

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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REPORT OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE
LATIN AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR FORESTRY AND FOREST PRODUCTS

The Third Session of the Latin American Commission for Forestry and Forest Products of FAO was opened in Santiago de Chile on 11 December 1950.

The following persons were present:

- BRAZIL:** Mr. Landulpho Antonio BORGES DA FONSECA, First Secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of Brazil in Santiago.
- CHILE:** Mr. Victor BLANCHI GUNDLAN, Inspector of National Parks and Forest Reserves, Ministry of Lands and Colonization.
Mr. Pablo VELASCO NARBONA, Agronomist, Department of Forestry, Ministry of Lands and Colonization.
Dr. Eduardo TORRICELLI DIAZ, Forester, Department of Forestry, Ministry of Lands and Colonization.
Dr. Carlos MUÑOZ PIZARRO, Agronomist, Director of Agricultural Research, Ministry of Agriculture.
Mr. Herman VALENZUELA ROSALES, Forester.
Mr. Manuel RODRIGUEZ, Agronomist.
Mr. Raul RAMIREZ, Agronomist, Director of Agricultural Services in the Province of Concepcion.
Mr. Raul DUCCI, Civil Engineer, Department of Forest Industries, Corporación de Fomento de la Producción.
Mr. Danilo FOKLEPOVIC, Civil Engineer, Director of Industrial Establishments, Professor at the University of Chile.
Mr. Jorge GILCHRIST, Forester.
Dr. Pablo KRASSA, Chemical Engineer, Professor at the University of Chile.
- CUBA:** Mr. Rodolfo ARANGO, Director of Agriculture, Habana.
- COLOMBIA:** Dr. Cesar GARRIDO, Secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of Colombia in Santiago.
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:** Mr. Jaime M. GESTERO, Secretary of the Embassy of the Dominican Republic in Santiago.
- ECUADOR:** Dr. Misael ACOSTA SOLIS, Director of Forestry, Ministry of Economy, Quito.
- FRANCE:** Mr. Paul BÉNI, Chief of the Forest Service, Department of French Guiana.
- NICARAGUA:** Mr. Maximiliano ROMERO, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Nicaragua in Santiago.
- UNITED KINGDOM:** Mr. Christopher SWALEY, Conservator of Forests, British Guiana.
- URUGUAY:** Mr. Elvío LOPEZ, Engineer, Forest Service of the Ministry of Agriculture, Uruguay.
- U. S. A.:** Mr. Edward KOTOK, Assistant Chief U.S. Forest Service, in charge of Forest Research, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.
Mr. Henry B. BOSWORTH, Director of the Forest Service of Puerto Rico, Director of the Tropical Forest Experiment Station at Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico.

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Mr. Alfred E. Fivas, U.S. Department of Commerce, Counselor to the Delegation.
Mr. Frank H. WADSWORTH, Chief of the Tropical Forest Experiment Station at Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico.

E.C.L.A. : Mr. H. M. PHILLIPS, Chairman of the ECLA Committee for Economic Development and Immigration.

I.L.O. : Mr. J. MENDEZ, Permanent Delegate of ILO to the ECLA Committee for Economic Development and Immigration.

O. A. S. : Mr. J. L. COLOM, Chief of the Agricultural Bureau, Pan American Union.

F. A. O. : Mr. Marcel LÉLOUP, Director of the Forestry and Forest Products Division of FAO (Washington D. C.)
Mr. Pierre TERWIER, Chief of the FAO Latin American Office for Forestry and Forest Products; Executive Secretary of the Latin American Commission for Forestry and Forest Products (Rio de Janeiro).
Mr. Horacio RECARTE, Technical Assistance Officer of the FAO Latin American Office for Forestry and Forest Products.

Mr. Victor BIANCHI GONZALEZ, Inspector General of National Parks and Forest Reserves of the Ministry of Lands and Colonization and member of the Chilean Delegation was unanimously elected President of the FAO Latin American Commission for Forestry and Forest Products.

The delegates accepted the proposed agenda as submitted by the secretariat.

I. - DECLARATION OF FORESTRY PRINCIPLES

The Commission has studied the Declaration of Forestry Principles prepared by the Secretariat of FAO on the recommendation of the Third World Forestry Congress held at Helsinki.

The Commission has, in the first place approved the principles outlined. - These principles should constitute in every country the basis of the forest policy. While it is well understood that each Government has the only competence and the complete responsibility for preparing, on this basis, its own forest policy, FAO can, on request, assist the Governments in formulating and establishing their policy. - Technical assistance can be given toward this end, either directly or through the Program of Technical Assistance of the United Nations.

