

April 2009



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

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

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

COUNCIL

Hundred and Thirty-sixth Session

Rome, 15-19 June 2009

Report of the Nineteenth Session of the Committee on Forestry
(16-20 March 2009)

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MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

The Nineteenth Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry:

- endorsed the FAO Strategy for Forests and Forestry, which, as requested by the 18th Session of COFO, had been developed through a consultative process;
- supported the recommendation of the Independent External Evaluation of FAO (IEE) to increase the share of the overall FAO budget that is allocated to forestry;
- called on all members to actively promote and participate in the XIII World Forestry Congress, to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in October 2009; and
- proposed to hold the next session of the Committee in October 2010, subject to agreement of the FAO Council and Conference.

MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE CONFERENCE

The Nineteenth Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry:

- agreed that sustainable forest management (sfm) is the key to the forest sector's response to climate change, and stressed the need for sufficient financing;
- recommended that FAO, in collaboration with other organizations, strengthen national capacities to develop effective responses to climate change;
- recommended that FAO reinforce its capacities to support member countries in implementing forest policies and reforming forestry institutions; and
- supported the recommendation of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture that FAO prepare a report on the State of World Forest Genetic Resources.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Nineteenth Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) was held at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, from 16 to 20 March 2009. The session commenced with the opening of the first World Forest Week, which was a major innovation.
2. The session was attended by delegates from 124 Members of the Committee, 1 Member Organization, observers from 5 FAO Member Nations and the Holy See, representatives of 12 United Nations Agencies and Programmes and observers from 36 intergovernmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations. The list of participants is available from the COFO19 website at the following url link:
<http://www.fao.org/forestry/53578/en/>
3. Mrs. Minh Thoa Pham, Viet Nam, on behalf of the outgoing Chair, opened the session highlighting the timeliness of the topics to be addressed. She noted that the success of the first Asia-Pacific Forestry Week, held in Hanoi in April 2008, had inspired the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission to recommend that FAO should expand the participation of partner organizations in the Committee on Forestry in order to celebrate World Forest Week. She noted that the COFO Steering Committee had agreed with this recommendation, and she was pleased to see the large number of delegates and participants from many organizations.
4. Mr. Jan Heino, Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department, welcomed delegates to the opening session. He stressed the importance of investing in sustainable forest management as part of national responses to the global economic crisis. He added that he hoped delegates would find time to visit the new FAO Forest Park in front of the main FAO building.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Committee appreciated the special efforts that had been made to include the Chairpersons of the regional forestry commissions in the development of the COFO agenda, by convening a session of the COFO Steering Committee for this purpose in 2008. It requested the continuation of this practice to ensure that issues of concern to the regions were adequately addressed. The Agenda (*Appendix A*) was adopted. The documents considered by the Committee are listed in *Appendix B*.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DESIGNATION OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE

6. The Committee elected Ms. Abigail Kimbell, United States of America, representing the North American Forest Commission, as Chairperson and Mr. Darlington Duwah Zimbabwe, representing the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission, as First Vice-Chair. In keeping with the tradition started at its 18th Session, the Committee agreed that its Steering Committee should comprise the Chairpersons of the regional forestry commissions or their representatives. The Steering Committee members would serve as officers for the 19th Session. The Committee elected as Vice-Chairpersons:

- Mrs. Minh Thoa Pham, Viet Nam, representing the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission
- Mrs. Maria da L.C.F. Conceição Ferreira, Portugal, representing the European Forestry Commission
- Mr. Kubilay Özyalçın, Turkey, representing the Near East Forestry Commission

- Mr. Camilo González, Ecuador, representing the Latin America and Caribbean Forestry Commission

7. The following members were nominated to participate in the Drafting Committee: Afghanistan, Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Indonesia, Japan, Lesotho, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela and Zimbabwe. Mr. Ndiawar Dieng, Senegal, was elected as Chairperson and Mr. Christoph Durr, Switzerland, was elected as Vice-Chairperson.

