

REPORT

**Guatemala City,
Guatemala,
24 – 28 May
2010**

Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission

Twenty-sixth Session



PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION

1 st Session	Río de Janeiro, Brasil	23 May 1949
2 nd Session	Lima, Peru	14 November 1949
3 rd Session	Santiago, Chile	11 December 1950
4 th Session	Buenos Aires, Argentina	16-23 June 1952
5 th Session	Caracas, Venezuela	4-15 October 1955
6 th Session	Antigua, Guatemala	4-15 November 1958
7 th Session	Mexico City, Mexico	3-6 August 1960
8 th Session	Santiago, Chile	13-19 November 1962
9 th Session	Curitiba, Brazil	5-12 November 1964
10 th Session	Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	4-9 December 1967
11 th Session	Quito, Ecuador	11-21 November 1970
12 th Session	Havana, Cuba	2-7 February 1976
13 th Session	Pátzcuaro, Michoacán, Mexico	18-22 February 1980
14 th Session	Lima, Peru	15-18 November 1982
15 th Session	San José, Costa Rica	6-10 October 1986
16 th Session	Kingston, Jamaica	18-22 April 1988
17 th Session	Ciudad Guayana, Venezuela	18-22 February 1991
18 th Session	Maldonado, Uruguay	6-10 December 1993
19 th Session	Ciudad de Panama, Panama	17-21 June 1996
20 th Session	Havana, Cuba	10-14 September 1998
21 st Session	Santa Fe de Bogota, Colombia	4-8 September 2000
22 nd Session	Buenos Aires, Argentina	7-11 October 2002
23 rd Session	San José, Costa Rica	18-22 October 2004
24 th Session	Santo Domingo, Dominican Rep.	26-30 June 2006
25 th Session	Quito, Ecuador	29 September-3 October 2008

FO:LACFC/2010/REP

REPORT

of the

TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

of the

LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Guatemala City, Guatemala
24 - 28 May, 2010

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Santiago, Chile
2010

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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS

1. The Commission requested that FAO recover its capacity to support countries in the thematic areas of forestry education and research. (para. 15)
2. The Commission welcomed the proposal for a second project phase and recommended its early implementation for the addition of further cases of sustainable forest management in Latin America and the Caribbean. It stressed that the execution of this phase should attach special importance to the transfer of knowledge and the building of capacity at national level. (para. 21)
3. The Commission also recommended that the study and its results be more broadly disseminated, especially given that 2011 was to be the International Year of Forests. (para. 22)
4. The Commission requested that FAO issue a certificate of excellence sponsored by the LACFC to the exemplary cases of sustainable forest management that had been studied in the Region. (para. 23)
5. The Commission recommended that existing regional forest health organizations be strengthened, giving them added capacity to transfer information and knowledge at academic and governmental level. (para. 32)
6. The Commission expressed its concern over the appropriation and inappropriate use of the Region's forest genetic resources and requested that FAO provide support to the countries to avoid such situations. (para. 41)
7. On the basis of the presentation by the Caribbean Subregional Group, the Commission recommended that COFO examine mechanisms and the identification and mobilization of sources of funding that would enable FAO to provide greater support to community forestry in the countries of the Region, and of the Caribbean in particular. (para. 57)
8. The Commission expressed its concern over the reduced attention that was given to community forestry development in FAO's programme of work and support to the countries of the Region, so that continuity could be given to their past efforts in this thematic area. The Commission recommended that this concern be brought to the attention of COFO so that renewed priority could be given to this topic in the programme of work of the Forestry Department. (para. 58)
9. The Commission requested FAO to take a strong role in the coordination of efforts in the region related to forests and climate change adaptation. It further requested FAO to work with Commission members and with other partners to identify needs for forests and climate change adaptation in Latin America and the Caribbean and to develop proposals and seek funding to support regional or sub-regional activities and cooperative action on forests and climate change adaptation. (para. 66)
10. The Commission requested FAO to synthesize and disseminate information on forests and climate change, with the objectives of raising awareness of the contributions of sustainable forest management to climate change adaptation and mitigation, disseminating country experiences and successful outcomes, providing guidance to countries for practical action, and strengthening country knowledge and capacity as relates to forests and climate change adaptation and mitigation. (para. 67)

INTRODUCTION

1. The Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) held its 26th Session from 24 to 28 May 2010 in Guatemala City, Guatemala, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Guatemala. The Session was attended by delegates from 22 member countries and representatives of 13 organizations, including United Nations agencies and international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, attending as observers. The Agenda is provided in *Appendix A*, the List of Participants in *Appendix B*, and the List of Documents submitted to the Commission in *Appendix C*.

2. Mr Gustavo Galindo, Delegate, National Forestry Department of the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Ecuador and serving Chair of the LACFC, presided over the Opening Session. Mr Eduardo Rojas Briales, Assistant Director-General of the FAO Forestry Department, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Director-General of FAO, Dr Jacques Diouf. Mr Juan Alfonso De León, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food of Guatemala, also addressed the assembly. Finally, Mr Rafael Espada, Vice-President of the Republic of Guatemala addressed the participants before formally opening the Session.

3. Mr Rojas thanked the Government of the Republic of Guatemala for its generous offer to host the Session and for its effort in organizing it. He also thanked the members of the LACFC Executive Committee for their active involvement in the Commission's activities in the last two years and in the preparation of the technical topics to be examined during the Session. He stated that the Regional Forestry Commissions were of high importance to FAO as their deliberations and recommendations enabled COFO to draw up the programme of work for the Forestry Department. In response to the request made by countries at the last LACFC session in 2008 in Quito, Ecuador, FAO and the Executive Committee had modified the traditional session format, leaving the initiative to countries to select the technical topics and to prepare the associated documents.

4. He went on to announce that only a few weeks earlier, FAO had released the main findings of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010. Although the trends were positive, deforestation figures for Latin America and the Caribbean continued to be of great concern, with its annual loss of 4 million hectares of forest. In closing he referred to the Buenos Aires Declaration that had resulted from the XIII World Forestry Congress held in October 2009.

5. Mr De León remarked on the importance of the day which represented the culmination of a process that had begun at the previous session of the LACFC session, when Guatemala had offered to host its 26th Session. He expressed his gratitude for the ample participation of international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and acknowledged the important role that the Commission played in the Latin America and Caribbean region. He ended by welcoming the delegates and observers attending the Session.

6. Mr Espada extended a warm welcome to the representatives of Latin America and the Caribbean. He informed them that the President of the Republic would have liked to attend the inauguration of such an important meeting but had regrettably had too many other commitments. Mr Espada therefore had the honour of representing the President. He lamented the destruction of forests in Guatemala and the negative consequences for land and water. He called for a halt to this process, which he affirmed was within the capability

of Latin America and the Caribbean provided all countries acted in unison. Finally, he thanked the participants for their presence and formally opened the Session.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Item 1)

7. The Agenda was adopted without amendments.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Item 2)

8. In accordance with Articles II-1 and II-5 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission elected a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur. The following members of the Commission were unanimously elected:

Chair: Josué Morales (Guatemala), Mesoamerican Subregional Group

Vice-Chairs: Carlos Díaz (Cuba), Caribbean Subregional Group
Liliana Corinaldesi (Argentina), Southern Cone Subregional Group
Gustavo Galindo (Ecuador), Amazon Subregional Group

Rapporteur: Carlos Mantero (Uruguay)

9. Mr Carlos Marx R. Carneiro, Senior Forestry Officer of the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, acted as Secretary.

Matters of information from FAO

10. Before this starting on this item, heartfelt tribute was paid to Mr Jorge Luis Menéndez of Argentina who had suddenly passed away. For many years Mr Menéndez had provided strong support to the Commission's activities.

11. The Secretariat informed the Commission of the following matters:

Actions in follow-up to the 25th Session of the Commission

12. The Commission was informed of actions taken in follow-up to its 25th Session and, in particular, actions relating to its recommendations and requests at the time.

Items of general interest

13. The Commission was informed of certain matters of general interest to be borne in mind during the course of proceedings: FRA-2010; FAO activities in the REDD and REDD+ processes; replenishment of the *Global Environment Facility* (GEF) 2010-2014; outcome of the World Forestry Congress, and the XXIII IUFRO World Congress to be held from 23 to 28 August 2010 in Seoul, Korea.

14. The Secretariat informed the participants of a study conducted by FAO together with universities in Chile and Venezuela. It emphasized the need to update the curriculum of forestry courses and to adapt it to the requirements of forestry activity, including environmental and social aspects.

