



COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda

INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES

Sixth Session

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STATUS OF PREPARATION OF *THE SECOND REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES*

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its Seventeenth Regular Session in February 2019, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) adopted the outline¹ and timeline² for the preparation of *The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* (Second Report), as well as the guidelines³ for preparing country reports. It encouraged countries to initiate the collection of information and data for the preparation of their country reports and called upon them to submit their reports for the preparation of the Second Report by 30 June 2020. According to the timeline, the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (Working Group) should consider the status of the preparation of the Second Report at its current session, and a draft Second Report at its Seventh Session.

2. The Commission requested FAO to invite regional networks on forest genetic resources and relevant international organizations to contribute to the preparation of the Second Report. It also took note of the extra-budgetary resources required for the preparation of the Second Report⁴ and invited donors to support its preparation.

3. This document presents a summary of activities undertaken for the preparation of the Second Report, the current status of the preparatory process and next steps, for consideration by the Working Group.

II. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN FOR THE PREPARATION OF *THE SECOND REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES*

4. Through Circular State Letter C/CBD-10⁵ of 18 June 2019, FAO invited Members to update the nominations of National Focal Points, as appropriate, by 31 August 2019, and submit the country reports for the preparation of the Second Report by 30 June 2020. Through the same letter, FAO invited the regional networks on forest genetic resources and relevant international organizations to submit reports on their contributions to the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action on the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources* (Global Plan of Action)⁶ by the same date.

5. In 2019 and 2020, FAO briefed its Regional Forestry Commissions in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Near East and North America on the preparatory process of the Second Report. FAO also provided a similar briefing to the Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry in October 2020. The Committee invited Members to finalize their country reports for the Second Report and submit them to FAO, as soon as possible.⁷

6. In March 2019, FAO briefed, through a webinar, the Steering Committee of the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN) on the preparatory process for the Second Report. In April 2019, Bioversity International, FAO and the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana organized a regional workshop in Kumasi, Ghana for the National Coordinators of the Sub-Saharan Africa Forest Genetic Resources Programme (SAFORGEN). The workshop was attended by national experts from 20 countries⁸, as well as representatives of the Botanic Gardens Conservation International, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the World Agroforestry Center.

¹ CGRFA-17/19/10.3, *Appendix I*.

² CGRFA-17/19/10/3, *Appendix II*.

³ CGRFA-17/19/10.3/Inf.1.

⁴ CGRFA-17/19/10.3, *Appendix III*.

⁵ <http://www.fao.org/3/ca5229en/ca5229en.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3849e.pdf>

⁷ COFO/2020/REP, paragraph 16.

⁸ Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Togo and Uganda.

While the workshop focused on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, the participants were also briefed on the preparatory process of the Second Report.

7. In October 2019, FAO organized, in collaboration with the Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN), Bioversity International and the Chinese Academy of Forestry, a regional training workshop on the preparation of country reports for the Second Report. The training event was held in Beijing, China back-to-back with an APFORGEN meeting and attended by National Focal Points, their alternates or other national experts from 10 countries⁹. In the same month, FAO also presented an update to the preparation of the Second Report to the Annual Meeting of the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme, held in Vienna, Austria.

8. As a follow-up to the Seventeenth Regular Session of the Commission, the Secretariat approached several potential donors for their interest to support the preparation of the Second Report. In October 2019, FAO hired a United Nations Volunteer for two years with resources from the multilateral trust fund project supporting the implementation of the Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work¹⁰ which has so far received contributions from the Governments of Canada, Norway and Switzerland. Furthermore, a forestry expert seconded to FAO by France has contributed to this work among other forest management related activities since January 2020.

9. In July 2020, the Government of Germany and FAO signed an agreement for a three-year global project¹¹ supporting the preparation of the Second Report. The project activities include the organization of regional training workshops to support the finalization of the country reports.

10. Due to the continuing pandemic and related travel restrictions, the planned regional training workshops were converted to virtual meetings. The virtual meetings were organized for the National Focal Points in Asia on 26-27 October 2020 and in the Southwest Pacific on 12-13 November 2020. In addition to the National Focal Points, the virtual mode also allowed other national experts to attend the meetings. The Asia meeting was attended by 23 experts from nine countries,¹² and the one for the Southwest Pacific by five experts from three countries¹³. The meetings focused on clarifying the reporting guidelines, demonstrating the use of the online reporting system, sharing experiences on the preparation of the country reports and briefing the National Focal Points on the overall preparatory process of the Second Report.

11. Similar virtual meetings are being planned in 2021 for the National Focal Points in Africa, Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Near East.

III. CURRENT STATUS AND NEXT STEPS IN PREPARING *THE SECOND REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES*

12. FAO continues to provide, on request, technical support to the National Focal Points for the finalization of the country reports through video calls and electronic mails. A country report consists of two sections: (i) an online questionnaire gathering data on the management of forest genetic resources, and (ii) a written report providing complementary information.¹⁴ The questionnaire is based on the targets, indicators and verifiers for forest genetic resources adopted by the Commission at its Sixteenth Regular Session for monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.¹⁵

⁹ Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

¹⁰ GCP/GLO/841/MUL

¹¹ GCP/GLO/041/GER

¹² China, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Thailand

¹³ Australia, Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

¹⁴ CGRFA-17/19/10.3/Inf.1.

¹⁵ CGRFA-16/17/Report, paragraph 74; CGRFA-16/17/20, *Appendix C*.

13. As of February 2021, 102 countries¹⁶ have nominated their National Focal Points and 10 countries¹⁷ have submitted their full country report to FAO. An additional 20 countries have inserted or updated their data in the online questionnaire but have not yet submitted their written report. National Focal Points in many other countries have informed the Secretariat that the gathering of data and information is still under way, and that they expect to submit the country report later in 2021. In addition to challenges related to the availability of financial and human resources for the preparation of country reports, several National Focal Points have reported that the pandemic and related restrictions in place in their countries have made it difficult to gather inputs from different stakeholders. No reports have so far been received from the regional networks on forest genetic resources and relevant international organizations.

14. In 2021, FAO will continue screening the received country reports for possible data-entry errors and inconsistencies in consultation with the National Focal Points, as needed. Analyses and summaries of the data and information from the country reports will then be prepared for the Second Report. Four expert meetings are planned for 2021 to gather additional information on forest genetic resources from the scientific community for the preparation of the Second Report. Furthermore, consultants will be hired to support the preparation of the Second Report.

15. According to the timeline adopted by the Commission for the preparation of the Second Report¹⁸, FAO is expected to prepare a first draft of the Second Report for consideration by the Working Group at its Seventh Session in 2022. The Commission will then consider the draft Second Report at its Nineteenth Regular Session in 2023. As the country reports are the primary source of data and information for the preparation of the Second Report, it is necessary for FAO to receive more country reports as soon as possible to follow the agreed timeline.

IV. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

16. The Working Group may wish to take note of the activities reported for the preparation of the Second Report. The Working Group may also wish to:

- i. encourage countries, regional networks and relevant international organizations that have not yet submitted their reports to do so as soon as possible.

17. Furthermore, the Working Group may wish to recommend that the Commission:

- i. invite countries, regional networks and relevant international organizations that have not yet done so to submit their reports to FAO by 31 October 2021 at the latest;
- ii. request FAO to prepare a draft Second Report for review by the Seventh Session of the Working Group;
- iii. request FAO to take into account the comments of the Seventh Session of the Working Group to the first draft of the Second Report, and present an updated draft of the Second Report to the Commission for its considerations at the Nineteenth Regular Session; and
- iv. invite donors to support the finalization and publication of the Second Report.

¹⁶ <http://www.fao.org/forest-genetic-resources/background/national-focal-points/en/>

¹⁷ Denmark, Finland, Croatia, Lithuania, Malta, Norway, Serbia, Sweden, Ukraine and Switzerland.

¹⁸ CGRFA-17/19/Report, *Appendix F*.