

**MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF ALTERNATES  
NORTH AMERICAN FOREST COMMISSION**

**Banff, Canada  
October 2-5, 2001**

**PARTICIPANTS:**

**Canada**

Gordon Miller—Director General, Science Branch, Canadian Forest Service

Jocelyne Caloz—Director of International Affairs, Policy, Planning and International Affairs Branch, Canadian Forest Service

A. Boyd Case—Director General, Northern Forestry Centre, Canadian Forest Service

**Mexico**

Laura Lara Granados—Subdirector of International Cooperation, SEMARNAT

**United States**

Val Mezainis—Director, International Programs, USDA Forest Service

Jan Engert—Latin American Programs Coordinator, USDA Forest Service

Catherine Karr—Latin American Specialist, USDA Forest Service

Liza Paqueo—Outreach and Partnerships Specialist, USDA Forest Service

**FAO**

Doug Kneeland—Programme Coordinator, Forestry Department

**SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS AND DECISIONS:**

**A. General**

- The North American Forest Commission's Bureau of Alternates (BOA) agreed that Working Groups, wishing to recognize members (or contributors), could do so through awards of that Working Group. If Working Groups would like assistance on structuring award criteria, they are encouraged to look over at the criteria and standards developed by the Fire Management Working Group.
- If a Working Group feels that an individual has made a sustained and superior contribution to the advancement of NAFC as a whole, the Working Group may nominate him/her for a Commission award. The Working Group will submit the candidate's name in writing with a one-page background, outlining the reasons for the nomination, to the BOA.
- BOA will send out a message to the entire Commission to inform the regional body of new products, reports, and meeting announcements as these updates arise.
- Members of the BOA will try to attend more Working Groups meetings in order to promote more interaction between the BOA and the Working Groups. A schedule for these meetings has been developed.
- In order to promote more interaction between the Working Groups and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), D. Kneeland (FAO) will identify subject matter specialists as focal points and will assist in increasing their involvement with the NAFC Working Groups, including possible attendance at some of the Working Group

meetings, in particular those for the Silviculture, Inventory and Monitoring, Insects and Diseases and Fire Management Working Groups.

- J. Caloz (Canada) will provide information concerning NAFC's capabilities in inventory and monitoring at the Japan-led "International Expert Meeting on Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting on the Progress Toward Sustainable Forest Management" in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests in November being held following the International Tropical Timber Council meeting.
- BOA will undertake scoping meeting to determine the value of a Watershed Management Working Group. The United States has agreed to host the meeting. Each country will nominate two experts plus a chairperson and send nominations to C. Karr (USA) by November 1. Experts will present feedback at the next BOA meeting.
- A scoping meeting, similar to one being created for Watershed Management, will take a look at Invasive Plant Species. Mexico has agreed to host this meeting before next BOA meeting. L. Lara (Mexico) will get a place and date for the meeting by November 1. In addition, each country will send nominations to L. Lara by November 1.
- For the 2002 Commission Meeting in Hawaii, three issues were identified as themes for technical papers: watershed management, plantation forestry and criteria and indicators. Watershed management was chosen due to the growing global importance of water and the critical role healthy forests play in maintaining water quality and quantity. The technical paper on plantation forestry will look at the increasing importance of plantation forests to the world fiber supply and the resulting implications for North America. Meanwhile, the last issue paper will examine the linkages between national level and local level criteria and indicators.
- By November 1, each country will identify lead expert, who will be responsible for writing and presenting a paper at the Commission meeting on the assigned technical issue. United States will be responsible for watersheds; Mexico will handle plantation forestry, and Canada will identify lead to write on criteria and indicators. In addition, each country will identify co-authors who will assist the leads in developing the technical papers. Names will be submitted to C. Karr (USA).

#### B. Working Groups

- C. Karr (USA), G. Miller (Canada) and L. Lara (Mexico) will get a hold of key Forest Products working group members to get updated activities report and membership list as well encourage group to create a new work plan.
- The BOA will send out an announcement of the recently published proceedings from the Merida meeting of the Silviculture Working Group to the rest of the Commission.

#### C. Funding

- As requested, the United States will fund activities by Forest Genetics Working Group, in the sum of \$10,000:
  - \$5,000 to continue funding database by Mexican students
  - \$1,500 for intensive course on genetic conservation
  - \$2,000 for seminar on genetic resources at the next working group meeting
  - \$1,500 for Symposium in Baja California
- Although the Silviculture Working Group requested funding to print proceedings from the 2<sup>nd</sup> *International Forum on Utilization of Natural Forests*, it did not specify any amount. Therefore, Mexico will contact the Working Group to determine the amount.

