

*REPORT*

**Asunción,  
Paraguay,  
5 – 9 March  
2012**

# **Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission**

**Twenty-seventh Session**





## PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION

1 <sup>st</sup> Session	Río de Janeiro, Brasil	23 May 1949
2 <sup>nd</sup> Session	Lima, Peru	14 November 1949
3 <sup>rd</sup> Session	Santiago, Chile	11 December 1950
4 <sup>th</sup> Session	Buenos Aires, Argentina	16-23 June 1952
5 <sup>th</sup> Session	Caracas, Venezuela	4-15 October 1955
6 <sup>th</sup> Session	Antigua, Guatemala	4-15 November 1958
7 <sup>th</sup> Session	Mexico City, Mexico	3-6 August 1960
8 <sup>th</sup> Session	Santiago, Chile	13-19 November 1962
9 <sup>th</sup> Session	Curitiba, Brazil	5-12 November 1964
10 <sup>th</sup> Session	Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	4-9 December 1967
11 <sup>th</sup> Session	Quito, Ecuador	11-21 November 1970
12 <sup>th</sup> Session	Havana, Cuba	2-7 February 1976
13 <sup>th</sup> Session	Pátzcuaro, Michoacán, Mexico	18-22 February 1980
14 <sup>th</sup> Session	Lima, Peru	15-18 November 1982
15 <sup>th</sup> Session	San José, Costa Rica	6-10 October 1986
16 <sup>th</sup> Session	Kingston, Jamaica	18-22 April 1988
17 <sup>th</sup> Session	Ciudad Guayana, Venezuela	18-22 February 1991
18 <sup>th</sup> Session	Maldonado, Uruguay	6-10 December 1993
19 <sup>th</sup> Session	Ciudad de Panama, Panama	17-21 June 1996
20 <sup>th</sup> Session	Havana, Cuba	10-14 September 1998
21 <sup>st</sup> Session	Santa Fe de Bogota, Colombia	4-8 September 2000
22 <sup>nd</sup> Session	Buenos Aires, Argentina	7-11 October 2002
23 <sup>rd</sup> Session	San José, Costa Rica	18-22 October 2004
24 <sup>th</sup> Session	Santo Domingo, Dominican Rep.	26-30 June 2006
25 <sup>th</sup> Session	Quito, Ecuador	29 September-3 October 2008
26 <sup>th</sup> Session	Guatemala City, Guatemala	24-28 May 2010



**REPORT**

of the

**TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION**

of the

**LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION**

Asunción, Paraguay  
5 – 9 March, 2012



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## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS

1. A number of Commission members reported on their efforts to improve the quality of forest resource information, including by performing national forest inventories. Several countries expressed their appreciation for FAO's support and requested FAO to continue assisting countries in this area. FAO made available to countries the information generated by the new satellite-imagery-based monitoring system and urged countries to use the methodology. (para. 17)
2. The Commission recommended that the FRA be conducted in close cooperation with countries and in partnership with other organizations to collect, analyse and distribute data. It also stressed that extra-budgetary support remained vital to the success of the FRA programme and recommended close communication and partnership with donors as a key factor in the programme's sustainability. (para. 36)
3. The Commission emphasized the importance of building institutional capacity, not only to meet the requirements imposed by the new strategy for in-country forest resources assessment, but also to make better use of information at national level. It commended FAO's work in this area and requested FAO to continue supporting countries in this task. (para. 37)
4. The Commission stressed the importance of this work not only for conservation but also for ecosystem restoration and climate change adaptation. It requested FAO, in close cooperation with other institutions, to continue to provide countries with direct support in preparing their reports, to ensure that this information was incorporated into national strategies for the conservation and management of forest genetic resources and biological diversity. (para. 42)
5. The Commission expressed its appreciation for FAO support in formulating the country reports and recommended that FAO should work on setting and standardizing criteria using the same methodology as for the FRA process. (para. 45)
6. The Commission expressed its concern at this figure because it was out of date. It requested FAO to update regional statistics on wildfires. (para. 48)
7. The Commission expressed appreciation for FAO support on the issue of wildfires and requested that his support continues. (para. 52)
8. The Commission referred to climate change and its impact on forests as one of the chief concerns of countries in the Region, as reflected in its inclusion in national forest policies and programmes. Many countries in the Region were participating in programmes for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+), including UN-REDD and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). GIZ was supporting the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) in this task. The Commission requested FAO to continue working with countries either directly or through the UN-REDD programme to mainstream mitigation and adaptation into policies, strategies and programmes for sustainable forest management. (para. 57)
9. The Commission stated that the forestry sector needed to strive to secure recognition as a key stakeholder in the climate change issue and requested FAO to assist in building the

capacity of national forest institutions to increase their decision-making and bargaining power in international fora on climate change. (para. 59)

10. The Commission expressed its concern over this situation, which a number of countries had already pointed out, and recommended that this concern be referred to the FAO Regional Conference to request a better positioning of forest issues in Rio+20. (para. 62)

11. The Commission underlined the importance of the model-forest concept in providing opportunities for communication and exchanges to minimize intersectoral conflict, and requested FAO to continue supporting the model forest initiative. (para. 67)

12. The Commission requested FAO to include in its programme of work issues relating to the working conditions of forestry workers, especially in forests, as in many cases their working conditions failed to meet minimum requirements. The Commission underlined the necessity to list the dignity of the people working in the forests. (para. 68)

13. The Commission recommended that the eligibility criteria of countries joining the FFF should be reviewed because, under the current criterion of a low or medium human development index, several countries in the Region would not be eligible. (para. 73)

14. The Commission requested FAO to organize inter session meetings of the Subregional Groups to follow up on the workplans formulated for the biennium and to evaluate progress. (para. 93)

## INTRODUCTION

1. The Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) held its 27<sup>th</sup> Session from 5 to 9 March 2012 in Asunción, Paraguay, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Paraguay. The Session was attended by delegates from 22 member countries and representatives of 10 organizations, including United Nations agencies and international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, attending as observers. The Agenda is provided in *Appendix A*, the List of Participants in *Appendix B*, and the List of Documents submitted to the Commission in *Appendix C*.

2. With the presence of His Excellency Mr Fernando Lugo Méndez, President of the Republic of Paraguay, the inaugural session was presided by Mr Josué Morales Dardón, Manager of the National Forest Service of the Republic of Guatemala and serving Chair of LACFC. Mr Eduardo Rojas Briales, Assistant Director-General of the FAO Forestry Department, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Director-General of FAO, Mr José Graziano Da Silva. Messrs Luis Torales Kennedy, President of the National Forest Service (INFONA) of the Republic of Paraguay and Enzo Cardozo, Minister for Agriculture and Livestock, then addressed the assembly.

3. Mr Morales Dardón discussed a number of issues, including the Commission's important role in the Region as a neutral forum for countries to discuss and address forest development policies and processes, as well as analyse forest issues and advise FAO on the forest programme to be developed in the Region. He concluded by thanking all the individuals and entities that had worked with the Executive Committee during its term of office, as well as the Government of the Republic of Paraguay for having agreed to host the Session.

4. Mr Rojas Briales thanked the Government of the Republic of Paraguay for its generous offer to host the Session and for the local organizers' hard work in ensuring a successful meeting. He also thanked the outgoing members of the LACFC Executive Committee for their dedication over the past two years in implementing the Commission's activities. He acknowledged the valuable support provided by the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), the tropical agricultural research and higher education centre (Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza, CATIE) and the German Agency for International Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, GIZ). He stated that the FAO reform had resulted in closer contact between the six Regional Forestry Commissions and the Committee on Forestry (COFO) in setting FAO priorities on forests. He said that the priorities set by countries during the Session would also be brought to the attention of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Buenos Aires (Argentina) in late March. He added that the Session would be discussing very important issues, such as the long-term strategy for the forest resource assessment programme, *The State of the World Forest Genetic Resources*, wildfires, climate change and sustainable forest management. He ended by extending a greeting to his colleagues in Paraguay's forest sector who were participating in side events: Paraguay's first national forest week, the second national seminar on forestry and a training course on urban greening and pruning techniques.

5. Mr Torales Kennedy greeted the participants warmly, adding that the discussion on general forest issues in regional fora had become an invaluable tool for sharing experiences, determining courses of action and analysing results for the formulation of sustainable development-friendly plans, programmes and policies. He went on to discuss some aspects

of Paraguay's forest development, stating that the country had a national forest policy aimed at achieving sustainable economic growth in Paraguay by increasing the economic, social and environmental benefits of the goods and services derived from the country's forests. He concluded by saying he was certain that the Session would meet the participants' expectations.

