Group was requested to suggest courses of action to the Member Countries.

V. REPORT OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE OF ALTERNATES (COA)

44. The report was presented by Committee Chairman Dr. R.E. Buckman, who proposed two items to the Commission for its consideration:

- The first item was the question of timing of COA meetings. The Commission recommended that as many meetings be held as were needed to carry out the work of the NAFC. A meeting shortly following the Commission meeting was seen as most desirable in order to expedite implementation of Commission directions.
- A second item was a concern by COA members as to how best to carry out the work of the Commission between meetings. It was suggested that the Commission delegate to the COA all but the most significant programme items. The Commission expressed complete satisfaction with the work of the COA to date and stressed that the Committee should not feel insecure in its role. The COA should have sufficient authority to conduct most of the business of the Commission. COA should monitor and coordinate work plans and programmes of Study Groups and only if significant departures from plans or programmes occurred should they be brought to the attention of the Commission.

45. The Chairman indicated that there had been some procedural problems in the operation of the Study Groups. He directed the COA to work with the Secretariat and with the Study Group Chairmen to correct the situation. He declared that the COA should provide strong operational direction to the Study Groups and keep FAO informed.

VI. SELECTED TECHNICAL ITEMS

(a) Organization of Wood Producers in Mexico

46. Ing. F. Javier Musalem L. presented the report "Organization of Wood Producers in Mexico" (FO:NAFC/78/5(a)). In Mexico, forest activity has faced a variety of problems that have hampered its development. Population growth, increased demand for products and the necessity for rural employment have placed upon the Government the obligation to modify its forestry policy without significant change in established social patterns. The result has been slowed and irregular growth in forest activity, with all its economic and social implications, including higher imports of paper and cellulose and an unfavourable balance of trade. The paper goes on to consider several factors affecting the forestry sector and Government's attempt to balance sectoral participation and to promote harmony and fairness in the sharing of benefits between holders and proprietors of the forest resources.

(b) Cooperatives in Woodlot Management

47. Dr. André Lafond, Dean, Faculty of Forestry and Geodesy, Laval University, Quebec City, gave this report (FO:NAFC/78/5(b)). The paper, subtitled "Intensive Forest Management on Private Farm Woodlots and Popular Organizations", describes the results of local woodland owners wishing to earn their livelihood with dignity by working in their woodlots instead of receiving welfare from the Government. Historical background of land settlement and agricultural and forestry development patterns for the region are given and then the paper examines the economic and social costs of the programme designed to keep people in productive work in rural areas and to restore the land to some degree of productivity through forest improvement practices.

(c) Forestry Practices in Small Woodland Ownerships

48. Mr. Philip L. Thornton, Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry, U.S. Forest Service, described forestry practices on small woodlands in the United States (FO:NAFC/78/5(c)). The greatest single challenge facing North American forestry is found in the small woodland ownerships, also called non-industrial private forests. The paper reviews the character and significance of these lands; some of the problems encountered; some of the traditional approaches underlying an action programme and some of the current issues relating to these lands in the USA.

49. Following presentation of these three papers, considerable discussion was held. The end result was a proposal for the establishment of a new Study Group on Forestry on Small Land Holdings. The Commission directed the Committee of Alternates to draft a tentative charter for such a Study Group and to report to the Commission at its next session.

VII. POSITION REPORT BY THE FAO SECRETARIAT

(a) Perspective Study of World Agricultural Development

50. The Commission expressed pleasure that the FAO regional studies of the forestry sector were being continued, as indicated in Secretariat Note FO:NAFC/78/7(a). Canada and the United States are collaborating on demand and supply studies and are prepared to make these available to FAO. All three countries look forward to receipt of the FAO studies on supply and demand in the pulp and paper field.