- The USDA Forest Service is considering funding an initiative related to the Inventory and Monitoring Working Group, specifically in support of a pilot study in Jalisco, Mexico.

#### D. Working Group Information Dissemination – Website and Mailing List

The BOA has decided that:

- Website will link to other regional commission websites as well as that of the World Forestry Congress in 2003.
- As the Fire Management Working Group’s website is being developed, it will be linked to the NAFC websites and vice versa.
- The Working Groups will give L. Paqueo (USA) updated membership, activities, links and electronic publications.
- L. Paqueo (USA) will hyperlink the NAFC Commission meeting in Hawaii to the Institute of Pacific Island Forestry website.
- A recommendation to the FAO Webmaster to change *Statutory Bodies* to *Regional Commissions* will be placed.

#### E. Upcoming Events and Meetings

The BOA members will work towards attending the following Working Group meetings:

- *Atmospheric Change*—October 24-26, 2001; Queretero, Mexico. L. Lara (Mexico) is planning to attend this meeting.
- *Fire Management*—February 11-15, 2002; Cancun, Mexico
- *Inventory and Monitoring*—March 2002; Oaxaca, Mexico
- *Bureau of Alternates*—April 1-5, 2002; Annapolis, Maryland, United States
- *Commission Meeting*—October 21-26, 2002; Big Island, Hawaii, United States
- *Forest Genetics and Silviculture Joint Meeting*—July 2002; Jalapa, Mexico (tentative)
- *Forest Products*—TBD
- *Insects and Diseases*—TBD

### **PREVIOUS MEETING**

- The previous meeting of the BOA was held November 7-9, 2001, in Oaxaca City, Mexico.

### **Tuesday, October 2, 2001**

#### I. OPENING SESSION—

V. Mezainis (USA) chaired the meeting of the BOA. He opened with introductions—specifically, with new participants to the meeting—and then reviewed the meeting agenda. Boyd Case, Director General of the Northern Forestry Centre of the Canadian Forest Service, gave a history and significance of Banff National Park. The following themes were added to the agenda: a) Model Forest Program, b) policy, and c) NAFC involvement with World Forestry Congress.

#### II. Organizational Changes

### MEXICO

Last year, Mexico changed administration. Newly elected party and administration made several important changes:

- Victor Lichtinger is the new Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT). SEMARNAP changed to SEMARNAT. Fisheries were transferred to Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA).
- Undersecretariat of Management of Natural Resources is now the Undersecretariat of Management for Environmental Protection, which deals with operative areas and function as well as Environmental Impact and Risk Assessment and Wildlife.
- National Institute of Ecology (INE) was reorganized and now deals mainly with research activities.
- The National Forest Commission (CONAFOR), whose office is in Guadalajara, was created. The General Director of CONAFOR is Mr. Alberto Cardenas. CONAFOR is an autonomous organization entailed on SEMARNAT and will concentrate on promoting forestry activities through special programs. CONAFOR will implement and operate projects and programs for supporting forestry activities regarding national forest policies and plans.
- Forest law accomplishments will be centralized under General Directorate of Decentralization and Federalization of Forest Service and Soil of SEMARNAT, headed by Cuauhtemoc Gonzalez Pacheco. Other responsibilities of SEMARNAT include: forest management permission, forest health, and national forest registration.
- SEMARNAT transfers resources and programs. The main support programs are being transferred: National Reforestation Program (PRONARE), the Forest Development Program (PRODEFOR) and the National Program for Forest Commercial Plantations (PRODEPLAN). The National Program for Forest Management and Conservation (PROCYMAF) is also being transferred.
- The operative branch of Wildfires Prevention and Control, Forest Health and Forest Education and Training will transfer to CONAFOR.
- General Directorate of Decentralization and Federalization of Forest Services and Soil of SEMARNAT will handle: National Forest and Soil Inventory, Forest Management and Technical Assistance, National Forest Registration and National Coordination of Wildfires Prevention and Control and Forest Health. This Directorate will also handle programs and actions concerning conservation and management of forests and soils and will deal with United Nations Combat Desertification Convention.
- INIFAP will continue with forest research, which belongs to SAGARPA.
- International forestry affairs will be linked with national forestry policies and programs. CONAFOR will deal with Forest Model Program and International Year of Mountains.
- Mexico will most likely send representatives from different branches to NAFC.

