



# COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

## Twenty-sixth Session

3-7 October 2022

### Dialogue with Statutory Bodies in Forestry

#### Executive Summary

This document presents progress reports on activities of the Forestry Statutory Bodies and the Working Group of the Committee on Forestry:

- Regional Forestry Commissions (RFCs)
- Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions *Silva Mediterranea*
- Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACFSI)
- International Poplar Commission (IPC)
- Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems

#### Suggested action by the Committee

**The Committee is invited to:**

- provide guidance on the way forward by referring to the Points for Consideration provided at the end of the progress reports of each of the Statutory Bodies (see Annexes I, II, III, IV and V).

*Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:*

Malgorzata Buszko-Briggs  
Secretary  
Committee on Forestry  
Tel. (+39) 06 570 55762  
Malgorzata.Buskobriggs@fao.org

(Please copy: COFO@fao.org)

## I. Introduction

1. Progress Reports from Forestry Statutory Bodies are presented for the Committee's consideration in Annex I-V of this document on:
  - Regional Forestry Commissions (RFCs)
  - Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions *Silva Mediterranea*
  - Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACFSI)
  - International Poplar Commission (IPC)
  - Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems
2. All these bodies, and in particular the RFCs, provided inputs to the 26th Session of COFO (COFO26) and made recommendations for FAO's programme in forestry.

## Regional Forestry Commissions

1. The current biennium's sessions of the Regional Forestry Commissions (RFCs) were held as follows:

- 29th Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC), 22-25 February 2022, virtual session (Mongolia)<sup>1</sup>
- 32nd Session of the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC), 6-10 September 2021, virtual session (Jamaica)<sup>2</sup>
- 31st Session of the North American Forest Commission (NAFC), 17-19 November 2021, virtual session (Mexico)<sup>3</sup>
- 41st Session of the European Forestry Commission (EFC), 4-7 November 2021, hybrid session Rome, (Italy)<sup>4</sup>
- 25th Session of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission (NEFRC), 19-21 October 2021, virtual session (Egypt)<sup>5</sup>
- At the time of preparing this document, the 23rd Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) was scheduled for August 2022 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo.

2. Recommendations of the RFCs are presented in document COFO/2022/INF/12, and served as an input to document COFO/2022/7.1 on FAO's work in Forestry under the Strategic Framework 2022-31.

3. At its 25th Session (COFO25), COFO requested FAO to consult with the RFCs on ways to help facilitate their policy dialogues and technical exchanges, to assist them in achieving their Members' goals and contributions to international processes and goals<sup>6</sup>. It also invited FAO to explore options for further linking the work of these Statutory Bodies to the work of FAO's Forestry Division and to other policy areas with relevance for forestry, in order to increase their relevance and efficiency and to create synergies and enhance participation<sup>7</sup>.

4. Following the above guidance, the RFCs addressed the issues at their last respective sessions, and provided detailed recommendations, summarized in the following points:

- synchronize the calendar of future RFC meetings, if not done so far, with the timetable of the relevant FAO Regional Conferences, in order to provide inputs from the Commissions to the Regional Conferences in a more timely manner;
- invite the Chairpersons of the RFCs to attend the respective Regional Conferences and enhance intersessional activities by improving interactions between RFCs and Regional Conferences members, including Rome-based delegations, with a view to strengthening

---

<sup>1</sup> APFC29 Report: <https://www.fao.org/3/cb9178en/cb9178en.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> LACFC32 Report: <https://www.fao.org/3/cb7404en/cb7404en.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> NAFC31 Report: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc0219en/cc0219en.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> EFC41 Report: <https://www.fao.org/3/nj289en/nj289en.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> NEFRC25 Report: <https://www.fao.org/3/cb8337en/cb8337en.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Paragraph 35, COFO25 Report

<sup>7</sup> Paragraph 40, COFO25 Report

cross-sectoral policy dialogue and to ensure that important regional forestry-related matters are integrated in the themes of the Regional Conferences;