The Commission makes no observations regarding the presentation of the principles and has unanimously approved the Preamble of Part II.

With reference to Part I - paragraph I, the Commission requested that in the French text reading "Each country must determine and set aside lands actually forested to dedicate them to permanent silvicultural treatment", the word "actually" should be eliminated. This should avoid any possible misunderstanding, although with the Spanish and English texts the word "actually" does not appear.

II. - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

- 1.- The Commission has reviewed the policy statement prepared by the Secretariat of FAO regarding the application of the Expanded Technical Assistance Program to the Latin American Countries.
- 2.- The Commission notes that if this policy is followed, the work of FAO in the field of Forestry and Forest Products development can be greatly expanded to meet the problems of Latin America.
- 3.- The Commission believes that Governments should carefully study the possibilities offered through the Expanded Technical Assistance Program in helping to solve the problems in forestry and forest products development in their countries and therefore recommends:

To Governments that they act expeditiously in studying their needs for technical assistance in the forestry and forest products development field and take advantage of the advice of the technical forestry staff of FAO, especially through the Latin American Regional Office.

Recommends that Governments give serious consideration of utilizing well balanced technical missions as a first step in the application of the Expanded Program of Technical Assistance.

Recommends that in the development of a program dealing with the exploitation of forest resources, adequate emphasis be placed on sound forestry measures that will ensure a continuous supply of raw material and that will safeguard the inherited wealth of the forests themselves. - The Missions, therefore, should always contain men skilled in the silviculture and management problems of the forests.

The Commission recommends that in making forestry and forest products development studies full importance be placed in the financial aspects, and to ensure this, urges that Missions contain specialists in this field.

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- 4.- The Commission recommends that in the development under the Expanded Technical Assistance Program, full consideration be given to the expansion of research in the varied fields of forestry and forest products, and it is hoped that research institutions now existing, or to be created can be given appropriate assistance.
- 5.- Recommends that in order to stimulate technical and public interest, the Expanded Technical Assistance Program be used to diffuse technical information.

III. - PROBLEMS OF MANPOWER AND IMMIGRATION IN RELATION TO FORESTRY AND FOREST PRODUCTS DEVELOPMENT

1. - During the meeting in which manpower and immigration problems were discussed, the Commission received assistance from Mr. H.M. Phillips, Member of the ECLA Secretariat who attended the Conference in his capacity of Chairman of the Economic Development and Immigration Working Committee, Mr. J. Mendez, the representative of the International Labour Office on that Committee, and Mr. Venturelli, Head of the Italian Mission of immigration in Chile.

2. - The Commission stressed the importance that attaches to the possibilities of forest development in conjunction with immigration.

3. - The problem of fostering forestry and forest production in Latin America, being a problem of economic development, raises not only technical questions which directly concern FAO, but also economic, financial and manpower questions in which the help of ECLA, of I.L.O. and that of the various international specialized agencies is important. - The Commission has previously recognized the importance of these questions and now considers that they should be thoroughly studied in relation to specific and concrete projects capable of being carried out quickly, as a part of general programmes involving forestry policy affecting a whole country or a large zone.

4. - The Commission believes that movement of manpower in the areas concerned is, in the majority of cases, the only solution to the problem. - It also believes that the concept of forest integrated industries advocated by FAO constitutes, from the social as well as from the technical and economic point of view, whenever possible, the most desirable approach. - The nature and extent of the movement of manpower will vary in different cases. It may proceed from surrounding areas of the same country or from other countries thus constituting immigration; and its character will depend upon the physical climatic and social conditions prevailing and the nature of the manpower needs.

5. - In the temperate and subtropical zone, the Commission believes that projects involving immigration from European countries which have surplus population and technicians available, can play an important and far reaching part in the development of forestry production of mutual benefit to both European and Latin American countries.

6. - In the tropical and equatorial regions, the problems of obtaining manpower for forestry development is equally important and even more complex. What is needed is immigration to the forestry production areas of manpower adapted to the prevailing climatic conditions. In regions where settlement presents special difficulties, intensive mechanisation will be of particular importance in order to solve manpower shortages. Where immigration takes place the necessary preparations for the settlement of the migrants needs to be undertaken after careful study of prevailing conditions. European immigration would be likely to be limited in extent.