6. Mr Cardozo extended a warm welcome to the representatives of Latin American and Caribbean forest institutions. He said that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, in coordination with the National Forest Service of the Republic of Paraguay and with FAO support, had promoted the incorporation of a strategic area entitled "sustainable forest development and environmental services", aimed at integrating and supplementing policies within a changing context, dynamic and complex typical of rural development processes. He expressed that the promotion of planted forest, the impulse of management and the sustainable harvesting of the forests, with due consideration to the multifunctional strategic nature of forests, constitute key elements to forest care and protection, considering the diversity of forests and their contribution to economic, social and environmental development. He ended by formally opening the Session.

7. Mr Lugo Méndez personally greeted each of the delegates as he left the plenary hall.

8. The Commission welcomed with great satisfaction that on the basis of the request of the President of the National Forest Service with the endorsement by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, the President of Paraguay declared the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Latin America and Caribbean Forestry Commission of National Interest.

#### **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Item 1)**

9. The Agenda was adopted without amendments.

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Item 2)**

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

Chair: Luis Torales Kennedy (Paraguay), Vice-Chair Southern Cone Subregional Group

Vice-Chairs:

Ramón Alberto Díaz (Dominican Republic), Caribbean Subregional Group  
Lucía Gómez Vaquerano (El Salvador), Mesoamerican Subregional Group  
Rosario Acero Villanes (Peru), Amazon Subregional Group

Rapporteur: Liliana Corinaldesi (Argentina)

11. Mr Jorge Meza, FAO Representative in Paraguay and Senior Forestry Officer assigned outside the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, acted as Secretary.

**STATE OF FORESTRY IN THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN REGION:  
PERIOD 2010–2011 (Item 3)**

12. The LACFC secretariat presented Note FO:LACFC/2012/2 entitled “State of forestry in the Latin American and Caribbean region: period 2010–2011”.

13. The secretariat reported that the region had approximately 956 million hectares of natural and planted forest, making up 23.7 percent of the world's forests.

14. According to the FAO *Yearbook of Forest Products 2009*, total roundwood production in the Region was 481 million cubic metres, or 15 percent of the world's total production. Of this volume, 59 percent was used as fuel, including charcoal. Sawn wood production totalled a little over 40 million cubic metres, of which 70 percent was produced in the Amazon Subregion. The forestry sector accounted for a 2–3 percent share of the countries' total gross domestic product (GDP), with a few exceptions.

15. Forest products in the Region posted a negative balance of trade of USD 3.4 billion, largely owing to imports of forest products into the Mesoamerican Subregion.

16. The secretariat reported on the continuing high rate of deforestation in the Region, which had reached 3.9 million hectares per year over the 2005–2010 period. It also emphasized the efforts being made by most countries to reduce the deforestation rate, which was now far lower than in the previous five-year period. The Commission pointed out that forest cover had increased in several countries in the Region, particularly in the Caribbean subregion.

17. A number of Commission members reported on their efforts to improve the quality of forest resource information, including by performing national forest inventories. Several countries expressed their appreciation for FAO's support and requested FAO to continue assisting countries in this area. FAO made available to countries the information generated by the new satellite-imagery-based monitoring system and urged countries to use the methodology.

18. The Commission highlighted the importance of non-wood forest products, especially for local communities, because of their significant contribution to food security. However, it acknowledged that not enough information was available on harvesting and marketing and that an effort was required to estimate the contribution of non-wood forest products to countries' economies. The Commission also stressed the importance of assessing more effectively the contribution of the forestry sector to countries' GDP.

19. The Commission noted that policies, laws and programmes in nearly all countries of the Region were enabling local communities to claim more of the benefits generated by forests. The Commission highlighted that the National Forest Programme Facility (Facility) had played a major role in integrating the community into national forest programmes.

20. While the Secretariat Note acknowledged the Region's progress in terms of the number and extent of protected wild areas, at the same time it pointed to serious problems in managing such areas, which in some cases jeopardized the very ecosystems that were meant to be protected.

21. The Commission noted that several countries were making major efforts to involve local communities, including indigenous communities, in the formulation and implementation of sustainable forest management policies.

22. The secretariat reported that, despite the importance of the issue of forest pests, diseases and other disturbances, data was still deficient, particularly if one considers that climate change was likely to create new scenarios for the development of pests and diseases in the Region's forests.

#### **INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES (Item 4)**

##### **4.1 FAO report on follow-up to the recommendations and requests of the 26th Session of the Commission**

23. The Commission was informed of follow-up to the 26th Session of the Commission, in particular actions arising from the recommendations and requests made at the meeting.

24. Special mention was made of the issues of forestry education and research; development of phase two of the Project "Exemplary Cases of Sustainable Forest Management in Latin America and the Caribbean"; enhanced transfer of information and knowledge on forest health; support with knowledge and conservation of forest genetic resources; support with knowledge of regulations and the institutional framework for community forestry; as well as the preparation of information on forests and climate change adaptation.

##### **4.2 Reports of the Vice-Chairs of the Subregional Groups of the Commission on activities carried out during the period 2010–2011**

25. The Vice-Chairs of the, Southern Cone, Amazon, Caribbean and Mesoamerican Subregional Groups reported on activities during the 2010–2011 period.

26. The Southern Cone Subregional Group informed about the work achieved in the area of forest health, where a database had been developed for sharing plant health information, in addition to holding a workshop on criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management and the second South American Forests Dialogue. The countries of the subregion, with support from the Facility, had drafted national reports on forest financing strategies and forest consultation mechanisms.

27. The Amazon Subregional Group spoke of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean, held on 3 February 2012 in Quito (Ecuador). It also described activities relating to deforestation monitoring, forest harvesting and land-use changes in the Amazon forest, with the participation of Brazil's National Institute for Space Research (INPE) and the coordination of ACTO. It further informed of the activities of forest management under the binational cooperation agreement of Ecuador-Bolivia-Peru-Colombia, the preparation of the plan for strengthening the national capabilities for monitoring deforestation (BioCAM) and a series of activities carried out under the International Year of the Forests (2011). Finally the Subregional Group referred to the usefulness of the payment schemes for environmental services in forest ecosystems.

28. The Caribbean Subregional Group reviewed practices and experiences in community forestry, which had been presented to a regional workshop in Jamaica in November 2011.

The synthesis of the study will be published in May 2012. Countries worked on developing a virtual platform to gather information for forest education (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/material-educativo/base-de-datos/bd/en/>). Several countries in the subregion had participated in the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Support Programme for African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP-FLEGT Support Programme), and are partners of the national forest programme facility.

29. The Mesoamerican Subregional Group reported that it was designing a Central American forest information system. Part of this initiative included holding the first meeting of a panel of experts on forest monitoring, with support from GIZ and FAO. The subregion did not report progress on forest health. With respect to community forestry, the subregion reported on a number of country activities, in particular the establishment of forest round tables in several countries. It also reported that countries had developed national medium-term plans (Costa Rica [2012–2020] and Honduras [2010–2030]) and plans to control illegal logging (Honduras and Nicaragua). It was also informed that Costa Rica had updated its strategy on forest fires.

30. The Commission welcomed the reports of the Vice-Chairs.

#### **PREPARATION OF A LONG-TERM STRATEGY FOR THE FOREST RESOURCE ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME (Item 5)**

31. The LACFC secretariat presented Note FO:LACFC/2012/3 entitled “Preparation of a long-term strategy for the Forest Resource Assessment Programme”.

32. The secretariat reported to the Commission that, at its 20th session, the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) had requested FAO to prepare a long-term strategy for the global forest resources assessment (FRA) process. FAO was drafting a strategy for the 2012–2030 period designed to meet new needs for information on forests and to improve communication and the dissemination of results. At the same time, the strategy needed to consider matters relating to funding the process.

33. The Commission agreed that the FRA process should continue to use the sustainable forest management concept as a framework for reporting results, which nevertheless needed to be tailored to the differing needs of their many users: governments, non-governmental organizations, the media, intergovernmental agencies, research institutions, academia, the private sector and the like.

34. It also proposed that the FRA process should build on its strengths, especially broad participation by countries. It placed special emphasis on data credibility and quality and the need to think carefully before adding new information to prevent overburdening countries with reporting requirements or increasing data quantity at the expense of data quality.

35. The Commission underscored the need to produce information of high value for country decision-making that served users’ new information needs, in terms of both content and ease of data access and use.