## CANADA

- There have been no significant organizational changes, except in Policy area.
- At a September meeting in Toronto, the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers endorsed Forest 2020, a concept being discussed in Canada to further sustainable forest management. Forest 2020 will promote the role of fast growing-high yield plantations in maintaining and enhancing the forest sector's contribution to meeting the growing demands being placed on Canada's forests. In addition, it will provide a basis for a strong agroforestry program in Canada through provision of a new crop alternative.

- The National Forest Information System, another national initiative to establish an infrastructure system to improve Canada's ability to assess the current state of its forests, will be pursued. This initiative will involve industry and stakeholders and is a joint venture between federal and provincial governments.
- British Columbia's new provincial government aims to reduce provincial spending. Forest Renewal System is under review. 60% of the Province's Forest Service funding is derived from the Forest Renewal System.
- Within the Canadian Forest Service (CFS), The First Nation Forest Program and Model Forest Program are undergoing an evaluation. The CFS remains committed to the latter, but is reviewing the current composition of the model forests.
- The federal government is placing a lot of emphasis on a more horizontal approach to management and on encouraging federal organizations to collaborate. There are implications for CFS on the policy and technology side, as CFS aims to make information available to the public online.
- A large human resources initiative is well underway to review the job classification system across organizations.
- National Forest Strategy is being evaluated. The Forest Strategy will start afresh from ground up in about one year. National Forest Congress will prepare to deliver the strategy by May 2003, prior to World Forestry Congress.
- Canadian Biodiversity Strategy: Over the coming year, Canada will focus more on implementation, data gathering and working on the science agenda.
- New Species At Risk Act—to be completed by December or January—will impact forest strategy and have implications on land use.

## FAO

- A new initiative—the National Forest Programme Facility—will support countries' implementation of national forest programs, specifically in developing countries and countries in transition. Several European countries and the EC are supporting the Facility, which will be hosted by FAO. NAFC members are encouraged to participate. Support can be provided in the form of funding or "in kind" contributions of staff or consultants.
- FAO has advertised a new post to assist countries in developing a coordinated response to forest fires around the world. The need for this post was highlighted at an expert meeting in Rome in March; the USA, Canada and Mexico each participated in this meeting. North America has a long history of collaboration among countries in fire management, including the NAFC Fire Management Working Group, serving as a model for other regions.
- Some recent staff changes of interest to NAFC include:
  - Tina Vahanen has joined FAO after working four years in the IFF/UNFF secretariat.
  - Jim Ball has retired, and Doug Kneeland is acting Chief of the Forestry Information and Liaison Unit until Jim's replacement is named. In addition, Doug is also the new NAFC Secretary.
  - Rosalie McConnell has joined FAO for up to one year as a visiting expert from Natural Resources Canada; she will work on UNFF issues as well as planning for the World Forestry Congress.

- Robert Davis, who headed up the FRA 2000 program, is joining the World Bank Latin American Bureau for a two-year secondment from FAO.

## UNITED STATES

- Former US Forest Service (USFS) Chief, Mike Dombeck, is now at the University of Wisconsin (endowed chair).
- 15<sup>th</sup> Chief of USFS is Dale Bosworth.
- Deputy Chiefs have been replaced except for Research (Robert Lewis).
- Sally Collins is now the lone Associate Chief—replacing the former two-Associate Chief model.
- The USFS Agenda, due out next year, will emphasize the following: recreation, watershed, forest health, and forest sustainability.
- The Bush Administration started reviewing agreements and environmental policies: roadless policy and forest planning regulations. So far, public comment has shown desire to keep roadless policy intact. There is also an ongoing debate on the viability of species, criteria and indicators, and general forest sustainability.
- There was a large fire season this year, resulting in four fatalities. The diminishing forest health resonates strongly with public. Increased budget for fire by \$1 billion.
- Payments to states legislation: 25% of all timber sales would go back to county. Last year, good bipartisan support decoupled that.
- Due to the attacks on September 11, international travel has been curtailed. US Forest Service sent three incident management teams to respond to the attacks.
- The Local Unit Criteria and Indicators Development (LUCID) projects, tested in six forests—have helped land managers ability to look at sustainability at the local level.
- The annual cabinet level bi-national meetings in USA, September 1, in conjunction with President Vincente Fox's visit highlighted collaboration between USA and Mexico.
- Bi-national Commission meeting in Mexico at the end of October.

### III. Reports from Working Groups

#### a. Overall Coordination (V. Mezainis-USA)

- In order to promote more interaction between the BOA and the NAFC Working Groups, BOA members will attend more Working Group meetings.
- V. Mezainis (USA) will send out an email to NAFC, highlighting the following: details from BOA meeting, awards information and recipients and upcoming events.