The Commission

DRAWNS THE ATTENTION of Member Governments to the importance of immigration as a means of fostering forestry and forest products development;

RECOMMENDS to Member Governments to undertake as soon as possible general studies for this purpose within the framework of a forestry policy related to the whole economy of the country;

SUGGESTS that Member Governments avail themselves, where necessary, of the Technical Assistance Programme of the United Nations, requesting that missions be sent to assist them in their studies which should cover all aspects of the problem, especially the financial resources necessary for the carrying out of the projects;

SUGGESTS further that Member Governments initiate without delay studies of specific projects involving forestry and forest products development and immigration. - That in cases where the implementation of these projects present difficulties of a technical, economic, financial or manpower character, which cannot be solved by the Governments themselves and which are within the competence of international organizations, Governments should seek the assistance of these organizations, especially of the FAO, the ECLA Secretariat Working Committee on Economic Development and Immigration in which the ILO and their agencies interested in immigration are represented, and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for their solution.

7. - In order to facilitate the co-ordination of supply and demand for manpower and in particular technicians, the Commission

REQUESTS FAO, in co-operation with the Latin American Manpower Field Office of the ILO and with the Regional Offices of the IRO, to continue to collect information as to the demand for manpower in forestry and forest industries, classified according to specifications, and to distribute this among the interested national organizations.

RECOMMENDS Governments to establish specialized employment services or sections thereof to deal with the placing of forestry and wood technicians with the object of finding out the needs for specialists in the different branches of the forestry and wood industry and of satisfying them. - Notes that the Latin American Manpower Field Office of the ILO may assist Governments in the establishment of these employment services.

IV. - FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR FORESTRY

1. - In the discussion of the Technical Assistance Program, and of the immigration possibilities in Latin America for the development of its forest resources, the Commission notes that these problems will have financial aspects.

2. - The Commission notes also that the development of the forest resources generally will have to be coordinated with other elements of the country's economy. Forestry will have to be studied therefore, in conjunction with developments proposed for agriculture and industry.

3. - The Commission believes that in Technical Assistance Programs in a country, the mission should generally include technicians competent to explore and advise on the forestry aspects.

THE COMMISSION THEREFORE RECOMMENDS, that when Governments prepare their programs for Technical Assistance, they recognize:

- b) - The advisability, during the course of the study, of examining with appropriate agencies of Government, the manner in which the Country will utilize its own financial resources in carrying out forestry projects proposed.
- c) - The possibility and need for collaboration with ECLA, the International Bank, and other credit organizations in examining the financial aspects of forestry projects proposed.

V. - THE CHEMICAL UTILIZATION OF WOOD IN RELATION TO SILVICULTURE

1. - In the course of this discussion, the Commission has tried first to emphasize the possibilities of chemical utilization of tropical woods. It presented, in this connection, an important contribution of the French Delegation and a resume prepared by the Secretariat. This discussion was quickly extended to woods of temperate regions, the fact being that, in certain cases the problems that arise with them are of the same nature.

2. - As to the techniques of conversion, the Commission believes that it should be concerned, on the one hand, with techniques which will permit the more complete utilization of tropical forests, and on the other, with manufacturing processes permitting the treatment of heterogeneous mixture, sometimes complex of tropical or temperate hardwoods.

3. - The Commission is in agreement with the fact that, currently, the principles of several processes theoretically permit reaching this objective and that, for certain ones of these, the techniques have already been developed either in the laboratory or in pilot plants.

4. - The Commission, which considers these problems to be of general interest to all the Latin American countries, therefore, desires that FAO assist in the definite development of these techniques to the point of industrial application. Therefore it:

RECOMMENDS that FAO consider the possibilities of aid which could be supplied to Latin America countries for development of industrial techniques for the chemical conversion of the woods of this continent.

BELIEVES that studies of this type should be conducted actually in Latin America, in proximity to the forest that will be utilised, in order that they may be suited as much as possible to the pertinent local conditions and economics.

SUGGESTS, in view of the urgency of these problems, that maximum use be made, for these studies, of the laboratories and mills existing on the continent and of the necessary help of technicians who already have had experience in these particular problems.

REQUESTS that FAO consider the possibilities of providing funds of the Technical Assistance Program for these studies and suggests that, in view of the common interest involved, some of the funds coming from country contributions be use directly in this program.

5. - Concerning the relation between silviculture and the chemical utilization of wood, principally in tropical regions, the Commission believes that only the chemical industries are capable of absorbing an important part of heterogeneous forests and of, thus, accomplishing more profitable exploitation. The Commission believes that forest management must always try to maintain vegetal balance in order to avoid risk of serious losses from insects, diseases, fire, etc.