15. The Commission requested that FAO recover its capacity to support countries in the thematic areas of forestry education and research.

The FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO)

16. The Commission was informed of the outcome of the last meeting of the COFO bureau, which had been held in May 2010 in Mexico, and of the new structure of the Committee.

The National Forest Programmes (NFPs) in Latin America and the Caribbean

17. The Commission was briefed on the NFPs in the Region. These were processes based on country leadership, broad participation, integration with national strategies and collaboration with other sectors. A total of 17 countries and three regional organizations were involved in such processes in the Latin America and Caribbean region. The Commission was also informed of related challenges and the progress of NFPs.

Development of Project “Exemplary Cases of Sustainable Forest Management in Latin America and the Caribbean”

18. The Secretariat informed the Commission of the book “Exemplary Cases of Sustainable Forest Management in Latin America and the Caribbean”.

19. The Commission was informed of the near completion of this book which describes 35 exemplary cases of sustainable forest management in 14 countries of the Region. The cases were selected by an Iberoamerican Panel of Experts on the basis of 11 minimum criteria of exemplarity. The study was conducted by FAO as part of an LACFC initiative, with cooperation from the member countries and funding from Spain’s Regional Government of Castilla and León.

20. A draft proposal for a second project phase was submitted to the Commission for its consideration, with the aim of increasing the case studies, training and the transfer of knowledge and experiences in order to strengthen the application of sustainable forest management in the Region.

21. The Commission welcomed the proposal for a second project phase and recommended its early implementation for the addition of further cases of sustainable forest management in Latin America and the Caribbean. It stressed that the execution of this phase should attach special importance to the transfer of knowledge and the building of capacity at national level.

22. The Commission also recommended that the study and its results be more broadly disseminated, especially given that 2011 was to be the International Year of Forests.

23. The Commission requested that FAO issue a certificate of excellence sponsored by the LACFC to the exemplary cases of sustainable forest management that had been studied in the Region.

GOVERNANCE, INSTITUTIONS AND FORESTRY LEGISLATION (Item 3)

24. This item was introduced by Mrs Tania Villegas, Undersecretary of Natural Resources, Ministry of the Environment, Ecuador.

25. During her presentation, Mrs Villegas underscored the importance of effective forest governance to, for example, avoid deforestation and illegal logging, and to generally foster conditions for sustainable forest management. She stated that several international initiatives had emerged to support the enhancement of forest governance and that several countries of the Region were implementing corresponding actions and processes, including, notably, the review or replacement of forestry legislation and the improvement of forestry institutional structure, both governmental and non-governmental, so that it had greater capacity to enforce forestry legislation and to perform other important functions under better conditions.

FOREST HEALTH IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SOUTHERN CONE OF LATIN AMERICA (Item 4)

26. Before the presentation of Item 4, the Chair gave the floor to Mr Robert M. Persaud, Minister for Agriculture of Guyana, who reported on progress in his country's forestry sector and conveyed the interest of the Government of Guyana in hosting the 27th Session of the LACFC.

27. Following Mr Persaud's intervention, the Southern Cone Subregional Group presented document FO:LACFC/2010/2 "Forest Health in the Context of the Southern Cone of Latin America".

28. The Commission took note of various subregional cooperation agreements and activities between countries of the Southern Cone on matters relating to forest health. The Commission was also informed of several national and subregional achievements with regard to pest control.

29. The Commission was asked to look into various matters related to this topic, in particular the establishment of a programme for the transfer of knowledge on international forest health practices and standards, the creation of a virtual platform of forest health research and development for the Region, the compilation of a related regional database and the establishment of a regional mechanism to coordinate international bodies active in this field, which would identify common health problems in the countries of the Region and would propose joint management strategies and regional policy guidelines.

30. Following the presentation by the Southern Cone Regional Group, the Secretariat took the floor to report on the preparation of the "Guide on phytosanitary forestry practices and international standards". The guide was being drawn up by a group of experts convened by FAO with funding from the FAO/Finland Project. It comprised the compilation of International Plant Protection Convention regulations that were applicable to the forestry sector. The Secretariat urged countries to review the document and send their comments.

31. After discussion during which some countries commented on the difficulties that existed between the national phytosanitary authorities and the forestry authorities, the Southern Cone Regional Group indicated that its member countries were able to work in a coordinated manner.

32. The Commission recommended that existing regional forest health organizations be strengthened, giving them added capacity to transfer information and knowledge at academic and governmental level.

33. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the presentation by the Southern Cone Regional Group and endorsed the continuation of the project in the framework of the LACFC.

STATE OF FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES IN LATIN AMERICA (Item 5)

34. The Amazon Subregional Group presented document FO:LACFC/2010/3 “State of Forest Genetic Resources in Latin America”.

35. The Secretariat Note prepared by the Amazon Subregional Group with the collaboration of the Latin American Network for the Conservation and Use of Forest Genetic Resources (LAFORGEN) and *Bioversity International*, referred to the state of genetic resources of Latin America. It emphasized the threats and risks to forest genetic resources that arose from deforestation and forest degradation in the Region; the lack of national policies for the conservation and management of forest genetic resources; the insufficiency of information and research on forest genetic resources; and the absence of a land register of exploration activities relating to forest genetic resources.

36. A number of achievements in the Region were also reported. The presentation ended with proposed topics for discussion by the Commission.

37. Before discussions were initiated, the Secretariat informed the Commission of the request to FAO by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) for the preparation of a study on the state of the world’s forest genetic resources, to be completed in 2013. For the realization of this work, which represented an enormous challenge, FAO had requested the support of other organizations working in this thematic area (CBD, ICRAF, *Bioversity International*, CATIE, and others), together with that of countries and of regional networks on genetic resources (LAFORGEN, SAFORGEN, APFORGEN and EUFORGEN).

38. Before opening the debate, the floor was given to the representative of the Latin American Forest Genetic Resources Network (LAFORGEN), who informed the Commission that LAFORGEN was a network designed to promote the exchange of scientific and technical information and collaboration on forest genetic resources. LAFORGEN comprised 22 institutions that could play a fundamental role in preparing the study on the world’s forest genetic resources.

39. The floor was also given to *Bioversity International* which emphasized the need to generate information on the state of conservation and the value of forest genetic resources contained in the forest ecosystems of Latin America and the Caribbean. In March 2010 *Bioversity International* and FAO had trained several members of the Latin American Forest Genetic Resources Network (LAFORGEN) in the preparation of national reports on the state of forest genetic resources who could be contacted by ministries to help with the preparation of such reports.

40. The Commission highlighted the importance of the study on the state of the world's forest genetic resources and agreed that such a study would require strong commitment and support from the countries. Some delegates offered their immediate collaboration.

41. The Commission expressed its concern over the appropriation and inappropriate use of the Region's forest genetic resources and requested that FAO provide support to the countries to avoid such situations.

42. The Commission indicated the importance of strengthening the exchange of knowledge and experiences between countries on the subject of forest genetic resources and mentioned in particular *ex situ* conservation and the formulation of legal instruments to protect those resources in the countries and to ensure that intellectual property was respected.

43. The delegates of the Amazon Subregional Group suggested that the paragraphs on certificate of origin/source/legal provenance in document FO:LACFC/2010/3 include what was agreed at the CBD with regard to the ABS regime.

INFORMATION ON FOREST RESOURCES WITH AN EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL FOREST INVENTORIES (Item 6)

44. The Meso-America Subregional Group presented document FO:LACFC/2010/4 "Information on forest resources with an emphasis on national forest inventories".

45. The Group stated that the level of information on the state of forest resources in the Region was generally insufficient to meet demands. In most cases, such information was very general or scattered which made it difficult to conduct a meaningful assessment of the forest sector. While acknowledging this situation and identifying a number of challenges that needed to be considered, the Group reported that many countries had made significant efforts to bolster their national forest inventories so that they truly met information requirements.

46. The Commission was asked to examine the challenges mentioned during the presentation and to provide guidelines to countries and FAO on the strengthening of horizontal cooperation in the Region, technical support and the consolidation of institutional structures in countries relating to the national compilation of forest resource information. It was also emphasized that national forest inventories needed to include aspects relating to forest services and land use.

47. Before discussion of this item, the floor was given to the representative of the Amazon Regional Centre of Brazil's National Institute for Space Research (INPE), who briefed the Commission on the various programmes that had been developed to monitor forest cover using satellite imagery. The Centre had developed programmes that were able to monitor forest cover effectively and at low cost.

