



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
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联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
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Organization  
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Organisation  
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pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY COMMISSION

### TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

Beijing, China, 7-11 November 2011

### PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING APFC- AND FAO-SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

#### SECRETARIAT NOTE

#### INTRODUCTION

1. This note reports on progress in implementing APFC and FAO-supported activities and initiatives since the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC), convened in Thimphu, Bhutan, in June 2010. It serves as a basis for reviewing follow-up to the specific requests and recommendations stemming from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission.

#### ASIA-PACIFIC ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES

2. FAO and APFC forestry activities in the region can be grouped into three broad categories:

- activities in the areas of economics, policies and institutions;
- activities designed to promote improvement in forest management for multiple benefits; and
- activities designed to foster greater involvement of people in forestry.

##### *I. Activities in the areas of economics, policies and institutions*

3. The second cycle of the flagship *Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study* (APFSOS) has been completed after almost four years of consultation, capacity building and analysis. The wide-ranging study provides an overview of the status and trends in the Asia-Pacific forestry sector and highlights issues that will shape the future of forestry in the region. The main report of the APFSOS was released at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of APFC and thereafter 13 thematic papers, 21 country reports and 5 sub-regional reports were published.

4. Following completion of the study, emphasis has now shifted towards supporting APFC countries in making effective use of the study findings, information and data. In relation, a workshop on *Strategic Planning for South Pacific forestry* was organized in Nadi, Fiji, 21-23 April 2010, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. A similar meeting was organized in collaboration with the SAARC Forestry Development Centre, for South Asian countries in Thimphu, Bhutan, 16-18 February 2011. Another workshop for Southeast Asia is being planned. To further disseminate the outlook study findings and guide member countries, a series of policy briefs are under development. Five policy briefs focusing on the Greater Mekong Subregion are already available on FAO's website and others covering the entire Asia-Pacific region are forthcoming.
5. In collaboration with IUFRO, FAO hosted a technical meeting on *Making Asian forests work for people and nature*, 19-20 July 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand. Trends and scenarios for the forestry sector leading up to 2020 were discussed, and the main report of APFSOS became the document of reference for discussion. The workshop led to the publication of a joint IUFRO-FAO publication titled *Asian forests: working for people and nature*.
6. APFC continues to support the Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank during its establishment phase (2009-2012). The Think Tank emerged from a perceived need to establish a proactive mechanism to analyze critical issues in managing Asia-Pacific forests, especially in the context of increasing complexity of decision making in a globalized environment. The Think Tank is envisaged to function as a "virtual network", supporting efforts in the region to improve policies, strategies and institutions enhancing efficiency and effectiveness.
7. During its formative years the Think Tank has been mainly functioning to facilitate a set of studies and publications and the conduct of forest policy short courses. In May 2011, the Think Tank organized the Fifth Executive Forest Policy Short Course, in Beijing, China. The course focussed on forest policy reformation in China and policy analysis for livelihood improvement from forest resources. The course was organized in collaboration with APFNet, European Forest Institute, EU FLEGT, State Academy of Forest Administration, WWF, SFA and the USDA Forest Service. The Think Tank will continue to conduct and develop these courses during the next phase, building on the insights generated by its other activities.
8. Currently, efforts are underway to build impetus for the Think Tank. The main thrust will be to develop a network of forest policy analysts in APFC member countries to fully take advantage of the expertise in the region to undertake timely analyses and make them available to policy makers and other stakeholders. The Think Tank also proposes to facilitate sharing of ideas, perceptions and experiences among policy makers and planners in the region. Details of activities proposed during the next two years will be discussed at a workshop during Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2011.
9. In the middle of 2010, a new regional forest policy study on *Making forestry work for the poor: Adapting forest policies to poverty alleviation strategies in Asia and the Pacific* was initiated in 11 selected countries across the region. This study is conducted under a joint initiative between APFNet, FAO and the Asia Forest Network, with the objective of strengthening knowledge through national assessments regarding how the forestry sector contributes towards reducing poverty. To instruct selected consultants in the selected countries on field data collection a workshop titled *The Contribution of Forestry to Poverty Alleviation in Asia and the Pacific* was convened 8-9 March 2011, in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The initiative is now nearing completion, and findings from this study will be presented at a partner event during Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2011 in Beijing, China.
10. In collaboration with The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC), FAO convened the regional meeting *Implications of Cancun for climate change and forestry in Asia-Pacific* on 21 February 2011, in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Eleven experts were invited to provide their

