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Organización  
de las  
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Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

### Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda

### TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

**Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 26 - 30 June 2006**

**INFORMATION ITEMS: Forestry education in Latin America and the Caribbean; Progress in the Regional Technical Cooperation Networks; Briefing on the outcome of the III Latin American Forestry Congress (III CONFLAT)**

### Secretariat Note

#### Forestry education in Latin America and the Caribbean

1. In compliance to the recommendations of the FAO Committee on Forestry at its 16<sup>th</sup> Session, and based on the final report of the World Forestry Congress, Quebec, Canada (2003), FAO has initiated a study on the current situation and trends of forest education in Latin America, and has promoted extensive discussions on the needs and demands for professional forest services.
2. FAO carried out via Internet a survey of forest schools, as well as public and private organizations which employ forestry professionals in the Region.
3. More than 200 institutions or companies provided information; 70 of them were forestry teaching institutes. The result of the study is an important tool to plan future activities undertaken by international agencies, the private sector and forestry schools in the Region.
4. In addition to the survey, an electronic forum was carried out in order to increase participation, looking always for the best alternative to bring forestry teaching and professional services closer to labour sector requirements and to the demands of the society as a whole.
5. Likewise, a regional technical cooperation network for forestry education is planned as a forum where forestry professionals and people responsible for forestry education may discuss topics of mutual interest.

### **Progress made in Regional Technical Cooperation Networks**

#### **Latin American Technical Cooperation Network on Watershed Management (REDLACH)**

6. REDLACH is composed of 21 member countries. Over this period, the Network has developed its Action and Communications Plans for the period 2004-2008 and within this framework, it published three issues of the REDLACH electronic magazine at the FAO Regional Office Website.
7. Additionally, it promoted the organization of an international meeting on trans-boundary watersheds held in Peru in late 2004, and the IV Latin American Watershed Congress is currently being organized.
8. In recent years, REDLACH has promoted mechanisms for the Payment for Environmental Services (PES) provided by forests.
9. After the last Latin American Congress organized by the Network and the Government of Peru in 2003, REDLACH collaborated with the FAO Forestry Department in the preparation of a publication entitled "Watershed Management: The New Generation".

#### **Latin American Technical Cooperation Network on National Parks, other Protected Areas and Wildlife (REDPARQUES)**

10. Two cooperation projects supporting a Programme for Strengthening Natural Resources Sustainable Management in Latin American Protected Areas have been approved in 2005 for a three-year period. These projects are funded by the Independent National Parks Organization (Spain). The Programme will strengthen Network activities and will concentrate training activities on the following topics: decentralization of protected areas management; protected areas management under IUCN Category VI; protected areas management and indigenous people; environmental services; and protected areas financing.
11. The Programme shall support the preparatory activities for the II Latin American Congress of National Parks and Other Protected Areas which will be held in Argentina, September 2007. The Congress will be supported by the Protected Areas Commission of the World Conservation Union (IUCN), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

#### **Subregional Forest Fire Experts Network**

12. As a result of the FAO project TCP/RLA/3010, three sub-regional fire expert networks were set up in the Region between 2004 and 2006, (the Caribbean and South America within the framework of the LACFC, and Mesoamerica within the framework of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD). The three networks met in three subregional workshops and prepared three subregional cooperation strategies for forest fires prevention, control and fight, what will be discussed and validated during the present Session of the Commission.

#### **Summary of the III Latin American Forestry Congress Results (III CONFLAT)**

13. The III Latin American Forestry Congress (III CONFLAT) organized by the Colombian Association of Forestry Engineers (ACIF), was held in Bogota, Colombia, from 15 to 18 November, 2005. Representatives from 25 countries attended the Congress as well as from different international organizations which are active in the Region. Colombian participation was very strong at all levels including politicians and 12 members of the diplomatic corp.

14. Among other recommendations the III CONFLAT called for a greater integration of efforts deployed by CONFLATs and LACFC. To this end, a CONFLATs Follow-up Committee was established with the aim of turning this Congress into a supporting body for forestry planning in different countries, and to effectively mobilize the experience of technical cooperation agencies.

15. Since World Forestry Congresses are directly related to FAO Committee on Forestry, it has been suggested that the Commission considers the CONFLAT/LACFC integration proposal and submits it to the next COFO Session, March 2007.

16. It should also be noted that Argentina has been selected by the FAO Council to host the next World Forestry Congress in October 2009.