#### b. Atmospheric Change (G. Miller-Canada)

- Hugo Ramírez Maldonado replaced Dr. Carlos Rodriguez
- Annual meeting in Queretero – October 24-26, 2001. L. Lara (Mexico) will try to attend meeting.
- Three-country ozone protocol initiative: Mexico set up research sites equivalent to Canada and the USA. The money (\$15K) given by BOA facilitated a final proposal of over \$300K, which will be pursued through industrial and European partnerships. The goal: to harmonize monitoring

and assessment protocols related to ozone damage in forests among the three countries.

- Working with Parks Canada, the University of Minnesota and others, the Working Group is currently developing a pamphlet for a general audience on impacts of air pollution on major forest ecosystems of North America. Emphasis will be on ozone impacts with a view for other pamphlets on other pollutants.
- Joint meetings planned with Insects and Diseases (2002 or 2003) and Fire Management Working Groups.
- Working Group has expanded active membership to include Parks Canada, Environment Canada, selected universities in Canada and USA plus other USA and Mexican federal institutions.

c. Forest Products (G. Miller-Canada)

- C. Karr (USA), G. Miller (Canada) and L. Lara (Mexico) will get a hold of key Forest Products working group members to get updated activities report and membership list as well encourage group to create a new work plan.
- Proposal for North American Workshop on Non-Wood Products—FAO would like to still co-sponsor it but needs to know if sub-group still exists.

d. Forest Genetics (L. Lara-Mexico)

- July 2001: There was a working meeting to put together a research proposal for Mexican Nut Pines.
- July 2001: They had a meeting in Chihuahua on the indicators of genetic diversity.
- July 31-August 7 2001, Placerville, California: Working Group meeting and supported Symposium on Geographic Variation of Forest Species. Field trip to see protected areas in California and conservation of forest genetics resources.
- Activities include:
  - Working on database of work by Mexican students on genetic and ecological aspects of native forest species of Mexico. Expect to put database on website.
  - Members of the Working Group have published articles and helped Silviculture Working Group put together proceedings from Merida meeting.
- Established seven more activities for the next 6 months:
  - They want to create a directory for institutions and individuals interested in participating in training programs and scientific exchanges related to forest genetic resources.
  - Research proposals on nut pines.
  - Continue discussion on indicators of genetic diversity.
  - Continue with sampling in their studies.
  - Continue work on database.
  - In July 2002, they are planning an intensive course on genetic conservation in Montecillo in a graduate institution.
  - Symposium—“Biological Diversity in Baja California”—in Ensenada in 2003 on genetic diversity (more bilateral activity)

- Preparing another training in Chapingos, Mexico next July 2002
  - Requests/Other:
    - \$5,000 to continue funding database by Mexican students
    - \$1,500 for intensive course on genetic conservation
    - \$2,000 for seminar on genetic resources at the next working group meeting
    - \$1,500 for Symposium in Baja California
    - Dr. Basilio Bermejo passed away--Working Group requesting acknowledgement to recognize his activities.
- e. Silviculture (L. Lara-Mexico)
- Javier Musalem, Fernando Patino, Carleen Yocum and Les Whitmore are no longer with the group. John Parrotta and Margaret Devall replaced the latter two.
  - Electronic proceedings from the Merida Meeting are posted on the Silviculture Working Group's Reports and Activities webpage.
  - Proceedings from 2<sup>nd</sup> *International Forum on Utilization of Natural Forests* are still pending review and will be sent to the Webmaster.
  - Request for funding: To print copies of proceedings. The Working Group has asked members to submit a proposal request to BOA.
  - The Working Group is also concerned about emergent issues:
    - Urban forestry, watershed and criteria and indicators
    - How to join this project with Mesoamerican Biological Corridor project of the World Bank.
    - The Working Group also wants to respond to the concerns of the Commission over reforestation of degraded lands and nursery techniques.
    - Members reiterated that it would be useful to have the website in Spanish.
    - Working Group also proposes creation of Urban Silviculture group and a database of projects or potential sites.
  - List of North American Trees is not feasible. Project will not continue.
  - Activities for next year:
    - Publication of Seed Manual, which will describe seeds of 175 tropical species.
    - Marking off demonstration areas in Campeche, Mexico and will analyze results at the next meeting.
    - Coordination and linkages with other Working Groups.
    - Information generated by group is concentrated only in Southeast Mexico but wants to spread it to other Latin American countries—wants to establish linkages with Latin American Forestry Commission. Request to establish linkages with Belize and Guatemala.
    - Considering additional publications and buying forestry compendium from CABI and translating a portion of it into Spanish.
  - Requests/Others:
    - Recognize Les Whitmore for his outstanding contributions to Silviculture Working Group.