48. Brazil offered the use of these programmes to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. To facilitate the transfer of this technology, INPE would sign a Memorandum of Understanding with FAO so that the latter could take care of contact with countries and the training of specialists.

49. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the presentation by INPE and warmly welcomed the Memorandum of Understanding to be signed with FAO, which would permit technical cooperation with countries interested in monitoring their forest areas.

50. The Commission recognized the importance of strengthening capacity to conduct national inventories and supported FAO's work in this regard. Mexico offered its collaboration in this initiative through its National Forest Commission (CONAFOR).

51. The Secretariat was then given the floor to present the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010. It reported the main findings of FRA-2010 which had included 233 countries and territories, more than 90 variables covering the extent, condition, uses and values of forests and four points in time: 1990, 2000, 2005 and 2010. Notable among the findings for Latin America and the Caribbean were the annual net loss of 4.2 million hectares of forest cover and the annual reduction in primary forest of more than three million hectares. On the positive side, there had been a significant expansion of protected areas in the Region, increasing almost 60 million hectares in the last 20 years.

COMMUNITY FORESTRY IN THE CARIBBEAN (Item 7)

52. The Caribbean Regional Group presented document FO:LACFC/2010/5 "Community Forestry in the Caribbean".

53. The purpose of the presentation was to share knowledge and experiences on community forestry in the Caribbean with the delegates of other subregional groups and to explain how this contributed to the strengthening of forest management, conservation and the provision of important social and economic benefits to local communities. A number of challenges hampering greater progress in community forestry were also highlighted.

54. Before discussion of Item 7, the floor was given to the representative of the National Alliance of Community Forestry Organizations of Guatemala, who informed the Commission that the Alliance grouped eleven second-tier organizations representing more than 300 grassroots community organizations, 77 000 members and more than 380 000 indirect forest beneficiaries. He also stated the Alliance's objectives, strategic planning framework and associated actions, and other features.

55. The Commission underlined the importance of community forestry and welcomed the presentation of the National Alliance of Community Forestry Organizations of Guatemala. It emphasized the relevance of exchanging experiences to facilitate community forestry processes in other countries of the Region.

56. The Commission stressed that community forestry constituted a fundamental process for strengthening sustainable forest management, generating social and economic benefits to local communities and providing appropriate environmental protection.

57. On the basis of the presentation by the Caribbean Subregional Group, the Commission recommended that COFO examine mechanisms and the identification and mobilization of sources of funding that would enable FAO to provide greater support to community forestry in the countries of the Region, and of the Caribbean in particular.

58. The Commission expressed its concern over the reduced attention that was given to community forestry development in FAO's programme of work and support to the countries

of the Region, so that continuity could be given to their past efforts in this thematic area. The Commission recommended that this concern be brought to the attention of COFO so that renewed priority could be given to this topic in the programme of work of the Forestry Department.

Parallel meetings of the Subregional Groups

59. Before the Subregional Group meetings, the National Forest Programme Facility briefed the Commission on a process of regional dialogue that had begun in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on the occasion of the XIII World Forestry Congress in October 2009. The purpose of the dialogue was to share experiences and suggestions for institutional change and governance. The topics for dialogue identified at Buenos Aires were: decentralization, forestry round tables, financing and investment strategies, intersectoral relations and political support to small-scale producers. The presentation was followed by a brief discussion of these topics by the Commission delegates. The Facility offered to finance the activities that the subregional working groups might identify regarding these topics.

60. During the parallel meetings, the Subregional Groups drafted their plans of work for the period 2010-2012. The proposals formulated by the Subregional Groups are included in *Appendix D*.

61. The Caribbean Subregional Group requested the other Subregional Groups to exchange information, cooperation and invitations to courses organized by those Subregional Groups.

IN-SESSION SEMINAR: FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE - WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION (Item 8)

62. The LACFC Secretariat introduced document FO:LACFC/2010/6 "Forests and Climate Change – with a special focus on climate change adaptation". The Secretariat summarized the status of negotiations of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) related to forests and highlighted issues of significance to Commission delegates regarding climate change adaptation.

63. Mr. Ariel E. Lugo and Mrs. Kathleen McGinley, on behalf of the Secretariat of the North American Forestry Commission (NAFC), gave two presentations to supplement that of the LACFC Secretariat. These presentations summarized progress on a survey inquiring about the threats to forests in Latin America and the Caribbean and exploring the vulnerability of the region to climate change. The work was done in response to a request made by the LACFC during its 25th Session.

64. The presentations were followed by three others, which provided information on some national experiences on forests and climate change and perspectives on areas for regional activities and collaboration. José Armando Alanís delivered a presentation entitled "Forests of Mexico in the face of climate change". Miguel Segur Pelayo spoke on "Basis for a climate change adaptation strategy for forests in Latin America and the Caribbean: Phytoclimatic mapping, future climate scenario building and risk analysis." Raffaele Vignola made a presentation on "Forests and climate change: Regional perspective on research and capacity building". Appendix E has additional information on the proceedings of the in-session seminar.

65. The Commission thanked FAO for organizing the in-session seminar, which it found extremely relevant and informative. The Commission also expressed its appreciation and recognized the excellent quality of the presentations. During the discussion session, several members shared their countries' experiences and views on areas of common interest in the region.

66. The Commission requested FAO to take a strong role in the coordination of efforts in the region related to forests and climate change adaptation. It further requested FAO to work with Commission members and with other partners to identify needs for forests and climate change adaptation in Latin America and the Caribbean and to develop proposals and seek funding to support regional or subregional activities and cooperative action on forests and climate change adaptation.

67. The Commission requested FAO to synthesize and disseminate information on forests and climate change, with the objectives of raising awareness of the contributions of sustainable forest management to climate change adaptation and mitigation, disseminating country experiences and successful outcomes, providing guidance to countries for practical action, and strengthening country knowledge and capacity as relates to forests and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

REGIONAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (Item 9)

68. The Commission requested that FAO to issue a certificate of excellence sponsored by the LACFC to the exemplary cases of sustainable forest management that had been studied in the Region.

69. Following the presentation on community forestry of the Caribbean Subregional Group, the Commission recommended that COFO examine mechanisms and the identification and mobilization of sources of funding that would enable FAO to provide greater support to community forestry in the countries of the Region, and of the Caribbean in particular.

70. The Commission expressed its concern over the reduced attention that was given to community forestry development in FAO's programme of work and support to the countries of the Region, so that continuity could be given to their past efforts in this thematic area. The Commission recommended that this concern be brought to the attention of COFO so that renewed priority could be given to this topic in the programme of work of the Forestry Department.

OTHER BUSINESS (Item 10)

71. The Secretariat informed the Commission that the reference document on forest legislation in South America "Leyes forestales en América del Sur" was available on the FAO Regional Office website (<http://www.rlc.fao.org/es/pubs/>). This document contained information on national forest programmes and institutional structures and, principally, on aspects of legislation relating to forests, environment and environmental services in the countries of South America.

72. The delegate of Mexico informed the Commission of the following meetings, among others, that would take place in his country during 2010: a) Workshop on forest governance, decentralization and REDD+ in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Oaxaca from 30 August to 3 September; b) 8th Expo-Forestal, Centro Banamex, in Mexico City from 30 September to 3 October; and c) 16th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 16) to be held in the Centro Cancún from 29 November to 10 December 2010.

73. FAO stated that the Symposium on Climate Change and Protected Areas of Latin America would be held in Huaraz, Peru, from 8 to 12 November 2010. The symposium would take place in the framework of the Latin American Technical Cooperation Network on National Parks, Other Protected Areas and Wildlife which is sponsored by the FAO Regional Office.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION (Item 11)

74. During the first day of the Session, the Minister for Agriculture of Guyana had expressed the interest of the Government of Guyana in hosting the 27th Session of the LACFC (para. 26). The delegate of Paraguay reiterated the offer to host the 27th Session of the LACFC which had already been formally made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay to FAO. With regard to the date of the Session, from 20 to 24 March 2012, the delegate of the Dominican Republic reported that 21 March coincided with World Forest Day and he would certainly have to remain in his country to celebrate this event.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSURE OF THE SESSION (Item 12)

75. The draft report was adopted by the Commission with minor amendments.

76. The Session was drawn to a close by Messrs José Antonio Prado, on behalf of FAO, and Josué Iván Morales, on behalf of the Republic of Guatemala.