(b) Follow-up to Recommendations Addressed to FAO by the Commission at its Eighth Session

51. The Commission noted that at the Eighth Session of the NAFC three recommendations had been addressed to FAO. The Chairman reported on the meeting the Chairmen of the Regional Forestry Commissions for Africa, Europe, the Near East and North America had held in Rome on 26 November 1976 with the Assistant Director-General, FAO Forestry Department, on the occasion of the Third Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO). The discussions during this meeting had concentrated on two subjects. The first was how to insure that the Chairmen of the Regional Forestry Commissions would be able to attend COFO and how they could best represent the regional points of view at the COFO sessions. The second was how to enable Member Countries of the various Commissions to pursue more actively programmes of common interest between Commission sessions. It was recognized that these were primarily problems for Commissions, the members of which were mainly developing countries, and that the problem was the lack of forestry administration resources in these countries to enable them to organize, service and participate in such activities. A consensus was reached on the following points:

- (1) The attendance of the Chairmen of Regional Forestry Commissions at the sessions of the Committee on Forestry should be formalized.
- (2) The Committee on Forestry should be encouraged to select the Chairmen of the Regional Forestry Commissions to serve as its officers.
- (3) More technical meetings should be encouraged in each region between Commission sessions.
- (4) The Executive Committee of each Commission should play a more active role in encouraging and organizing such technical meetings.
- (5) FAO would seek ways to provide the funds necessary to finance the activities outlined above. This could be through including them, or some of them, in the Programme of Work and Budget either of the Forestry Department or of the Regional Offices, by soliciting support from donor countries and by encouraging the countries hosting a meeting to bear more of the local costs.

52. In a second recommendation made at its Eighth Session, the Commission had requested that FAO, through its Regional Forestry Officers for the Latin American and Asia-Pacific Regions, disseminate to developing countries in those regions information about pertinent activities and meetings of the Study Groups of the Commission. With the constant turnover in Study Group leadership, it has been difficult even to keep the Regional Forestry Officers informed. The Chairman reminded Commission members of the obligation and the opportunity to share the Commission's more productive activities with its neighbours.

53. The Commission's third recommendation was a request that FAO keep the Study Group on Remote Sensing informed of progress made with the classification of vegetation types in West Africa undertaken within the FAO/UNEP Pilot Project on the Monitoring of the Tropical Forest Cover. In discussing this recommendation, the Commission noted that its Rapporteur might be provided with informal information on progress of work, while formal reports would be directed to the Chairman of the Commission as prescribed in the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the NAFC. The information so far produced by the project has been provided to the Study Group. A more comprehensive and up-dated report will be available shortly, including proposals for the continuation and expansion of the Pilot Project.

VIII. MATTERS TO BE REFERRED TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

(a) FAO Forestry Department Medium-Term Objectives and Main Features of the Programme of Work for 1978-79

54. The Secretary of the Commission, Mr. M. González de Moya, Chief, Programme Management and Liaison Unit in the FAO Forestry Department, informed the Commission of the FAO Conference and Council decisions on the medium-term objectives and priorities in forestry and the Programme of Work for 1978-79. He touched on some of the current world forestry problems and reviewed some of FAO's objectives and priorities in the light of these problems. The background to the formulation of the objectives and programme is given in Secretariat Note FO:NAFC/78/8(a). At its Third Session (November 1976), the Committee on Forestry endorsed six areas of concentration: tropical forestry development, conservation, forest industries development, promotion of trade in tropical timber, forestry institutions, and forest policy analysis, planning and statistics.

55. The Commission considered that FAO's programme of work in the forestry sector was too broad and recommended that the Forestry Department focus its programme on a limited number of high priority problem areas. It pointed out that Commission members had expressed their concern at the Third Session of COFO about the too ambitious programme and about the declining share of the forestry budget in FAO. The Commission, therefore, urged Member Countries to include forestry representation in their delegations to FAO Conference and Council sessions so that these concerns could be properly voiced and recommended that Member Countries press for a more appropriate proportion of FAO's budget to be allocated to forestry programmes.

56. The Chairman further directed the Committee of Alternates to draft letters to the Director-General and to the Assistant Director-General for Forestry expressing the Commission's viewpoints on these matters and suggested that the new Chairman also convey the Commission's opinion to the next session of COFO.

57. The Secretary stated that FAO was moving toward Management by Objectives and that the Forestry Department had been trying out the new system. Reporting was done by activity on programme elements with the staff reporting on a daily basis. One reason for this change was the increasingly large proportion of funds that are extra budgetary and, therefore, in need of close monitoring.

