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COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

Rome, 18 - 22 July 2016

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE STATUTORY BODIES IN FORESTRY

The Committee is invited to consider Progress Reports from Forestry Statutory Bodies and key Partnerships:

- Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions *Silva Mediterranea*
- Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACFSI)
- International Poplar Commission (IPC)
- Mountain Partnership (MP)

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Annex I

**THE COMMITTEE ON MEDITERRANEAN FORESTRY QUESTIONS -
*SILVA MEDITERRANEA*****A. Activities within the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests**

1. The IV Mediterranean Forest Week (MFW) was held from 16 to 21 March 2015 in Barcelona, Spain. The topic of this MFW was “Improving livelihoods: the role of Mediterranean forest value chains in a green economy.” Several financial partners confirmed a priority on the Mediterranean region with a key interest for integrated approaches in the forest sector.
2. The V MFW will be convened from 20 to 24 March 2017 in Morocco. It is being co-organized by the High Commission for Water and Forests and the Fight against Desertification of Morocco and *Silva Mediterranea*. The topic of the V MFW will be “Desertification and restoration of degraded Mediterranean forests and landscapes.”
3. The preparation of the second edition of the State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF) was launched in January 2016 by the *Silva Mediterranea* Secretariat and Plan Bleu.
4. Between 2013 and 2015, the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests has been implicitly or explicitly referred to in several strategic documents across Mediterranean countries, such as the National Program for Rural Renewal 2014-2019 of Algeria, the Strategy for Sustainable Development of Forests and Range 2015-2024 of Tunisia, the new forest strategy of Portugal, the 2015-2025 ten-year plan of the High Commission for Water, Forests and Fight Against Desertification in Morocco, and the 2015-2025 National Forest and Wood Programme of France.

B. Evaluation of *Silva Mediterranea*

5. Based on the recommendations made by the evaluation panel and on the management response prepared by the Forestry Department of FAO, *Silva Mediterranea* adopted, at its extraordinary session held on 18 March 2015 in Barcelona during the IV Mediterranean Forest Week, 38 decisions regarding the functioning of the Committee.
6. A priority recommendation of the 2013 evaluation of *Silva Mediterranea* was to establish a strategy that is specific to the Committee based on the Strategic Framework on the Mediterranean Forests. A draft strategy for *Silva Mediterranea* has been prepared by the Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea*.

C. Working groups

7. Details regarding the activities and working plans for 2016-2017 of the working groups are given in the report of the last meeting of the Executive Committee of *Silva Mediterranea* held in Rome on 8 April 2016 (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/silva-mediterranea/88943/en/>).
8. As part of the working plan of the working group on “Desertification and Restoration of Mediterranean Drylands” and in connection with the V MFW, a Mediterranean regional initiative on forest and landscape restoration in the context of the Bonn Challenge has been put forward.

D. Points for consideration

9. The Commission may wish to encourage member countries of *Silva Mediterranea* to:
 - contribute to the activities of the *Silva Mediterranea* working groups and to the preparation of the second edition of the State of Mediterranean Forests

- commit to a Mediterranean initiative on forest and landscape restoration.
- contribute to the preparation and commit to high level participation in the V Mediterranean Forest Week to be held in March 2017 in Morocco.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE FOREST-BASED INDUSTRIES

A. Introduction

1. This note provides an overview of the recent activities of the FAO Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACSFI), and the progress of its current biennial workplan 2016 – 2017.
2. ACSFI serves as FAO's main body for private sector collaboration in forestry. ACSFI's main mandate is to advise FAO on emerging challenges and opportunities in the area of forestry and forest-based industries.
3. ACSFI develops an annual workplan through a consultative process. It is implemented in close collaboration with members of the Committee and thematic working groups comprising FAO staff and international experts nominated by ACSFI members. The work is supported by the secretary of the ACSFI, who is responsible for the organization of all operational work.
4. There is now also a close coordinated interaction with the International Council of Forest and Paper Associations (ICFPA) including alignment of meeting dates, agendas and collaborative support of mutual objectives and activities. The ICFPA represents 90 percent of the world's paper production, more than 50 percent of its wood production and produces a biennial sustainability report.

B. 2015 meeting results

Fifty-sixth Session ACSFI – Washington D.C., USA 5 - 6 May 2015

5. The Committee was informed of activities that contribute to the Forestry Programme's deliverables under Strategic Objectives 2 - 5 of FAO's 2014-17 Medium Term Plan namely improving goods and services from forestry in a sustainable way, reducing poverty, enabling more inclusive and efficient systems and increasing livelihood resilience as well as to the preparations of the XIV World Forestry Congress (WFC), and to the Roadmap to COP 21 in Paris.
6. Based on technical presentations by the secretariat, ACSFI members' provided guidance to FAO's work streams in the fields of bio-based packaging, biotechnology in forestry, a global review of bio-economy strategies and policies, plans for the WFC, the FAO online conference on the economics of climate change mitigation options in the forest sector and subsequent publication "*Forests, wood products and climate change: mitigation opportunities and economics*", a COP 21 side event that included an assessment of the contribution of forestry to party INDCs¹, Forest Product Statistics, and SOFO 2016.
7. Recommendations

On Outputs and Activities under SO2, SO3, SO4 and SO5 of the FAO Strategic Framework, the ACSFI made the following recommendations:

- a) Continue to allocate funding for highest priority projects to ensure effectiveness.
- b) FAO should explore an opportunity for an ACSFI and ICFPA event at COP 21 and present on progress with the book "*Forests, wood products and climate change: mitigation opportunities and economics*", and coordinate with, and participate in, the World Business

¹ Intended Nationally Determined Contributions

Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) planned event and the presentation of ICFPA commissioned analysis.

- c) Complete the bio-economy strategies work for presentation at WFC.
- d) Help facilitate understanding and agreement on definition of “*Deforestation-free*” and implications for forest products value chains.
- e) Organize a forum to facilitate dialogue with invited stakeholders on the tree biotechnology issue.
- f) Complete ongoing work related to food saving bio-based packaging and forest products statistics.

XIV World Forestry Congress 2015

8. At the WFC, ACSFI members contributed to special events, notably:

- Marco Mensink (Confederation of European Paper Industries - CEPI) was a key note speaker on break-through processes at the Innovation and Investment Forum (Sub-theme 4)
- Elizabeth de Carvalhaes was a key note speaker in Sub-theme 3: Integrating forests and other land uses, and spoke about planted forests
- Sponsorship of awards related to the "Tree Housing" competition.

ACSFI 57th Preparatory meeting and ACSFI Steering Committee Meeting, Paris, 4 December 2015

9. In preparing for the 57th session in Sydney, Australia (4 - 5 July 2016) an update was given on selected FAO activities:

- a) The draft of the Zero Deforestation study was presented by FAO: the Committee found the report informative and encouraged further work, which could be publicly supported by the private sector.
- b) The work on bio-based packaging has progressed with completion of technical and packaging trend studies, and moved on to building real cases.
- c) FAO presented its work on forest bio-technology and statistics.
- d) The publication on “*Forests, wood products and climate change: mitigation opportunities and economics*” will be launched at COFO in July 2016. FAO suggested follow-up work for 2016 – 2017 to include:
 - In-depth work on the economics and information gaps for selected forest value chains;
 - Promotion of policies and incentives to ensure sufficient supply of sustainable wood for advancing bio-economy activities;
 - Case studies on opportunities to substituting emission-intensive products by innovative wood products.
- e) FAO and bio-economy: the ACSFI Secretary provided a summary on the Global Bio-economy Summit held in Berlin (24 -26 November 2015). ACSFI welcomed the initiative and suggested continued work on the topic.

C. Points for consideration

10. The Committee may wish to:

- Take note of the strengthened collaboration between ACSFI and ICFPA and recognize the continued role and relevance of ACSFI as a mechanism to channel private sector knowledge and solutions into the FAO Forestry Programme. In particular the Committee may wish to encourage and support the cross sectoral initiative on bio-economy for its role in sustainably providing goods and services across economic sectors.

Annex III**INTERNATIONAL POPLAR COMMISSION (IPC)****A. Introduction**

1. The International Poplar Commission (IPC), the oldest statutory body of FAO created in 1947 and later placed within the framework of FAO as an Article XIV body, pursues a comprehensive institutional reform since September 2012. The proposed reform comprises an expansion of the geographic, biological and technical scope of the Commission by including a wider range of fast-growing genera/species with similar attributes for industrial and energy uses and environmental applications while maintaining the existing mandate on poplars and willows, and to restructure the existing working parties to strengthen the linkage with broader environmental and developmental issues. The reform has the objectives to broaden the interest of FAO's member countries in the Commission, to strengthen the contribution of forestry to food security, sustainable livelihoods and land use in rural areas and to attract more funding options for an enlarged membership and outreach of the Commission's mandate.

B. Process

2. Progress reports on the IPC reform had been provided to the sessions of the Committee on Forestry in 2012 and 2014 respectively, to the 24th Session of the IPC held in 2012 in Dehradun, India, and to the 47th IPC Executive Committee meeting, held in Vancouver in July 2014. The delegates of COFO 2012 and 2014, as well as the delegates of the 24th IPC Session and its subsidiary bodies recommended recognizing and supporting the reform process and encouraged the IPC-Executive Committee to pursue the reform objectives. The proposed amendments will be referred to the IPC delegates for adoption at its 25th Session to be held in September 2016 in Berlin. The amendments would become effective upon approval by the Conference of FAO at its session of June 2017.