6. - It is obviously difficult to foresee, because of the continual development of techniques of manufacture and utilization, the exact requirements of industry several decades from now as to the kind and the quality of its wood raw materials. - The Commission, therefore, believes that in the forest management which is applied, no possibilities should be overlooked for utilization by those diverse classes of industries.

Furthermore, the need for wood pulp is already in excess of production and it is certain that this need is in an increasing trend. It seems to the Commission, therefore, that there is no danger if the two aforementioned precautions are taken into account in favouring, in the course of forest management, the increase of pure groups of species of rapid growth, and development of technical methods which will permit a reduction in the number of species treated in cooking mixtures, which would thus be advantageous from the industrial point of view as well as from the silvical aspect. These practices should be, therefore, recommended.

VI. - THE LATIN AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR FOREST RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

1. - The Secretariat reported to the Commission the latest development concerning the project of the Latin American Institute for Forest Research and Education.

2. - Regarding the proposition made by the Government of the Netherlands in agreement with the Caribbean Commission to establish the Caribbean Regional Station in Surinam, the Latin American Commission for Forestry and Forest Products believes that, from a technical viewpoint, such a location is not desirable because Surinam is a part of the Continental zone having equatorial climate and that the station should be established in the geographic zone of the Caribbean Region.

3. - The Commission takes note with pleasure of the offer of collaboration made by the United States Government concerning the Tropical Forest Experimental Station at Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico. The Commission expresses its thanks to the United States Government and requests the Regional Office of FAO to maintain close relations with that station in all problems of common interest.

The Commission also recommends that full advantage be taken of this offer of cooperation.

4. - The Commission believes that studies concerning the question of the Latin American Institute for Forestry Research and Education should have high priority in the activities of the Regional Office.

Consequently, it recommends that the Regional Office approach once more the several Governments to request an official statement of their intentions regarding this project.

The Commission urges that all observations, suggestions and propositions be made known to the Regional Office, as soon as possible, for which purpose a time limit of four months for replies should be set. - At the expiration of this time, FAO should act to advise Governments of all technically sound propositions it has received.

5. - In cases where official proposals for establishing a Regional Station within a country can be immediately carried out, at least for certain types of research, the Commission requests FAO to furnish all possible assistance to that country so that the work can be started without delay.

6. - The Commission takes note of the proposal formulated by the Government of Ecuador at the recent FAO-OAS Conference at Montevideo concerning

the creation of the Latin American Institute for Soil Conservation and Reforestation.

The Commission considers that the problems of soil conservation are of major importance in Latin America and deserve to be dealt with in an Institute where the common interest of all countries of this continent is taken into consideration.

The Commission requests the Secretariat to consult with Governments relative the creation of an Institute for Soil Conservation and to determine the means for avoiding unnecessary duplication of work with the proposed Forestry Institute and for securing maximum collaboration between them.

VII. - STANDARDIZATION OF FOREST TERMINOLOGY AND NOMENCLATURE FOR FOREST TYPES AND FOR WOODS OF INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Commission studied the material prepared by FAO concerning these subjects. - Recognition of the need for standardization is unanimous. The Committee makes the following recommendations:

A. - FOREST TERMINOLOGY

1) - The rough draft in Spanish of the terms defined by FAO for use in forestry statistics should be finalized as soon as possible.

2) - In recognition of the past experience of the Tropical Forest Experiment Station at Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico in the preparation of a Spanish-English forestry glossary, this draft should be submitted by FAO to that Station for checking of the language and the addition of Spanish synonyms.

3) - FAO should add synonyms in English, French, German and Portuguese at the end of each definition and submit copies of the document to each country for final comment and addition of local synonyms prior to publication.

4) - A complete Spanish glossary of forest terminology is much needed and should be prepared as soon as possible, with FAO cooperating with the work already in progress at the Tropical Forest Experiment Station.

This glossary should include definitions in Spanish with synonyms in English, French, German and Portuguese.

5) - When the Tropical Station completes the definition of 1000 of the most important terms on the list of 1800 terms which forms the basis for its glossary, a rough draft should be submitted to FAO, together with the 800 undefined terms for circularization to the different countries for comment as to the scope and additions of local synonyms to appear after each definition.

6) - FAO should then return these comments to the Tropical Station for the compilation of the glossary.

B. - FOREST TYPES

1) - A universal classification of forest types for Latin America is much needed for the preparation of a general map for the region. - A map of climax types is particularly desirable as a point of reference and must be prepared before cutting destroys climax forests. - Here detailed classification which will be desirable later will generally be within the structure of such a basic classification.

2) - The type classification for the American Tropics developed by Board on a physiognomic basis is considered at present to be the best classi-

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fication for this region.

