



ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY WEEK

Beijing, China
7 - 11 November 2011

New challenges New opportunities

A summary of events of
Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2011



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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Bangkok, 2012

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Asia-Pacific Forestry Week (APFW) 2011 was made possible through the generous support provided by a wide range of partners and contributors who together shape the vibrant and changing landscape that characterizes Asia-Pacific forestry. With more than 40 partner events taking place throughout the week, the energy and enthusiasm provided by a wide range of partners, collaborators, sponsors and resource people ensured the success of APFW 2011. FAO wishes to express its gratitude to the 75 organizations that accepted the opportunity to support and be involved in APFW 2011 and the 24th session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission. Although the individuals contributing to the success of APFW are too numerous to list it is hoped that this publication does justice to their efforts in capturing the activities and outcomes of the events held by partner organizations during the week.

Particular gratitude is expressed to the Government of the People's Republic of China and the State Forestry Administration (SFA) as hosts and to the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management (APFNet) for spearheading the organization and arranging the logistics of the event.

Many thanks to the following organizations for their support in holding partner events:

- Aravali Foundation for Education
- ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN)
- ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (WEN)
- Asia Forest Network (AFN)
- Asia Forest Partnership (AFP)
- Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)
- Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources (ANSAB)
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Asia-Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI)
- Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN)
- Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC)
- Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)
- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- Beijing Forestry University
- Bioversity International
- Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
- Center for Science and Technology Development, State Forestry Administration (SFA)
- Center for Urban Green Spaces
- Certification Management Office, Technology Development Center, State Forestry Administration (SFA)
- China Green Carbon Foundation
- China National Forestry Industry Federation (CNFIF)
- China National Forestry Product Industry Association
- China Wood and Wood Products Distribution Association
- Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF)
- Climate Change Commission (CCC), Philippines
- CoDe REDD-Philippines
- Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Forest Management Bureau (DENR-FMB), Philippines
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA)
- EU-FLEGT Asian Programme
- European Forestry Institute (EFI)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
- Forest Action Nepal
- Global Witness
- Greater Mekong Subregion Core Environment Program and Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative (CEP-BCI)
- Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE)
- Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM)
- Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
- International Centre for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR)
- International Partnership for Forestry Education (IPFE)
- International Teak Information Network (TEAKNET)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Kerala Forest Research Institute
- Korea Forest Research Institute
- Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests (LEAF)
- National Bureau to Combat Desertification, State Forestry Administration China (SFA)
- National Forest Programme Facility (NFP Facility)
- Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) China Office
- Putra University of Malaysia
- RECOFTC - The Center for People and Forests
- Renmin University of China
- Research Center for Eco-environment Science (CAS)
- Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade (RAFT)
- School of Environmental Management, GGS Indraprastha University
- Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
- Seoul National University
- State Forestry Administration of China (SFA)
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
- The Global Network for Forest Science Cooperation (IUFRO)
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- The Treadmill Group
- Transparency International, Malaysia
- United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service
- University of British Columbia
- University of Melbourne
- USDA Forest Service
- World Bank
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS



'Fly in the Sky', Asep Ayat, Indonesia



'Slash and Burn', Rebeca Sandoval, Cambodia

FOREWORD

Much of the impetus for hosting a second regional forestry week in Beijing, China was derived from the success of the first Asia-Pacific Forestry Week, held in Viet Nam in April 2008. The previous experience of organizing such a large event left no doubts about the challenges involved, but also reinforced the opportunities – particularly to engage and involve more participants and more organizations than the first time.

Whilst the goal was to build on the success of the initial forestry week by expanding and diversifying further we were delighted with the enthusiasm that APFW 2011 engendered. Representing all dimensions of forestry, more than 1 000 participants from governments, non-government organizations, research institutions, regional and international networks, UN agencies, universities and colleges attended the meeting. Seventy-five organizations were involved in the week, the majority supporting one or more of the 40 partner events that covered topics as diverse as governance, forest nutrition and communications through to REDD+, forest regeneration, forest modeling and empowerment and human rights in forestry.

Significant amounts of time and energy went into making APFW 2011 a dynamic, interactive and participatory event. For the first time, a specific space, ‘the Culture and Networking Room’, also known as the ‘CANopy’ room, was created for informal networking and learning. The room provided displays of forestry art, photo exhibitions, short films, essay and photo competition entries and a children’s drawing competition. Forestry film night further complemented these activities by showcasing high quality films on topics including forest conservation, forest regeneration and community forestry. The SFA and APFNet graciously accepted requests to support these activities and their logistical assistance made them possible.

In addition to these formal and informal activities, the Champions of Asia-Pacific Forestry award was launched and a student job fair was held to encourage the younger generation to seek and find careers in the ever-expanding forestry world.

Asia-Pacific Forestry Week: New challenges – new opportunities. A summary of events of the second Asia-Pacific Forestry Week provides a synthesis of discussions held during the event. As so many activities took place simultaneously during the week, it is hoped that the report will allow APFW 2011 participants to learn more about parallel sessions they were unable to attend, and for those who missed APFW 2011, the report provides useful information about the new opportunities and challenges that were discussed.



Hiroyuki Konuma
Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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Mr Zia Zhibang, Minister, State Forestry Administration China (SFA)



Ms Shalini Rajakaruna, Essay Competition Winner, Sri Lanka

INTRODUCTION

In conjunction with the 24th session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC), Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2011 provided a forum for participants to consider, discuss and debate the most pressing issues facing the region's forestry sector. In a world struggling to attain food security while facing the threats of climate change and environmental degradation wrought by expanding individual consumption and a population that has recently expanded beyond 7 billion, never before has it been so important to address basic forest management challenges.

The theme of APFW 2011 was taking stock of existing challenges while exploring new developments and possibilities in an effort to improve management of forest resources in the Asia-Pacific region and taking full account of the social, economic, cultural and environmental dimensions of forestry.

The week was centred around three morning plenary sessions which explored the following areas:

- Governance: Addressing impacts on forests, lessons learned and strategies for the future;
- Communications: Exploring ways to better communicate forestry messages; and
- The future for forestry: Identifying future trends and opportunities.

These sessions reiterated that whilst there is an ever-present challenge to balance social, economic and environmental needs there is also a tremendous and long-held desire to reconcile tensions between environmental conservation and economic growth. This desire was revisited many times over the course of the week by representatives from government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), research institutions, regional and international networks, UN agencies, the private sector, universities and colleges – all of them willing to share their experiences, ideas and knowledge in efforts to support forestry in maintaining a central role in the region's rapid development.

To complement these plenary events, each afternoon overlapping partner events were held on a huge variety of topics. These events were open to all participants to attend.

The 24th session of APFC ran parallel to APFW partner event activities on the afternoons of Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Delegations from 29 member countries attended the APFC session.

During lunchtime breaks and evenings a number of informal networking and happy hour events were held in the Culture and Networking Room on topics including governance, the private sector's role in forestry and the work of Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade (RAFT). These events also provided opportunities for participants to network and socialize. The forestry film night and other innovative communication mediums used throughout the week – including a sand artist, a student job fair and informal networking sessions – were designed to bring people together to view and discuss forestry-related topics in unique ways.

A highlight of the week was seeing so many young people from across the region networking and discussing forestry-related topics with enthusiasm and passion. We trust that participants left APFW 2011 with new networks, connections and renewed vigour to continue to work towards sustainable forest management in the region. We hope this publication assists in helping to make sustainable forest management a regional reality.



Philippines participants included Ms Janet Martires, Ms Gwendolyn Bambalan, Ms Remedios Evangelista, Ms Mayumi Quintos Natividad



Mr Jerker Thunberg (FAO) presenting at the partner event on Transition to SFM and Rehabilitation in the Asia-Pacific Region

OPENING ADDRESSES

Eduardo Rojas-Briales

**Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the second Asia-Pacific Forestry Week. The week is your key opportunity as members of the forest community to set regional priorities for FAO's forestry work for the coming biennium and discuss important themes affecting the region. This week builds on the success of the first Asia-Pacific Forestry Week, held in Viet Nam in April 2008. Much of the original concept for regional forestry weeks was pioneered then, and because of its great success, the format has been replicated in other regions. We now see the success of these events turning full circle, back to this week, in Beijing, China.

This would not have been possible without the extensive and helpful cooperation of the Government of the People's Republic of China, particularly the State Forestry Administration, as well as the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management. I know that your immense efforts to prepare this event will ensure its success for the region.

I would also like to thank the numerous organizational partners who have come together to arrange activities for APFW 2011, provided support and resources, and contributed to making this a notable event and one that will impact the forest community in the coming biennium.

The theme of Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2011 is 'New challenges – new opportunities'. This theme encapsulates the dichotomous state of our world today, a world on the brink of another financial crisis, a world struggling to address the challenge of providing global food security and one that is coming to grips with climate change and environmental degradation as the global population passes the 7 billion mark.

Despite high population density, the Asia-Pacific region has been able to reverse deforestation trends and showed positive gains in the forestry sector over the last ten years, thanks to successful mitigation of deforestation, impressive afforestation programmes and natural expansion of forests. No other region of the world has ever shown such a dramatic positive change in such a short period of time.

Many lessons can be drawn from this experience: first, these lessons must be shared with other countries in the region that lag behind in reversing deforestation. These lessons could also be spread to Latin America and Africa, where progress in halting deforestation is still slow. Economic development, green urbanization and political will have all been essential to contributing to the Asia-Pacific region's positive experiences in reversing deforestation. China has taken the lead in this process, working in cooperation with a number of its partner countries in the region.

The region is gathering impressive experiences in forest restoration that are worthy of broader dissemination. However, these restoration efforts will only be sustained if forest management is implemented effectively and successfully addresses the threats of thinning, forest fires and forest pests in a changing climate.

In recent international debates on forests, many forest ecosystems and issues have not received equal attention. For instance, semi-natural forests are frequently ignored even though they account for more than 60 percent of the world's forests. Most forests in the Asia-Pacific region are semi-natural and excellent initiatives such as the Satoyama Initiative can help provide examples of how these types of forests can thrive when given adequate care and attention.

Beyond whole ecosystems, forest, soil and water will receive increasing attention in the coming years. Water scarcity is expected to rise due to climate change. Yet, insufficient attention has been given to dryland forests in comparison to other forest types. The interaction between forests and water in quantitative and qualitative terms will need further attention in the coming years, especially in a densely-populated, mountainous region such as Asia and the Pacific.

However, the future is not all doom and gloom for the forestry community and sector. Out of the challenges come many new opportunities, new ways of thinking, new ways of working, new ways of doing business, new products, new technologies and new markets.

For instance, the critical challenge of climate change has provided opportunities for the forest community. We see carbon as a new forest product and new markets have emerged in which carbon can be sold. New funding streams to improve forest management by reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation schemes have emerged, which could provide potential new income streams, opportunities for conservation and protection, the creation of jobs and improved revenues and livelihoods for forest-dependent people.

Additionally, emerging economies will raise energy prices and at the same time more pressure to reduce carbon emissions will lead to increased substitution of fossil fuel sources. As a result, biomass from agriculture, forests and waste will gain increasing attention. Building materials will also be affected. Conventional concrete buildings are considered high-risk areas in earthquake-affected zones and have a high environmental impact, but lower-risk building construction could be achieved through the increased use of wood or bamboo. In the run-up to the Rio+20 debates, the forestry sector can make a significant contribution in moving towards a green economy and promoting green growth, including national use of emerging and innovative industrial processes as well as developments such as biorefineries.

For the forestry sector, the principal challenge is to understand the forces that are shaping the world and anticipate the resultant opportunities that will emerge. What will be the impacts of changing demographics? How will the economic landscape change? What social and ecological pressures will come to the fore? How do we need to adapt our policies and institutions to best confront these challenges? How can technology help us?

The programme for the week centres around three dynamic plenary sessions that will address such issues confronting forestry in the region:

- i. *The governance challenge:* Impacts on forests, lessons learned and strategies for the future will lay out key governance challenges, highlight the successes and set the foundation for active and engaging dialogue with participants.
- ii. *New media – new messages:* Forestry communications in Asia and the Pacific will highlight ways to better convey forestry messages to the rest of the world and showcase cutting edge examples of forestry communications. A meeting of forest communicators from the region will follow to consolidate a network for the Asia and Pacific region on this important topic.
- iii. *Journey to 2020:* The future for forestry in Asia and the Pacific will help us chart how key forestry trends will unfold and identify opportunities for the upcoming decade.

You may also wish to use the Heads of Forestry dialogue ‘Forestry’s role in the green economy’, which takes place on Thursday afternoon, to further explore new opportunities for the forestry sector and take into account outcomes of the European Forestry Commission discussions on this same topic less than a month ago.

All of these activities will be supported by many other inspiring events that collectively will constitute an outstanding Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2011.

In FAO, as in other organizations, we are working to adapt to rapid change, to evolve into a twenty-first century organization – one that is more flexible, collaborative and responsive – and to reinvent ourselves in ways that enable us to successfully confront new challenges.

As the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal takes effect, this meeting is an important part of showing how regional forestry commissions are key statutory bodies for FAO and link to its core work. These sessions allow us to incorporate the views, perspectives and proposals from the heads of the national forest services from a regional viewpoint by first prioritizing FAO's engagement in the region in forestry, and second to identify the priorities of FAO on a global scale. Regional conferences, as well as the Committee on Forestry, profit considerably from the strategic work done by the Regional Forestry Commissions. In the absence of these commissions, a comprehensive regional perspective that includes forestry as part of its priorities would not be sufficiently taken into account.

At the heart of change in FAO is the recognition that knowledge is essential for sound decision-making. FAO has committed to being a knowledge organization, serving as a knowledge network and bringing new knowledge to the field. To ensure this outcome and build FAO's ability to deliver relevant and timely information, FAO forestry officers would benefit from the establishment of an Advisory Panel on Forest Knowledge to promote education and knowledge initiatives on forests worldwide.

As you know, this session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission also provides a critical opportunity to shape FAO's programme of work for the next biennium and beyond. When deciding on your priorities for the coming biennium, I invite you to consider the outcomes and recommendations of the recently concluded European Forestry Commission in Antalya, Turkey. This will help the commissions in other regions when they meet in 2012 (Africa, Near East, Latin America and North America), forming a comprehensive picture of the discussions taking place around the world and a consistent view of our priorities at the global level.

I would like to applaud you all again for your helpful efforts in making this event possible and am pleased to see the enormous attendance. It is clear that the many participants are a reflection of how the region has successfully mobilized support for the Regional Forestry Commissions and embraced the concept of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week.

I wish you the best in concluding your work this week and look forward to our discussions together.

Seize opportunities, embrace challenges and advance sustainable forestry development in Asia and the Pacific

Jia Zhibang, Minister

State Forestry Administration, China

Today, as fellow foresters and colleagues from Asia-Pacific countries and forestry-related international organizations, we are gathered here to attend the second Asia-Pacific Forestry Week and the 24th session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission, to conduct in-depth discussions on the theme of 'New challenges - new opportunities' and to deliberate on how to advance sustainable forestry development in the region. Hereby, on behalf of the State Forestry Administration, I would like to extend my warm congratulations on the opening of the event and my warm welcome to all of the delegates.

Forestry has economic, ecological, cultural and social functions. *Vis-à-vis* rapid socio-economic development and escalating ecological problems, the role of forestry has been underscored in the overall socio-economic development scenario. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992 was a watershed in the attention attached to forestry globally. In the new century, besides daunting challenges like global climate change, ecological crises, energy security, food security and major natural disasters, promoting green growth and sustainable development are yet to be sufficiently addressed. The understanding of and demand for forestry have also undergone significant changes. To leverage multiple functions of forestry has become the trend and common course that most countries opt for. This has brought new opportunities for forestry development and presented new demands to forestry.

The Asia-Pacific region is an area with the most dynamic potential for development in the world. Its economic volume occupies over half of the world total and it has an important role to play in the global economy. Meanwhile, this region boasts the richest and most unique forest ecosystem, with 53 percent of the global forest area. Recent years have witnessed the robust development of forestry in the region and the continuous growth of forest area, which has become a major force in reversing the trend in global forest resource reduction. In the new era, every country should keep in mind the importance of forestry in socio-economic development. This is a time to seize critical opportunities, renew the understanding and position of forestry, expand and adjust forest management objectives, develop new forestry industry, further improve forest resource management and use policies, better manipulate the multiple roles of forestry in economic, ecological and social spheres, and together address and conquer the common challenges facing forestry development.

China is a populous country with a frail ecology. The Chinese Government attaches great importance to forestry development in overall socio-economic development. It has mandated the SFA to develop and protect forest ecosystems, manage and restore wetland ecosystems, treat and improve desert ecosystems and safeguard and develop biodiversity. It is clear that forestry is crucial in promoting sustainable development, has top priority in ecological development and is fundamental in addressing climate change. The government has increased investment in forestry development, encouraged institutional innovation, established technical support systems and promoted forestry reform and development.

We have tapped and leveraged the ecological functions of forestry. Some major ecological projects have been launched nationwide, such as the Grain for Green programme and the Natural Forest Protection Program; the national voluntary tree planting campaign has been implemented now for 30 years; prevention and control of desertification as well as wetland protection is ongoing; a national ecological security system composed of forests and grass vegetation is in place. Currently forest cover in China has reached 20.36 percent, forest stocking volume is up to 13.721 billion cubic metres and the forest area exceeds 196 million hectares, of which forest plantations constitute 61.68 million hectares, foremost in the world. The expansion of desertified land in China has slowed down from 3 436 square metres per year in the last century to 1 717

square metres per year. Approximately 2 035 forest nature reserves have been created, accounting for 12.9 percent of the national territory; they provide shelter for 90 percent of terrestrial ecosystems, 85 percent of the wild fauna, 65 percent of the high-end flora and 50 percent of the natural wetlands.

We have made full use of the economic functions of forestry. The collective forest tenure reform has been strengthened. Now, 168 million hectares of forests, that is 92 percent of the collective forests, have been contracted to households; 8 220 households have been given forest tenure certificates; altogether 400 million farmers have directly benefited from the reform, which has greatly motivated farmers in developing forestry. The direct output from forest land amounts to over 3 000 yuan per hectare; this has improved farmers' income and boosted forestry development. We strive to develop forestry industry and expand the scale of green economy. In 2010, the total national output value of forestry industry reached 2.28 trillion yuan and forestry trade value was US\$90 billion, which has facilitated the regional economy and the supply of forest products.

We have explored the function of forests as carbon reservoirs. The Forestry Action Plan to Address Climate Change has been implemented and efforts have been strengthened to expand forest area, improve forest resource quality, protect forest resources, reduce deforestation and forest degradation and enhance carbon sequestration of forests. Now, the total carbon sequestered by China's forest vegetation has already reached 7.8 billion tonnes, which is a significant contribution to addressing climate change. The Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet), proposed by China, has become a platform for forestry cooperation and combating climate change in the region. China is strengthening afforestation efforts and trying its best to achieve the goals of increasing forest area by 40 million hectares by 2020 compared with 2005, and increasing the forest stocking volume by 1.3 billion cubic metres by 2020 over 2005.

Forestry cooperation in the region is underscored by the Chinese Government. In September this year, China organized the First APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry in Beijing with the theme of Enhanced Regional Cooperation for Green Growth and Sustainable Forestry Development. Chinese President Hu Jintao delivered an important speech at the opening ceremony and elaborated the importance and functions of forest in green growth. He proposed to strengthen forestry development, bring into full play the multiple functions of forests and promote regional cooperation and expressed great expectations for regional forestry cooperation. The Chinese Government will continue to take measures to develop modern forestry, shape a stable and robust forestry ecosystem and expand forest industry as strong support for sustainable socio-economic development. We will adhere to the principles of mutual respect, equal cooperation and creating win-win scenarios, actively engage in and promote regional forestry interaction and cooperation, strengthen capacity building and support communication and information sharing in regional forestry to contribute to sustainable forestry development in the region.

Ecological impact respects no boundaries and poverty is indifferent to race. Countries in the Asia-Pacific region should seize opportunities and boost forestry communication and cooperation in the region, respect forestry development paths taken by countries according to respective national conditions, share practices in sustainable forestry development, learn from success stories, promote socio-economic development and realize prosperity and progress.

I sincerely hope that we can take advantage of this event to conduct in-depth discussion and interactions, and look forward to forestry cooperation towards 2020. The Chinese delegation will actively engage in various agenda items of the event, study the successful practices of other countries and share the development of China's forestry sector. Meanwhile, China will also hold a partner event introducing the new challenges and new opportunities facing China's forestry sector. All delegates are welcome to attend.

We gather in Beijing for a common wish and goal. In the following week, discussions will surround topics like strengthening forest governance and applying new media to strengthen forestry cooperation in the region. I believe, with the concerted effort of all the delegates, the APFW 2011 and APFC sessions are bound to build

up our friendship, promote communication, enhance cooperation and make a contribution to sustainable forestry development in the region. We will try our best to provide strong support for the smooth convening of the meeting and create favourable conditions for everyone.

Last but not least, I wish all delegates a pleasant stay here in Beijing. And I wish the second APFW and the APFC session great success. Thank you.

Opening speech

Jan L. McAlpine

Director, United Nations Forum on Forests

It is a pleasure and honour to be with you here at the China National Convention Centre in the fascinating city of Beijing to celebrate the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2011 and the International Year of Forests. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission for inviting the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat to be part of this event. I wish to congratulate the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission on their invaluable work in providing support to the countries of the region by developing regional guidelines for best forest management practices and by building capacity for the implementation of the guidelines at both national and local levels.

Today we are celebrating Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2011. It is particularly appropriate that this milestone coincides with the global celebration of the International Year of Forests, also known as Forests 2011. As many of you already know, Forests 2011 is truly a historic first for the United Nations. It is such a testament to the rising visibility of forests in the global policy debate that the UN General Assembly decided to declare an International Year to highlight the key role of forests in our lives.

We all recognize that agriculture and forests are critical for human life and poverty eradication. Sustainable agriculture and related food security are the keys to ensuring that the world will produce enough food to feed the nine billion people who will be on this planet by 2050. At the same time, many rural communities rely not only on subsistence agriculture, but on forests for their livelihoods, including for food, fuel, water and medicine as well as the cultural and spiritual values so fundamental to people in different countries. The forest is their natural garden. For instance, more than 80 percent of total energy consumption in many developing countries comes from fuelwood. All of these elements taken together reinforce the message that agriculture and forests are vital to the survival and well-being of all of us.

I would like to point out that agriculture and forests sustain and are interdependent on each other. While the world has recognized the need for forests' contribution to climate change, increasing pressure for food has resulted in unsustainable deforestation in some of the largest areas of forest cover in the world. It is therefore absolutely critical that agricultural land management and forest land management function in a far more integrated fashion. This requires a cross-sectoral approach which breaks down the institutional silos, facilitating a partnership between all government and private sector institutions across the physical landscape, including agriculture, forests, wetlands, mountains, dry lands, rivers, biodiversity and people. Simply put, a landscape approach brings together local communities, governments, the private sector and NGOs to identify socially, economically and environmentally ideal land use. It is intended to shift the emphasis away from simply maximizing only the environmental benefits to optimizing the social, economic and environmental functions within the physical landscape.

In order to effectively address increasing pressure for food, one focus in landscape restoration should be on how all institutions can work together to achieve sustainable agriculture and sustainable forest management or SFM. Each country's government must determine its own priorities and put in place incentive mechanisms for local governments, the private sector, communities and multilateral institutions to support the needed changes.

According to the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR), in which our United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) team is an active partner, it is estimated that 1.6 billion hectares of forests worldwide are eligible for landscape restoration as they currently contribute little to sustainable agriculture or SFM. This poses daunting challenges while also offering enormous opportunities to enhance food security for all

seven billion of us and our future generations.

Building on existing local government, private sector and multilateral systems and institutions, there is an urgent priority to facilitate leadership for just such a landscape approach, beginning with agriculture and forests. What is essential for this exploration is a practical approach to leverage effective collaboration in the areas of finance and trade in sustainably produced agriculture and forest products, in transferring environmentally-sound technologies, on the ground capacity building and cross-sectoral governance.

In shining a spotlight on the positive actions people can take for forests, the message of restoration is a compelling one. China's Loess Plateau has been a story of rebirth and transformation. Innovative action, supported by the World Bank, regenerated a barren landscape that had been degraded from centuries of unsustainable land management. Communities worked to replace overgrazing with terrace-building and tree-planting practices. In just a decade, the dry, dusty plateau had become a mixed green landscape of forests and fields, an incredible feat of recovery for an area approximately the size of Belgium, 640 000 square kilometres. Moreover, this restoration contributed towards lifting 2.5 million people out of poverty. This is truly one of the best practices in landscape approach and was dramatically portrayed in one of the winning films of the first-ever 2011 International Forest Film Festival entitled, *Hope in a Changing Climate*. These are the stories that inspire others to take action. At the launch of Forest 2011, Minister Stanislas Kamanzi of Rwanda announced President Kagame's commitment to achieve border-to-border landscape restoration over the next 25 years. By 2015, Rwanda and its partners will have designed a restoration plan to achieve sustainable agricultural production, low carbon economic development, adequate water and energy supplies, increased forest cover and new opportunities for rural livelihoods.

2011 has been a truly momentous year for forests as it was declared the International Year of Forests by the UN General Assembly to promote awareness of SFM of all types of forests. The Year has been particularly close to our hearts as our Secretariat was designated the focal point of the Year. As you know, the UNFF is a world body comprised of all 193 UN countries with a focus on all things forests and trees outside of forests. The UNFF has a unique role in catalysing and strengthening cross-sectoral linkages with various partners within and outside the UN system.

The theme for the Year is 'Forests for People' – to celebrate people, from all walks of life, who take action, every day, for forests around the world. I often like to point out the simple reality that we cannot manage our forests by putting a fence around them; people are a critical part of the equation. During the Year we have had hundreds of Film Festival screenings, hundreds of other events including conferences, art exhibits, publications and community forest activities around the world.

Looking at the Web site traffic data from the beginning of November 2011, the Web site has been viewed nearly 1 million times. Over 1 000 organizations are using the Forests 2011 logo in their publications and events, and the logo has been translated into over 50 languages, including the six UN official languages.

The UN Stamp Series was launched in October 2011 in partnership with the UN Postal Administration. The series was designed by celebrated artist Sergio Baradat. Through this year's Forest Heroes programme we have been privileged to hear about 90 amazing individuals who have made a difference in 40 countries.

As part of the Year's celebration, the Universal Postal Union organized a letter-writing competition that asked young people to imagine they were a tree living in a forest, and asked them to write a letter explaining why it was important to protect forests. Nearly 2 million children from 60 UPU member countries participated in the contest; the Gold Prize winners were 13-year-old Wang Sa from China and 15-year-old Charlée Gittens from Barbados. In Ms Wang's letter one of the main protagonists is quoted as saying, "Forests are the wealth of all our generations – from our ancestors to our great-great-grandchildren. We will not cut down trees. We will plant more trees."

I am honoured to mention some other important activities.

The UNFF collaborated with the international non-profit foundation, Gabarron Foundation, for the International Children's Art contest. The International Children's Art contest is a programme of the Queen Sofia Children's Art Museum – an annual contest which has been organized for over 30 years. Each year they pick a theme with a meaningful message and the theme of the contest in 2011 is 'Celebrate the Forests' – in keeping with the spirit of the International Year of Forests. Children between the ages of five and 14 are invited to submit their work through the end of 2011. An awards ceremony for the winners will be held at the Gabarron Carriage House Center for the Arts in New York, New York in February 2012. The Gabarron Foundation, along with the Queen Sofia Children's Art Museum in Spain, has been developing programmes aimed at promoting diversity of arts and culture for over 20 years.

We are also co-publishing the book *Forests for life* with Tudor Rose, a beautiful 300-page hardcover book containing reports from a wide range of authors looking at the significance of forests in their lives. The book will be published at the end of 2011, and launched at the closing ceremony of Forests 2011 in February 2012.

I would like to point out that communication activities will not end with the year; we intend to continue to raise awareness of the importance of forests for people in 2012 and beyond. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has said "Rio+20 will be one of the most important global meetings on sustainable development in our time. At Rio, our vision must be clear: a sustainable green economy that protects the health of the environment while supporting the achievement of the MDGs through growth in income, decent work and poverty eradication."

Thank you for your time and attention.

Welcome remarks

Qu Guilin

Director-General, APFNet

I am honoured to be here on the grand occasion of the opening ceremony of the Second Asia-Pacific Forestry Week, the largest gathering of foresters in the region, to welcome all participants and extend my gratitude to the State Forestry Administration of China and the FAO Asia-Pacific Regional Office for giving APFNet the opportunity to organize and sponsor this grand event.

The Second Asia-Pacific Forestry Week is convened at the right time when forestry development in this region is situated at the transitional period towards sustainable management. This is driven by the shift of modes of economic growth and resource consumption as well as the increasing social demands for ecological goods and services from forests. This meeting features new challenges and new opportunities facing forestry sectors of the region in the changing world.

The Asia-Pacific region is endowed with abundant forest resources that play an important role in such areas as growth of GDP, employment, ecosecurity and livelihood improvement. The region has witnessed robust economic growth in a sustainable way and sustainable forest management has been integrated into national social and economic development strategies and plans of each nation, aiming at achievement of multiple functions of forests; this provides an historical opportunity and platform for the forestry sector. But it has to be realized that there are challenges ahead of us as ecological problems and poverty still accompany the process of forest resource management and utilization. While we are better off from using forest resources, our excessive consumption of them is draining our environment, posing a severe threat to ecosystems and the survival of future generations.

Ecological problems do not only come from the ecosystem itself, but also from our culture. Culture here means our habits in consumption of the resources and environment of the planet. The traditional advantages of rich forest and human resources could be turned into challenges if our thinking and attitude towards our behaviour and forest resources remain unchanged.

To seize the new opportunities and meet the new challenges, we must avoid or abolish outdated patterns of forest management, which requires ways to transform our culture or habits to improve our policy, governance, market, trade and benefit-sharing incentives and balance conservation, management and utilization of forests to give full play to all related stakeholders and the multiple functions of forests. The region's forestry sector is at a turning point of transformation which needs the efforts of all concerned to make it happen.

APFNet was proposed by China and co-sponsored by the United States and Australia in the 2007 APEC Leaders' Meeting in Sydney. Our mission is to promote and improve sustainable forest management and rehabilitation in the Asia-Pacific region through capacity building, information sharing, regional policy dialogues and pilot projects. To achieve our mission, we mainly focus on activities in four categories, namely capacity building, pilot projects, information sharing and policy dialogues. We believe that the quantity and quality of forests are the basis of sustainable forest management; the key vehicle is forest policy and legislation, the preconditions are participation and capacity building of all stakeholders and information sharing and the short cut is demonstration of best practices through pilot projects.

Though APFNet is still young, we have established close cooperation with our members, carrying out activities such as pilot projects with six economies and three organizations, training workshops and scholarships. As a regional organization open to all economies, civil society organizations and the private sector in the region, APFNet will continue its efforts to work with its members to address challenges facing the forestry sector in this region.

Last but not least, I wish this event success and for all of you a pleasant stay here in Beijing.

Thank you.

Welcome address

Anggun Cipta Sasmi

FAO Goodwill Ambassador

I am very proud to be with you today on the occasion of this important gathering to address the challenges and opportunities concerning forestry and environmental issues on a global and regional scale.

Most of you probably know me as a singer. Many of you will also know me as a Goodwill Ambassador for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. And some of you may know about my involvement in the campaign for the UN Millennium Development Goals, and in particular MDG No. 1: reduction of hunger and extreme poverty and MDG 7: environmental sustainability. Asia-Pacific Forestry Week will be an important event in taking stock of progress made, identifying key areas for improvement and presenting recommendations for bold, innovative forestry and environmental policies which are critical for the achievement of MDG 7.

The year 2011 has been designated by the United Nations General Assembly as the International Year of Forests. The theme of the year 'Forests for People' conveys the key message that forests are essential to over 1.6 billion people who depend on them for their livelihoods.

Deforestation, caused by human activities that convert forests to other land uses, is directly affecting the livelihoods of millions of people worldwide. Deforestation and land degradation are reversible; it is a very difficult task but it can be achieved. It requires political will and adequate law enforcement.

Forest conservation and the sustainable management of forests is a long-term process. Nurturing this process is the key objective of FAO's support to the forestry dialogue, with the aim to develop policies and regulations to protect and to manage forests effectively.

I was born in Indonesia, so allow me to speak about my country. Indonesia contains the world's third largest tropical forest. Around two-thirds of the land area is covered by forest and woodland, making it an important resource for Indonesia and its people. As a growing economy, Indonesia has used its forests intensively – leading to high deforestation rates. After a peak in the 1990s, Indonesia has managed to reduce its deforestation to around 0.3-0.6 percent per year for the last ten years. But forest land is still being cleared; including for timber and for conversion to oil-palm and other plantation crops.

Indonesia is making an effort to manage its forests more sustainably. The President of Indonesia has committed to reducing the country's greenhouse gas emissions by as much as 41 percent in order to avoid climate change. Reducing deforestation plays an important role in achieving this target. It is estimated that forest loss contributes approximately 17 percent to global greenhouse gas emissions. In Indonesia, this share is significantly higher. FAO, together with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme, is supporting the Government of Indonesia through the UN-REDD programme to prepare for an international mechanism aimed at reducing emissions from deforestation known as REDD+. The focus is on sustainable management of Indonesian forests so that Indonesia can profit from the forests without losing them.

The crises bedevilling modern society and our way of living and thinking, of producing, consuming and wasting have led to the depletion and degradation of nature and to widespread indifference to the tragic problems of the developing world.

Climate change affects us all, but people who are already vulnerable and food insecure are the first to suffer. Droughts in Africa or flooding caused by torrential rains in Asia and elsewhere hurt most those whose livelihoods are already at risk and they may never recover. Environmental degradation and poverty go hand in hand. They are the two faces of the same coin, a vicious circle we must break together.

Every single person can contribute to improving the world's forest resources and the environment. Countries, organizations and the general public are encouraged to take action.

In 2008, the threshold of 1 billion people living in hunger was reached. What a sad record for humankind! Even if the 2010 FAO report has shown some improvements, the number of hungry today still amounts to 925 million. That is 925 million TOO MANY, and this is shameful.

We need to break the world's long pattern of empty promises and ignoring the poor. We want food for all people to meet their subsistence needs and to live full and healthy lives. Is that asking too much?

One of the lessons learned during my ambassadorship and my collaboration with the United Nations and FAO, is that the welfare and well-being of every one of us is linked to that of everyone else. We are all responsible, in some measure, for each other's welfare, and that global solidarity is both necessary and possible. I have learned that development ultimately depends on respect for basic human rights.

I am an artist. Many artists like me are increasingly getting involved in the social and humanitarian arena, supporting and promoting environmental and social activism. Think of Bono, of Bob Geldof; think also, amongst the FAO Goodwill Ambassadors, of the Mexican group Manà, who have created a foundation focused on environmental and forestry issues in Latin America.

By their very nature, art and music are about participation, they are about inclusion and citizenry. Arts and music bring individuals and communities together, highlighting commonalities and bridging cultural or technical divides.

Music has the ability to fill the silence. The rhythm and beat of music can make people from all over the world come together; tearing down the barriers of incomprehension. Music comes from the heart and can therefore inspire others that share the same goal and today we all have a common concern, the protection and safeguarding of our world.

We, the artists, are also well acquainted with competition, which pushes us to do our level best at all times so as to leave a lasting impact of our talents.

Allow me to ask a question: Why not consider a kind of competition between the governments of this world? A competition in which governments that provide the best policies in the fight against hunger, on sustainable protection of our environment and on solutions to all the pressing global challenges that threaten humankind today and jeopardize the lives of future generations, are celebrated and honoured? To overcome these challenges is so much more important than being able to win a Grammy Award; it is an achievement that should be honoured and incentivized with just as many prizes!

This competition should exist every year in the international arena. It should be carried out conscientiously and judiciously. This may seem like utopian musings, but the fundamentals for this kind of utopia are already in place.

I am pleased to have the possibility to help, through my voice, through my work with FAO and through my presence here, to amplify the universal message of building a world truly fit for all and especially future generations.

Allow me to end by mentioning the importance of decision-makers paying attention to youth. Children and youth represent over one-third of the world's population. They are concerned, thoughtful citizens who possess a unique ability to address issues of key environmental and social concerns. Children and youth have demonstrated they are capable of taking up the challenge and acting as effective agents of change at a local and international level. Through the Youth and United Nations Global Alliance (YUNGA), of which I am also proud to be an advocate, we are motivating and supporting young people to take responsible action against climate change and food insecurity.

Growing together in a changing climate requires shifting attention away from narrow interests towards an approach that creates bonds and collaboration. That is why children and youth are an inspiration to us all, demonstrating their ability to be global citizens working for the common good.

In this context, I am pleased to hear that Asia-Pacific Forestry Week has made efforts to include youth at this event, through a specific 'Make it Young' policy, through involvement of the Kids to Forests programme and through provision of student sponsorships and the organization of an essay contest open only to students.

It is time for all to follow their example and join our voices in the unified chorus that asks our leaders to take action and 'seal the deal'.

I am delighted to be here to help make this happen. Thank you.

Vote of thanks

Patrick Durst

Senior Forestry Officer, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

It is my very great pleasure to welcome you all to Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2011, and to offer a vote of thanks on behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Secretariat of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission.

I would like to begin by offering our sincere appreciation to Ms Ying Hong, Vice-Minister of the State Forestry Administration and to the Government of China, for your welcome offer to host this second-ever Asia-Pacific Forestry Week, including the 24th Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission. China's willingness to undertake this enormous task speaks volumes for the country's increasing regional and global leadership and emphasizes the country's much-famed hospitality. We are particularly thankful for the help and support of the State Forestry Administration, which has been an excellent collaborator in the organization of this Forestry Week. Ms Ying Hong, please accept our grateful appreciation for all the efforts of the SFA.

To Mr Qu Guilin, Director-General of APFNet and to your organizing team. The APFNet staff have borne the brunt of the organization of Forestry Week, and have done so with unfailing courtesy, cheerful enthusiasm and steady competence. It has been our great pleasure to work with you and your staff in preparing for this event, and we look forward to continued excellent collaboration through the remainder of the week and, indeed, into the future. Mr Qu, please accept our heartfelt thanks to you and your team.

Of course, Forestry Week could not have taken place without the help and assistance of a wide range of partners, collaborators, sponsors and resource people. The list is very long and there are so many people deserving of our thanks that I cannot begin to name them all. In fact, at last count, we had more than 70 partner organizations involved in Forestry Week activities.

I would, however, like to make special mention of three institutional partners whose help in coping with the enormous logistical challenges has been particularly helpful. May I offer our heartfelt gratitude to the Asia-Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI), the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN); and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

Finally, on a personal note, I would like to thank my colleagues at FAO – in the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, in the FAO Representative's Office here in China and in FAO headquarters in Rome. Many have worked far beyond the call of duty – and in the case of Bangkok staff in extremely trying personal circumstances. The Bangkok-based staff has not only been swamped with work in preparing for Forestry Week; they have literally been inundated by the severe flooding that has afflicted the city, forcing several to abandon their homes. In this respect, we also thank all of you who have been in communication with us over the past several weeks – for your thoughts, concerns, prayers and support – and for your understanding of the challenges we have been confronting.