36. The Commission recommended that the FRA be conducted in close cooperation with countries and in partnership with other organizations to collect, analyse and distribute data. It also stressed that extra-budgetary support remained vital to the success of the FRA

programme and recommended close communication and partnership with donors as a key factor in the programme's sustainability.

37. The Commission emphasized the importance of building institutional capacity, not only to meet the requirements imposed by the new strategy for in-country forest resources assessment, but also to make better use of information at national level. It commended FAO's work in this area and requested FAO to continue supporting countries in this task.

38. The secretariat pointed out the need for countries to articulate efforts to build their capacity for performing national forest resources assessments, taking advantage of other programmes, such as the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD) and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), because the resources of the Global Forest Resources Assessment Programme were insufficient to support countries in this task.

### **PROGRESS IN PREPARATION OF THE STATE OF THE WORLD FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES (Item 6)**

39. The LACFC secretariat presented Note FO:LACFC/2012/4 entitled "Progress in preparation of the State of the World Forest Genetic Resources".

40. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) requested FAO to prepare a report on *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* (SOW-FGR) for consideration at its Fourteenth Regular Session (2013). It also set up an Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (ITWG-FGR) to assist in preparing the SOW-FGR report.

41. The Commission took note that FAO, with support from countries and other organizations, had developed guidelines for collecting national information and had held six regional workshops to assist countries in preparing their national reports. In Latin America, the workshop took place in Cali, Colombia, with support from Bioversity International.

42. The Commission stressed the importance of this work not only for conservation but also for ecosystem restoration and climate change adaptation. It requested FAO, in close cooperation with other institutions, to continue to provide countries with direct support in preparing their reports, to ensure that this information was incorporated into national strategies for the conservation and management of forest genetic resources and biological diversity.

43. The secretariat stated that a set of thematic background studies would be prepared as part of the SOW-FGR report, especially on subjects for which it was difficult to obtain detailed, reliable national information.

44. The Commission was informed that after the country reports were received, FAO would analyse the information and prepare a synthesis document that would be assessed in regional consultations. The secretariat asked countries to expedite the submission of their reports.

45. The Commission expressed its appreciation for FAO support in formulating the country reports and recommended that FAO should work on setting and standardizing criteria using the same methodology as for the FRA process.



**RESPONDING TO INCREASING DEMANDS IN FIRE MANAGEMENT (Item 7)**

46. The LACFC secretariat presented Note FO:LACFC/2012/5 entitled “Responding to increasing demands in fire management”.

47. The Commission expressed concern over the wildfires that had affected the Region, adding that they were one of the most serious environmental problems facing the Region. According to the latest FAO assessment, in 2005 wildfires covered nearly 500 000 hectares.

48. The Commission expressed its concern at this figure because it was out of date. It requested FAO to update regional statistics on wildfires.

49. The secretariat pointed out that, at its 20<sup>th</sup> session, the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) had described forest fires as a major source of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and called upon countries to include forest fire management in their programmes for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD).

50. The Commission emphasized that it was important to incorporate fire management into policies and programmes for sustainable land-use and sustainable forest and landscape management, as well as to develop fire management models involving local communities, tailored to suit conditions in each country.

51. The Commission was concerned at the proliferation of large-scale wildfires, normally initiated by humans, and the growing trend in such mega-fires owing to climate change. It praised FAO efforts to develop a corporate strategy to help reduce the damage caused by wildfires, as well as the establishment of a Multi-Donor Trust Fund to enable FAO to provide countries with more effective support in preventing and controlling wildfires.

52. The Commission expressed appreciation for FAO support on the issue of wildfires and requested that his support continues.

**IN-SESSION SEMINAR: FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (Item 8)**

53. The LACFC secretariat presented Note FO:LACFC/2012/6 entitled “Forests and climate change”.

54. The delegate of Brazil requested that, in paragraph 3, bulleted point 2, of Note FO:LACFC/2012/6 mentioning the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action, the term “legal framework” should be changed to “protocol, legal instrument or legally binding outcome”.

55. The secretariat informed the Commission of the main outcomes of the latest (seventeenth) session of the Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in particular decisions concerning REDD+ and climate change adaptation.

56. To supplement the secretariat’s presentation, Aida Baldini reported on the outcome of the second South American Forests Dialogue, held in Santiago, Chile, and stressed the importance of developing regional-level criteria on climate change and ecosystem services in general. After this presentation, Laszlo Pancel from GIZ described the Central American

REDD programme, highlighting the programme's progress in developing national plans and joint positions and approaches concerning REDD.

57. The Commission referred to climate change and its impact on forests as one of the chief concerns of countries in the Region, as reflected in its inclusion in national forest policies and programmes. Many countries in the Region were participating in programmes for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+), including UN-REDD and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). GIZ was supporting the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) in this task. The Commission requested FAO to continue working with countries either directly or through the UN-REDD programme to mainstream mitigation and adaptation into policies, strategies and programmes for sustainable forest management.

58. The Commission took note of FAO initiatives to assist countries in their efforts to address climate change. It was told that FAO was preparing two guides for integrating climate change into the forest sector: one entitled "Climate change for policy-makers" and the other, "Climate change for forest managers". The Commission was also told that FAO was working in the formulation of regional projects for building country capacity in forest and climate change matters. The Commission welcomed these initiatives.

59. The Commission stated that the forestry sector needed to strive to secure recognition as a key stakeholder in the climate change issue and requested FAO to assist in building the capacity of national forest institutions to increase their decision-making and bargaining power in international fora on climate change.

60. The Commission stressed the importance of cooperation among countries on forest issues as a way of strengthening climate change mitigation and adaptation. Several delegates highlighted the need to implement adaptation measures and to increase the resilience of forest-dependent people. It also requested FAO to provide the necessary tools, such as voluntary guidelines, to enable countries to integrate climate change into the forest sector and to help strengthen regional cooperation on climate change.

61. The secretariat informed the Commission about preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and underlined the lack of visibility of forest issues in the agenda of the Summit and the zero draft of the Rio+20 outcome document entitled "The Future We Want", which had recently been made available for comment to United Nations member states and international organizations.

62. The Commission expressed its concern over this situation, which a number of countries had already pointed out, and recommended that this concern be referred to the FAO Regional Conference to request a better positioning of forest issues in Rio+20.

#### **IN-SESSION SEMINAR: SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT (Item 9)**

63. The secretariat presented a number of documents relating to Item 9 (sustainable forest management) on the following topics: regional socio-economic factors affecting forest management; promotion of forest management by removing taxes and fees; and community forest management in Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, the tropical agricultural research and higher education centre (CATIE) made two presentations: one on model forests to promote forest management and the other on research for forest management.

64. The Commission was informed about the sustainable wood-production potential of Latin American and Caribbean forests, the impact of deforestation on potential wood production and the impact on forests of some socio-economic dynamics, particularly those relating to poverty. The Commission was told that, in spite of population growth over the past 40 years, per capita apparent consumption of roundwood in the Region had not changed significantly, remaining at around 0.81 cubic metres per person per year.

65. The secretariat described progress in the Region on community forest management. It pointed out that community forests in the Region had increased greatly in recent years and that forest management constitutes an instrument for the conservation of forests and provides communities with a significant forest-use and development alternative. It commended the book entitled “Exemplary cases of sustainable forest management in Latin America and the Caribbean”, which described a number of cases of community forest management that had succeeded in generating economic benefits for communities, in addition to environmental benefits.

66. The presentation on the promotion of forest management by removing taxes and fees stressed the problems faced by forest owners with formalities for approving a forest management plan. It pointed out that not only did formalities for logging permits and approval times for forest management plans pose an obstacle to forest management, they even encouraged illegal logging.

67. The Commission underlined the importance of the model-forest concept in providing opportunities for communication and exchanges to minimize intersectoral conflict, and requested FAO to continue supporting the model forest initiative.

68. The Commission requested FAO to include in its programme of work issues relating to the working conditions of forestry workers, especially in forests, as in many cases their working conditions failed to meet minimum requirements. The Commission underlined the necessity to list the dignity of the people working in the forests.

#### **ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBREGIONAL GROUPS OF THE COMMISSION (Item 10)**

69. Before beginning the presentation of Item 10, the secretariat informed the Commission about the new Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) on good governance for multiple benefits of forests, which would be replacing the National Forest Programme Facility in 2012.

70. The Commission was informed about FFF’s mission to promote sustainable forest management at farm level, by supporting local, national, regional and international organizations and platforms, to ensure effective participation by the local community in policies and investments to meet their needs.

71. The Commission also took note that the FFF was expected to generate income and improve the food security of smallholder, women and community groups through sustainable forest and farm management.

