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70 YEARS WORKING TOGETHER IN THE SERVICE OF FORESTS AND PEOPLE

Strengthening FAO's work on boreal and temperate forests

Item 4(f)



**Las2017 - Joint Session of the ECE Committee on Forests and
the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission**
9-13 October 2017, Warsaw, Poland

Evolution of COFO Mandate (1)

LAS 2017



■ 2014 - COFO22

- scale up FAO's support to countries **on boreal forests**
- address the **specificities of boreal forests in the normative and field work** of FAO, especially those related to forest protection, forest fires, wildlife management and carbon monitoring
- continue exploring further possibilities for enhancing **interdisciplinary work** on boreal forests



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Evolution of COFO Mandate (2)

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■ 2016 - COFO23

- strengthen FAO's work in the area of **boreal and temperate forests**, taking into account their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, incl. combating climate change and enhancing food security and nutrition
- explore **further options** in this regard, such as, *inter alia*, participation in **existing initiatives**, bodies and processes and the establishment of a **dedicated working group of COFO**
- present a **detailed document with concrete proposals** on that issue to its **next session in 2018** under a separate agenda item



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Importance of boreal and temperate forests



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- **A major component of the global forest**
 - Almost half (48%) of the world's total forest area
 - >25% of carbon stock in living biomass
 - 60% of the world's industrial roundwood production
 - 63% of global sawnwood production
 - 35% of wood-based panels
 - 64% of wood pulp
 - 46% of paper and paperboard
 - 90% of wood pellets



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A sampler of issues and challenges

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- Important commonalities and differences within the domain
- Managing intact forests and biodiversity
- Managing and restoring abandoned agricultural lands, tree improvement programmes
- Managing carbon stocks, including in soils and permafrost, opportunities for 'negative emissions'
- Adaptive strategies for managing fuel loads after disturbances
- Effective monitoring and assessment, governance and certification
- Social impacts of rural depopulation



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Existing institutional experiences

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- Many initiatives and platforms that **differ and overlap in complex ways**
 - *Biome focus:* Circumboreal Working Group (CWG), International Boreal Forest Research Association (IBFRA)
 - *Regional focus:* Barents Forest Sector Network, UNECE, EFI, Forest Europe, etc.
 - *Global but relevant:* CBD, FAO, IPBES, IPCC, IUFRO, Montreal Process, UNFCCC, UNFF, etc.
- Current scope of cooperation **lower than the existing potential**
 - Prevailing international funding architecture **not conducive to supporting 'north-north' cooperation** outside of already existing regional initiatives



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Potential areas for strengthening collaboration (1)

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- Technologies for realizing a **forest based green economy**
- Management of **legacy areas**, including where logging many decades ago has been followed by spontaneous regrowth without silviculture
- **Restoration of former forest lands** that are no longer needed for agriculture
- **Valuation** of boreal and temperate forests' environmental and socio-economic contributions and development of **new revenue streams** including payment for ecosystem service schemes



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Potential areas for strengthening collaboration (2)

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- Further development and implementation of **sustainable forest management**
- Forest inventory as well as assessments of **carbon stocks** in boreal and temperate **forest and soils, peat and permafrost** including their **vulnerability to climate shocks**
- Forest-based strategies for **climate change mitigation and adaptation**
- Policies for making **remote forest dependent settlements** viable
- **Urban and peri-urban** forestry



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Requested points of guidance from EFC (1)



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1. **What current or emerging issues** shall be at the top of national and international attention as **putting at risk the potential contributions from the boreal and temperate forests** to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other relevant global and regional agreements on forests?
2. **How can these risks be most effectively addressed** through the existing institutions, processes, programmes at national and international levels?

Requested points of guidance from EFC (2)

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3. What specific aspects of the required effort may call for the creation of **additional formats and mechanisms of collaboration**, e.g. as per the COFO23 recommendations?
4. Which of these activities are better justified for **the boreal and temperate forests combined**, and which should be dealt with **through separate geographic lenses**?
5. Given the organization's mandate, **where should FAO concentrate its efforts and resources** to bring its best added value to such activities?



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Thank you!



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