3) - Board's classification should be followed at least for the six principal groups of formations, in forest surveys throughout the tropical region.

4) - The extension of a similar classification to the temperate zone should be undertaken by countries in which such forests are found. - FAO should investigate the possibilities of offering assistance in this matter.

5) - FAO should distribute Spanish translations of Board's articles on forest classification to each country.

C. - WOOD NOMENCLATURE

1) - There is a great need for compiling a list of the common and scientific names of woods of Latin American and a standardization of trade names for these woods.

2) - FAO should give first emphasis to woods which may enter international trade.

3) - FAO should cooperate with recognized taxonomic institution for the maintenance of an up-to-date list of scientific names for important timber species.

4) - FAO should request from all countries a list of the woods either imported or exported, by scientific names, by all local common names, and by trade names.

5) - FAO should compile these data and publish a list of timbers of international significance of scientific and common names. - Trade names in use should also be included, placing these in a recommended order of preference.

VIII. - FOREST PRODUCTS STATISTICS

The Commission considers that improvement of forest products statistics constitutes one of its permanent duties and believes it indispensable to help the majority of the countries in their improvement. - It recognizes that the establishment of good statistics requires the creation of well equipped services manned with competent staff.

These services are evidently expensive but their contribution will be greatly beneficial to the economy of the country and, by this fact, they are highly profitable.

In order to help the accomplishment of these results, the Commission believes that the statistical services must be provided with the necessary working means.

Census services will find it advisable to solicit the interest and support of commercial and industrial groups in the statistical program which would prove of use to them in their own enterprises. - To further such interest it may be advisable to appoint industry and trade committees in the countries to advise the census services on their statistical programs.

In consequence the Commission:

RECOMMENDS to Governments to found their statistical programs on a legal basis and in particular to obtain legislation making compulsory the furnishing of

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statistical data, safeguarding at the same time the interests of organizations and individuals furnishing them.

It emphasizes the importance of training technicians in census work and considers that the United Nations Technical Assistance Program can give aid in this.

RECOMMENDS, therefore, to Governments to request FAO for this type of technical aid. - This sort of assistance can be considered of several types, depending on the degree of organization of the forest statistical services, but in a general way, the Commission recommends that the Governments and FAO undertake this assistance in three successive stages:

1) Sending international experts to countries, in charge of studying the means by which forest products statistical services can be improved, reorganized or created. - These experts should focus on administrative problems in order to learn the possibilities and means which practically can be made available to these services by the Governments. - They will also help to select local technicians for further training to help in the statistical field.

2) - The creation either of special improvement training courses or of scholarships which would afford individual or collective training of technicians in forest products statistics.

3) - Once the initial steps are taken and a census service is established, it may be advisable to render additional help to the country by sending other experts to aid in improving its statistical services.

IX. - PROGRAMS AND TARGETS OF PRODUCTION CONSUMPTION AND COMMERCE OF FOREST PRODUCTS

The Commission takes note with satisfaction that, although some delays have occurred, quite a number of countries have already answered these questionnaires the data of which is of international importance.

In view of the good results obtained the Commission requests the Regional Office to continue the compilation of these statistical information by direct consultation with national services, by officers traveling in the different countries and by correspondence after analyzing the data furnished them.

X. - EQUIPMENT

The Commission takes note of the report submitted by the Secretariat on the work done in this field by the Division of Forestry and Forest Products of FAO. - It considers that all the information gathered whether published or made available to interested parties is of great interest.

The Commission considers that this work should be continued and that in certain cases, the publication of catalogues on equipment could be complemented with special studies concerning new types of equipment or new methods of use. - These studies could be published for example, in the magazine UNASYLVA.

Moreover, the Commission considers that the study of equipment, actually manufactured by the several firms could be complemented with studies on its adaptation to certain conditions of use especially found in tropical regions.

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XI. - PLAN FOR FUTURE WORK OF THE COMMISSION

1. - After having heard a statement by the Secretariat on this subject, and concurring in it, the Commission

RECOMMENDS

That the Latin American Forestry and Forest Products Commission of FAO reconvene every two years. - These sessions should be held in principle, in the years between the biennial meetings of FAO.

REQUESTS therefore, that the Director General of the FAO

- a) Call a special session of the Commission in cases where circumstances require such a meeting;
- b) Call together, between the regular sessions, working groups composed of specialists for the study of specific problems.

2. - The Commission requests the Secretariat to prepare in cooperation with the Governments, the tentative agenda for the 4th Session, and to determine with them the exact location and date of the session.