APPENDIX A**AGENDA**

1. Opening of the Session and adoption of the Agenda.
2. Election of Officers.
3. Governance, institutions, and forestry legislation.
4. Forestry health in the context of the Southern Cone of Latin America.
5. State of forest genetic resources in Latin America.
6. Information on forest resources with emphasis to national forest inventories.
7. Community forestry in the Caribbean.
8. Forests and Climate Change - with a special focus on climate change adaptation. (In-session seminar).
9. Regional issues identified by the Commission for the attention of the Committee on Forestry (COFO).
10. Other business.
11. Place and date of the next Session.
12. Adoption of the report and closing of the Session.

APPENDIX B**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

Chairman: Josué Morales (Guatemala)

Vice-Chairmen: Carlos Díaz (Cuba)
Liliana Corinaldesi (Argentina)
Gustavo Galindo (Ecuador)

Rapporteur: Carlos Mantero (Uruguay)

Secretary: Carlos Marx R. Carneiro

ARGENTINA

Liliana Corinaldesi
Coordinadora Area de Economía,
Información y Técnicas
Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y
Pesca
Paseo Colón 922
Buenos Aires
Tel: (54-11) 4349-2106
Fax: (54-11) 4349-2181
Email: licorin@minagri.gob.ar

Mirta Alicia Rosa Larrieu
Directora de Producción Forestal
Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y
Pesca
Paseo Colón 922
Buenos Aires
Tel: (54-11) 4349-2102
Fax: (54-11) 4349-2103
Email: larrieumirta@gmail.com

BRAZIL

José Carlos Carvalho
Secretario de Estado
Secretaria de Meio Ambiente e
Desenvolvimento Sustentável do Estado
de Minas Gerais
Cidade Administrativa
Rodovia Américo Gianetti s/n Prédio
Minas 2° andar
Belo Horizonte
Tel: (55-31) 3915-1905
Fax: (55-31) 3219-1917
Email: jcc@meioambiente.mg.gov.br

Renato Barros de Aguiar Leonardi
Diplomático
Divisão do Meio Ambiente – DEMA
Ministério de Relaciones Exteriores
Esplanada dos Ministérios, Bl. H.
Brasília
Tel: (55-61) 3411-8452
Fax: (55-61) 3411-8446
Email: renato.leonardi@itamaraty.gov.br

Helio dos Santos Pereira
Assistente de Director del Departamento
de Florestas
Ministério do Meio Ambiente
SEPN 504, Bloco B, Sala 505
70.730.542 Brasília DF
Tel: (55-61) 202-82131
Fax: (55-61) 202-82130
Email: helio.pereira@mma.gov.br

COLOMBIA

Blady Nhaydu Bohórquez Carvajali
Profesional, Dirección de Ecosistemas
Ministerio de Ambiente, Vivienda y
Desarrollo Territorial
Calle 37 N° 8-40, piso 2
Bogotá
Tel: (57-1) 332-3400, ext. 2445
Fax: (57-1) 332-3457
Email:

xsanclemente@minambiente.gov.co

COSTA RICA

Guisselle Méndez Vega
Directora Ejecutiva
Sistema Nacional de Areas de
Conservación (SINAC)
Ministerio del Ambiente y Energía
Barrio Tournon
San José
Tel: (506) 225-60917
Fax: (506) 224-82451
Email: guisselle.mendez@sinac.go.cr

Gilbert Canet
Gerente de Recursos Naturales
Sistema Nacional de Areas de
Conservación (SINAC)
Ministerio del Ambiente y Energía
Calle 1, Avenida 11
San José
Tel: (506) 225-60917
Email: gilbert.canet@sinac.go.cr

CUBA

Carlos Alberto Díaz Maza
Director Nacional Forestal
Dirección Nacional Forestal
Ministerio de Agricultura
Av. Boyeros y Conill
Plaza de la Revolución
La Habana
Tel: (537) 881-7875, 8845476
Fax: (537) 881-7875
Email: dnforestal@minag.cu

CHILE

Eduardo Vial Ruiz-Tagle
Director Ejecutivo
Corporación Nacional Forestal (CONAF)
Avda. Bulnes 285, Of. 501
Santiago
Tel: (562) 672-2724
Fax: (562) 671-5881
Email: evial@conaf.cl

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Bernabé Mañón Rossi
Subsecretario de Recursos Forestales
Secretaría de Estado de Medio Ambiente
y Recursos Naturales
Av. Héroes de Luperon esq. George
Washington
Edif. ODC, 3er. Piso, Centro de los
Héroes
Santo Domingo, D.N.
Tel: (1-809) 5335183 ext.224; 5348432
Fax: (1-809) 5089039; 534-8432
Email:
rforestales@medioambiente.gov.do

ECUADOR

Tania Villegas
Subsecretaria de Patrimonio Natural
Ministerio de Ambiente
Av. Madrid y Toledo
Quito
Tel: (593-2) 398-7600
Email: tvillegas@ambiente.gov.ec

Gustavo Galindo André
Delegado
Dirección Nacional Forestal
Ministerio del Ambiente
Amazonas y Eloy Alfaro
Edificio MAG, piso 8
Quito
Tel: (593-2) 2563-542
Email: ggalindo@ambiente.gov.ec

Fernando Arizaga Vintimilla
 Funcionario Proforestal
 Consultor General
 Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería,
 Acuicultura y Pesca
 Quito
 Tel: 593-99859018
 Email: fernando_peronal@hotmail.com

EL SALVADOR

Lucía Gómez Vaquerano
 Jefe, División de Recursos Forestales y
 Cuencas
 Dirección General de Ordenamiento
 Forestal, Cuencas y Riego
 Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
 Calle y Cantón Matazano
 Soyapango, San Salvador
 Tel: (503) 2202-8200, 2202-8209
 Email: lucia.gomez@mag.gob.sv

Claudia Canjura de Centeno
 Embajadora de El Salvador
 Embajada de El Salvador en Guatemala
 Tel: (502) 2361-4880
 Email: claudia_canjura01@hotmail.com

Edgar Alberto Cruz
 Coordinador EFSA
 Dirección General de Ordenamiento
 Forestal, Cuencas y Riego
 Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
 Calle y Cantón Matazano, Soyapango
 San Salvador
 Tel: (503) 2202-8200 - (503) 2202-8209
 Email: edgar.cruz@mag.gob.sv

GRENADA

Aden Forteau
 Chief Forestry Officer (Ag.)
 Forestry and National Parks Department
 Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry,
 Fisheries, Energy, Public Utilities,
 Marketing
 and the National Importing Board (MNB)
 Botanical Gardens
 St. George's
 Tel: (1-473) 440-2934, 440-6197
 Fax: (1-473) 440-4191; direct: 440-6197
 Email: michael_forteau@yahoo.co.uk

GUATEMALA

Josué Iván Morales Dardón
 Gerente
 Instituto Nacional de Bosques (INAB)
 7a. Avenida 12-90 "A" Zona 13
 Ciudad de Guatemala
 Tel: (502) 2321-2626
 Fax: (502) 2472-2070
 Email: jmorales@inab.gob.gt

Amauri Rendolfo Molina Álvarez
 Subgerente
 Instituto Nacional de Bosques (INAB)
 7a. Avenida 12-90 "A" Zona 13
 Ciudad de Guatemala
 Tel: (502) 2321-2626
 Fax: (502) 2472-2070
 Email: amolina@inab.gob.gt

Edwin Oliva Hurtarte
 Instituto Nacional de Bosques/Programa
 Forestal Nacional
 7a. Avenida 6-80 Zona 13
 Ciudad de Guatemala
 Telefax: (502) 2321-4520
 Email: eoliva@inab.gob.gt

José Miguel Leiva Pérez
 Ministerio de Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
 20 calle 28-58 Zona 10
 Ciudad de Guatemala
 Tel: (502) 2423-0500
 Email: jmleivap@yahoo.com

Ana Maria Palomo
 Ministerio de Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
 20 calle 28-58 Zona 10
 Ciudad de Guatemala
 Tel: (502) 2423-0500
 Email: ampalomo@marn.gob.gt

Roberto Cáceres Estrada
 Junta Directiva Instituto Nacional de Bosques
 7a. Avenida 12-90 "A" Zona 13
 Tel: (502) 2321-2626
 Email: robertocacerese2008@gmail.com

Rafael Rodríguez
 Instituto Nacional de Bosques/Programa
 Forestal Nacional
 7ª Avenida 6-80 zona 13
 Ciudad de Guatemala
 Telefax: (502) 2321-4520
 Email: apfn@inab.gob.gt