- strengthen the cross-sectoral work of the RFCs, especially on forestry and agrifood systems matters by providing relevant and useful inputs to their members, to FAO and to other international processes on forest-related issues; consider ways to further enhance the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the RFCs and other FAO Statutory Bodies including ensuring that the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and COFO consider the same background papers relating to deforestation from agriculture<sup>8</sup>; and
- consider undertaking a detailed review of the RFCs with the aim of further enhancing their relevance, including the focus on the 2030 Agenda and the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, and their efficiency and effectiveness (EFC, LACFC, NERFC). One Commission (APFC) is currently undergoing a governance review. A scoping study, conducted between November 2021 and February 2022, found that the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of APFC has changed significantly over recent decades. Compared to when it was created in 1949, the APFC now faces an increasingly competitive environment and a declining number of members attending (apart from the last session, which was held virtually). At its 29<sup>th</sup> Session held in February 2022, the APFC recommended that FAO convene an informal consultation with APFC Members and other stakeholders to further discuss the options to reform the APFC governance structure to provide greater relevance, efficiency and effectiveness<sup>9</sup>.

#### **Points for consideration**

5. The Committee may wish to:
  - continue providing guidance on strategic issues to the RFCs; and
  - stress the importance for the RFCs to have a more policy-relevant role in the FAO Regional Conferences.
6. The Committee may wish to recommend FAO to:
  - continue to review and consult with Members on ways to further improve RFCs as well-established mechanisms for policy dialogue and exchange, with a view to further strengthen coordination and collaborative actions across sectors and stakeholders, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement and the Global Forest Goals.

---

<sup>8</sup> NAFC/2021/REP

<sup>9</sup> APFC/2022/REP

## Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - *Silva Mediterranea*

### A. Twenty-fourth Session of *Silva Mediterranea*

1. The Committee held its 24th Session on 22-25 March 2022 in Antalya, Türkiye, during the 7th Mediterranean Forest Week. The Committee:

- agreed to prepare data collection for the assessment of the Agadir Commitment<sup>10</sup> after five years of its adoption and publish the related report by the end of 2022. It also took note of the need for a monitoring system on post-Agadir efforts;
- committed to prepare new project proposals for submission to relevant financial instruments, such as COST Actions, Adaptation Fund and the future Integrated Programme on Ecosystem Restoration in preparation in the context of GEF-8, given the opportunity provided by the ongoing Mediterranean component of the project “The Paris Agreement in action: upscaling forest and landscape restoration to achieve nationally determined contributions”;
- endorsed the proposal to nominate a Mediterranean Flagship<sup>11</sup> named “Restoration of degraded forest ecosystems as nature-based solutions to build resilience in the Mediterranean region for the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration” in response to the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration call for World Restoration Flagships launched in January 2022, and requested the Secretariat to finalize the official submission form and submit it by 31 March 2022;
- recommended an extraordinary session of *Silva Mediterranea* to be held in Rome consecutively with the 26th Session of COFO (COFO26), to define the work plan for the preparation of the next edition of the State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF) 2023, intended to be launched at the next Mediterranean Forest Week to be held in April or May 2024 in Tunisia; and
- welcomed the offer of Tunisia to host the 8th Mediterranean Forest Week in 2024. The 25th session of *Silva Mediterranea* will take place during the 8th Mediterranean Forest Week.

2. It also endorsed the Antalya Declaration<sup>12</sup> on the role of Forests and Ecosystem Restoration for future Mediterranean generations.

### B. World Restoration Flagship nomination of the Mediterranean region in the context of the United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration

3. Endorsed by Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Türkiye, the Committee *Silva Mediterranea* submitted a proposal for the Mediterranean region to be considered as a World Restoration Flagship in the context of the United Nations Decade call for World Restoration Flagships. The main role of Flagships is to provide inspiration to other countries and regions for scaling up successful restoration efforts, to attract global attention and investments, and to act as a basis for joint learning across the world.