Ladies and gentlemen, to conclude this vote of thanks, I invite you to join me in acclamation of our hosts, organizers, collaborators and contributors. It is through their immense efforts that we are ensured of the success of Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2011.

Thank you very much.

Keynote address

Andrew Steer

Special Envoy for Climate Change – World Bank

In a keynote speech, Mr Andrew Steer, Special Envoy for Climate Change, World Bank, noted that Asia and the Pacific is the region that is driving the world.

Commenting on the upcoming Rio+20 meeting he highlighted the differences between the Rio+20 themes of 'green growth' and 'sustainable development'. He noted that in the past 20 years global population has increased by 1.2 billion and per capita GDP by 80 percent. He said that a previously narrow definition of 'capital' has now expanded to cover physical, social, natural and human capital – with all elements working together.

He emphasized that the forestry sector has been a pioneer in the 'greening' trade through the development of global certification and product tracking systems, but that other sectors, such as energy and transport, have developed more coherent messages to seek political support.

In particular Mr Steer observed that forestry, unlike other sectors, was going into Rio +20 without a clear narrative of success. He suggested the forestry narrative needs to be built around five key aspects:

- i. Reducing poverty and creating employment is a core business for forestry;
 - ii. Consumption patterns are changing and emerging markets are increasingly shaping the future for forestry;
 - iii. Forestry approaches should encompass the holistic rural landscape and, specifically, ensure REDD is integrated into broad concepts of 'green growth';
 - iv. Forestry needs to find means to spend international funding more quickly and more efficiently; and
 - v. There is no single silver bullet; the forestry sector needs to creatively combine a full range of approaches. Mr Steer emphasized that what works in one place typically does not work in another, so it is important not to streamline forest policies too much.
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Keynote address

Tim Rollinson

Director - General, Forestry Commission, United Kingdom
Chair, Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration

Context

As we know, we face a very uncertain future. There are many challenges, all of which require responses to secure livelihoods and a healthy planet:

- Economic security;
- Water security;
- Food security;
- Energy security;
- Climate security; and
- Forest security.

There are many initiatives around the world to address the problems of security. But they do not appear to be working as quickly as we need. And our needs are growing all the time.

But we should not despair yet because many of the challenges can be met. There are many examples, around the world, and on all continents that demonstrate that the tide can be turned, that the downward trends can be reversed.

I want to begin by looking at food and farming, rather than forestry. I hope the reason for starting my address to a forestry conference with the topic of agriculture will become clear by the end!

Earlier this year, the British Government published a report called *The future of food and farming – challenges and choices for global sustainability*. Building upon existing work, it also drew upon over 100 peer-reviewed evidence papers and engaged several hundred experts and stakeholders from across the world.

Just a week ago, the UN estimated that the world population had surpassed 7 billion people for the first time. Over the next 40 years – the space of just over one generation – that figure is expected to increase to over 9 billion.

The report explored the pressures on the global food system between now and 2050 with the aim of identifying the decisions that policy-makers need to take today, and in the years ahead, to ensure that a global population rising to 9 billion or more can be fed sustainably and equitably.

The report noted that the global food system will experience unprecedented pressures over the next 40 years.

Competition for land, water and energy will intensify, while the effects of climate change will become increasingly apparent. The report also noted that, while the food system continues to provide plentiful and affordable food for the much of the world's population, it is failing in two major ways, which demand decisive action:

First, hunger remains widespread, with nearly 1 billion people experiencing hunger and malnutrition. Second, many systems of food production are already unsustainable. Without change, the global food system will

continue to degrade the environment and compromise the world's capacity to produce food in the future, and it will contribute to climate change and the destruction of biodiversity.

Given the current failings in the food system and the considerable challenges ahead, the report is clear that decisive action needs to take place now.

A major conclusion of the report is the critical importance of interconnected policy-making. It argues that policies in other sectors outside the food system also need to be developed in much closer conjunction with that for food. These areas include energy, water supply, land use, ecosystem services and biodiversity. Achieving much closer coordination with all of these wider areas is a major challenge for policy-makers.

The report gives three reasons why this coordination is needed.

First, these other areas will crucially affect the food system and competition for land use and other factors will therefore impact upon food security.

Secondly, food is such a critical necessity for human existence, with broad implications for poverty, physical and mental development, well-being, economic migration and conflict, that if supply is threatened, it will come to dominate policy agendas and prevent progress in other areas. So food security will always take priority place in policy consideration.

Thirdly, as the food system grows, it will place increasing demands on areas such as energy, water supply and land – which in turn are closely linked with economic development and global sustainability. We know that food, water, energy and forest security are intricately bound together, as is their relationship to economic and political security. Making progress on these important issues will be much more difficult, or even impossible, if food security were to be threatened.

Consider too, that half the world's population relies on woodfuels to cook, boil water and to provide heat. How do we meet that demand with a growing population but a dwindling resource?

The report concludes that we must redesign the whole food system to bring sustainability to the fore, and reminds us that “This is a unique time in history” – because decisions made now and over the next few decades will disproportionately influence the future.

When we look at the statistics on land use globally, and at the changes that are taking place, it is very clear that competition for land will continue to be intense. It is imperative therefore that we make wise choices and make better use of the available land. It is therefore increasingly apparent that we need to take a much more integrated approach to the management of all our natural resources. We need to find more coherent ways of working together, across all land uses.

Our land is a finite resource, and as competition for land increases, it is crucial that we stop setting each land-use interest as being in competition with the others. For a very long time we have been used to portraying agriculture as the enemy of biodiversity, or forestry as the enemy of agriculture, for example.

In future, we will have to work hard to intensify the production of many resources – whilst finding ways to conserve or protect others. The sectoral approach in which we polarize land-use interests has not served us well, nor will it improve. We need a more coherent approach – a truly holistic and integrated approach to the use of land and the management of our natural resources.

Restoration

We know that the benefits we derive from the natural world and its ecosystems are critically important to human well-being and economic prosperity – but we also know that they are consistently undervalued in economic analysis and decision-making. As a result, we have been steadily degrading many of our natural resources for the simple reason that we have not placed a sufficient value on them.

There are now huge areas of land that are deforested and degraded leading to declines, often catastrophic, in the ecosystem services that such land can provide.

More than three-quarters of the world's forests have been cleared, neglected or degraded. Forests have completely disappeared in 25 countries.

The sheer scale of degradation demonstrates how much damage we have done, but also the scale of the opportunity to repair and restore – a vast opportunity to reduce poverty, improve food security, reduce climate change and conserve biodiversity.

A recent analysis commissioned by the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration has shown that more than 2 billion hectares of the world's deforested and degraded landscapes are likely to offer potential for restoration.

Reversing the decline will require a better balance between production and other ecosystem services. One of the major challenges is to increase food production, but with a smaller environmental footprint, for example through sustainable intensification.

The good news is that improving coordination across sectors and across issues is possible. As Chair of the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration, I want to give you a brief glimpse of what can be done.

The Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration is a worldwide network that brings together governments, major UN and non-government organizations, companies and many others. The recent addition of a high profile Global Council will help us build on our support and provide further momentum.

The Partnership brings together people working on the ground – the practitioners – to restore degraded landscapes. We encourage and support action by providing information, expertise and tools to catalyse and reinforce action on the ground. A 'bottom up' approach.

A restored landscape can deliver many benefits through an integrated package of land uses, such as crops, forest reserves, well-managed plantations, on-farm trees, plantings to protect water supplies and prevent floods, and areas of degraded forest left alone to regenerate. The aim is to restore the natural capital that we have been depleting for too long.

In Forest Landscape Restoration, the most important word is not Forest or Restoration but Landscape. By working at a landscape scale, we are forced to integrate action and activity across all land uses. This makes us take a truly integrated approach across all sectors – agriculture and food, energy, water, forests and climate. Our focus is on restoring the services and goods that landscapes provide – not simply on increasing forest cover. How we use the land – land use – sits at the heart of this approach.

Over the last eight years that we have been working together, the Global Partnership has achieved much:

- We have created a global learning community with people and institutions from over 50 countries across all continents – and held more than 30 national workshops with learning networks we are supporting in Brazil, Indonesia, Central America and Central Africa.
- We have mobilized and supported restoration activity and pioneering projects across the globe, such as Rwanda and a recent partnership between the UK and India.
- We have secured supportive international policies through UN programmes and initiatives – the plus part of REDD+.
- We have organized several major ministerial-level events and won the support of many partners.

More remains to be done through linking many of the current international processes – for REDD+, for sustainable agriculture and for landscape restoration. Jointly, we need to invest in land-use mapping and planning, gathering improved information and knowledge, and sharing all of this through strengthened extension services.

This needs increased collaboration, coordination and working between ministries, and between the public and private sectors. It requires national-level actions, led by governments. It will mean setting up proactive partnerships across the different land-use sectors in each country and across public and private sectors – with the aim of scaling up reforestation and afforestation and restoring degraded land and increasing agricultural productivity.

The Partnership facilitates, catalyses action, promotes learning and sharing and standard setting. Our approach provides a mechanism that brings players together – to develop crucial ‘coalitions of the willing’ to mobilize resources and make things happen on the ground. It offers a vehicle for achieving economic growth with conservation of natural resources.

So, clearly we can make a big contribution to the transition to a global Green Economy where growth in income and employment is driven by public and private investments that reduce carbon emissions and pollution, enhance energy and resource efficiency, and prevent the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Last month, with the Government of Germany and the IUCN, the Partnership convened a Ministerial Roundtable and Leadership Forum on Forests, Carbon and Biodiversity. Together, the Partnership launched an ambitious challenge – a global drive to restore 150 million hectares of forest by 2020. The benefits of this restoration will be felt everywhere.

It will improve the livelihoods of millions of people; greatly enhance biodiversity; provide food security; improve water quality and regulate water flows; and increase substantially the storage of carbon.

In other words, we have a mechanism – landscape-scale restoration – that can, used properly and based on best practice and the knowledge available, address all of the challenges I mentioned at the beginning.

However, we must not underestimate the urgency of moving to more sustainable and resilient ways of using our land and our other natural resources. We need to design policies and systems that work across all sectors – forestry, agriculture, water, energy – that are central to maintaining and enhancing, not depleting, our natural capital.

We should be optimistic, for this is all do-able. We know the values and benefits of landscape restoration. We know where to restore and we know how to do it.

Examples

There are many practical examples around the world – and not least in Asia – that demonstrate how forest landscape restoration is making a solid investment in our future.

In the Shinyanga region of Tanzania, around half a million hectares of woodland have been restored across 850 villages to the benefit of around two and a quarter million people. Fuelwood can be collected in 20 minutes rather than four hours. This allows women to spend more time at home with their families. A large variety of products are harvested – thatching grass, forage and grass for livestock, building poles, food and fruits, medicines, gums and resins, and honey. The forest helps generate US\$14 in income per person per month – 50 percent higher than the agricultural production for rural Tanzania. A well that used to be empty in the dry season is now full throughout the year. A dam now provides water for cattle and fresh fish for people. Farmers have used the income from their restored forests to enable their children to go to university or to buy improved livestock, or to contribute to school fees and support the construction of class rooms and teachers' houses.

Of course, China has pioneered forest restoration initiatives and has restored many millions of hectares of forest.

The Miyun Watershed area provides 80 percent of the drinking water for the 17 million residents of Beijing – a city that faces serious water supply problems. Despite tree-planting efforts and a logging ban that has been in force since the late 1970s, three-quarters of the forests in the watershed were in poor condition, unhealthy and unproductive.

With the encouragement of the State Forestry Administration of China (SFA), the IUCN is working with the Beijing Forestry Society to demonstrate how forests can be managed to deliver multiple benefits to the local population while recovering their productivity, biodiversity and watershed functions. As well as recovering these functions, the project aims to increase household income by 25 percent.

This is a successful example of cross-sectoral, cross-boundary collaboration that will have highly significant positive implications for China.

So, the great news is that this is not only possible, but has been done. These are just a few examples. There are many more projects happening in most areas of the world. But just not on the scale that is needed.

Need for action

So, what needs to be done? A step change is needed. We need to mobilize resources and our actions need to be truly global in scale. We have identified the following key priority actions:

- We must secure contributions to meeting the 150 million hectare target.
- We must develop more pilot programmes in countries working across sectors and across public and private sectors.
- We must undertake national assessments of the carbon mitigation potential and take the global assessment of restoration opportunities to national and local levels. We are currently piloting national assessments in Ghana and Mexico to assess their national restoration and carbon mitigation potential linked with their REDD+ strategies.
- We will develop the economic analysis of the costs and benefits of restoration.
- We will build the Partnership's global restoration learning network to strengthen capacity, learn lessons of what works and what does not, and share findings to help upscale restoration initiatives.
- Finance for restoration around the world must be mobilized across public and private sectors.
- Lastly, we will promote forest and landscape restoration for its full range of benefits – food security,

tackling land degradation and desertification, adapting to climate change, water security and job creation.

So, there is now increasing recognition that restoration can deliver the triple win of strengthened local livelihoods, greater food security and climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as other ecosystem benefits.

The Partnership will be taking its work to COP17 in Durban and to Rio +20 to build our capacity and promote forest landscape restoration within the international processes and to other countries.

Conclusions

In summary, there are three key things we need collectively to do if we are to meet the challenges ahead and seize the opportunities.

First, we need to look at land use as a whole, not simply at agriculture or forestry. This means breaking down the silos, operating across all land uses avoiding destructive competitive approaches in favour of more integrated ways of working.

Second, we must avoid further degradation of our lands and begin to restore our natural capital. This can only be achieved if we begin to place a true value on the world's natural capital.

And third, we need to think bigger – move from small-scale measures to holistic landscape approaches based on coherent ways of working across land-use interests and across public and private sectors.

While I have been talking you have seen images of restored landscapes behind me. They come from many different places, and span five different continents.

They all have certain things in common: just 20 to 30 years ago these were barren landscapes unable to support life in any meaningful way.

They were all restored to provide the services they once had. They now support livelihoods, livestock and healthy soils for crops. They all provide sustainable water supplies, food, fuel for heating and cooking, and building materials for housing. The landscapes are all returned to supporting life. The richness of tree cover has brought economic activity, tourism, health and wealth to local people. And this incredible change was all achieved in the space of less than one generation.

The current economic crisis has taught us that we cannot continue in a crazy downward spiral of taking and borrowing without reinvesting – without putting something back. That is just as true for our natural environment.

If we want a future that is better than the one we have now, that is fit and healthy for our children to live in, that is truly economically, socially and environmentally sustainable, then we must reinvest in our natural capital, and we must do this now.



Peter Walpole, Asia Forest Network (AFN), discusses his photo exhibition on 'Making Forests Work for the Poor' in the CANopy Room

PLENARY SESSIONS

The governance challenge: impacts on forests, lessons learned and strategies for the future

Tuesday, 8 November (08.30-12.00)

Organizers: The Nature Conservancy (TNC); Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade (RAFT); United States Department of State.

Overview

There is no shortage of calls from political leaders, the private sector and community stakeholders about the need to adequately balance the social, economic, ecological and climatic values that forest provide. Yet 'governance challenges' have long been identified as a major obstacle in striking this balance. Governance in this sense refers to the mechanisms and processes through which decisions that affect forested landscapes are taken, the means by which power and authority are exercised and the extent to which accountability is maintained.

Governance tools include legal instruments, institutional structures, coordinating mechanisms and the full suite of policies and incentives – both formal and informal – that apply to everything from the structure of land tenure systems to the principles governing the role of different stakeholders in land-use decision-making to the flows of private sector investment. Improving governance of the forestry sector is therefore an essential prerequisite to achieving such ambitious objectives as slowing deforestation; improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities; conserving biodiversity; maintaining ecological functions; reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and, sustainably meeting global demand for both wood-based products and agricultural commodities.

The plenary session entitled 'The Governance Challenge' used a diverse and experienced group of panellists to explore the main challenges and opportunities for improving forestry sector governance throughout the region to ensure that the sector remains a foundational element of the green economy in the twenty-first century.

Introduction

Mr Lu De, Deputy Director of APFNet, introduced the plenary session, thanking the US Department of State and TNC/RAFT for their support to APFNet.

Ms Rose Niu, WWF's US-China programme managing director, serving as the session moderator, thanked the Chinese State Forestry Administration for its support of the Asia-Pacific Forest Week.

Panellists

Ms Nguyen Tuong Van, Viet Nam, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, International Cooperation Department;

Mr Yati Bun, Papua New Guinea, Executive Director of the Foundation for People and Community Development;

Dr Yurdi Yasmi, RECOFTC's Capacity Building and Technical Services Unit Leader;

Mr Tuuka Castren, World Bank Forest Governance Team Leader; and

Ms Ivy Wong, WWF Malaysia, Senior Manager Forest Conservation Program.

Questions to the panel

During the first half of the plenary session, Ms Rose Nui presented three focal questions to the panellists, allowing each to answer in turn:

- What does governance mean to you and what are the key attributes of governance that are most important for forests and forest land management?
- What have been the most significant advances and achievements relating to forest governance of the past decade?
- What are the most important unresolved governance challenges, and what are the best ways to address them in the coming decade?

Prior to the coffee/tea break written questions were solicited from the audience and combined and/or reworked by the organizers. In the second half of the plenary a total of eight questions were posed to one or more of the panellists:

- How do you encourage participation from other actors in the governance process?
- How to deal with the drivers of deforestation coming from outside the forestry sector and to find a balance with economic growth?
- Does the 'naming and shaming' of corrupt officials work?
- What are the main gaps in institutional reform for improved governance?
- In regard to addressing conflict in the forestry sector, what progress is being made by governments to address social justice issues?
- What other tools exist for addressing violations of rights?
- Do global initiatives such as REDD+ and certification help or hinder local forest governance?
- What excites you most about your work in forest governance?

One or more of the panellists answered each question.

A synthesis of the key points made during the session is presented as follows:

Panel discussion: first half of the session

The meaning of 'governance' and the key attributes most important for forests:

- While there may be many definitions of governance, from a government perspective it is a process related to making and implementing public policy for the country.
- From a civil society perspective, governance can simply be seen as the laws that are in place, and the enforcement of those laws. The process of law must be clear to everyone, with no ambiguity. This should ideally occur with full, meaningful stakeholder involvement. Such involvement can work if the time is taken to explain options, and the implications of these options, to communities so they can make informed decisions and inputs to policy-making.
- Governance can also be thought of as managing multiple interests, with the aim of achieving social justice. Social justice is achieved when crime and disempowerment are avoided and a balancing of interests is achieved.
- Governance can be narrowly defined as dealing with the technical issues of how public institutions work, how information is accessed and how the accountability of institutions is maintained. But forest governance is often defined in much broader terms these days making the topic more open-ended and difficult. It would be better to keep the definition narrower and more technical in nature as this would help define the scope of work to address governance.
- Good governance is difficult in the Asia-Pacific region where the lack of capacity of forest administrations is an issue. Stability of policy and implementing institutions is needed, as well as engagement of all stakeholders, civil society organizations, communities and business.

The most significant advances and achievements relating to forest governance of the past decade include:

- Acknowledgement that illegal logging is happening, that it is a serious crime and that we need to do something about it at the global level.
- Development of market instruments that address illegal logging, such as certification and development of Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs), have been shown to work. VPA negotiations are helping to create permanent change.
- Identification of high conservation value forests (HCVFs), using a participatory process, is becoming a mainstream activity in public and private forestry in Malaysia.
- That societies are also becoming more willing to discuss difficult issues such as tenure reform and the rights of indigenous people. Discourse is now happening and there is some progress in land tenure reform in countries such as Viet Nam, China and Nepal.
- The fact that governance is no longer secretive and that everyone is now talking about it is in itself a significant advancement. There is acceptance that problems need multistakeholder solutions and changes to laws are occurring to accommodate advances in governance.
- Improvements in the policy and legal framework. For example with land allocation throughout the region, as the roles and responsibilities of government in relation to other stakeholders are changing. For example, in the last decade Viet Nam has allocated about 2 million hectares to households and community forestry is recognized by law, where previously forests only belonged to the state. Viet Nam has also made efforts to develop Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes to compensate rural people for managing forests that deliver downstream benefits.

The most important unresolved governance challenges and the best ways to address them in the coming decade include that:

- Law enforcement is still weak and ineffective, in part due to poor coordination between line agencies as well as persistent problems with corruption.
- There is also a need to improve the quality of stakeholder engagement, especially in the involvement of the private sector.
- Formulation of laws needs to be more strongly based around the social and cultural context. For example, in Papua New Guinea where 97 percent of the land is owned by the communities it is important to ensure that laws and the formulation process recognize clan ownership and local customary approaches to management.
- Better connections among stakeholders in Papua New Guinea with processes and outside organizations will help the evolution of forest management.
- We have not been able to adequately address issues of social injustice. In Indonesia, about 12-20 million people are affected by forest conflicts. In Thailand, 400 000 people live illegally in protected areas. Of 229 forest conflicts studied, 60 percent of these involved violence to local people. There is a need to use learning networks to promote creative solutions to addressing social injustice.
- A stepwise approach to improving governance would be assisted by a narrow definition of what governance in this context means. Secondly, institutional reform should be focused on making agencies more service-oriented. And finally there is the opportunity to use the widespread ownership of cell phones to support forest monitoring by citizens. There has been a revolution in Information and Communications Technologies (ICT), with 1.5 billion cell phones in the Asian region now. This could amount to 1.5 billion independent forest monitors, but we have not been able to tap this potential yet.
- There is still lack of confidence on the part of consumers with the forestry sector in terms of knowing if wood comes from legal or illegal or from sustainable or unsustainable sources. Forestry is a renewable resource, if managed properly, and verified legal, sustainable wood products can build confidence in consumers.

Panel discussion: second half of the session – questions from the floor

The questions, answers and discussions revolved around the three key issues, and are summarized below:

Approaches for strengthening governance

- Information must be available in terms that can be understood by people in local languages to ensure a common knowledge base among stakeholders. Some stakeholders will need help to prepare for discourses on governance.
- The discourse needs to happen at a landscape level as well as in higher ministries such as the Ministry of Finance.
- Reliable spatial data are needed.
- More participation is needed in the green growth dialogue so all externalities are identified and included in decision-making processes. HCVMs must be recognized in planning so the right balance can be struck. High-level political commitment will be needed to achieve this.
- ‘Naming and shaming’ of bad behaviour, such as publicly advertising corrupt officials, may be a useful approach in some cultures and when there is limited power of others to address the issue. Putting it in the public eye can deter others in the future from doing similar things and stop bad behaviour. However, after being ‘named’, often nothing happens, so there is a need for a strong judiciary and other strong institutions for follow up.
- Governance will be best when there is a clear legal framework in place, followed by a clear set of roles and responsibilities of actors coupled with the required resources to implement the reforms.
- Global initiatives such as certification and REDD+ can help improve governance, if they are relevant to the situations on the ground, tailored for each country and donors are committed. Such processes can be a distraction if they are applied poorly, so there is a real challenge to harmonize all of the various initiatives taking place in a particular country (e.g. the Ministry of Forestry deals with FLEG, while the Ministry of Environment deals with REDD+, but they are not talking to each other). In Papua New Guinea, the promotion of certification is a good thing because it is a tool to address questions of legality.
- Technologies, such as remote sensing, etc., can help improve governance if they are used effectively. A transformational change is happening now, in which everyone has access to information, and there is a convergence of technologies. People on the ground, through crowd sourcing, can complement data from remote sensing and help provide field verification, providing a potentially very powerful tool in monitoring on the ground. A challenge remains to scale this up so that it is mainstreamed.
- We also need to look at the human side of technologies, and make sure there are appropriate incentives to engage the public. This will be an area of great advancement going forward.

Social issues

- There are various tools to support social justice, such as media tools to enable decision-makers to hear the voices of local communities. This is not only the work of government, but is everyone’s responsibility, and civil society organizations have an important role to play in promoting honest dialogue.
- Governments need to put communities first and be more people-centric, as they exist to serve the welfare of citizens. It is important to have a clear separation of the roles of politicians and those of civil servants, as sometimes these are blurred. Politicians will often seek short-term outcomes whereas civil servants have a role to work on longer term goals.
- Improving social justice is a gradual process, and we need to build capacities of all stakeholders and find ways to help people perform their duties in an effective way.
- Most importantly, we need to change our mindsets, and to see local communities as part of the solution, not the problem. Local people live nearby the forests and can help government to protect forests; we need to value this, protect their rights and ensure that they benefit.

- The media is also becoming more open and can act as a watchdog. Their role needs to be strengthened and governments should see them as partners in their work.

Final thoughts on future work on forestry sector governance

- Linking forest management to climate change issues can help raise the profile of the sector in the minds of the public. In Malaysia, the government has committed to keeping 50 percent of its forest cover as natural forest type, rather than as plantation. It would be good to hold the government to this promise.
- There is now a movement away from general awareness-raising to country-level implementation. New tools are needed to measure the state of forest governance and how it might change over time.
- There are opportunities to increase the role of women in forest governance and to share experiences across countries to help build capacity.
- Good forestry practices are on the rise. Some big logging companies in Papua New Guinea are now seeking Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification, and last month one got chain of custody and forest management certification.
- There is an opportunity for group certification of community forests as well.
- Viet Nam has established a VPA and has established PES schemes based on a fee on electricity generated from hydropower schemes. Both of these efforts provide a good basis for improved forest governance.

Closing

Dr Simmathiri Appanah, National Forest Programmes Adviser, FAO, provided some summary reflections. He thanked the excellent panellists from the region and the skilled moderator, and expressed appreciation at the diversity of the views expressed on forest governance.

New media – new messages: forestry communications in Asia and the Pacific

Wednesday, 9 November (08:30-12:00)

Organizers: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests

Background

While those in the forestry sector clearly recognize the importance of forests and forestry, for much of the rest of the world, forests remain apparently undervalued and underappreciated. At least part of the blame for this shortcoming lies at the feet of the forestry sector itself. In general, the forest community has not been sufficiently successful in reaching the hearts and minds of ordinary people – and has often had only a weak voice at tables deciding crucial political processes.

Communication in and by the forestry sector is a topic that – directly or indirectly – is crucial to almost everyone who works in forestry. Simply, efforts and approaches in communicating forestry issues to the outside world (and within the forestry community) are a determinant in the effectiveness of many peoples' work. This plenary session on communications aimed to:

- Examine ongoing communication efforts in the region's forestry sector, with the aim of identifying approaches and messages that are particularly effective at promoting forestry in a positive and effective way.
- Tap professional communications expertise for the benefit of a broad range of participants who otherwise may not be exposed to key concepts and potential.
- Provide participants with specific approaches, techniques and ideas to improve the communication and marketing of their work.
- Promote and highlight enhanced and improved communications strategies by a range of forestry organizations in the region.

Introduction

The session began with a special APFW performance by sand animator, Ms Zhang Xiaoyu. A rapidly changing canvas told a brief story of forest destruction and forest rehabilitation and emphasized the effectiveness of unconventional and non-traditional modes of communication.

Master of Ceremonies, Ms Catherine Untalan (Executive Director, Miss Earth Foundation), then introduced the session and gave a brief presentation on the Miss Earth Programme, its communications concepts and its work and objectives as a non-traditional means of communication and awareness-raising. Ms Untalan noted that the Miss Earth Pageant is one of the world's three largest beauty pageants with a motto of 'Beauties for a cause'. She noted that the overarching purpose of the pageant was to have its candidates and winners actively promote and get involved in the preservation of the environment and the protection of the earth. She noted a wide range of activities that the Miss Earth Programme participates in including environmental campaigns, national and international greening efforts, international environmental meetings, environmental clean-ups, public tree planting and awareness-raising activities, ecofashion awareness-raising, media relations, humanitarian relief activities, supporting the disadvantaged, educational symposiums and school tours.

Keynote addresses

Ms Frances Seymour (Director-General, Centre for International Forestry Research) provided a keynote address entitled *Communications in the Asia-Pacific forestry sector: new challenges – new opportunities*.

Ms Seymour told participants that there is not only a need to improve forest-related communications to increase awareness, but also to update some outdated perceptions. There is also a need to recognize that for many urban dwellers, forests are remote from their daily experiences; forestry issues are becoming increasingly complex and challenging to communicate (e.g. REDD), and that ‘storylines’ are evolving rapidly. We need to capture opportunities to link forests to key societal objectives such as food security, poverty reduction, mitigation of climate change and resilience to climate change. She said that rather than trying to create ‘waves of attention’ it is usually more effective to surf waves that are already in motion. We need to try to anticipate what will be in the news in the coming months and plan messages around them, and be prepared to give fast responses on breaking news to capture the ‘second day news’ with opinion and reaction stories. We must pay careful attention to how messages are framed, into what arenas messages are extended and that our messages retain credibility with audiences (by striking a balance between good and bad news).

Ms Seymour outlined a variety of changes in the media landscape including a decline in people reading traditional publications (books, newspapers, etc), a decline in traditional news coverage (news outlets are more open to content being provided by others), globalization of the Internet and the rise of social media, and a decline in production costs. She said this provided opportunities to ‘be your own CNN’. Ms Seymour presented a new interactive model of information sharing, deriving from a hurricane, in which a message draws energy from the interest of stakeholders. The model is Internet-based and draws its interactivity from the online community. The model combines with traditional outreach methods to tailor both the medium and messages to stakeholder preferences, and it uses platforms shared with other organizations. Constant monitoring of feedback, review and adaptation of the message are critical elements of the model.

Ms Seymour described some practical measures CIFOR has been taking to enhance its Web sites and make them more accessible including studying state-of-the-art exemplars, multiple languages, encompassing Facebook and Twitter, investing in blogging, becoming a certified source for Google News, developing online multi-media outreach packages and integrating live events into online presence. These have combined to create a massive (almost five-fold) upsurge in visits to the CIFOR Web site. She noted enormous potential for providing publications electronically, potential for mailing lists to provide means of more effective message targeting and a need to enhance efforts to cultivate media contacts, including through more media advisories and press releases, but also by arranging field visits and investing in training workshops for journalists.

Ms Seymour listed a variety of implications for organizations including needs for:

- Investment in retooling infrastructure and staff skills;
- Continuous budgeting for communications for new activities and for maintenance; and
- Constant investment in monitoring and evaluation and impact assessment of communications.

She concluded by proposing that human resources management needs to change so that incentives are provided to encourage staff to participate in communications efforts, that the risks of disintermediation between staff and external audiences need to be accepted by management, and – more broadly – that we need to enhance the permeability of communications efforts among various organizations so that forestry efforts are collaborative rather than competitive.

Mr Keith Wheeler (Chairman and CEO, ZedX Inc. and Chair of the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication) provided a keynote address on the topic of new media – new messages. He began by outlining the mission and objectives of the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication, which aims to drive change for the creation of sustainable solutions through leading communication, learning and knowledge management in IUCN and the wider conservation community. More than 800 global volunteers

share their professional expertise in learning, knowledge management and strategic communications to achieve IUCN goals.

Mr Wheeler said that key forestry and conservation messages include:

- Biodiversity is the basis of our life and economies;
- There is an unprecedented loss of species and ecosystems; and
- There is a need for urgent and real action by politicians, businesses and the public.

However, these messages are often lost in the noise of other messages, such as those relating to the financial crisis and climate change. Often the private sector and politicians do not see the economic value of biodiversity conservation and needs for urgent action are deferred to calls for more research. He said that recent research into the effectiveness of conservation communications show:

- Uncertainty reduces the frequency of green behaviour;
- People do not believe the risk messages from scientists;
- People do not believe their individual actions really matter;
- People believe changes can be made later; and
- Habits are extremely resistant against change.

Mr Wheeler told participants that we do not need more research; we need better public relations efforts. He said too much reliance is placed on facts, which alone fail to convince people. The credibility of the person delivering the message is important and people only believe someone they know, or someone they like. A PhD does not confer credibility. He noted that too often scientists want to control every detail of their messaging – against the advice of marketing and advertising experts. There is too much reliance on written media, and resistance against ‘spin’ and contempt for light-hearted and fun approaches to communications that help get messages to wider, non-specialist audiences.

Mr Wheeler said that the public are becoming weary of biodiversity ‘loss’ messages that convey only doom and gloom and that audiences are more receptive to positive ‘love’ messages that focus on the awe and wonder of nature. He emphasized ‘love not loss’ messaging. He said that communications with policy-makers (particularly in relation to biodiversity conservation) should focus on tangible economic values (‘need’) including the value of ecosystem services and tourism revenues; and that messages need to be partnered with action (what can I do?). He outlined two broad equations:

- (i) Love + action = public change
- (ii) Need (economic values) + action = policy change

Mr Wheeler noted three key elements of conservation communications:

- *Personalize*: Keep your message personal. Use affinity to pets, familiar local species and local pride, and link to daily lifestyles.
- *Humanize*: People matter most to the majority of your audience. Do not be afraid of anthropomorphizing biodiversity, or accepting that people want to conserve nature because it makes them feel good.
- *Publicize*: Promote what we have got, not what we have lost. Make conservation results highly visible and high status. Have more fun conserving nature.

Mr Wheeler concluded by providing “three pieces of good advice”:

- i. *Know your audience*: The general public is different from decision-makers in government or business. You need to define what you want to change in their knowledge/attitudes/behaviour. There is a need to explore the barriers and motivations to change as well as to realize that people take decisions based

on emotion rather than on rational arguments.

- ii. *Use plain language:* Showcase success – what we have, not what we have lost. Emphasize what they remember about you and your issue and have a short, clear, specific call to action: “Can you help me plant some trees?”
- iii. *Be strategic:* Set an example for others to follow and let others tell the story. Be creative – explore different channels that suit your objective and audience best. Hire the right external expertise and find relevant people to partner with. Always (pre) test and rigorously and continuously evaluate.

Exemplary communications

A series of short presentations provided examples of various innovative messages, programmes and different media that helped to illustrate the concepts raised in the keynote addresses and showcased some highly effective communications programmes.

Mr Michael Sullivan (IUFRO/USDA Forest Service) discussed effective interagency and private sector communication strategies using new media tools. He noted that information needs to be accessible and comprehensible – and provided an example of non-linear equations as an unsuccessful means of communication. Examples of new media include smartphones, Webcams, apps, Facebook, Twitter, Cloud Computing, etc. Mr Sullivan presented statistics showing 46 percent of the global population access a social networking site every day, Facebook has 500 million users worldwide (one in 13 people), and 48 percent of 18-34-year-olds check Facebook immediately when they wake up.

Mr Sullivan presented success stories for the USDA Forest Service including:

- Twitter: microblogging short bursts of information;
- Cloud Computing: storing digital data on the Web;
- Flickr: online photo sharing;
- Facebook: pushing information that is packaged for end users; and
- Youtube: sharing videos and messaging online.

He emphasized the importance of analysing the metrics of Web site traffic using tools such as Google Analytics, iContact and Bitly. These give detailed breakdowns of users visiting sites and how they are using the site (number of visits, number of page views, time on the site, country location, browser types, connection speeds, etc). He noted key communication challenges include: competing for space on the information superhighway, push-pull dynamics, overcoming internal inertia, managing content, managing multiple demands and provision of adequate technical support.

Mr David Rhodes (Chief Executive, New Zealand Forest Owners Association) made a presentation on ‘Kiwi forestry promotional messages’ with a focus on the New Zealand Wood programme. He said the primary objectives of NZ Wood are to increase wood’s market share in construction, etc., and to create positive perceptions of wood. NZ Wood is promoting wood as the world’s most renewable raw material, a natural and warm alternative and a carbon sink.

Mr Rhodes showed several innovative videos and advertisements that emphasized NZ Wood’s key messages including:

- Wood as the world’s most renewable, versatile, useful and natural resource;
- Wood as a carbon sink (‘trees eat carbon’);
- Wood as a modern material suitable for cutting edge applications;
- Wood is tough;
- Wood as a strong, earthquake-proof, fire-resistant material that looks good and has traditional, cultural and spiritual values; and

- Consuming wood voraciously can help save the world (if it is managed responsibly).

Mr Rhodes noted that forests, logging trucks and industry installations provide vast potential advertising spaces for forestry that are usually underutilized. He concluded by pointing out the substantial opportunities for wood to contribute to the Christchurch earthquake reconstruction, noting that the sensitivity of this situation helps to emphasize an overall truism of forestry communications; that the message is important, but delivery is critical.

Ms Prabha Chandran (Manager, Strategic Communications, RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests) discussed ‘Barefoot reporters and SMS talk shows’ as part of a presentation on Grassroots Communications for REDD+ in Nepal. She explained that grassroots communications are people-to-people communications (“the original social media in 3D”). She noted that we live in an age of participation and grassroots communications capture this willingness to participate.

Ms Chandran noted that a key RECOFTC strategy is to link local communities with REDD+ policy-makers under a grassroots programme. A range of community learning mechanisms is used including storytelling, street theatre, media training, radio shows and ‘barefoot reporters’. The ‘barefoot reporters’ programme aims to establish influential media champions. It trained 16 journalists from 16 regions of Nepal to engage in national-level debate, as well as 100 ‘barefoot’ community reporters, who provide bottom-up reporting and thought leadership for communities. In related activities, many resource people were trained in REDD+ at national and subnational levels. Around 320 storytelling and group learning events were held, reaching more than 10 000 people and having tangible impacts in terms of change to reduce carbon impacts.

Ms Chandran told participants that radio shows, including opportunities for SMS participation, are being used as part of the REDD+ communications strategy in Nepal. A series of 12 shows is being aired on climate change, forests and REDD+ including expert interviews, vox-pops, songs, reports, docu-dramas and providing interactive opportunities through SMS polling and talkback chat shows. She said mobile phone usage in Nepal has doubled in the past eight years, providing an important communication channel. She concluded by noting that key challenges in grassroots communications include:

- Explaining concepts and terminology in local languages;
- Contextualizing global debates in local settings;
- Levelling expectations by communicating accurate and culturally sensitive information; and
- Combining communications streams for greater impact.

Two Chinese students, Guo Qianyi (from Shangdi Experimental School) and Ji Fan (from Beijing No. 8 Middle School) spoke about their experiences in the FAO Kids-to-Forests programme. The students attended a summer camp at Badalang Forest Park in suburban Beijing. Mr Guo spoke about learning about sustainable development and the roles forests play in daily lives. He told participants of the importance of human forest interactions and co-dependency and his inspiration to be involved in forest conservation. Ms Ji told participants about activities including watering seedlings, fertilizing and pruning trees. She said her experiences had left her with a sense of responsibility for giving back to the forests and called on participants to care for forests because to protect forests is to protect ourselves. The students showed a short video that illustrated activities in the Kids-to-Forests camp, including completing questionnaires, educational materials, lectures, a forest field visit and forest-based activities, and essay, painting and drawing activities.

