

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Fiftieth session of the Advisory Committee on Paper and Wood Products (ACPWP) was held on 26 May 2009 in Rome, Italy.

This report presents the subjects discussed by the Committee and the recommendations made to FAO.

In particular, the Committee recommended that FAO:

1. Water

Continue to document the important role of forests with regard to water quality and utilization, including the known issues and existing knowledge, with a view to making recommendations to the sector for best practices, further action and research. This also includes working on common definitions related to water and forestry, resulting in a “Forest Water Lexicon”.

2. Climate change

Document the contribution to carbon sequestration of harvested wood products as a substitute for more carbon intensive material and articulate the benefits of sustainable forest management in the international climate change dialogue.

Monitor and report on the development of carbon trading markets, including the voluntary market, for facilitating the reporting of forest and wood product carbon stocks and flows through the exchange of information and development of methodologies.

Conscious of the timetable for post 2012 negotiations, the Committee further recommends FAO take all opportunities to participate in key LULUCF related meetings prior to Copenhagen and beyond if necessary.

Close collaboration over this period will be essential and it is proposed that FAO establish a regular communication channel with the ICFPA climate change working group. It is expected that contacts will be frequent - perhaps every two weeks – and will be open to all those from each group interested and able to contribute. The objective should be to use collective knowledge of the negotiations to achieve a higher level of awareness and preparation.

3. Poverty alleviation and economics

Continue working to document the contribution of the forest sector to job creation and alleviation of poverty.

4. Communications

Sustain its support for the Forest Communicators’ Network by further gathering, refining and disseminating data for relevant communication, including the collection and summarising of relevant information, and streamline data accessibility together with ICFPA.

5. Possible Future of the Forest Industry

Together with ICFPA, convene in the coming eight months an experts’ workshop, duration approximately two days, which will examine the results of the CEOs round table and use the documentation prepared for that round table to deepen further understanding of the possible future for the global forestry industry.