- Funding to print proceedings from 2<sup>nd</sup> International Forum on Utilization of Natural Forests.
  - Silviculture Working Group will try to have another joint meeting with Forest Genetics Working Group in Jalapa, Mexico in 2002.
- f. Fire Management (V. Mezainis-USA)
  - Previous meeting: Hawaii in 2000
  - Next meeting: February in Cancun, Mexico.
  - Working Group is planning 3<sup>rd</sup> *International Wildfire Conference* in Sydney, Australia in October 2003. Members are:
    - Trying to obtain resources to ensure adequate representation of Latin American countries to the conference. Seed money from earlier Wildland Fire Conference in Vancouver.
    - Seeking sponsors for additional funding
    - Setting up committees to recruit Lat. Am. Participants and to assist Australian organizers on agenda and other topics.
  - Cooperation for training, equipment procurement and planning continues under the Mexico National Fires Prevention and Restoration Program, funded by USAID and administered by USFS International Programs. Paul Weeden retired.
  - Some funding from Canada is intended to update web page of the working group.
  - Requests/Other: Sheryl Maddux has been appointed International Fire Coordinator for the USDA Forest Service
- g. Insects and Diseases (V. Mezainis-USA)
  - Previous meeting: 10-13 September 2001 in Carmel, California
  - Next meeting: TBA
  - Change in Mexico's membership to Working Group
  - The exotic pest information list of North America has been expanded; about 50 records have been added to the web-based list of unwanted potential invaders
  - Pilot tests are being conducted in nine US ports, with cooperation from Mexico and Canada, to track new invasions.
  - USDA Forest Service has helped support training for Mexican specialists on aerial survey techniques and gypsy moth eradication.
  - NAFC supported publication on Forest Diseases of Mexico book.
  - No report received yet from September 2001 meeting.
  - Requests/other: request approval of revisions to Working Group charter and two resolutions to NAFC plus proposal to put working group on Invasive Species.
  - Canada will get reaction from Tom Sterner on a proposal for creation of an Invasive Plants or Diseases Working Group. Canada will also brief Sterner on reaction of BOA to Review of Charter.
- h. Inventory and Monitoring (V. Mezainis-USA)
  - Previous meeting: 17-19 January 2001 in Victoria, BC.
  - Next meeting: March 2002 in Oaxaca, Mexico and will focus on Information Management—Data, Analysis and Reporting

- Working Group is expanding emphasis to include more aspects of data continuum (capture, integration, analysis, display and reporting).
- Activities for this year include:
  - Workshop to report on the state of National Forest Inventory in each country
  - Evaluation of current and future use of remote sensing tools
  - Description of currently used land cover/land use classification
  - Development of ecoregion summary database for North America
  - Improvement of website information
- The main priority is focused on assisting in the development of a framework for a National Forest Inventory for Mexico
  - A pilot study is being designed for the southeastern states of Jalisco and Colima. Meetings were held in May 2001 in Mexico and July 2001 in Salt Lake City to discuss technical aspects and planning for the study. The State of Jalisco is contributing \$325,000 in FY2002 with funding from other Mexican institutions expected to bring total to \$500,000 for the fiscal year.
- Requests/Others: USDA Forest Service is considering a request for funding to support the pilot study in Jalisco.

#### IV. Other Working Group Business

- a. General:
  - BOA will send out a message to the entire Commission to inform the regional body of new products, reports, and meeting announcements as these updates arise.
- b. FAO Focal Points (D. Kneeland-FAO):
  - Kneeland will work with the FAO focal points to ensure that they are actively involved in NAFC Working Group activities, including the possible participation in Working Group meetings subject to travel restrictions. In particular, it was felt that FAO could make significant contributions to the Working Groups on Silviculture, Inventory and Monitoring, and Insects and Diseases and Fire Management.
- c. Invasive Species (L. Lara-Mexico):
  - Tom Sterner will update Miller.
- d. Fire Management Working Group—Website Development (L. Lara-Mexico):
  - The Fire Management Working Group would like to create its own web page. BOA has agreed to the request and decided that the Working Group's website will provide linkage to our main NAFC and FAO/NAFC websites, acknowledge involvement with NAFC and provide a mission statement and goals.
- e. Mexico Silviculture Working Group (L. Lara-Mexico):
  - The BOA will send out an announcement of the recently published proceedings from the Merida meeting to the rest of the Commission.
  - Silviculture Working Group wants to be able to give awards to its own members. Please see Awards Section.
- f. Awards (Lara)—Please see Awards Section.

Wednesday, October 3, 2001

- I. Awards:
  - Working Groups have autonomy in giving own awards. If Working Groups would like assistance in developing own criteria, they are encouraged to look at the Fire Management Working Group model.
  - Nominees for Commission award include: Yves Dube, Victor Sosa, Les Whitmore, and Basilio Bermejo. L. Paqueo (USA) will facilitate process for having awards made. The language on the plaques will be in English and Spanish for Sosa, Whitmore and Bermejo, while the award for Dube will be in both English and French.
  - At the next Commission meeting, BOA will acknowledge award recipients.
  - In an email to the Working Groups, the BOA will acknowledge recipients and offer to Groups that if they want to nominate anyone for an award, let BOA know.
  - In an email to the Working Groups regarding awards, the language will read as follows: “If the Working Group feels an individual is meritorious of recognition by the Commission for an outstanding contribution, they should submit the candidate’s name in writing with a one-page background outlining the reasons for submitting that individual.”
  
- II. Review of Charter of Insects and Diseases Working Group
  - The Insects and Diseases Working Group is concerned about invasives and their early detection and would like Commission to recognize increasing importance of this problem.
  - The Working Group is almost exclusively working on Invasive Species, but members are not comfortable adding weeds to the group.
  - BOA will contact Insects and Diseases Working Group to discuss reaction to proposals.
  
- III. Follow up to the Bureau of Regional Forest Commissions (D. Kneeland-FAO)
  - NAFC representatives participated in a meeting of the Bureaux of the Regional Forestry Commissions in Rome, the day before COFO in March 2001.
  - The meeting discussed the status of implementation of IFF/IPF Proposals for Action in each region, and the possibility that the regional forestry commissions could be more involved in this process.
  - Regional Forestry Commissions, which have websites, were encouraged to add linkages to other Commissions.
  
- IV. Other activities of interest
  - International activities (D. Kneeland-FAO)
    - United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF): All NAFC countries participated in the first meeting of the UNFF in New York earlier in 2001. The main outcome of the first meeting was establishment of a Program of Work for the UNFF for the five-year period 2001-05.
    - Committee on Forestry (COFO): All NAFC countries participated in the COFO in March 2001. Among the COFO recommendations are several that are specifically relevant to Regional Forestry Commissions:

- The Committee recommended that FAO continue to work with regional partners and processes in global forest resources assessments.
  - The Committee recommended that FAO presented a more detailed proposal on the proposed “global forest survey” at the next sessions of the Regional Forestry Commissions.
- Criteria and Indicators
    - *Mexico*: Chihuahua LUCID Project is working very well. The project has some changes in the technical group. The people who live in the ejido are participating but the coordinator of the project has moved. Restructuring and search for new coordinator are underway.  
Pam Wright, Catherine Karr and Laura Lara went to Quintana Roo. Two ejidos would like to be a part of LUCID projects. Discussion with INIFAP. Would like support from US Forest Service to begin pilot projects.
    - *Canada*: Model Forest Program in Canada just published a report. Discussions to something more systematic, similar to LUCID. So far, Model Forests have been choosing own indicators. Technical review on how indicators should be modified. Several of the provinces have been reporting on own activities with criteria and indicators.
    - *USA*: Six National Forests involved with LUCID. Meeting with Forest Supervisors and Chief to discuss integrating LUCID on all National Forests—development of core group of criteria and indicators for individual National Forests—systems approach. It would be an effective mechanism to describe and discuss what is forest sustainability on a particular National Forest to stakeholders and public. Ideally, there should be a linkage between Montreal Process and LUCID. Disconnect still exists.  
Stakeholder roundtables—US Forest Service International Programs is chairing to discuss stakeholder involvement in criteria and indicators discussion.
  - International Tropical Timber Organization (J. Caloz-Canada): J. Caloz will provide information concerning NAFC’s capabilities in inventory and monitoring at the Japan-led “International Expert Meeting on Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting on the Progress Toward Sustainable Forest Management” in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests in November being held following the International Tropical Timber Council meeting.