Ms Maria De Cristofaro (Communication/Promotion Officer, FAO) presented an integrated approach to media communications using communications relating to an assisted natural regeneration (ANR) project in the Philippines as a primary example. She pointed out the importance of an integrated strategy to maximize media impact, and noted a variety of media used to publicize the International Year of Forests and State of the World’s Forests including many Web-based media; Youtube, Twitter, Facebook, etc. She emphasized the strong competition for media attention and noted that news editors are usually under extreme time pressure

and have limited attention spans, so clarity of message (selecting precise clear key messages), concentration of effort and timing of releases are keys to successfully maximizing impacts.

Ms De Cristofaro showed an excerpt of an FAO video highlighting ANR in the Philippines as an example of a communication that emphasized key messages and was adapted to fit news contexts. Key messages in the video included forests' role in development, community roles in sustainable management and The International Year of Forests slogan, 'Forests for people'. She noted important production aspects include:

- Standards and quality meet those of target broadcasters;
- Editorial neutrality; and
- The final product is visually compelling.

Ms De Cristofaro said that distribution strategies were a critical component of effective communications. In the case of the ANR video, FAO had made direct and personal contact with target broadcasters and made the video highly accessible through FAO's file transfer protocol (ftp) site and the United Nations Unifeed media site. She noted the uptake of the video had been highly successful and pointed to a dozen major news agencies that had run the video.

To conclude the plenary, Mr Frits Hesselink (Executive Director, HECT Consultancy) facilitated an interactive session on communications for positive change. Participants formed small groups to exchange their experiences in forestry communications in Asia and the Pacific, with the objective of identifying key lessons for communications and identifying a list of do's and don'ts in communications.

Key lessons identified for communicators included:

- The importance of media networking;
- Targeting people who will respond to your message;
- Keeping messages simple;
- Foresters are generally poor communicators and often should use others for their communications – it was particularly noted that forestry media specialists are in short supply; and
- Media is a participatory process, not a one-way process.

The groups noted that good communicators should:

- Target young people to help develop their attitudes;
- Have a clear goal and get stakeholders on board;
- Know their audience and ensure their message is packaged appropriately for that audience;
- Tailor their messages for their audience and keep it simple;
- Be creative;
- Be positive wherever possible;
- Offer solutions wherever possible;
- Make technical information practical;
- Get their hands dirty – make sure what is happening on the ground and at the community level is captured;
- Choose spokespeople carefully; and
- Get to know their media associates through personal contact.

Important elements communicators should avoid were identified as:

- Trying to push messages too hard;
- Making messages and actions exclusive;
- Making and attracting enemies;

- Presenting summarized material rather than focused material;
 - Tampering with the drivers of change; and
 - Threatening their audience.
-

Journey to 2020: the future for forestry in Asia and the Pacific

Thursday, 10 November (8:30-12:00)

Organizers: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Background

We are all acutely aware of the future. But, all too often in our daily work we are inundated with the demands of the present. Space for critical thinking and strategizing is overwhelmed by current events and decision-making becomes short term and reactive. But, the future for forestry is not what we see today. The future is approaching – and changing – faster than it ever has before in all of human history. Change is the only constant that we can be sure of.

How will our journey to 2020 unfold? A world class panel of expert speakers was assembled to offer a diverse range of perspectives to help unravel the complex future that confronts forestry in the Asia-Pacific region. The panel discussed key drivers for change, the most important issues and challenges that will need to be addressed, and potential ‘shocks’ that will shape the region’s forestry sector for the next decade. The session was designed to build on the momentum developed by the Second Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study (APFSOS II) by creating new interest and enthusiasm for outlook-focused topics.

Introduction

The plenary was chaired by Mr Anders Lonnblad, (Deputy Director General, Ministry for Rural Affairs, Sweden and Chair of the FAO Committee on Forestry) who briefly introduced the session and the speakers.

Mr Hiroyuki Konuma (Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, FAO) provided a short introductory address. Mr Konuma told the session that rapid change in the Asia-Pacific region is a constant. He reminded participants of the relevance of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study, which provides a foundation and benchmark for planning, but also noted that as soon as the study was published, changes and events began to overtake it. In the past year, major events – including the re-emergence of a European financial crisis, increasingly strong interest and drive towards the principles of green economy and the disappointments of Copenhagen climate change discussions and the brighter prospects of Cancun – have all acted to alter the playing field for forestry.

Economic prospects and challenges in Asia and the Pacific to 2020

Mr Tony Alexander (Chief Economist, Bank of New Zealand) provided an introductory address on the outlook for the global trading environment. Mr Alexander outlined the causes of the 2008 global financial crisis and noted that although developing Asian economies suffered a downturn in economic growth rates, they still performed significantly better than the global average and advanced economies. He noted the immediate impacts of the crisis included significant drops in global trade levels and in commodity prices, including for forest products.

However, world growth, trade and commodity prices increased through 2010-2011 due to the massive fiscal and monetary stimuli applied by a number of countries. Mr Alexander pointed out that the key role of government stimuli is to buy time for the private sector to recover and provide a broad base to economic recovery. Consequently, doubt persisted that growth was temporary while deep structural problems remained.

In 2011, a number of key global growth indicators have been falling with several Asian economies – including Japan, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand – recording negative growth in the first quarter of 2011, while in many other countries growth was significantly lower than in the corresponding 2010 quarter. Key reasons for 2011 growth declines included:

- Fiscal policies tightening in Europe;
- European sovereign debt turmoil;
- Tightening monetary policy in China;
- Political turmoil in the Near East/North Africa;
- Japan's March 11 earthquake;
- High cost of living increases;
- Capacity constraints in some Asian countries;
- Deleveraging (reducing debt, usually by selling assets);
- Fading of stimulus from 2009 policy easements;
- Thailand flooding.

In recent times, most GDP growth forecasts have been revised downwards as economic expectations have become more pessimistic. Mr Alexander told participants that downside risks continue to dominate, meaning economies are more likely to underperform rather than exceed expectations. Key risks include:

- Weak labour and housing markets in the United States, with consumers reducing debt. Offsetting this, to some extent, is that the corporate sector is cash-rich and housing is no longer massively overvalued.
- Building construction in China has increased ahead of demand (overconstruction) and bank debts are high. However, the government has large fiscal resources and the country has capacity to boost growth in the short term.
- Risk of bank losses and closures in Europe are creating a credit squeeze. This impacts on demand for imports, including from Asia. For example 24 percent of China's exports are shipped to Europe.
- The Asia-Pacific region remains vulnerable to Western shocks. Each 0.75 percent fall in Advanced Economy growth reduces Asian growth by 0.3-0.5 percent.

Mr Alexander outlined a few important programmes, elements and drivers of change in key Asia-Pacific economies including: tsunami reconstruction in Japan; booming mining and infrastructure development sectors in Australia; social housing construction programmes in China; accommodative monetary policy and high capacity utilization in Republic of Korea; high agricultural prices and accommodative monetary policy in India; and public investment projects in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Singapore.

He concluded that in the short term, the economic situation poses significant challenges for the forestry sector. However, in the longer term, increasing incomes will support higher prices and volumes for forest products – including materials for housing construction and paper. In the short term there should be good support from improving domestic Asian economies, but vulnerability to the turmoil in Europe is strong.

The forest industry's role in the green economy

Mr Avrim Lazar (Chief Executive Officer and President, Forest Products Association of Canada) provided a keynote address discussing the forest industry's role in the emerging green economy. He reinforced the points made by the preceding speaker in terms of traditional economic indicators, but noted that critical challenges confront forestry in a wider global context.

Mr Lazar pointed out that global population continues to increase – having just reached 7 billion at present and forecast to reach 8 billion in the next 20 years – economic development is increasing aspirations for higher living standards and consumption; global GDP will continue to accelerate, particularly income growth in emerging economies such as India and China. Conversely, trend lines for supplies of natural resources and

pressures on the earth – greenhouse gases, water supplies, land availability, air cleanliness – are deteriorating. This will necessitate a paradigm shift, in production and in consumption.

Mr Lazar noted that there are too many people, living too well. We cannot avoid paying our taxes and neither can the global economy. There is the capacity of the global community to help drive social change and to put pressure on the governments and market places to make the shift to the green economy.

Mr Lazar said that the goal for the forestry industry – and any industry – must be to produce a product within the earth's carrying capacity. If what is produced is not within nature's carrying capacity, it is not sustainable. A key solution is to replace finite resources with renewable forest products from countries such as Canada that have done so much to improve their environmental performance.

He noted that forestry is in a good position to be part of the solution and noted the great potential both for new products such as bioenergy, biochemicals and fibre composites, and for conventional wood, paper and packaging products. He provided several examples of innovative products being developed, including paper products with much greater shear strength (tear resistance), and moulded paper products that could substitute for plastic products in many applications, for example vehicle interiors. Mr Lazar said that the forestry sector will need to develop a clear vision and build innovative research partnerships that show how it can meet major societal concerns under a green economy.

Mr Lazar outlined some key drivers of change towards true sustainability. He observed that we have technological drivers available, capital necessary for changes (if deployed) and supportive economic reasoning, but it will most likely be the market place and governments that are instrumental in making the shift. However, left to themselves, it is likely that the government and market place responses will be insufficient. But through communication tools such as the Internet, social pressures could cause these shifts in government attitudes, policies and market patterns to happen. If not, future economic growth will certainly be compromised.

Environmental perspective on forestry prospects to 2020

Ms Sunita Narain (Director-General, Center for Science and Environment, India) provided a keynote address that gave an environmental perspective on the future for forestry in Asia and the Pacific.

Ms Narain identified five key global challenges:

- Poverty elimination;
- Water scarcity;
- Food and livelihood security;
- Reinventing economies for sustainability and equity ('green economy'); and
- Climate change.

She noted that forests provide critical contributions to meeting these challenges. Forests provide opportunity to reinvent how we achieve growth, especially opportunities to build 'green wealth' providing employment, livelihoods, water security and carbon services. However, maximizing forest contributions will require repositioning forests and foresters in Asia and the Pacific and we will need to reinvent mechanisms supporting and generating economic growth, if we are to curtail greenhouse gas emissions.

Ms Narain noted that we are already seeing the impacts of climatic disturbance through more variable and extreme weather events. The evidence shows that the world needs effective action, but responses have been weak. The first climate conference was held in 1988 and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was produced in 1992. In 1997, the world agreed to small changes in greenhouse gas emissions in Kyoto, amounting to a 5 percent reduction by the developed world. However, in 2010, Kyoto targets have

not been met – industrial country emissions (excluding economies in transition) have increased – placing the world at risk. Only a handful of developed countries – Germany, Sweden and the United Kingdom – have reduced emissions. The global economic crisis has helped to limit emissions in recent years, but clearly the principal imperative in most countries has been on economic growth not economic greening. She noted that to keep temperature increase to 2°C by 2050, we would need to limit atmospheric carbon to 450 parts per million – requiring a decrease in emissions of 85 percent by 2050.

Ms Narain said that climate change is clearly related to economic growth. She argued that the political and economic challenge requires sharing growth between nations and between people. Mitigating emissions to the level required will require cooperation in which equity and fairness are given due attention. She noted that where the rich world emitted yesterday, the emerging rich world can be expected to follow suit today. Freezing the status quo is not an equitable solution. The rich must create ecological space by reducing their emissions so that the poor can grow. She told participants that forests are central to the future, most importantly as a contributor to reinventing growth in non-destructive ways. She noted that 80 percent of renewable primary energy comes from forests and is used by the poor. She showed the McKinsey & Co. Global Greenhouse Gas Abatement Cost Curve demonstrating the potential for forests to contribute more.

Ms Narain said the key to REDD+ was to make it work so that both forests and people benefit. She told participants that REDD+ would not work unless the world stops looking for cheap and easy answers. It is not acceptable to treat forests as cheap offsets; to plant trees and continue to drive SUVs. The world must take steps to reduce emissions, view forests as an opportunity to address underlying problems in current economies and build ‘forestry for people’. Elements of this would include:

- Increased productivity of forest lands and increased use of multiproducts of forests;
- Increased benefits of increased productivity have to go to communities and local people.

Key challenges would be to build forest productivity and to provide equitable and inclusive systems and in the context of competing needs.

Ms Narain told participants that the political economy of forests is such that forests in many countries need to be identified as habitats of people rather than as wilderness areas. Millions of people depend on forests for livelihood and they provide a safety net for many of the poorest. Effective management requires cooperation among stakeholders, including the poor.

A key need is to resolve conflicting interests of conservation and development. This will require learning new development and conservation paradigms, including that forests need to be positioned for local development. Green economies need to provide the foundation of the way forward and they will need to build local wealth, benefit people, encompass low-carbon growth, substitute non-renewables with renewables and measure well-being, not wealth. She concluded that forestry for future economies is about forests for development and forests for people. It is about the new politics that will fix the world.

Social and community forestry prospects

Mr Tint Lwin Thaug (Executive Director, RECOFTC – the Center for People and Forests) provided a keynote address discussing the evolution of social and community aspects of forestry in the next decade.

Mr Thaug said that social and community forests will be a platform for building capacities and sharing knowledge. They will be integral in translating global policies to local levels and ensuring equitable benefit sharing. He noted the importance of public and corporate policies in shaping community and social forestry and emphasized the importance of the Call for Action issued by the Second Regional Forum for People and Forests. The Call for Action identifies more than 30 actions to be variously taken by governments, local people, donors and international organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector and research

and educational institutions.

Mr Thaug said that policy settings are a critical element in determining forestry outcomes. He noted that various networks promoting social perspectives on forestry are emerging to influence policy settings, including intergovernmental networks and consortiums of civil societies promoting indigenous rights, benefit sharing, community governance and participatory mechanisms. New communications technologies are helping to solve problems and meet challenges. Capacity building would remain a key element in improving livelihoods for forest-dependent people, while measures to ensure that markets behave responsibly, fairly and equitably are also important, especially in the context of emerging green economies.

Mr Thaug noted that population is one of the principal reasons humans have such a significant impact on the global environment. However, the global population is showing signs of stabilizing and proportions of rural population are declining in every region. At the same time, people are becoming more affluent with a rapidly expanding middle class, particularly in Asia and the Pacific. By 2050, Brazil, the Russian Federation, India and China will likely constitute more than 40 percent of global GDP. Conversely, global forest area continues to decline, though there is significant opportunity to halt and reverse this trend.

Mr Thaug showed a chart of CO₂ concentrations for the past 800 000 years, noting that the current level of 390 parts per million is easily the record for the period and is likely to go far higher in the next 35 years, with associated global warming. Observable impacts including glacial recessions, increased flooding frequencies, wildfires and droughts are already apparent.

Mr Thaug said one of the challenges for the social aspect of sustainable forestry in coming decades is linked to overall declining social capital even in rural areas. Rural communities used to have stronger attachments (social interactions that educate and enrich the fabric of people's lives) than urban societies in which social capital is rapidly declining. The burgeoning class of middle income people is seeking more materialistic lifestyles leading to extreme competitiveness and reduced social capital. This makes people and communities more vulnerable to crisis situations.

Mr Thaug concluded that the key needs for community forestry are:

- For ongoing capacity building to address complex demands of society;
- To be 'battle-ready' and to help provide adaptive management for emerging global issues with high uncertainty;
- To have accredited training programmes and institutionalize them through local training institutions; and
- To demonstrate that social and community forestry plays a significant role in addressing global policies at the local level.

Specifically, the future focus will be on forest governance, benefit sharing and development forestry. Overall it is vital to bring about a change in society to build a better and stronger future for generations to come. It is within our abilities to live on planet earth and to have a future and sustain a human civilization, but this is not guaranteed. It is a moral issue in that what we do now will affect that future forever. Social and community perspectives on forestry in coming decades will depend on, and must be in concert with, this morality.

Forests, climate change and REDD+: prospects to 2020

Ms Andrea Tuttle (Board of Directors, Pacific Forest Trust) provided a special address outlining how the forestry and climate change sphere is likely to unfold over the coming decade.

Ms Tuttle provided a brief outline on progress to date noting that REDD+ started as a specific carbon scheme, but has quickly blossomed far beyond that. A clear message that "Forests are not just sticks of carbon" has been conveyed and, in recent times, the thinking on REDD has matured and become far more nuanced to

encompass all dimensions of sustainable development, agriculture and food security, indigenous and land rights, the financial sector and more.

She noted that, since the Bali Climate Change Conference (December 2007), three 'Big Bundles' of REDD+ issues have been on the table:

1. Carbon accounting: Establishing methodologies to deal with the intricacies of project and national accounting; establishing baselines; GIS sampling methods; monitoring, reporting and verification; establishing carbon registries, etc.
2. Social, governance and capacity issues: Issues regarding country capacities to actually affect the drivers of deforestation, while providing necessary social safeguards. This encompasses issues of rights to land and carbon, ensuring free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), and importantly, providing equitable distribution of benefits.
3. Financing: Real climate gains from REDD will mean an active carbon market. Donors and funds are crucial for capacity building and functions that private investors will not support, but only participation by the private sector can deliver large-scale climate benefits. At present, the issue of markets for REDD are still an unsettled, open item in the COP negotiations. Progress needs to be made lest the high expectations for REDD, and all the preparations simply fade away.

Ms Tuttle pointed to three overarching lessons from the pilot projects of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and UN-REDD:

1. REDD+ is not just about forestry. REDD+ needs to be embedded in countries' overarching policy frameworks. REDD spans national policies addressing economic development, agricultural policy, infrastructure development in roads, hydropower, and dams. REDD is not a stand-alone solution: it needs to fit into a broader, low-carbon development strategy.
2. The process of developing the REDD strategy can be as important as the end product. REDD fundamentally challenges the control structure over resource management and must, therefore, include a full range of stakeholders in discussions and negotiations.
3. REDD+ is not the solution to every problem. There is still a need for development assistance, capacity building, governance, technical skills etc. under traditional assistance programmes.

In envisioning the future to 2020, Ms Tuttle noted that fundamentally, REDD can work, or REDD can fail. It is up to us all to help make it work. She noted key challenges including the daunting complexity of avoiding deforestation, that the economics of deforestation comprehensively overshadow forest retention, that designing good REDD projects is a difficult task and a constant negative drumbeat from media and critics. She envisioned three potential paths:

- PATH A: REDD works, and contains all the good and necessary elements. We continue to learn and improve. Some projects become embarrassing failures; some national policies produce no change, but on the whole REDD takes hold and benefits flow to people, the forests and the climate.
- PATH B: We get stuck in neutral, the effort unravels and peters out, and people go off to other things.
- PATH C: REDD continues, but on a small project, voluntary basis, with small revenue streams. Projects may be locally important and may provide modest climate gains at the project level, but the planet still suffers large emissions at sectoral levels.

Ms Tuttle said that the key factor that will influence overall outcomes is decisions on whether to go ahead with carbon offset markets, including a REDD carbon market. Some pioneering efforts are underway, and talks are promising in a number of countries. Key components will be strong market oversight and enforcement mechanisms, political commitment and extensive training. She outlined progress and challenges relating to several specific initiatives.

The positive vision for REDD is compelling. Resilient, thriving forests, a stable forest land base, ecosystem

restoration, community participation and poverty reduction, local support for forest retention and tending, biodiversity protection, sustainable wood production and of course, climate mitigation; all the things the international forest community has been striving for. REDD offers potential for real money to make it happen. We are cognizant of the pitfalls and risks, but there are responses that have been proposed for each drawback, and there are places where REDD can work

Report of 24th session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission

7-11 November 2011

Summary of recommendations

For the attention of Governments and FAO

The Commission recommended:

- assisting countries to share experiences in climate change adaptation and to help further refine national climate change adaptation strategies;
- helping countries to develop national action plans on climate change adaptation;
- that FLEG-T awareness-raising activities should encompass broader groups of stakeholders including the judiciary, customs officials, extra-sectoral government officials, and others;
- that member countries further review the paper (on Integrating the management of wildfire-related risks in rural land and forest management legislation and policies) tabled by Australia and New Zealand, and its recommendations, and consider it more fully at the next session of the Committee on Forestry;
- to establish a Forestry Communications Working Group, under the auspices of the Commission, to pursue the following objectives: (i) share experiences and knowledge related to forestry communications among member countries and international partner organizations; (ii) exchange communication materials, photographs, mailing lists, expertise, etc. and facilitate the access to other resources for effective information management; and (iii) strengthen member countries' capacity to effectively address communication issues and challenges.

For the attention of FAO

The Commission recommended:

- collaborating in promulgating forestry information to mitigate against natural disasters, including providing collaborative support for an international conference on forests and natural disasters being planned for early 2012 in Japan;
- giving additional attention to monitoring, reporting and verification aspects of forestry including: (i) potential needs to review and clarify forest definitions; (ii) preparation of voluntary guidelines and other support for conducting forest inventories and assessments, with particular focus on requirements for REDD+ reporting; and (iii) development of Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) reporting methodologies that provide greater interpretative capacity for key forestry statistics; and support to strengthen capacities for reporting to the FRA 2015 assessment;
- collaborating with partner organizations to assist with the development of measures in national forest programmes to support and build capacities for forest law enforcement and improved governance;
- collaborating with other partners, to continue awareness-raising efforts, sharing of experiences and development of capacity to address forest law enforcement and governance challenges;
- collaborating with donors and other development partners, to facilitate countries in sharing FLEG-T experiences and seek collaborative solutions to improving forest law enforcement and governance;
- providing increased support to production and marketing systems for NWFPs;
- providing increased support to build capacities and raise awareness in relation to REDD+, FLEG-T and greening activities, including in rural communities;
- supporting efforts to promote, promulgate and interpret the findings and key priorities of the second Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study;
- supporting studies on the roles that forests can play in emerging 'green growth' frameworks, and assist member countries in formulating and implementing related policies and programmes;
- collaborating with donors and partners to support the development of REDD+ readiness and

demonstration activities;

- assisting countries to share experiences in climate change adaptation and to help further refine national climate change adaptation strategies;
- helping countries develop national action plans on climate change adaptation.

Introduction

1. At the invitation of the Government of China, the twenty-fourth session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) was held in Beijing, China, from 7 to 11 November 2011. Delegates from 29 member countries and one United Nations organization participated in the session, along with observers and representatives from seven regional and international inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations.
2. Recognizing the Commission's desire to see specific Asia-Pacific regional issues articulated in wider regional and global processes, guided by the recommendations of the Executive Committee of the Commission, and building on the success of the first Asia-Pacific Forestry Week held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, 21 to 25 April 2008, the twenty-fourth session of the Commission was organized as a core activity within the broad concept of Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2011.
3. Asia-Pacific Forestry Week attracted more than 750 participants from more than 45 countries. More than 70 partners supported Asia-Pacific Forestry Week; organizing events, and providing financial and in-kind contributions. Special plenary sessions were organized on three separate mornings of Forestry Week, focused on forest governance, improving forestry communications and the outlook for forestry. Forty-five parallel events were organized by partners during Forestry Week. An Information Market including a special CANopy Room featured 24 organizational booths, 25 posters and 3 photo and drawing exhibitions.

Opening ceremony

4. The opening ceremony featured addresses by the Minister of the State Forestry Administration, Government of China, the Secretary-General of the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet), the Assistant Director-General of the FAO Forestry Department, the Director of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and prominent keynote speakers. The FAO Senior Forestry Officer for Asia and the Pacific offered the vote of thanks.
5. His Excellency, Jia Zhibang, Minister of the State Forestry Administration, Government of the People's Republic of China, welcomed the distinguished guests and delegates. He highlighted the multi-functionality of forests and their importance in economic and social development, including important roles in climate change adaptation and mitigation, energy security, and mitigation of natural disasters. The Minister emphasized the importance of new green growth concepts in advancing sustainable development. He noted that the region is the world's most economically vibrant, including being a leader in reversing deforestation trends, and urged countries to set ambitious reforestation and rehabilitation targets to respond to severe ecological challenges. He stressed the importance of secure forests as an element underpinning China's successful afforestation/reforestation programmes.
6. Mr Eduardo Rojas-Briales, Assistant Director-General, FAO Forestry Department, welcomed the participants on behalf of FAO. He thanked the Government of China and especially the State Forestry Administration and the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation, for their outstanding preparatory work and arrangements. Mr Rojas-Briales noted that Asia-Pacific forestry has made dramatic changes over a very short period, and that many positive lessons and experiences could be shared among countries and other regions. He cited developments in climate change and green economy as exemplifying the new challenges and opportunities confronting forestry. He emphasized that APFC and Forestry Week provide important opportunities to set priorities for

FAO's programme of work.

7. Ms Jan McAlpine, Director, United Nations Forum on Forests, stressed the multi-functionality of forests, but noted that narrow, compartmentalized views of forestry predominate, when broader cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approaches should predominate. She emphasized that important decisions made now will shape the world and set the direction for future dialogue. These need to emphasize a holistic view of forestry that encompasses the many functions of forests.
8. Mr Qu Guilin, Secretary-General of the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet), noted the rich culture of the Asia-Pacific region, and how culture shapes forestry. He noted important challenges including global economic conditions, climate change and ecological rehabilitation. He emphasized the need to find a balance between development and conservation. He noted the need for practical and realistic benefit sharing with stakeholders.
9. Mr Andrew Steer, Special Envoy for Climate Change, World Bank, noted that Asia-Pacific is the region that is driving the world. He emphasized that the forestry sector has been a pioneer in the 'greening' trade through the development of global certification and product tracking systems, but that other sectors, such as energy and transport, have developed more coherent messages to seek political support. He suggested the forestry narrative needs to be built around five key aspects: (i) reducing poverty and creating employment is a core business for forestry; (ii) consumption patterns are changing and emerging markets are increasingly shaping the future for forestry; (iii) forestry approaches should encompass the holistic rural landscape and, specifically, ensure REDD is integrated into broad concepts of 'green growth'; (iv) forestry needs to find means to spend international funding more quickly and more efficiently; and (v) there is no single silver bullet; the forestry sector needs to creatively combine a full range of approaches.
10. Mr Tim Rollinson, Director-General, Forestry Commission, Government of United Kingdom, noted the critical importance of interconnected policy-making and emphasized the need for forestry policy-making to be made in closer conjunction with other sectoral policies including food, energy, land use and ecosystem services. He noted that there are vast areas of degraded lands that offer opportunities for rehabilitation; in the process enabling new livelihoods and opportunities to provide employment and food security. He described the roles and activities of the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration. Mr Rollinson emphasized: (i) a need to look at land use in a multi-sectoral framework; (ii) a need to restore natural capital; and (iii) a need to think bigger and move towards holistic landscape approaches.
11. Ms Anggun Cipta Sasmi, FAO Goodwill Ambassador, told participants that deforestation is directly affecting the livelihoods of millions of people worldwide. Deforestation and land degradation are reversible through political will and adequate law enforcement. She noted the challenges of climate change, environmental degradation and natural disasters that impact most severely on the poorest and most vulnerable. She emphasized the importance of listening to youth perspectives and expressed strong support for Forestry Week's 'Make it Young' strategy.
12. Mr. Patrick Durst, FAO Senior Forestry Officer for Asia and the Pacific, offered a vote of thanks to the Minister of the State Forestry Administration and the Government of China for their willingness to host Asia-Pacific Forestry Week and the twenty-fourth session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission. Mr. Durst thanked the State Forestry Administration and Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation for their excellent collaboration and arrangements. Other partners and sponsoring organizations were also thanked.

Adoption of agenda (item 1)

13. Under the guidance of Mr. Karma Dukpa (Bhutan), the outgoing Chair of the Commission, the provisional agenda (FO:APFC/2011/1) was reviewed and adopted.

Election of officers (item 2)

14. The Commission unanimously elected the following individuals to hold office until the commencement of the twenty-fifth session:

Chairperson:	Su Chunyu (China)
Vice-Chairpersons:	Annapurna Nand Das (Nepal) Abdul Rahman bin Abdul Rahim (Malaysia) Alan Reid (New Zealand)
Rapporteur:	Marcial Amaro Jr. (Philippines)

Mr. Patrick Durst (FAO) served as Secretary of the Commission.

State of forestry in the Asia-Pacific region: New challenges – new opportunities (item 3)

15. On the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2011/2, the Commission considered the state of forestry in the region. Delegates provided informative summaries of recent developments and issues in their countries. Delegates noted the relevance of the overall theme of Asia-Pacific Forestry Week, 'New challenges – new opportunities' and particularly emphasized prospects to turn challenges into opportunities.
16. The Commission noted significant progress in enhancing forest cover, including achievements in afforestation, reforestation and forest rehabilitation. Several countries reported the establishment of ambitious forest expansion targets and 'greening' initiatives. Delegates highlighted efforts to develop and enhance coastal protection forests and rehabilitate mangrove areas. Several countries reported on forest plantation development, forest sector revitalization plans, and urban forestry initiatives.
17. Delegates noted increasing emphasis on participatory approaches, community forestry and devolution of forest use rights. Forestry contributions to poverty alleviation and livelihood development were emphasized, including the need to strengthen and support community forest management capacities.
18. The Commission recognized the need for dynamic institutional structures that evolve to meet new and emerging challenges. Several countries highlighted institutional strengthening initiatives. Challenges associated with unstable political environments were noted.
19. The Commission noted increasing demands for forest ecosystem services, including those provided by planted forests. Delegates highlighted the importance of biodiversity conservation, soil and water protection, recreation and ecotourism, but noted that efforts to implement payment systems for ecosystem services are constrained by high establishment and transaction costs.
20. The Commission noted opportunities for collaboration in development and utilization of new systems and technologies. Delegates highlighted collaboration in development of timber tracking systems in supply chains to support legality and sustainability requirements, and a need for increasing vertical integration between forest growing and timber end-uses, especially in planted forests.
21. Delegates recognized that impacts of climate change are increasingly in evidence in the form of extreme weather events in the region, and biotic disturbances. The need for increased emphasis on adaptive and mitigative measures to respond to climate change was noted. The Commission noted urgent needs to develop, strengthen and standardize methodologies for measuring carbon sequestration, accelerate

REDD readiness and develop capacities to participate in, and respond to, an increasing range of carbon market mechanisms and carbon-related frameworks. The Commission expressed concern at the high costs associated with REDD compliance.

22. The Commission welcomed the numerous collaborative efforts reported including establishment of subregional forestry networks, collaborative work related to the improved use of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management and transboundary cooperation on issues such as wildlife migration and water.
23. The Commission requested FAO to collaborate in promulgating forestry information to mitigate against natural disasters, including providing collaborative support for an international conference on forests and natural disasters being planned for early 2012 in Japan.
24. The Commission requested that FAO give additional attention to the monitoring, reporting and verification aspects of forestry including: (i) potential needs to review and clarify forest definitions; (ii) preparation of voluntary guidelines and other support for conducting forest inventories and assessments, with particular focus on requirements for REDD+ reporting; and (iii) development of Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) reporting methodologies that provide greater interpretative capacity for key forestry statistics; and (iv) support to strengthen capacities for reporting to the FRA 2015 assessment.

The governance challenge: impacts on forests, lessons learned and strategies for the future

25. A special Asia-Pacific Forestry Week plenary session titled 'The Governance Challenge: Impacts on Forests, Lessons Learned and Strategies for the Future' highlighted the importance of governance in achieving the desired balance among social, economic, ecological and climatic values.
26. The session emphasized the following points: (i) acknowledging that illegal logging is a major challenge is, in itself, significant progress; (ii) participation of all stakeholders, including communities, is critical for success in addressing governance challenges and ensuring social justice; (iii) transparency, accountability and access to information are core elements of good governance; (iv) laws and regulations need to be suited to local conditions and developed in the context of local cultures; and (v) new financial instruments and mechanisms, including payments for ecosystem services and REDD+, will contribute significantly to improved forest governance.

FLEG-T: continuous improvement in forest governance (Item 4)

27. On the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2011/3 and the special plenary session, the Commission considered progress in improving forest governance in the region.
28. The Commission acknowledged that significant governance challenges continue to affect forestry in the region.
29. Countries reported on concrete measures to improve forest governance, especially in relation to regulatory frameworks and institutional arrangements. Several countries reported significant progress in developing legislation and methodologies to support improved forest governance, including more stringent timber legality verification and enforcement procedures, increased enforcement capacities, certification, guidelines for national companies operating abroad, criteria and indicators for sustainable management and new monitoring techniques and technologies.
30. The Commission highlighted the importance of international processes and mechanisms, including bilateral and multilateral initiatives, in supporting improved governance. The Commission observed that regulatory mechanisms need to be consistent robust, and mainstreamed into national economic and policy frameworks and that mutual understanding of national FLEG systems is an important element of international efforts to combat illegal logging and associated trade. The Commission suggested that

efforts to build consensus on the meaning of timber 'legality' in various contexts would assist in these processes.

31. Delegates noted the importance of participatory approaches, including effective engagement of local communities, the private sector and civil society in strengthening forest governance and requested FAO to assist in accelerating this process.
32. The Commission urged FAO to collaborate with partner organizations to assist with the development of measures in national forest programmes to support and build capacities for forest law enforcement and improved governance.
33. The Commission recommended that FAO collaborate with other partners, including the Asia Forest Partnership, to continue awareness-raising efforts, sharing of experiences, and development of capacity to address forest law enforcement and governance challenges. The potential for South-South collaborative efforts in awareness-raising and sharing of experiences was noted.
34. The Commission recommended that FLEG-T awareness-raising activities should encompass broader groups of stakeholders including the judiciary, customs officials, extra-sectoral government officials and others.
35. The Commission requested FAO, in collaboration with donors and other development partners, to facilitate countries in sharing FLEG-T experiences and seek collaborative solutions to improving forest law enforcement and governance.

Progress in implementing APFC and FAO-supported activities in the region (item 5)

36. The Commission considered progress in implementing APFC- and FAO-supported activities in the region on the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2011/4.
37. The Commission highlighted the central importance of activities to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and alleviate poverty. Delegates stressed the important contribution of non-wood forest products (NWFPs) in supporting rural livelihoods, particularly of the poorest and most vulnerable. The Commission requested FAO to provide increased support to production and marketing systems for NWFPs.
38. The Commission requested FAO to provide increased support to build capacities and raise awareness in relation to REDD+, FLEG-T and greening activities, including in rural communities.
39. The Commission endorsed the key priorities identified by the second Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study and urged FAO to support efforts to promote, promulgate and interpret the findings.
40. The Commission recognized the need for FAO support to all subregions, including the strengthening of forestry activities in South Asia, particularly in relation to building capacities for monitoring, reporting and verification and including methodologies to measure forest degradation and trees outside forests.
41. The Commission requested FAO to support studies on the roles that forests can play in emerging 'green growth' frameworks, and assist member countries in formulating and implementing related policies and programmes.
42. The Commission requested FAO to collaborate with donors and partners to support the development of REDD+ readiness and demonstration activities.

New media – new messages: forestry communications in Asia and the Pacific

43. A special Asia-Pacific Forestry Week plenary session titled 'New media – new messages: forestry communications in Asia and the Pacific' examined experiences with the use of new media channels

to market messages related to important forestry initiatives. The session conveyed a wide variety of examples, techniques and experiences to support improved communications.

44. Key points raised in the session included: (i) there is a need to improve forest-related communications to increase awareness and update entrenched perceptions; (ii) a wide variety of new media tools and innovative communication channels are available, but presently underutilized by the forestry sector; (iii) forestry organizations are competing in many spheres, intra- and extra-sectorally, including for financial resources, political attention, land and market share. Effective communications are a key to success in implementing programmes and achieving objectives.

Journey to 2020: the future for forestry in Asia and the Pacific

45. A special Asia-Pacific Forestry Week plenary session titled 'Journey to 2020: the future for forestry in Asia and the Pacific' offered a diverse range of perspectives on how the complex future that confronts forestry in the region may unfold.
46. The following key points emerged from the special session: (i) the immediate future for Asia-Pacific economies will be difficult and no economy will be insulated from the current financial crisis; (ii) in the longer term, 'green economy' concepts relating to the earth's capacity to sustain human populations and demands will gain increasing importance; (iii) forestry for future economies is about forests for development and forests for people; (iv) forest governance and benefit sharing will be important; and (v) the positive vision of REDD+ is compelling, but outcomes remain uncertain and strong efforts are needed to ensure the desired results.

Heads of forestry dialogue: defining the forest sector's role in the emerging 'green economy' concept (item 6)

47. A special Heads of Forestry dialogue provided an opportunity for direct exchange of views among delegates on defining the forest sector's role in the emerging 'green economy' concept. (ref Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2011/5).
48. The Commission noted that forests provide natural capital that assists many other sectors to participate in the 'green economy'. The potential to leverage this to restore and rebuild forest landscapes and natural capital was noted.
49. The Commission emphasized that the 'green economy' should not be a 'top down' process, nor should it commoditize nature, compromise national growth, or constitute a trade barrier. The 'green economy' should support participatory approaches, contribute to new livelihoods, include equitable sharing of benefits among stakeholders, assist in poverty alleviation and build on low-carbon economies. It was emphasized that the concept of 'green economy' should complement, and not replace, the concept of sustainable development.
50. The Commission noted the need for values of forest ecosystem services to be more accurately represented in national accounting frameworks. The need to establish market-based approaches and standards for provision of ecosystem services was noted.

Climate change adaptation and ecosystem resilience (item 7)

51. The Commission considered climate change adaptation and ecosystem resilience on the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2011/6.
52. Delegates noted the importance of mitigating and adapting to, the impacts of climate change. The Commission emphasized the importance of incorporating climate change actions into national

programmes, plans and strategies.

53. The Commission noted that climate change reduces biodiversity and ecosystem resilience and increases the risks of fire and of pest and disease incursions. The importance of strengthening monitoring systems to assess the impacts of climate change was noted. The Commission appreciated FAO's publication "Guide to the implementation of phytosanitary standards in forestry".
54. The Commission urged FAO to assist countries to share experiences in climate change adaptation and to help further refine national climate change adaptation strategies.
55. The Commission requested FAO to help countries develop national action plans on climate change adaptation.
56. Delegates noted that the poorest, including forest dwellers, are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Delegates also observed that discussions on REDD+ should emphasize simplicity, flexibility and cost effectiveness.

Responding to increased demands in fire management (item 8)

57. The Commission considered the challenges and opportunities in responding to increased demands in fire management, based on FO:APFC /2011/7 and a paper on *Integrating the management of wildfire-related risks in rural land and forest management legislation and policies* tabled by the delegations from Australia and New Zealand.
58. The Commission recognized that fire should be managed in an environmentally responsible manner to ensure properly functioning and sustainable ecosystems into the future. Delegates acknowledged that effective management of wildfire for any particular area of land depends on the management objectives for the land.
59. Delegates observed that they had not had sufficient time to fully review and consider the paper tabled by Australia and New Zealand. The Commission therefore recommended that member countries further review the paper and its recommendations and consider it at the next session of the Committee on Forestry.
60. The Commission noted suggestions for the formulation of a multi-donor trust fund on fire management. The Commission suggested that FAO further articulate such a proposal for consideration at the next session of COFO.

Information items (item 9)

Preparation of a long-term strategy for the Global Forest Resources Assessment

61. The Commission was informed of progress in the preparation of a long-term strategy for the Global Forest Resources Assessment (Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2011/INF.4). The draft long-term strategy explains the objectives, activities and outputs for the period 2012-2030. The Commission was informed of an FAO proposal to prepare a generic voluntary guideline on forest reporting.
62. The Commission observed the potential need to revisit some definitions of forests, including identifying additional categories of forest types, and the need to better capture data on forest rehabilitation that improves forest quality, particularly in the context of REDD+.

The Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for COFO for the period 2012-2015

63. The Commission was informed of FAO's intention to prepare a Multi-Year Programme of Work of at least four years duration as part of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal (Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2011/INF.5). The Commission was informed of key linkages between FAO's Committee on Forestry, the Regional Forestry Commissions and the Regional Conferences.

Update on the establishment of the Advisory Panel on Forest Knowledge

64. The Commission was informed, and welcomed, the proposal to establish an Advisory Panel on Forest Knowledge (APFK) as a catalyst for forest education and research and training programmes, projects and other activities at global and regional levels (Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2011/INF.6).

Other information items

Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN)

65. The Commission was informed of the activities of the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network since the twenty-third session of the Commission in 2010 (Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2011/INF.8).

Regional issues identified by the Commission for the attention of the committee on forestry (item 10)

66. The Commission wished to bring to COFO's attention the need to promulgate forestry information to mitigate against natural disasters, including floods, cyclones/typhoons and tidal surges, landslides, tsunamis and wildfires.
67. The Commission wished to bring to COFO's attention the increasing demands for additional attention to monitoring, reporting and verification aspects of forestry including: (i) potential needs to revisit forest definitions; (ii) methodologies to measure forest degradation and trees outside forests; (iii) preparation of voluntary guidelines and other support for conducting forest inventories and assessments, with particular focus on requirements for REDD+ reporting; (iv) development of Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) reporting methodologies that provide greater interpretative capacity for key forestry statistics; and (v) support to strengthen capacities for reporting to the FRA 2015 assessment.
68. The Commission wished to highlight to COFO the importance of developing measures in national forest programmes to support and build capacities for forest law enforcement and improved governance.
69. The Commission wished to bring to COFO's attention demands for awareness-raising efforts, sharing of experiences, and development of capacity to address forest law enforcement and governance challenges.
70. The Commission wished to highlight to COFO the desire of countries for opportunities to share FLEG-T experiences and seek collaborative solutions to improving forest law enforcement and governance.
71. The Commission wished to bring to COFO's attention the roles that forests can play in emerging 'green growth' frameworks, and assist member countries in formulating and implementing related policies and programmes.
72. The Commission wished to highlight to COFO the importance of supporting the development of REDD+ readiness; the need to assist countries to share experiences in climate change adaptation and to help further refine national climate change adaptation strategies; and to help countries develop national action plans on climate change adaptation.
73. The Commission wished to bring to COFO's attention the establishment of an Asia-Pacific Forestry

Communications Working Group, under the auspices of the Commission, to pursue the following objectives: (i) share experiences and knowledge related to forestry communications among member countries and international partner organizations; (ii) exchange communication materials, photographs, mailing lists, expertise, etc. and facilitate access to other resources for effective information management; and (iii) strengthen member countries' capacity to effectively address communication issues and challenges.

Other business (item 11)

74. Reflecting on the issues presented during the APFW plenary session on 'New media – new messages' and discussions held during an APFW partner event on forestry communications, the Commission acknowledged the need for member countries and international organizations to strengthen cooperation and further develop capacity for effective communications in forestry.
75. The Commission agreed to establish a Forestry Communications Working Group, under the auspices of the Commission, to pursue the following objectives: (i) share experiences and knowledge related to forestry communications among member countries and international partner organizations; (ii) exchange communication materials, photographs, mailing lists, expertise, etc. and facilitate access to other resources for effective information management; and (iii) strengthen member countries' capacity to effectively address communication issues and challenges.
76. The Commission was informed of a joint workshop of Montreal Process countries and representatives of the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment, Forest Europe and International Tropical Timber Organization to address emerging issues in forest monitoring and assessment and to streamline reporting, which addressed the use of criteria and indicators.

Date and place of the next session (item 12)

77. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the delegation from New Zealand to host its twenty-fifth session. The delegation from Malaysia indicated interest in hosting the twenty-sixth session of the Commission.

Adoption of the report (item 13)

78. The draft report was adopted by the Commission with minor corrections and clarifications, which are reflected in this report.

Closing

79. Mr Su Chunyu, Director-General of the Department of International Cooperation, State Forestry Administration, Government of China, officially closed the session.



Sand art was demonstrated at the Communications Plenary



Traditional Chinese dancers performed during the Opening Ceremony

PARTNER EVENTS

Wood energy in Asia and the Pacific

Organizer: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Introduction

Despite rapid economic growth in Asia and the Pacific and equally strong growth in the consumption of fossil fuels in the region, wood energy is expected to continue to play a significant role in meeting future regional energy demands. On one level persistent poverty will necessitate the continued use of traditional wood energy; particularly in rural areas. In 2008, just over 800 million people in Asia and the Pacific had no access to electricity. Traditional woodfuel is an easily available and affordable source of energy for the rural poor. But as incomes in the region increase, the use of traditional bioenergy and bioenergy will decline.

On another level, favourable government policies for modern bioenergy will encourage the development of large-scale wood energy heat and power applications. Many countries in the region have already implemented ambitious policies to promote renewable energy, including modern bioenergy and biofuels. This policy support is based on a number of assumptions about the benefits of bio- and wood energy, including its capacity to strengthen domestic energy security, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote rural development.

Practices

Already the testing and utilization of modern wood energy technologies in Asia and the Pacific are well established. Technologies range from household stove gasifiers, to more complex biomass gasifiers and sophisticated, industrial-scale combined heat- and power-generating facilities. China and India in particular are rapidly developing more cost-effective wood energy systems including community-scale wood energy combustion and gasification facilities. A key driver behind these activities is a desire to improve biomass waste management and make more effective use of considerable, available biomass resources.

However, there are still considerable challenges. The costs of establishing efficient collection and transportation systems for woody and agricultural biomass are substantial. More complex bioenergy technologies also have minimum requirements for human capacity that are often difficult to meet in rural areas. These types of skills will need to be developed over time. There is considerable anecdotal evidence that a number of wood energy systems have been abandoned because of a lack of sufficient human capacity, while others are reverting to fossil fuel operation. There are also trade-offs that need to be considered. For example, proposed community-scale bioenergy systems in Thailand using dedicated forestry plantations as feedstock were found to compete with other potential uses for community land such as food production.

Policies

While there is a perception that government support is necessary to ensure that wood energy systems are competitive with their fossil counterparts, recent research by the Canadian Government indicates that a range of bioenergy production pathways and systems is already competitive. But policy support is still essential in providing incentives for private energy developers to invest in wood energy. Plans to substantially increase coal-fired generating capacity in the region could offer considerable opportunities for wood energy. Subsidies for bioenergy in Europe and increasing demand for wood pellets from China, Republic of Korea, Japan and European countries will also lead to new opportunities for the region to export woody feedstock for energy production. Changing fortunes in the wider energy market could influence developments in the sector. Following the Fukushima incident in early 2011 and its subsequent review of nuclear energy, the

Japanese Government has expanded its plans for combined heat and power generation using waste, forestry and agricultural biomass.

Strategies

The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change review of renewable energy confirmed that most bioenergy production chains emit considerably less greenhouse gas emissions than their fossil counterparts and employ more workers per unit of energy produced than conventional fossil fuels. Strategies to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of wood energy could significantly contribute to sustainable development and climate change mitigation in the region.

Immediate action is required to:

- Improve data collection on the location and volume of the region's wood energy resources;
- Draw attention to technologies that are working through regional exchanges, meetings and study tours;
- Encourage the development of appropriate and regionally-accepted standards for bioenergy technologies and systems;
- Develop effective programmes to develop regional human capacity with standardized bio- and wood energy systems; and
- Identify opportunities to integrate wood-based energy with existing and planned fossil energy developments.

REDD+ governance and safeguards

Organizers: CoDe REDD-Philippines in collaboration with the Climate Change Commission, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Forest Management Bureau (DENR-FMB) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

More than 70 participants representing national, regional and international organizations from different countries attended this partner event. They numbered representatives from government agencies, private institutions, the academe and other stakeholders involved in various environmental concerns and issues.

The event highlighted the platforms and commitment of the Philippines Government in terms of opportunities of multistakeholder REDD+ development and implementation at national down to subnational levels. Ongoing efforts on governance and safeguard mechanisms and continuing collaboration between the government and non-government organizations/networks in pursuit of responsible implementation of the Philippine National REDD-Plus Strategy (PNRPS), a broad range of strategies and corresponding activities over a ten-year horizon, were discussed by panellists during presentations and the open forum.

Highlights

1. *Platform of the government: enabling REDD+ governance and safeguards*

Forester Mayumi Quintos-Natividad and Forester Remedios Evangelista, both from the DENR-FMB talked about opportunities for the National Multi-Stakeholder Council (NMRC) and Eligible Activities in REDD-Plus, respectively. In both presentations, government partnership with non-government organizations, the academe and donor institutions were emphasized. During the open forum, this partnership was described as 'voluntary'. Other questions raised were on selection of demonstration sites, implementation of the National Greening Program and the status of sustainable

forest management in the Philippines in relation to REDD+.

2. *Ongoing efforts on REDD+: safeguards, governance mechanisms and continuing collaboration among stakeholders*

Attorney Ingrid Gorre and Attorney Jennifer Corpuz discussed clarifying carbon rights and linking regional Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) related actions, respectively. In the Philippines, clarification of carbon rights and assessment of FPIC processes are two of the important policy studies being conducted in relation to safeguards for REDD+ with support from GIZ and CoDe REDD.

Forester Ricardo Tomol of the DENR and Forester Gordon Bernard Ignacio of GIZ revealed how the Southern Leyte Provincial Technical Working Group (PTWG) has been working together for improved joint policies and enhanced delivery of technical services in the implementation of Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM). This working relationship is expected to continue in the implementation of REDD+ in the province.

Ms Maria Cristina Guerrero of CoDe REDD considered sustaining government and civil society organization (CSO) partnerships in REDD+. She emphasized why CSOs decided to engage in REDD+, what has sustained the partnerships and under what scenarios these partnerships will continue to thrive.

Notable discussions during the open discussion forum included the definition of indigenous peoples (IPs) with reference to FPIC, emphasizing that REDD+ with safeguard mechanisms may offer better opportunities to IPs than other activities like mining. There was a comment that the Philippines has much emphasis on involvement of communities in REDD+ as they are linked as drivers of deforestation. It was indicated that the Philippines follows the principle 'people first and sustainable forestry will follow' and that forest-dependent communities are not the main drivers of deforestation.

Other participants are interested in carbon measurement and measuring, reporting, verification (MRV) approaches in the Philippines. These have to be tackled in separate forums/venues in the future.

International workshop on forest certification

Organizers: Science and Technology Development Centre of the State Forestry Administration (SFA), China; Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF)

Objectives

1. To discuss the development of the China Forest Certification Scheme and key national forest certification schemes in the world, especially in Asia, Oceania and North America.
2. To discuss how to promote forest certification through government procurement policy.
3. To put forward some suggestions for improving the China Forest Certification Scheme.

The workshop invited experts from China, Canada, the United Kingdom, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia and Romania as speakers and had very intensive discussions on the development of national forest certification schemes in Asia, Oceania and North America, as well as government procurement policy for certified timber. Over 100 participants attended the workshop; there were ten presentations.

The workshop comprised two key topics: (i) national forest certification scheme development; and (ii) government procurement policy for certified timber.

The first topic was chaired by Ms Yu Ling, Director of the Division of Certification Management of the Science and Technology Development Centre of the SFA. The following presentations were delivered:

- Mr Wang Wei, Deputy Director-General of the Science and Technology Development Centre of the SFA: 'Status of forest certification in China';
- Mr Norihiko Shiraishi, Professor of the University of Tokyo of Japan: 'The progress of forest certification in Japan';
- Mr B.C.Y. Freezailah, Chairman of the Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC): 'The Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS)';
- Mr Agung Prasetya, Executive Director of the Lembaga Ekolabel Indonesia (LEI): 'Certification beyond market instrument – the Indonesian Ecolabeling Institute (LEI) Voluntary Certification Scheme of Indonesia';
- Mr Benson Yu, Director of the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) China Initiative: 'The Australian Forest Certification Scheme (AFCS)'; and
- Mr John Innes, Dean of the Faculty of Forestry of the University of British Columbia of Canada: 'The "Three" National Forest Certification Schemes in North America'.

Additional presentations were made by:

- Mr B.C.Y. Freezailah (on behalf of the PEFC): 'Forest certification – the new market norm';
- Mr Benson Yu: 'PEFC Asia promotion'; and
- Mr Ma Lichao, Representative of FSC China Office: 'FSC global development overview'.

Participants raised many questions, which were followed by intensive discussions.

The second topic (Government procurement policy for certified timber) was chaired by Mr Lu Wenming, Director of the Division of International Cooperation of CAF. Mr Florin Ioras, Head of the Centre for Conservation, Sustainability and Innovation of Buckinghamshire New University of the United Kingdom and Mr Ioan Vasile Abrudan, Dean of the Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering of Transylvania University of Romania, jointly made a presentation on 'Government procurement policy for certified timber in the United Kingdom'. Mr Norihiko Shiraishi, Professor of the University of Tokyo of Japan talked about 'Procurement policy for sustainably certified and/or legally sourced timber and timber products in Japan'.

The workshop reached the following conclusions:

1. Forest certification plays an important role in promoting sustainable forest management and improving the ecological environment in a global context.
2. A government procurement policy for certified timber would be an effective approach to promote forest certification.
3. China will further improve the China Forest Certification Scheme and is now seeking international endorsement, most likely by the PEFC.

Sustainable forest management among smallholders in the context of China forest land tenure right reform

Organizer: WWF China

Over 60 participants from forest and community research institutions, government agencies, farmers' associations, forest management enterprises and NGOs, participated in the event. They discussed how to promote SFM in the context of forest land tenure right reform in China, how to explore FSC smallholder certification and income-generating activities as potential solutions to improve the forest management level among smallholders and secure economic benefits from forest production while maintaining forest ecological functions.

“China is experiencing a nationwide forest land tenure reform, the aim of which is to reallocate forest land to farmers who will be eligible for legal transactions of forest land and products and get the full benefit out of this asset,” indicated Ms Yang Baijin, Deputy Director-General, Office of Collective Forestry Tenure Reform, State Forestry Administration. She added, “Forest coverage and quality should be improved with ownership clarification in this reform and farmers can reach the highest economic return from the maintenance and management of the trees on their land.”

“Challenges and opportunities are parallel with the expansion of forest land tenure right reform,” Prof. Chen Xingliang, Vice-President of China Academy of Forestry reported. He pointed out that based on field surveys and theoretical analysis, “how to build a bridge between small-scale forest production among smallholders and the timber/non-timber market demand is a critical incentive for farmers' livelihoods and crucial for the accomplishment of forest land tenure reform in China.”

Four success stories on smallholder forest management were introduced and followed by active discussions in the workshop: Ningshan forest integrative management (Shaanxi); Zhejiang forest farmer association; Vietnamese FSC Smallholder Certification; and Linyi Poplar Farmer Association and FSC Certification Exploration (Shandong). These cases demonstrate that forest certification among smallholders and integrated agroforest income-generating activities could be effective tools to promote SFM while ensuring farmers' livelihood improvement and solving the conflicts between economic development and ecological conservation.

The active participation and positive feedback from the workshop confirmed that the workshop raised attention about SFM among smallholders and proposed potential solutions for smallholders to integrate forest management and alternative livelihood activities that could be replicated in China.



Simmathiri Appanah, FAO, officially opens the Culture and Networking (CANopy) Room which was sponsored by Sida

Community forestry enterprises for livelihoods: the way forward

Organizers: Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources (ANSAB); International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Cambodia: ‘Our forests our future’– community forestry enterprises, the way forward (movie). Mr Det Seila, National Team Leader

‘Our forests our future – community forest-based enterprises, the way forward’ revealed the beautiful but vulnerable relationship between forests and forest-dwelling communities. Cambodia is a biodiversity hotspot and forests are integral to this. Competing development priorities are resulting in deforestation and degradation. The Forestry Department has been supported by FAO technical expertise over the last two decades in community-based natural resources management. In its National Forest Programme the government has set a target of two million hectares to be covered by community forestry by 2029. The film provided an overview of the past, present and future efforts of FAO in building core capacities to develop forest-based enterprises to generate meaningful incomes from sustainably managed forest by communities.

Cambodia: Community-protected areas. Mr Laska Sophal, Ministry of Environment

Protected Areas (PAs) fall under the purview of the Ministry of Environment, which initiated the development of community protected areas (CPAs) to enhance the management of PAs. In 2011, 98 CPAs were established, as many villages located in such areas rely on natural resources. CPAs aim to solve the problem of threats to natural resources that arise from competing and conflicting uses of resources and other illegal activities. The objective is to involve local communities in the planning and decision-making process of PA management to ensure proper management usage of natural resources for sustainable development, which can improve their livelihoods. Achievements of CPAs range from improving communities’ livelihoods, generation of income through ecotourism, and enhancing protection and conservation of PA natural resources.

Nepal: Leasehold forestry – livelihoods improvement leading towards entrepreneurship. Mr Govinda Kafley, National Team Leader

The Leasehold Forestry and Livestock Programme (LFLP) is based on enterprise development for the promotion of livelihoods among households. The programme is considered to be people-centric and is based on coordination and partnership. The steps of livelihood improvement begin from ‘livelihoods’ (just to survive) to ‘income generation’ (additional income, micro-enterprise) to ‘self-employment’ (main occupation) to ‘micro-enterprise’ (earning profit, employment for others and more investment). Some lessons learned include participation of vulnerable groups that can transform degraded forest to a productive area, through collaborative and coordinated efforts focusing on value addition and marketing.

Philippines: Enhancing natural resources management through enterprise development in the Philippines. Dr Gwendolyn Bambalan

The project goals were to enhance environmental management and development of livelihood opportunities through improved forest use and address hunger mitigation and poverty alleviation in forest areas. The milestones of the Management Support Team members included community-based enterprise development, participatory forestry resource inventory, organization strengthening and development and financial management. The project management support included functional management teams created at national and local levels, direct fund transfer, and regular monitoring and mentoring of entrepreneurs in collaboration with national consultants. These schemes resulted in better pricing and higher incomes, improved harvesting efficiency and wood recovery by using advanced harvesting techniques, recognized gender balance in the value chain and promotion of organizational strengthening and management.

Thailand: Lessons learned from the TCP project on tree plantation extension in Thailand. Mr Somdet Champee, Royal Forest Department (RFD), Thailand

The thrust of this project was to develop enabling environments for planting, harvesting and processing of long-rotation tree species. The project reviewed relevant regulations and incentive systems for tree planting, harvesting and development of wood-processing industries. The project findings showed the need for silvicultural support for good quality timber where private plantation promotion led to problems like lack of data on growing stocks, weak cooperatives and networks and the need for financial support and incentives for silvicultural extension. The key points were to establish an efficient and strong forestry extension service in the RFD, improve small- to medium-enterprise wood-processing industries, the quality of their products and marketing strategy, while addressing the institutional requirements of the forestry sector. There is a need to provide training and easier access to information, and promote corporate social responsibility.

Thailand: Six Senses Reforestation Project. Mr Steve Griffin

This project focuses on forest restoration and carbon offsetting in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The project objectives include offsetting 180 000 tonnes of carbon emissions per year, where 84 percent of the Six Senses carbon footprint is generated by air travel. The restoration of forest will be established through the involvement of the local community. The project highlights include restoring 800 hectares of degraded forest by involving the local hill tribe communities to plant 200 000 trees of various kinds certified by the 'Carbon Fix Standards'. Environmental training will be provided and indirect forest restoration benefits will be outlined for locals. Participatory Resource Assessments (PRAs) will be conducted by collecting social, economic and land-use data.

INBAR's action research sites, networking, NGOs. Ms Malavika Belavangala, INBAR

INBAR-LEDP (Livelihoods and Economic Development Programme) is being conducted on three continents carrying out activities through Action Research Sites (ARS), which are local project areas that are utilized to develop, test and apply solutions at the community level. Each ARS is supported by a local NGO and INBAR which helps to sustain them beyond the project. Its technical components include community mobilization, development and prototyping, enterprise and policy development, training and production centres and sustainability plans. Problems faced by the ARS include quality issues, sustainability, NGOs lacking technical, financial and managerial capacity, and limited knowledge and information on markets. The LEDP at INBAR has devised plans to set up an NGO network where independent NGOs would be a part of the NGO consortium that would promote knowledge sharing, financing, better linkages to markets, advocacy and policy development and promotion of innovative technologies and products.

Participatory stewardship and knowledge-sharing platform. Ms Claire Parfondry, INBAR

In the field of knowledge management and sharing, the LED team at INBAR is currently working on two systems: (i) a Wiki Knowledge base, and (ii) the Participatory Stewardship (PS) system. The PS system is based on the Wikipedia philosophy (crowd-sourcing), where the reliability and accuracy of the information is determined by the number of people who provide it and modern communication tools (mobile/smart phones), as they are affordable and available to even the poorest of the rural communities. The PS system takes advantage of this knowledge base and modern communication to be able to network to facilitate data collection provided by SMSs and/or phone calls. It is a two-way community-based communication system that relies upon a network and a platform that helps people to reach out. The system aims to promote transparency and easy access of information through the use of mobile phones. The various applications of the PS system include: inventory and sustainable production certification; value/supply chain management and logistics; surveys/questionnaires and information dissemination. It is not limited to bamboo – virtually any resource could be mapped.

Community forestry enterprises – sustainability. Dr Ramanuja Rao, INBAR

INBAR's ARS in Asia, Africa and Latin America have been replicated and scaled up, and twinned with a new ARS. The NGO consortium will link existing NGOs (working on bamboo development) and INBAR ARS into a global network for mutual benefit. The constituent NGOs will be able to share knowledge, skills and learning, provide technical assistance to each other, undertake advocacy, sustain themselves and activities in their field sites and strengthen governance.

The scaling up through large development loan projects will fund and leverage the projects by focusing on the return on investment. For example, the Konkan Bamboo & Cane Development Centre (KONBAC), which started with grants of US\$10,000 achieved a 60 percent increase in sales by 2008. Social Business Intrapreneurship (on-the-job entrepreneurship) should be encouraged where development professionals could learn through participation in social ventures. The Community Venture Capital Fund (CVCF) proposed under the Tripura Bamboo Development Action Plan by INBAR in 2002 was made operational in many International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) loan projects. The Native Development Services Ltd is linking microfinance and financial inclusion into mainstream bank finance.

The biomass renewable electricity markets can finance community forestry enterprises where they can rehabilitate degraded wastelands that can be used for biomass production. Such projects are under development in Burundi, Rwanda and India. The Global Marketing Initiative (GMI 2.0) will provide accreditation to its GMI Stewards (such as professional designers) in diverse global locations. It is based on the respect for international property rights (IPR) with benefit-sharing consideration that is backed by collection and payment mechanisms. New markets for community forestry enterprises can be created through bamboo construction both in rural and urban areas. National policy development and project policy papers can open up institutional markets as policy intervention can change how people view the bamboo industry as a whole.

Community forestry enterprises: programme design and intervention framework.

Dr Bhisma P. Subedi, ANSAB

The mission of the Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources (ANSAB) is to implement community-based and enterprise-oriented solutions. As non-wood forest products (NWFPs) are a profitable and growing market, there is major scope for sustainable management in this sector. ANSAB has pioneered an approach of community-based, enterprise-oriented ecosystem management and value chain development with emphasis on ecological sustainability, social justice and equity, and economic efficiency. Some of the methods and interventions include: (i) empowerment of communities by imparting knowledge and skills for the management of resources; (ii) creating incentives and providing tools for sustainable forest management; and (iii) biodiversity conservation. Other methods include the design and implementation of economic interventions with growth and poverty reduction strategies through market linkages and product quality control, and facilitating broader-level interventions for an enabling environment by carrying out research and establishing a system of information management and sharing. Some lessons learned are that communities can monitor carbon and PES efficiently and cheaply and long-term goals such as poverty reduction and environmental conservations need to be achieved.

Private sector perspectives on working with communities. Mr Andy Steel, PATT Foundation, Equitech, Asia Forestry

The Six Senses Reforestation Project includes educating the client and government departments on carbon offsetting. The project focuses on documentation, partners, recruitment and logistics. Problems encountered included: (i) translating documents; (ii) corruption; (iii) difficulty in finding the right partners; (iv) sourcing of usable land; (v) recruiting a team to work on the projects; (vi) lack of storage space for equipment; and (vii) adverse weather conditions. Despite all these problems, the villagers were supportive of such schemes as they felt they provided them with employment opportunities and education.

Policy and governance issues. Dr Promode Kant, Institute of Green Economy, India Forest Service

Governments globally are encouraging community participation by assigning some parts of forest lands through household forest ownership schemes to village communities and allowing greater access elsewhere. The Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMC) in India face many problems as most of the forest landholdings are inadequate to provide sustenance and significant livelihood opportunities are linked to the size of the landholdings where more lands cannot be offered without jeopardizing the larger public interest as larger forest areas must be aimed at creating livelihood opportunities without ceding ownership. Improved forest management and governance can encourage various positive schemes such as intensive afforestation, forest fire management, protection against natural disasters, pest and disease control, soil and moisture conservation measures, etc. Some of the forestry activities need to be outsourced to trained youth, as forest staff are inadequate and forest activities are seasonal. To solve the issue of poor forest governance, only a few NWFPs should be targeted where sound inventory and management policies would be implemented that could enable the rural communities to earn real profits. Profits can be increased through value chain creation and market expansion (e.g. trade fairs) while taking into consideration the change in consumer trends.



Participants networking during a coffee break



A number of forestry students participated at APFW 2011

APFNet promotional event

Organizer: Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)

The APFNet promotional event was attended by over 70 participants from international, governmental and non-governmental organizations, research institutions and the private sector. The event was designed with APFNet partners to present experiences and updates on APFNet activities, and to further discuss APFNet future development and explore potential cooperation.

APFNet pilot projects

Making forestry work for the poor: Adapting forest policies to poverty alleviation strategies in Asia and the Pacific. Mr Jeremy Broadhead, FAORAP

Project findings were summarized, including community forestry, commercial/industrial forestry, PES and carbon payments. It was pointed out that resource exploitation in the name of development and lack of necessary technology often increased poverty and conflict in rural areas, and regional PES were still mostly on a pilot scale and slow to take off due to the high transaction costs, scepticism over benefits of REDD+ at the local level and similar problems associated with community forestry.

Demonstration of sustainable forest management with community participation in Nepal. Mr Suvas Chandra Devkota, FECOFUN

The project has made remarkable progress since its inception in October 2010. The Federation of Community Forest Users, Nepal (FECOFUN), as the project executing agency, has launched several consultation workshops to listen to community voices about project expectations and preferences for future forestry enterprises that would ultimately benefit the poor and marginalized. On this basis, national-level entry points and implementation strategies were developed, followed by a feasibility study for establishing community-based forestry enterprises. It was concluded that the establishment of enterprises was a long-term process in terms of sustainability, and during this process, the coordination and collaboration with the government and other multistakeholders was vital and more efforts should be exerted in this direction in pursuit of internal and external support to ensure sustainable forest management.

Demonstration of capacity building of forest restoration and sustainable forest management in Viet Nam. Dr Phan Minh Sang, Phu Tho Sub-department of Forestry of Vietnam

Various activities have been conducted under this project's umbrella since the signing of the project agreement in September 2010. Technical guidelines for forest resource inventories and silviculture of native tree species and NWFPs were developed; these were followed by a forest resource inventory, a rapid survey of valuable native timber species and NWFP types, as well as identification of species and socio-economic and forestry development status in two project communes. In this context, pilot models for planting NWFP species in forests and forest restoration by thinning and enrichment planting of high-value timber species were established. Relevant village regulations and guidelines for forest management plans and benefit sharing, as well as forestry development funds were developed for the project communes.

Adaptation of Asia-Pacific forests to climate change. Prof. John Innes, University of British Columbia

The presentation covered climate change occurring in the Asia-Pacific region, the roles of forest ecosystems in mitigating climate change and the climate change-induced threats that face Asia-Pacific forest ecosystems. The project objectives, research plan and latest progress in the development of model Climate BC, Climate AP and ecological models and their application in the Asia-Pacific region were outlined.

APFNet capacity building

Scholarship programme. Mr Liu Junchang, Beijing Forest University

Initiated in 2010, the programme serves as a platform for qualified government officials, talented foresters and young scholars from developing economies in Asia and the Pacific to undertake postgraduate studies in the field of forestry. Sixteen APFNet scholarship students from nine economies are studying in Beijing Forestry University. As the leading forestry university in China, it has made great efforts to continuously improve the programme by inviting international scholars and experts for courses and lectures. Wider cooperation with other regional research institutes and universities is being considered and planned.

Training workshops. Prof. Shen Lixin, Southwest Forest University

APFNet training workshops have been conducted along two thematic themes – ‘Forestry and Rural Development’ and ‘Sustainable Forest Resource Management’ – to share knowledge, experiences and lessons learned to guide forest officials and policy-makers towards sustainable forest management. International expertise has enabled workshops to meet identified needs. During the past three years, more than 90 forestry officials from 16 developing economies have attended APFNet workshops and dozens of comments and suggestions from them have shown the workshops have generally been well received and appreciated, especially on the topics of forest policies and resource management, forest tenure reform and community forestry. It was concluded that the next step is to raise the training course quality through in-depth research on regional needs and development of a coherent training course and outcomes that can lead to pilot projects.

Integrating remote sensing into national reporting – opportunities from the Global Forest Resources Assessment

Organizer: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

The world’s forests provide vital economic, social and environmental benefits. They supply wood and non-wood forest products, support human livelihoods, supply clean water and provide habitat for half the species on the planet. However, approximately 13 million hectares of forest cover are converted to other land uses annually worldwide. This forest clearing, along with other forestry-related activities, is responsible for about 12-17 percent of human-produced greenhouse gas emissions.

Forest management demands accurate information on tree cover and forest resources. Since 1946, FAO has provided detailed information on global forest cover and forest land use at five- to ten- year intervals. For the 2010 Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), a systematic, comprehensive, global study through remote sensing imagery was implemented in collaboration with the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission and FAO partner countries.

The FRA 2010 Remote Sensing Survey (RSS) used satellite remote sensing of the earth’s surface to improve information on worldwide tree cover and forest land use. The main goal was to provide systematic information on the distribution and changes in forest cover and forest land use from 1990 to 2000 and 2005 at regional, ecozone and global levels.

The preliminary results of the RSS were presented and consisted of summary statistics of tree cover and forest area change at global, regional and ecological domain levels. The RSS provided results on gross and net forest area gains and losses. This is information that governments, land managers, researchers and civil society groups can use to make better-informed decisions regarding the world’s forest resources.

A group of very interested participants attended presentations by Mr Kenneth MacDicken, the FRA team leader and Mr Erik Lindquist, a FRA forestry officer and remote sensing specialist on the plan for integrating remote sensing into FRA 2015 and the initial results from the RSS 2010, respectively.



David Whettenhall, Institute of Foresters of Australia networking with Maria Paula Sarigumba, Philippines, at the Student Career Fair

Legal and logical issues of Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT)

Organizer: Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF)

Objectives

- a) To assess aspects of FLEGT from legal and logical perspectives;
- b) To give participants more knowledge of legal and logic science perspectives regarding illegal logging and associated trade; and
- c) To identify a reasonable and scientific definition of illegal logging.

Background

In recent years, illegal logging and the associated trade has become a topic of global concern. This is not a technical issue, but rather an issue of legalities.

There have been many international workshops/seminars on this topic held in China and in other countries. Unfortunately, very few presentations at these workshops/seminars have touched upon the legal and logic science perspectives, and few participants have extensive knowledge of them.

CAF is implementing a project on legal and logic sciences for illegal logging and the associated trade. The project has obtained various challenging research findings towards FLEGT.

The workshop was organized and chaired by Mr Lu Wenming, Professor and Director of the Division of International Cooperation of CAF, who is also the leader of the aforementioned CAF project on illegal logging and associated trade.

Mr B.C.Y. Freezailah, the first Executive Director of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Chairman of the Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) and Chief Advisor of the Malaysian Government in negotiation with the European Union on FLEGT voluntary partnership agreements, was a panellist.

Prof. Lu Wenming made a presentation focusing on three major issues:

1. Some fundamental knowledge of legal principles;
2. Challenging legal and logic issues of FLEGT; and
3. A personal definition of illegal logging.

Prof. Lu posed over a dozen questions to the participants during the presentation in order to make his presentation more effective.

While addressing some fundamental knowledge of legal principles, Prof. Lu especially pointed out three key and fundamental legal issues: (1) any organization and individual might violate laws; (2) violation of the law does not necessarily lead to criminal penalty; and (3) there is a fundamental difference between violation of the law and illegality. He cited a few examples to illustrate his point.

Prof. Lu went on to pose questions to the designers of FLEGT and challenged them one by one. Prof. Lu then gave his definition of illegal logging from the standpoints of legal and logical issues:

Illegal logging is defined as logging by the logging company or individual that lacks any or all licenses and permits only. All other violations of laws and regulations are not a kind of illegal logging, rather it is a kind of

legal logging but with law violation during the operation.

Mr B.C.Y. Freezailah made several comments about the presentation by Prof. Lu. He argued strongly for FLEGT, especially in tropical countries, from his long experiences of working on tropical forestry as a senior government official in Malaysia, as the Executive Director of ITTO and as the Chairman of MTCC.

Many participants had questions for Prof. Lu, which he addressed one by one. They all felt that they gained much legal and logic knowledge related to FLEGT, which will help them to evaluate FLEGT.

APFISN workshop on forest health technology and phytosanitary standards

Organizers: Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN); Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI); USDA Forest Service; State Forestry Administration (SFA), China

The Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN) and partners organized a workshop on forest health technology and phytosanitary standards. The workshop had the following objectives:

- To evaluate the technologies available in member countries to assess forest health;
- To discuss and provide training on invasive species survey and mapping techniques and protocols for risk assessment, early detection and rapid response and long-term monitoring of biological invasion into forests;
- To evaluate the existing legislative and regulatory systems in member countries;
- Presentation and discussion on *Guide to implementation of phytosanitary standards in forestry*; and
- Development of protocols for implementation of phytosanitary standards in forests.

Forty participants from 22 countries registered for the four-day event. The workshop started with introductory remarks by Mr Patrick Durst, on behalf of FAO. Dr K.V. Sankaran, Coordinator, APFISN, explained the objectives of the workshop. He requested the APFISN nodal offices in member countries to be proactive so that the network can help the region better. This was followed by the presentation of country reports from Bangladesh, Fiji, Indonesia, Maldives, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Vanuatu and Viet Nam. Most countries reported a lack of baseline data on invasive species, paucity of trained personnel to deal with invasive species and overall lack of policies, coordination and cooperation. Gillian Allard provided a global review of the forest health scenario. Sun Jianghua spoke on the use of semiochemicals in invasive species surveys. Invasive species mapping techniques using open source software were presented by Sitansu Pattnaik, and the experience of invasive species surveillance in Viet Nam was presented by Pham Quang Thu. An overview on invasive species management techniques such as mitigation, control and eradication was presented by Eric Allen.

Invasive species risk assessment protocols were presented by Shiroma Sathyapala and methods of early detection and rapid response were presented by Yan Jun and Chris Baddeley. Protocols for long-term monitoring of biological invasions was presented by Eric Allen.

Gillian Allard led a discussion on plant survey techniques. Following this, public engagement tools in invasive species management were presented by Chris Baddeley and T.V. Sajeev. Lee Su See presented regional perspectives of phytosanitary standards in forestry and distributed questionnaires for a needs assessment survey on the guide to implementation of phytosanitary standards in forestry. As requested by the APFISN

coordinator, the participants presented their needs for better research and management of invasive species in their respective countries.

Gillian Allard presented salient features of the *Guide to phytosanitary standards* and discussed how the guide can be used. Shiroma Sathyapala spoke on the relevance of phytosanitary standards to the National Plant Protection Office sector and Eric Allen further elaborated on the implementation of phytosanitary standards in forestry. Zhao Wenxia introduced the video on phytosanitary standards in forestry. Shiroma Sathyapala presented the results of the needs assessment questionnaire survey. The member countries were requested to prepare country-wise action plans against invasive species and send them to the APFISN secretariat. The APFISN Coordinator urged the participants to report any new invasions/threats by invasive species in their countries to the APFISN Secretariat for wider dissemination within the region. The country focal points were requested to circulate the APFISN newsletter and Pest Fact Sheets widely within their countries.

The workshop had the following major recommendations:

- In 2012, each focal point would identify a flagship invasive species in their respective countries and start different awareness programmes to manage them. The purpose is to make the various stakeholders aware of the invasion process and its impact on local economies.
- Based on the action plans drawn up by the focal points, the APFISN Secretariat would plan specific regional training workshops in 2012. Once the action plan is implemented, APFISN will review progress periodically.

Overall, the workshop was instrumental in reviewing the forest health scenario at the global and country levels and it provided training in mapping, surveillance, risk assessment, early detection and long-term monitoring of invasive species to the participants. It also deliberated extensively on the implementation of phytosanitary standards in forestry and identified knowledge and resource gaps in containing invasive species in the Asia-Pacific region.

LADA methodologies in China

Organizers: FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, National Bureau to Combat Desertification (NBCD), State Forestry Administration (SFA), China

China has a large area of land affected by desertification. For scientifically-based effective restoration and rehabilitation a national desertification assessment system was established in 1994. The Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA) project aimed to develop a set of standardized land degradation assessment methodologies for enabling establishment of the national desertification assessment system and improve local, national and global assessment capacity. China, as one of the pilot countries of the LADA project, participated in the project to test and refine the methodology. Implementation of the project contributed to improving the national assessment techniques. During the APFW event, the outcomes, methodology of LADA and experiences of China in implementing LADA project were presented.

China had entered the LADA project since its early inception in 2002. In 2003, it was one of the first countries to host an international LADA meeting in the province of Ningxia. Since then, China's commitment has been consistent and increasing. In January 2007, full project activity started, just two months after the general inception conference held in Rome in November 2006.

China has worked at all the three scales of the project. At the global level, the Chinese team evaluated the results of the study carried out by FAO with the collaboration of the World Soil Institute. Those comments were used to revise the method and the interpretation of the results.

At the national level, more than 30 experts from several technical and academic institutions worked together to create a large georeferenced database containing information on the status and the processes of land degradation and sustainable land management for all the dry lands of the country, totalling about 3.16 million square kilometres. The output was the result of a mix of collected information from existing datasets at the national level with the experienced judgement of the specialist members of the panel. The types of land degradation most affecting the country, their causes and their impact on the livelihood of people were identified. Also, the effectiveness of the measures taken to combat land degradation was evaluated.