Ogden Antonio Rodas
 Coordinador Programa Forestal
 Nacional/GFP/FAO
 Instituto Nacional de Bosques (INAB)
 7ª Avenida 6-80 zona 13
 Tel: (502) 5204-1751
 Email: ogden.rodas@pfnguate.org

Marta Ayala
 Junta Directiva Instituto Nacional de Bosques
 7ª Avenida 12-90 "A" zona 13
 Tel: (502) 2321-2626
 Email: calmecacguate@yahoo.com

GUYANA

Robert Montgomery Persaud
 Minister of Agriculture
 Ministry of Agriculture
 Regent & Vlissengen Roads
 Georgetown
 P.O. Box 1001
 Tel: (1-592) 227-5527
 Fax: (1-592) 227-3638
 Email: agrimin@gmail.com

James Nirmal Singh
 Commissioner of Forests
 Guyana Forestry Commission
 P.O. Box 1029
 Georgetown
 Tel: (1-592) 226-7271/4; direct: 225-3898
 Fax: (592) 226-8956
 Email: commissioner@forestry.gov.gy

HONDURAS

José Antonio Galdames Fuentes
 Subdirector Ejecutivo
 Areas Protegidas y Vida Silvestre
 Instituto Nacional de Conservación y
 Desarrollo Forestal, Areas Protegidas y
 Vida Silvestre
 Entrada Col. Brisas de Olancho, atrás de
 Tabacalera Hondureña
 Comayagua
 Tel: (504) 223-7387
 Email: joseantoniogaldames@yahoo.com
icfdireccion@yahoo.com

Flavio Caballero
 Instituto de Conservación Forestal (ICF)
 P.O. Box 3481
 Brisas de Olancho
 Comayagua
 Tel: (504) 223-7387
 Fax: (504) 223-2653
 Email: icfdireccion@yahoo.com

JAMAICA

Marilyn Headley
 CEO and Conservator of Forests
 Forestry Department
 Ministry of Agriculture
 173 Constant Spring Road
 Kingston 8
 Tel: (1-876) 924-2667; 924-2668
 Fax: (1-876) 9242626
 Email: mheadley@forestry.gov.jm

MEXICO

José Armando Alanís de la Rosa
 Director de Cooperación
 Comisión Nacional Forestal, CONAFOR
 Periférico Poniente 5360
 Col. San Juan de Ocotán
 Zapopán, Jalisco
 Tel: (52-33) 3777-7000, ext. 1701
 Email: jalanis@conafor.gob.mx

Sofía Treviño Heres
 Subdirector de Cooperación Bilateral
 Comisión Nacional Forestal, CONAFOR
 Periférico Poniente 5360
 Col. San Juan de Ocotán
 Zapopán, Jalisco
 Tel: (52-33) 3777-7000, ext. 1701
 Fax: (52-33) 3777-7012
 Email: strevino@conafor.gob.mx

NICARAGUA

William Schwartz Cunningham
 Director Ejecutivo
 Instituto Nacional Forestal (INAFOR)
 Ministerio Agropecuario y Forestal
 (MAGFOR)
 Km 12 1/2 Carretera Norte frente a Zona
 Franca
 Edificio MARENA
 Managua
 Tel: (505) 233-0121, 233-0013
 Email: direjcutiva@inafor.gob.ni
wschwartz@inafor.gob.ni

PANAMA

Carlos Justo Córdoba Lee
 Jefe Encargado Unidad Ambiental
 Ministerio de Desarrollo Agropecuario
 Altos de Curundu
 Ciudad de Panamá
 Tel: (507) 5070-652
 Fax: (507) 5070-653
 Email: ccordoba@mida.gob.pa

Manuel Hurtado de Gracia
 Representante del Presidente Pro-Tempore
 del Comité Técnico de Bosques (CTB)
 Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente,
 ANAM
 Apartado 0843-00793
 Balboa, Ancón
 Tel: (507) 500-0867
 Fax: (507) 500-0856
 Email: manuel_hurtado09@yahoo.com
m.hurtado@anam.gob.pa

PARAGUAY

Luis Gustavo Torales
 Instituto Forestal Nacional
 Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
 Ruta Mariscal Estigarribia, Km 10 ½
 San Lorenzo
 Tel: (595-21) 575-562, 570-517
 Fax: (595-21) 575562
 Email: presidencia@infona.gov.py

Damiana Mann
 Directora de Planificación
 Servicio Forestal Nacional
 Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
 Ruta Mariscal Estigarribia, Km 10 ½
 San Lorenzo
 Tel: (595-21) 575-564
 Fax: (595-21) 575562
 Email: damid@cu.com.py

SURINAME

Simon Martosatiman
 GIS Intendent
 Foundation for Forest Management and
 Production Control
 Ds. M.L. Kingweg perc. N° 283
 Paramaribo
 Tel: (597) 483131
 Fax: (597) 483051
 Email: sbbsur@sr.net

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Johnny Seepersad
 Director, Forest Resources Inventory and
 Management
 Forestry Division
 Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine
 Resources
 Long Circular Road, St. James
 Port-of-Spain
 Tel: (868) 622-3217
 Fax: (868) 628-5503
 Email: johnnyseepersad29@gmail.com

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Thomas Brandeis
 Consejo Técnico
 USDA Forest Service, SRS-FIA
 4700 Old Kingston Pike
 Knoxville, TN 37919
 Tel: (865) 862-2030
 Email: tjbrandeis@fs.fed.us

Ariel E. Lugo
Director
International Institute of Tropical Forestry
USDA Forest Service
Jardín Botánico Sur, 1201 Calle Ceiba
San Juan, PR 00926-1115
Tel: (1-787) 766-5335
Email: alugo@fs.fed.us

Kathleen McGinley
Research Scientist
International Institute of Tropical Forestry
USDA Forest Service
920 Main Campus Dr. Venture Center II
Suite 300
Raleigh, NC 27606
Tel: (919) 513-3331
Email: kmcginley@fs.fed.us

Merideth Manella
Especialista de Programas -
Centroamérica y el Caribe
USDA Forest Service
1099 14th Sr., NW Suite 5500 W
Washington, DC 20005-3402
Tel: (202) 219-0878
Email: mmanella@fs.fed.us

URUGUAY

María del Carmen Fros
Embajadora de la República Oriental del
Uruguay
Embajada de la República Oriental del
Uruguay
Edif. "Plaza Marítima" 3er. Nivel, Of. 342
6ª Av. 2025, Zona 10
Guatemala City
Tel: (502) 23680810
Fax: (502) 23337553
Email: uruguat@guate.net.gt

Carlos Mantero
Director, Dirección General Forestal
Ministerio de Ganadería, Agricultura y
Pesca
Cerrito 318
CP 11000 Montevideo
Tel: (5982) 915-1900
Fax: (5982) 915-1900, int. 219
Email: dforestal@mgap.gub.uy
cmantero@mgap.gub.uy

REPRESENTATIVES OF UNITED NATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

Juan de Dios Mattos
Especialista en Recursos Naturales
3a Avenida 13 - 78, Zona 10
Torre Citigroup -10º Nivel
Guatemala City, Guatemala
Tel: (502) 2379-9393
Fax: (502) 2379-9301
Email: jmattos@iadb.org

**OBSERVERS FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION**

Internacional Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)

Ramón Carrillo Arellano
Gerente de Proyectos
International Organizations Center - 5F
Pacifico-Yokohama
1-1-1 Minato-Mirai, Nishi-ku
Yokohama 220-0012, Japan
Tel. (81-45) 223-1110
Fax (81-45) 223-1111
Email: carrillo@itto.int

Internacional Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Doris Cordero Camacho
Oficial de Programa Bosques y Cambio Climático
Oficina Regional para Sudamérica
Quiteño Libre 249 y La Cumbre
Sector Bellavista
Quito, Ecuador
Tel: (593-2) 2261-075 ext. 30
Email: doris.cordero@sur.iucn.org

José Arturo Santos Godoy
Coordinador, Unidad de Biodiversidad y Uso Sostenible
Oficina Regional para Mesoamérica
San Isidro de Heredia 500 m Noreste condominio Torres de San Isidro
San José, Costa Rica
Tel: (506) 22410101
Fax: (506) 22409934
Email: jose.arturo.santos@iucn.org

Mario Arturo Escobedo
Coordinador proyectos
Unidad Temática de Biodiversidad
7a. Avenida 6-80, Zona 13
Guatemala City, Guatemala
Tel: (502) 247-35214
Email: mario.escobedo@iucn.org