72. Delegates of the Commission expressed their appreciation and admiration for the support provided by the National Forest Programme Facility, saying that it was always timely and of great benefit to countries. They also expressed satisfaction with the new

direction that the Facility had taken, and a number of countries offered support to ensure its successful implementation. In addition, several countries emphasized the need that the new facility continues supporting the countries on the issue of funding for smallholder forestry and agroforestry.

73. The Commission recommended that the eligibility criteria of countries joining the FFF should be reviewed because, under the current criterion of a low or medium human development index, several countries in the Region would not be eligible.

### **10.1 Formulation of regional priorities for consideration by the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and the 32<sup>nd</sup> FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean**

74. The LACFC secretariat presented Note FO:LACFC/2012/8 entitled “FAO Committee on Forestry Multi-Year Programme of Work for the Period 2012–2015”.

75. The Commission was told that, at its 20th session, the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) had requested the FAO Secretariat to prepare, in consultation with the Steering Committee, a draft Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for the period 2012–2015 to be submitted for consideration at its 21st Session in 2012. The COFO Chair recommended that, for drafting the MYPOW, the information provided to COFO by Regional Forestry Commissions should be coordinated and expedited. The Steering Committee had endorsed the proposal and brought it to the attention of all the Regional Forestry Commissions to enable them to make their recommendations to COFO for inclusion in the MYPOW.

76. Tables 1 and 2 below contain the Commission’s recommendations to the Committee on Forestry (COFO).

**Table 1: LACFC recommendations for the attention of COFO on issues to be considered for inclusion in the MYPOW**

<b>Priority issues for COFO consideration</b>	<b>Expected outcome of the recommendations (information/decision)</b>	<b>Possible follow-up activities for COFO and the FAO</b>
Promote mechanisms to strengthen countries’ action in order to implement the priorities set in their national and regional forest strategies and policies, related with international conventions (climate change, biodiversity, desertification, etc.), in order to enable countries to contribute to global targets.	Fostering spaces of dialogue and the understanding of the issues considered priorities at national and regional levels. Give more visibility to the role of forests in meeting the targets of the three conventions and the Millennium Development Goals.	FAO presence in these spaces of dialogue. Promote dialogue on specific issues.

Strengthen initiatives relating to community forest management and integrated farm management, while helping to improve the rural population's quality of life and food security and to preserve ecosystem services.	Define strategies and provide recommendations to the countries, to FAO and other organizations.	Periodic evaluation of progress.
Promote exchange of experiences and development of partnerships and collaborative solutions and the strengthening of governance and other capabilities to meet the challenges of forest law enforcement.	Recommendations for member countries and FAO.	Periodic evaluation of progress.

**Table 2: LACFC recommendations for the attention of COFO on the FAO Programme of Work**

<b>Priorities for FAO work</b>	<b>Objectives for the work on priorities</b>
Provide technical assistance for implementing a forest communication, education and awareness strategy.	Raise the visibility of forests enhancing their importance and contribution to human welfare.
Support the preparation of regional guidelines for formulating, amending and adjusting national forest policies, harmonizing them with the development policies of other sectors.	Contribute to sustainable forest management and the conservation of forest resources and to their contribution to human welfare.
Provides technical assistance for developing mechanisms for assessing the contributions of the forest sector (including ecosystem services) and promoting the establishment of financial mechanisms (including incentives) for creating value chains for forest resources to complement market mechanisms.	Demonstrate the forest sector's contribution to the Region's economic and social development.
Provides technical assistance for completing the forest genetic resources assessment and provide technical assistance to programmes of conservation that allow the safeguarding of the resources for the benefit of countries.	Enhance knowledge and protection of forest genetic resources and promote the fair distribution of their benefits.
Provide technical assistance for the development of methods and tools that strengthen national forest monitoring systems.	Strengthen countries' national capacity for forest monitoring.
Assist in strengthening national forest health programmes, and develop regional early warning and coordinated pest and disease control systems.	Strengthen the national capacities for improving forest health.
Provide technical assistance for establishing programmes for the conservation and restoration of degraded forest ecosystems including the use of land.	Restoration of degraded forest ecosystems, including forest land.

77. The Commission also supported the priorities set by the other Regional Forestry Commission for the FAO Programme of Work, on the following issues: forests and climate change, community forestry and wildfires.

78. The Commission also made the following three recommendations for the attention of the 32<sup>nd</sup> FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Buenos Aires (Argentina) from 26 to 30 March 2012.

<b>Issue/priority</b>	<b>Proposal</b>
Forests, ecosystemic services and food security	FAO Strategic Objectives should consider in a more visible manner the importance of forest ecosystems for ensuring the sustainability of rural productive activities and the ecosystemic services they generate, contributing to the welfare of their populations, food security and poverty reduction.
Integrating forestry into the activities of rural family farmers and agroforestry	Promote the incorporation of trees and natural and planted forests into the productive activities of rural family farmers, assessing the provision of the multiple goods and services that they offer.
Higher visibility for the forest issue in the Rio+20 summit	The Commission was informed of the lack of visibility of forest issues in the Rio+20 agenda and the zero draft of the Rio+20 outcome document entitled "The Future We Want", which had recently been made available for comment to United Nations member states for comment. The Commission expressed its concern over this situation and requested the FAO Regional Conference to procure a better positioning of forest issues in Rio+20.

## **10.2 Formulation of workplans of the Subregional Groups of the Commission for the period 2012–2014**

79. The Subregional Groups of the Commission developed their workplans for the period 2012-2014, that will be published in a separate document.

### **INFORMATION ON REGIONAL FORESTRY MEETINGS (Item 11)**

80. The Commission delegates whose countries had organized regional or subregional meetings outlined the conclusions and recommendations of the meetings. Reports were given on the following meetings: fifth Latin American Forestry Congress (CONFLAT) and seventh Central American Forestry Congress.

81. The *fifth Latin American Forestry Congress* was held in Lima, Peru from 18 to 21 October 2011. It was organized by the National Forest Chamber (CNF) of Peru, the National Agrarian University La Molina (UNALM), the Association for Research and Rural Development (AIDER) and the Coordination of the Forestry Faculties of Peru (COFAFOPE). The assistance was 450 participants, from 22 countries of which 14 were from the Latin American Region. The theme of the Congress was "The future of the world depends of the forests". One hundred thirty four presentations were distributed in five working sessions. The 10 general conclusions and recommendations of the Congress and

the conclusions and recommendations of the six topics of the working sessions are undergoing review and editing.

82. The *seventh Central American Forestry Congress* was held under the theme “Forests without frontiers for everyone and for the general welfare”, in Managua, Nicaragua during 29, 30 of June and 1<sup>st</sup> of July, 2011 with the objective of highlighting the strategic importance of the forest ecosystems for the conservation of the biodiversity, and economic and environment development for the Central American society. The Congress was attended by 589 participants from 20 countries. Four working sessions were established: Indigenous and peasant community forestry, forestry sector and economic development, forests and climate change, and technical training, research and technological transfer for sustainable forest development. In each working session conclusions were formulated.

#### **REGIONAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (Item 12)**

83. The Commission recommended that the FRA be conducted in close cooperation with countries and in partnership with other organizations to collect, analyse and distribute data. It also stressed that extra-budgetary support remained vital to the success of the FRA programme and recommended close communication and partnership with donors as a key factor in the programme’s sustainability. (para. 36)

84. The Commission emphasized the importance of building institutional capacity, not only to meet the requirements imposed by the new strategy for in-country forest resources assessment, but also to make better use of information at national level. It commended FAO’s work in this area and requested FAO to continue supporting countries in this task. (para. 37)

85. The Commission stressed the importance of this work not only for conservation but also for ecosystem restoration and climate change adaptation. It requested FAO, in close cooperation with other institutions, to continue to provide countries with direct support in preparing their reports, to ensure that this information was incorporated into national strategies for the conservation and management of forest genetic resources and biological diversity. (para. 42)

86. The Commission expressed its concern over this situation, which a number of countries had already pointed out, and recommended that this concern be referred to the FAO Regional Conference to request a better positioning of forest issues in Rio+20. (para. 62)

87. The Commission underlined the importance of the model-forest concept in providing opportunities for communication and exchanges to minimize intersectoral conflict, and requested FAO to continue supporting the model forest initiative. (para. 67)

88. The Commission requested FAO to include in its programme of work issues relating to the working conditions of forestry workers, especially in forests, as in many cases their working conditions failed to meet minimum requirements. The Commission underlined the necessity to list the dignity of the people working in the forests. (para. 68)

89. The Commission recommended that the eligibility criteria of countries joining the FFF should be reviewed because, under the current criterion of a low or medium human development index, several countries in the Region would not be eligible. (para. 73)

### **OTHER BUSINESS (Item 13)**

90. The Coordinator of the Latin American Network of Forestry and Environmental Law (RELADEFA, for its acronym in Spanish) presented the network. He indicated that RELADEFA is an interdisciplinary group interested in the development of the Latin American and Caribbean Forest Law, as an instrument to improve legislation, public policies and the institutions of the Region. More than 300 professionals of the Region, from public and private institutions and from the civil society meet every two years at Latin American Congresses and in between, at Subregional Meetings, to evaluate the requirements of forest legislation in the forestry sector. The next events in the year 2012 are: third Andean-Amazon Meeting on Forestry-Environmental Law, Brazil, August, 2012, second Southern Cone Meeting on Forestry-Environmental Law, Montevideo, Uruguay, September, 2012 and the second Mesoamerican-Caribbean Meeting on Forestry-Environmental Law, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, October, 2012.

91. The Commission recommended the countries to use Bilateral Cooperation to promote the exchange of experiences and training.

92. The delegate of Ecuador drew to the attention of the Commission the initiative of the country to preserve the Yasuní National Park that has an area of 982 000ha and was declared a Biosphere Reserve in 1982 by UNESCO. The purpose of the initiative is to avoid the exploitation of large deposits of oil in the area, in exchange for an international compensation. Various delegates commended the presentation and expressed their support to this initiative of the Government of Ecuador.

93. The Commission requested FAO to organize inter session meetings of the Subregional Groups to follow up on the workplans formulated for the biennium and to evaluate progress.

### **DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION OF THE COMMISSION (Item 14)**

94. The Commission welcomed with satisfaction the offers of the delegates of Cuba, Guyana, Jamaica and Honduras to host the next meeting of the Commission.

### **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSURE OF THE SESSION (Item 15)**

95. The Commission adopted the report unanimously.

96. The Commission thanked the Republic of Paraguay for hosting the 27<sup>th</sup> LACFC and in particular the National Forestry Institute for the excellent organization of the meeting and the cordiality of the personnel. Likewise it thanked the Rapporteur and the secretariat of FAO.

97. The Session was drawn to a close by Mr Eduardo Mansur, on behalf of FAO, and Mr Luis Torales Kennedy, on behalf of the Republic of Paraguay.



**APPENDIX A****AGENDA****Item**

1. Opening of the Session and adoption of the Agenda.
2. Election of Officers.
3. State of forestry in the Latin American and Caribbean region: period 2010-2011.
4. Information items on activities carried out:
  - 4.1 FAO's report on follow-up activities to the recommendations and requests of the 26th Session of the Commission.
  - 4.2 Reports of the Vice-Chairs of the Subregional Groups of the Commission on activities carried out during the period 2010-2011.
5. Preparation of a long-term strategy for the Forest Resources Assessment Programme.
6. Progress in preparation of the State of the World Forest Genetic Resources.
7. Responding to increasing demands in fire management.
8. Forests and climate change. In-session Seminar.
  - Integrating aspects of climate change in forest policies and national forest programmes (nfp).
  - Participation of the community in the issue of forest and climate change.
9. Sustainable forest management. In-session Seminar.
  - Sustainable forest management as an alternative to other land uses (economic and social aspects).
10. Activities of the Subregional Groups of the Commission:
  - 10.1 Formulation of regional priorities to be considered by the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and the 32<sup>nd</sup> FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean.
  - 10.2 Formulation of work plans of the Subregional Groups of the Commission for the period 2012-2014.
11. Information items on regional and subregional forestry meetings.
12. Regional issues identified by the Commission for the attention of the Committee on Forestry (COFO).
13. Other business.
14. Place and date of the next Session of the Commission.
15. Adoption of the report and closing of the Session.

**APPENDIX B****LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

Chairman:	Luis Torales Kennedy (Paraguay)
Vice-Chairmen:	Ramón Alberto Díaz (Dominican Republic) Lucía Gómez Baquerno (El Salvador) Rosario Acero Villanes (Peru)
Rapporteur:	Liliana Corinaldesi (Argentina)
Secretary:	Jorge Meza Robayo

**ARGENTINA**

Liliana Corinaldesi  
 Coordinadora Forestal  
 Dirección de Producción Forestal  
 Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y  
 Pesca (MAGyP)  
 Paseo Colón 922  
 Buenos Aires, CP 1063  
 Tel: (54-11) 4349-2106  
 Fax: (54-11) 4349-2181  
 Email: [lcorin@minagri.gob.ar](mailto:lcorin@minagri.gob.ar)

Sergio Mario La Rocca  
 Responsable de Proyecto Bosque Nativos –  
 BIRF-7520 AR  
 Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo  
 Sustentable de la Nación  
 Córdoba 836, 7mo piso, Oficina 701  
 Capital Federal  
 Tel: (54-11) 4348-8640  
 Email: [slarocca@ambiente.gov.ar](mailto:slarocca@ambiente.gov.ar)

**BOLIVIA**

Zandra Rodríguez  
 Primer Secretario  
 Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores  
 Embajada de Bolivia  
 Calle Campos Cervera 6421, casi RJ2  
 Ytororó  
 Asunción  
 Tel: (595) 971930780  
 Fax: (595-21) 614984  
 Email: [zandraro@gmail.com](mailto:zandraro@gmail.com)

**BRAZIL**

Paulo Azevedo  
 Consejero  
 Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores  
 Embajada de Brasil  
 Calle Coronel Irrazábal casi Eligio Ayala  
 Tel: (595) 0971525511  
 Email: [paulo.azevedo@itamaraty.gov.br](mailto:paulo.azevedo@itamaraty.gov.br)

Eugenio V. Garcia  
 Consejero  
 Embajada de Brasil en Paraguay  
 Calle Coronel Irrazábal casi Eligio Ayala  
 Asunción,  
 Tel: (595-21) 248-4000  
 Fax: (595-21) 212-693  
 Email: [eugenio.garcia@itamaraty.gov.br](mailto:eugenio.garcia@itamaraty.gov.br)

**COSTA RICA**

Mario Coto Hidalgo  
 Suplente de la Directora Forestal  
 Sistema Nacional de Áreas de  
 Conservación (SINAC)  
 Ministerio del Ambiente, Energía y  
 Telecomunicaciones  
 Calle 1, Avenida 11  
 San José  
 Tel: (506) 225-60917  
 Fax: (506) 224-82451  
 Email: [mario.coto@sinac.go.cr](mailto:mario.coto@sinac.go.cr)

**CUBA**

Isabel Rusó Milhet  
Directora Forestal  
Dirección Forestal Nacional  
Ministerio de Agricultura  
Av. Boyeros y Conill  
Plaza de la Revolución  
La Habana  
Tel: (537) 8847518; 88475419  
Fax: (537) 8847518  
Email: [dnforestal@minag.cu](mailto:dnforestal@minag.cu)

**CHILE**

Aída Roxanna Baldini Urrutia  
Gerente Forestal  
Corporación Nacional Forestal (CONAF)  
Avda. Bulnes 285, Of. 603  
Santiago  
Tel: (562) 6630249  
Fax: (562) 6630203  
Email: [aida.baldini@conaf.cl](mailto:aida.baldini@conaf.cl)

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

Ramón Alberto Díaz Beard  
Coordinador Técnico  
Viceministerio de Recursos Forestales  
Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos  
Naturales  
Ave. Luperón Esq. Ave. Cayetano Germosen,  
Sector Mirador Sur  
Santo Domingo, Distrito Nacional  
Tel: (809) 567-4300 Extensión 6141  
Email: [recursos.forestales@ambiente.gob.do](mailto:recursos.forestales@ambiente.gob.do)  
[rdramondiaz@gmail.com](mailto:rdramondiaz@gmail.com)

**ECUADOR**

Pablo Martínez  
Segundo Secretario  
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores,  
Comercio e Integración del Ecuador  
Embajada de Ecuador en Paraguay  
Dr. Bestard 861 c/ Nuestra Señora del Carmen  
Asunción  
Tel: (595-21) 614814  
Fax: (595-21) 614813  
Email: [pmartinez@mrrree.gob.ec](mailto:pmartinez@mrrree.gob.ec)  
[ecuparaguay@mrrree.gob.ec](mailto:ecuparaguay@mrrree.gob.ec)

