



**Forestry**

# **Regional Forestry Commissions and forest biodiversity**

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# **Connecting Countries**

- **6 Regional Forestry Commissions**
  - First one created in 1948
- **Intergovernmental (part of UN/FAO)**
- **Address policy and technical issues**
- **Guided by their Executive Committees, facilitated by FAO**
- **Attended by Heads of Forestry**
  - Increasing participation of other stakeholders
- **Report to Committee on Forestry (COFO)**
- **Link with other global fora**



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# **RFC sessions 2008**

<u><b>Region</b></u>	<u><b>Venue, host country</b></u>	<u><b>Date</b></u>
<b>Africa &amp; Near East</b> <i>Co-located (joint) session</i>	Khartoum, Sudan	18 – 21 Feb
<b>Asia-Pacific</b> <i>Asia Pacific Forestry Week</i>	Hanoi, Viet Nam	21 – 25 Apr
<b>North America</b>	San Juan, Puerto Rico, USA	9 – 12 Jun
<b>Latin America &amp; Caribbean</b>	Quito, Ecuador	29 Sep – 3 Oct
<b>Europe</b> <i>Joint session with UNECE Timber Committee, European Forest Week</i>	Rome, FAO headquarters	20 – 24 Oct

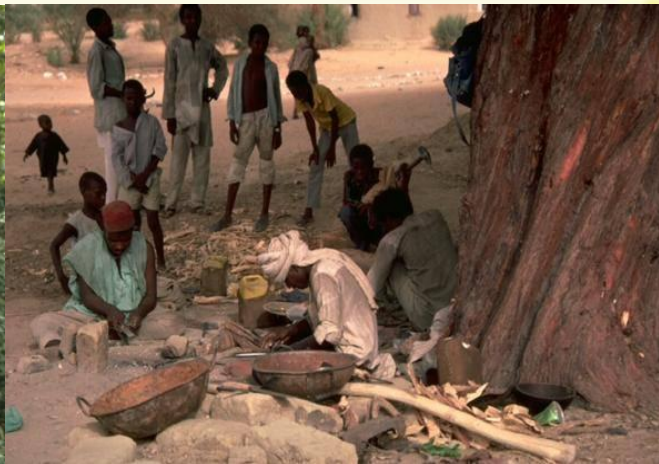




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# Key items in 2008

- Sustainable forest management
  - forests in a changing environment
- Forests & climate change, bioenergy
- Forests & poverty
- Invasive species
- National forest programmes, law compliance



- Regional forestry weeks (Asia & Europe)
- Broader linkages between RFCs and global dialogues (COFO, UNFF, UNFCCC, CBD...)
- Increasing intersessional activities
  - networks, working groups, think-tanks & policy fora on key issues







# **RFC & biodiversity**

**Biodiversity considerations are part of many forestry activities (examples):**

- **Voluntary guidelines on harvesting, planted forests, fire, arid & semi-arid forestry**
  - all address better management practices including environmental aspects
- **Regional networks on invasive species**
  - Asia-Pacific, Africa, Near East
- **Network on Protected Areas (REDPARQUES)**



# **...RFC & biodiversity**

**(examples cont'd):**

- **In search of excellence initiatives**
  - collection of best management practices in West Africa, Asia & Latin America
- **Special emphasis on protected areas and wildlife in Africa**
  - wildlife for food security
  - Human – wildlife conflicts
  - *Forest & Fauna* magazine: special article on “Value of biodiversity”



- **Regional Forestry Commissions play a key role in:**
  - strengthening regional cooperation
  - providing linkages between regional and global dialogues
  - boosting the implementation of sustainable forest management, including conservation of forest biodiversity





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# Implementation of sustainable forest management

contributes to sustainable development ...



....and the achievement of the MDGs and forest

targets (S.M.F. GoFs,  
CBD 2010 target)