(b) Forestry Field Operations of Interest to the North American Region

58. The Commission took note of Secretariat Note FO:NAFC/78/8/(b), containing a report on the 1976-77 forestry operations in the field and the frame in which these had taken place, including projects financed by UNDP, multi-bilateral programmes, the newly established Technical Cooperation Programme of FAO and WFP activities in the field of forestry. The Chairman called to the Commission's attention that there were no active FAO field programmes in North America. The Commission should seek ways to exert some influence on how these various programmes are conducted and coordinated. The Secretariat

indicated that, since FAO had the largest responsibility for coordinating these programmes, direction given to FAO's regular programme budget should influence all related programmes.

(c) Future World Forestry Congresses

59. The Commission expressed concern for the duration and format of the Eighth World Forestry in that the twelve days scheduled for the meeting plus pre and post conference tours would make it difficult, if not impossible, for many key delegates to attend. The inclusion of several free half-day sessions was questioned as to their appropriateness for the Congress. The Secretariat indicated that the host country had almost complete control of the schedule and the format for its meeting; the two FAO advisers for the Congress were paid by host country funds and were completely responsible to host country authorities. The Commission recommended that potential host countries organize shorter World Forestry Congresses in future. In response to a question on Proceedings of the Congress, the Secretariat reported that FAO had received copies of the Proceedings from the Seventh World Forestry Congress held in Argentina in 1972. It was noted that Indonesia had agreed to provide the Proceedings from the Eighth Congress within one year after closing of the Congress.

(d) Scheduling of Sessions of the Committee on Forestry

60. This item of the agenda was taken up for the purpose of ensuring coordination of the activities of the NAFC and COFO in the light of the timing required in the process of programme formulation to which the Commission contributes its views, recommendations and suggestions. The Commission noted that the COFO sessions are normally held regularly every two years in non-Conference years, and requested that FAO carefully consider the scheduling of these meetings so that Commission recommendations and suggestions would flow quickly and regularly into the system for COFO and FAO Forestry Department planning and programming. The next session will take place in Rome from 15 to 19 May 1978.

(e) Work of FAO Technical Commissions, Committees and Expert Panels

61. The Commission reviewed the FAO statutory bodies and panels of experts of interest to the Forestry Department and to the NAFC with a view to keep in perspective the functions and activities of the NAFC. The Commission noted that at its Thirteenth Session the FAO Conference had requested the FAO Council to undertake over a four-year cycle the review of all FAO expert committees, working parties and panels of experts on the one hand and of committees and working parties of governments on the other, to ensure that they were maintained only for the length of time required to accomplish their main purpose and avoid proliferation and duplication of functions.

62. The FAO statutory bodies and panels of experts in forestry are at present: the Committee on Forestry; the International Poplar Commission; the Regional Forestry Commissions for Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin-America, Near East and North America; a joint Committee of the Regional Commissions for Africa, Europe and the Near East on Mediterranean Forestry Questions "Silva Mediterranea"; the Committee on Wood-Based Panel Products; the Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics; the Advisory Committee of Experts on Pulp and Paper; the Advisory Committee on Forestry Education, and the Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources.

(f) Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Commission

63. Through Secretariat Note FO:NAFC/78/8(f), the Commission was informed of the amendments to Articles 4 and 7 of its Statutes and was invited to consider amendments to Rules VI.2 and XI.1 with a view to their adoption. The Commission adopted these amendments as proposed in the Secretariat Note.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

64. The Commission noted the planned departure of Dr. Kenneth F.S. King from his currently held position as Assistant Director-General for Forestry in FAO. The Commission conveyed its sincere appreciation for the cooperation and support received during his tenure in office and wished him well in his new position as Director, International Council for Research on Agro-Forestry.

65. The Commission expressed a sense of great loss at the death of Mr. Peter Vakomies, who had been Director of the Forest Industries Division of FAO till March 1977 when he had become President of a Canadian consulting firm. He had represented the Director-General of FAO at the Eighth Session of the NAFC in February 1976.

X. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

66. The following officers were elected by the Commission to hold office during the forthcoming biennium:

Chairman: C. Cárdenas (Mexico)
First Vice-Chairman: R.J. Bouchier (Canada)
Second Vice-Chairman: J.R. McGuire (U.S.A.)