STATE OF THE WORLD'S FORESTS 2009

8. A new edition of *The State of the World's Forests* had been released at each session of COFO since 1995. The theme of the 2009 edition is *Society, Forests and Forestry: adapting for the future*. This issue looks to the future and addresses a number of timely questions, for example: what are the major global and regional trends that will affect forests, and what will be the impacts? What is the impact of the global economic situation on forests?

9. The Committee welcomed this timely and comprehensive publication. Many delegates commented on the important role of forests in the global economy, stressing that the world faces unprecedented challenges.

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

10. The Committee appreciated the keynote speech by Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, United Nations Secretary-General Special Envoy on Climate Change, who highlighted the strategic importance of forests in mitigating and adapting to climate change. The Committee was also addressed by the executive representatives of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

11. The Committee welcomed the presentations made by leaders of the CPF to introduce a "Strategic framework for forests and climate change." This strategic framework emphasizes the need for countries and international organizations to work together to implement sustainable forest management (SFM). The Committee took note of the key messages of the strategic framework i.e.:

1. *SFM provides an effective framework for forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation;*
2. *forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation measures should proceed concurrently;*
3. *intersectoral collaboration, economic incentives and the provision of alternative livelihoods are essential for reducing deforestation and forest degradation;*
4. *capacity-building and governance reforms are urgently required;*
5. *accurate forest monitoring and assessment helps informed decision-making but requires greater coordination at all levels; and*
6. *CPF members are committed to a collaborative and comprehensive approach to forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation.*

12. The Committee urged member countries to engage actively in deliberations on national and international responses of the forestry sector to climate change and to help mitigate and adapt to climate change by adopting appropriate forestry practices and policies. In this regard, the

linkages that exist between implementation of SFM and reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD) were underscored. It was also stressed that there was a need for sufficient internal and external financial resources for SFM to adapt to and mitigate climate change.

13. The Committee recommended that FAO, in collaboration with other organizations, and regional processes strengthen the capacities of member countries to implement SFM, in accordance with their specific national contexts. This could include, *inter alia*, assistance to countries, at their request, in developing effective responses to climate change, such as: carrying out forest carbon assessments, mainstreaming climate change consideration in their national forest programmes, enhancing understanding of the effects of climate change on forests and implementing effective mitigation and adaptation measures.

ADAPTING FOREST POLICY AND INSTITUTIONS TO CHANGE

14. The Committee noted the economic, political, social, environmental and technological changes taking place at the national, regional and global levels and the consequent need to adapt forest policies and institutions. It drew attention to the need for timely changes to make public sector forestry agencies more responsive to the changing needs of societies and to enhance efficiency in the delivery of economic and environmental services.

15. The Committee recommended that FAO reinforce its capacities and, in collaboration with other international organizations, intensify efforts to provide timely support to member countries in implementing their policies and reforming their forestry institutions. Accordingly, it recommended that FAO pursue its efforts to facilitate the sharing of experience among countries, particularly through regional and subregional reviews and analyses. It noted with appreciation that FAO had organized the “Heads of Forestry Dialogue” on this subject during the session.

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF FAO BODIES OF INTEREST TO THE COMMITTEE

16. The Committee welcomed the issues brought to its attention by the regional forestry commissions and by other FAO statutory bodies. It noted that all six commissions had proposed that COFO consider the topic “forests and climate change,” and that this request had been effectively addressed at the session.

17. Recognizing the importance of forest genetic resources and the importance of their good management, the Committee supported the recommendation of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the FAO Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources that FAO prepare a report on the State of World Forest Genetic Resources, for 2013, which would serve as a reference for action at the national, regional and global levels. The Committee urged member countries to collaborate with FAO and partner organizations in producing this report.