Carlos Estuardo Roca Canet
Oficial Regional de BUS
7a. Avenida 6-80, Zona 13
Guatemala City, Guatemala
Tel: (502) 247-35214
Fax: (502) 247-22977
Email: estuardo.roca@iucn.org

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

Jaime Muñoz Reyes
Representante en Guatemala
Apartado Postal 1815
Guatemala City, Guatemala
Tel: 2386-5900
Email: jaime.muñoz-reyes@iica.int

Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE)

Fernando Carrera
Gerente Red Iberianerucaba de Bosque
CATIE
CATIE 7170
Turrialba, Costa Rica
Tel: (506) 2558-2619
Email: fcarrera@catie.ac.cr

CESEFOR - Junta de Castilla y León

Miguel Segur
Jefe de Area Cooperación Internacional
c/o Álvaro Picardo
Consejería de Medio Ambiente, Junta de Castilla y León
CL Rigoberto Cortejoso 14
47014 Valladolid, Spain
Tel: (34) 983-304181
Email: miguel.segur@cesefor.com

Tropenbos International

Kees van Dijk
Lawickse Allee 11
6701 AN Wageningen, The Netherlands
Tel: (31-317) 481-415
Fax: (31-317) 481-426
Email: kees.vandijk@tropenbos.org

European Forest Institution

Tomi Toumasjukka
Experto en Gobernanza
Torikatu 34,
80100, Joensuu, Finlandia
Tel: (358-50) 433-9049
Email: tomi.toumasjukka@efi.int

Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais (INPE)

Cláudio Aparecido de Almeida
Chefe, Centro Regional da Amazônia – CRA
Ministério da Ciência e Tecnologia – MCT
Tv Enéas Pinheiro s/nº
Belém-PA, CEP 66095-100, Brazil
Tel: (55-91) 3204-1109, (55-12) 3945-7294
Cel: (55-91) 9146-8474
Email: claudio@dsr.inpe.br

Red Latinoamericana de Derecho Forestal-Ambiental

Carlos Alberto Bolaños Céspedes
Coordinador de la Región Centro América y México
Juez Agrario
Poder Judicial de Costa Rica
Juzgado Agrario
II Circuito Judicial de San José, Goicoechea
San José, Costa Rica
Tel: (506) 224-79122
Fax: (506) 872-56861
Email: carlosbolanos@yahoo.com

TRAFFIC, Regional Office for South America

Ulrich Malessa
Coordinator Timber and Forest Programme
Regional Office for South America
c/o UICN Sur, Quiteño Libre E15-12 y la Cumbre
Quito, Ecuador
Tel: (593-2) 226-1075, ext. 49
Fax: (593-2) 2246-713
Email: ulrich.malessa@traffic.sur.iucn.org

Bioversity International

Maarten van Zonneveld
Associate Scientist Diversity Analysis for Conservation and Use
Regional Office for the Americas
Apartado Aéreo 6713
Recta Cali-Palmira Km 17 – CIAT
Colombia
Tel: (57-2) 445-0048, ext 118
Email: m.vanzonneveld@cgiar.org

FAO MEMBERS NON-MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION**Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GMBH**

Laszlo Pancel
Senior Advisor
Boulevard Orden de Malta, Edificio GTZ
Urbanización Santa Elena,
Antiguo Cuscatlán, El Salvador
Tel: (503) 2121-5100
Fax: (503) 2121-5101
Email: laszlo.pancel@gtz.de

HOST COUNTRY SECRETARIAT

Estuardo Negreros
Instituto Nacional de Bosques
7ª Avenida 6-80 zona 13
Guatemala City
Tel: (502) 2321-4646

Haroldo Gracias
Instituto Nacional de Bosques
7ª Avenida 6-80 zona 13
Guatemala City
Tel: (502) 2321-4646

Lis Lima
Instituto Nacional de Bosques
7ª Avenida 6-80 zona 13
Guatemala City
Tel: (502) 2321-4520

Ligia Gaitan
Instituto Nacional de Bosques
7ª Avenida 6-80 zona 13
Guatemala City
Tel: (502) 2321-4646

Nery Barrera
Instituto Nacional de Bosques
7ª Avenida 6-80 zona 13
Guatemala City
Tel: (502) 2321-4646

Ana Guerra
Instituto Nacional de Bosques
7ª Avenida 6-80 zona 13
Guatemala City
Tel: (502) 2321-4646
Fax: (502) 2321-4520

Hugo Blanco
Instituto Nacional de Bosques
7ª Avenida 6-80 zona 13
Guatemala City
Tel: (502) 2321-4646

Ironeliz Avila
Instituto Nacional de Bosques
7ª Avenida 6-80 zona 13
Guatemala City
Tel: (502) 2321-4646

Claudia Contreras
Instituto Nacional de Bosques
7ª Avenida 6-80 zona 13
Guatemala City
Tel: (502) 2321-2626

Jorge Molina
Instituto Nacional de Bosques
7ª Avenida 6-80 zona 13
Guatemala City
Tel: (502) 2321-4646

Estefanía Ordoñez
Instituto Nacional de Bosques
7ª Avenida 6-80 zona 13
Guatemala City
Tel: (502) 2321-4646

Jorge Chapas
Instituto Nacional de Bosques
7ª Avenida 6-80 zona 13
Guatemala City
Tel: (502) 2321-4520

German Guerra
Instituto Nacional de Bosques
7ª Avenida 12-90 "A" zona 13
Guatemala City
Tel: (502) 2321-2626

Luis Siney
Instituto Nacional de Bosques
7ª. Avenida 6-80 zona 13
Guatemala City
Tel: (502) 2321-4646

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS (FAO)**

Eduardo Rojas-Briales
Assistant Director-General
Forestry Department
Vía delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome, Italy
Tel: (39-06) 570-55879
Fax: (39-06) 570-55137
Email: ADG-FO@fao.org

José Antonio Prado
Director, Forest Assessment, Management and
Conservation Division
Forestry Department
Vía delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome, Italy
Tel: (39-06) 570-55978
Fax: (39-06) 570-55137
Email: Joseantonio.Prado@fao.org

Iván Angulo
FAO Representative a.i.
7a. Avenida 12-90, Zona 13
Edificio INFOAGRO, MAGA
Guatemala City 01013, Guatemala
Tel: (502) 244-54024
Fax: (502) 247-14770
Email: FAO-GT@fao.org

Carlos M. Carneiro
Senior Forestry Officer
Secretary of the LACFC
Regional Office for Latin America and the
Caribbean
Casilla 10095
Santiago, Chile
Tel: (56-2) 923-2214
Fax: (56-2) 923-2136
Email: Carlos.Carneiro@fao.org

Susan Braatz
Senior Forestry Officer (Forest and Climate
Change)
Forestry Department
Vía delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome, Italy
Tel: (3906) 570-54318
Fax: (3906) 570-55137
Email: Susan.Braatz@fao.org

Jorge Meza
Forestry Officer
Multidisciplinary Team for South America
(SLS)
Casilla 10095
Santiago, Chile
Tel: (56-2) 923-2189
Fax: (562) 923-2136
Email: Jorge.Meza@fao.org

Mario Mengarelli
Forestry Officer
Multidisciplinary Team for South America
(SLS)
Casilla 10095
Santiago, Chile
Tel: (56-2) 923-2213
Fax: (56-2) 923-2136
Email: Mario.Mengarelli@fao.org

Claus M. Eckelmann
Forestry Officer
Subregional Office for the Caribbean
P.O. Box 631-C
Bridgetown, Barbados
Tel: (1-246) 426-7111
Fax: (1-246) 427-6075
Email: Claus.Eckelmann@fao.org

Lars Marklund
Forestry Officer
Multidisciplinary Team for Central America
(SLM)
Apartado 0843-00006
Balboa, Ancon
Panama 5, Panama
Tel: (507) 667-95746
Email: larsGunnar.marklund@fao.org

Marco Boscolo
Forestry Officer (Institutions)
Forestry Department
Vía delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome, Italy
Tel: (39-06) 570-54424
Email: Marco.Boscolo@fao.org

Jerker Thunberg
Manager
National Forest Programme Facility
Forestry Department
Vía delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome, Italy
Tel: (3906) 570-54530
Fax: (3906) 570-55137
Email: Jerker.Thunberg@fao.org

Jhony Zapata
National Forest Programme Facilitator
Forestry Department
Vía delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome, Italy
Tel: (3906) 570-53102
Fax: (3906) 570-55137
Email: Jhony.ZapataAndia@fao.org

Carla Ramírez Zea
Oficial Forestal en monitoreo e inventarios
forestales
Oficina de la FAO en Nicaragua
Km. 8.5 Carretera Masaya
Costado Oeste MAGFOR Central
Reperto Santo Domingo
Managua
Tel: (505) 2276-0426
Email: Carla.Ramirez@fao.org

Jessica Casaza
Senior National Consultant – Regional
Coordinator
Regional Office for Latin America and the
Caribbean
Casilla 10095
Santiago, Chile
Tel: (56-2) 923-2186
Fax: (56-2) 923-2101
Email: Jessica.Casaza@fao.org

Torsten Frisk
Consultant
Regional Office for Latin America and the
Caribbean
Casilla 10095
Santiago, Chile
Tel: (56-2) 453-1742
Email: torstenfrisk61@gmail.com

Nancy Ayub
Secretary
Regional Office for Latin America and the
Caribbean
Casilla 10095 Santiago
Tel: (562) 923-2215
Fax: (562) 923-2136
Email: Nancy.Ayub@fao.org

Sharone De León
Assistant to Secretariat
FAO-Guatemala
Tel: (502) 5904-2625
Email: sdeleon.rodriguez@gmail.com

INTERPRETERS

Dina Kuriansky
Joyce Denton
Ana María Kucharik de Sotelo
Gretel Niederheitmann

APPENDIX C**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

Agenda item	Code	Title
1	FO:LACFC/2010/1	Provisional agenda
4	FO:LACFC/2010/2	Forestry health in the context of the Southern Cone of Latin America
5	FO:LACFC/2010/3	State of forest genetic resources in Latin America
6	FO:LACFC/2010/4	Information of forest resources with emphasis to national forest inventories
7	FO:LACFC/2010/5	Community forestry in the Caribbean
8	FO:LACFC/2010/6	Forests and Climate Change – with a special focus on climate change adaptation

Information documents

FO:LACFC/2010/Inf.1	Information Note for the Participants
FO:LACFC/2010/Inf.2	Provisional timetable
FO:LACFC/2010/Inf.3	List of Documents

APPENDIX D**WORKPLANS OF THE SUBREGIONAL GROUPS OF THE COMMISSION
FOR THE PERIOD 2010-2012*****WORKPLAN OF THE CARIBBEAN SUBREGIONAL GROUP***

Countries present: Cuba, Puerto Rico of the United States of America, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, and Suriname.

The procedure of this Subregional Group was confirmed whereby it conducted specific works in groups of countries that have similar ecological and social conditions.

Work is currently conducted in three main groups:

1. Small and medium-size English-speaking islands: Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Granada, Trinidad and Tobago, and Barbados.
2. Spanish- and French-speaking islands: Cuba, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico of the United States of America and Haiti.
3. Countries with large forest areas: Belize, Guyana, French Guyana, Suriname.

Membership of these working groups is not exclusive as participation in any activity ultimately depends on the topic and the interest of individual countries. Cross-cutting issues are discussed at Subregional level.

Main areas of common interest

- Community forestry.
- Forest cover monitoring systems (including remote monitoring systems) with a focus on climate change and forest fires.
- Assistance in the preparation of reports on forest genetic resources and plans of action.
- Aspects of governance for watershed land-use planning.
- Facilitation of a mechanism of exchange of forest information for the Caribbean.

Proposed activities

- *Community forestry*

Identify and record cases of community forestry in the Caribbean countries, documenting experiences of interaction between forest authorities and local communities, small enterprises and small owners.

Organize a regional workshop to examine factors determining the success of community forestry activities and document the results in a regional study.

With regard to this initiative, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic offered to support and lead the process, for which they presented their programme of work to the delegates of the Subregional Group.

- *Forest cover monitoring systems (including remote monitoring systems) with a focus on climate change and forest fires*

Guyana offered to host a workshop to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and methodologies on the monitoring of forest cover in the countries of the Subregional Group, with a focus on remote monitoring systems. One aim of the workshop would be to look into the possibility of designing a monitoring training programme.

This activity will be led by Guyana with support from Puerto Rico.

- *Assistance in the drafting of reports on forest genetic resources and the design of country plans of action*

Organize a workshop on training and exchange of experiences on forest genetic resources and their conservation.

This initiative will be led by Cuba with support from Puerto Rico.

- *Aspects of governance for watershed land-use planning*

Initiate a process of regional dialogue on how to strengthen the role of the forestry sector in land-use planning. A proposed first step would be to hold a workshop for countries to report their methodology experiences in this regard.

This initiative will be led by Cuba with support from Grenada and the Dominican Republic.

- *Facilitation of a mechanism of exchange of forest information for the Caribbean*

Help forestry authorities set up their web pages and facilitate exchanges on their design and continued presence on the Web.

The International Institute of Tropical Forestry Information (IITF) has designed a Caribbean Foresters website (<http://www.caribbeanforesters.org/>) which it makes available to the Caribbean Subregional Group to facilitate the exchange of information.

The initiative to help national forest authorities establish their websites will be led by Cuba with support from Jamaica and Puerto Rico.

Bilateral activities

Cuba and the Dominican Republic agreed to explore opportunities for the exchange of information on endemic plants and forest legislation.

WORKPLAN OF THE SOUTHERN CONE SUBREGIONAL GROUP

Topic	Topic leader	Outcome	Activities	Recommendations to the Commission
Criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management	Chile	Stronger and better country capacity, and exchange of information in the Southern Cone.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement the selected indicators (17 indicators). 2. Classify, apply and maintain data and 	FAO is requested to conduct review 2 of TCP 3203 to adapt it to the new activity priorities of

			<p>information in a subregional information system.</p> <p>3. Standardization of knowledge and technologies to generate and maintain indicators in the bodies generating the information.</p> <p>4. Appraisal in each country of the state of the art (information) to build permanent mapping information to reflect change in land use.</p> <p><i>Note: Brazil is not a member of the Montreal Process.</i></p>	<p>countries, and to consider increasing the budget.</p>
<p>Forest protection</p> <p>1. Forest health</p> <p>2. Forest fires</p>	Argentina	<p>Promoted transfer of knowledge and technologies for detection, early warning and forest protection.</p>	<p>1.1 Proposed harmonization of legal frameworks.</p> <p>1.2 Subregional contingency plan.</p> <p>1.3 Mechanism of knowledge transfer.</p> <p>1.4 Information system for detection and early warning.</p> <p>2.1 Work in the Southern Cone countries on the subject of forest fires in the framework of the existing network.</p> <p>2.2 Exchange of experiences in the control of forest fires.</p> <p>2.3 Organization of a parallel seminar of the Southern Cone to coincide with the Congress on Forest Fire Control to be held in Curitiba (2011).</p>	<p>FAO is requested to continue its support for the approval of the project that the Southern Cone countries are preparing on forest health and for implementation of the envisaged actions.</p>

Experiences in intersectoral relations	Paraguay	Strengthened forest institutional structures in each country.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification of players in the forest sector and other related sectors. 2. Identification of intersectoral conflicts. 3. Case studies to resolve intersectoral conflicts. 4. Exchange of experiences between countries. 	Support is requested from FAO, the National Forest Programme Facility and other bodies to finance these activities.
Valuation of forests and financing	Brazil	<p>Information available to Southern Cone countries contemplating instruments to assess the value of forest environmental goods and services, with a focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Environmental services (water/forest). 2. Certification. 3. Minimum prices. 4. Environmental compensation. 5. Incentives. 6. Ecological ICMS. <p>* Legal frameworks.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preparation of reports on Brazil's experiences. 2. Regional meeting for presentation. 3. Regional report – with the inclusion of initiatives of the other Southern Cone countries. 	
Subregional round table on forestry	Uruguay	Establishment of an institutional framework for the subregional round table.	<p>Identify/establish a permanent platform for discussion between countries on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Valuation and financing. 2. Climate change and carbon REDD. 3. Climate change and energy. 4. Incorporation of players in forest negotiation. 5. Biodiversity and forests. 	

Countries present: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay.

General recommendation: The National Forest Programme Facility should take steps to consider as beneficiary countries the other countries of the Southern Cone Subregional Group that still do not have Partnership Agreements.