---

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.fao.org/forestry/45685-0ad87e3a1d4ccc359b37c38ffccb5b1fc.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> A World Restoration Flagship is an innovative restoration initiative able to inspire the restoration community in the context of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The call was officially launched at UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5). <https://www.fao.org/gef/highlights/detail/en/c/1475706/>

<sup>12</sup> [https://vii-med.forestweek.org/sites/default/files/editor/antalya-declaration\\_final.pdf](https://vii-med.forestweek.org/sites/default/files/editor/antalya-declaration_final.pdf)

### **C. Working groups of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea***

4. Strong limitations to the activities of Working Groups have been encountered in the last two years due to the restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, activities that consisted of webinars, the preparation and dissemination of position papers and technical guidelines were organized regularly, as was the case for the Working Group on Urban and Peri-Urban Forestry.

5. The Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (FGR) is collaborating closely with the Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) to update the regional inventory of the Mediterranean Forest Genetic Resources, together with the development of guidelines for selecting genetic resources, in view of their key adaptation role to climate change.

6. In close collaboration with Portugal and with the expressed interest of Türkiye, the activities of the Working Group on Cork and Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFP) are being developed further through an online survey to be disseminated by the end of 2022.

7. The Working Group on Forest Fires, coordinated by Spain and co-led by Türkiye, has made progress and is strengthening raising awareness of the importance of fire prevention as well as post-fire and restoration activities to recover from fires.

### **D. Next edition of the State of Mediterranean Forests**

8. The next edition is expected to be published in 2023 (or early 2024), based on a survey collecting countries' interests, case studies and success stories. A scoping note will be presented at the extraordinary session of the *Silva Mediterranea* Committee in Rome on the margins of COFO26.

### **E. Unasylva special issue on *Silva Mediterranea* and the Forest sector in the Mediterranean**

9. Unasylva is an international journal of forestry and forest industries and FAO's longest running periodical (since 1947). The 242<sup>nd</sup> edition of Unasylva (2014) focused on the Mediterranean region prompting several new initiatives especially on forest and landscape restoration. A similar new edition is foreseen to be launched in late 2023 during the next Session of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission. It will showcase the status of Mediterranean forest resources and recent developments and opportunities in an effort to contribute to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and to achieve regional and global pledges.

### **Points for consideration**

10. The Committee may wish to:

- invite *Silva Mediterranea* to further align the work plans of the *Silva Mediterranea* Working Groups with global and regional agendas.

11. The Committee may wish to recommend FAO to:

- support enhanced access by Members, at their request, to climate finance opportunities such as the Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund, particularly for forest fire prevention and post-fire restoration initiatives.

## Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries

### A. Outcomes of the 62nd and 63rd Sessions

1. At its 62nd Session<sup>13</sup>, held virtually on 27-28 April 2021, and its 63rd Session, held in hybrid format on 30 April 2022 in Seoul (Republic of Korea) back to back with the XV World Forestry Congress, the ACSFI provided an update on the status of activities related to recommendations from previous sessions.
2. The ACSFI developed a work plan on its strategic priorities: i) building a forest-based bioeconomy to mitigate climate change and achieve multiple Sustainable Development Goals, ii) enhancing the forest sector's engagement in ecosystem restoration; and iii) placing sustainable forest sector at the heart of COVID-19 pandemic recovery to build back better.
3. A statement from the ACSFI on "*Building a forest-based bioeconomy to halt climate change and achieve multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*"<sup>14</sup> was launched in October 2021.
4. FAO, in collaboration with ACSFI members, prepared a publication on Forest Products in the Global Bioeconomy<sup>15</sup>. It was launched in March 2022 on the occasion of the International Day of Forests 2022<sup>16</sup>. The report brings together the most up-to-date knowledge on the role of forest products in the global bioeconomy. It provides a wide range of practical actions to increase the contribution of forest products to climate change mitigation and sustainable development, in particular through the substitution of carbon emission intensive products with renewable forest products.
5. FAO and ACSFI also commissioned a background study and hosted a webinar<sup>17</sup> to identify challenges and emerging opportunities for the forest sector's engagement in ecosystem restoration.
6. ACSFI engaged with a range of key partners to further catalyze strategic partnerships among the private sector, FAO and other relevant stakeholders, including with the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Global Environment Facility (GEF), Green Climate Fund (GCF), World Bioeconomy Forum (WCBEF) and the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR).

### B. Key messages of the Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-Based Industries to COFO26

7. The ACSFI:
  - welcomes FAO's engagement for a more effective collaboration with the private sector, in line with the FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement 2021-2025 and its Strategic Framework 2022-31 and its Programme Priority Areas;
  - acknowledges the potential of forests and renewable forest products to contribute to climate change mitigation by recognizing forests as carbon sinks, through carbon storage in long lived wood products and by substitution for more emission intensive fossil-fuel based materials;

---

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.fao.org/forestry/industries/9808/en/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/cb7013en/cb7013en.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb7274en>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.fao.org/international-day-of-forests/en/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.fao.org/forestry/industries/98446/en/>

- calls upon FAO to support countries, and collaborate with other stakeholders including but not limited to the private sector and the research community, to assess, leverage and further enhance the climate change mitigation potential of forest products in sectors such as construction, bioenergy and other forest-based bioproducts;
- recognizes the important role forest-based industries can play in support of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and encourages FAO to further catalyze the engagement of the private sector in ecosystem restoration by facilitating dialogue, providing capacity development and knowledge-sharing as well as enabling access to funding through effective public-private partnerships;
- encourages FAO to further support capacity building and facilitate policy dialogue that promotes the development, dissemination and adoption of forest-based innovations and technologies, and expands sustainable consumption and production patterns;
- supports FAO's efforts to scale-up sustainable wood-based pathways and encourages FAO to build and enhance capacities of a wide range of stakeholders and enlist their participation in green and inclusive growth that utilizes the full potential of harvested wood products in carbon emission reduction efforts;
- invites FAO to foster public-private partnerships that i) promote the role of sustainable forest management to enhance sustainable production, use and livelihoods; and ii) increase the contribution of the sustainable forest-based industries to the bioeconomy; and
- encourages FAO to gather accurate data on supply and demand scenarios of forest products at global, regional and local levels to underpin appropriate policy and investment decisions, in particular to ensure that forests can sustainably meet the predicted surge in demand for wood products in coming decades.

#### **Points for consideration**

9. The Committee may wish to:

- take note of the ACSFI key messages to COFO26; and
- invite the ACSFI to continue fostering strategic actions and facilitating partnerships between FAO and the private sector to promote a forest-based bioeconomy and healthy, productive ecosystems including through ecosystem restoration to achieve the SDGs, in particular in developing countries.



## **The International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment**

### **A. 26th Session of the International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment<sup>18</sup>**

1. The 26th Session of the International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment (IPC) was held from 5-8 October 2021 in a virtual format due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Session was attended by 82 delegates from 33 countries, one Member Organization and one Intergovernmental Organization. The Session was co-hosted by FAO and Italy. Italy also supported a technical congress<sup>19</sup> held in conjunction with the IPC Session on 6 and 7 October 2021. The session adopted the IPC Strategy 2022-2032 and requested the IPC Executive Committee to take the steps necessary to implement it, and recommended the Secretariat to report back on progress at the next Session. The 27th Session of the IPC will be held in 2024.

### **B. Overview of the new IPC Strategy**

2. The IPC Strategy 2022-2032<sup>20</sup> recognizes the importance of fast-growing trees as a fundamental component of forestry and agricultural systems worldwide, as well as the Commission's broader geographical, biological and technical scope.

3. The Strategy outlines four objectives of work:

- i. to foster innovation in land production systems and provide ecosystem services involving fast-growing trees;
- ii. to comprehensively assess innovations to establish best practices for management and utilization of fast-growing trees in rural and urban contexts;
- iii. to make recommendations to interested countries, FAO, international initiatives, and working partners so that best practices in managing fast-growing trees achieve scale and effectively contribute to sustainable development; and
- iv. to deepen partnerships and cooperation in order to more effectively achieve IPC Objectives (i), (ii) and (iii).

4. To implement the Strategy, the IPC will function as a knowledge and capacity building network and as a science-policy implementation platform, converting science-based approaches into practice to actively contribute to and gradually expand the knowledge base on other fast-growing tree species beyond poplars and willows. The IPC will continue to foster the development and application of technical knowledge on fast-growing trees for sustainable development; will continue to expand its collaboration to new countries and fast growing tree species as capacity allows, and will promote collaborative approaches to research and use of fast-growing trees in the tropics and subtropics.

---

<sup>18</sup> FAO, 2021. Report of the 26th Session of the International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment (IPC). FAO, Rome. Accessible here:

<https://www.fao.org/3/cb7747en/cb7747en.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.ipc2020/it>

<sup>20</sup> FAO, 2021. Strategy for the International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment (IPC) 2022-2032. FAO, Rome. Accessible here:

<https://www.fao.org/3/ng573en/ng573en.pdf>

5. By implementing this Strategy, the IPC seeks to make a global contribution to the 2030 Agenda and the Global Forest Goals, the UN Decade of Family Farming, and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, with a view to fully realize the potential of sustainable management of fast-growing trees to improve livelihoods and facilitate production of ecosystem goods and services.

6. Following the Session, the IPC Executive Committee endorsed a strategic paper<sup>21</sup> outlining short-term priority actions for the implementation of the IPC reform, namely:

- the creation of a Working Group to guide the implementation of the reform;
- the mobilization of new members and partners, with a particular focus on Africa;
- a face-to-face consultation with the IPC Working Parties<sup>22</sup> to discuss their thematic focus;
- the mobilization of additional resources to facilitate implementation of the new mandate of the IPC; and
- widely raise awareness on the IPC, its new mandate and relevance to address today's global challenges.

### **C. Technical focus of the International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment for 2022-2023**

7. To support the IPC in its new mandate, the Executive Committee approved in April 2022 a Secretariat Work plan<sup>23</sup> organized around four areas of work: (i) governance; (ii) normative work; (iii) communications and; (iv) resource mobilization. The IPC Secretariat work plan, to be delivered in close collaboration with the IPC Working Parties and under the guidance of the Executive Committee, should support the IPC to strengthen its positioning as a leading body of expertise on fast-growing forests and trees and to ensure cross-fertilization of IPC work with other statutory bodies of FAO.

#### **Points for consideration**

8. The Committee may wish to:

- take note of the new Strategy of the IPC and of progress made in its implementation, welcoming the alignment of the technical focus of the IPC to FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-31 and FAO's priorities in forestry;
- encourage FAO Members - in particular tropical countries engaged in ecosystem restoration and development of sustainable wood value chains - to consider membership in the IPC in view of its new mandate; and
- encourage the IPC to pursue efforts to communicate its achievements, raise awareness of its new mandate and expanded geographical scope; and mobilize resources and partnerships for the implementation of the new Strategy.

<sup>21</sup> FAO, 2021. Draft Strategic Paper for the Implementation of the New Strategy presented to the IPC Executive Committee in December 2021. FAO, Rome. Available upon request.

<sup>22</sup> IPC working parties: (1) Taxonomy, nomenclature and registration; (2) Domestication and conservation of genetic resources; (3) Plant health, resilience to threats and climate change; (4) Sustainable livelihoods, land use, products and bioenergy; (5) Environmental and ecosystem services; and (6) Policy, communication and outreach.

<sup>23</sup> FAO, 2022. Presentation and minutes of the IPC Executive Committee meeting of 6 April 2022. Available upon request.

## Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems

### A. Introduction

1. The Second Session of the Working Group was hosted virtually by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania from 17 to 18 November 2021. The session was attended by 46 nominated experts representing twenty-nine member countries, and four observer countries. A total of 104 participants and delegates represented intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and research institutes.

2. The Working Group reviewed the recommendations of FAO Statutory and Governing Bodies, relevant key initiatives and input from partner organizations, with the aim of enhancing the resilience of dryland forest and agrosilvopastoral systems. It developed a work plan for 2022-2024 focusing on: addressing the transformation of dryland forests and agrosilvopastoral production systems; promoting innovative ways to monitor and restore drylands; improving dryland forest-based livelihoods and human wellbeing in post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery; and boosting knowledge documentation and sharing in order to scale up collaboration on sustainable management and restoration practices across dryland regions<sup>24</sup>. The Working Group welcomed the offer by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to host the third session in 2023.

### B. Progress of the Working Group

3. Over the course of the last year, the Working Group has been recognised for its important contribution to dryland restoration initiatives, programmes and projects. The 2020 FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors highlighted the Working Group's contribution to Outcome 4, which aims to enhance the capacity of FAO in biodiversity-related matters.

4. The Working Group formed an advisory group that facilitated informal technical consultations with the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) Sub-Committee on Livestock to help prepare a new assessment of the role of livestock in restoring dryland silvopastoral systems. The assessment prepared by FAO is expected to be presented at the high-level event on 29 September 2022 at the Global Landscapes Forum during the 8th World Forest Week 2022.

5. The Working Group's Steering Committee has been coordinating closely with the Steering Committee of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-7) Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes (DSL-IP)<sup>25</sup>, led by FAO. The Working Group supported South-South Cooperation among the targeted countries and provided technical advice for the "Making Every Voice Count for Adaptive Management"<sup>26</sup> initiative, which documents and scales-up best practices for the protection, management, and restoration of dryland forests and agrosilvopastoral systems.

6. Recognizing the role of women in fighting the effects of droughts and climate change and the need to include women in the higher decision-taking process, the Working Group supported the FAO WeCaN<sup>27</sup> Nurturing Community of Knowledge Practice for Women in dryland forests and agrosilvopastoral systems.

7. An e-learning course was launched in June 2022 with the FAO e-learning Academy, the Iranian government's Forest Rangelands and Watershed Organization (FRWO) and various research

---

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/cb8038en/cb8038en.pdf>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.fao.org/gef/dryland-sustainable-landscapes/en/>

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.fao.org/dryland-forestry/monitoring-and-assessment/mev-cam/background/en/>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.fao.org/dryland-forestry/wecan-community-practice/en/>

institutes, universities and international organizations on ways transformational results can help decision makers assess trade-offs and benefits for dryland resilient systems.

8. A number of Working Group members provided technical inputs to FAO's publication on "Valuing, restoring and managing presumed drylands"<sup>28</sup> that guides decision-makers to prioritize restoration and sustainable management in presumed drylands, launched at the 5th Conference of Parties (CoP) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire in May 2022.

9. The Working Group contributed to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration by supporting the development of the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM), launched at the XV World Forestry Congress in May 2022. The Framework will track the progress of dryland restoration initiatives towards the Land Degradation Neutrality through the Dryland Restoration Initiative Platform (DRIP), launched during the GLF Africa 2021<sup>29</sup>.

10. The Working Group will be contributing to the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, which will be implemented by FAO in 2026 as the lead agency.

### **Points for consideration**

11. The Committee may wish to:

- take note of the progress made in the work of the Working Group;
- encourage the Working Group to support the preparations for the UN International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists in 2026, by mobilizing and facilitating cross-regional expertise exchange and to promote innovative and inter-connected sustainable agrosilvopastoral systems; and
- encourage members to support resource mobilization efforts, as appropriate, for the Working Group to organize its sessions and implement its activities (2022-2024).

---

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc0110en/>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.globallandscapesforum.org/publication/the-drylands-sustainable-landscapes-impact-program-local-action-for-impact-at-scale/>