At the local level, six areas have been identified and studied: Minqin of Gansu, Yanchi of Ningxia, Zhenglan of Inner Mongolia, Wongiute of Inner Mongolia, Fengning of Hebei and Lindian of Heilongjiang (provinces). For each area an assessment was made based on the results of biophysical surveys aimed at evaluating the situation of soil, water and vegetation, together with a household analysis in order to assess the impact of land degradation on the livelihoods of the people, as well as to understand the social and economic dynamics that may lead to land degradation.

The national and the local assessments were checked for consistency to see if there were major differences in the interpretation of the situation at different scales. Overall, the two assessments were quite consistent. They kept this consistency in the definition of the types of degradation as well as in the identification of drivers, pressures and impacts, although with more generalization at the national level. Minor differences appeared regarding the degree of land degradation, which usually was evaluated higher at the local level.

LADA was quite active in capacity building. New equipment was purchased, and many members of the LADA China team were trained, some directly by FAO and others through internal workshops organized by the national LADA coordination team. The China LADA team also provided training to Mongolian technicians in the context of collaboration between LADA and UNDP.

Through its application in China, LADA proved to have considerable points of strength that make it a successful methodology. It is a relatively simple and cheap methodology that can be easily implemented without costly equipment or apparatus. Also, its participatory approach creates the conditions for the full involvement of local users in the process of combating degradation, setting the basis for more effective land-use planning and territorial development, including the application of measures of sustainable land management, which are also described as one of the project outputs.

The global assessment, GLADA, was based on an innovative and promising technique of analysis of Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) data from satellites over a 23-year period. Although the method was promising, there was some difficulty in its application in the more humid areas, where the results were less reliable. These problems were addressed by revising the method, and also by including it into a wider and more complex assessment system, the General Library Automated Database and Information System (GLADIS).

At the national level, the method also produced very good results, based both on datasets and expert knowledge. In this case, the availability of better and more consistent national datasets would reduce the variability and subjectivity of the assessment made by the expert panel. However, the national method demonstrated good consistency with the results at the local level, with minor discrepancies, which indicates the overall reliability of the system.

LADA was also a good opportunity for capacity building, providing the means and the opportunity for increasing the technical capacity of the national staff involved in it.

Reflection workshop of the Kids to Forests initiative in Asia and the Pacific

Organizer: National Forest Programme (NFP) Facility

Background

In many countries, there is a lack of inspiring and comprehensive education for children about sustainable forest management (SFM) and diverse forest benefits, including ecosystem services. To address this educational deficiency and to expose younger generations to the multiple benefits of forests through hands-on learning experiences leading to a better understanding of SFM, in early 2011 the NFP Facility and FAO's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific launched the Kids to Forests initiative in six countries of Asia and the Pacific, including Cambodia, China, Fiji, Lao PDR, Mongolia and the Philippines.

A reflection workshop was held on 8 November 2011, inviting representatives from the six participating countries and other interested stakeholders to share experiences and lessons learned from implementing country-level activities and to discuss the way forward.

Country representatives presented reviews of each country's programme, including recommendations for future improvement and follow up, with particular focus on:

- Establishment of a mechanism for building closer relationships between educators and forest managers in relation to SFM;
- Identification of feasible approaches to include environmental and forestry issues in the education programmes of primary and secondary schools in each country; and
- Continuation and expansion of the Kids to Forests initiative in the region and beyond through additional opportunities and funding sources.

With the active and enthusiastic participation of all participants, the discussions were very open and fruitful. The main recommendations can be summarized as follows:

- Develop training modules and materials to enhance capacity building, (i.e. training of trainers programme) with special focus on school teachers in order to improve their understanding of forestry and forestry-related subjects;
- Summarize methodologies and approaches applied by each country in implementing Kids to Forests and develop modules for duplication in more countries and regions;
- Establish a regional network in which FAO and the NFP Facility can play a key role (e.g. a Web site, Regional Kid's Forum, etc);
- Organize cross-country and regional visits to learn from each other and share experiences;
- Increase public awareness on forestry and related issues by developing advocacy materials and translating existing FAO educational publications to local languages so that they can reach more readers (e.g. *Natural inquirer* magazine);
- Sustain forestry knowledge in the long term in terms of curriculum development;
- Seek to get forestry included within the framework of existing curriculums (e.g. in science) by motivating teachers and providing them with teaching materials;
- Expand the Kids to Forests initiative into a Kids to Forests movement.

Forest carbon management beyond 2012

Organizers: Zhonglin Green Carbon Asset Management Center, Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, Chinese Academy of Forestry and China Green Carbon Foundation

Forests play a special role in combating climate change by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and creating valuable goods and services in the process. As the climate warms up forest scientists and managers are likely to come across many new and unknown challenges. Yet, mitigation of climate change also presents important development opportunities to the forest sector.

The side event Forest Carbon Management beyond 2012 attracted more than 60 participants from many countries. Five experts were invited to share their experiences and research results by delivering the following talks:

‘Exploration and practice on forestry carbon management’ in China by Dr Li Nuyun, General Secretary, China Green Carbon Foundation;

‘Sustainable forestry and carbon management’ by Prof. Jerry Vanclay, Head, School of Environmental Science and Management, Southern Cross University, Australia;

‘The possible contours of trade in forest carbon credits in regulated and voluntary markets in India beyond 2012’ by Dr Promode Kant, Director, Institute of Green Economy, India;

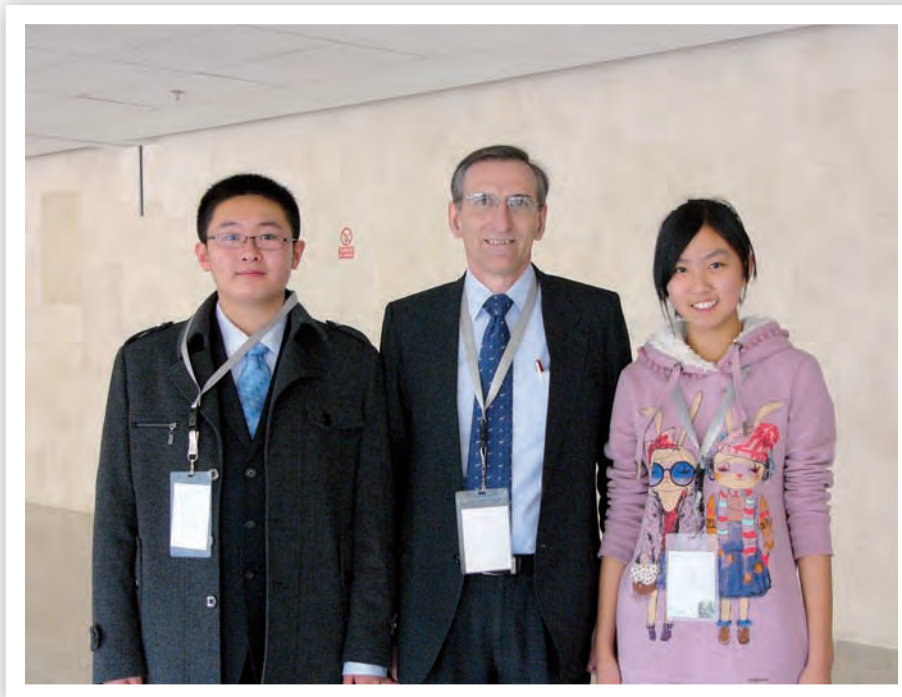
‘Changing trends in global trade in forest carbon credit’ by Dr Wu Shuirong, Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, Chinese Academy of Forestry; and

‘The potentials and challenges of China’s forest ecosystems in sequestering carbon and providing other services’ by Prof. Runsheng Yin, Michigan State University, United States.

The event highlighted the benefits of multidisciplinary dialogue and multiple-scale approaches from combining knowledge from forestry, ecology, socio-economics and political science to address the challenges of forest and carbon management. The main discussion points included: (i) the importance of measuring above- and belowground biomass and carbon, monitoring the changes and modelling the future; (ii) managing forest ecosystems in a proper way for carbon, among other targets; (iii) making sustainable forestry and carbon management work through incentives and improved understanding; (iv) forest governance as one of the key matters in improving forest management and productivity; (v) experiences of carbon market development in many countries including Australia, China, India, New Zealand, etc; (vi) the environmental integrity of the credits generated is crucial for stabilizing markets and building trust; (vii) The Kyoto Mechanism provides huge worldwide experience in internalizing market externalities and is a good basis for the markets of tomorrow; (viii) there is good promise in the proposed REDD+ market; (ix) future markets have to be more sophisticated, integrating provincial, national and international markets. Among future activities, the understanding of environmental integrity in forest carbon credits, the development of transaction platforms, participation of the private sector and sound adaptive management of forests should be given more attention.



Annie Visarutwongse, FAO, helping a participant at the FAO booth



Pat Durst, FAO, with Guo Qianyu and Ji Fan, Chinese students who presented during the Communications Plenary

New challenges and new opportunities for forestry businesses' green development: enhancing corporate social responsibility by promoting regional sustainable forestry development

Organizers: Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet) in cooperation with the China National Forestry Institute Federation, World Wildlife Fund, EFI-FLEGT Asia and the China National Forestry Product Industry Association

In order to facilitate sustainable development of forestry enterprises in the Asia-Pacific region – specifically to enhance their corporate social responsibility (CSR) – the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet) and other regional partners organized the First Regional Forestry Business Forum during Asia-Pacific Forestry Week in November 2011.

Under the theme New Challenges and New Opportunities for Forestry Businesses' Green Development, the forum attracted over 100 participants from the private sector, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to conduct dialogues to balance economic, societal and environmental interests in regional forestry trade and discuss pressing issues which occur during the implementation of rules, regulations and ordinance related to the timber market, forest products and associated trade.

Mr Lu De, on behalf of APFNet, emphasized the significant role that the private sector plays in achieving regional sustainable forest management and promised APFNet's future commitment to facilitating forestry related trade and information exchange in the region.

Mr Vincent Vandenberg from EFI FLEGT Asia and Ms Rachel Butler from the European Timber Trade Federation (ETTF) respectively made presentations on 'New European Union market requirements' and 'Going green: an importing trade association view'. Mr Vincent Vandenberg introduced European timber regulations addressing illegal logging and related legal issues, including the introduction and implementation of the milestone regulation, The Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan. The latter speaker touched upon the EU Timber Regulations and shared the current market overview, especially the EU Timber Market Post 2013.

During the discussion session, CSR, brand building and quality control were highlighted among the issues that forestry enterprises have faced. Mr Jin Zhonghao, senior officer from the WWF SHIFT programme, reiterated the necessity and importance for forestry enterprises to promote sustainable development and to improve the forestry industry from a regional perspective.

Experiences with forest restoration in northeast Asia

Organizers: Seoul National University (SNU), Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI) and the Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF)

The main purpose of the workshop was to provide an opportunity for information sharing on the state of forest degradation and forest restoration in northeast Asian regions and to promote collaboration among northeast Asian countries in the future.

The workshop was divided into four sessions – opening addresses, video shows, keynote presentation and national presentations on Experiences and Challenges on Forest Restoration in Northeast Asia.

In his opening address, Dr Wenming Lu, Director of the International Cooperation Division of the Chinese Academy of Forestry, China, welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of exchange of forest restoration experiences among northeast Asian countries which are located in similar climatic and vegetation zones.

Two videos presenting the background and scope of the event were shown: (i) Greenwill – Erosion Control Project at Yeong-il District in ROK and (ii) Writing the Green Legend of Desert – Transmutation of Kubuqi in China. The first video chronicled the implementation processes and achievements of a successful forest restoration project in the 1970s as a government initiative. The second video introduced the efforts of combating desertification by a private company – the Elion Resources Group – in China.

Mr Sang-ick Lee, Director of the Korea Forest Service of Republic of Korea (ROK), gave the keynote presentation, 'Forest and forest policy of the Republic of Korea'. He introduced the Korean experiences with successful forest restoration and various scopes of activities regarding low carbon and green growth in ROK. He also presented ongoing collaboration work with Asian countries, in particular the Plantation Project in Mongolia and the Chinese Kubuqi Desert and the establishment of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO). He proposed to enlarge the scope of the collaboration project in northeast Asia into the Northeast Asia DLDD (Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought) Network along with the Changwon initiatives.

Five presentations were prepared by invited speakers from China, DPRK, Mongolia and ROK. Professor Youjun He from the Chinese Academy of Forestry, China presented 'Experience, challenges and future actions on afforestation and reforestation in China', focusing on the recent multifaceted efforts in afforestation and reforestation, the inclusion of forestry into national development strategies, public participation, institutional reforms and international cooperation. Specific examples of efforts in afforestation and reforestation in China were further elaborated by Dr Jian Cong from the Liaoning Provincial Forestry Department. He introduced the Liaohe Plain Forest Ecosystem Research Station in Liaoning Province, which provides scientific knowledge for forest ecosystem management in semi-arid areas through relevant researches.

Dr Man Sok Ho, Director, Institute of Forest Management of Academy of Forest Sciences of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), gave a presentation on 'Challenges on rehabilitation of disturbed forest ecosystem in DPRK'. He discussed the state of forests in DPRK and the urgent need for forest restoration. He mentioned that forests in DPRK have been severely degraded by overexploitation of the land and enormous natural disasters due to climate change and requested international support and collaboration on rehabilitation of degraded forest ecosystems as well as for enhancing sustainable forest management.

Dr Batchuluun Tseveen from the Department of Forestry, Ecological Education Center, National University of Mongolia, presented the 'State of forest and forest degradation and restoration activities in Mongolia'. He discussed the state of desertification in Mongolia and national efforts to combat it. He also highlighted the Mongolia-Korea Green Belt Plantation Project, which has been implemented since 2007.

Dr Ho Joong Youn from the Korea Forest Research Institute of ROK presented 'Slope stabilization and greening techniques in mountain areas'. He introduced the Korean erosion control projects and the advanced techniques used for the project. He pointed to forest restoration after fires and landslides and combating desertification as recent challenges for ROK.

Throughout this event it was acknowledged that northeast Asian countries are working towards forest restoration and regional collaboration; this is strongly needed, especially with regard to sharing of information and experiences.



Bhutanese delegates at the Closing Ceremony; Karma Dukpa, Kinley Tshering, Purna Bahadur Chettri, and Kinley Rabgay

Finding the road to sustainable forest management - innovations and lessons in forest governance

Organizer: The World Bank

This partner event, organized by the World Bank with support from the Program on Forests (PROFOR), focused on the relationship between governance and the development of sustainable forest management (SFM). The event consisted of presentations by World Bank specialists and government officials from the Asia-Pacific region highlighting successful and promising projects and strategies related to SFM. After the presentations, there was lively discussion among participants covering both specific, practical examples and conceptual models useful in understanding the nexus of SFM and good governance.

The first presentation described the range of issues confronted globally in the forestry sector and the need to address multiple stakeholders and competing demands. It also analysed how the key parameters of the global timber trade have changed due to more complex supply chains (Asia has emerged as a processing hub) and consumer country legislation requiring proof of legality of imported wood (e.g. the US Lacey Act and the EU FLEGT initiative). It was emphasized that climate-smart natural resource use can only be achieved through landscape-based, cross-sectoral solutions.

The second presentation put forward the risks facing forest resources due to weak institutions that generate unsustainable outcomes and deepen governance challenges. The forestry sector was described as suffering from the 'resource curse', which weakens institutions despite well-intentioned capacity-building efforts. Increasing demands for SFM, arising from interests in biodiversity and possibly climate services from forests, present the opportunity for breaking this cycle. However, it will be crucial that the policy responses address a country-appropriate sequence of investment, governance and institutional capacity building.

The next four presentations shared the experiences of three Asia-Pacific countries that were implemented with support from the World Bank. These case studies, which were closely linked to both of the previous conceptual presentations, were:

- A report on the development of the Lao PDR Department of Forest Inspection highlighted the challenges of illegal logging and wildlife poaching. Furthermore, it described the efforts of the Government of Lao PDR to institute forest law enforcement and governance systems, which introduce more effective participatory SFM through its system of Production Forest Areas.
- A case study on plantation development in Viet Nam illustrated the role of smallholders in forest development. It extensively discussed issues related to certification and how this can be facilitated in smallholders' forests. The presentation also identified the key factors linking small woodlot owners with certification schemes and markets, namely: (i) financial and technical support including documentation; (ii) feasible livelihood solutions prior to harvesting (e.g. agroforestry systems); and (iii) champions for change (e.g. good group leaders and key farmers) with profound local knowledge and practical skills.
- The experience of China's Guangxi Province was also divulged, which uses an innovative approach to financing forestry through the marketing of carbon credits. Its afforestation/reforestation projects are also approved under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). The two projects implemented in Guangxi are showing significant progress by integrating climate, community and biodiversity benefits. They also provide a good example for others and have raised public awareness on climate change and low carbon life. Still, the implementation faced difficulties due to the rigidity of CDM regulations and unexpected challenges such as land disputes.
- The final presentation provided an overview of China's emergence as a leader in the establishment of forest plantations. The report stated several reasons for the remarkable success of its reforestation programmes, including a national development strategy leading to availability of investment funds (both domestic and international) and conducive policies and legal systems. In addition, science and

technology, as well as public awareness, played an essential role. The key challenges are mainly related to the harsh location of the plantations and low forest quality. Moreover, rapid urbanization and industrialization were seen as threats.

During the question and answer session, participants explored the extent to which China's experience might not be directly replicable, but could provide valuable lessons. The participants also suggested that there could be enormous benefits from forest tenure reforms that enable the energies of local people to be harnessed for SFM. There was also a lively discussion focusing on the drivers of East Asia's increase in forest cover compared to some other subregions.

The participants also wanted more details from the presenters about the role of local communities and professionals in the illegal wildlife trade; the cross-border impacts of logging bans; the scope of land-based agro-investments; and ways to promote slow-growing local species as opposed to exotic species.

From Bali to Beijing: lessons learned and remaining challenges from a decade of work on forest law enforcement and governance in Asia and the Pacific

Organizer: Asia Forest Partnership (AFP)

The Asia Forest Partnership (AFP) Dialogue 2011 was themed 'Bali+10: Looking back at the East Asia Ministerial Declaration on Forest Law Enforcement and Governance' – and looking ahead to the next decade.' The dialogue aimed to bring together prominent representatives from governments, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, academic institutions and the private sector in the Asia-Pacific region to exchange information and lessons learned from their ten years of experience working with FLEGT. Another aim was to have participants discuss the magnitude of related issues, such as new perspectives on the importance of addressing climate change beyond forests, forest governance and law enforcement.

The Dialogue convened on 8-9 November 2011 as one of the partner events at the second Asia-Pacific Forestry Week in Beijing. It attracted around 200 participants representing key stakeholders from various forestry-related sectors, including governments, businesses, international organizations and NGOs.

Participants in the Dialogue agreed that the new structure, which combined a variety of different formats, such as talk shows, plenary sessions, breakout groups and interactive discussions, succeeded in capturing new ideas and valuable input on the following important issues:

- Trade dynamics;
- Market incentives;
- Corruption;
- Illegal logging, timber legality and timber trade issues in the context of consumer, producer and transformer countries; and
- Lessons learned from REDD+ implementation in Asian countries.



Lu De and Lu Qian, APFNet China. Key members of the organizing committee

REDD+

Organizers: UN-REDD Programme and USAID's Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests (LEAF) Programme

The event provided a platform for APFW delegates to share and discuss experiences and opinions on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD), one of the most significant international initiatives in forest policy to emerge in recent years.

Despite the social, economic and environmental benefits forests bring to millions of people throughout the Asia-Pacific region, they continue to be destroyed and degraded at an alarming rate. Although many forestry sector stakeholders view REDD+ as an opportunity to reduce emissions while improving forest management, this is no easy task. Several challenges remain and risks need to be managed and openly discussed.

The event offered an opportunity for such open discussion through presentations from three of the region's most experienced commentators on REDD+: Ibu Nur Masripatin, the Government of Indonesia's REDD+ focal point; Amanda Bradley of PACT, technical adviser to the REDD+ project in Oddar Meanchay, Cambodia; and Marlea Muñoz of CoDe REDD, the alliance of civil society organizations that is a leading force behind the Philippines National REDD+ Strategy. The presentations were followed by a panel discussion involving David Ganz of LEAF, Thomas Enters of UN-REDD, Regan Suzuki of REDD-net and Hiroki Miyazono of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), with numerous contributions from the floor.

The discussions elicited several lessons regarding the opportunities, challenges and risks of REDD+ in the Asia-Pacific region. In terms of opportunities, the involvement of the private sector was repeatedly highlighted. Not only does REDD+ present the opportunity for addressing private sector activities as key drivers of deforestation and degradation, it also encourages private investment through corporate social responsibility and, potentially, carbon trading. REDD+ also offers an opportunity to scale up the lessons on effective benefit distribution systems from decades of experience in community-based forest management, and to use the numerous existing regional partnerships and platforms on forest policy and practice (particularly social forestry) to facilitate effective sharing of these lessons.

Among the key challenges to effective implementation of REDD+ in the region, creating viable incentives to change the behaviour of all forestry sector stakeholders is perhaps the most significant. This will require the bundling of other ecosystem services, beyond carbon, into REDD+ incentive schemes. Stakeholders will consider these other services when calculating the opportunity costs of REDD+, even though REDD+ does not explicitly cover these costs. Furthermore, REDD+ once again brings the challenge of gender integration in forestry policy and practice to the fore, as well as other issues of social exclusion in forestry sector decision making. There is also a flip side to the opportunity to engage with the private sector, mentioned above; the challenge of building and retaining the trust of investors who require short-term returns and accurate assessments of the risk of project failure. Another set of challenges arises from the expectations heaped on REDD+. The donor community, in particular, must ensure that resources continue to be directed towards basic infrastructure and skills development as well as governance reform while maintaining countries' potential for additional improvement in forest policies and measures, and thus their eligibility to benefit from REDD+ finance.

Many of the risks of REDD+, as discussed during the event, are intricately linked with the challenges described above. However, one particularly significant risk for this region is the potential for REDD+ to draw funding and expertise away from climate change adaptation efforts, and in particular from the potential of the forestry sector to contribute to these efforts. For most countries in the region, there is greater practical and political need for achievement of adaptation-related goals, rather than mitigation. There is also a risk if REDD+ is initiated without a thorough appreciation of the capacity building requirements, which would lead to failure. On a more fundamental level, there is a risk of getting the incentives wrong, in particular

through failing to account for some key stakeholders, and thus for REDD+ strategies to actually exacerbate deforestation and degradation rather than reduce it.

Towards an inclusive and useful communication platform in Asia-Pacific forestry

Organizer: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Introduction

Building on the New Media – New Messages plenary session (earlier the same day) this workshop was held to discuss, in as much detail as possible, various options for sharing information in effective ways. The workshop drew upon cases from collaboration under the International Year of Forests umbrella, and highlighted how some countries in Asia and the Pacific have worked to reach beyond traditional boundaries – and gained from this effort. An important workshop exercise was to map expectations and inputs for communication platforms. Equally important was reaching consensus on what forms of collaboration (meetings, Internet portals, newsletters among others) would be most prudent. The overall objective was to reach agreement on the role of a communication platform in the Asia-Pacific forestry sector; its goals, functions, and limits – as well as stakeholders' benefits and responsibilities.

Proceedings

Mr Eduardo Rojas-Briales welcomed participants and briefly outlined the purpose and objectives for the workshop.

Ms Maria de Cristofaro made a presentation outlining 'Communication and collaboration efforts in the International Year of Forests (IYF)'. She outlined joint mechanisms for implementing activities by members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and noted the use of key themes and individual monthly themes to focus attention. An IYF toolkit was developed that provided materials and suggestions for informing and engaging the public in IYF activities. FAO developed an IYF Web site and special IYF videos, which were widely broadcast on major commercial networks. FAO also used its Goodwill Ambassadors' Programme to promote events.

Ms Hang Bich (Communications Officer, Forest Sector Support Partnership [FSSP] Coordination Office, Viet Nam) made a presentation on FSSP communications initiatives. She noted that communications form an integral part of FSSP roles, contributing to information sharing, policy dialogue, collaboration on important forest issues and maximizing effective use of resources. FSSP's main communication channels include a bilingual Web site; bilingual thematic newsletters; regional networks, forums and dialogues; and publications, documentary films, etc. She noted that FSSP is a collaboration of government, communities and international partners working together to achieve better forestry outcomes.

During the workshop discussion session various organizational representatives gave perspectives on potential goals and functions of a communication platform. At the outset, participants stressed that various country and organizational communications capacities and resources vary immensely. Organizations (and less so countries) that already have relatively strong communications capacities hold a comparative advantage that they may be unwilling to share or surrender. However, there are also many inspiring examples of extensive collaboration (e.g. the Second Regional Forum for People and Forests held in August 2011 and extensive coorganization of plenary sessions at both Asia-Pacific Forestry Weeks by various organizations) that show that it is possible to pull together.

Discussions also focused on how a regional communication platform in the Asia-Pacific region should work.

Various participants pointed out that it would be easy to get ‘carried away’ in this discussion, against the backdrop of an inspiring plenary session on the topic earlier in the day. Goals need to be realistic; in most countries and organizations only one person is working on communications issues, alongside other tasks, and in reality it is rarely among the top priorities in most forestry organizations at present. Participants suggested that a ‘low-hanging fruit’ could be to establish a common Web portal where all Asia-Pacific countries and organizations could post their communications material; however, further discussion is needed to identify responsibilities and modalities for this. It was also proposed that training sessions and workshops for communication officers could be organized, preferably in conjunction with major forestry events where key actors would already be present. It was proposed that the APFC (and FAO) should initially focus on enhancing member countries’ capacities to communicate their forestry messages effectively. Some participants suggested seeking a more ambitious agenda, but there was general consensus for this initial direction.

Conclusions

Participants agreed there is a crucial need for countries and international organizations to strengthen cooperation and further develop capacity for effective communications in forestry. The workshop resolved to request that the APFC establish a Forestry Communications Working Group, under the auspices of the Commission, to pursue the following objectives:

- Share experiences and knowledge related to forestry communications among APFC member countries and international partner organizations;
 - Exchange communication materials, photographs, mailing lists, expertise, etc. and facilitate the access to other resources for effective information management; and
 - Strengthen APFC member countries’ capacities to effectively address communication issues and challenges.
-

Pacific Islands side event on challenges and opportunities in the region

Organizer: Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

The Pacific Island Countries (PICs) attending the 24th Session of the Asia-Pacific Commission (APFC) Meeting included: Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Samoa and Vanuatu. To take advantage of the opportunities provided by such a well-attended regional forum, the PICs organized an Expert Panel Meeting. Each country, in line with the meeting's theme, New Challenges – New Opportunities, presented the developments, progress and potential areas for collaboration and investment in their respective countries.

At the regional level, forests are still recognized for their social, cultural, economic and environmental significance and contributions. A principal role of forests now being strongly advocated is their role in climate change mitigation and adaptation. This role can be more effective and contribute to reducing the level of deforestation and forest degradation now experienced in many countries, particularly in the larger island countries with formal forestry sectors. The materialization of financial mechanisms and tools now available to countries under processes such as REDD/REDD+ provides real opportunities for countries to safeguard and sustainably manage their forests and forestry development. For small- and medium-size islands such as Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu, protection of trees and forests alone is critical for safeguarding the environment – in particular, the fragile island ecosystems.

Experiences across the Pacific Islands showed that despite a host of issues and challenges ranging from lack of funds, poor policy formulation and implementation, weak institutions, and lack of political will, there are still positive lessons that can be learned and built on for successful forestry development. In Fiji, with a total wood-based export value of US\$28 million in 2010, over 60 percent of this contribution originates from the mahogany and pine plantations. In Solomon Islands, 1 583 smallholders successfully planted 14 000 hectares of high-quality seedlings of teak, mahogany and gmelina. Thirty-five percent of these small woodlots are now more than 20 years old, which at harvest time would fetch a substantial amount of cash for the local communities and generate other economic benefits.

In Papua New Guinea, one initiative to note is the recognition of the rights of customary landowners within the Forestry Act in Papua New Guinea. The formation of the Forest Management Agreements (FMAs) and the Incorporated Landowner Groups (ILGs) has established mechanisms for the meaningful involvement of landowners. Access and acquisition of land and forest resources, including tenure security, have always been a challenge in the Pacific region where most land is communal and privately-owned.

A topic of common interest, and which was raised and passionately discussed in the meeting, was the success of smallholder tree farms in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. In Vanuatu, sandalwood (*Santalum austrocaledonicum*) is native to the country and the export of the wood and oil has been a lucrative business for local entrepreneurs. Replanting sandalwood is now totally the domain of smallholder tree farmers with a decreasing role of the government in providing inputs, incentives and promoting the fast-growing, high value species. Over the last ten years, with the best provenances of sandalwood identified in terms of oil content, the high demand for seedlings has seen growth in private nurseries and areas planted as well as creation of new markets for different products and services run by small-scale, forest-based entrepreneurs. The Solomon Islands' experience in smallholder farmers growing, teak, mahogany and gmelina is similar to the Vanuatu experience; however, it differs in that in the Solomon Islands, the government subsidizes the tree planting through provision of seedlings and a small amount of cash (around US\$400) per farmer.

Countries in the region could improve their forestry management practices if success stories from the countries are published and the experiences gained are more widely adopted and adapted. The key question of what makes the smallholder tree farms in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands successful compared to similar schemes in other PICs is critical. Likewise, the positive experiences of Fiji and Papua New Guinea and other island countries should be analysed to determine what really needs addressing for countries to achieve

sustainable management of forest and tree resources.

The meeting recognized and recommended the following actions:

- Land-use planning is critical and governments must carry this out at the national level – the high conversion rate of forest lands to other land uses is threatening the existence of all kinds of forests and biodiversity;
- Countries must reduce the rate of deforestation and forest degradation through good forest governance and engage in emerging financial mechanisms and management tools like REDD/REDD+ processes;
- Empowering and building the capacities of landowners to fully understand and engage in forest decision-making processes and activities is vital for the success of the forestry sector;
- An appropriate level of assistance and incentives must be given to smallholder farmers to increase their participation in tree planting, growing forests and creating wealth to support sustainable livelihoods;
- Countries should focus on fast-growing, high-value species – research should be carried out to test and identify the best planting materials;
- Forest certification is important and can be used to bring other benefits – countries are urged to use existing recognized international standards or develop national standards that can be recognized by an international certifying body;
- Downstream processing and value added are important for a maintaining a viable and contributing forestry sector. Countries must prepare and organize policies and incentives for smooth transition and implementation;
- Protection and conservation of tree and forest resources is important and efforts must be made to recognize the different roles forests play;
- To complement the success of smallholder tree farmers in some countries, time and appropriate resources must be invested in developing products, markets and capacities of tree farmers to fully understand and participate in markets.

Ecological construction and multipurpose forestry modelling

Organizers: Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF), International Centre for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), Research Center for Eco-environment Science (CAS)

Multipurpose forestry development and drivers for ecological constructions have become a hot topic at the global level in the context of climate change. More than 30 participants attended the partner event ‘Ecological Construction and Multi-purpose Forestry Modeling’ to discuss issues of multipurpose forestry development. Eight experts from the Chinese Academy of Forestry, the Chinese Academy of Science, the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Canadian Forest Service, Kilter Pty Ltd-Australia and RMSI Private Limited made presentations.

Some highlights and findings from the event are given below:

- Proposed the latest concept of multipurpose forestry, which is a way to develop forestry based on the dominant function of forests, while also giving equal attention to the management of other functions and benefits in order to provide the best combined products and services to meet the diversified needs of the public and maximize the combined benefits of multiple ecological, economic and social benefits.
- Compared the difference between resource-based forestry and multipurpose forestry, and proposed a roadmap of multipurpose forestry development in China;
- Recognized that the goal of forest resources management has been shifted from sustained yield to

maximum sustainable yield, to ecosystem-based management, and to adaptive management;

- The paradigm of forest management has also shifted from volume-based to value-based, and from emphasizing a single objective of economic maximization of forest products to multiple objectives of forest products and ecosystem services for balancing regional economic development and eco-environmental improvement;
- A matrix model is a valuable tool for simulations of forest management scenarios. Adaptive multi-use forest management is one of the solutions for balancing different functions of forests in the context of climate change conditions;
- Introduced the methodologies of developing a future farming system. Pointed out that forestry should be included as one dimension when developing a future farming landscape;
- Discussed the application of geospatial technologies in forest inventories and its importance to REDD+ readiness; and
- Some new and innovative concepts, theories and methodologies of multipurpose forestry and drivers for ecological construction were discussed and communicated among managers, technical experts, researchers and enterprise representatives. Some cooperation opportunities and platforms were established.

Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank

Organizers: Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC); Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Background

During 2006 and 2007, FAO organized two expert consultations that discussed the larger issues relating to policy formulation, and the need to build policy analysis capability, taking advantage of the expertise available in the region. It was noted that, increasingly, forests and forestry will be impacted by what is happening outside the sector and outside national borders. Certainly there has been an improvement in the policy process and there is greater recognition of understanding the larger social, economic and ecological context. Increased recognition of climate change impacts and international initiatives like REDD+ have underscored the importance of in-depth policy analysis. As the pace of change accelerates, there is a need for more informed analyses and studies to support policy formulation and implementation. With divergent demands on forests, resource-use conflicts will continue to escalate, necessitating consensus on acceptable trade-offs between competing objectives and adopting a transparent process.

The consultations also helped to articulate the objectives, functions and structure of the Think Tank. Although some of the activities envisaged were undertaken, the Think Tank was not formally launched and the full range of activities was not taken up. Considering the rapid changes taking place within and outside the forestry sector and the urgency of improving policy analysis capability, it was decided to launch the Forest Policy Think Tank during the Second Asia-Pacific Forestry Week held in Beijing, China. About 60 participants, including heads of forestry departments from the APFC member countries, policy experts and other stakeholders attended the workshop. The workshop had the following objectives:

1. Discuss critical policy-related issues that require immediate attention and need inputs from the Think Tank during the next two years and prioritization of issues;
2. Determine the structure and functioning of the Think Tank and mobilization of human and financial resources for the activities envisaged;
3. Develop a communication strategy to promote regular interaction among the different stakeholders;
4. Envisioning the long-term development of the Think Tank.

The success of the Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank will rest squarely on its ability to tap knowledge from a wide array of disciplines far outside the realm of forestry; be able to respond rapidly to the emerging challenges; and that its findings are available to key decision-makers in a timely manner. The Think Tank should also possess credibility and neutrality where its outputs should be highly credible, objective and neutral; and the delivery of its products, which must be desired by policy and decision-makers, is efficient and cost-effective.

Dr C.T.S. Nair, Consultant, APAFRI provided an overview of the Think Tank, including the objectives, functions, structure and deliverables during the next two years. Key activities proposed to be undertaken by the Think Tank include:

- Establishment of ad hoc groups of experts on a wide range of policy-related issues;
- Monthly policy briefs (on topics identified during the APFC Session) prepared and widely disseminated among the stakeholders. It was proposed to prepare 12 policy briefs (each not exceeding two pages) each year;
- Produce five detailed policy papers elaborating some of the critical issues identified in the monthly policy briefs or issues brought to the attention of FAO by member countries and other stakeholders;
- Capacity building in policy analysis through workshops on strategic planning and short courses; and
- Country-level policy seminars/discussions/dialogues.

As regards the structure, initial guidance will be provided by the Executive Committee of the APFC and the Think Tank activities will be supported by the FAO Regional Office in Bangkok. As the pace of activities picks up, the need for a more formal structure will be examined.

Need for a Think Tank

It was noted that currently many decisions are taken on the basis of imperfect information and inadequate consideration of all the pros and cons. At the national level there are severe constraints in identifying what is happening beyond national boundaries and there is very little understanding of lessons from initiatives from different countries. Often, many policy decisions are taken without a proper assessment of the economic, social and environmental implications and consequently many initiatives remain non-implementable. There was unanimous agreement on the need for a regional mechanism to improve the policy process and to strengthen the support that FAO already provides to countries.

What the Think Tank should strive to accomplish

A number of suggestions arose on what the Think Tank should do to improve the policy process in the region. The participants specifically underscored the following:

- Identify what is relevant to decision-making at the country level and to build country capacity in policy analysis;
- Link the talents across the Asia-Pacific region to share thoughts and information on a regular basis;
- Carry out troubleshooting on key emerging issues and improving clarity to avoid biased and unbalanced decisions.
- Identify relevant issues as they unfold and undertake proactive analysis to provide timely response;
- Ensure relevance, independence, legitimacy and develop an effective feedback mechanism;
- Keep track of global trends (economic situation, trade, key negotiations, etc.) and assess how they may impact the forestry sector.

It was noted that efforts should focus on strengthening what is already being done without adding on new structures while improving the efficiency, quality and effectiveness of what is already being done.

Deliverables

- Build up a strong network of policy analysts in the region;
- Provide regular policy briefs and analytical studies relevant to decision-making on topical issues; and
- Undertake capacity-building activities to strengthen policy analysis capabilities.

Next steps

The workshop emphasized the need to initiate the various activities without further delay and agreed with the proposals in the concept note. FAO should immediately focus on the following:

- Prepare policy briefs on relevant issues (one policy brief per month) developed with the inputs from experts from the region;
- Organize short policy courses to build up policy analysis capability at national levels; and
- Implement an effective communication plan using modern communication tools – Web site, blogs, e-mail newsletters, etc. – especially focusing on policy-makers at various levels.



APFW 2011 volunteers helped make sure everything was in order for participants throughout the week

Workshop on developing national strategies for financing sustainable forest management in Asia

Organizers: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); National Forest Programme (NFP) Facility

Background

With increased recognition of the multiple values and functions of forests, financing for sustainable forest management (SFM) has emerged as a key challenge facing the forestry sector. While many countries have initiated actions to support SFM in response to growing environmental awareness and increased attention to international conventions and agreements, the progress remains uneven. Recognizing this critical need, FAO and the National Forest Programme (NFP) Facility, along with other development partners, have supported the development and operationalization of national forest-financing strategies (NFFS) in several countries over the past six years. The main objective of this support is to enhance public and private investments in sustainable forestry as well as to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of these investments. At its core, the work involves analyses of gaps in and opportunities for financing SFM, inter alia, climate change, biological diversity and land degradation, as well as building necessary capacities of member countries to augment financial resources.

As a major step in extending this support to the Asia-Pacific region, FAO and the NFP Facility organized a partner event on NFFS during the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2011 in Beijing, China. The participants, representing various government agencies, international organizations, NGOs and the private sector (particularly investors and banks) gathered to review the current situation of forest-financing mechanisms, share experiences gained and discuss the lessons learned and the way forward.

Main contents and discussions at the workshop

Focusing on the objectives of sharing selected country NFFS processes, achievements and experiences; discussing new and emerging opportunities for financing SFM in the region; and identifying key elements and planning steps needed to support interested countries, the following presentations were delivered at the workshop:

- The concept of an NFFS, achievements so far under FAO/NFP Facility initiatives, and lessons learned;
- FAO study on 'Perspectives on financing from government, investors and forest small holders', one of the main results of which is the analytical results on mapping essential interests of rural communities in management of forests;
- Experiences from Payment for Environment Services (PES) schemes in Asia;
- Country experiences from the Philippines and other regions on implementing the NFFS process.