#### V. Discussion of proposals/new working groups

- *Watershed Management*: A proposal to start a project first before a new Working Group was raised in the discussion; however, there may be problems finding resources to support this project as opposed to wider berth from a new Working Group.
- Instead, the BOA is undertaking a possible intermediate approach: Start a pilot group to handle project.
- Each country will nominate two people for a scoping meeting—project proposal, funding, and budget. Expert group will provide feedback to the BOA on whether

Commission will support project or new Working Group. Projects could be on transboundary watersheds.

- The Scoping Meeting will encompass the following:
  - *Issue:* NAFC has acknowledged the need to share information on knowledge on the role of forests in watershed management in North America as well as current approaches to address watershed issues.
  - *Objectives:*
    - The expert group will:
      - Get an understanding on interest of member countries in the role of forests in watershed management;
      - Understand current activities and where watershed management is taking place (what is being done and who is doing it?);
      - Determine the opportunity/niche for NAFC;
      - Determine how NAFC might propose to address the issue (e.g. project; working group, strategy);
      - Have an initial meeting before the next BOA (hosted by USA; the Chairperson will be appointed by the USA);
      - Make a presentation to the BOA outlining findings.
    - Next Steps:
      - BOA members agreed to approach C. Karr (USA) with nominations of a minimum of two experts per country by November 1. D. Kneeland (FAO) recommends that Tage Michaelson will represent FAO.
      - USA offered to host a meeting to initiate a discussion on the issue; USA also offered to nominate a Chairperson.
      - The Chairperson will frame the context of the discussion which might include a roundtable on existing documentation on mechanisms for addressing issues related to watershed management, (e.g. conservation and water resources).
      - Presentation from someone at meeting at the next BOA meeting.
- *Urban Forestry:* Canada will have problem engaging in this project. No new Working Group at present time.
- *Recreation:* Mexico will have problem engaging in this project. No new Working Group at present time.
- *Carbon Sequestration:* No need to complete issue paper. No new Working Group at present time.
- *Protected Areas:* The BOA will look at this as a potential Working Group.
- *Invasive Weeds/Plants:* This issue is big with the United States and Mexico, but not Canada. NAPPO regulates this problem but is not a proactive organization. BOA recommends putting together a scoping meeting similar to one for Watershed for Invasive Weeds.
  - Mexico proposes to host meeting before next BOA meeting. L. Lara (Mexico) will take responsibility and get back to BOA.
  - Use same model as Watershed scoping meeting.

- By November 1, L. Lara will get place and date for meeting.

VI. NAFC 2002 Meeting (V. Mezainis and C. Karr-USA)

- Location and dates:
  - October 21-26, 2002
  - Kona on the Big Island, Hawaii
  - Meetings will begin on Tuesday. Monday will be a travel day.
- C. Karr (USA) will continue to inform BOA of planning details for the NAFC Commission meeting.
- FAO will send out invitations. D. Kneeland (FAO) will help USA with logistics.
- Major focus of the Institute for Pacific Island Forestry (IPIF) work is on the Big Island, and some of its work is in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy. IPIF focuses its work on invasive species and endangered species, which are major problems in Hawaii. Plantation forestry will also be a focus.
- The BOA recommends that Jack Ewel give a presentation or technical paper on alien species specific to Hawaii.
- For the 2002 Commission Meeting in Hawaii, three issues were identified as themes for technical papers: watershed management, plantation forestry and criteria and indicators. Watershed management was chosen due to the growing global importance of water and the critical role healthy forests play in maintaining water quality and quantity. The technical paper on plantation forestry will look at the increasing importance of plantation forests to the world fiber supply and the resulting implications for North America. Meanwhile, the last issue paper will examine the linkages between national level and local level criteria and indicators.
- By November 1, each country will identify lead expert, who will be responsible for writing and presenting a paper at the Commission meeting on the assigned technical issue, as well as co-authors to assist the leads in developing the technical papers.
- Countries will pursue following topics and leads for technical papers:
  - United States: watershed management
  - Mexico: plantation forestry
  - Canada: criteria and indicators
- D. Kneeland (FAO) has identified the following Focal Points as experts from FAO on the given issues: Tage Michaelson (watersheds), Jim Carle (plantations), Christal Palmberg (criteria and indicators).
- Discussion of Preliminary Agenda
  - Welcome from the State of Hawaii
  - Presentation on challenges of natural resources situation in Hawaii.
  - Awards
  - From FAO, all regional commission meetings should include the following in the agenda:
    - Regional inputs to the UNFF
    - Regional involvement in future forest resource assessments
    - Information items for FAO: pass out information papers
    - International Year of the Mountain
    - Arrangements for the World Forestry Congress
    - World Summit on Sustainable Development outputs?
    - National Forest Programme Facility

- Add regional inputs to UNFF as a stand-alone Agenda item. Response to FAO—all three countries are already intensely involved in UNFF.
- Forest Resource Assessments:
  - To what extent are regional forestry commissions involved? This ties in with Inventory and Monitoring Working Group.
  - Chairperson of Inventory and Monitoring Working Group can address this as a stand-alone agenda.
- El-Lakany will prepare Background papers.
- May or may not have proposals for new Working Group.
- Technical Items will be framed at the next BOA meeting.

