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منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
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Food
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des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

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NORTH AMERICAN FOREST COMMISSION

TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, 23-24 October 2006

FAO REPORT

Provisional COFO Agenda

1. Following consultations with countries, and taking into consideration recommendations of five regional forestry commissions that met during the first half of 2006, FAO proposes the following provisional agenda for the 18th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) to be held from 13 to 17 March 2007 in Rome:

- Report on the State of the World's Forests (SOFO 2007)
- Forests & energy: new challenges in sustainable forest management
- Forest protection
- Putting forestry to work at the local level
- Progressing towards sustainable forest management
- In session seminar: regional action on sustainable forest management.
- Shaping an action programme for FAO in forestry
- XIII World Forestry Congress (information item)

Progress Towards Sustainable Forest Management

2. In the first half of 2006, FAO prepared discussion reports on progress towards sustainable forest management in each of six regions. In the case of five regions, these reports were presented for discussion at the regional forestry commission meetings that took place between February and June 2006. In the case of North America, since the 2006 session is not scheduled to take place until October, the discussion report was circulated to members of the NAFC Bureau of Alternates for review and comments in May 2006. Comments were received from each NAFC member, and the report was revised for inclusion in the *State of the World's Forests 2007* which will be released by FAO at the 18th Session of the Committee on Forestry in March 2007.

Fire Management Code

3. The critical role of fire has been recognized by many countries and organizations - on the one hand in maintaining fire dependent ecosystems; but on the other, causing deforestation, forest

degradation and destruction of livelihoods, biodiversity and infrastructure. Following the recommendations of the 3rd International Wildland Fire Summit, Sydney, Australia, October 2003; the Pan American Wildland Fire Conference, San José, Costa Rica, October 2004; Ministerial Meeting on Forests, Rome, Italy, March 2005; and the Committee on Forestry, March 2005, FAO has coordinated a multi-stakeholder process to prepare a Fire Management Code. The objective is to provide a global framework of principles for policy, legal, regulatory and other enabling conditions and strategic actions for more holistic approaches to fire management.

4. The Fire Management Code provides a framework for consideration by land-use policy makers, planners and managers in fire management including target users as the State, private sector and non-governmental organizations. The scope of the Code includes the positive and negative social, cultural, environmental and economic impacts of natural and planned fires in forests, woodlands, rangelands, grasslands, agricultural and rural-urban landscapes.

5. Fire management coverage includes early warning, prevention, preparedness (international, national, sub-national and community), safe and effective initial attack on incidences of fire and landscape restoration following fire. The Code provides an international framework, outlines cross-sectoral issues, elaborates on principles and attributes to balance social, cultural, environmental and economic dimensions of fire management and prescribes key actions necessary for planning and management of fires.

6. The preparation process has involved a core technical group and expert consultations with selected member Governments, private sector associations, non-governmental organizations and inter-governmental organizations. The process is on-going. The draft Fire Management Code has been presented to and discussed at Regional Forestry Commissions and regional wildland fire management meetings in 2006. The draft Fire Management Code has been available on the internet since July 2006 and invitations made to all countries for them to conduct meetings to consider the Code and provide feedback by 30 October, 2006.

7. Based on recommendations and suggestions from these meetings, a final draft of the Fire Management Code will be prepared by December 2006 and submitted to the Eighteenth Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) in March 2007 for consideration and appropriate action. If the Code is agreed by countries, implementation will be critical, particularly capacity building to translate the Code into policies and practices and to formalize procedures for monitoring and reporting. In May 2007 the Code and an associated needs assessment will be presented at the 4th International Wildland Fire Conference. The attendees, a broad array of stakeholders, will strengthen partnerships and propose implementation strategies through their networks.

8. In developing the code, FAO is collaborating with members of the International Liaison Committee of the 4th International Wildland Fire Conference, Spain, 2007; USDA Forest Service; Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC); UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network; The Nature Conservancy (TNC); the Government of Spain; and experts from the private sector, inter-governmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations.

The draft Fire Management Code is available on <http://www.fao.org/forestry/firemanagementcode>

Comments are welcome by 30 October 2006: Fire-Management-Code@fao.org

Planted Forests Code

9. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) have recognized the critical role of afforestation and reforestation to provide a wide range of goods and services. FAO is coordinating a multi-stakeholder process to prepare a Planted Forests Code to promote balanced social, cultural, environmental and economic dimensions in planted forest development and their contribution towards sustainable livelihoods and land-use.

10. The Planted Forests Code will include guiding principles for policy, legal, regulatory and other enabling conditions, thus providing a framework for responsible planning, management and monitoring of planted forests. The Planted Forests Code will supplement and complement the non-legally binding forest instrument being developed by the UN Forum on Forests as well as Forest Certification Schemes.

11. The Planted Forests Code provides a framework for policy makers and planners in both the public and private sectors. The scope will include the full spectrum of planning, management and monitoring activities for both productive and protective functions of planted forests.

12. The preparation process involves a core technical group and expert consultations with selected member Governments, private sector associations (corporate and smallholder), non-governmental organizations (environmental and social) and inter-governmental organizations. The process began with a recommendation from COFO for FAO to develop best practices for planted forests and a recommendation from the FAO Advisory Committee on Wood and Paper Products to develop a code for planted forests. A multi-stakeholder expert consultation recommended the preparation of a voluntary instrument to be called a Code after considering other alternative titles.

13. The process is on-going, and the draft Planted Forests Code has been presented to and discussed at the Regional Forestry Commissions, private sector and civil society meetings in 2006. The draft Planted Forests Code has been available on the internet since March 2006. Invitations were extended to all countries to conduct meetings to consider the Code and provide feedback by 30 September, 2006. Based on recommendations and suggestions from these meetings, a final draft of the Planted Forests Code will be prepared by December, 2006 and submitted to the Eighteenth Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) in March 2007 for consideration and action.

14. Major partners in preparing the draft Planted Forests Codes have included Selected member countries (New Zealand, South Africa, India, China, Vietna, Iran); inter-governmental organizations (FAO, ITTO, CIFOR, IUCN, The World Bank); private sector associations (ICFPA, BRACELPA, AF&PA, CEPI, JPA/JOPP, CORMA, SFOA); non-governmental organizations (WWF, Forest People's Programme, IIED); the International Federation of Building and Wood Workers (IFBWW); and the University of Oxford.

15. FAO and partners recognize the need to conduct a comprehensive programme for familiarization and capacity building in implementation and monitoring.

The draft Planted Forests Code is available on <http://www.fao.org/forestry/plantedforestscode>

Comments are welcome by 30 September 2006: Planted-Forests-Code@fao.org