SHAPING AN ACTION PROGRAMME FOR FAO IN FORESTRY

(i) FAO Strategy for Forests and Forestry

18. The Committee endorsed the new FAO Strategy for Forests and Forestry (*Annex A*), subject to the clarification that references to governance referred to governance “at all levels” and the addition of a specific reference to forest genetic resources in the sixth Organizational Result, together with the inclusion of a reference to work directed towards supporting innovation in the fifth Organizational Result. It acknowledged the alignment of the Strategy with the preparation of the new FAO Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plan and lauded the open process used to prepare the draft strategy, particularly its review by all six regional forestry commissions.

(ii) FAO Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plan

19. The Committee appreciated the efforts being made by the FAO secretariat to implement results-based management in FAO.

20. The Committee was informed that the process of priority-setting in FAO is work in progress. Stressing the importance of having documents available that will make it possible to discuss the setting of priorities, it expressed its intention to suggest the establishment of those priorities for the forestry sector in the FAO Programme of Work and Budget for the 2012-2013 biennium in accordance with the reform process under way in FAO.

21. The Committee supported the recommendation of the Independent External Evaluation of FAO to increase the share of the overall FAO budget that is allocated to forestry. It stressed the need for FAO to have a strong Forestry Department, including the strengthening of forestry work in the decentralized offices.

XIII WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS

22. The Committee welcomed the information provided by the Government of Argentina on preparations for the XIII World Forestry Congress, to be held in Buenos Aires from 18 to 23 October 2009, on the theme *Forests in development: a vital balance*. The Committee called on all members to actively promote and participate in the Congress, which provides a unique opportunity every six years for the global forest community to come together to address issues of concern to all countries and regions.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

23. Recalling the importance of the Committee in helping to shape FAO priorities and programmes for forestry and considering that, starting in 2011, the dates of the FAO Conference will change from November to June, the Committee proposed that its next session be held in Rome in October 2010. The final date would be decided by the FAO secretariat in consultation with the COFO Steering Committee, following the review by the FAO Council and Conference of the Calendar of Governing Body Sessions for the next biennium.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

24. The Committee adopted the report by consensus.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

25. The Chair closed the session in the afternoon of 20 March 2009.

APPENDIX A: AGENDA

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Election of officers and designation of the Drafting Committee
4. State of the World's Forests 2009
5. Sustainable forest management and climate change
6. Adapting forest policy and institutions to change
7. Decisions and recommendations of FAO bodies of interest to the Committee
8. Shaping an action programme for FAO in forestry
 - FAO Strategy for Forests and Forestry
 - FAO Strategic Framework and Medium Term Plan
9. XIII World Forestry Congress
10. Date and place of the next session
11. Adoption of the report
12. Closure of the session

**APPENDIX B: COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS
REPRESENTED AT THE SESSION****MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

Afghanistan	Denmark	Lesotho	Saudi Arabia
Algeria	Dominican Republic	Liberia	Senegal
Angola	Ecuador	Lithuania	Serbia
Argentina	Egypt	Luxembourg	Seychelles
Armenia	El Salvador	Madagascar	Slovakia
Australia	Eritrea	Malawi	Slovenia
Austria	Estonia	Malaysia	Somalia
Azerbaijan	Ethiopia	Mali	South Africa
Bangladesh	European Community – Member Organization	Mauritania	Spain
Belarus	Finland	Mauritius	Sri Lanka
Belgium	France	Mexico	Sudan
Belize	Gabon	Mongolia	Suriname
Benin	Gambia	Montenegro	Sweden
Bhutan	Germany	Morocco	Switzerland
Bolivia	Ghana	Mozambique	Thailand
Botswana	Greece	Myanmar	Timor-Leste
Brazil	Guatemala	Namibia	Togo
Bulgaria	Guinea	Netherlands	Tonga
Burkina Faso	Haiti	New Zealand	Tunisia
Burundi	Honduras	Nicaragua	Turkey
Cameroon	Hungary	Niger	Uganda
Canada	Iceland	Nigeria	Ukraine
Cape Verde	India	Norway	United Arab Emirates
Central African Republic	Indonesia	Pakistan	United Kingdom
Chile	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Panama	United Republic of Tanzania
China	Iraq	Papua New Guinea	United States of America
Colombia	Ireland	Paraguay	Uruguay
Congo	Israel	Peru	Uzbekistan
Costa Rica	Italy	Philippines	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Côte d'Ivoire	Japan	Poland	Viet Nam
Croatia	Jordan	Portugal	Yemen
Cuba	Kazakhstan	Republic of Korea	Zambia
Cyprus	Kenya	Romania	Zimbabwe
Czech Republic	Kuwait	Russian Federation	
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Latvia	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	
Democratic Republic of Congo	Lebanon	San Marino	