**EL SALVADOR**

Lucía Gómez Vaquerano  
Técnico, suplente Comité Técnico de  
Bosques  
Dirección General de Ordenamiento  
Forestal, Cuencas y Riego  
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería  
Calle y Cantón al Matazano  
Soyapango, San Salvador  
Tel: (503) 2202-8257  
Fax (503) 7097-1840  
Email: [lucia.gomez@mag.gob.sv](mailto:lucia.gomez@mag.gob.sv)  
[luciagomezsv@yahoo.com](mailto:luciagomezsv@yahoo.com)

**GRENADA**

Aden Michael Forteau  
Chief Forestry Officer (Ag)  
Forestry and National Parks Department  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Queen's Park St. George's  
Tel: (1-473) 440-2934  
Email: [michael\\_forteau@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:michael_forteau@yahoo.co.uk)

**GUATEMALA**

Josué Iván Morales Dardón  
Gerente  
Instituto Nacional de Bosques, INAB  
Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y  
Alimentación  
7a. Avenida 12-90, Zona 13  
Ciudad de Guatemala  
Tel: (502) 2321-2626  
Fax: (502) 2472-2070  
Email: [josue.morales.dardon@gmail.com](mailto:josue.morales.dardon@gmail.com)  
[gerencia@inab.gob.gt](mailto:gerencia@inab.gob.gt)

Edwin Oliva Hurtarte  
Jefe Gobernanza Forestal  
Programa Forestal Nacional  
Instituto Nacional de Bosques, INAB  
Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y  
Alimentación  
7a. Avenida 6-80, Zona 13  
Ciudad de Guatemala  
Tel: (502) 2321-4520  
Fax: (502) 2321-4520  
Email: [eoliva@inab.gob.gt](mailto:eoliva@inab.gob.gt)

**GUYANA**

Kenny Ricardo David  
Assistant Commissioner of Forests  
Guyana Forestry Commission  
1 Water Street, Kingston,  
Georgetown  
Tel: (592) 226-7271/4  
Fax: (592) 226-8956  
Email:  
[Project.Coordinator@forestry.gov.gy](mailto:Project.Coordinator@forestry.gov.gy)  
[Kenny2004\\_david@yahoo.com](mailto:Kenny2004_david@yahoo.com)

**HONDURAS**

José Trinidad Suazo Bulnes  
Ministro Director  
Instituto Nacional de Conservación y  
Desarrollo Forestal, Areas Protegidas y  
Vida Silvestre (ICF)  
Col. Brisas de Olancho, atrás de  
Tabacalera Hondureña  
Tegucigalpa  
Tel: (504) 2223-1786  
Fax: (504) 2223-3348  
Email: [jtsuazo2@gmail.com](mailto:jtsuazo2@gmail.com)  
[icfdireccion@yahoo.com](mailto:icfdireccion@yahoo.com)

**JAMAICA**

Rainee Oliphant  
Senior Legal Officer  
Forestry Department  
Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and  
Climate Change  
173 Constant Spring Road  
Kingston 8  
Tel: (1-876) 925-7479  
Fax: (1-876) 924-2626  
Email: [roliphant@forestry.gov.jm](mailto:roliphant@forestry.gov.jm)

**MEXICO**

José Armando Alanís de la Rosa  
Director de Cooperación  
Comisión Nacional Forestal (CONAFOR)  
Periférico Poniente N° 5360, 2° piso  
Edificio CIDOC  
Col. San Juan de Ocotán, Zapopan  
Jalisco, CP 45019  
Tel: (52-33) 3777-7047 / 3777-7000,  
ext. 1720  
Fax: (52-33) 3777-7068  
Email: [jalanis@conafor.gob.mx](mailto:jalanis@conafor.gob.mx)

**NICARAGUA**

William Schwartz Cunningham  
Director Ejecutivo  
Instituto Nacional Forestal (INAFOR)  
Km 12 1/2 Carretera Norte frente a Zona  
Franca  
Contiguo al Edificio MARENA  
Managua  
Tel: (505) 2233-0121  
Fax: (505) 2233-0013  
Email: [direjexecutiva@inafor.gob.ni](mailto:direjexecutiva@inafor.gob.ni)  
[wschwartz@inafor.gob.ni](mailto:wschwartz@inafor.gob.ni)

**PARAGUAY**

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

Damiana Mann  
Directora de Relaciones Internacionales  
Instituto Forestal Nacional (INFONA)  
Ruta N° 2 Mariscal Estigarribia, Km 10 ½  
San Lorenzo  
Tel: (595-21) 575-563  
Fax: (595-21) 575-563  
Email: [dami.mann@gmail.com](mailto:dami.mann@gmail.com)

Myrian Stella Leiva de Larrea  
 Directora de Gabinete  
 Instituto Forestal Nacional (INFONA)  
 Ruta N° 2 Mariscal Estigarribia, Km 10 ½  
 San Lorenzo  
 Tel: (595-21) 675-564  
 Fax: (595-21) 675-564  
 Email: [gabinete.infona@gmail.com](mailto:gabinete.infona@gmail.com)

Silvia Estigarribia  
 Asesora en Medio Ambiente y Cambio  
 Climático  
 Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores  
 Alferes Silva 1567  
 Tel: (591-981) 966981  
 Email: [scanese@mre.gov.py](mailto:scanese@mre.gov.py)

Mirta Raquel Pereira Giménez  
 Asesora Principal  
 Federación por la Autodeterminación de los  
 Pueblos Indígenas (FAPI)  
 Coronel Hermosa 1806  
 Asunción  
 Tel: (595-21) 422236  
 Fax: (595-21) 232723  
 Email: [mirtapereira@capi.org.py](mailto:mirtapereira@capi.org.py)

## PERU

Rosario Acero Villanes  
 Directora General Forestal y de Fauna  
 Silvestre  
 Dirección General Forestal y Fauna Silvestre  
 Ministerio de Agricultura  
 Calle Diecisiete N° 355  
 Urb. El Palomar, San Isidro  
 Apartado Postal 4452  
 Lima 27  
 Tel: (511) 225-9005 / 226-8725  
 Email: [racero@minag.gob.pe](mailto:racero@minag.gob.pe)

## SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Lemuel FitzGerald Providence  
 Senior Forestry Supervisor  
 Forestry Department  
 Ministry of Agriculture, Rural  
 Transformation, Forestry and Fisheries  
 Campden Park  
 Kingstown  
 Tel: (784) 457-8594  
 Fax: (784) 475-8502  
 Email: [forestrysvg93@yahoo.com](mailto:forestrysvg93@yahoo.com)  
[fitzpro@yahoo.com](mailto:fitzpro@yahoo.com)

## SURINAME

Bryan Pinas  
 Forestry Research Officer  
 Ministry of Physical Planning, Land and  
 Forest Management  
 Cornelis Jongbau Street No. 10-14  
 Paramaribo  
 Tel: (597) 479431  
 Email: [bryanpinas@yahoo.com](mailto:bryanpinas@yahoo.com)  
[bpinas@natuurbeheer.sr.org](mailto:bpinas@natuurbeheer.sr.org)

Matai Rewiechand  
 Director Forestry Economic Services  
 Foundation for Forest Management and  
 Production Control (SBB)  
 Ds. M.L. Kingweg perc. # 283  
 Paramaribo  
 Tel: (597) 483131  
 Fax: (597) 483051  
 Email: [sbbsur@sr.net](mailto:sbbsur@sr.net)

Lemen Dennis  
 Director Forest Management  
 Foundation for Forest Management and  
 Production Control (SBB)  
 Ds. M.L. Kingweg perc. # 283  
 Paramaribo  
 Tel: (597) 483131  
 Fax: (597) 483051  
 Email: [sbbsur@sr.net](mailto:sbbsur@sr.net)

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Ariel Emilio Lugo  
Director  
USDA Forest Service  
International Institute of Tropical Forestry  
Jardín Botánico Sur, 1201 Calle Ceiba  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00926  
Tel: (787) 766-5335  
Fax: (787) 766-6263  
Email: [alugo@fs.fed.us](mailto:alugo@fs.fed.us)

Toby Bloom  
Program Specialist for Latin America and  
Caribbean  
USDA Forest Service, International Programs  
1099 14th St NW, Ste 5500W  
Washington, DC 20005-3402  
Tel: (1-202) 219-4479  
Email: [tlbloom@fs.fed.us](mailto:tlbloom@fs.fed.us)

Elisabeth Mayhew  
Latin America Program Coordinator  
USDA Forest Service, International Programs  
1099 14th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005-3402  
Tel: (1-202) 273-4753  
Fax: (1-202) 208-3160  
Email: [lmayhew@fs.fed.us](mailto:lmayhew@fs.fed.us)

