



COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

Twenty-sixth Session

3-7 October 2022

Recommendations of FAO's Regional Forestry Commissions for the FAO Programme of Work in Forestry

1. This document contains a summary of recommendations for the FAO Programme of Work in Forestry from FAO's Regional Forestry Commissions, including:

- 1) 29th Session of the Asia Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC29);
- 2) 32nd Session of the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC32);
- 3) 31st Session of the North American Forestry Commission (NAFC31);
- 4) 41st Session of the European Forestry Commission (EFC41);
- 5) 25th Session of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission (NEFRC25).

2. The 23rd Session of the Africa Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC23) is scheduled for 22-25 August 2022, and by the time of preparing this document the recommendations were not yet available.

I. Recommendations of the 29th Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC29) for the FAO Programme of Work in Forestry related to the agenda of the current session¹

<i>Area/action for FAO programme of work</i>	<i>Global Forest Goals²</i>
The Commission <u>recommended</u> to:	
1. support capacity building and provide technical assistance to underpin national efforts to enhance, redesign and implement policies and actions to upscale forest and landscape restoration (including agroforestry) and reduce deforestation and forest degradation, including in the context of green recovery actions;	1, 2, 3
2. support legal and sustainable forestry value chains with appropriate involvement of local communities, small-scale operators as well as women and youth, using innovative forest technologies and digital tools for improved transparency, monitoring and decision making;	2, 5
3. strengthen the capacity of governments and relevant stakeholders as regards the sustainable management and use of forest biodiversity (including wildlife) and zoonotic disease prevention through the One Health approach;	1, 3, 5
4. further strengthen cross-sectoral work through activities aimed at halting deforestation and land degradation, and promoting sustainable agriculture and forest management in ways that lead to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems;	1, 2, 5
5. continue to provide support to capacity building, technology transfer and mobilization of resources, to ensure continuing food security and rural development and ongoing development of the role REDD+ plays in this;	2, 4, 6
6. continue improving the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) platform to support easy and transparent reporting on forest resources, their management and uses;	1-6
7. continue the work on improved reporting on primary forests and report the first results of the work in the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO);	1-6
8. complete the FRA Remote Sensing Survey and continue capacity development on remote sensing and data management, as well as facilitate related technology transfer;	1-6
9. circulate the draft scoping report of the APFC governance review for comments;	6
10. convene an informal consultation with nominated representatives from APFC Members and other stakeholders to further discuss and refine proposed options, including budgetary implications, to reform the APFC governance structure to provide greater relevance, efficiency and effectiveness;	6
11. report on progress made in the APFC governance review at its next session as well as to next session of COFO;	6
12. promote the State of the World's Forests (SOFO) 2022 within and outside of the forestry sector;	6
13. take an active part in advancing the UN Secretary-General's Initiative on Turning the Tide on Deforestation and related activities;	1, 6

¹ [Report of the Twenty-ninth session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission \(APFC/2022/REP\)](#)

² <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Global-Forest-Goals-booklet-Apr-2019.pdf>

14.	continue to take an active role as the Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and through this enhance advocacy on forests through relevant global processes and initiatives.	1, 6
-----	--	------

II. Recommendations of the 32nd Session of the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC32) for the FAO Programme of Work in Forestry related to the agenda of the current session³

<i>Area/action for FAO programme of work</i>	<i>Global Forest Goals</i>
The Commission requested FAO to:	
1. assess the impacts of the pandemic on the forestry sector at the global and national levels, upon requests from countries, considering the cost of the impact in monetary terms and including data on the socio-economic impacts on forest-dependent communities;	2, 4,5
2. support the identification of new markets for wood and non-wood forestry products and that the countries promote incentives for restoration; it also called upon the private sector to channel investment into restoration;	1, 2
3. support the development of a comprehensive programme for the restoration of degraded lands, with viable community production alternatives and innovative mechanisms, in order to reduce pressure on forests and natural resources;	1, 2
4. promote synergies between forestry and agriculture in regional initiatives and projects through COVID-19 pandemic recovery measures;	1, 2, 5
5. promote the exchange of information and knowledge on best practices and lessons learned to secure sustainable financing to halt deforestation and forest degradation, support restoration programs and the preservation/conservation and sustainable use of forest resources;	1, 4
6. support member countries, upon request, to develop projects targeting forest lands investing in key public goods and services to enable the transition to sustainable agrifood systems and their interaction with forests, reduce investment risk and the use of public financing to encourage private investment;	4, 2
7. be actively involved in and support the integration and role of sustainable forest management in any intergovernmental multilateral deliberations or negotiations within the UN system that address or seek to define nature-based solutions;	6
8. facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences in promoting private sector investment in climate and environmental projects and initiatives;	1, 4, 6
9. strengthen the role and participation of men, women and youth, indigenous peoples and local communities in climate and environmental programs and projects;	1, 2
0. further strengthen its intersectoral work through activities aimed at reducing deforestation and promoting sustainable agriculture and forest management in ways that would lead to more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agrifood systems;	1, 2
1. consider regionally specific initiatives on halting deforestation while greening agrifood systems, taking into considerations the regionally specific deforestation dynamics and drivers;	1
2. continue promoting the territorial and ecosystem approach (landscape approach) through mechanisms and instruments such as territorial planning and forest zoning;	1, 3, 5
3. continue developing an integrated vision at the farm level, considering forestry, agroforestry, agrosilvopastoral, agricultural and livestock activities, including access to incentives and investment mechanisms for small producers;	1, 2, 3
4. continue supporting countries in accessing funding for restoration actions and developing public/private partnerships to facilitate investments in restoration processes;	4

³ [Report of the 32nd Session of the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission \(FO:LACFC/2021/REP\)](#)

5.	provide technical support, to enhance enabling conditions and support restoration of degraded ecosystems;	1, 4
6.	further develop and share good practices and provide advice to support forest and landscape restoration actions and the use of the tools and methodologies, to help countries to scale up their efforts and monitor progress;	1, 6
7.	support national partners in Latin American to access public and private international funding for medium-term projects in forest and landscape restoration from bilateral or multilateral financial instruments;	4
8.	facilitate coordination among the United Nations System Agencies, supporting the countries in their restoration efforts and monitoring the progress of these initiatives;	1, 6
9.	support the EU-driven Regional Expert Group on Forest Fires in collaboration with FAO through its technical capacity, projects, and network of country offices, by promoting the articulation of existing formal and informal networks thereby generating synergies and avoiding duplication of functions;	1, 6
0.	support coordination between the different regional fire management initiatives, including the Regional Expert Group;	1, 6
1.	promote fire management and prevention as an integral part of restoration activities during the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, in order to prevent restoration efforts from being negatively affected by forest fires;	1, 6
2.	strengthen its technical team, allowing it to accompany and strengthen national technical and institutional capacities with respect to fire management;	1
3.	maintain and strengthen its support for countries on national and global forest monitoring, by, inter alia, strengthening the capacity of forest administrations in the implementation of their national forest monitoring systems and integrating national forest inventories into FAO's Hand-in-Hand initiative;	5, 6
4.	complete the FRA global participatory remote sensing assessment and provide support to countries by providing them with tools and methodologies to generate better data on the contribution of forests to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in accordance with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Enhanced Transparency Framework;	1-6
5.	continue supporting the consolidation of the Latin American Network of National Experts on National Forest Inventories as a mechanism for South-South cooperation, and facilitate the sharing of experiences, technologies and systems related to forest monitoring;	1-6
6.	continue work to improve reporting on forest characteristics, including primary forests, and report on the first results of the work at the 26th Session of COFO;	1-6
7.	support the identification of resources to strengthen forest inventories and forest monitoring in countries;	4
8.	continue work to develop, make available and train countries in the use of open-source tools, such as Collect Earth and the System for earth observation, data access, processing, analysis for land monitoring (SEPAL);	1-6
9.	synchronize the schedule of future LACFC meetings with the schedule of meetings of the Regional Conference, in order to provide more timely input from LACFC to the Regional Conference;	6
0.	invite the LACFC Chair to attend the Regional Conference and to improve inter-sessional activities, thereby optimizing interaction between LACFC and Regional Conference members, including Rome-based delegations, with a view to strengthening cross-sectoral policy dialogue and ensuring that important regional forestry issues are incorporated into the themes of the Regional Conferences;	6
1.	conduct a detailed review of the LACFC with the purpose of strengthening its functions in order to raise its relevance, and communicate the results to the next LACFC session;	6

2.	prioritize the topics to be discussed during the LACFC, according to issues of common interest;	6
3.	promote SOFO 2022 within and outside the forestry sector;	6
4.	actively participate in the promotion of the UN Secretary-General's "Turning the Tide on Deforestation" initiative and related activities;	1, 6
5.	continue to play an active role as Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and, through it, leverage forest advocacy in relevant global processes and initiatives.	1, 6

III. Recommendations from the 31st Session of the North American Forestry Commission (NAFC31) for the FAO Programme of Work in Forestry related to the agenda of the current session⁴

<i>Area/action for FAO programme of work</i>	<i>Priority (H, M, L, De-emphasis)</i>	<i>Type (new, continued)</i>	<i>Level of action ((sub-regional/ regional/global)</i>	<i>Global Forest Goals</i>
The Commission requested FAO to:				
1. strengthening fire management and suppression capacity in countries, in particular cross-regional training within and between different regions	High	continued	regional/global	1, 3
2. Urban Forestry – in particular urban forests’ role in helping communities resiliency to climate change	High	continued	regional/global	3, 5, 6
3. Environmental justice – how are countries addressing environmental programming and services to historically underserved or vulnerable communities	High	new	regional/global	2, 4, 5, 6
4. Avoided Deforestation from Agriculture – in particular cross-sectoral dialogue between COAG and COFO	High	continued	global	1, 5, 6
5. Continue work to help countries build capacity with forest monitoring and inventory, including increasing their ability to report to FRA	High	continued	regional/global	4
6. Sustainable use of forest products	High	continued	regional/global	2, 3
7. Forest restoration and afforestation	High	continued	regional/global	1, 3

⁴ [Report of the 31st Session of the North American Forest Commission - FO:NAFC/2021/REP](#)

IV. Recommendations of the 41st Session of the European Forestry Commission (EFC41) for the FAO Programme of Work in Forestry related to the agenda of the current session⁵

<i>Area/action for FAO programme of work</i>	<i>Priority (H, M, L, De-emphasis)</i>	<i>Type (new, continued)</i>	<i>Level of action (subregional/regional/global)</i>	<i>Global Forest Goals</i>
The Commission requested FAO to:				
Progress in the global and regional forest resources assessment processes:				
1. requested FAO and ECE to continue to work with Forest Europe on the joint ECE/FAO/Forest Europe data collection on forests and forest management and coordinate it with the global reporting to the extent possible.		Continued	Global, Regional	Goal 1 - Goal 6
Follow-up to the decisions of the fortieth session of the European Forestry Commission:				
FAO to continue to work on:				
2. continue to its current work, including on forest invasive species, forest fires and definitions of forest degradation and keep member States updated about relevant developments		Continued	Regional	Goal 1
Presentation of forestry activities of the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia:				
FAO to:				
3. strengthen the integration of land use and integrated landscape approaches in operational forestry work in the region, as well as into existing and future REU Regional Priorities, considering the multifunctional roles of forests;		Continued	Regional	Goal 1
4. integrate poverty considerations into the design and formulation of projects, in particular large project such as GEF and GCF, applying approaches such as poverty measurement, poverty profiles, poverty mapping, and poverty-based targeting;		Continued	Regional	Goal 1 Goal 4 Goal 5
5. continue to support natural resource management including forests through the harmonization and strengthening of national policy, financing, incentives, taxation and governance frameworks and measures, including regulations, standards and monitoring for forest management interventions and practices, and support capacity development in this regard;		Continued	Regional	Goal 1 Goal 5
6. continue supporting countries and other stakeholders, including the private sector, to promote coordinated action enhancing the sustainable production and consumption of NWFP, including capacity-building related to the		Continued	Regional	Goal 1 Goal 6