OBSERVERS FROM FAO MEMBER NATIONS

Guyana
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Nepal
Oman
Tajikistan

PERMANENT OBSERVER TO FAO

Holy See

REPRESENTATIVES OF UNITED NATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

Global Environment Facility
International Fund for Agricultural Development
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests
Secretariat of the United Nations Framework for the Convention on Climate Change
United Nations
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
World Bank Group

OBSERVERS FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

African Union
Central African Forests Commission
Economic Community of West African States
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
International Tropical Timber Organization
League of Arab States
Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe
Southern African Development Community
Union du Maghreb Arabe

OBSERVERS FROM INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

African Forest Action Network
African Forest Forum
Asia Forest Network
Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation
Biodiversity International
Center for International Forestry Research
Commonwealth Forestry Association
Confederation of Associations and Unions of Forest, Pulp and Paper, Wood Processing and Furniture Industry
Confederation of European Forest Owners
Confederation of European Paper Industries

European Forest Institute
European State Forest Association
Friends of the Earth International
Friends of the Siberian Forest
Global Forest Coalition
Greenpeace International
International Association for Mediterranean Forests
International Association of Agricultural Economists
International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation
International Forestry Students Associations
International Institute for Environment and Development
International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
- The World Conservation Union
International Union of Forest Research Organizations
Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification
Union des Sylviculteurs du Sud de l'Europe
World Agroforestry Centre
World Wide Fund for Nature
International Institute for Sustainable Development

APPENDIX C: LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Document symbol	Title
COFO 2009/2	Provisional Agenda
COFO 2009/5	Sustainable forest management and climate change
COFO 2009/6	Adapting forest policy and institutions to change
COFO 2009/7.1	Issues to be brought to the attention of the 19 th Session of the Committee on Forestry
COFO 2009/7.2	Matters discussed by FAO Governing Bodies at Sessions held in 2007/8 of interest to COFO
COFO 2009/8.1	FAO Strategy for Forests and Forestry
COFO 2009/8.2	FAO Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plan
COFO 2009/8.3	Review of FAO programme in forestry: follow-up on the recommendations of 18 th Session of the Committee on Forestry
COFO 2009/8.4	State of the world's forest genetic resources
Information documents	
COFO 2009/Inf.2	List of documents – 19 th Session of COFO
COFO 2007/Inf.3	List of participants – 19 th Session of COFO
COFO 2007/Inf.4	XIII World Forestry Congress
COFO 2007/Inf.5	Statement of Competence and Voting Rights Submitted by the EC and its Member Countries

ANNEX A: FAO STRATEGY FOR FORESTS AND FORESTRY

Challenges ahead

The forest sector continues to be affected by the rapid pace of global changes. Globalization, through rapid expansion of trade, increased transnational investments, and through world-wide introduction of improved information and communication technology, is presenting new opportunities and challenges. Forestry has become more people centered, and society's perceptions on forests have undergone significant changes with increasing emphasis on the environmental, social and cultural values of forests.

Interactions between the forest sector and other sectors are increasingly understood to be the source of both problems and opportunities for forestry. In addition, the critical roles that forests and trees outside forests play in mitigation of and adaptation to climate change as well as a source of bio-energy are increasingly recognized, requiring careful consideration in national and international decision-making.