Discussions focused on the countries' need for NFFS, major bottlenecks to initiating the process and potential country demands for support.

Conclusions

Continuous efforts are being made to improve understanding and knowledge relating to NFFS and strengthen the implementing capacity. Though some countries have indicated interest in developing an NFFS and enforcing the implementation of existing NFFS, there is still inadequate understanding and knowledge about the concept of NFFS and limited capacity.

Currently the biggest problem is often not the lack of money, but the narrow view of SFM's contribution to sustainable development and limited dialogue with the finance sector. There is an urgent need to maintain

a dialogue among interested partners to address the problems mentioned above;

A balance is needed between investment opportunities and investors' needs. Suggested actions to increase private sector investment in the Asian forestry industry include:

- Regulation and supervision of forestry-investing activities;
- Improve land title transparency – deeper local/sovereign risk analysis;
- Better monetization of carbon offsetting – increase sources of income;
- Improve liquidity;
- Returns;
- Education for investors.

Making forestry work for the poor

Organizers: FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Asia Forest Network (AFN), Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)

Key findings from the regional study 'Assessment of the contribution of forestry to poverty alleviation in Asia and the Pacific' covering 11 countries (Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam) initiated by the FAO-Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO-RAP) were shared with representatives from forestry departments from the focal countries as well as regional partners. The topic 'Integration of poverty alleviation in national development planning and forest management objectives' set the policy context for poverty and forests in each of the focal countries. The next three topics focused on the impacts of three broad areas of forestry – community forestry, commercial and industrial forestry, and payment for ecological services and carbon payments – on poverty alleviation, as well as key constraints and recommendations.

Poverty alleviation in national development planning and forest management objectives

In recent years, poverty alleviation has gained more attention in national development agendas and forest management objectives in the study's focal countries, except in Papua New Guinea, where poverty and poverty alleviation are indirectly addressed by forestry industry and management priorities. Forestry policies articulate the recognition of the role of the forestry sector in alleviating poverty, particularly rural poverty, and in contributing to governments' targets for the first Millennium Development Goal (MDG 1) of reducing extreme poverty. However, there is a need to further investigate the extent of support and priority placed on poverty alleviation as a forest management objective in relation to other demands on forests and development goals affecting forests as these are translated into specific programmes, such as the forestry-based poverty alleviation programmes in China and the Upland Development Program in the Philippines. This will reflect how communities can benefit legally and effectively from forest resources and enable them to escape from poverty.

At the same time, it is acknowledged that forestry alone will not solve rural poverty. Forestry-based poverty alleviation strategies should be integrated in rural development programmes, such as the delivery of basic services and infrastructure in rural areas, to maximize impacts for the poor.

Making community forestry, commercial and industrial forestry, and payments for ecosystem services and carbon payments work for the poor

Community forestry: The role of forests in the lives of the poor varies depending on their level of deprivation. For the millions at the bottom, forests are more than a safety net, they are the primary resource base that

provides for their basic needs and livelihoods. Tenure and access rights reform in forest lands, with the efforts toward decentralization in forest management, are the main focus of the community forestry (CF) programmes of governments and other partners to increase the access of the poor to forest resources. While the aims, approaches, level of security and the scope of rights differ, CF allows a level of distribution of forest land and resources to the poor and provides opportunities to participate in forest management.

Numerous constraints hinder the contribution of CF to poverty alleviation. Tenure and access rights are tenuous and short term, and do not really encourage long-term forest development efforts among the poor. Community forest areas, with insecure legal status, often overlap with logging concessions, protected and conservation areas, mining areas and other land uses. Standardized tenure systems are not appropriate to the local contexts in many areas and result in conflicts. Degraded lands awarded to the poor put more burdens on farmers and, without the needed capacity building and livelihood support for communities, CF does not lead to any significant benefits for the farmers. Benefits captured by the better-off families from forests widen the gap between the rich and the poor. Complicated regulations on permits for harvesting and marketing products create disincentives and make it difficult for community members to derive benefits from their efforts.

Commercial and industrial forestry: Direct and indirect benefits for the poor from commercial and industrial forestry are through cash transfers (royalties) to forest owners or affected communities, jobs, infrastructure development and delivery of basic services, especially in rural areas where these are not met by the governments. However, while large-scale forestry activities earn huge revenues for governments and private companies, the profits rarely reach the poor. Timber royalties given to customary landowners in Papua New Guinea form only 3-5 percent of the total monetary value of timber harvested, and are usually neither fairly shared among clan members nor invested in long-term economic activities or community development. The costs incurred by local and indigenous communities dependent on forests often include their physical, economic and cultural marginalization, and the degradation of the forests' ecosystem services. The conversion of natural forests into plantations often leads to the permanent loss of sources for non-wood forest products (NWFPs). Mechanized operations in large-scale operations create limited job opportunities and the demand for technical skills precludes the employment of poor community members. The imported labour force that is eventually left behind then competes with communities over limited resources. Under these circumstances, these operations create more poverty and aggravate prevailing poverty conditions.

Small and medium enterprises provide employment and serve as markets for locally-grown and processed timber. The rapid growth of small furniture-making and processing shops in Viet Nam increased the country's export earnings and created jobs for thousands of workers, but this growth remains unstable and many shops source their wood from illegal logging. Owners tend to pay low wages and do not comply with environmental standards, resulting in environmental pollution. Furniture-making enterprises in Papua New Guinea are largely dominated by foreigners and often lead to exploitative practices that put local communities at a disadvantage. Lack of capacity, capital, market links and poor infrastructure prevent the development of community-based forest enterprises, such as sawmills, furniture making, NWFP processing and outgrower schemes in areas that have potential for forestry. Bhutan, Cambodia, Nepal and the Philippines are moving toward community-based enterprises. Forest agencies acknowledge that their focus is largely on timber (mostly the domain of forest industries) and less on NWFPs (mostly the domain of the poor), but are now interested in reviewing the development of NWFPs for the poor. Commercialized NWFPs are prone to overexploitation, and high demand often leads to competition over the resource and, without local regulations, loss of the resource base. Commercialization of NWFPs must be accompanied by a comprehensive review of what the markets demand, the availability of the resource and its sustained regeneration, and capacity and skills creation among communities to develop high-value NWFPs beyond raw material supply.

Payments for ecological services and carbon payments: Some of the countries initiated payment schemes for ecological services related to water supply, hydropower generation and ecotourism, and are encountering critical challenges and lessons in the process. Markets and policy support for ecological services still need to

be developed. China established compensation systems for ecological services from forests but the payments are generally not enough to compensate for opportunity costs. REDD+ is recognized as an emerging source of financing for forests that may accrue to rural communities with benefits such as the clarification of forest tenure. Questions and concerns regarding REDD+ still remain in relation to appropriate valuation, addressing flawed land-use policies, measurement, reporting, verification and monitoring, and the inclusion of traditional forest uses by indigenous communities, apart from the general question of forest ownership and how the benefits will reach the poor in these forest communities.

Identified priorities: Despite the priority given to poverty alleviation in the forestry sector, the overall contribution of forestry to people's livelihoods and well-being remains limited. In some circumstances, forestry activities even created or aggravated poverty situations in affected communities. Identified priorities and recommendations to increase the contribution of forestry to poverty alleviation include:

- Allocating clear and secure forest tenure and forest management rights to households or communities, which are appropriate to local contexts, to guarantee that the poor will benefit from their efforts and inputs in managing and developing the forests;
- Simplifying regulations on harvesting and marketing timber and NWFPs;
- Building the capacity of people and communities to develop the various skills they need to sustainably manage their forests, develop their livelihoods and effectively pull themselves out of poverty;
- Promoting investments for community-based enterprises and small and medium enterprises;
- Ensuring equitable sharing of benefits from forests, particularly for the poorest of the poor and disadvantaged groups, such as women and ethnic minorities;
- Strengthening government support, such as through increased budget allocation and staff support, for community forestry; and
- Integrating community forestry within broader rural development programmes.

Advancing the role of people in forestry cooperation: the ASEAN experience

Organizer: ASEAN Secretariat

The partner event highlighted the contribution of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to the International Year of Forests 2011: Celebrating Forests for People through initiatives, cooperation and partnership activities, and a plan of action in the context of the ASEAN Cooperation in Forestry. The event was organized by the ASEAN Secretariat with support from the ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC), the German International Cooperation (GiZ), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Korea Forest Service (KFS).

The first part of the event featured a presentation from Dr Suriyan Vichitlekarn of the ASEAN Secretariat on the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Jakarta held in October 2011 which produced the ASEAN Ministerial Statement on ASEAN and International Year of Forests (2011) announced at the Ministerial Special Event on Forestry on 7 October 2011. Through this Ministerial Statement, ASEAN Member States pledged to fully support initiatives, partnership and cooperation activities in the forestry sector. It tasked the senior agriculture and forestry officials to implement necessary actions to promote cooperation in forestry.

Ms Pouchamarn Wongsanga of the ASEAN Secretariat gave an overview of the existing ASEAN Cooperation initiatives. This segment also focused on two cooperation initiatives: the ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN) and the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN WEN).

A ten-minute video on ASEAN Forestry Cooperation provided an introductory overview of the issues, threats and challenges to forests and forestry in Southeast Asia, the central role people can play in response to

these challenges and existing ASEAN Cooperation initiatives in the forestry sector.

This was followed by a panel discussion on actions needed to advance the role of people in ASEAN Forestry Cooperation as a follow up to the Ministerial Statement and as part of the efforts to build an ASEAN Community by 2015. The panel consisted of representatives from ASEAN development and implementation partner organizations, civil society organizations and an ASEAN Member State. Discussions in the panel centred on two questions: (i) How to better engage people in Forestry Cooperation/Development?; and (ii) What Cooperation/Partnership arrangements would be required to better engage people?

Summary of the major points and conclusions from the presentations and panel discussion

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) recognizes that forests provide multiple values and play a vital role in maintaining a stable global climate and environment and declared the International Year of Forests 2011 (Forests 2011) themed 'Celebrating Forests for People.' ASEAN supports global efforts to raise awareness on sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, and to celebrate the central role of people in sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of the world's forests.

Through initiatives to address common threats and challenges to forests in the region, ASEAN has been collaborating to:

- Strengthen sustainable forest management through improvement in forest law and governance and monitoring, assessment and reporting processes;
- Promote sustainable development of forest products, including herbal and medicinal plants;
- Implement timber certification and chain of custody to combat illegal logging;
- Enforce regulations on international trade of endangered species and wildlife;
- Address impacts, adapt to and mitigate impacts of climate change on ASEAN forests;
- Bring people to the centre of sustainable forest management and enhance the contribution of the forestry sector to food security, notably through the ASFN; and
- Promote mangrove protection and restoration through the ASEAN Mangrove Network.

ASEAN will need to further enhance support for initiatives based on approaches in which 'forest and people' are central. It is necessary to strengthen support, particularly for initiatives designed to:

- Bring people to the centre of sustainable forest management and enhance the contribution of the forestry sector to food security, climate change adaptation and mitigation; and
- Achieve the ultimate goals of sustainable development, ASEAN community building and the millennium development goals.

Several ASEAN forestry cooperation programmes already support ASEAN efforts in this direction. These include:

- ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation (AFoCo);
- ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC);
- ASEAN-German Programme on Response to Climate Change: Agriculture, Forestry and Related Sectors (GAP-CC); and
- Collaboration with partner organizations such as RECOFTC and the Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP).

Current efforts of ASEAN Member States to collectively address common issues and challenges in forestry provide the foundation for future cooperation. Emphasis should be given to enhancing the capacity of people and institutions to manage forests effectively and equitably to enable forests to better provide

multiple products and ecosystem services for people's needs and contribute to national and regional goals.

In order to enhance the role of people in ASEAN Forestry Cooperation efforts, it is necessary to:

- Open, broaden or create channels and institutional mechanisms for peoples' and stakeholders' engagement at different levels to facilitate their effective interface with ASEAN decision-making processes;
- Enhance the capacity of people and key stakeholders to engage with their national governments and with ASEAN through strengthened and more effective communication, regular flow of accessible, relevant and timely information to peoples' and stakeholders' groups, and technical/capacity building support particularly for marginalized groups and stakeholders; and
- Foster a mindset for constructive engagement by ensuring that people's and stakeholders' participation will be meaningful and can make a difference, i.e. they can influence outcomes and confer real benefits from participation.

As ASEAN pursues the path towards ASEAN community building, it will be critically important to link regional decision-making and implementation on the ground through effective channels of input and feedback. This will require ASEAN to put in place institutional mechanisms to engage in dialogue with and be informed by different stakeholder groups and to more effectively draw on their perspectives and expertise as input to ASEAN agenda setting and decision-making. This will require designing mechanisms that would enable civil society organizations, forest communities and other stakeholders to be heard and to provide ASEAN Member States feedback and review. In order to sustain people's and stakeholders' interest to engage, it will be important to create genuine space for their concerns and issues to be accommodated and addressed in ASEAN processes and agenda setting.

There is a need to focus greater attention on the economic empowerment of forest-dependent communities, especially through the promotion of forest enterprise development. Forest cooperation arrangements should have greater focus on economic incentives and investment possibilities that enable people to invest in sustainable forest management and in their own development. This will require greater attention to clarifying forest rights and tenure, reviewing forest regulatory frameworks to level the playing field for forest investments and supporting partnerships and arrangements for co-investment in ways that respect local rights and provide safeguards according to international norms and agreements.

In the spirit of learning, there is a need to enhance support for platforms for experience sharing. The ASFN was identified as a model that ASEAN can build upon and learn from in designing mechanisms for engaging people and stakeholders in ASEAN Forestry Cooperation.

China forestry: new challenges-new opportunities

Organizer: State Forestry Administration (SFA), China

The event was convened by the State Forestry Administration (SFA), China on 9 November 2011. The meeting provided an update on the latest progress and development of forestry in China, with interactions with participants through questions and answers to share experiences in sustainable forest management for the benefit of promoting forestry development in the Asia-Pacific region.

In his keynote speech, Mr Chen Fengxue, Chief Engineer of the SFA, elaborated on the global and regional perspectives that create challenges and offer opportunities for forestry development. He then introduced the achievements and experiences of forestry development in China. Mr Chen stressed that, "Forestry in China is facing severe challenges as well as enjoying unprecedented development opportunities." The four major challenges are achieving the dual objectives of increasing the forest area by 40 million hectares and the stocking volume by 1.3 billion cubic metres by 2020 on the 2005 basis; completing the collective forest tenure reform; mitigating and adapting to climate change; and changing the pattern of conventional forestry development for green growth. Forestry in China is also facing strategic opportunities due to China's pressing needs to achieve sustainable development, accelerate transformation of the pattern of its economic development, cultivate and improve ecological civilization, combat climate change and ensure national timber security.

The following speakers highlighted major features of forestry in China. Ms Wang Xuan, Director-General, Department of Forest Resources Management, SFA, spoke about forest resources management in China; Ms Zhang Yanhong, Deputy Director-General, Department of Development Planning and Financial Management, SFA, discussed China forestry development and the forest products trade; Ms Yang Baijin, Deputy Director-General, Department of Rural Forest Reform and Development, SFA, presented China's collective forest land tenure reform; Mr Wang Zhuxiong, Director-General, Department of Afforestation and Greening, SFA, spoke about China forestry and climate change; and Mr Liu Dongsheng, Director-General, Forestry Economics Development and Research Center, SFA, gave a presentation about China forestry and green economy.



Panelists at the partner event on Advancing the Role of People in Forestry Cooperation: ASEAN Experience



Andrew Steer, Special Envoy for Climate Change, The World Bank, making his keynote address during the opening ceremony

Forest genetic resources – towards a better understanding and use of their potential

Organizers: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), State Forestry Administration, Science and Technology Development Centre of China (STDC), Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF), Bioversity International and Asia-Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI)

Forest genetic resources (FGR) represent a largely unknown and untapped resource which enables adaptation to changing environments and provides the basis for species improvement, product development, poverty alleviation and enhancement of ecosystem services. At the same time, FGR are threatened by environmental change and people's increasing demands for products and services – the same problems which FGR, if properly understood and appreciated, could help to address.

This partner event highlighted the importance of FGR, especially in adaptation to environmental change, and introduced recent initiatives and tools for their improved conservation and use. The programme provided insights to the preparation of the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources report (SoW-FGR), national initiatives and programmes in China, and a new training guide on FGR for forest practitioners, teachers and students. The event was attended by about 30 participants.

Dr Sim Heok-Choh of APAFRI moderated the event which began with a welcome address by Ms Hu Changcui, Director-General, Science and Technology Development Centre, State Forestry Administration of China. In her speech she outlined the present scenario of FGR in China, and the progress of compiling the national report for the SoW-FGR report.

Dr Judy Loo, Senior Scientist at Bioversity International, delivered the keynote address on 'Why forest genetic resources matter in changing climates.' After discussing the reasons for which FGR need to be conserved, she continued with the criteria for selecting priority species for conservation, various conservation approaches, as well as various issues related to genetic diversity and adaptation to climate change.

Dr Oudara Souvannavong, Senior Forestry Officer (Biodiversity and Conservation) at FAO, reported on the progress of the preparation of the SoW-FGR report. In order to better understand the status and potential of FGR and to develop action plans for their conservation and enhanced use, FAO is developing this first-ever global assessment of FGR which will be presented in 2013. The assessment is based on country reports and a number of thematic studies with a global scope. Dr Souvannavong emphasized that the preparation of country reports for the SoW-FGR is an opportunity to develop or update national strategies and programmes, and to encourage and promote conservation and sustainable use of FGR. The extensive SoW-FGR process could also induce exchanges, sharing of information and experiences on genetic conservation and utilization, as well as development of new technologies and approaches for FGR conservation and management. The SoW-FGR will provide a framework for action at national, regional and global levels. More information on the initiative is available from the FAO Web site (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/fgr/64582/en>).

Dr Zheng Yongqi, Senior Researcher at the Chinese Academy of Forestry, gave a presentation entitled 'The country of 2000 tree species: understanding China's forest genetic resources'. He outlined China's vast forest genetic resources from various perspectives, including geographical distributions and species endemic to the country. He went on to elaborate China's present scenario on FGR conservation and management, the country's genetic resources network and research on genetic improvement of species. Dr Zheng concluded by explaining the progress on the compilation of China's country report for the SoW-FGR, and how this activity will contribute to national programmes.

Judy Loo introduced the *Forest genetic resources training guide*, a newly-published guide which informs forestry practitioners, teachers and university students about the value of FGR and approaches for their conservation and enhanced use. The guide was developed for non-experts in genetics, and it focuses on

the relationship between forest and tree management and genetic resources. Themes include resource protection and conservation, forest rehabilitation and sustainable forest harvesting. The training materials consist of practical science-based learning cases, multimedia presentations and illustrative materials, and represent an innovative approach for teaching and learning about FGR in a classroom or workshop setting. The guide is freely available from the Web site of Bioversity International (www.bioversityinternational.org/training/training_materials).

During the discussions, participants pointed out the need to continue efforts to promote FGR as important resources and the potential for evolution and adaptation to current and future changes in needs and environmental conditions, including climate change. They also underlined the key role of regional networks, such as APAFRI and the Asia-Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN, www.apforgen.org), in facilitating exchange of information, knowledge and expertise, and in supporting the identification of regional needs and priorities for action.

The event concluded with a brief meeting of the national focal points from the Asia-Pacific region on the progress of compiling country reports for the SoW-FGR.

Community-based sustainable forest management – the Indian experience

Organizers: Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) - Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE), Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), India

The event was attended by 50 registered delegates of APFW 2011 representing 15 countries. The objective was to share the valuable lessons related to sustainable forest management (SFM) and facilitate mutual exchange of useful ideas among participants.

The leading institutions in the forestry sector like IIFM and different research institutions under ICFRE have been working in the area of SFM over the past decade and use a community-based protocol for SFM. The field-tested, community-friendly methods and tools for SFM, now available under this protocol, can be of use to the practitioners of SFM in the countries of the Asia-Pacific region.

Presentations

IIFM: Dr R.B. Lal, Director, IIFM elaborated the various milestones in terms of education, training, research and consultancy achieved by the institute over the past 30 years. IIFM, due to its persisting rigour in its academic functions and quality output, is ranked among the top 20 business schools in India by leading business journals. They also consider IIFM as the best sectoral management school in the country.

ICFRE: Dr V.K. Bahuguna, Director-General of ICFRE discussed the ICFRE, the range of its research and educational activities and its achievements. Currently there are eight fully-fledged research institutes and four research centres functioning under it. In total 486 research projects and five India-coordinated research projects are being undertaken by these research institutions.

Joint Forest Management (JFM) in India: The massive, country wide programme, known as JFM has been under implementation since the early 1990s with funding support from the World Bank during the initial phase. Dr V.R.R. Singh, FRI-ICFRE presented the JFM programme, including its past perspective, present status and future prospects. Dr K.N Krishnakumar addressed 'promoting community participation in SFM' and linking the same with JFM.

Community participation in forest governance: Mr Arun K. Bansal, Director-General of Forests, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India highlighted the convergence effort of project staff with other allied departments such as agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, rural development in order to integrate project activities with the schemes of those departments and long-term sustainability aspects.

Participatory Stewardship System: Ms Claire Parfondry of INBAR gave an overview of the Participatory Stewardship System promoted by the INBAR network across different countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The Participatory Stewardship System is a two-way community-based communication system that relies upon a network and a platform that helps people to reach out.

Poster presentations

Poster presentations aimed to share the Indian experiences on community forest management and its impacts. The main designers of the posters were Dr V. Parkash and Dr Pawan K. Kaushik of RFRI, Jorhat.

Panel discussion/open forum

Panellists included: Ms Doris Capistrano, Advisor, ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change; Dr Ajay Kumar Lal, Head, SAARC Forestry Center, Thimphu, Bhutan; Dr Tara Bhattarai, Freelance Consultant, Kathmandu, Nepal and former Head of the Wood Energy Division, FAO, Bangkok; and Sebastian Schulz, INBAR, Beijing.

Major recommendations

Key recommendations regarding implementation of JFM and its linkage with SFM:

- Participatory efforts in forest conservation, either in the form of JFM as implemented in India or Community Forest Management as followed in Nepal should continue with more strength in all countries of the Asia-Pacific region.
- All these forms of participatory efforts should ultimately lead to SFM, essential for these countries to effectively protect their forest resources and competitively trade their forest products in the international market.
- The governments of these countries should ensure that a larger portion of the benefits derived out of global trading of their forest products as well as their carbon credits should reach back to their forest-dependent communities, particularly in terms of improved livelihood status.
- In the forestry sector the value of physical/monetary assets, social institutions/community-based organizations, livelihood opportunities, ecotourism and other non-tangible benefits like ecosystem services created through participatory efforts like JFM should not be lost or allowed to decline at any cost.
- There are demands from some activist groups to hand over the forest areas under JFM to communities for independent management. However communities are yet to be fully equipped in terms of skills and capacity to manage forests resources independently. They still need guidance and support to carry out JFM activities, for instance in the advanced form of JFM+.
- JFM+ should be in a more sustainable format and not merely based on project mode. There has to be an inbuilt self-sustainable, particularly self-financing mechanism to enable communities to carry out the activities on their own with minimum outside financial support.
- JFM+ strategies should especially focus on building the skills and capacity of women self-help groups so that they can take up forest-based income-generating livelihood activities on a sustainable basis.
- Further, the JFM+ strategies should push the JFM committees to look beyond mere protection of their forest patches. Now the JFM committees or the forest protection committees in collaboration with the Forest Department or other agencies, including NGOs should encourage and facilitate their members to opt for income-generating livelihood activities and gradually reduce their direct dependence on

forests.

- JFM+ should mainly focus on institutionalization and sustainability aspects of participatory forest management by linking JFM activities with livelihood promotion, tangible as well as intangible benefits and services of forests, the carbon sequestration value of forests, certification of forest products and services, sustainability of social and ecological assets, overall community development and poverty alleviation, co-management of allied natural resources and so forth.
- Forest administrators, academics, researchers, professionals and others who are concerned with JFM/PFM/SFM activities should focus their effort to strategize JFM+. However these strategies should be location-specific and evolved in close consultation with local communities.



Miriam Velasco, FAO, with some of the volunteers who helped participants throughout APFW 2011

Fourth Executive Committee Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN)

Organizer: Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN)

The meeting began with opening remarks by Dr S. Appanah (FAO). Dr Sankaran, APFISN Coordinator then reviewed network activities for the past year that included: organization of two workshops; nomination of new focal points by five member countries; completion of work on the publication *Forest invasive plants in the Asia-Pacific region*; release of the new Fact Sheet on papaya mealybug; and signing an agreement with CAB International to collaborate in a large Global Environment Facility (GEF) project on invasive plants in the South Asia.

The chairperson sought views and comments on activities of the network from other members at the meeting. Dr Pham Quang Thu said that the network was instrumental in preparing a checklist of Forest Invasive Species (FIS) in Viet Nam and it was through the various activities of the network that Viet Nam learned the techniques for dealing with FIS. Dr Zhao Wenxia said that APFISN is doing commendable work. She added that because China is a huge country the issues of FIS are more and varied. The country is doing excellent work on combating invasive species threats and is willing to contribute significantly to the activities of the network.

Ms Gillian Allard indicated that she is associated with four invasive species networks: Forest Invasive Species Network for Africa (FISNA), (Sub-Saharan Africa); NENFHIS (Near East); South Cone Countries of South America; and APFISN. APFISN remains a good model for all the others to follow. The leadership is commendable and the products of the network are excellent. The Coordinator and the country focal points deserve credit. The APFISN newsletter has a wide distribution. Other networks have not been as high profile and as successful at outreach as APFISN. Dr Appanah enquired about the source of funds for the network and the Coordinator mentioned the generous support from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service and FAO. Occasionally, other agencies such as the Chinese Academy of Forestry also provide help. He explained about the recent discussion with CAB International regarding support to improve the Web site of the network. Dr Sim felt a need to identify potential future donors for the activities of APFISN and Dr Appanah requested the help of APAFRI to locate funds. Ms Allard observed that it might be an opportunity to approach the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for networking on taxonomy of invasive species.

Dr Appanah suggested that it would be worthwhile to approach the private sector and industries for funds. The matter needs to be discussed at the next meeting of the Executive Committee, which will convene in the next two to three months. At this juncture Dr Sankaran informed the meeting that he will retire in October 2012 and a new Coordinator will have to be nominated. He suggested Dr T.V. Sajeew, from Kerala Forest Research Institute, (KFRI) who is already working on invasive species. Dr Appanah recommended that the nomination be left to the new Director of KFRI.

Dr Appanah warned that despite all our attempts, problems due to invasive species are on the rise and this message needs to be taken to traders and industries. Ms Allard observed that forest managers and the private sector and organizations such as the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) should be encouraged to come forward to address the issues. The immediate priority should be to train people and strengthen awareness campaigns as well as to ensure good communication between the national plant protection organizations and forestry sector personnel. To facilitate this, e-training materials on 'Good practices to forest health protection' aimed at all sectors involved in forestry will be launched by the end of 2011.

Dr Appanah proposed that a sister agency working in direct collaboration with APFISN in Kerala needs to be established in Beijing to assist with APFISN activities. Discussions with Chinese colleagues have been

positive in this context. Funds available in China for invasive species research/campaigns can mostly be used only for internal support, and hence the agency can take care of regional issues. He also clarified that Kerala will remain the principal centre of the APFISN activities, with Chinese colleagues sharing some of the responsibilities, acting as a subcentre. Dr Zhao Wenxia said that China is very interested in sharing the responsibilities. As China encompasses tropical, temperate and arid zones, invasive species pose serious challenges. The Chinese Academy of Forestry is involved in a number of research programmes on invasive species and young scientists, the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the Government of China and the SFA are all supportive of these activities.

Dr Sankaran welcomed the idea of collaborating with China in APFISN activities and requested that details be worked out. Dr Appanah suggested a joint meeting of Chinese and Indian counterparts in Bangkok soon to discuss details and the APFISN Executive Committee can decide on the responsibilities to be shared. Ms Allard said that an India-China joint activity is a good idea and there is considerable potential for collaborative efforts. However, duplication of efforts needs to be avoided and discrete terms of reference (areas of responsibility) should be agreed upon in advance. Dr Sim said that China is far ahead when compared to many countries in having advanced technology and as the country shares boundaries with several nations, much can be done in combating invasive species threats.

Strengthening forestry and climate change regional platforms and learning networks through Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests (LEAF)

Organizer: Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests (LEAF)

Knowledge management for the region presents both opportunities and challenges to ensure that climate change mitigation and adaptation investments are cost-effective and carried out in a coordinated fashion. Otherwise, unorchestrated efforts could prove wasteful, with regional platforms and learning networks potentially duplicating, or even inadvertently undermining, each other's efforts. These uncoordinated efforts may lead to gaps in support to specific activities in some countries and/or limited readiness regionally. Therefore, there is a strong need to coordinate support efforts to build sustainability in regional platforms and learning networks.

The LEAF partner event raised awareness of different key regional platforms and learning networks working on forests, ecosystem services and climate change, and on building collaboration and coordination among the different regional platforms and learning networks, especially those working on climate change adaptation and mitigation. Most of the current regional platforms and learning networks are designed to share knowledge, tools and analyses to foster a better understanding of how REDD+ and PES work, to coordinate readiness efforts and/or develop a regional voice. One of the objectives of the LEAF programme is to strengthen these regional platforms and learning networks with the capacity to generate and support country-led REDD+ and PES initiatives. Institutional strengthening for a regional platform or learning network can be defined in many different ways, some of which include:

- Improved organizational structure;
- Clarification of platform goals and vision;
- Development of platform organizational structure;
- Development of platform agenda action items;
- Training of platform members;
- Increased awareness of platform activities including workshops and forums;
- Practical workshops to increase capacity to replicate models, methods and tools, and/or
- Development of knowledge management systems and information exchange.

A total of five regional platforms and learning networks participated and emphasized their activities, knowledge management and dissemination of tools and best management practices within climate change adaptation, climate change mitigation and PES. The five presentations and platforms are summarized below.

Forest Carbon Asia (FCA), www.forestcarbonasia.org: FCA is a regional knowledge management platform that provides up-to-date, objective and insightful information and analysis on forest carbon-related resources, policies, players and issues across the Asian region. It seeks to promote sustainable forest carbon activities and investments that are good for the environment and local communities. FCA's country pages are linked to player, programme and project pages and will provide a regularly updated overview of the evolving REDD+ landscape in each country. FCA's feature articles examine key issues and developments of relevance to Asia. As of its launch on 12 April 2011, FCA is actively pursuing various funding mechanisms and the LEAF programme has identified the FCA platform for institutional strengthening and continued support.

REDD-net, www.redd-net.org: REDD-net, initiated in 2009, aims to support REDD+ knowledge sharing and network-building among civil society groups in the Asia-Pacific region. Led by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) in the United Kingdom and hosted by three regional organizations including The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC), REDD-net has been very successful in generating knowledge and building constituencies of interested civil society groups. REDD-net Asia-Pacific has been particularly effective in reaching out to stakeholder groups such as indigenous peoples and women's organizations. Building upon REDD-net's successes in Phase 1, REDD-net aims to: research the impacts of REDD+ on local communities; link

local experiences and strategies to policy; expand its geographic focus to include the Pacific Island countries; and strategically engage with other regional REDD+ platforms.

Mangroves for the Future (MFF), www.mangrovesforthefuture.org: MFF recognizes the importance of having a regional knowledge platform and using learning networks to share knowledge. In line with this, MFF has identified three areas of priority for its second phase of operation: (i) Project Management; (ii) Knowledge Management; and (iii) Capacity Development. MFF brings up the results and lessons from its projects through the MFF Knowledge Platform, which integrates human resources, learning processes and technology to collect and aggregate information that supports sound coastal ecosystems management at the regional level. Particularly supporting capacity development of managers, MFF uses this platform to capture project results, best practices, tool-kits and other methodologies that consider both scientific knowledge and traditional wisdom.

ASEAN Regional Knowledge Network on Forests and Climate Change (ARKN-FCC): ARKN-FCC is one of the Subsidiary Bodies under the ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF), established in 2008 based on the mandate of the Tenth ASOF Meeting. The network's four main objectives are designed to facilitate improved cooperation and exchange climate change policy information at the regional level:

1. Mobilize resources and build partnerships to set up and coordinate collaborative research projects that are of interest to Member States and facilitate the exchange of research results;
2. Enhance policy implementation by capacity building to further strengthen the implementation of forests and climate change activities in ASEAN Member States;
3. Support ASEAN decision-making and implementation processes by providing inputs based on policy-oriented research results, outcomes and analysis on forests and climate change; and
4. Support ASEAN Member States to better understand and learn from each other's approaches in the implementation of forests and climate change activities and good practices.

The Regional Climate Change Adaptation Knowledge Platform for Asia (AKP), www.asiapacificadapt.net: The AKP works by building bridges between initiatives, researchers, policy-makers, business leaders and those working on climate change adaptation on the ground. The overarching goal of the AKP for Asia is to strengthen adaptive capacity and facilitate climate change adaptation in Asia at local, national and regional levels. The AKP support and partner organizations are AIT-UNEP RRCAP, UNEP ROAP, SEI, IGES, Ministry of Environment-Japan, ADB, Sida and APN. The AKP for Asia focuses on three pillars:

1. Establishing a regional system for sharing knowledge on climate change adaptation, making it easy to understand and available to those who need it;
 2. Generating new knowledge about adaptation that national and regional policy-makers can use as they plan for climate change; and
 3. Promoting the application of new and existing knowledge about climate change in Asia.
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Meeting the global demand for hardwood – a case for teak

Organizers: TEAKNET, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Forest & Landscape Denmark and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

The objectives of the meeting were:

1. To explore ways and means by which the huge global supply deficit for high grade tropical hardwood can be met by teak.
2. To find out how TEAKNET could be of use to the stakeholders of the global teak sector.

Dr S. Appanah, National Programme Adviser, FAO-RAP, Bangkok, reviewed the origin of TEAKNET, its objectives and its functioning. He noted that FAO has long supported this important network on teak in the region. Dr Appanah then invited Mr Dede Rohadi, Scientist of the Centre for Research and Development on Climate Change and Policy, Indonesia, to chair the sessions.

Teak - a potential species to meet the global hardwood crisis

After a brief introduction about the versatility, quality, durability, strength and many other features of teakwood, Dr K. Jayaraman, TEAKNET Coordinator, drew attention to the prevailing crisis of high-grade tropical hardwoods, which is expected to intensify further in the coming years. The global demand for tropical hardwoods was estimated to be 136 million cubic metres by 2050. It was pointed out that it will be difficult to meet even 10 percent of the requirement for hardwoods with the teakwood produced globally, resulting in an unprecedented price rise for teakwood over the coming years.

The current international situation with respect to the species was reviewed. Suggestions were made on how the supply of teakwood can be geared up to meet the rising demand for hardwood and how the marketing of teakwood can be further facilitated through appropriate trading policies and standards. Reference to the recent study conducted by the Planted Forests Division of FAO, Rome on global assessment of teakwood resources was also made.

A copy of the presentation by Dr Walter Kollert at the international conference held at San Jose, Costa Rica in October 2011 was distributed to the participants. This was followed by much discussion.

The participants appreciated the study conducted by FAO on teakwood resources. The deliberations started with questions about the optimal rotation age for teak. Dr Jayaraman indicated that the rotation age varies with site quality, management options and pricing and referred to the software *Teak Planner* developed by the Kerala Forest Research Institute, with which optimal rotation age, thinning schedule and several financial criteria like NPV, IRR and BCR could be evaluated. Dr Jayaraman further indicated that under the growing conditions and prevailing price structure in India, the optimal rotation age as indicated by the software is around 40 years. The uses of *Teak Planner* in valuation of teak plantations were also discussed.

Questions were also raised about international prices of teak and the variation over size grades. The study by FAO showed the prices fetched in the international markets by small-, medium- and large-sized logs. The study also noted the difference in prices between large logs from plantations (US\$600 per cubic metre) and natural forests (US\$4 000 per cubic metre). The reasons for this difference were discussed.

There were suggestions regarding the unification of log grading rules. Dr Appanah commented on the need to adopt uniform standards so that nobody suffers any loss in the international trading of teakwood. Some participants, however, argued that the unification of log grading rules will not work in the market. Clarification of the grading rules applied in each country and sharing that information among business entities around the Asia-Pacific region would help to achieve a fairer pricing system.

Future perspectives for TEAKNET

Ms Sreelakshmy, TEAKNET Secretary, presented the current activities of TEAKNET and also outlined some of the future plans of the network. The description centred on the objectives of the organization, the various facilities for accessing information from the TEAKNET Web site, information dissemination achieved through the Teaknet bulletin and privileges for TEAKNET members. She also invited suggestions on how networking could be improved for the benefit of stakeholders.

The major question was the availability of information on profiles of companies associated with teak production and trade. Dr Jayaraman requested a format for gathering and reporting such information.

The benefits of the linking mechanisms initiated by TEAKNET were illustrated by referring to the recent tie up established by TEAKNET with the Latin America Teak Organization (OLAT). It was explained how TEAKNET could act as a facilitator by getting the producers and traders onto one platform. It was also mentioned that the next conference in Thailand would attract many stakeholders due to the wide scope of the agenda. The inability of TEAKNET to facilitate the exchange of genetic material was referred to. However, there was general agreement on the value of what TEAKNET is doing currently. The forum also agreed that TEAKNET should pay more attention to the emerging smallholder teak producers in different countries.

Conclusions/recommendations

- Teak, by virtue of its high quality timber and adaptive nature, definitely qualifies to be considered as a potential species for meeting the escalating demand for high-grade tropical hardwood;
 - The initiative shown by several countries on liberalizing government policies on growing teak needs to be continued to attract private investors in the teak business;
 - Sharing of teak log grading rules applied in each country within the Asia-Pacific region is needed for fair trade across countries. When possible, streamlining of these common rules could be initiated.
 - The networking activities of TEAKNET need to be continued to promote effective communication among stakeholders of the sector. New strategies need to be developed to expand the outreach of TEAKNET into wider users, such as the association of smallholder teak producers.
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REDD+ in Pacific Island Countries

Organizers: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

In the context of REDD+, as in so many other ways, the Pacific region is unique. Though separated by vast expanses of ocean Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are leading the way in exploring regional approaches to REDD+.

Strong regional institutions are the key to these efforts. The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) provides a focal point for policy and technical support to PICs. For the smaller countries, with their shortage of human resources, this support is often essential to make use of foreign investment and bilateral assistance in the forestry sector. Working together with SPC and the PICs, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), Japan's International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the UN-REDD programme are providing assistance to help countries in the region to benefit from REDD+.

The side event demonstrated how these donors are collaborating effectively to ensure that support is attuned to the needs of the region. Presentations from senior forestry officials from Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Vanuatu explained how the heavily-forested countries of Melanesia have progressed towards REDD+ Readiness at the national level. All countries consider the technical assistance provided as part of REDD+ Readiness programmes to be an excellent opportunity to transfer skills and knowledge to forestry officials and local communities.