3. In addition, the proposed IPC reform has been presented to the delegates of the 100th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM 100) in March 2015. The CCLM took note of the proposed amendments and sought clarifications on, inter alia, the extent and implications of the proposed expansion of the scope of the Commission, the revised functions of the Commission, the relationship between the Commission and national commissions and the Committee on Forestry in order to assess whether the proposed amendments involved new obligations for the Parties. The CCLM stated that it would review the proposed amendments again, together with further information on the deliberations of the Commission after the adoption of the amendments by the Commission in 2016 and prior to the referral of the amended IPC Convention to the Conference in June 2017 for approval.

C. Points for consideration

4. The Committee on Forestry may wish to
- encourage the IPC Executive Committee to seek the approval of the proposed amendments from the delegates of the 25th IPC Session, to be held in Berlin in September 2016.

Annex IV**THE MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP**

1. The Mountain Partnership (MP) is a United Nations voluntary alliance of governments, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations that work toward improving the lives of mountain peoples and protecting mountain environments around the world. It currently has more than 270 members.

2. The Mountain Partnership is supported by a Secretariat, which is funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Federal Office of Agriculture of Switzerland and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The FAO Forestry Department hosts the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS).

3. The Partnership's work is organized under four main pillars: advocacy, capacity development, joint projects, and sharing knowledge pertaining to sustainable mountain development. This paper presents and accounts of its major achievements in July 2014-March 2016:

A. Highlight

4. A study conducted by the MPS in close collaboration with the FAO Statistics Division shows that about 39 percent of the mountain population in developing countries, or 329 million people, is estimated to be vulnerable to food insecurity. That means one of every three mountain dwellers faces hunger or malnutrition. This figure, which is considerably higher than the global average, reflects the dire situation and is guiding the work being conducted by the MPS.

B. Advocacy

5. A successful two-year campaign to promote the inclusion of mountains in the Post-2015 development agenda ended in September 2015, when the UN General Assembly adopted three mountain-related targets under two of the Sustainable Development Goals. The indicator, called the "Mountain Green Cover Index", developed by the MPS and the FAO Statistics Division to monitor progress of the three mountain-related SDG targets, was also approved in early 2016.

6. Among other international-level activities, the MP upheld its decade-long tradition of organizing side events at the Rio Conventions to bring delegates' attention to mountains, namely:

- Two side events, an exhibition and social media campaign were undertaken at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP 21 in Paris, 2015 and one side event at UNFCCC COP 20 in Lima, 2014;
- A side event at the Conference of the Parties (COP) United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in 2015.
- A side event is under preparation for the next Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

C. Strengthening capacity

7. Regional-level accomplishments include: the establishment of a six-nation coordination mechanism in the Andes (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru).

8. During this period, national committees for mountains were established in Chile and Peru; others are under preparation in other countries.

9. The annual International Programme on Research and Training on Sustainable Management of Mountain Areas (IPROMO) trains technicians and development workers in the management of

mountain areas. In 2016, the course will focus on “Managing Mountain Resources and Diversities - the Role of Protected Areas”, while the theme in 2015 was “Food security in mountain areas”. The Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Centre (CATIE) in the framework of the Mountain Partnership started in 2015 to offer similar courses in Spanish.

D. Joint projects

10. A broker for joint activities, the MP facilitated numerous contacts between countries and institutions and created the conditions for collaboration, technical cooperation and resource mobilization at all levels. Some examples of international, regional and national joint activities:

- Creating a global voluntary certification scheme for mountain products;
- Strengthening the Mountain Partnership African Champions Committee, which is leading the organization of a World Mountain Forum, to take place in October 2016;
- Exploring a network for Mediterranean mountains to address climate change, landscape and biodiversity issues; and
- Coordinating MP members’ rehabilitation efforts after extremely destructive earthquakes struck Nepal in April 2015.

E. Sharing Knowledge

11. The MP disseminated sustainable mountain development news, events and other information through its website, social media channels and monthly newsletter, Peak to Peak.

It also produced the following publications:

- Mapping the vulnerability of mountain peoples to food insecurity (English), 2015
- Understanding mountain soils (English), 2015
- Mountain Farming is Family Farming (English, French, Spanish), 2014
- Cordillera de Los Andes (Spanish), 2014

12. The MPS and FAO promoted the worldwide celebration of International Mountain Day, emphasizing mountain products as a way to boost livelihoods in 2015 and mountain family farming in 2014. The focus for 2016 will be cultural diversity in the mountains.

F. The way ahead

13. Preparations are underway for the Fifth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership, where members are expected to discuss food insecurity in the mountains and implementing the mountain-related targets in the SDGs, review work progress and set priorities for the next biennium.

G. Points for consideration

14. The Committee may wish to take note of this report and invite countries to:

- Promote investment and specific policies for improving the livelihoods of mountain peoples and increase their resilience;
- Engage in or strengthen commitment to the Mountain Partnership; and
- Strengthen the national and local capacities in sustainable mountain development.