Commitment to enhancing the contribution of sustainable forest management to sustainable development is increasing. More than ever, the significant contributions of forests and trees to sustainable livelihoods and eradication of hunger and poverty is appreciated. There is greater recognition of the linkages of forestry with agriculture, energy and water. However, progress towards sustainable forest management remains uneven and the potential of the cross-sectoral dimensions, integrated management and landscape approaches is often underutilized.

The continuing loss of forests and forest degradation in many developing countries, especially in tropical regions, pose a critical challenge. Rural livelihoods often depend on productive forests that support employment and income, thus reducing poverty. Increasing demand for food, fibre and fuel can trigger substantial unplanned land use changes, including large scale forest clearance.

In many economically developed countries, conservation of environmental and recreational benefits and services of forests is the dominant concern of society. In all countries in all regions, the demand for ecosystem services from forests is increasing.

A strategic approach is needed to ensure the health and productivity of forests, so as to optimize their capacity to help to mitigate climate change, conserve biodiversity, safeguard wildlife habitat and protect land and watersheds.

A significant minority of countries are managing their forests in a sustainable manner; the challenge for FAO is to help more countries to improve the management of their forests so that this minority becomes a majority within the next decade. As the quantity of and access to information about forests and forestry continue to rapidly expand, the need to share and manage knowledge more effectively is becoming more urgent.

FAO recognizes that the expectations of its members are changing. Countries demand that FAO works more effectively to respond to its rapidly changing environment, to reach outside the traditional forest sector, to engage in partnerships with new stakeholders, and to serve as a global leader.

In this Strategy, the role that FAO will play in addressing these challenges is described in the following sections, in particular in the discussion of the "core functions of FAO in forestry" and in the "Organizational Results" to be achieved by FAO in the medium-term. FAO stands ready to make a significant contribution to strengthen country capacities to overcome the obstacles to sustainable forest management through reliable information, policy advice, and technical assistance.

A broad view of forestry

In this strategy, forestry is considered to be a broad, multi-disciplinary concept that encompasses social, economic and environmental aspects. Forestry is about people. Forestry includes social aspects; policies and institutions; the production of goods and services and the jobs associated with them; livelihoods and market considerations related both to forests and to trees outside forests. Forestry focuses on the forest, but it does not stop at the forest boundary; city dwellers are involved in urban forestry, and farmers are involved in agro-forestry. Forestry is interdisciplinary; it takes into consideration that complexity of the many different forest ecosystems in the world, as well as the social and ecological complexities of the broader landscapes within which forests and trees exist.

Global goals for forests and forestry

In translating the broader FAO vision into the context of forests and forestry, three goals are identified for society as a whole:

1. **Decision-making across sectors is informed, better coordinated, transparent and participatory**, enabling effective action both within and outside the forest sector. Forest-related decisions are based on timely and accurate information, inter-disciplinary approaches and stakeholder participation at all levels.
2. **The benefits from trees, forests and forestry are increasing, widely recognized and appreciated**. Their contributions to society are increased, including the role of forests in livelihoods, poverty alleviation, food security and sustainable supply of raw materials and energy. Investments in forestry are increased, and forestry is accorded a growing priority in wider development strategies.
3. **Forest resources are increasing in a majority of countries and ecosystem services are increasingly recognized and valued**. The vitality and area of forests show a stable or increasing trend in most countries and ecosystems, thereby increasing the contribution of forests and trees to mitigating climate change, combating desertification, conserving biodiversity, and ensuring water quality. Good management practices are implemented, including integrated land-use approaches.

Core Functions of FAO in Forestry

Future challenges for forests and forestry are multi-faceted. Many national and international organizations deal with forest issues, in addition to actors in the private sector and non-governmental organizations. With more than 60 years of experience, FAO's role in forestry continues to evolve.