perspectives on key questions of concern to forest-related stakeholders in the region following COP-16. Based on the discussions, the publication *Forests and climate change after Cancun – an Asia-Pacific perspective* was released in March 2011. The consultation and publication followed the model of a previously well-received meeting and publication subsequent to the Copenhagen COP-15 conference.

11. In collaboration with UNEP and RECOFTC, FAO will organize a *Meeting on forests and climate change adaptation in Asia* on 26 October, in Bangkok, Thailand. This meeting precedes the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum 2011 and seeks to identify suitable forest-based adaptation measures in Asian countries, and suggest how these can be implemented.

12. The German-funded project *Moving forward in the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests in Liberia, Nicaragua and the Philippines: A contribution to reducing deforestation and forest degradation* was initiated in the Philippines. A launching workshop was held in October 2010 to clarify roles and responsibilities related to the implementation of the project. Assessments are now ongoing to determine perceptions related to implementation of the non-legally binding instrument among public sector agencies, private enterprises and civil society.

13. In China, FAO is implementing the European Commission-funded project *Supporting policy, legal and institutional frameworks for the reform of forest tenure in China's collective forests and promoting knowledge exchange*. This project supports the reform of forest tenure in China's collective forests through strengthening policies, laws and institutions responsible for the management of collective forests in six pilot provinces.

14. A publication entitled *Growing green assets: Removing constraints to private sector investments in forestry in Asia and the Pacific* was published at the end of 2010. The publication presents country-specific studies of the investment climate in the forestry sector for nine countries in Asia and the Pacific, and provides recommendations for how barriers to private sector involvement in forestry may be reduced.

15. Building on the above-mentioned publication, an expert consultation on *Assessing innovative forestry financing mechanisms in the Asia-Pacific region* was facilitated by FAO in Bangkok, Thailand, 16-17 December 2010. The objective of this consultation was to advance a proposal for a regional project on forest financing, examining what policy arrangements and approaches are most effective and what incentives hold most promise for attracting funds for sustainable financing for forest management. Following the outcomes of this consultation, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency agreed to fund further explorative studies in the area of forestry financing, through the regional trust-fund project *Putting principles into action – developing an inclusive framework for enhancing investments into Asian forestry*. This project will map the interests of key stakeholder groups and pilot a process to develop National Forestry Financing Strategies in selected countries in the region.

16. In response to country requests FAO has, over the past years, dedicated more attention to bioenergy and its interplay with other sectors. With support from the German-funded *Bioenergy and Food Security Project* (BEFS), FAO has been assessing the impacts of biofuels production on food security, rural development and land use. The project terminated with the release of a Thailand (as well as Tanzania and Peru) country report in October 2010.

17. FAO is collaborating with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in examining the potential opportunities and risks related to bioenergy development in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS). The FAO-supported *Biofuel and renewable energy for rural development and poverty reduction in the GMS project* has been FAO's main contribution to this partnership. A sustainable bioenergy symposium, *Improving resilience to high food prices and climate change* was convened in Bangkok, Thailand, 1-3 June 2011, to review

results and discuss interest for future work. The publication of several thematic studies is also in the pipeline – one of which examines the potential for wood briquettes as a source of alternative energy and improved livelihoods in rural areas.

18. Responding to direct recommendations from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission, FAO has sought to increase its participation and contribution to discussion on forestry education. Support was provided for an international conference on *Forestry education and research: responding to changing needs* that was held in Los Banos, Philippines in November 2010. An *Asia-Pacific forestry colleges deans meeting*, organized by APFNet and supported by FAO and other organizations, was held 21-23 July 2010, in Beijing, China. A second forestry college deans meeting is scheduled for 11 November 2011 in association with Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2011.

19. FAO contributed towards the *Second International Conference on Agroforestry*, which was organized by the Southeast Asian Network for Agroforestry Education (SEANAFE) in Chiang Mai, Thailand, 15-17 December 2010. The conference was organized under the theme of *Mainstreaming agroforestry in the natural resources management and climate change adaptation programs in Southeast Asia*. The discussions at the conference served to: a) identify the potential contributions of agroforestry in climate change; and b) review policies to ensure the relevancy of agroforestry development and promotion initiatives in Southeast Asia.

20. FAO joined IUFRO/SPDC to organize a pre-IUFRO-Congress training workshop on *Working effectively at the interface of forest science and policy* in Seoul, Korea, in mid-August 2010. Over 30 participants, mainly from Asia, attended the course. Participants were exposed to key aspects of science-policy interactions for planning, conducting and organizing research activities so that the results can be more quickly and easily transformed into usable information for problem solving and policy making.

21. FAO supported a number of initiatives in the Pacific sub-region aimed at strengthening capacity at government level and developing forestry sector policies. These include:

(a) Development of a National Forest Policy for Tonga. In collaboration with GIZ-SPC, the policy was “climate-proofed” through subsequent complementary work.

(b) Formulation of Niue Forestry Legislation. This key legislation is currently being reviewed by the Niue State Law Office to ensure consistency with the Environment Act and other bodies of law before its passage through Parliament for enactment.

(c) An Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) of Eua Forestry Plantation in Tonga.

(d) Support in promoting good forest governance and raising awareness in local communities over impacts of illegal logging in Papua New Guinea. This assistance was given through the FAO-ACP-EU Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Programme.

(e) Development of legislation to govern and secure the *Planted tree and forest resources* initiative in Vanuatu. This assistance was provided through the FAO-ACP-EU Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Programme.

(f) Revision and development of new Forestry Legislation for Tonga. This assistance was also provided through the FAO-ACP-EU Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Programme.

(g) Building and strengthening capacities of countries to better understand issues affecting trade and marketing of forest products. FAO/SAP conducted WTO Round Table Meetings in collaboration with the New Zealand Government and other donor partners.

(h) Support to Solomon Islands Ministry of Environment and Office of Climate Change in bringing about greater awareness on the importance of good forest governance and initiating preparatory work for REDD+ readiness.

## ***II. Activities designed to promote improvement in forest management for multiple benefits***

22. In June 2011, the Forest Management Bureau of the Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources was recognized with the prestigious Edouard Saouma Award for Excellence for outstanding achievements in forest restoration implementing the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project on assisted natural regeneration (ANR) over the previous three years. Building on the successes of the project in the Philippines, a new FAO-supported regional project on *Applying assisted natural regeneration (ANR) for restoring forest ecosystem services in Southeast Asia* is now operational. The regional inception workshop for the project was organized 18-20 April 2011, in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The practical, field-oriented project is working at model sites in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR and Thailand to demonstrate effective low-cost natural regeneration approaches for restoring forest landscapes. The aim is to contribute to the further recognition of ANR as a less expensive alternative to conventional reforestation and demonstrate how to apply ANR successfully to enhance biodiversity and to restore ecological functions in different regions of Southeast Asia. In addition, project officers will develop best practices case studies and policy briefs to support further expansion and mainstreaming of ANR within national forestry policies.

23. The *Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN)* is a cooperative alliance of the 33 member countries of APFC that works to reduce the threats and costs posed by invasive species to the sustainable management of forests in the Asia-Pacific region. It was established in 2004, and, since its inception, APFISN has increased knowledge and awareness of the threats to forests posed by various invasive species, and how to address them. APFISN coordination support is provided by the Kerala Forest Research Institute. The network's inter-country core operation helps to detect, monitor and control prevailing forest invasive species in the region. The network website and regular dissemination of a series of *Pest fact sheets* and the APFISN newsletter *Invasives* are central tools for information dissemination and networking.

24. A workshop on *Pathways of biological invasion into forests* was convened in association with the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the APFC in Thimphu, Bhutan, in June 2010. In conjunction with Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2011, APFISN will organize a 4-day workshop on *Forest Health Technology and Phytosanitary Standards*.

25. With funds from its Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), FAO supported a project in Lao PDR on *Sustainable insect farming and harvesting for better nutrition, improved food security, and household income generation*. The project was launched with an inaugural workshop in Vientiane on 16 September 2010, where goals and methodologies were clarified. The project seeks to gather existing knowledge, highlight opportunities for improving food security and income generation, and improve marketing channels related to edible insects in the country.

26. In Thailand, a TCP-funded project on *Participation of tree plantation farmers in sustainable forest management* commenced in late 2009. The project strives to diversify livelihoods, improve environmental sustainability and increase the domestically available wood

supply by creating enabling environments for planting, harvesting, and processing long-rotation tree species.

27. In Cambodia, a Spanish-funded project on *Enhancing community-based forestry management and utilization for the improvement of rural livelihoods* commenced in the second half of 2010. The project will build on previously completed work on community-based natural resource management and formulation of policy and legislation. The project is expected to enhance the capacity of the Forest Administration to provide improved services to user groups, and to bring about commercial and livelihood activities using the natural resource base. An inception workshop was held 1-2 February 2011 to inform a broad group of stakeholders of the project's specific objectives, activities and expected outputs.

28. In Vietnam, FAO assists the government in improving the quality and scope of forestry information, including generation of data on parameters that will be required under REDD+, with particular emphasis on monitoring the dynamics of change in land use and surveying tree resources outside forests. This Finland-funded project, *Support to national assessment and long-term monitoring of the forest and tree resources in Viet Nam*, also plans to enhance the capacity of the Forest Inventory and Planning Institute (FIPI) and Vietnam Forestry Administration under MARD and to introduce new and appropriate technologies.

29. With support from the National Forest Programme Facility, FAO is launching the Kids-to-Forests initiative to enhance the awareness of students of the multiple benefits of forests and build awareness for sustainable management and utilization. A range of activities are now unfolding in six countries, with plans for sharing experiences at a workshop during Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2011. Funding for a next phase of this initiative is being sought.

30. FAO and the APFC are seeking opportunities to more actively engage in biodiversity aspects of forestry. FAO collaborates closely with the ADB-coordinated Core Environment Program and Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative (CEP-BCI). At the *Fifth semi-annual meeting of the Greater Mekong Subregion Working Group on Environment*, convened 29-30 November 2010 in Ho Chi Minh City, a CEP-BCI program for the period 2012-2016 was considered. Initial proposals for the program include a conceptual framework for a Greater Mekong Forest Initiative.

31. APFC promotes the adoption and effective implementation of national codes of practice for forest harvesting and reduced impact logging (RIL) through various training and awareness-raising activities. An Australia-funded project entitled *Promoting sustainable forest management by developing effective systems of forest planning, monitoring and control in Papua New Guinea* aims to review the existing regulatory system of the Logging Code of Practice, clarify roles and responsibilities, and improve standards and guidelines. The project will run for a period of two years.

32. A new publication by FAO and RECOFTC, entitled *The role of forests and forestry in the prevention of landslides and rehabilitation of landslide-affected areas in Asia*, looks at the role of trees and forests in the prevention and rehabilitation of landslide-affected areas in Asia. The report provides information for policy makers in the context of safeguarding lives and protecting environmental and economic assets in times of rapid development and predicted changes in rainfall and climate in the region.

33. Sustainable management of tree and forest resources continues to feature strongly in development agendas of large, medium and small island countries in the Pacific. In the large island countries, a firm shift towards developing and establishing better policies and legal framework for sustainable development of forest resources, as well creating conducive environments for investment is being strongly pursued. In medium and small island countries,

especially where tree and forests have been heavily exploited, actions are now focused on expanding tree resources and protection of existing forests.

34. A project in Kiribati aims to support sustainable utilization of senile coconut palms. This project aims to build technical capacities, provide equipment for milling, create employment and generate income to support livelihoods.

35. FAO has assisted in mapping, reporting and updating of forestry resource maps in Vanuatu using satellite imagery. This has been carried out through the Regional Monitoring and Reporting on Sustainable Forest Management Project (MAR-SFM).

36. In collaboration with local communities and fishery agencies, FAO is involved in a project that supports coastal protection work (tree planting) in Marshall Islands to protect fisheries resources.

37. The newsletter *APANews* is compiled and published regularly. Each issue contains a mix of technical notes, research results, project experience and other information of relevance to agroforestry extensionists and practitioners in the region.

### ***III. Activities designed to foster greater involvement of people in forestry***

38. As a founding partner in the *Mangroves for the future* (MFF) initiative, FAO supports coastal restoration and conservation activities alongside livelihood aspects in coastal ecosystems of India, Indonesia, Maldives, Pakistan, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Thailand. The *Eighth Regional Steering Committee meeting* is to be held in the Maldives, 24-26 October 2011.

39. Coastal management activities are also being supported in Myanmar by the *Sustainable community-based mangrove management in Wunbaik forest reserve project*, funded by FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme. The 2-year project was initiated in 2009 and aims to establish a locally relevant management model combining livelihood development with sustainable resource conservation and management in mangrove forests along the Rakhine coast. A final project workshop is scheduled to be held in Yangon, Myanmar in December 2011.

40. RECOFTC, Japan International Cooperation Agency, the ASEAN Social Forestry Network, the Royal Forest Department of Thailand and FAO jointly convened the *Second Regional Forum for Forestry and People* in Bangkok, Thailand, 8-9 August 2011. The theme of this year's forum was *Community forestry: key to solving current and emerging challenges* and the conference assembled more than 200 participants from 25 countries. The event culminated in a *Call for Action* that was widely circulated throughout the region.

41. To help facilitate the involvement of local forest-dependent people in climate change initiatives, the project *Linking communities in Southeast Asia to forestry-related voluntary carbon markets* was established under FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). The project convened its *First regional workshop* in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in September 2010. FAO is also working with Thailand to assess the potential to sell voluntary emission reduction credits to existing voluntary carbon markets and to develop a model for the nascent voluntary carbon market for the forestry sector in project countries. The next regional workshop for this project will be convened in Indonesia in October 2011.

42. The Netherlands-funded *Capacity building and institutional development for participatory natural resources management and conservation in forest areas project* in Mongolia is foreseen to be completed in January 2012. The project is pioneering participatory forest management in Mongolia through forest user groups at the field level.

43. Similar approaches are being supported in the Philippines through the New Zealand-funded *Enhancing natural resources management through enterprise development project*. The 3-year project aims to foster linkages and networks between stakeholders and improve the capacity for community-based forest management and associated development of rural enterprises. Recently the focus has been on documenting lessons learned and strengthening sustainability aspects at the pilot enterprises. The project is now in its final stage and will close at the end of December 2011.

44. The Finland-funded project *Technical assistance for leasehold forestry and livestock development programme* is now operational in Nepal. The project comprises several objectives, the main one being to institutionalize leasehold forestry as a regular activity throughout the country for improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent poor, while simultaneously conserving natural resources. It builds on experiences derived from a smaller FAO-project on the same topic that was concluded in 2009.

45. In Vietnam, the Italian-funded *Market-oriented agroforestry to reduce poverty in Quang Nam province* project will be extended for another year, until the end of 2012. The project focuses on strengthening market linkages for agroforestry and exploring the use of innovative micro-finance mechanisms.

46. FAO is one of the implementing agencies in the *UN joint programme on integrated highland livelihood development in Mae Hong Son province* in the north of Thailand. The forestry component of the project focuses largely on assessing, documenting and demonstrating sustainable practices of natural resource management through community participation for improvement of livelihoods of rural communities. This programme is expected to run until 2013.

47. Under the Global Environment Facility's Pacific Alliance for Sustainability, the *Forestry conservation and protected area management project* is being initiated in Fiji, Niue, Samoa and Vanuatu. The project became operational in July 2011, and countries are now organizing inception/planning workshops. Key objectives of the project are to establish new protected areas, build technical capacities, develop sustainable financial mechanisms and identify products and services for sustainable income generation.

### FAO GLOBAL INITIATIVES

48. The Global Forest Resource Assessment Programme 2010 (FRA 2010) is the most comprehensive assessment of forests and forestry to date – both in terms of scope and the number of countries involved. It presents information from 233 countries along 90 variables. The main report was released in October 2010. After the release of the FRA 2010 main report, the FRA team is working with key partners and member countries to develop a long-term strategy for future FRA implementation. As part of FRA 2010, FAO has also carried out a Remote Sensing Survey (RSS) in collaboration with the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC) and South Dakota State University, USA. This survey will substantially improve the knowledge on land-use change dynamics over time, including deforestation, afforestation and natural expansion of forests. The remote sensing survey is expected to be completed by the end of 2011.

49. In collaboration with FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), the National Forest Monitoring and Assessment (NFMA) and other programmes, the Japan-funded *Strengthening monitoring, assessment and reporting (MAR) on sustainable forest management (SFM) in Asia project* examined issues related to forest monitoring, assessment and reporting. The project has now ended, but in the course of its 5-year implementation period numerous reports from countries and sub-regional organizations in the region were produced and distributed. In September 2010, a *Regional workshop on development of effective tools for management of forest information for sustainable forest management* was convened in Bangkok, Thailand, in collaboration with the Asian Institute of Technology. In October 2010, the *Regional workshop on updated forest and*

*carbon monitoring technologies in Asia and the Pacific* was held to provide information on updated forest and carbon monitoring systems. A technical synthesis report, summarizing the work and key outputs of the project was published by FAO in May 2011.

50. The National Forest Programme Facility (NFP Facility) supports the implementation, at country-level, of an internationally agreed national forest programme framework for sustainable forest management. Over a ten-year period from 2002–2012, the NFP Facility has established partnerships with 70 countries and two regional organizations globally, of which 14 partnerships are in Asia and the Pacific. The NFP Facility particularly stresses the importance of effective involvement of multi-stakeholders from government, community-based organizations, indigenous peoples' groups, and the private sector. In addition to activities at the country level, the NFP Facility and FAO have organized activities at regional level to enhance national capacities in implementing NFPs through introduction of FAO training modules. A recent evaluation of the NFP Facility highlighted a need to build its capability to support smallholders, community forestry groups, indigenous peoples' organizations and other marginalized groups in order to increase their participation in national-level policy dialogues. This provides a good base for programming the NFP Facility's next phase with a focus on smallholders, communities and indigenous peoples.

51. FAO's Forests and Climate Change programme works to assist member countries in strengthening their capacities on climate change adaptation and mitigation. It also contributes to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) with technical inputs on issues related to forests. It provides information and awareness-raising through publications, a website, the monthly list-server "CLIM-FO-L", presentations and seminars. The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD) programme (funded at \$160 million in the middle of 2011) provides financial and technical support for selected countries with the aim of institutional strengthening and capacity development necessary for REDD+ readiness. UN-REDD was launched in the middle of 2008 with FAO, UNDP and UNEP as implementing agencies.

52. By 30 June 2011, the UN-REDD Programme had 12 partner countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Six of these have had funding requests to support their National Programmes approved by the Policy Board: Cambodia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon Islands and Viet Nam. Significant progress towards completing the REDD+ readiness phase has been achieved by Viet Nam in completing its MRV framework, carrying out extensive capacity building activities and piloting free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) processes, and by Indonesia in developing a National REDD Strategy and an FPIC policy recommendation.

53. FAO's Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) has requested a *State of the world's forests genetic resources* report be prepared and presented to the Commission in 2013. The six regional forestry commissions (including APFC) and the Committee on Forestry (COFO) are involved in the preparation of the report, in collaboration with various other partners. The topic was presented as an information item at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of APFC. As part of the information gathering process the *Pacific regional workshop on the preparation of the country report for the State of the World's forest genetic resources* was held Nadi, Fiji, 19-21 January 2011. This was followed by a similar workshop for Asia in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 7-9 March the same year.

54. With support from the Government of Japan, FAO is supporting the implementation of a global project on Strengthening national reporting in support of the implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (NLBI). A workshop was organized by FAO and the UNFF Secretariat, 10-12 October 2011, in Bangkok, Thailand, for representatives from 13 Asia-Pacific countries to enhance implementation of the NLBI and related reporting.

55. FAO's flagship forestry publication *State of the World's Forests* reports every two years on the status of global forests and current issues of importance. The report provides current, reliable

and policy-relevant information widely available to facilitate informed discussion and decision-making with regard to the world's forests. The ninth edition of the publication was released in 2011 and focused on: a) regional trends on forest resources; b) the development of sustainable forest industries; c) climate change adaptation and mitigation; and d) the local value of forests.

## ANNEX 1 – RECENT RAP FORESTRY PUBLICATIONS

(since 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of APFC in Bhutan)

- *Forests and forestry in the Greater Mekong Subregion to 2020*  
(RAP Publication 2011/04)
- *Pacific forests and forestry to 2020*  
(RAP Publication 2011/01)
- *Southeast Asian forests and forestry to 2020*  
(RAP Publication 2010/20)
- *Growing green assets: Removing constraints to private sector investment in forestry in Asia and the Pacific*  
(RAP Publication 2010/18)
- *East Asian forests and forestry to 2020*  
(RAP Publication 2010/15)
- *Forest policies, legislation and institutions in Asia and the Pacific: Trends and emerging needs for 2020*  
(RAP Publication 2010/10)
- *Report of the twenty-third session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC)*  
(RAP Publication 2010/09)
- *Asia Pacific forests and forestry to 2020*  
(RAP Publication 2010/08)
- *Forest law enforcement and governance: Progress in Asia and the Pacific*  
(RAP Publication 2010/05)

Newsletters

- *Tigerpaper/Forest News*
- *APANews – Asia-Pacific Agroforestry Newsletter*
- *INVASIVES – Newsletter of the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network*
- *Teaknet Bulletin*

**ANNEX 2 – MEETINGS ORGANIZED OR CO-ORGANIZED BY FAO RAP FORESTRY TEAM SINCE THE 23<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF APFC**

Date	Title	Venue
19-20 July 2010	Technical meeting on “Making Asian forests work for people and nature”	Bangkok, Thailand
14 – 17 Sept	Regional workshop on development of forest information system	Bangkok, Thailand
20-22 Sept	Regional workshop on linking communities to forestry-related voluntary carbon markets	Chiang Mai, Thailand
14 Dec	Launch of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
16-17 Dec 2010	Expert consultation on innovative forestry financing mechanisms in the Asia-Pacific region	Bangkok, Thailand
12-14 Jan 2011	Seventh APFC Executive Committee Meeting and Partners Meeting	Hua Hin, Thailand
11 Feb	Promoting climate friendly bioenergy and food security in the Greater Mekong Sub-region	Bangkok, Thailand
16-18 Feb	Strategic planning for South Asian forestry	Thimphu, Bhutan
21 Feb	Post COP-16 consultation on implications of Cancun for forestry	Chiang Mai, Thailand
8-9 March	Regional workshop on strategic planning in forestry and poverty alleviation	Chiang Mai, Thailand
18-20 April	Regional workshop on assisted natural regeneration	Chiang Mai, Thailand
17-27 May	Fifth Forest Policy Short Course	Beijing, China
2 June	Renewable Energy Asia 2011	Bangkok, Thailand
21-22 July	Voluntary carbon markets: opportunity for local communities and for the private sector in Thailand” – National workshop of TCP/RAS/3210	Bangkok, Thailand
8-9 Aug	Second Regional Forum on People and Forests: Community forestry – key to solving current and emerging challenges	Bangkok, Thailand
31 Aug – 3 Sep	International . training program “Innovations in the Management of Planted Teak Forests”	Peechi, India
17-20 Oct	Regional workshop on voluntary carbon markets in forestry	Badar Aceh, Indonesia
19-22 Oct	International symposium on the “art and joy of working with wood”	Bangalore, India
26-27 Oct	Workshop on Forests and Climate Change Adaptation in Asia	Bangkok, Thailand
7-11 Nov 2011	Second Asia-Pacific Forestry Week and 24th Session of APFC	Beijing, China

## ANNEX 3 – RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE 23<sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY COMMISSION

### **For the attention of Governments and FAO**

The Commission recommended:

- assisting in developing and implementing efficient and practical forest monitoring and assessment mechanisms, assisting in accessing available technologies, and building capacities for utilizing such systems;
- making full use of the wealth of information and analysis that has been generated by the APFSOS, by integrating it into national strategic planning, national forest programme processes, and forest policy formulation;
- enhancing participation of foresters in multilateral biodiversity dialogues and strengthening international arrangements, including due attention to financing and international assistance, as a means of facilitating action at national levels;
- collaborating with other international partners, to assist countries in identifying and studying key problems of regional significance related to biodiversity conservation, determine strategic priorities and supporting implementation of recommendations;
- sharing experiences and advising on efforts to enhance biodiversity conservation, including opportunities to capitalise on bioprospecting;
- in collaboration with other international organizations and partners, providing assistance to build capacities to fight illegal logging and other forest crimes, and helping countries secure financial resources for effective FLEG implementation;
- adherence to the true spirit of the Bali Action Plan by inclusion of the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of carbon stocks in REDD-plus mechanisms;
- assisting member countries in developing viable strategies for attracting increased investment in forestry, including formulating national strategic plans for financing that address constraints, establish priorities, and facilitate the involvement of other related sectors;
- maintaining the strong level of activity and collaboration of the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN);
- continuing efforts in establish a regional support network for forestry education, and supporting forestry-related education of youth, university students and forestry practitioners.

### **For the attention of FAO**

The Commission recommended:

- taking a leading role in supporting technical aspects of REDD-plus in collaboration with UNEP and UNDP;
- developing methodologies to include evaluation of environmental services into national forest resources assessments for countries that might wish to include these in their national assessments;
- completing and publishing planned country reports, thematic studies, policy briefs and sub-regional outlook study reports;
- in collaboration with partner organizations, supporting sub-regional workshops on strategic planning in forestry and further scenario development;
- in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other partners, providing advice and tools to assess forest degradation, forest fragmentation and

related biodiversity loss and further addressing the harmonizing of forest-related definitions through the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

- collaborating with other international organizations and partners to facilitate additional regional dialogue on FLEG to discuss shared concerns, identifying best practices in FLEG implementation, and establishing mechanisms for cooperation;
- providing continued support for fundamental issues surrounding climate change and sustainable forest management, including capacity building, sharing of information and experience, partnership building, and facilitating the exchange of technologies and best practices;
- continuing support for policy-related work under the APFC-initiated Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank;
- continuing active engagement as a partner of the Mangroves for the Future Initiative and providing targeted project support for mangrove and coastal resources management;
- facilitating and supporting capacity-building in priority technical, management and policy-related areas needed to make further progress towards sustainable forest management;
- assisting forestry agencies in reviewing structures, policies and functions to better align with the new demands and expectations being placed on forests and forestry;
- carefully monitoring and evaluating activities to ensure effectiveness and increase efficiency of future delivery;
- reporting more extensively on APFC and FAO-supported activities in the Pacific at future sessions;
- in collaboration with member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, developing joint communication materials to convey key messages relating to forests during the International Year of Forests.