Gregory Butcher  
Migratory Species Coordinator  
USDA Forest Service  
1099 14th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005-3402  
Tel: (202) 273-4725  
Fax: (202) 273-4650  
Email: [gsbutcher@fs.fed.us](mailto:gsbutcher@fs.fed.us)

**URUGUAY**

Pedro Soust  
Director  
Dirección General Forestal  
Ministerio de Ganadería, Agricultura y  
Pesca (M.G.A.P)  
Cerrito 318  
CP 11000 Montevideo  
Tel: (598-2) 915-1900  
Fax: (598-2) 915-1900, int. 219  
Email: [dforestal@mgap.gub.uy](mailto:dforestal@mgap.gub.uy)  
[psoust@mgap.gub.uy](mailto:psoust@mgap.gub.uy)

**OBSERVERS FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS****Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)**

Antonio Matamoros  
Coordinador de Medio Ambiente SP/OTCA  
SHIS – QI 05  
Conjunto 16, casa 21 - Lago Sul  
Brasilia, DF, BRASIL  
Tel: (55-61) 3248-4119  
Fax: (55-61) 3248-4238  
Email: [antonio.matamoros@otca.org.br](mailto:antonio.matamoros@otca.org.br)

**International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)**

John Leigh  
Conservation Officer / Projects Manager  
International Organizations Center, 5th Floor  
Pacifico-Yokohama, 1-1-1, Minato-Mirai, Nishi-ku  
Yokohama, 2210-0012 JAPÓN  
Tel: (81-45) 223-1110  
Fax: (81-45) 223-1111  
Email: [leigh@itto.int](mailto:leigh@itto.int)

**Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)**

Fernando Carrera  
Gerente de la Red Iberoamericana de Bosques Modelo  
CATIE 7170  
Turrialba, COSTA RICA  
Tel: (506) 2558-2619  
Fax: (506) 2558-2057  
Email: [fcarrera@catie.ac.cr](mailto:fcarrera@catie.ac.cr)

**Proyecto Bosques y manejo forestal en América Central - MAP/Finnfor**

Yadid Oliva Ordoñez Sierra  
Coordinadora de Bosques Naturales  
Proyecto Finnfor, Programa Producción y Conservación en Bosques  
CATIE 7170  
Turrialba, COSTA RICA  
Tel: (506) 2558-2152  
Fax: (506) 2258-2070  
Email: [yordonez@catie.ac.cr](mailto:yordonez@catie.ac.cr)

**Red Latinoamericana de Derecho Forestal y Ambiental (RELADEFA)**

Carlos Bolaños Céspedes  
Juez Agrario  
Poder Judicial  
San José, COSTA RICA  
Tel: (506) 2247900  
Email: [cbolanos@poder-judicial.go.cr](mailto:cbolanos@poder-judicial.go.cr)

**European Union**

Eric Dejoie  
Economic Advisor  
América SOS  
Asunción, PARAGUAY  
Tel: (595-21) 206069  
Fax: (595-21) 213975  
Email: [eric.dejoie@eeas.europa.pa](mailto:eric.dejoie@eeas.europa.pa)

**CESEFOR - Junta de Castilla y León**

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

**FAO MEMBER NON-MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION****Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH**

Laszlo Pancel  
Asesor Principal / Senior Advisor  
Programa REDD/CCAD/GIZ  
Boulevard Orden de Malta, Edificio GIZ  
Urbanización Santa Elena  
Antiguo Cuscatlán, EL SALVADOR  
Tel: (503) 2121-5144  
Fax: (503) 2121-5101  
Email: [laszlo.pancel@giz.de](mailto:laszlo.pancel@giz.de)

Guillermo Adolfo Mayorga Mayorga  
Especialista Sectorial  
Programa REDD/CCAD/GIZ  
Boulevard Orden de Malta, Edificio GTZ  
Urbanización Santa Elena  
Antiguo Cuscatlán, EL SALVADOR  
Tel: (503) 2121-5173  
Fax: (503) 2121-5101  
Email: [Guillermo.mayorga@giz.de](mailto:Guillermo.mayorga@giz.de)

Cristian Guerrero Ponce de León  
Asesor Técnico  
Programa Regional de la Amazonía (BMZ-DGIS-GIZ)  
SHIS Q15C Conj. 16 Casa 21 – Lago Sul  
Brasilia, D.F., BRASIL  
Tel: (55-61) 3248-4119  
Fax: (55-61) 3248-4238  
Email: [cristian.guerrero@giz.de](mailto:cristian.guerrero@giz.de)



**HOST COUNTRY SECRETARIAT**

Jorge Guillén  
Director General  
Mcal. Estigarribia Km. 10,5  
San Lorenzo, Asunción  
Tel: (595-21) 570-516 / 570-518  
Email: [dgeel@infona.gov.py](mailto:dgeel@infona.gov.py)

Milciades Valdéz Roa  
Director General de Plantaciones Forestales  
Mcal. Estigarribia Km. 10,5  
San Lorenzo, Asunción  
Tel: (595-21) 524-382  
Fax: (595-21) 524-382  
Email: [milciades.valdez@infona.gov.py](mailto:milciades.valdez@infona.gov.py)

María José López  
Directora de Planificación  
Mcal. Estigarribia Km. 10,5  
San Lorenzo, Asunción  
Tel: (595-21) 524-382  
Fax: (595-21) 524-382

Daniel Serafín González Sosa  
Director de Asesoría Jurídica  
Mcal. Estigarribia Km. 10,5  
San Lorenzo, Asunción  
Tel: (595-21) 511-964  
Email: [danigsosa@gmail.com](mailto:danigsosa@gmail.com)

Lorenzo Duarte Acosta  
Director General  
Mcal. Estigarribia Km. 10,5  
San Lorenzo, Asunción  
Tel: (595-21) 524-382  
Fax: (595-21) 524-382  
Email: [inglorenzoduarte@gmail.com](mailto:inglorenzoduarte@gmail.com)

Marta Alvarez de Trinidad  
Directora Dirección Fomento Forestal  
Mcal. Estigarribia Km. 10,5  
San Lorenzo, Asunción  
Tel: (595-21) 524-382  
Fax: (595-21) 524-382

Carlos Enrique Irrazábal Torales  
Director General de Bosques  
Instituto Forestal Nacional (INFONA)  
Ruta N° 2 Mariscal Estigarribia, Km 10 ½  
San Lorenzo  
Tel: (595-21) 570-518  
Email: [bosques.infona@gmail.com](mailto:bosques.infona@gmail.com)

Verónica Gómez  
Directora General de Administración y  
Finanzas  
Mcal. Estigarribia Km. 10,5  
San Lorenzo, Asunción  
Tel: (595-21) 570-516 / 570-518  
Email: [vero\\_gosil@hotmail.com](mailto:vero_gosil@hotmail.com)

Isabel Díaz  
Jefe de Prensa  
Mcal. Estigarribia Km. 10,5  
San Lorenzo, Asunción  
Tel: (595-21) 524-382  
Fax: (595-21) 524-382  
Email: [prensa.infona@gmail.com](mailto:prensa.infona@gmail.com)

Ruth Marilyn Franco Paredes  
Secretaria Privada  
Mcal. Estigarribia Km. 10,5  
San Lorenzo, Asunción  
Tel: (595-21) 575-562  
Fax: (595-21) 575-562  
Email: [maricruzparedes@hotmail.com](mailto:maricruzparedes@hotmail.com)

Juan Carlos Paniagua  
Mcal. Estigarribia Km. 10,5  
San Lorenzo, Asunción  
Tel: (595-21) 570-516 / 570-518  
Email: [juan.paniagua@infona.gov.py](mailto:juan.paniagua@infona.gov.py)

Carlos Martínez  
Mcal. Estigarribia Km. 10,5  
San Lorenzo, Asunción  
Tel: (595-21) 570-516 / 570-518  
Email: [carlos.martinez@infona.gov.py](mailto:carlos.martinez@infona.gov.py)

Ileana Zaldívar  
Mcal. Estigarribia Km. 10,5  
San Lorenzo, Asunción  
Tel: (595-21) 570-516 / 570-518  
Email: [Ile\\_791@hotmail.com](mailto:Ile_791@hotmail.com)

Antonio Rumich  
Mcal. Estigarribia Km. 10,5  
San Lorenzo, Asunción  
Tel: (595-21) 570-516 / 570-518  
Email: [antonyrumich@gmail.com](mailto:antonyrumich@gmail.com)