Through the FAO Conference, the member countries of FAO have "agreed in principle" on a set of core functions that provide the means of action to underpin the work of FAO at global, regional and national levels. The core functions for forestry include:

- Providing long-term perspectives and leadership in monitoring and assessing trends in forest resources and services, and the production, consumption and trade of forest products.
- Generating, disseminating and applying information and knowledge, including statistics.
- Leading the development of voluntary guidelines, supporting the development of national legal instruments, and promoting their implementation.
- Articulating policy and strategy options and advice to improve the social, economic, and environmental aspects of forest development and conservation.
- Providing technical support to promote technology transfer, catalyze change and build effective and sustainable institutional capacity for sustainable forest management.

- Undertaking advocacy and communication to mobilize political will and to promote global recognition of required actions to achieve sustainable forest management.
- Bringing integrated interdisciplinary and innovative approaches to bear on work in the forest sector and in other key sectors that have an impact on forests.
- Working through strong partnerships and alliances where joint action is needed.
- Facilitating linkages between national, regional and global levels.

Assumptions and Risks

Success in achieving the goals will depend on relatively consistent economic progress; improvements in forestry require investments. FAO can make a significant contribution to the capacities of countries to help them overcome obstacles to sustainable forest management through policy advice, capacity development and technical assistance. However, continued population growth, political instability, and/or economic pressures may continue to result in the conversion of forests to agriculture, urban or other land uses. There is a high level of risk that sustainable forest management may continue to fail in some key countries without a combination of political will, effective governance at all levels and economic progress.

Strategic Objective for Forestry

In preparing a revised strategic framework for FAO, 11 strategic objectives have been identified and “approved in principle” by the FAO Conference, including one objective that is specific for forestry:

Sustainable management of forests and trees

Organizational Results

To move toward a broad vision, goals, and strategic objective for society as a whole, a set of six outcomes or “organizational results” are identified. These results cannot be achieved by FAO alone, but FAO can make a significant contribution. For each result, several FAO priorities are identified which will guide FAO during the first four years of this Strategy, 2010-2013. The FAO Medium-Term Plan that is developed for this time period will include indicators for each of these outcomes. These indicators will be monitored, and success or failure will be reported to FAO governing bodies including COFO.

1. Policy and practice affecting forests and forestry are:

a) based on timely and reliable information

FAO Priorities:

- serve as an authoritative global source of information on forests;
- prepare and disseminate the results of periodic Global Forest Resources Assessments and reports on the State of the World’s Forests;
- support to national and regional forest monitoring and assessment, including interactions with other sectors through integrated land use assessments;
- effectively share knowledge and information through timely, high-quality use of the internet, networks, publications, and other media.

b) and reinforced by international cooperation and debate.

FAO Priorities:

- provide a dynamic forum for governments and other stakeholders to address policy and emerging issues, including Ministerial Meetings, the Committee on Forestry, the World

Forestry Contress, Regional Forestry Commissions, technical panels and commissions, expert consultations, and global and regional networks;

- strengthen linkages between national, regional and global processes, including through an expansion of the role of Regional Forestry Commissions.
- provide leadership for the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), including developing joint programmes or actions, and through other partnerships including hosting the Mountain Partnership and through active partnerships with the private sector and non-governmental organizations.

2. *Institutions governing forests are strengthened and decision-making improved, including involvement of forest stakeholders in the development of forest policies and legislation, thereby enhancing an enabling environment for investment in forestry and forest industries.*

FAO Priorities:

- support participatory development of forest policy and law, institutional reform and efforts to improve governance at all levels;
- sector studies and comparative analyses of forest institutions;

3. *Forestry is better integrated into national development plans and processes, considering interfaces between forests and other land uses.*

FAO Priorities:

- support to effective national forest programmes, including capacity building and knowledge exchange;
- host and support the National Forest Programme Facility.

4. *Sustainable management of forests and trees is more broadly adopted, leading to reductions in deforestation and forest degradation and increased contributions of forests and trees to improve livelihoods and mitigate climate change.*

FAO Priorities:

- development and use of guidelines for good forest practices through effective stakeholder consultative processes;
- support improved forest fire management including through community-based approaches;
- support the development and implementation of national and international financial mechanisms to support sustainable forest management;
- increased use of financial mechanisms to facilitate information sharing and database development, and to build capacity to strengthen forest management and to reduce deforestation and forest degradation (e.g., REDD).