#### VII. Website and Mailing List Update (L. Paqueo-USA)

The BOA has decided that:

- Website will link to other regional commission websites as well as that of the World Forestry Congress in 2003.
- As the Fire Management Working Group's website is being developed, it will be linked to the NAFC websites and vice versa.
- The Working Groups will give L. Paqueo (USA) updated membership, activities, links and electronic publications.
- L. Paqueo (USA) will hyperlink the NAFC Commission meeting in Hawaii to the Institute of Pacific Island Forestry website.
- A recommendation to the FAO Webmaster to change *Statutory Bodies* to *Regional Commissions* will be placed.
- BOA formally recognizes advanced progress of website and utility for other Working Groups.

#### VIII. Funding Requests

- The United States has agreed to provide funding for activities under the Forest Genetics Working Group:
  - \$5,000 to continue funding database by Mexican students
  - \$1,500 for intensive course on genetic conservation
  - \$2,000 for seminar on genetic resources at the next working group meeting
  - \$1,500 for Symposium in Baja California
- The Silviculture Working Group requests funding to print proceedings from 2<sup>nd</sup> *International Forum on Utilization of Natural Forests*, but has not specified any amount. L. Lara (Mexico) will contact the Working Group to determine amount.
- USDA Forest Service is considering a request for funding to initiate a pilot study in Jalisco, Mexico, and will try to engage assistance from the Inventory and Monitoring Working Group.

#### IX. Other Business:

- Next BOA Meeting
  - Spring 2002 in Washington DC area—end of March/early April.
  - BOA will invite participants from Working Groups to this meeting.
  - Future discussion for next BOA meeting:
    - Plantation forestry—Paper on this topic to possibly be presented at the next Commission meeting.

- Criteria and Indicators
  - Protected Areas
  - Model Forest
  - Policy
- Policy (G. Miller-Canada)
  - Do we want to be more engaged in policy discussions where there is common interest?
  - Since there will be a paper presented on criteria and indicators, should we tag on policy view?
  - Identify areas or commonalities on this topic.
- World Forestry Congress Cooperation (G. Miller-Canada)
  - Should we make the NAFC more visible at the Congress? Possible paper?
  - There will be an opportunity for the NAFC to have a poster or for some of the Working Groups to do a presentation (i.e. Fire Management Working Group)
  - Theme of the Congress: Forest, The Source of Life. Invited Papers on 22 different topics. Voluntary papers to be submitted. Best papers will be chosen to be presented.
  - BOA will encourage working groups to submit papers. Working Groups can contact BOA about details. BOA will target the Fire Management, Genetics, Insects and Disease and Inventory & Monitoring.
- Regional Model Forest Network (J. Engert-USA, L. Lara-Mexico)
  - The International Model Forest Network is still working through their process to internationalize the network. Unsuccessful in creating secretariat; therefore process began to create regional model forest network/secretariat. In Latin America, the secretariat would be held in Chile. What about North American Model Forest Network? Commission has always endorsed this, but there was dissent, because there were already bilateral activities. FAO, however, endorsed Latin American Model Forest Network.
  - In Mexico, Model Forest Program was transferred to CONAFOR. There is active participation in Model Forests. By the end of the year, there should be someone from CONAFOR to take charge of the program, which doesn't have a coordinator for the time being.
  - Canada: trying to turn International Model Forest Program in to a more developmental program. Waiting to receive federal funding and possible renewal.

X. Upcoming Meetings:

The BOA members will work towards attending the following Working Group meetings:

<u>Working Group</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Atmospherics	Queretero, Mexico	October 24-26, 2001

Fire Management	Cancun, Mexico	February 11-15, 2002
Inventory and Monitoring	Oaxaca, Mexico	March 2002
Bureau of Alternates	Annapolis, Maryland	April 1-5, 2002
Commission Meeting	Big Island, Hawaii	October 21-26, 2002
Forest Genetics and Silviculture Joint Meeting	Jalapa, Mexico?	July 2002?
Forest Products		
Insects and Diseases		

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Field Trip: Kananaskis, Canada