Gloria Aveiro  
Mcal. Estigarribia Km. 10,5  
San Lorenzo, Asunción  
Tel: (595-21) 570-516 / 570-518  
Email: [gloaveiro22@gmail.com](mailto:gloaveiro22@gmail.com)

Leticia Peralta  
Mcal. Estigarribia Km. 10,5  
San Lorenzo, Asunción  
Tel: (595-21) 570-516 / 570-518  
Email: [letyper\\_88@hotmail.com](mailto:letyper_88@hotmail.com)

Gustavo Cano  
Mcal. Estigarribia Km. 10,5  
San Lorenzo, Asunción  
Tel: (595-21) 570-516 / 570-518  
Email: [gusc\\_eco@live.com](mailto:gusc_eco@live.com)

Magali López  
Mcal. Estigarribia Km. 10,5  
San Lorenzo, Asunción  
Tel: (595-21) 570-516 / 570-518  
Email: [maga90.lo@gmail.com](mailto:maga90.lo@gmail.com)

María Luisa Gómez  
Mcal. Estigarribia Km. 10,5  
San Lorenzo, Asunción  
Tel: (595-21) 570-516 / 570-518  
Email: [malukgomez@hotmail.com](mailto:malukgomez@hotmail.com)

Myrian Fariña  
Mcal. Estigarribia Km. 10,5  
San Lorenzo, Asunción  
Tel: (595-21) 570-516 / 570-518  
Email: [myrianfari@hotmail.com](mailto:myrianfari@hotmail.com)

#### COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (COFO)

Anders Lönnblad  
Presidente del Comité Forestal (COFO)  
Subdirector General  
Ministerio de Asuntos Rurales  
SE 103 33 Stockholm, SWEDEN  
Tel: (46-8) 405-1113  
Mobile: (46-70) 575-0929  
Fax: (46-8) 206496  
Email: [anders.lonnblad@rural.ministry.se](mailto:anders.lonnblad@rural.ministry.se)

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

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

Jorge Meza  
FAO Representative and Senior Forestry  
Officer  
FAO Representation in Paraguay  
Edificio del Viceministerio de Ganadería,  
1er. Piso  
Calle Ciencias Veterinarias y 2da, km 10.5  
San Lorenzo, PARAGUAY  
Tel: (595-21) 574342  
Fax: (595-21) 574342  
Email: [FAO-PAR@fao.org](mailto:FAO-PAR@fao.org)  
[Jorge.meza@fao.org](mailto:Jorge.meza@fao.org)

Eduardo Mansur  
Director, Forest Assessment, Management  
and Conservation Division  
Forestry Department  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Rome, ITALY  
Tel: (39-06) 570-55978  
Email: [eduardo.mansur@fao.org](mailto:eduardo.mansur@fao.org)

Susan Braatz  
Senior Officer, Forests and Climate Change  
Forestry Department  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00153 Rome, ITALY  
Tel: (39-06) 570-54318  
Fax: (39-06) 570-55137  
Email: [Susan.Braatz@fao.org](mailto:Susan.Braatz@fao.org)

Hivy Ortiz  
Forestry Officer  
Regional Office for Latin America and the  
Caribbean  
Casilla 10095  
Santiago, CHILE  
Tel: (56-2) 923-2137  
Fax: (56-2) 923-2101  
Email: [Hivy.OrtizChour@fao.org](mailto:Hivy.OrtizChour@fao.org)

Hans Thiel  
Forestry Officer  
Technical Cooperation Department  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Rome, ITALY  
Tel: (3906) 570-55763  
Fax: (3906) 570-55137  
Email: [Hans.Thiel@fao.org](mailto:Hans.Thiel@fao.org)

Jhony Zapata  
Forestry Officer  
National Forest Programme Facilitator  
Forestry Department  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Roma, Italia  
Tel: (3906) 570-53102  
Fax: (3906) 570-55137  
Email: [Jhony.ZapataAndia@fao.org](mailto:Jhony.ZapataAndia@fao.org)

Leticia Piña Cortéz  
Forestry Officer  
Forestry Department  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Rome, ITALY  
Tel: (39-06) 570-53063  
Fax: (39-06) 570-55137  
Email: [leticia.pina@fao.org](mailto:leticia.pina@fao.org)

César Sabogal Meléndez  
Forestry Officer  
Forestry Department  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Rome, ITALY  
Tel: (3906) 570-54774  
Email: [Cesar.Sabogal@fao.org](mailto:Cesar.Sabogal@fao.org)

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

Lars Marklund  
Forestry Officer  
Subregional Office for Central America  
Apartado 0843-00006  
Balboa, Ancón  
Panama 5, PANAMA  
Tel: (507) 3010326  
Fax: (507) 3141793  
Email: [larsGunnar.marklund@fao.org](mailto:larsGunnar.marklund@fao.org)

Nancy Ayub  
Secretary  
Forestry Group  
Regional Office for Latin America and the  
Caribbean  
Casilla 10095  
Santiago, CHILE  
Tel: (562) 923-2215  
Fax: (562) 923-2101  
Email: [Nancy.Ayub@fao.org](mailto:Nancy.Ayub@fao.org)

Vivianne Mouchabek  
Human Resources Clerk  
Regional Office for Latin America and the  
Caribbean  
Casilla 10095  
Santiago, CHILE  
Tel: (562) 923-2191  
Fax: (562) 923-2101  
Email: [Vivianne.Mouchabek@fao.org](mailto:Vivianne.Mouchabek@fao.org)

Torsten Frisk  
Consultant  
Regional Office for Latin America and the  
Caribbean  
Casilla 10095  
Santiago, CHILE  
Tel: (562) 923-2231  
Email: [Torsten.Frisk@fao.org](mailto:Torsten.Frisk@fao.org) /  
[torstenfrisk61@gmail.com](mailto:torstenfrisk61@gmail.com)

José Antonio Prado  
Consultant  
Las Quilas 4067  
Santiago, CHILE  
Tel: (562) 2082698  
Email: [japradod@gmail.com](mailto:japradod@gmail.com)

Angela Galeano Giménez  
Programme Officer  
FAO Representation in Paraguay  
Edificio del Viceministerio de Ganadería,  
1er. Piso  
Calle Ciencias Veterinarias y 2da, km 10.5  
San Lorenzo, PARAGUAY  
Tel: (595-21) 574342  
Fax: (595-21) 574342  
Email: [angela.galeano@fao.org](mailto:angela.galeano@fao.org)

Hugo Podestá  
Oficial de Adquisiciones  
FAO Representation in Paraguay  
Edificio del Viceministerio de Ganadería -  
1er. Piso  
Calle Ciencias Veterinarias y 2da, km 10.5  
San Lorenzo, PARAGUAY  
Tel: (595-21) 574342  
Fax: (595-21) 574342  
Email: [hugo.podesta@fao.org](mailto:hugo.podesta@fao.org)

Unai Iturmendi Aguirrebeitia  
Asistente Técnico de Coordinación  
FAO Representation in Paraguay  
Edificio del Viceministerio de Ganadería -  
1er. Piso  
Calle Ciencias Veterinarias y 2da, km 10.5  
San Lorenzo, PARAGUAY  
Tel: (595-21) 574342  
Fax: (595-21) 574342  
Email: [unai.iturmendi@fao.org](mailto:unai.iturmendi@fao.org)

#### INTERPRETERS

Claude Hareau de Estrada  
Victoria Brown  
Erna María Hill  
María Julia Sainz Bello

**APPENDIX C****LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>
1	FO:LACFC/2012/1	Provisional Agenda
3	FO:LACFC/2012/2	State of forestry in the Latin American and Caribbean region: period 2010-2011
5	FO:LACFC/2012/3	Preparation of a long-term strategy for the Forest Resource Assessment Programme
6	FO:LACFC/2012/4	Progress in preparation of the State of the World Forest Genetic Resources
7	FO:LACFC/2012/5	Responding to increasing demands in fire management
8	FO:LACFC/2012/6	Forests and climate change
9	FO:LACFC/2012/7	Sustainable forest management
10.1	FO:LACFC/2012/8	FAO Committee on Forestry Multi-year Programme of Work for the period 2012-2015

**Information documents:**

FO:LACFC/2012/Inf.1	Information Note for the Participants
FO:LACFC/2012/Inf.2	Provisional Timetable
FO:LACFC/2012/Inf.3	List of Documents

**MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION**

Antigua and Barbuda	Haiti
Argentina	Honduras
Barbados	Jamaica
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Guatemala	United States of America
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Grenada	Venezuela