67. The new Chairman, Ing. Cárdenas, will nominate his Alternate, who will serve as Chairman of the Committee of Alternates during the coming biennium, within the next few weeks, and will inform other members accordingly. Canada and the United States will also nominate their Alternate Delegates shortly, and will notify Ing. Cárdenas, so that the Committee of Alternates can begin carrying out the functions of the Commission.

XI. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

68. Ing. Cárdenas invited the Commission to meet in Mexico for its Tenth Session, at a time and place to be determined later, following discussions with the other Member Countries and with FAO.

XII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

69. The draft Final Report of the Ninth Session of the NAFC was then considered and adopted as corrected and amended.

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. State of forestry in North America, 1976-1978 - a statement on progress, problems and new policies in the forestry sector by each member country
 - (a) Canada
 - (b) Mexico
 - (c) United States of America
4. Review of Study Group activities:
 - (a) Study Group on Forest Tree Improvement
 - (b) Study Group on Forest Fire Management
 - (c) Study Group on Forest Insects and Diseases
 - (d) Study Group on Remote Sensing
 - (e) Study Group on Silviculture
 - (f) Study Group on Outdoor Recreation
 - (g) Study Group on Wildlife
 - (h) Study Group on Forest Engineering
5. Report of the Fifth Session of the Committee of Alternates
6. Selected technical items:
 - (a) Organization of producers of wood in Mexico
 - (b) Cooperatives in woodlot management
 - (c) Forestry practices in small woodland ownerships
7. Position report by FAO Secretariat:
 - (a) Perspective Study of World Agricultural Development
 - (b) Follow-up to recommendations addressed to FAO by the Commission at its Eighth Session
8. Matters to be referred to the attention of the Committee on Forestry:
 - (a) FAO Forestry Department medium-term objectives and main features of the Programme of Work for 1978-79
 - (b) Forestry field operations of interest to the North American Region
 - (c) Future World Forestry Congresses

- (d) Scheduling of sessions of the Committee on Forestry
- (e) Work of FAO Technical Commissions, Committees and Expert Panels
- (f) Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Commission

- 9. Other business
- 10. Adoption of Report
- 11. Election of Officers
- 12. Date and place of next session

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Appendix C

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Title</u>
1	FO:NAFC/78/1	Provisional Agenda
3 (a)	FO:NAFC/78/2(a)	State of Forestry in Canada
(b)	FO:NAFC/78/2(b)	Forestry in Mexico
(c)	FO:NAFC/78/2(c)	Forestry in the United States
4 (a)	FO:NAFC/78/3(a)	Report by Study Group on Forest Tree Improvement
(b)	FO:NAFC/78/3(b)	Report by Study Group on Forest Fire Management
(c)	FO:NAFC/78/3(c)	Report by Study Group on Forest Insects and Diseases
(d)	FO:NAFC/78/3(d)	Report by Study Group on Remote Sensing
(e)	FO:NAFC/78/3(e)	Report by Study Group on Silviculture
(f)	FO:NAFC/78/3(f)	Report by Study Group on Outdoor Recreation
(g)	FO:NAFC/78/3(g)	Report by Study Group on Wildlife
(h)	FO:NAFC/78/3(h)	Report by Study Group on Forest Engineering
5	FO:NAFC/78/4	Report of the Fifth Session of the Committee of Alternates
	FO:NAFC/78/4 (add)	Role of Committee of Alternates - NAFC
6 (a)	FO:NAFC/78/5(a)	Organization of Producers of Wood in Mexico
(b)	FO:NAFC/78/5(b)	Cooperatives in Woodlot Management
(c)	FO:NAFC/78/5(c)	Forestry Practices on Small Woodland Ownerships
7 (a)	FO:NAFC/78/7(a)	Perspective Study of World Agricultural Development
8 (a)	FO:NAFC/78/8(a)	FAO's Medium-Term Objectives in Forestry and Main Features of the Forestry Department's Programme of Work for 1978-79
(b)	FO:NAFC/78/8(b)	Forestry Field Operations of Interest to the North American Region
(f)	FO:NAFC/78/8(f)	Amendments to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the Commission

Information Documents

FO:NAFC/78/Inf.1	Provisional Timetable
FO:NAFC/78/Inf.1(a)	General Information
FO:NAFC/78/Inf.2	Provisional List of Participants
FO:NAFC/78/Inf.3	Functional Directory

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