In a region where nearly all the land is in the hands of the local, indigenous population, PICs are well aware of the importance of establishing trusting relationships with local stakeholders for any changes in land-use policy. The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) is working in Papua New Guinea to explore potential roles for local people in REDD+ strategies, through monitoring biomass in community-managed forests. Like rural communities throughout the Asia-Pacific region, these people demonstrate the skills and commitment necessary to provide reliable information. In order to improve the accuracy of forest carbon estimation from such inventory data, JICA presented the activities on the construction of biomass allometric models for PICs as part of its assistance in capacity building of forest monitoring in the region.

But can local communities and, indeed, the smaller PICs, realistically benefit from these investments, or is this only possible at the national scale in the larger, forested Melanesian countries? As a recent report by UN-REDD explains, a regional approach to REDD+ Readiness in the Pacific can indeed ensure that all countries may benefit. REDD+ Readiness entails many 'no regret' actions such as improved forest inventory systems, multisector land-use planning, stakeholder consultation networks and capacity building that are of benefit to all countries, whether or not they then proceed towards a full national REDD+ programme. SPC and GIZ are working together at the regional level to develop platforms for policy development and pooling of expertise so that support for REDD+ Readiness reaches further than stand-alone national programmes.

Workshop on transition to sustainable forest management and rehabilitation in the Asia-Pacific region

Organizers: Renmin University of China (RUC), Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFnet), European Forest Institute (EFI), EU FLEGT Asia Regional Support Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)

The ever-worsening global climate and economic crises with their increasingly acknowledged impacts on the environment warrant the search for new and better approaches that can help reduce deforestation, induce rehabilitation and foster sustainable forest management. Unfortunately, deforestation and forest transition studies of the last two decades have generally failed to provide workable models and tools that can be effectively used to achieve these objectives. Concepts and theories from ecology, economy, social sciences and political sciences shall be exploited to explain forest cover change, and possibly also changing forest quality.

The workshop brought together some 90 participants from a dozen countries. Discussions focused on four major topics:

Global transition of forests – history and future

Part 1: Macro background and national forestry strategic readjustment in China

The gap between rich and poor has widened in China, although more in urban areas than in rural areas. From 1960-1970, rural comprehensive reconstruction initiated by the government mobilized surplus rural labour for investment in the state infrastructures. More natural resources have been exploited since the economic reform of the 1980s, and have become a long-term problem under the featured institutional path of 'Local Government Corporatism'.

Part 2: Advancing international forest governance through National Forest Programmes (NFPs)

NFPs are an important tool to implement the Non Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (NLBI). In the future from 2012-2017, the NFP Facility will try to achieve two objectives: (i) local organizations of smallholders, communities and indigenous peoples are strengthened, are gaining investment and are engaging in subnational-, national- and global-level decision-making for sustainable landscape management and food security; and (ii) establish better coordinated cross-sectoral platforms for government dialogue on sustainable landscape management and food security in which local stakeholders, other civil society organizations and the private sector are fully integrated.

Part 3: Balancing needs and expectations: forestry transitions among British Columbia's First Nations

There is a long and complex relationship between the traditional owners of the land and the European colonists in British Columbia. Despite efforts, the quality of life of First Nations is significantly lower than that of other residents. Revenues from forests present a possible means to contribute to the resolution of these issues. However, inadequate consultation has resulted in repeated failures in policy.

International forestry trade and governance

Part 1: FLEGT to support transition to sustainable forest management in the Asia-Pacific region

Civil society organizations, industry and governments have brought pressure to stop the European Union (EU) from acting as a market for illegally-harvested timber. The 2010 EU Timber Regulation aims at prohibiting the placing on the market of illegally-harvested timber, assuring consumers that the products they buy are legal and providing a level playing field for timber traders in the EU market.

Part 2: Going green: an Importing Trade Association view

The economic climate and increased costs have affected the industry. EU environmental and social regulations have grown. Some premiums are paid for sustainable forest management-certified tropical timber products. Large market opportunities exist for timber because green building and reducing environmental impact initiatives are increasing the appetite for timber; some governments have demonstrated a preference for using wood in public buildings. Timber is the only truly renewable resource and therefore the most sustainable material if sourced from well-managed forests.

International initiatives to enhance forest transition

Sustainable forest management (SFM) has been at the centre of forest policy in most Asia-Pacific countries for over ten years. Many countries are, however, still in the primary stage of forest development. Forests are often not actively managed, but transitions, aided by increased investment, are taking place. New international initiatives to support SFM include forest product legality legislation and REDD (including conservation, the sustainable management of forests and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks).

Forest transition studies

Population, economic development, institutions, knowledge/technology and cultures are important drivers of SFM and forest rehabilitation. Von Thunen's agricultural location theory, the dependency theory/world system theory, the general equilibrium model of land-use decisions and collective-action theory jointly constitute the foundation. Approaches for transition studies include: multiscale, including country leverage and local leverage; multiscalar; structural; historical versus contemporary cross comparison; and quantitative versus qualitative.

During the workshop scholars and officials from several countries and institutions exchanged and shared views about the transition to SFM and forest rehabilitation, which strengthened communication and improved understanding about key factors driving the transition of forests, consequently helping researchers to find better approaches and theories for transition studies in the future.



Randell Aranza, Philippines – ‘Winning Essay Awardee’ reads his essay during the opening ceremony

Integrated landscapes, people, forests and biodiversity

Organizers: GMS Environment Operations Center (EOC) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB)

The main objective of this event was to showcase how the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) countries have realized biodiversity conservation outcomes through a multisector, integrated landscape management approach.

Approximately 30 participants attended including representatives of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the World Bank, US State Department and US Forest Service as well as Asian country forestry delegations from Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand.

Presentations were made by Mr Zhou Bo, Director of the Yunnan Environment Protection Department, Ms Yan Lu, Primate Specialist of Flora and Fauna International and Mr Jim Peters, Chief Technical Advisor of the EOC. The presentations focused on the GMS Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative and highlighted several aspects including: the multisector conservation and development model that was adopted; scaling up of these interventions; the baseline monitoring framework and related GIS-based mapping of forest fragmentation; the complementary REDD+ Readiness activities and the potential to bundle other PES schemes. The presentations gave examples of local, provincial and regional results as well as the ongoing development of cross-sectoral linkages between conservation landscapes and the Asian Development Bank's GMS Economic Cooperation Program with specific linkages to the transport and energy sectors.

The event featured the GMS Report of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study II, which was produced in a collaborative effort between FAO and the GMS Core Environment Program and the Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative (CEP-BCI).

Following the presentations, there was an animated discussion featuring questions and feedback from the participants. Questions focused on: (i) how Yunnan and Guang Xi Provinces took decisions to establish new protected areas and established cross-border protected area and conservation landscape approaches; (ii) whether establishment of the revolving funds was on a quid pro quo basis or not; and (iii) whether activities coming out of the revolving fund activities were linked to positive or possibly negative protected area and/or conservation corridor outcomes.

Students' Green Forum

Organizer: Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)

APFNet announced the winners of its young students green plan contest at the 1st Youth Students' Green Forum. The winning green plans were selected from nearly 150 submissions created by colleagues and university students all over China, who responded to the opportunity to help promote the green ideal on and off campus.

With the theme 'Green Idea', the Forum aims to help cultivate the innovative talent of young students and promote creative thinking on solutions to challenges facing us today in forest protection and management.

The top winners received certificates and prize money for the future development of their projects. The announcement of the winners wrapped up the initial launch of the Green Idea campaign, which started in September 2011.

The winning submissions were: First place: 'Startup marketing plan for Beijing Green & Foison Co. Ltd.' by Liu Xiaochang from Beijing Forestry University; Second place: 'Green flow project' by the Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team from Nanjing University.

"This contest provides a unique way for our team to become a part of a green campaign. I would like to thank my team members for their great ideals which make our project more operational," said Su Judong, team leader of the SIFE team.

"As sustainability is becoming more important to our planet today, we want to draw the students' attention and efforts to green issues, and also provide an opportunity to stimulate their creativity through competitions," said APFNet's deputy executive, Mr Lu De.

Rights and empowerment of indigenous peoples in a changing environment

Organizers: Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) and Forest Action in Nepal with the support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation (Sida) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Indigenous peoples have historical connections with precolonial societies to their territories and maintain distinct and unique cultures and identities. They practise their traditional sustainable resource management systems and are determined to preserve, develop and transmit them to future generations, along with their identities and harmonious relations with the earth.

In response to measures addressing climate change, indigenous peoples are striving for the recognition of their rights and their empowerment in forest management, land tenure and sustainable livelihoods for food security among, other issues.

The main aim of this event was to share and discuss the issues, concerns and experiences regarding indigenous rights and empowerment in Asia. There were three presentations from member organizations and leaders of the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) from Thailand, Viet Nam and Indonesia and one presentation from Forest Action-Nepal. Forty-five delegates from 20 countries attended.

Forests and the rights of indigenous peoples

Ms Rukka Sombolinggi, Executive Council Member of AIPP, working with the Alyansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara (AMAN) in Indonesia, presented the rights of indigenous peoples based on the United Nations Declaration on Rights of the Indigenous Peoples (UNRDIP): the right for self-determination; customary laws and institutional systems; land rights; free, prior and informed consent; the right to development; the right to language and culture; the right to education, media, health and international agreements; and the right to forest resources.

Indigenous peoples' forest management practices, issues and challenges: cases from Thailand

Mr Kittisak Rattanakrajangsri, Executive Director of the Indigenous Peoples Foundation for Education and Environment (IPF), Thailand, presented the issues and challenges of indigenous peoples in forest management practices in Thailand. His presentation focused on land and resource rights; traditional resource management; and conflicts between the government and indigenous communities on forest resource management, illustrated by cases from Doi Luang National Park and Kaeng Krachan National Park in Thailand. The IPF is a partner organization of AIPP in Thailand.

Economic empowerment through community forestry in Nepal

Dr Krishna Paudel, Programme Coordinator for Forest Action, Nepal, presented the economic empowerment of community forestry in Nepal with reflections of an impact study conducted in Nepal. He presented the impacts of community forestry on sustainable livelihoods, environment and poverty alleviation, including the perceptions of local people about landscape changes. He also presented indigenous peoples' issues on community forestry in Nepal, as centralized planning in community forestry ignores their needs and issues and denies them their customary forest rights.

Indigenous peoples' rights and empowerment in community forestry in Viet Nam

Mr Doung Hoang Cong, Project Officer of the Center for Sustainable Development for Mountainous Areas (CSDM), gave a brief overview of ethnic minorities; the status of community forestry management; and cases of empowering ethnic minorities in community forestry management systems in Viet Nam. CSDM is a partner organization of AIPP in Viet Nam.

Highlights and discussion

Based on the presentations, the comments and questions raised in the forum were related to key issues regarding indigenous peoples' rights and the realities on the ground. Discussions focused on:

1. Understanding indigenous peoples – common understanding of indigenous peoples with unique and distinct cultures, identities and management systems, different from other categories of minorities.
2. International treaties on indigenous peoples (UNDRIP) – what are the impacts of UNDRIP on the indigenous peoples' livelihoods?
3. Indigenous issues and concerns – what are the existing and possible issues and concerns indigenous peoples are facing regarding the legal, socio-cultural, economic, political and spiritual aspects that affect them?
4. Conflicting situations – what are the forms of aggression, deprivation, impoverishment, displacement and inequity; how indigenous people are being affected; what are the realities on the ground in different parts of Asia; and how are indigenous peoples able to address these conditions?
5. Full and effective participation – what is the level of participation, representation and inclusiveness of indigenous peoples in decision-making and policy bodies; how can it be enhanced and reflected in concrete actions?
6. Challenges – what are the tools, processes and references (surveys, maps and other records) that are

enabling and empowering indigenous peoples?

Conclusions and the way forward

Indigenous peoples are not legally recognized and protected by measures and policies that respect their rights and their contributions to forest conservation and management. It is therefore important to increase awareness raising, information dissemination and policy advocacy on the rights and empowerment of indigenous peoples as critical elements to sustainable forest conservation as one solution to climate change.

Continuing engagement and meaningful collaboration between and among indigenous peoples' organizations, UN agencies, civil society organizations as well as government bodies and donor agencies shall be promoted and enhanced to generate broader understanding and cooperation in addressing the issues, needs, concerns and rights of indigenous peoples for their empowerment.

The Second Forestry College Deans Meeting in the Asia-Pacific region

Organizers: Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet) and Beijing Forestry University, with support from the University of British Columbia, University of Melbourne, University Putra Malaysia, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Forest education is the foundation for sustainable forest management. Its importance is well recognized by economies in the Asia-Pacific region. As a key partner event during the Second Asia-Pacific Forestry Week, the Second Forestry College Deans Meeting in the Asia-Pacific region held on 11 November 2011 in Beijing was attended by 39 delegates from nine regional universities and seven international organizations.

This meeting built on the success of the first meeting held in Beijing during 22-23 June 2010. In the first meeting, participants discussed existing problems of forestry education and identified key strengths and weakness of forestry education agencies in the region. The meeting reached an agreement to establish the Forestry College Deans Meeting Mechanism in the Asia-Pacific region (FCDMM-APR) as a platform for collaboration. Beijing Forestry University offered to lead this initiative. Immediately after the first meeting, Beijing Forestry University worked closely with all interested parties to draft a programme framework that addresses the organizational structure of the FCDMM-APR, long-term goals and proposed actions. The second meeting provided an opportunity for leaders from the forestry departments, colleges, universities and major international organizations active in forestry education to learn about the latest developments and to participate in the building process of the FCDMM-APR.

The meeting included the following activities:

Session 1: Sustainable forest management and regional process of forestry education

Presentations were made by Dr John Innes, Dean, Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia, Canada; Mr Eduardo Rojas-Briales, Assistant Director-General of FAO Forestry Department; Dr Awang Noor Abd. Ghani, Professor of University Putra Malaysia, Malaysia; and Dr Hosny El Lakany, Chair of the International Partnership for Forestry Education

Session 2: Opportunities and challenges for selected economics

Presentations were made by Dr Liu Junchang, Director of International Cooperation Division, Beijing Forestry University, China; Dr Chris Weston, Deputy Director of Forestry and Ecosystem Science, University of Melbourne, Australia; Dr Bui The Doi, Head of Sciences, Technology and International Cooperation Division, Vietnam Forestry University, Viet Nam; Dr George Hopper, Dean, College of Forest Resources, Mississippi State University, United States; Dr Bambang Saharjo, Dean, Faculty of Forestry, Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia; Dr Rex Cruz, Chancellor, University of the Philippines at Los Baños, Philippines; Dr Peter Marshall, Associate Dean, Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia, Canada; and Dr Faridah Hanum Ibrahim, Dean, Faculty of Forestry, University Putra Malaysia, Malaysia.

Session 3: Functionalizing the Forestry College Deans Meeting mechanism in the Asia-Pacific region

Presentations were made by Dr Luo Youqing, Vice-President of Beijing Forestry University, China and Dr Innes.

There was a group discussion on the organization, objectives and actions of the proposed FCDMM-APR, and a consensus was reached on following points:

- The establishment of the Steering Committee as the decision-making body for the FCDMM-APR. The current committee consists of nine representatives from nine regional forestry education institutions. The composition of the Steering Committee is expected to change every term. It aims to take in more representatives from international organizations and forestry training institutes. Dr Luo Youqing and Dr Innes were chosen by the committee as the chair and co-chair with a term of three years.
 - A coordination office has been set up to implement the decisions made by the Steering Committee and to coordinate collaboration among forestry education institutions in the region. The office is hosted by Beijing Forestry University.
 - The meeting decided that the FCDMM-APR would carry out the following actions immediately:
 - Conduct a preparatory study to analyse the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats faced by the forestry education institutions in the region and to identify areas for possible collaborative projects; and to lay out a roadmap for the next five years.
 - Submit project proposals to possible sponsors, including APFNet. Based on the results of the preparatory study, the Steering Committee will prioritize topics and will identify the teams undertaking the projects in an equal, effective and inclusive manner. The committee will submit the proposals on behalf of the FCDMM-APR to possible sponsors.
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Bamboo forests and climate change workshop: defining differences between bamboos and trees

Organizers: The International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) and the China Green Carbon Foundation (CGCF)

Aims

The workshop followed up on an INBAR event held at the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week in 2008 in Hanoi. It was designed to be an interactive and participatory event to address current urgent issues related to bamboo and climate change mitigation. In the first part, selected experts highlighted findings from their work on bamboo and climate change. Specifically, the workshop aimed at introducing the first draft of project CGCF/INBAR/ZAFU's new carbon accounting method for afforestation with bamboo in China to a global audience. This draft is now open for technical consultation; therefore, in order to develop the methodology further, discussion groups with experts were set up to discuss the characteristic differences of bamboos and trees with regard to carbon accounting and the draft methodology.

Presentations

- Dr Coosje Hoogendoorn, Director-General of INBAR, introduced INBAR and the potentials of bamboo in climate change. The achievements and activities of INBAR and its partners since 2008 were highlighted.
- Dr Li Nuyun, Director-General of CGCF, presented 'Research and practices of China's forestry carbon trade'. Her presentation outlined the development and achievements of forestry carbon projects in China and CGCF's role.
- Prof. Zhou Guomo, Director of the Zhejiang Agriculture and Forestry University (ZAFU), presented 'Research progress and challenges in bamboo and climate change mitigation'. He provided a comprehensive overview of developments and challenges in bamboo and climate change research.
- Dr Lou Yiping, Director of INBAR's China Partnership Programme (and former director of the Environmental Sustainability Programme), presented 'Introduction of CGCF/INBAR/ZAFU's carbon accounting methodology for afforestation with bamboo'. His presentation summarized and highlighted the main points of the draft methodology and focused on the differences between bamboos and trees.
- Dr Yannick Kuehl, INBAR's climate change expert, presented 'Issues in bamboo and climate change'. This focused on INBAR's and its partners' strategy to move forward and upcoming challenges.

Discussion groups

The participants were split into two groups. The aim of both groups was to define the differences between trees and bamboo in carbon accounting.

Group 1: 'Project eligibility: additionality, permanence and risk in bamboo forests'

The goals were to define:

- Permanence and crediting periods in bamboo projects (as opposed to trees);
- Risks and challenges that exist in bamboo plantations, but not in trees;
- Financial challenges for bamboo ANR projects;
- Where ANR projects with bamboo can ensure additionality; and
- Opportunities – other than forestry – for bamboo in climate change mitigation.

Group 2: ‘Monitoring: carbon stock changes in bamboo stands’. The goals were to define:

- Challenges, approaches and differences in defining carbon stock change in bamboo plantations for ANR projects;
- The special role of bamboo’s belowground biomass for carbon accounting;
- Monitoring methods for bamboo;
- The possibilities of harvesting bamboo while accumulating carbon credits;
- Opportunities – other than forestry – for bamboo in climate change mitigation.

Outcomes

- The workshop was successful in linking global bamboo stakeholders;
- The workshop was successful in raising awareness of challenges and opportunities with regard to bamboo and climate change; and
- The discussion groups produced several valuable inputs for the further development of the draft methodology.

Forest restoration and livelihood improvement

Organizers: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the International Model Forest Network (IMFN)

During APFW, private enterprises, NGOs and influential players in the environmental and forestry sectors came together to debate the challenges and opportunities that Asia’s forests face. Participants agreed that the impact of reforestation, afforestation and forest management programmes should extend far beyond the protection and management of forests to improve not only the livelihoods of indigenous and local peoples, but also to promote biodiversity and reduce carbon emissions. APFW sessions discussed a wide range of topics such as forest communities, REDD+ and climate change, land tenure problems, green economy and investment, and illegal logging. Several sentiments were echoed throughout the week such as forest management knowledge sharing, stronger forestry governance and technical, political and economic challenges that each respective organization faced.

In order to share case studies and experiences of forest landscape restoration from different countries with this broad audience, IUCN and the International Model Forest Network (IMFN) organized this side event which was attended by around 100 people. Four speakers shared experiences from their respective organizations on forest restoration and livelihood improvement with demonstrated case studies.

‘Better water, better forests, better lives’ represents the goals of IUCN’s Livelihoods and Landscapes Strategy. Wang Xiaoping, from the Beijing Forestry Society (BFS), elaborated on IUCN and BFS’s collaboration on the Miyun Reservoir in Beijing and Hebei Province. Miyun Reservoir is the biggest watershed in Northern China and supplies up to 80 percent of the drinking water for Beijing’s 17 million residents. From water shortages and pollution to declining forest biodiversity to the widening gap between urban and rural incomes, the Miyun Reservoir faces several challenges.

IUCN is addressing these challenges through forest landscape restoration, community development and water conservation measures. Beijing forest cover has increased tremendously from 1.3 percent in 1949 to 36.7 percent in 2010. Both organizations have used forest inventories, biodiversity surveys and several types of multimedia and multistakeholder dialogues to accomplish their goals. Water management success in the Miyun Reservoir could be applied to hundreds of watersheds throughout China.

The Livelihoods and Landscapes Strategy stretches far beyond China. Matthew Markopoulos of IUCN Asia presented 'Multi-stakeholder approach to negotiating landscape trade-offs at Doi Mae Salong, Thailand'. In Doi Mae Salong, in northern Thailand, IUCN is restoring the landscape and helping to alleviate the severe poverty of people living in the area. The landscape of Doi Mae Salong has been degraded over the last few decades, originally through poppy cultivation, then extensive agriculture.

Forest exploitation led to floods and landslides, which in turn led to the further destruction of the landscape and thousands of homes. With the collaboration of the Royal Thai Army, intensive reforestation and watershed management projects have been implemented. IUCN Thailand represents the interests of all parties that have a stake in the region's natural resources, from local people to international investors, and makes sure they take part in the decision-making process. IUCN staff emphasized the importance of local leaders accurately portraying the interests of their people and said that clear communication was vital to the project's success.

C.G. Kushalappa of the International Model Forests Network (IMFN) presented 'Model landscapes and forest landscapes restoration'. He defined a model landscape as a clearly defined geographical area with significant forest cover that incorporates a diversity of forest uses and values and represents social, environmental, cultural and economic values. Mr Kushalappa used Karnataka, India, as an example of an Asian model forest. Karnataka has the largest wood districts in India that produce 38 percent of India's coffee. The IMFN has worked assiduously for the restoration of this area's sacred groves.

Steen Christensen of Mangroves for the Future (MFF) discussed coastal forest ecosystem restoration in Thailand. Mangrove benefits range from food and fibre to regulatory roles in flooding and erosion, sediment trapping, carbon sequestration and climate moderation. Mangroves are essential to disaster prevention. MFF's initiative has worked to protect mangroves throughout Thailand while reducing poverty in coastal areas.

These coastal communities are highly dependent on the mangroves for their livelihoods. Coastal ecosystems are being better managed and local communities are helped in the transition to cultivation of products that do not degrade the mangroves. For example, MFF helped former fishers to cultivate aloe vera plants, which produced a higher and more sustainable income. Integrated mangrove fish farming has been instituted in India. MFF has also given small grants to local communities in Sri Lanka. One of the main sentiments echoed throughout all of the presentations was the importance of improving the living conditions of the local people.

Forestry is a complex and complicated issue, but the benefits and impacts of responsible forestry span far beyond the forest communities themselves. During the discussion participants raised a number of questions, mostly related to the development of PES services in China; how to better involve local communities in multistakeholder dialogues; and the mangrove conservation policy in Asia. The participants indicated that this side event offered them a much deeper understanding of the benefits and importance of forest restoration and livelihood improvement drawing from practical experiences around Asia.

The key discussion points were collected by the SFA for further policy advocacy reference. An online report was also posted on the IUCN Web site: http://iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/asia/asia_where_work/china/?8661/Forest-Restoration-and-Livelihood-Improvement-IUCN-Side-Event-at-APFW.

Food chain and nutrition issues in forestry

Organizer: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

The event provided an opportunity to raise awareness and build consensus among the participants on the particular value and the contribution of forestry to dietary diversity, health and nutrition by sharing experiences and learning lessons for effective policy and programme planning and evidence-based research.

Reduced dietary diversity has serious effects on the nutrition and health of rural and urban populations and deprives rural farmers of opportunities to generate income from their produce, whereas dietary diversification is widely accepted as a cost-effective and sustainable way of tackling nutrition-related health problems. Neglected and underutilized food resources constitute the bedrock of the diversity in the traditional and indigenous food systems of developing country communities. Traditional and indigenous food systems are less deleterious to the environment and address the cultural needs of local communities. In particular, food from the forests becomes critical to rural areas in times of crisis, when transporting food to remote areas is difficult.

Forests are home to an estimated 60 million indigenous people, who are directly dependent on forest resources and the health of forest ecosystems for their livelihoods. The cultural and spiritual identity of indigenous peoples is often linked to intact primary forests with their rich biodiversity. There are approximately 400 million indigenous people across more than 70 countries, with a high percentage located in tropical areas. They depend on the forest to sustain their ways of life. The knowledge of the medicinal, nutritional and cultural uses of over 1 300 different forest plants is common in local indigenous communities.

Forest ecosystems contribute to the diets and subsistence of forest dwellers, and in increasingly market-oriented economies they provide a significant portion of the food and medicines consumed by populations. Recognition that the sustainable use of forest resources is essential for local livelihoods and the well-being of national populations provides a foundation for investment in conservation of forest biodiversity and its integration with the objectives of climate change, poverty reduction, food security and others in development policies. However, it is first necessary to demonstrate more fully that biodiversity is indispensable for combating malnutrition and diseases of vulnerable populations in a global context of unprecedented population growth and resource demand. The event highlighted key components of the link between forest biodiversity and the viability of contemporary food systems.

From a nutritional perspective, forest environments offer ample sources of animal (vertebrate and invertebrate) protein and fat, complemented by plant-derived carbohydrates from fruits and tubers and diverse options for obtaining a balance of essential vitamins and minerals from leafy vegetables, fruits, nuts and other plant parts. The golden apple is an important forest product that is high in vitamin C and widely used throughout Thailand and the rest of Asia. The fruit rind of uppage trees in India, traditionally used as a condiment, has found a new use as an active ingredient in weight loss pills. Other forest products such as sandalwood and the birds' nests collected from the forests and used to make soup, traditionally eaten only by the elite classes, are nowadays enjoyed by many people throughout the world.

For forest-based societies that draw on traditional knowledge for most of their subsistence needs, the use of a diversity of resources can be expected to contribute to nutrition and health. Although many traditional subsistence systems depend on one or more staples such as cassava, sago, rice or maize, such diets are kept diverse and balanced through small but complementary amounts of animal-source foods including birds, fish, insects and molluscs, as well as sauces and condiments obtained from forest plants.

Promoting sustainable use of forest resources for food and indigenous peoples' rights to utilize the forest requires the development and integration of a broad spectrum of policy, legal and technical measures and depends on the engagement of a wide range of stakeholders, including: indigenous peoples, non-governmental

organizations, researchers and public and private institutions, extension and local development agencies, and national authorities for environment, forestry and agriculture.

There is often a tendency to associate forests mainly with trees and timber production. Other products, such as edible plants, insects, oil, floss food, fodder and medicinal plants are sidelined as merely minor forest produce. However, it is acknowledged by many different stakeholders that these products from the forest are economically even more valuable than timber, especially their social and cultural values, in addition to their high nutritional value.

Panel presenters from selected institutions highlighted key elements drawing on case studies and lessons learned. They showcased best practices in enabling and promoting multistakeholder participation in institutions and mechanisms at national and regional levels contributing to conservation and sustainable use of forest resources for improving food and nutrition security.

Research on indigenous forestry food plants requires correct taxonomic identification, chemical analysis and nutritional data. The research institutes presented research results focusing on enhancing the knowledge base on traditional foods, “knowledge of the foods that are part of the traditional food systems is imperative”. There is a dearth of nutritional information on indigenous and traditional foods, and therefore they are largely ignored by international agencies in global food and nutrition initiatives.

There is evidence that indigenous communities recognize the health and nutritional benefits of some of the edible forest products that are part of their traditional food systems. They are well aware of cultivar specific differences in agronomic and dietary attributes, and they often describe certain cultivars or indigenous varieties as having particular nutritional or therapeutic value. This knowledge must be captured and documented and made accessible to those developing food security and nutrition interventions and policies.

The private sector is a key player in the development and promotion of practices and technologies that can support sustainable agriculture for countries, local communities and farmers. The private sector urges an all-out effort by the international community to replicate successful solutions and activities that harness and promote good practices in the conservation and use of forest resources alongside the already implemented focus on commercialization of identified nutritious high-value plants. This will facilitate the transfer, adaptation and scaling up of the best approaches and technologies for harvesting, transporting and sustainable trading of forest food goods.

Report on international student activities at APFW

Florent Kaiser – Freiburg University

Twenty-four international student delegates attended the Second Asia-Pacific Forestry Week. Preparations for student events included a challenging five-month internship placement for one international forestry student at the FAO Regional Office for the Asia-Pacific (FAORAP) in Bangkok, Thailand. Fundraising efforts, design and planning of activities, understanding and dealing with FAO requirements and China's policies were the most important tasks. In the end, 24 students from eight countries and ten universities were able to join the delegation and travel to Beijing.

With around 1 000 participants from UN and state agencies, NGOs, private companies, educational institutions, the general public and students from all over the Asia-Pacific region and beyond, the conference was a melting pot of professions, backgrounds and cultures. The conference programme reflected this diversity in a colourful way. During the three major plenary sessions of the 24th session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry-Commission (APFC), approximately 45 partner events and a plethora of other activities, each participant gained remarkable insights throughout the week.

'Make it Young' strategy

FAO, with the help of several student interns, aimed to facilitate youth and student participation at APFW 2011. It was anticipated that the young people would give valuable inputs through different interests, perceptions and expectations and enhance dynamism and creativity. Several sessions had focuses on education or were organized in a way that would make them attractive to the younger generation. Good examples were the plenary session on New Media – New Messages: Forestry Communication in Asia and the Pacific, various networking activities such as the student-organized Student Career Orientation Fair – Youth Meets Forestry Professionals and the Student Green Forum organized by APFNet. Furthermore, accompanying events such as the Forestry Film Night and the informal atmosphere in the Canopy Room attracted youthful attention. Both the preconference essay writing and photo contests were a further efficient means to bring students to APFW 2011.

The 'Make it Young' strategy was a success and should serve as an example for every event of this kind.

Many students are unaware of the diversity of the forestry sector in their region and beyond, and the potential future professions that come with it. Getting to know about these things often awakens personal motivation to better orientate and excel in work and studies towards a clearer goal. Furthermore, the conveyed forestry related knowledge in studies or at the event as such was put into a broader framework at the conference and becomes more understandable and relevant.

Through meetings and discussions with other participants, a conference like APFW 2011 is the perfect opportunity for students to improve their abilities in effective communication. During such an event students are given the opportunity to compare and critically evaluate aspects of their education to define the values and limitations. Properly assessed, this has the potential to make a valuable contribution to the development of worldwide forestry education.

Sending students to conferences is an effective way to enrich forestry education and results to more educated future forestry professionals.



CLOSING ADDRESSES

Mr Zhao Shucong, Vice-Minister of the State Forestry Administration of China

The Second Asia-Pacific Forestry Week (APFW) is drawing to its end. The past exciting week has witnessed the active participation of some 1 000 representatives from 33 regional countries, 200 international/regional organizations, the private sector and academic institutes. Altogether 50 partner events were held, information market and various booths were set up, and many forestry-related films and videos were screened at the Forestry Film Night. Meanwhile, the 24th Session of Asia Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) was also successfully convened. Delegates had thorough discussions about the challenges and opportunities we face in regional forestry development. Forestry Week is a complete success due to the concerted efforts of every one of us. On behalf of the State Forestry Administration, I would like to congratulate you on the success of the event, and express my appreciation to the FAO and APFNet teams for their excellent arrangements in making this gathering of foresters possible. And I would also like to thank all the participants here for your contributions.

Under the theme of New Opportunities and New Challenges, Asia-Pacific Forestry Week has fully showcased the remarkable progress made in the regional forestry sector and the outlook on forestry development. Forestry Week has made us realize the vitality and potential of the Asia-Pacific region to promote forestry development. Meanwhile, deforestation, forest degradation, the relatively poor living conditions of forest-dependent people and protectionism in the forest product trade remain to be addressed; immediate actions to enhance institutional development, to increase investment in forestry and to promote sustainable forest management so as to tap the multiple functions of forests are urgently needed in shifting towards a new development pattern and achieving sustainable socio-economic development. In particular, in face of global climate change, ecological crises, food security and natural disasters, sound management of forestry as well as rational protection and use of forest resources should be regarded as a strategic choice to sustainable development.

As the cradle of civilization, forests are important natural resources in supporting human development. The deepening understanding of forests and rapid innovation of science and technology are bound to bring out the role and potential of forests. We, the foresters, should keep in mind that sustaining forests and forestry means the security of our next generations' future, and public awareness in this regard should be enhanced. Forestry Week is definitely a good platform. During the Week, we've learned and felt inspired by various measures and actions taken in Asia-Pacific countries to push forestry forward, and will commit to a closer cooperation with regional countries and international organizations on forests and forestry. Specifically, the following actions will be taken:

- To modernize forestry. It is realized that forestry is crucial in sustainable development strategies, in ecological development, in China's 'west development' and in addressing climate change. This particular role should be accentuated through establishing a stable forest ecosystem, a developed forestry industry and a sound forest ecocultural regime. We will continuously participate in and promote the international process on forests and forestry, and collaborate with our partners to raise the status of forestry high on the international political agenda.
- To deepen forest tenure reform and integrate the forestry policy system. The nationwide reform on collective forest tenure and state forest farms and forest zones will be expanded with innovative policies and actions to further unleash forest productivity. Meanwhile, a supportive system will be established and improved to secure increasing investment in infrastructure construction, lower the risks involved and improve the livelihoods of people dependent on forests.
- To enhance institutional arrangements and mobilize public participation. The administrative system will be enhanced and talent development will be prioritized to accelerate forestry development. Measures will be taken to encourage wide public participation in forestation.

- To expand regional forestry exchange and cooperation. We will continue to follow the principles of mutual respect, equal cooperation and multiplying benefits, and actively engage in international forestry exchanges and cooperation. In view of the consensus reached at the First APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry, collaboration on forestry with regional partners, including FAO and regional countries, will be upgraded to contribute to the regional forestry development agenda.

Endowed with a large portion of the world's forests, the Asia-Pacific region plays a critical role in global forestry and economy. To strengthen regional forestry cooperation and exchange to achieve regional sustainable forest management is an ambitious course that will benefit generations to come and requires input from all of us. I sincerely hope that this week has served as an opportunity for us to explore more vibrant ways of forestry cooperation, creating a new dimension of sustainable forestry development and contributing to the socio-economic, ecocultural and livelihood development of the region.

I now announce the closing of the Second Asia-Pacific Forestry Week.

Thank you very much.

**Eduardo Rojas-Briales, Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department,
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

As the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2011 comes to a close, please allow me on behalf of FAO to express my sincere gratitude to all of you who have made the week such a great success.

This week we have assembled an incredible range and calibre of people, including some of the most eloquent and knowledgeable advocates of the forestry sector here in the Asia-Pacific region, and indeed the world. I think you will agree that we have all greatly benefited from the broad range of experts that have been present this week and the general spirit of Asia-Pacific Forestry Week, which I would characterize as a strong, collective desire to learn, share ideas and experiences, and collaborate.

The theme of this year's Asia-Pacific Forestry Week, 'New Challenges – New Opportunities', has given us no shortage of topics for discussion.

Challenges

In opening the week on Monday I said that the principal challenge for the forestry sector in Asia and the Pacific is to understand the forces that are shaping the world. At Thursday's plenary session on 'The future for forestry in Asia and the Pacific' we heard about the challenges that lay ahead of us put in, sometimes, stark terms.

The global economy is once again on the verge of crisis and downturn. Asia and the Pacific, now more integrated than ever into global markets, is not immune. The possibility that a new global recession will impact on the region's forestry sector is real.

Meanwhile, population growth and poverty will continue to pose a threat to the region's considerable forest resources. Our panel on Thursday conjectured that conservation is not the only solution to this challenge. In order to protect our forests we need to work harder to ensure that development in the forestry sector benefits the poor – particularly poor forest-dependent communities.

At the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission Session and a number of the week's partner events, particularly those on REDD, we were also reminded that climate change will complicate our uncertain future by unsettling the climatic and ecological conditions that sustain forests and forest communities. And significant challenges remain in our efforts to take action to tackle climate change through initiatives such as REDD.

Responding to these challenges requires responsive, transparent and effective institutions. And this was another topic that occupied many of us this week. During the plenary session on Tuesday on governance challenge we highlighted the crucial role of good forest governance in managing forests sustainably and the considerable hurdles we still face in building effective forest governance frameworks.

Opportunities

While the road ahead appears difficult and fraught with risk, by identifying the challenges and exploring them this week we have taken an important collective step. As I anticipated at the beginning of the week, together we have discussed new ways of thinking, new ways of working, new ways of doing business, new products, new technologies and new markets. We have indeed identified new opportunities.

Nowhere was this common desire to embrace innovation and change more apparent than in Wednesday's plenary on new media, new messages. There we heard that the Internet and social media have given birth to a new, participatory media environment – one that we can use to inspire action in ways that have never been possible before.

But perhaps the most heartening thing I heard this week was during the closing presentation of the plenary session yesterday – a light appearing through the dark clouds of talk about economic downturn, resource shortage and persistent poverty.

What I heard was that with growing interest in tackling climate change with mechanisms such as REDD, the funding – that has long been denied to those wanting to encourage more sustainable forest management in Asia and the Pacific – is becoming available. I found this heartening because we have now been given an opportunity to access the resources we need to take everything we have learned, everything we know about creating a more sustainable forest sector in Asia and the Pacific, and act.

During the Heads of Forestry Dialogue on Thursday afternoon an eminent group turned their attention to the emerging consensus behind the need for greener economies. I for one remain optimistic that growing emphasis on green development will only create additional opportunities for investment and development in the forestry sector.

From my personal perspective, I have found this Asia-Pacific Forestry Week to be enlightening, informative and extremely enjoyable. I believe all of you will agree with me.

This success is due in large part to our hosts. On behalf of FAO, I wish to offer my very sincere thanks to the Government of the People's Republic of China, particularly Excellencies Minister Jia Zhibang and Vice-Minister Yin Hong of the State Forestry Administration, officers of the State Forestry Administration, as well as the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management, for their great generosity and outstanding efforts in organizing this Asia-Pacific Forestry Week.

To bring together around 1 000 people from all over the world, for a week packed with over 50 plenary and partner events, all under one roof, is a tremendous feat. I am fully aware that the organizational challenge has been immense. Please join me in a round of applause for our hosts who have risen to this challenge with much enthusiasm and great success.

But my gratitude does not stop there.

I would also like to thank the delegates of the 24th APFC session and, in particular, Mr Su Chun Yu, for his excellent leadership and capable chairing of the APFC session. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our partners whose support has been invaluable in generating interest in Forestry Week and providing us with a wide range of forums to grapple with the issues currently affecting the regional forestry sector.