5. *Social and economic values and livelihood benefits of forests and trees are enhanced, and markets for forest products and services contribute to making forestry a more economically viable land-use option.*

FAO Priorities:

- analysis and knowledge of social and economic factors resulting in increased innovation and investment;
- analysis of production, consumption and trade of forest products;
- technical assistance and guidelines for community-based forest management, forest-based enterprises that improve livelihoods and reduce poverty.

6. *Environmental values of forests and forestry are better realized; strategies for conserving forest biodiversity and genetic resources; adapting to climate change, rehabilitating degraded lands, and managing water and wildlife resources are effectively implemented.*

FAO Priorities:

- provide technical and policy assistance in support of landscape and ecosystem approaches, with an emphasis on mountain ecosystems, arid zones and rangelands, coastal forests and other fragile ecosystems;
- support countries to address forest health, with special reference to adaptation to climate change;
- support national and regional initiatives to conserve forests and their biological diversity, to improve the management of watersheds, wildlife resources and protected areas, and to rehabilitate degraded forest lands and combat desertification.

Context for the *FAO Strategy for Forests and Forestry*

In 1999 the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) approved the first *FAO Strategic Plan for Forestry*. In 2007, COFO requested that the plan be reviewed and updated in consultation with member countries and other stakeholders. The present version of the draft is a result of rounds of consultations with FAO members, other stakeholders and FAO staff. The Regional Forestry Commissions provided guidance for its preparation. A proposed strategy will be presented to COFO for consideration in March 2009.

The *FAO Strategy for Forests and Forestry* has been prepared within the context of the broader reform of the United Nations and FAO. In particular, the Independent External Evaluation of FAO (IEE) recommended that FAO should undertake a strategic review of its work in Forestry using logical framework principles with a focus on desired outcomes to be achieved as the result of FAO's work in Forestry. This document is consistent with the broader review of FAO Strategic Objectives and Organizational Results, and the preparation of a new FAO Strategic Framework and programming model.

The *FAO Strategy for Forests and Forestry* supports the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the FAO Goals for Members, and the Global Objectives on Forests agreed by the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). It also contributes to the implementation of the international agreements, in particular the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests adopted by UNFF and subsequently by the United Nations General Assembly.

The core values of FAO will guide its work in forestry, including: commitment to cooperation among nations; independence, in which Members seek to broaden consensus; partnerships within the UN family; competence; equality, especially the full participation of women in development; diversity; and unity of action when carrying out the decisions of Members.

The time frame of the strategy is 10 years. However, it will be dynamic so that it can be regularly updated to reflect new priorities and changing expectations of society. The *FAO Strategy for Forests and Forestry* is directly linked to the FAO programme budget process. The Organizational Results have been formulated for a four-year time frame, and Indicators will be identified in the FAO Medium-Term Plan with a four-year time horizon.

Annex

The FAO Strategy for Forestry is developed within the broader framework of:

UNFF Global Objectives on Forests

1. Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation.
2. Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people.
3. Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests.
4. Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased new and additional financial resources for the implementation of sustainable forest management.

Millennium Development Goals

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

FAO's Vision and Global Goals

FAO's vision is of a world free of hunger and malnutrition where food and agriculture¹ contributes to improving the living standards of all, especially the poorest, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner. To foster the achievement of this vision and of the Millennium Development Goals, FAO will promote the continuous contribution of food and sustainable agriculture to the attainment of three global goals:

1. reduction of the absolute number of people suffering from hunger, progressively ensuring a world in which all people at all times, have sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life;
2. elimination of poverty and the driving forward of economic and social progress for all with increased food production, enhanced rural development and sustainable livelihoods;
3. sustainable management and utilization of natural resources, including land, water, air, climate and genetic resources, for the benefit of present and future generations.

¹ Agriculture encompasses all aspects of crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries.