



Seventeenth Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO)

15-19 March 2005 | Rome, Italy



ENB Summary
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Thursday, 17 March

The FAO Committee on Forestry convened today to finish its deliberations on the needs and opportunities for international cooperation in forest fire preparedness and to take up shaping the action programme for FAO in forestry.

Delegates convened all afternoon in several side events on: forest law compliance; lessons learned from SFM in Africa and Asia; participatory approaches to forestry; forests and bioenergy; increasing the volume of certified forests around the world; forests and conflicts; and the integration of forestry into the NEPAD agriculture agenda.

Shaping an Action Programme for FAO in Forestry



Panelists consider comments from country delegations concerning the shaping of the action programme for FAO in forestry



Hosny El-Lakany, FAO (left), responded to country interventions, noting the importance of forest resource assessments, monitoring and reporting, bioenergy and fire, and the trade in illegally sourced wood



D. Rugabira reviewed FAO actions over the last year in the context of the recommendations of COFO 16



John Bazill, European Commission



Johann Goldammer, Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), emphasized the importance of good information for policy development, and asked FAO to develop standards for measurement



Ministerial Meeting on Forests

14 March 2005 | Rome, Italy



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Monday, 14 March

Over 250 Ministers, country delegates and representatives from intergovernmental organizations and nongovernmental organizations met in advance of the seventeenth session of the FAO Committee on Forestry at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy to discuss international cooperation on forest fire management and international support for sustainable forest management.

President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, President of the Republic of Congo, addressed the ministers in Plenary, calling on FAO to strengthen its coordination with international and regional bodies and mechanisms.

Also in attendance at the Ministerial Meeting was Wangari Maathai, recipient of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize.

At the end of the day, delegates adopted a Ministerial Statement in which the ministers recommit their countries to, inter alia, improving forest management and intersectoral cooperation. It also includes a number of other commitments in policy areas relating to forest law enforcement and governance, forest fire management and reporting. The statement also calls on the FAO to, inter alia: enhance cooperation on forest fire management; develop studies (upon request) in the design of projects on payment for environmental service; and provide inputs to the fifth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

The Ministerial Meeting on Forests was Co-Chaired by Elliot Moorely, Minister of Environment (UK) and Carlos Manuel Rodriguez Echandi, Minister of Environment and Energy (Costa Rica).



President **Denis Sassou-Nguesso**, Republic of Congo, highlighted FAO's major role in coordinating knowledge on forest resources and in providing technical and financial support to member countries



Wangari Maathai, winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize (left) with **Jacques Diouf**, Director-General, FAO



From left: **David Harcharik**, Deputy Director-General FAO, **Wangari Maathai**, **Jacques Diouf**, Director-General, FAO and **Elliot Morley**, Minister for Environment, UK



CHAIRPERSON

The Session on International Cooperation in Forest Fire Management was opened by Co-Chair **Carlos Manuel Rodriguez**, Minister of Environment and Energy (Costa Rica)



Elliot Morley, Minister for Environment, UK facilitated a discussion on "Maintaining International Commitment to Sustainable Forest Management" in morning and afternoon sessions of the Ministerial Meeting on Forests



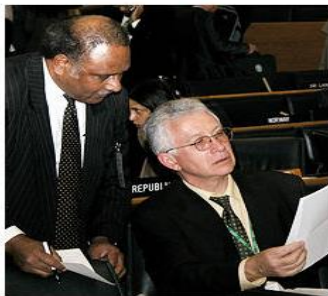
Michael Dudley, President of the drafting Committee, commenting on the Ministerial Statement



From left: **Hosny El-Lakany**, Assistant Director-General, FAO, **Elliot Morley**, Minister for Environment, UK and members of the Secretariat



Lars Sponheim, Norway suggested that strategic objectives linked to the Millennium Development Goals need to be included in the new IAF and the FAO should help strengthen countries' capacity to implement national forest programmes



France indicated that under the new international arrangement on forests, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests should make policy recommendations and evaluate and assess a collaborative action plan on forests



Finland highlighted the usefulness of FAO Forestry Outlook Studies and the Forest Resource Assessment in developing national forest programmes



Bashir Ahmed Wani, Pakistan, said that forest forests are important for maintaining watersheds and are linked to security and poverty alleviation. He also drew attention to a new domestic forest policy based on integrated and participatory processes



Giuseppe Raaphorst, EU with **Elliot Morley**

The Netherlands suggested that countries take concrete actions to implement sustainable forest management, including through the development of national and regional policy frameworks



Sudan explained its new forest initiatives, including the recent adoption of a national forest programme and the implementation of a project in support of the IFF/IPF proposals for action



Pekka Patosaari, Coordinator and Head of the UNFF Secretariat, said that, in recent years, deforestation has been surpassed in importance by issues such as poverty reduction, HIV/AIDS and terrorism, and said that strengthening the IAF would ensure that forests remain on the international agenda



Mark Rey, US said forests are crucial for achieving the MDGs and identified four policy priorities for the United States: combating illegal logging; supporting forest partnerships; developing sound wildlife management; and implementing sustainable forest management



Participants in the Green room "Maintaining International Commitment to Sustainable Forest Management"



Finnish and South African delegates share a laugh during a break in the Ministerial discussions



Indonesia tells of Fire Brigades being set up in fire prone areas



Delegates reading the final Ministerial Statement



Participants take a break before heading off to the reception



Matthias Schwoerer (Germany)



Wulf Killmann (left), FAO, discusses the outcome of the Ministerial Statement with a fellow participant



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Tuesday, 15 March

Over 630 delegates from 127 countries gathered in Rome, Italy for the opening of the FAO Committee on Forestry, Seventeenth Session. Delegates met in a morning plenary session to hear welcoming remarks from Jacques Diouf, FAO Director-General, David Harcharik, FAO Deputy Director-General, His Excellency Matti Vanhanen, Prime Minister of Finland, and Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai (Kenya). During the morning plenary session, delegates also adopted the agenda, elected officers and designated a Drafting Committee for the session. In addition, the FAO Forestry Department launched the 2005 State of the World's Forests report, which focuses on realizing the economic benefits of forests. Hosny El-Lakany, Assistant Director-General of the FAO Forestry Department, provided an overview of the report, and noted the important contributions the report makes to issues such as the linkage between forests and violent conflict.

In the afternoon, delegates convened in four side-events. They heard reports from Regional Forestry Commissions and discussed how to translate policy into action during the event on "The Role of the Regional Forest Commissions in Implementing Sustainable Forest Management". Representatives from selected civil society organizations led discussions on "The Role of Civil Society Organizations in the Implementation of National Forest Programmes." Presentations were also made by the Global Fire Monitoring Center and regional wildland fire networks during the event on "International Cooperation on Forest Fire". A presentation and informal discussion was also held on the "Outcome of the Country-led Initiative on the Future International Arrangement on Forests".



From left: **Hosny El-Lakany**, Assistant Director-General, FAO, **David Harcharik**, Deputy Director-General FAO, **Wangari Maathai**, winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize, **Jacques Diouf**, Director-General, FAO with **Flavio Miragaia Perri**, Brazil



Chair **Abdelazim Mirghani Ibrahim** (Sudan) calls for nominations for the drafting committee



From left: **Flavio Miragaia Perri**, Permanent Representative of Brazil to FAO with **Douglas Kneeland**, FAO Forestry Department



His Excellency **Matti Vanhanen**, Prime Minister of Finland, said that forests are essential to ensuring environmental sustainability and are a source of basic survival needs



Nobel Laureate **Wangari Maathai**, Kenya, emphasized that investing in forests would help prevent future violent conflicts



From left: Hosny El-Lakany, Assistant Director-General, FAO, Chair Abdelazim Mirghani Ibrahim and Douglas Kneeland, FAO



From left: David Harcharik, Deputy Director-General FAO, Flavio Miragaia Perri, Permanent Representative of Brazil to FAO and Douglas Kneeland, FAO Forestry Department



Paolo Scarpa Bonazza Buora, Minister of Agriculture and Forest Policies for Italy, identified several social issues that contribute to the degradation of forests, such as urbanization, illegal logging and fire, and argued that mitigating the effects of these requires a multilateral approach



Wangari Maathai, Kenya



Hosny El-Lakany, Assistant Director-General, FAO, launches the State of the Forests 2005 Report



Flip Van Heiden, Netherlands



Aulikki Kauppila (right), Finland

