



COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 2 of the Provisional Agenda

INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES

Fourth Session

Rome, 10 - 12 May 2016

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

1. Election of the Chair, the Vice-Chair(s) and the *Rapporteur*

In accordance with its Statutes, “the Working Group shall elect its Chairperson and one or more Vice-Chairpersons from among the representatives of Members of the Working Group at the beginning of each session. These officers shall remain in office until the next session of the Working Group and shall be eligible for re-election”.¹ The Working Group may also wish to appoint a *Rapporteur*.

2. Adoption of the agenda and timetable

The provisional agenda is contained in the document **CGRFA/WG-FGR-4/16/1**. The present document contains the *Provisional annotated agenda and time-table (CGRFA/WG-FGR-4/16/1 Add.1)* for consideration by the Working Group.

3. Follow-up to the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources

The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Commission), at its Fourteenth Regular Session in April 2013, 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*

¹ CGRFA/WG-FGR-4/16/Inf.1, Article 4.1.

Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources (Global Plan of Action)² which was adopted by the FAO Conference at its Thirty-eighth Session in June 2013³. At its Fifteenth Regular Session in January 2015, the Commission adopted the *Strategy for the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources* (the Strategy)⁴ and called upon countries to implement the Global Plan of Action and to assist others in this endeavour. The Commission stressed that the Strategy is fundamental for achieving the goals of the Global Plan of Action and called for the implementation of the Strategy in coordination with the Committee on Forestry and relevant international organizations. It also requested FAO to assist in the mobilization of funds and appealed to donors to make funding available⁵.

3.1 Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources

The document *Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources (CGRFA/WG-FGR-4/16/2)* presents a summary of FAO's activities and contributions carried out in the follow-up to the Global Plan of Action and the adoption of the Strategy by the Commission at its last Session. The Working Group may wish to take note of the activities reported and provide guidance to the Commission on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and the Strategy.

3.2 Targets and indicators for forest genetic resources

At its Third Session, the Working Group considered indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. It revised a draft list of indicators⁶ and recommended that the number of indicators should be further reduced to few key verifiable indicators⁷. The Commission, at its Fifteenth Regular Session, recognized that more work is needed to finalize the draft list of indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. The Commission requested FAO to continue the work on indicators for forest genetic resources and to coordinate an inter-sessional consultative process with the participation of the Working Group prior to its next meeting to further refine the draft list of indicators, and to identify a set of targets for the conservation, sustainable use and development of forest genetic resources.⁸

The consultative process on the targets and indicators was organized from February to March 2016. The resulting document *Draft targets and indicators for forest genetic resources (CGRFA/WG-FGR-4/16/3)* presents a proposal for further consideration by the Working Group. The Working Group may wish to review the proposed targets and indicators, and revise them as necessary, with a view to recommend them for approval by the Commission.

3.3 Monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources

The Commission, at its Fifteenth Regular Session, requested FAO to prepare a draft schedule for monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the

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

³ C 2013/REP, paragraph 77.

⁴ CGRFA-15/15/Report, Appendix E.

⁵ CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 46.

⁶ CGRFA/WG-FGR-3/14/Report, Appendix C.

⁷ CGRFA/WG-FGR-3/14/Report, paragraph 17.

⁸ CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraphs 19-20.

consideration of the Working Group and the Commission at their next sessions.⁹ The document *Draft schedule for monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources (CGRFA/WG-FGR-4/16/4)* presents a proposed schedule and related steps for monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, and for the preparation of the Second State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources. The Working Group may wish to review the proposed schedule, and revise it as necessary, with a view to recommend its adoption by the Commission.

3.4 Development of national strategies and action plans for the conservation, sustainable use and development of forest genetic resources

Under the Strategy, FAO has been requested to develop guidelines for the preparation of National Forest Programmes, as well as regional and national strategies and action plans for the conservation, sustainable use and development of forest genetic resources and, as appropriate, develop synergies with other relevant instruments and strategies, such as the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans.

