



联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

Organisation des Nations  
Unies pour l'alimentation  
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная организация  
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las  
Naciones Unidas para la  
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

E

# COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

## Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda

### INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES

#### Third Session

Rome, 7 - 9 July 2014

### FOLLOW UP TO THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Paragraphs
I. Introduction .....	1 - 3
II. Follow-up to the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources.....	4 - 12
III. Guidance sought .....	13 - 14

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission), at its Eleventh Regular Session, emphasized the importance of forest genetic resources for food security, poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability, and underscored the comparative advantages and importance of FAO's work in this area. The Commission stressed the urgency for addressing the conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources through sustainable forest management, especially those resources that are under threat at the global level. It recognized that the lack of information is limiting the capacity of decision-makers in determining the action needed on forest genetic resources at the international, regional and local levels. The Commission requested FAO to prepare a report on *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* (SOW-FGR) for consideration at its Fourteenth Regular Session. It established an Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (Working Group) to advise and make recommendations in this process.<sup>1</sup>
2. The Commission, at its Fourteenth Regular Session, acknowledged the progress made in preparing *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* and requested FAO to finalize the report during 2013, it reviewed and revised the draft strategic priorities for action for forest genetic resources and agreed on them as the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources* (GPA-FGR)<sup>2</sup> which was adopted by the FAO Conference, at its thirty-eighth Session in June 2013.<sup>3</sup> The Commission further requested FAO to develop an implementation strategy for the Global Plan of Action and encouraged the mobilization of adequate financial resources, preferably from voluntary contributions, to support its implementation, particularly in developing countries.
3. This document presents briefly the main activities implemented by FAO as a follow up to the adoption of the GPA-FGR so as to promote its understanding.

## II. FOLLOW-UP TO THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES

4. A draft report of *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*, based on 86 country reports covering 76% of world's total land area and 85% of the global forest area, was presented to the Commission at its 14<sup>th</sup> Session in April 2013. The Commission acknowledged the progress made in preparing the report and provided comments on the key findings presented, which it requested be taken into consideration<sup>4</sup> in the finalization of the report. Prior to its finalization, as requested by the Commission, the final draft of the report was made available to countries for six weeks. Nine (9) countries and institutions provided comments to the Secretariat during this consultation process, which were integrated as appropriate in the final version. The SOW-FGR was finalized and launched on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2014.
5. The Global Plan of Action includes 27 Strategic Priorities, which are relevant to the national, regional and international levels, under four priority areas for action: (i) improving the availability of, and access to, information regarding FGR; (ii) *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of FGR; (iii) sustainable use, development and management of FGR; and (iv) policies, institutions and capacity building.
6. Information on the progress in finalizing the SOW-FGR and on the adoption of the GPA-FGR by the Commission at its fourteenth session and by the FAO Conference at its thirty-eighth session have been presented to FAO's Regional Forestry Commissions. Discussions have been held at the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission in September 2013,<sup>5</sup> to the Joint Session of the

---

<sup>1</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report, paragraphs 54 - 56.

<sup>2</sup> CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraphs 50 - 52.

<sup>3</sup> C 2013/REP, paragraph 77.

<sup>4</sup> CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 50.

<sup>5</sup> FO:LACFC/2013/10.

thirty-seventh European Forestry Commission - 71<sup>st</sup> UNECE Committee on Forest and Forest Industry in December 2013,<sup>6</sup> and at the twenty-seventh session of the North American Forest Commission.<sup>7</sup>

7. In the course of these discussions it was recommended that FAO continue its technical support on FGR to countries and to strengthen its collaboration with regional organizations undertaking programmes related to FGR (including *Silva Mediterranea* in the Near East region).<sup>8</sup>

8. Following discussions at the Regional Forestry Commissions, the twenty-second meeting of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO), held from 23 to 27 June 2014, discussed the GPA-FGR (Agenda Item 5.5).

9. The discussions at COFO highlighted how the preparation of national reports was delayed for different reasons in many countries. Country Report preparation was an exercise in assessing the status of forest genetic resources and defining needs and priorities for national and regional programmes for conservation and sustainable use and management of these resources. Extra-budgetary funding was not available specifically for supporting the preparation of Country Reports. However, over 30 countries around the world were provided with support in preparing their Country Reports (in the framework of country and regional TCP Facility projects) and regional consultations served to facilitate the preparation or finalization of Country Reports, even though these were held quite late in the process (July to October 2012).

10. FAO is continuing its collaboration with partners such as the CBD, Bioversity International, Kew Royal Botanical Gardens, the Canadian Forest Service, *Silva Mediterranea*, the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative,<sup>9</sup> and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to support the implementation of the GPA.

11. Recognizing that FGR cannot be efficiently conserved and sustainably managed in isolation, the draft implementation strategy for the GPA-FGR<sup>10</sup> foresees measures for the integration of FGR with other strategies and programs at national, regional and global levels. The specific needs and priorities for actions identified for forest genetic resources are better addressed in broader-scope national, regional and global strategies and programmes. The implementation of the GPA-FGR will strengthen the sustainability of forest management while contributing to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

12. Further to the activities mentioned above, FAO presented key findings of the SOW-FGR and the GPA-FGR in various international fora including several of the regional CBD capacity-building workshops to support countries in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets related to ecosystem conservation and restoration (Targets 5, 11 and 15), with the objective to inform a wider audience of the content of the SOW-FGR and the GPA-FGR and to start building the momentum for the implementation of the GPA.

### III. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

13. The Working Group is invited to take note of the follow-up activities to the GPA-FGR.

14. The Working Group may further wish to recommend that the Commission:

- i. Recommend FAO to continue to provide technical support on FGR to countries, especially in support to the Implementation Strategy developed by the Commission;

---

<sup>6</sup> FO:EFC/2013/Inf.4.

<sup>7</sup> FO:NAFC/2013/5.3.

<sup>8</sup> FO:NEFRC/2014/14, paragraph 55.

<sup>9</sup> The Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative is an African Union programme bringing together more than 20 countries from the Sahelo-Saharan region, as well as a number of regional and international organizations.

<sup>10</sup> CGRFA/WG-FGR-3/14/3.

- 
- ii. Invite FAO to strengthen its collaboration with regional and international organizations undertaking programmes related to FGR, also in support to the Implementation Strategy developed by the Commission;
  - iii. Invite FAO to continue promoting the GPA-FGR and its Implementation Strategy at national and international level, including at FAO's Regional Forestry Commissions, as a useful tool for addressing forest genetic resources conservation, sustainable use and development;
  - iv. Invite FAO to promote national implementation of the GPA-FGR, also on the basis of the Implementation Strategy developed by the Commission and in close synergy with existing relevant national programmes such as the National Forest Programme (NFP), the UNCCD National Action Programme (NAP), the UNFCCC National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) and in particular the CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).