WORKPLAN OF THE MESO-AMERICA SUBREGIONAL GROUP

Topic	Outcome(s)	Activities	Comments
1. Establishment of systems of forest information, evaluation and monitoring (incl. preparation of REDD)	A designed Central American forest information system.	Conduct a country appraisal of the state of progress of the Forest Resource Information Systems, with an emphasis on data relating to REDD. Design a Central American forest information system, with a specific section on REDD-related topics	With regard to this topic, FAO should collaborate with other existing initiatives, such as UN-REDD, the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and the CCAD-GTZ project.
2. Forest protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest health • Forest fires 	A revised, updated and operational Central American Forest Fire Management Strategy	Convene a meeting of country liaison officers of the Central American Forest Fire Management Strategy Produce a consolidated report on forest fire management in Central America.	The Technical Committee on Forests had reached such an agreement in 2009 in Managua. The topic of forest fires should be linked to the topic of the REDD.
3. Incorporate community forestry as a strategic element of coordination of the multi-functionality of forest ecosystems	Participation of players from rural and indigenous groups in forest coordination arenas. Formulated community forestry programmes.	Review of existing legally recognized arenas permitting meaningful participation of relevant players, representatives of rural and indigenous groups. Strengthening of institutional programmes designed to promote the participation of grassroots organizations in the production of forest ecosystem goods and services.	How are the arenas that forest policy has opened up to these grassroots groups? How many programmes or projects are being implemented in the countries?

Countries present: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama.

WORKPLAN OF THE AMAZON SUBREGIONAL GROUP

Spheres of action	Objectives	Specific activities	Expected outcomes	Inputs and possible sources of funding
Forest information systems	Continue building national capacity for forest information management	Implementation of the forest cover monitoring project	Real-time forest cover monitoring system implemented and functioning in its first phase	Co-financed by ITTO, ABC and ACTO
			Personnel trained by the INPE.	Country and INPE inputs
		Implementation of forest sector satellite accounts	Country reports on evaluation and proposals for implementation of forest sector satellite accounts.	FAO resources, country inputs and ACTO
			Holding of a regional workshop to discuss progress and determine way forward	
Instruments of forest policy and legislation	Exchange of experiences with instruments of forest policy and legislation	Training in appropriate national initiatives of implementation of forest policy and governance instruments	Forest policies with a broader support base	FAO resources, country inputs and ACTO
		Identification and dissemination of exemplary cases of SFM	Exemplary cases of SFM disseminated within countries	FAO resources, country inputs and ACTO
International agreements	Strengthen dialogue aimed at reaching consensus regional positions and with international bodies	Coordination and organization of meetings for dialogue and coordination	Regional reports of preparatory meetings and videoconferences held	FAO resources, country inputs and ACTO

	such as UNFF, ITTO, CBD, UNFCCC	Support for the creation of committees to celebrate the International Year of Forests	Plan of action implemented for celebration of the International Year of Forests	FAO resources, country inputs and ACTO
Funding mechanisms for the forest sector	Aim to standardize knowledge and information on funding mechanisms for the forest sector	Support country actions to build national capacity for the implementation of financial mechanisms	Regional workshop on the exchange of experiences	FAO resources, country inputs and ACTO
		Promote internal debate within countries of the Region where feasible	National workshops where feasible	
Systems of forest and genetic resource protection	Contribute towards improving national capacity for the control of pests and diseases and forest fires in the Region	Design and formulation of national forest protection strategies	Strategy document for forest protection	Country inputs and FAO resources
			Building of capacity for transboundary control	
			Warning standards in the countries of the Region	
	Promote understanding of the state of forest genetic resources	Develop national studies of forest genetic resources	Information on genetic resources included in national policies	Country inputs, FAO in cooperation with <i>Bioversity</i> , LAFORGEN.

Countries present: Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador

1. Community development.
2. Control of illegal activity with an emphasis on transboundary movement.

APPENDIX E**SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE IN-SESSION SEMINAR: FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE - WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION (Item 8)**

Ms. Susan Braatz, on behalf of the LACFC Secretariat, introduced document FO:LACFC/2010/6 “Forests and Climate Change – with a special focus on climate change adaptation”. The document reviewed the status of negotiations of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) related to forests and highlighted issues of significance to Commission delegates.

Mr. Ariel E. Lugo and Mrs. Kathleen McGinley, on behalf of the Secretariat of the North American Forestry Commission (NAFC), gave two presentations to supplement that of the LACFC Secretariat. They summarized progress on a survey inquiring about threats to forests in Latin America and the Caribbean and exploring the vulnerability of the region to climate change. This work had been requested by Mexico, Chile and the United States of America at the 25th Session of the LACFC. The study, which was still in progress, benefited from the participation of most countries in the region. Preliminary results showed that threats to forests and vulnerabilities to climate change, as perceived by country experts, were geographically sensitive, and would require country and region-specific analysis.

Mr. José Armando Alanis’ presentation on “Forests of Mexico in the face of climate change” indicated the potential scope and considerable magnitude for forest-related mitigation in Mexico, impacts of climate change on the country’s forest ecosystems, and planned mitigation and adaptation measures. In his presentation on “Basis for a climate change adaptation strategy for forests in Latin America and the Caribbean: Phytoclimatic mapping, future climate scenario building and risk analysis”, Mr. Miguel Segur Pelayo spoke of work in progress in Argentina on using phyto-climatic maps and climate change scenario models to assess possible future changes in forest species distributions and facilitate planning of adaptation responses. Mr. Raffaele Vignola, in speaking on “Forests and climate change: Regional perspective on research and capacity building”, focused on the limited attention the scientific literature on tropical forests gave to climate change adaptation as compared with mitigation; suggested that the rapid rate of change and high degree of uncertainty in predicting future climate change scenarios necessitated the development of flexible and adaptable governance arrangements and sound information to inform responses; and underlined the importance of capacity strengthening on forests and climate change as well as communication efforts targeted at policy makers and the public.

Commission members shared countries’ experiences and needs in addressing forest and climate change issues. Among the points raised were the following. Honduras spoke about its efforts in integrated landscape planning in conjunction with the implementation of its water resources strategy. Paraguay drew attention to the need to strengthen the voice of many countries in the region as regards forestry issues in the international climate change negotiations. Uruguay shared its experience in fostering multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder processes for the development of climate change strategies and highlighted its work to protect native forests. Chile provided information on its efforts to enhance forestry-agriculture linkages in addressing climate change issues. Grenada spoke about impacts of drought and climate change in the country, and also about the special needs of small island developing states. Brazil highlighted the need for strong public policies to encourage adaptation; its work to strengthen linkages among energy, agriculture and forestry policy and practices; and its goals to promote planted forests. Other countries that provided

comments were Argentina, Guatemala, Ecuador, Surinam, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Dominican Republic.

The following key points were summarized from the discussion. Forest policy makers and managers face considerable challenges in making decisions and carrying out long-term planning for adaptation in light of the high degree of complexity and uncertainty about the magnitude, rate and impacts of climate change. In such an environment of uncertainty, the creation and maintenance of policy frameworks and governance arrangements that are conducive to adaptive management were considered to be very important. Strong intersectoral coordination and cooperation would be increasingly crucial in order to maximize the effectiveness and minimize possible negative spin-off effects of adaptation measures. Opportunities for capitalizing on the potential synergies between climate change mitigation and adaptation in the forestry sector should be captured. Climate change scenario modelling is a useful tool, but its value is dependent in large part on the availability of good data. Sustainable forest management is a fundamental foundation for climate change adaptation in the sector, but forest policy and practices will, in many places, need to be adjusted in response to new conditions posed by climate change.

The Commission highlighted various appropriate roles for FAO in this field, including: helping countries translate scientific findings into practical action; fostering sub-regional and regional activities and cooperation, providing factual information on the importance of forests to climate change adaptation and mitigation in order to raise awareness of high level policy makers and the general public, helping to document and disseminate successful results of the region's countries in forestry adaptation and mitigation, and helping to enable foresters become more directly involved in the international climate change policy process in UNFCCC.

The Commission requested FAO to take a strong role in coordinating efforts in the region related to forests and climate change adaptation. It also requested the organization to work with countries and other organizations to identify needs of countries in the region related to forests and climate change adaptation and to develop proposals and seek funding to support regional or sub-regional activities and cooperative action in this field. It further requested FAO to synthesize and disseminate policy-relevant and technical information on forests and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

Antigua and Barbuda	Haiti
Argentina	Honduras
Barbados	Jamaica
Belize	Mexico
Bolivia	Netherlands
Brazil	Nicaragua
Chile	Panama
Colombia	Paraguay
Costa Rica	Peru
Cuba	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Dominica	Saint Lucia
Dominican Republic	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Ecuador	Suriname
El Salvador	Trinidad and Tobago
France	United Kingdom
Guatemala	United States of America
Guyana	Uruguay
Grenada	Venezuela