The document *Development of national strategies and actions plans for the conservation, sustainable use and development of forest genetic resources (CGRFA/WG-FGR-4/16/5)* provides brief information on relevant strategies, action plans and other instruments, and presents a possible outline for guidelines for the preparation of national strategies and action plans for the conservation, sustainable use and development of forest genetic resources. The Working Group may wish to review the proposed outline for the guidelines and provide guidance to the Commission regarding their development. In particular, the Working Group may wish to clarify the scope of the guidelines, taking into account that FAO has already developed guidelines for the preparation of National Forest Programmes¹⁰ and for the formulation of forest policy¹¹.

4. Access and benefit-sharing for forest genetic resources

At its last session, the Commission welcomed the *Elements to Facilitate Domestic Implementation of Access and Benefit-sharing for Different Subsectors of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ABS Elements)*.¹² The FAO Conference, at its Thirty-ninth Session, subsequently welcomed the ABS Elements and invited Members to consider and, as appropriate, make use of them. The Conference also noted the complementarity between the work of the Commission and the *Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization* to the Convention on Biological Diversity in regard to access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources.¹³

The Commission requested its intergovernmental technical working groups to continue elaborating, with the assistance of the Secretary, subsector-specific ABS Elements including consideration of the role of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources for food and agriculture and their customary use, and bearing in mind the on-going activities or processes under the International Treaty on Plant

⁹ CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 20.

¹⁰ FAO 2006. Understanding national forest programmes: Guidance for practitioners / FAO 2012. NFPs in practice: Ways to improve the implementation of national forest programmes

¹¹ FAO 1987. Guidelines for forest policy formulation. FAO Forestry Paper 81 / FAO 2010. Developing effective forest policy: A guide. FAO Forestry Paper 161.

¹² CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 22(i).

¹³ C 2015/REP, paragraph 52.

Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, for consideration by the ABS Expert Team established by the Commission at its Fourteenth Regular Session.¹⁴

The document *Elaboration of subsector-specific elements for access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-FGR-4/16/6)*, provides a brief introduction to the topic, in particular the ABS Elements, and consults the Working Group on issues of particular relevance to access and benefit-sharing for forest genetic resources.

5. Review of the Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work

The Commission, at its Eleventh Regular Session in 2007, adopted its Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW), a rolling 10-year work plan covering the totality of biodiversity for food and agriculture. The MYPOW, as amended by the Commission at its Fourteenth Regular Session in 2013, lays out the major outputs and milestones the Commission aims to achieve between 2014 and 2023. The Commission decided to keep the MYPOW under continuous review. The next review is foreseen for the Commission's Sixteenth Regular Session.¹⁵

The document *Review of implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work and Draft Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2018-2027) (CGRFA/WG-FGR-4/16/7)* outlines the progress made in the implementation of the MYPOW and a possible update for the period 2018-2027. The Working Group may wish to review the progress made and the draft Strategic Plan for 2018-2027, as it relates to forest genetic resources and provide inputs in its field of expertise.

6. Other business

7. Adoption of the Report

¹⁴ CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 22.

¹⁵ CGRFA/14/13/Report, *Appendix I*.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Agenda Item		Title
Tuesday, 10 May 2016 morning		
10:00 – 13:00	1	Election of the Chair, the Vice-Chair(s) and the <i>Rapporteur</i>
	2	Adoption of the agenda and timetable
	3	Follow-up to the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources
	3.1	Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources
Tuesday, 10 May 2016 afternoon		
15:00 – 18:00	3.2	Targets and indicators for forest genetic resources
Wednesday, 11 May 2016 morning		
09:30 – 12:30	3.3	Monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources
	3.4	Development of national strategies and action plans for the conservation, sustainable use and development of forest genetic resources
Wednesday, 11 May 2016 afternoon		
14:30 – 17:30	4	Access and benefit-sharing for forest genetic resources
	5	Review of the Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work
	6	Other business
Thursday, 12 May 2016 afternoon		
15:00 – 18:00	7	Adoption of the Report