

## 27th Session of the Committee on Forestry

### Item 8.5 Dialogue with Statutory Bodies in Forestry

The FAO Statutory Bodies in Forestry are established under Articles VI.1 and VI.2, as well as Article XIV of the FAO Constitution, to carry out specific tasks in support of the work of FAO and its Members, and to provide specialist advice in high-priority areas or questions. This agenda item will focus on presenting progress reports on the activities of the following bodies:

Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions – *Silva Mediterranea*:

- the 25th Session of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions –*Silva Mediterranea* will be held on 4–8 November 2024, in Barcelona, Spain, concurrently with the 8th Mediterranean Forest Week;
- the Flagship Restoring Mediterranean Forests is planned to be launched during the 8th Mediterranean Forest Week.<sup>1</sup>

Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACSF):

- outcomes of the 64th Session; and
- key messages of the ACSFI for the attention of COFO27.

International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment (IPC):

- updates on the organization of the 27th Session to be held on 22–25 October 2024 in Bordeaux, France; and
- the publication of the brief *How can fast-growing trees optimize agroforestry benefits?*, (2023) and issue 254 of *Unasylva*, entitled *Towards more resilient and diverse planted forests*.

Committee on Forestry (COFO) Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems:

- the 3rd Session<sup>2</sup> was held in parallel with the 26th Session of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission (NEFRC) on 10–13 September 2023, in Amman, Jordan; and
- progress on the activities of the Working Group.

Regional Forestry Commissions (RFCs):

- 33rd Session of the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC), 26–30 June 2023, virtual session, Ecuador;<sup>3</sup>
- 32nd Session of the North American Forest Commission (NAFC), 25–27 September 2023, hybrid session, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada;<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fao.org/silva-mediterranea/resources/news/detail/restoring-mediterranean-forests--a-un-world-restoration-flagship/en>; <https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/nominate-un-world-restoration-flagship>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fao.org/dryland-forestry/working-group/third-session-jordan/official-documents/en/>

<sup>3</sup> Report of the 33rd Session of the LACFC: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc7316en/cc7316en.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Report of the 32nd Session of the NAFC: <https://www.fao.org/3/no122en/no122en.pdf>

- 24th Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC), 30 October–3 November 2023, hybrid session, Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania;<sup>5</sup>
- 26th Session of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission (NEFRC), 10–13 September 2023, hybrid session, Amman, Jordan;<sup>6</sup>
- 30th Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC), 3–6 October 2023, virtual session, Sydney, Australia;<sup>7</sup> and
- 42nd Session of the European Forestry Commission (EFC), 20–23 November 2023, in-person session, San Marino, San Marino.<sup>8</sup>

The Committee is invited to:

***Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions – *Silva Mediterranea*:***

- encourage members of *Silva Mediterranea* to contribute to the development of activities related to the Flagship Restoring Mediterranean Forests initiative under the UN Decade; and
- encourage FAO and its Members to continue taking note of key findings of the State of Mediterranean Forests reports and *Unasylva*, as key information sources on forests in the Mediterranean region.

***Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACSFI):***

- consider the ACSFI's key messages when discussing related Agenda items, in particular Items 6, 7 and 8.3; and
- encourage the ACSFI to continue fostering strategic actions and facilitating partnerships between FAO, the private sector and other stakeholders, to promote a forest-based bioeconomy and productive ecosystems while leveraging technology and innovation for sustainable forest management to achieve the SDGs, in particular in developing countries.

***International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment (IPC):***

- take note of the progress in the implementation of the IPC Strategy; and
- encourage FAO Members to engage with the IPC for knowledge exchange, technical collaboration and policy dialogue, while also considering the benefits of becoming a member of the IPC.

***Committee on Forestry (COFO) Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems:***

- acknowledge the substantive contributions of the Working Group to promoting activities related to drylands;
- request that the Working Group continue and strengthen the collaboration with the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) Sub-Committee on Livestock (COAG-CL), including through the Grazing with Trees global initiative, and inform both the COAG and the COFO on progress made; and
- invite the Working Group to continue developing actions recommended at its 3rd Session.

***Regional Forestry Commissions:***

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<sup>5</sup> Report of the 24th Session of the AFWC: [content \(fao.org\)](https://www.fao.org/content/fao.org)

<sup>6</sup> Report of the 26th Session of the NEFRC: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc9772en/cc9772en.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Report of the 30th Session of the APFC: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc8556en/cc8556en.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> Report of the 42nd Session of the EFC: <https://www.fao.org/3/no556en/no556en.pdf>

- continue to provide guidance on strategic issues to the RFCs;
- stress the importance for the RFCs to have a more policy-relevant role in the FAO Regional Conferences;
- encourage Members to continue to actively support the RFCs as the main instrument in forestry for linking the global and regional levels under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31; and
- encourage the RFCs to continue to consider ways to further improve their efficiency and broader policy relevance as well-established mechanisms also for cross-sectoral policy dialogue and exchange, and to strengthen coordination and collaborative action across sectors and stakeholders in order to achieve the SDGs, the Paris Agreement and the Global Forest Goals.

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