⁵ [Report of the 41st session of the European Forestry Commission \(EFC41\) ECE/TIM/2021/2-FO:EFC/2021/2](#)

	collection and dissemination of statistics on NWFP; and				
7.	continue to support the Forest Invasive Species Network for Europe and Central Asia (REUFIS) and its activities, in particular in organising topical trainings on emerging invasive species and collaborate with relevant organisations including Forest Europe		Continued	Regional	Goal 1 Goal 6
Progress of Silva Mediterranea and the European Forestry Commission Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds:					
FAO to:					
8.	encourage the development of activities related to youth entrepreneurship in the bioeconomy as a way to address the challenges faced by Mediterranean forests in the context of global changes		Continued	Regional	Goal 5 Goal 6
Regional cross-sectorial dialogue on forestry - agriculture matters: panel session:					
FAO to:					
9.	strengthen the focus on regionally-specific priorities, in particular Regional Priority “Managing natural resources sustainably and preserving biodiversity in a changing climate”;		Continued	Regional	Goal 1 Goal 6
10.	continue addressing cross-sectoral matters through initiatives and land use policies aimed at halting and reversing forest loss and land degradation, and promoting restoration, as well as promoting sustainable agriculture and forest management in ways that lead to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems		Continued	Regional	Goal 1 Goal 3 Goal 6
Global processes and initiatives:					
FAO to:					
11.	play an active role in advancing the United Nations Secretary-General’s Initiative on Turning the Tide on Deforestation and related activities;		Continued	All	Goal 1 Goal 6
12.	explore how the related pledges from UNFCCC COP26 can be monitored;		Continued	All	Goal 1 Goal 6
13.	continue to take an active role as the Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and through this enhance advocacy on forests through relevant global processes and initiatives		Continued	All	Goal 1 Goal 6

V. Recommendations of the 25th Session of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission (NEFRC25) for the FAO Programme of Work in Forestry related to the agenda of the current session⁶

NEFRC25 recommendations for the FAO Programme of Work in Forestry related to the agenda of the current session			
<i>Area/ action for FAO programme of work</i>	<i>Priority (High, Medium, Low, De-emphasis)</i>	<i>Type (new, continued)</i>	<i>Global Forest Goals</i>
The Commission requested FAO to:			
1. continue to support Members with the formulation of development projects that integrate forest and rangelands within the broader food system, conserve biodiversity, adapt to climate change and combat land degradation and contribute to achieving multiple SDGs;	High	Continued	1, 3, 4
2. strengthen the cross-sectorial work of the NEFRC, especially on forestry/rangelands and agrifood systems matters;	High	New	1, 2, 5
3. consider to undertake a detailed review of NEFRC with the aim of further enhancing its relevance, including the focus on Agenda 2030 and the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, and its efficiency and effectiveness;			6
4. strengthen action on assessing and monitoring deforestation and rangelands degradation taking into consideration regionally-specific degradation dynamics and drivers within the context of Programme Priority Area Better Life 5 (PPA BL5) on Resilient Agrifood Systems;	High	New	1, 6
5. strengthen action on halting desertification, land degradation and deforestation while greening agrifood systems, taking into consideration regionally-specific land degradation dynamics and drivers within the context of Programme Priority Area Better Life 5 (PPA BL5) on Resilient Agrifood Systems;	High	New	1, 2
6. help Members to enhance coordination and collaboration on climate change activities, both within the countries, and inter-regionally, with relevant and recognized institutions and international organizations at the national level and in the region respectively;	High	New	1, 6
7. support Members with the formulation of development projects that integrate forest and rangelands within the broader food system, conserve biodiversity, adapt to climate change and combat	High	Continued	4, 6

⁶ [Report of the 25th Session of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission \(NEFRC25\)](#)

	land degradation and contribute to achieving multiple SDGs;			
8.	support the implementation of the Near East Network on Wildlands Forest Fire (NENFIRE) and Near East Network on Forest Health and Invasive Species (NENFHIS) activities, upon request by Members, especially the Review and Analysis and Risk Reduction for forest fires and community-based fire management, as well as phytosanitary measures in forestry; and share information on the outcomes of such activities and initiatives to be translated into national and regional programmes;	High	Continued	1, 6
9.	provide technical assistance to improve institutional capacity to combat biotic and abiotic factors affecting health and vitality of forests and rangelands, including fires, pests and diseases, in support of the development of resilient forests and rangelands in the context of climate change;	High	Continued	1, 4
10.	continue to provide technical assistance to bolster national forest monitoring and climate risk and vulnerability assessments to evaluate future scenarios, achieve mitigation and adaptation targets, including through leveraging innovative monitoring tools and platforms, including Open Foris and the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM);	High	Continued	1, 5, 6
11.	promote SOFO 2022 within and outside of the forestry sector.	High	New	1-6