

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Forty-eighth Session of the Advisory Committee on Paper and Wood Products was held on 6 June 2007 in Shanghai, in the People's Republic of China, with a follow-up meeting held on 5 October 2007 in Rome, Italy.

This report presents the subjects discussed by the Committee in both meetings and their respective recommendations made to FAO for the period covered between June 2007 and June 2008.

The various recommendations made at both meetings called for FAO to highlight the industry's contribution to social aspects and to sustainable forest management and carbon sequestration. In particular, the Committee recommended FAO to:

1. Jointly organize a side event at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP 13), to be held in Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 14 December 2007.

The side event was organized by the International Council of Forest and Paper Associations (ICFPA), FAO and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). The Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI), as the organization chairing ICFPA, has taken the lead. It will take place in Bali, as part of the "Forest Day" organized by the Center for International Research (CIFOR), on 8 December 2007.

2. Further document the social contribution of the forest products industry.

The Committee took note that the study on GDP contribution of the forestry sector is being updated. It was recommended to highlight not only the economic aspect but also the industry's contribution to people's well-being. Wealth and the forest industry are strongly related.

It was further recommended to produce a brief country report on the impact of the forest industry to people's well-being. FAO will produce a set of questions and outline of the report. Title of the report: *Social contribution of the forest industry*.

3. Contribute to clarifying UNFCCC accounting rules for carbon sequestration by forests.
4. Actively promote understanding of the causes of deforestation.

This issue is closely related to public perception of the role of the forest industry. The Committee should highlight the main causes for deforestation, which are often related to land-use change, in particular to cattle raising and large-scale agriculture.

The Committee recommended producing a short paper including the ten most frequently asked questions about the causes of deforestation.

Two different versions should be produced: (1) frequently asked questions (FAQ) for journalists and (2) FAQ in a language that farmers and the general public will understand.

5. Continue to work on the nexus of forests and energy, building on the results of the IEA-FAO-ICFPA energy conference in Rome, October 2006.
6. Undertake an analysis of the relationship between water and forestry, in the context of the increasing scarcity of water.