To my FAO colleagues, particularly Pat and his team from the regional office in Bangkok, I give my deep thanks and gratitude for your truly commendable efforts in leading and coordinating what has been a fantastic week.

And finally, I wish to thank all the participants here for their enthusiasm, their willingness to engage and debate and their good spirit. This week could not have been such a tremendous success without you.

Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2011 is indeed coming to a close. But our work is not.

One of the most positive things I will take home from this week is that we already have the knowledge, the tools needed to tackle many of the challenges facing the forestry sector. And there is no shortage of enthusiasm amongst those of us assembled here to take these tools and our experiences to strengthen the forestry sector in Asia and the Pacific.

We need to leave Beijing inspired by this – but not be complacent.

We are competing for the attention of communities, for support from governments, for markets for our products, for a space for forestry on the global development agenda.

Action is required. We need to continue the good work that is already underway while finding new ways to reach our common goal – healthy and productive forests and forest communities.

I hope upon returning to your countries, your homes, that you are revitalized by the spirit of this week and, most importantly, inspired to act.

Thank you all and have a safe journey home.

Thank you



Mr Zhao Shucong, Vice-Minister of the SFA, China
at the Closing Ceremony



Participants wearing
the national costume of Indonesia

Winners of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2011 Essay Contest

Planting the dreams of our future

Randell Terre Aranza, Philippines

Every dream is a seed, waiting to flourish. Every reality is a tree, withstanding the demands of time. Every community is a forest, challenging its quest to survival.

Truth be told, the Asia-Pacific region is the richest cradle for forests to thrive. Yet it is also in a part of the world where growth of industries competes with the perpetual demands of ecological balance and economic survival. To sustain such growth requires an environmental compromise in the fulfilment of nations' respective economic plans. From this point of view, nations move forward by stepping their right foot in front of economic developments. But the gist of this is for us to take a step back and see the bigger perspective of our natural habitat's current situation, especially the significant contribution of what is now becoming less of a priority for most emerging nations – our forests.

So today, we dream.

We dream to prioritize our forests and execute concrete plans in mitigating the planet's worsening environment.

We dream to strike a balance between industrial development and environmental preservation.

We dream to unite as a community in protecting our forests, which will ultimately lead to the survival of those who are next in line – the future generation.

How long our forests will last for the survival of living creatures is one of the greatest questions of our time that nobody can ever rightfully claim to predict. Still, we continue to seek for innovative ways, to create opportunities out of these challenges we are facing. And yes, we strive to live that dream to become a reality.

Every seed is a dream, waiting to be fulfilled. Every tree is a reality, taking calculated risks amidst challenges. Every forest is a community, joining forces to live and stand as one.

We are the seeds. This is the reality. Together in the Asia-Pacific region and the rest of the world, we can find opportunities as we plant our dreams for the future, and for the planet we all call home.

New challenges, new opportunities in Asia-Pacific forestry: inspiring the communities of the region to protect our forests

Shalini Rajakaruna, Sri Lanka

For a while they get excited, twisting and swirling, dancing in the wind, making glorious movements. And in a while they become silent and stand still, making no noise but only the 'sound of silence'. The mighty trees standing in their majesty, spreading their canopies, making a home for lives of many, feeding the hungry and shading the saplings, birds chirping, breaking the uneasy silence and dancing to their own melodies, butterflies like fairies flying from flower to flower, busy bees making their bee hives, squirrels and monkeys playing around making the place noisy for a moment. All these wonders are not fantasy but reality inside the woods. Forests are sacred places where the secrets are kept and legends are written, of both wildlife and human spirits.

Today there are more than 250 definitions for forest. These definitions differ on the basis of ecological and legal aspects. For instance, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has defined forest as land with tree crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of more than 10 percent and area of more than 0.5 hectares and the trees should be able to reach a minimum height of 5 metres at maturity in situ. However a forest can be simply explained as a complex of different ecosystems, mainly composed of trees which create habitats for other living organisms.

It is really impossible to explain the importance of forests to humankind in a few words or in a few lines as they are bound to our lives from the first breath that we take. Even if you live in the centre of a city, from dawn to the dusk, throughout the day you live with forest products. From the food you eat to the piece of tissue paper that you blow your nose with, most items come from forests. Trees in the forests act as buffers to protect life on earth and absorb and store massive amounts of carbon to cool the planet and keep the climate stable. They store nearly 300 billion tonnes of carbon in their living parts – roughly 40 times the annual greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels.

According to FAO statistics around 30 percent of the total land area on earth is covered with forests, which means there is a parcel of land covered with forests the size of a football field for every person on the planet. Interestingly the forests and woodlands of the Asia-Pacific region cover approximately 655 million hectares and they contribute to more than half of the world's forest coverage. These facts show that the region is blessed with a vast coverage of forests and at the same time it reminds us of the huge responsibility which has been loaded on the shoulders of the people of the region to protect and enhance the quality of these valuable ecosystems.

As all the nations of the world are standing hand in hand to celebrate the International Year of Forests under the theme of 'Forests for People', the time has come to search for new challengers and new opportunities in Asia-Pacific forestry. Each and every day the media reports a natural disaster from some corner of the world and deforestation, environmental pollution and global warming have become the hottest topics for discussion throughout the world. Apart from worrying over this predicament, the time has come to accept it as a challenge and face it in an innovative way.

From the beginning humans have lived and shared their lives with nature. But with the so-called Industrial Revolution and development in technology humankind began to overexploit nature. The Great Russian author Anton Pavlovich Chekhov once said "Man has been endowed with reason, with the power to create, so that he can add to what he's been given. But up to now he hasn't been a creator, only a destroyer. Forests keep disappearing, rivers dry up, wild life has become extinct, and the climate is ruined and the land grows poorer and uglier every day". Yes! It is true that we pay for our own faults. But the brighter side of the story is that now we have understood that we cannot continue to destroy and overuse the natural resources that we have been gifted with. So now the whole world has turned its focus on the conservation and sustainable

use of forests and their products.

With seven biodiversity hotspots, the Asia-Pacific region can be considered as the greatest storehouse of nature's diversity on earth. The region is renowned for its outstanding natural beauty because it is composed of unique types of forests and vegetation. As the region is geographically diverse vegetation types differ from place to place, and are also linked to certain geographical processes like volcanic activities. Biomes include both tropical and temperate rain forests, fertile slopes of volcanic mountains, grasslands, wetlands and deserts.

The higher the diversity, beauty and glamour of the forests in the region, the greater the weight of responsibility for conservation and sustainable use becomes. That is where the new challenges arise. The Asia-Pacific region has nearly 50 countries and many of them are developing countries. In a forest when a giant tree falls, there is a fast race between the trees on either side that want to stretch out their branches and the seedlings to reach sunlight. The competition for development in the countries of the region is somewhat similar. Therefore the biggest challenge the region is facing at present is this race among countries competing in the development race. The real challenge is how to attain the goal of development while protecting the forests and nature we are blessed with. That is where sustainable utilization of resources should be taken into account. First of all we should clarify what sustainable utilization is, because nowadays it has become a phrase used by some people to destroy forests and achieve their money-minded objectives. Sustainable utilization is the utilization of resources to obtain the maximum benefit for the present generation while maintaining its potential to serve future generations.

Once the concept is understood it is not that difficult to practise. While this concept was not practised the Asia-Pacific region has lost more than 6 million hectares of natural forests, mainly converted to agricultural crops and oil-palm plantations. The figures show that deforestation in the region has increased from 2 million hectares per year during 1976-1981 to 3.9 million hectares per year in 1981-1990. Though the deforestation rate continues at an alarming rate, the Asia-Pacific region has been able to record the highest rate of forest plantations in the world over the past five years and this has changed the trend of the 1990s regarding deforestation.

Though it sounds like good news, the reality is that the region, however, still has just 0.2 hectares of forest per person, the lowest amount per capita in the world compared with 1.1 hectares per person outside of the region.

This is where all the nations within the region should stand together to achieve the goal of protecting and conserving our forests for future generations. All the nations of the region have a great history and different cultures. The history and legends of each nation are closely bound to nature and forests. So it should be easy to convince all Asia-Pacific nations to unite and move together towards this common objective.

When it comes to decision-making and making policies, it is common to pass the ball to the other person and move away from individual responsibilities. It is always easy to point out the issue to the government and wait until the rulers take some action to solve the problem. But there are many actors that should be involved in the process, like non-government organizations, industries, scientific communities and mainly society in general.

The modern concept of conservation is community participation. Heading towards new opportunities in forestry without community participation is definitely 'mission impossible'. This is because the lives of people in the Asia-Pacific region are closely attached to forests and most of the people in developing countries directly depend on ecosystem services to fulfil their daily needs. This is brought out by the theme of the forestry year 'Forests for People'. Via socio-economic surveys scientists can gather information about the interactions of communities with the forests and the stakeholders can design strategies to get the communities involved in sustainable utilization. Terms like biodiversity, conservation or sustainable

utilization may mean nothing to those who lives in the periphery of the forests who easily access forests for almost every need of their day-to-day lives, unless they are educated about the importance of protecting the forests for future generations.

Through conservation education, new opportunities can be introduced to the people who directly depend on ecosystem services. New job opportunities can be created for people who are very familiar with forests. People in bordering villages can be trained as tour guides for ecotourism; they can be trained for interpretation and to conduct nature trails. So the person who entered the forest for hunting or for logging will no longer enter with the previous intention to destroy, but to motivate other people to enjoy and protect nature.

New opportunities in forestry in the region are not limited to local communities. The scientific community should play a major role in uncovering new challenges and new opportunities in forestry. When we look at the past, invasive species have caused huge losses in forest productivity in the Asia-Pacific region. Economic losses resulting from invasive plant species in the region have been estimated in hundreds of billions of dollars. Scientists can take steps to overcome this challenge through research and to save the region from this threat. There is a need for reforming and updating policies, legislations and quarantine laws.

To counter losses, plantation of forest can be practised within the region. The statistics show that this has helped to recover a greater percentage of the loss of forests. In this context schoolchildren and local communities can be engaged by giving them a sound education on conservation and sustainable utilization.

However it is said that “prevention is better than cure”. And the proper time has come to open up our eyes and concentrate our minds to protect and enhance our forests, so that we may not regret in future what we have lost, but will be able to celebrate the joy of what we have gained.

Enos. A. Mills said, “The forests are the flags of nature. They appeal to all and awaken inspiring universal feelings. Enter the forest and the boundaries of nations are forgotten. It may be that some time an immortal pine will be the flag of a united peaceful world.”

Therefore all the nations of the region can gather to identify the new challenges and find out the new opportunities in forestry of the Asia- Pacific region and can be united under one goal and one hope to win the future together as one team.

In some mysterious way woods, trees and all which belongs to nature have a power to join the hearts of people and build peace all around the world. Let this mystery enter into all our hearts and heal the world and lead us to a better future.

ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY WEEK 2011

New Challenges New Opportunities

BEIJING | 5-11 NOVEMBER
CHINA | 2011

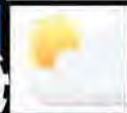
NOV 07, 2011

QUOTE OF THE DAY: KEEP A GREEN TREE IN YOUR HEART AND PERHAPS
A SINGING BIRD WILL COME - CHINESE PROVER

**Welcome to Beijing and APFW
2011**

Dear Guests,
On behalf of the State Forestry Administration of China, it is my pleasure to welcome you all to Beijing to attend the 24th session of APFC and APFW 2011. The Forestry Week is a grand gathering of foresters in the Asia-Pacific region. The Chinese hosts will do our utmost, in cooperation with FAO, to provide a platform for our forestry colleagues from various countries and international agencies to conduct candid exchange and discussions with an aim to better share experiences on forestry development, through discussion of opportunities and challenges facing forestry development in the Asia-Pacific region and finding solutions to regional forestry development constraint.

-- H.E. Yin Hong, Vice Minister of SFA



CLOUDY
14°C | 10°C

MAIN PARTNER EVENTS!

- WOOD ENERGY IN A-P
- REDD-PLUS GOVERNANCE
- CHINA FORESTRY CERTIFICATION SYSTEM
- SFM AND LAND TENURE REFORM IN CHINA
- COMMUNITY FORESTRY ENTERPRISES FOR LIVELIHOODS
- APFNET PROMO EVENT

Don't MISS IT!

WHOLE DAY: tour around the exhibition area

17.30: Join the opening celebration of the **CANopy Room (Room 308)** tonight, experiencing the special culture and networking space while enjoying pre-reception refreshments.

18.00: Reception at Ball Room A/B, Level 1

At your service!

APFW SECRETARIATE IS IN VIP ROOM 3-2

SPOTLIGHT FIGURES TODAY!!

ANDREW STEER
special Envoy for Climate Change, The World Bank

TIM ROLLINSON
Director General, Forestry Commission, Government of the United Kingdom

ANGGUN
FAO Goodwill Ambassador

WHO IS THE EARLY BIRD?

APFISN organized the workshop on Forest Health Technology and Phytosanitary Standards on November, 2011, in collaboration with US, SFA and APAFRI.



APFISN

WE'LL BE BACK ON TUE, THURS AND FRI, SEE U!

- Lunch Location on Monday: 4th floor Plenary Hall B
- Partner Event Flyers have the most up-to-date information on the partner event agenda's. Partner Event Flyers can be found near the registration table.

USEFUL VOCABULARY



CHINESE COSTUMES
CHI-PAO

NI ZHEN PIAO
LIANG
(YOU'RE SO
BEAUTIFUL)

QING WEN GUGONG ZAI NA LI
(WHERE IS THE FORBIDDEN
CITY, PLEASE?)



XIE XIE NI!
(THANK YOU)

BEIJING FACTS!

WHO'S YOUR NEIGHBOUR

THE WATER CUBE: AN AQUATICS CENTER THAT WAS BUILT ALONGSIDE BIRDS' NEST FOR THE SWIMMING COMPETITIONS OF THE 2008 SUMMER OLYMPICS.

BIRDS' NEST: THE STADIUM WAS DESIGNED FOR USE THROUGHOUT THE 2008 SUMMER OLYMPICS AND PARALYMPICS LOCATED IN THE OLYMPIC GREEN.



MY NEST



NIHAO
(HOW ARE YOU)

THE WATER CUBE:
COME TO SWIM
DURING A BREAK!



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY!



HARD-WORKING BLONDE

SUNNY
BIG
BOY



TOMORROW!

FLEGT RELATED
SFM
"KIDS TO FORESTS"
FOREST CARBON
MANAGEMENT AND
MARKET TRADE

INFORMATION MARKET

AND

I SEND
BEAUTIFUL
VOICES TO
U ON CALL



WHEN YOU
SMILE, YOUR
COMPUTER'S
CRYING



HAPPY HOUR BY
TNC RAFT!

ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY WEEK 2011
New Challenges - New Opportunities

BEIJING | 5-11 NOVEMBER
 CHINA | 2011

DAY 2: NOVEMBER 18, 2011

LEAVE NOTHING FOR TOMORROW WHICH CAN BE DONE TODAY
 -ABRAHAM LINCOLN

WHAT ADDRESSERS SAY...

H. E. JIA: "COUNTRIES SHOULD SET AMBITIOUS REFORESTATION AND REHABILITATION TARGETS."

MR. EDUARDO ROJAS-BRIALES: "ASIA PACIFIC FORESTRY WEEK PROVIDES CRITICAL OPPORTUNITIES TO SET PRIORITIES FOR FAO'S PROGRAMME OF WORK."



cloudy&windy
 13°|4°

hotspot today

1. **OPENING CEREMONY:** LOVELY CHILDREN RABBIT DANCE AND ANGGUN'S DECLARATION
2. **OPENING OF CANOPY ROOM:** IMPRESSIVE SPEECH BY MR APPANAH AND ENERGETIC NATIONAL STUDENTS AND YOUNG WINNERS' PAINTINGS AND PHOTOS
3. **EVENING RECEPTION:** FANTASTIC CHINESE TRADITIONAL PERFORMANCES AND HUGE GROUP DANCES

ELECTION..

CHAIR PERSON:
 SU CHUNYU (CHINA)

VICE CHAIR PERSONS:
 ANNAPURNA NAND DAS (NEPAL),
 ALAN REID (NEWZEALAND)
 RAHMAN BIN ABDUL RAHIM
 (MALAYSIA)
RAPORTEUR: MARCIAL AMAR
 JR. (PHILIPPINES)



WEATHER FORECAST SAYS TOMORROW MAY BE A RAINY DAY. SO IT MAY BE A GOOD CHOICE TO TAKE AN UMBRELLA WITH YOU AND A SHORT WALK ALONG THE BIRD'S NEST IS GOOD FOR US TO CHANGE A MOOD!



EVERYTIME ANGGUN COMES OUT, EVERYBODY SHOUTS!

ATTENTION !!

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT THE APFW BLOG WEBSITE!
WWW.FAO.ORG/FORESTRY/AP-FORESTRY-WEEK/EN/ AND CLICK ON "BLOGS".

WOW BEAUTIES!!



MISS APEFW

MISS EARTH



WE ARE A BIG FAMILY



MR APEFW



CRUISE PHILIPPINES

What was your first impression of Beijing?

IT'S GREAT AND I APPRECIATE THE ORGANISATION OF THE EVENT!



IT'S FANTASTIC TO ATTEND A HIGH PROFILE MEETING AS A YOUNG STUDENT



I'M IMPRESSED BUT I HAVE PROBLEMS IN COMMUNICATING.



FORESTRY WEEK PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXTEND MY NETWORK FOR EXCHANGING IDEAS AND INNOVATIONS

S M O W

T A M E



ANGGUN
FAO GOODWILL AMBASSADOR

ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY WEEK 2011

New Challenges - New Opportunities

BEIJING | 5-11 NOVEMBER
CHINA | 2011

DAY 3, NOV 9, 2011

QUOTE OF THE DAY: "Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished." -Lao Tzu

WELCOME TO DAY TWO OF APFW!

Yesterday's morning session went wonderfully. It was presented by Rose Niu of WWF-US and covered the topic of forest governance including the main definition, its role in sustainable forestry management and the achievements and challenges stakeholders are confronted with. *Nguyen Tuong Van (Vietnam), Yati Bun (PNG), Yurdi Yaomi (RECOFTC), Tuukka Castrem (World Bank) and Ivy Weng (WWF-Malaysia)* shared their thoughts based on their professional expertise, personal experience and left the audience with a better understanding of forest governance.

1. When asked about the **key attributes** of governance, many panelists mentioned that the set up of legal instruments, such as laws to ensure social justice, increase public awareness and engage more stakeholders are key. Most importantly, governance creates the legal, social and environmental space to better enforce sustainable forest management. Enforcement may be supported by investing in strong institutional development. *"What we have afforded is just the beginning of a long voyage."* --Tuukka Castrem, World Bank

2. Panelists alluded that the one of the most significant **achievements** during the past decade, was an increase in openness. Firstly, the public has become open to discussing sensitive issues like illegal logging, which is now acknowledged at government level and action is being taken. Secondly, the increased openness has engaged communities with international partners for forest conservation schemes like REDD+, PES, etc, and there are now more platforms for sharing lessons learned and best practices. The need for better forest governance is no longer a secret.

3. Panelists recognized the following remaining **challenges** that must be overcome to improve forest governance:

- engagement of multiple stakeholders
- focusing on local context
- strengthening laws and regulations
- improving social justice
- reducing illegal logging
- building consumers' confidence in timber products

Thanks to all of the panelists and participants for an engaging Plenary Session!



CLOUDY SUNNY
14||2||

not to be missed!

1. **PLENARY SESSION:** today's plenary is "New Media-New Messages," which will be held in Ballroom A, Level 1 at half past eight. We look forward to seeing you there!

2. **AFTERNOON MEETINGS:** REDD+, Communication Platform, Opportunities for Forestry, Forestry Modeling, Forest Policy Think-Tank, Role of People in Forestry, Strategies for Financing Sustainable Forest Management, Forestry Work for the Poor and many more organized by FAO, UN-REDD, CAF, SPC, SFA, and other partners. Please see your programme booklet for meeting locations.

3. **FORESTRY FILM NIGHT** Not to be missed! Begins at 6:30 PM tonight at in Room 309A. Many exciting films on forestry in Asia-Pacific.

HOW COULD YOU MISS THE FORESTRY OSCAR?

Never Ending Happy Hour

Responsible trade happy hour held by TNC RAFT was a great sensation yesterday. RAFT focuses on strengthening laws to prohibit imports of illegal timber, designing advanced technology like chain of custody systems to track forest product exports all the way back to the forest and B2B learning to help to demonstrate sustainable forestry.



THE SIX PANELISTS



PREPARATION OF WATERMELON SHOWS NATIONAL FLOWER OF CHINA!



HAPPY HOUR

"Demonstrating due care and due diligence is easy if you are sourcing legal wood." -- NGUTEN THANH BINH

IMAGES OF CENTRAL BEIJING

Hu Tong (Lanes)

Walk through slowly. Just feel the tinge of old Beijing



The rear sea area



THE REAR SEA WATCH FROM A DISTANCE? NO!! JOIN THEM AND GO BOATING!!

ZHI YUAN ZHE (VOLUNTEERS)

USEFUL VOCABULARY



NI DE YI ZHUO HEN DE TI! YOU LOOK NICE!



The Palace Museum

Called "Gu Gong," in Chinese, it has a long history going back to the Ming Dynasty. In ancient China, Gu Gong was a forbidden zone to the common people because it housed the emperor's family. Surrounded by a six meter deep moat and a ten meter high wall are 9,999 buildings. Splendidly painted decorations cover these royal architectural wonders including the grand and deluxe halls, with their surprisingly magnificent treasures that will certainly satisfy even modern civilians.

INFORMATION MARKET



INFORMATION AT APFW IS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE "GREEN" IN THE EYES OF CHILDREN.

XIE XIE KUA JIANG! (THANKS)

RANG WO XIANG YI XIANG. LET ME THINK ABOUT IT!!

THE EXHIBITS ARE SO WELL PREPARED SOMETIMES IT IS HARD TO TELL IF THEY ARE REAL OR FAKE LEAVES!



WE ARE EFFECTIVE WORKERS.



BANG JI LE! (GOOD JOB!)



Amusing Moments

Tian'an men

(the Gate of Heavenly Peace)

ON OCTOBER 1, 1949, CHAIRMAN MAO ZEDONG PROCLAIMED ON TIAN'ANMEN ROSTRUM THE FOUNDING OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

INFORMATION ROOM



AT YOUR SERVICE!

AH~WE FINALLY FOUND THE SALT.. (IN BEIJING, SALT FOR ALL DISHES MUST BE ADDED)

LOOKS TASTY BUT TASTES SO SO!



PARTICIPANTS SHOW GREAT INTEREST IN OUR NEWSLETTER!



ENJOYING CHINESE COOKIES

DELICIOUS! SO MUCH FOOD! I'M STARVING!





Quote of the day: "There is always Music amongst the trees in the Garden, but our hearts must be very quiet to hear it." --Minnie Aumonier

NEW MEDIA = NEW MESSAGES; NEW FUTURE

Yesterday's plenary session examined key forestry communication strategies. We hope that it increased your understanding of effective communication strategies and how to employ them.

NEW MEDIA: Non-traditional methods of communication such as online media, Facebook, Twitter, blogs, etc., are a vital part of new communication strategies but also present many challenges. People are overwhelmed with information from all directions, making it difficult for the forestry community to effectively reach the public. Overcoming this challenge requires investment in staff and infrastructure to support a strategically timed, dynamic flow of compelling forest stories via new media

MESSAGES FROM KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

To communicate challenges facing forests and stakeholders to those outside the conservation community, we have to recognize that the "doom and gloom" style of public engagement does not work. We learned that positive messages describing the wonders of nature, renewable potential of forests and clear calls to action have better outcomes.

Frances Seymour of *CIFOR* conveyed several communication strategies, including use of clear, simple messages such as: "If we want 'X', we need to conserve forests," where 'X' equals resilience, food security, fighting climate change, protecting biodiversity, and other services forests provide.

Keith Wheeler of the *IUCN Commission on Education and Communication* provided insight on how to inspire people to change and overcome urgent conservation challenges. "Love not loss" is a communication strategy that invokes awe and wonder in people. This method is enhanced if people have direct experience or understanding of nature which can inspire them to change to conserve it.



A COMMON THEME EMERGED: VIDEO MEDIA CAN EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATE FOREST ISSUES TO WIDE AUDIENCES.

HIGHLIGHTS!

1. SAND ART PRESENTATION

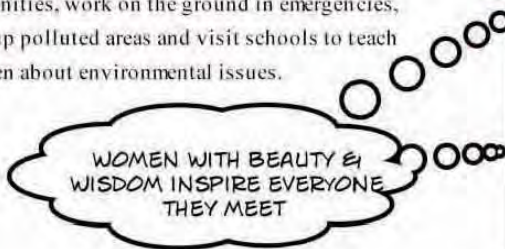
Moving, ephemeral images of forest scenes were created in sand. This beautiful example of how art can communicate forest issues undoubtedly left a lasting impression on participants.



A BEAUTIFUL SAND FOREST WITH HAPPY PEOPLE

2. "MISS EARTH"

Cathrine Y. Untalan, the executive director of Miss Earth Foundation (MC), demonstrated how a beauty pageant is increasing awareness of nature by capturing the public's attention using the attention beauty queens naturally receive from the people. The beauty queens interact with communities, work on the ground in emergencies, clean up polluted areas and visit schools to teach children about environmental issues.



FORESTRY FILM NIGHT

Six wonderful films on forests were shown last night following a warm welcome by filmmaker, Yann Arthus-Bertrand.

WE HOPE YOU WERE INFORMED, ENTERTAINED AND INSPIRED!

WORKING FOR FORESTS FOOD
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)



OF FORESTS AND MEN
Goodplanet Foundation, France

VOICES OF THE FOREST: SULAWESI
RECOFIC The Center for People and Forests

CLIMATE PROTECTION IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA
DW-TV & International
Klimaschutzinitiative des BMU, Germany

SATOYAMA: JAPAN'S SECRET FOREST
NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation)

MANGROVES = GUARDIANS OF THE COAST
Mangroves for the Future (MFF)

ANNOUNCEMENT!!!!

1. The Last Plenary Session: A week of engaging plenary sessions has flown by! Please come by for the last one: "Journey to 2020: The Future for Forestry in Asia-Pacific," same time, same place, see you there.

2. CANopy Room (Room 308) events:

- Networking Session on Governance from 1 to 2 PM
- Forestry Dialogue on The Green Economy at 1:30 PM
- The Student Career Fair at 5 PM



ZHE SHI WO DE MING PIAN. (THIS IS MY BUSINESS CARD)



KE YI WO SHOU MA? (MAY I HAVE A HANDSHAKE?)

WUDAO. (DANCING.)

WEATHER



15°C OVERCAST
7°C CLOUDY BREEZE

Student career fair



KE YI, DAN SHI NI WO DE TAI JIN LE! (OK, BUT IT'S TOO TIGHT!)



USEFUL VOCABULARY



WO MI LU LE. (I GOT LOST.)

TIAN QI ZHEN HAO! (IT'S A NICE DAY!)

SEN LIN. (FOREST.)

WHO'S WORKING



WE ARE BUSY BUT ENERGETIC!



THEY'RE ALL FROM THE ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT SCHOOL OF BEIJING FORESTRY UNIVERSITY!

ELLEN, A STUDENT FROM ANU, IS TALKING TO DR. MICHAEL KLEINE ABOUT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AT IUFRO.



WE HAVE PASSION AND ENTHUSIASM!

STUDENT PARTICIPANTS



EVERY DAY WE HAVE TO STAY HERE TILL 10PM OR LATER BECAUSE OF THE NEWSLETTER, BUT WE ARE HAPPY WHEN YOU ENJOY IT!



IMPRESSIVE SPEECH!

About Food



QUITE SUBSTANTIAL

BEAU DAMEN: "THE STEAMED RICE IS PERFECT!!"

FINELLA PESCOTT: "MY FAVORITE FOOD IS DESSERT & SALAD!"

MY SCAPE IS ITCHY.

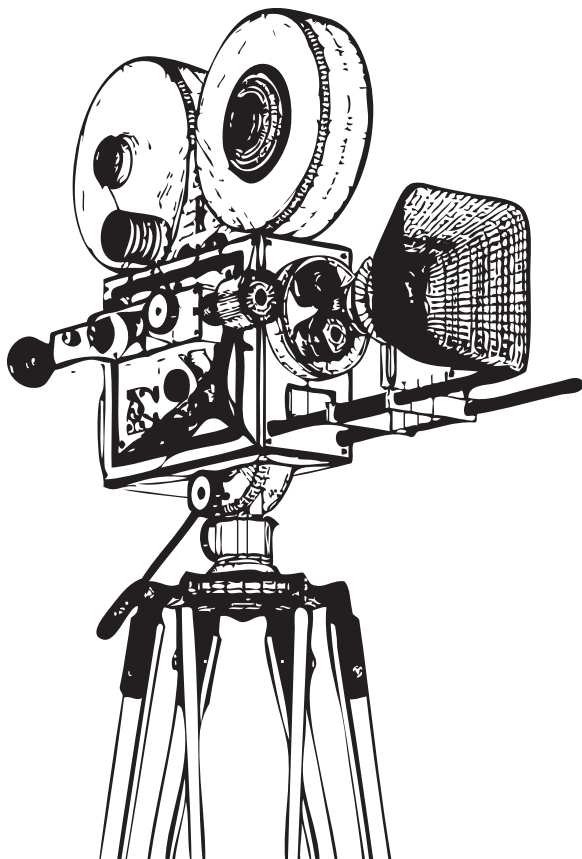


STARVED BUT ORDERLY!!



SEE YOU NEXT TIME!

FILM NIGHT
PAMPHLET



FORESTRY FILM NIGHT

Asia-Pacific
Forestry Week

Wednesday 10 November, 2011
6.30 - 9.00 pm
Room 309A, China Convention Center
Beijing, China

**FORESTRY
FILM
NIGHT**

10 November
2011

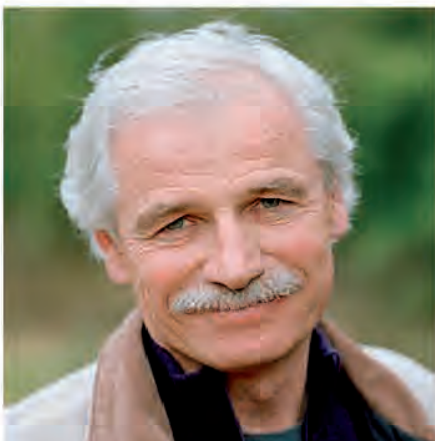
A warm **welcome** is extended to all participants of Asia-Pacific Forestry Week to Forestry Film Night. We trust you will enjoy the selection of quality, forestry-related films on offer. The films are diverse in length and topic, including non-timber forest product use, forest biodiversity, forest restoration and community forestry.

We trust these films will provoke the reaction these films endeavor to: inform, entertain and inspire.

FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific



Filmmaker's Welcome



Yann Arthus-Bertrand, world renowned photographer, film maker and founder of GoodPlanet, made the official film for International Year of the Forests, Of Forests of Men. This stunning short film is the first film to be screened at APFW's Forestry Film Night. Yann will kindly provide a recorded welcome address to the Forestry Film Night audience prior to the screening of films.

Film Schedule

OPENING

- 6.30 Opening and welcome remarks
Cathy Untalan, Director, Miss Earth Foundation
- 6.35 Welcome address
Yann Arthus-Bertrand, Filmmaker, *Of Forests and Men*

6.40 - 7.50

SESSION 1

Of Forests and Men

7 minutes

The official film of the International Year of Forests, this short film was made by Yann Arthus-Bertrand, renowned photographer, President of GoodPlanet Foundation and filmmaker of 'Home'. Using stunning cinematography, the film portrays the breathtaking landscape of forests from around the world. Narrated by Edward Norton, 'Of Forests and Men' outlines the importance of forests and their function, the challenges they face today and the imperative to discover, rediscover, celebrate, cherish and protect these essential ecosystems.

GoodPlanet Foundation, France

Satoyama: Japan's Secret Forest

50 minutes

Satoyama is a mountain forest near Japan's largest lake where people and nature co-exist in harmony. Narrated by Sir David Attenborough and shot in stunning high definition, it poetically portrays how the locals use traditional wisdom to manage the forest in ways that allow them to sustainably harness nature for food. It reveals, for example, how the harvesting of mysterious trees for mushroom cultivation encourages their new growth and how bees play a role in the cycle of life.

NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation)

Working for Forests

11 minutes

The Advancing the Application of Assisted Natural Regeneration for Effective Low-cost Forest Restoration" project, carried out on the Philippine Island of Bohol. Presented in this video, it highlights the vital role of local communities in managing, conserving and developing forests. In particular, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) partnered with the Philippines government to promote ANR (Assisted Natural Regeneration) as a way of regenerating the forests.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

7.50 - 8.05

BREAK

Film Schedule

8.05 - 9.00

SESSION 2

Climate Protection in Papua New Guinea

7 minutes

A short film centered on the sustainable management of forests on the Huon Peninsula in Papua New Guinea. A national conservation area, the film demonstrates sustainable local use of forests in exchange for medical care and education.

DW-TV & Internationale Klimaschutzinitiative des BMU, Germany

Voices of the Forest: Sulawesi

16 minutes

The story of two communities in South Sulawesi, Indonesia and their right to manage their forest. The first community, in the village of Semanki, are faced with challenges against the constraints imposed by the establishment of a national park. The second, in Labbo, are making the most of their 'extraordinary opportunity' to set up one of Indonesia's first 'village forests' with the support of the government, an exercise that promises to make their livelihoods and the future of their forest much more secure.

RECOFTC The Center for People and Forests

Mangroves: Guardians of the Coast

28 minutes

'Guardians of the Coast' is a film outlining the unique biophysical characteristics of mangroves and demonstrates the challenges of mangrove protection. Produced by Mangroves for the Future, the film highlights the objectives and success of a mangrove restoration project which contributes to local livelihood enhancement.

Mangroves for the Future (MFF)



Forestry Film Night is brought to you by the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) kindly provided the films 'Of Forests and Men' and 'Satoyama'. The short film 'Climate Protection in Papua New Guinea' was care of the Goethe Institute's (Thailand) collection of Science Film Festival films.

CANOPY

ROOM BROCHURE



CANopy Room Programme

Days	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
08:00 - 12:00	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
12:00 - 13:30		Meet & Greet Session (Networking Event)	OPEN	Governance (Networking Event) (12:45-14:00 PM)	OPEN
13:30 - 14:00	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN		Photo Exhibition
14:00 - 16:00	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	Speakers Corner
16:00 - 17:00	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
17:00 - 18:00	OPEN	TNC/RAFT Partner Event (17:15-18:15 PM)	Private Sector (Networking Event)	Student Job Fair	OPEN
18:00 - 19:00	Official Opening of the Room (17:30 PM)			OPEN	OPEN

Acknowledgements: FAO would like to sincerely thank SIDA for generously contributing funds to make the CANopy Room possible.



Location: Room 308

What is the CANopy Room?

The CANopy (Culture and Networking) Room has been especially designed to provide participants with a pleasant and informal space to encourage interaction, communication and promote networking among participants in a relaxed atmosphere. All APFW 2011 participants are encouraged to enjoy the CANopy Room throughout the week.

Activities – Opening of the Room

The CANopy room will be officially opened by representatives from FAO and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency SIDA, which has generously contributed sponsorship for the room.

Meet & Greet – Networking Session

A networking session where participants can meet and interact with other participants in an informal and relaxed atmosphere. Be sure to have plenty of business cards with you!

TNC/RAFT Partner Event – Responsible Asia Forestry Trade (RAFT) Happy Hour

Come and learn more about responsible forestry trade. Refer to Programme Guide for further details.

Governance Networking Session

Hosted by Transparency International-Malaysia, Global Witness and the Environmental Investigation Agency. This will be a flexible session highlighting efforts to monitor governance and corruption in forest and REDD contexts. Discussions will address transparency, integrity and accountability of national, transnational and sub-national forest sector governance in Asia-Pacific

Private Sector – Networking Session

Hosted by The Freedom Group. Come and learn about how private organizations can play a role in helping solve future environmental challenges. TTG will present details of their soon-to-be-launched "Asia Renewable Resources Fund", which aims help tackle climate change and deforestation.

Speakers Corner

An open session designed to allow participants an opportunity to have their say on a forestry topic that they feel needs more attention. Keep an eye out for further details on how to register for this networking session.

Student Career Fair

This event will provide a special opportunity for forestry students to meet representatives from various international forestry organizations, ask questions and develop a clearer understanding of what an international career in different organizations could look like. Students should keep an eye out for further details on how to sign up and be involved in this exciting event.



Photos, Posters & Contest Winner Exhibitions

Country Posters: This Forestry Week's country posters highlight individual country's "Challenges and Opportunities" with respect to achieving sustainable forest management.

Photo Contest & Exhibitions: Come and view the winning photos and top entries in the APFW 2011 Photo Contest. A special event on Friday will feature a collection of digital photos from the exhibition "Forest Faces" taken in the Philippines. There will also be a photo exhibition built around the themes: "Local values and local management", "People at the bottom still squeezed", "Green economy, but where are we innovating?" and "Climate change and adaptation".

Essay Contest: Don't miss the opportunity to read excerpts from the two winning essays from the APFW 2011 essay contest.

Kids-to-Forests Drawing Competition: Come and learn about the Kids-to-Forests Initiative and view selected student art work from China and the Philippines produced under this initiative.

Film Loop

A compilation of informative and absorbing forestry-related films from the Asia-Pacific will be shown on a continuous loop in the CANopy Room. Film topics include community forestry, rain-forest biodiversity, a pioneering REDD+ project in Cambodia, climate change, a forest school in Vanuatu, recovery from the devastating 2009 Black Saturday bushfires in Australia, mangrove protection and the many uses of bamboo.

Films provided are care of the Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC), DW-TV & Internationale Klimaschutzinitiative des BMU, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Goethe Institute (Thailand), the GoodPlanet Foundation, International network of bamboo and rattan (INBAR), International Union for Conservation (IUCN), Mangroves for the Future (MFF), PactWorld and the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)

Champions of Asia-Pacific Forests 2011

Using APFW 2011 as a platform for building forestry awareness and to give attention to outstanding achievements related to sustainable forest management, FAO launched the "Champions of Asia-Pacific Forests" initiative. Visit the CANopy room to learn more about the two outstanding forestry practitioners that have been selected as "Champions of Asia-Pacific Forests".

Regional Celebrations

In order to make Asia-Pacific Forestry Week a true regional celebration, countries and organizations around the region have been invited to organize their own local celebration of forests in connection to APFW2011. Highlights of these Regional Celebrations can be found throughout the week in the CANopy Room and the daily newsletter.

Asia-Pacific Forestry Week was a large and dynamic event that brought together people from all dimensions of forestry across the Asia-Pacific region. More than 1000 participants from governments, non-government organizations, research institutions, regional and international networks, UN agencies, universities and colleges met under one roof to discuss forestry issues around the theme of New Challenges – New Opportunities.

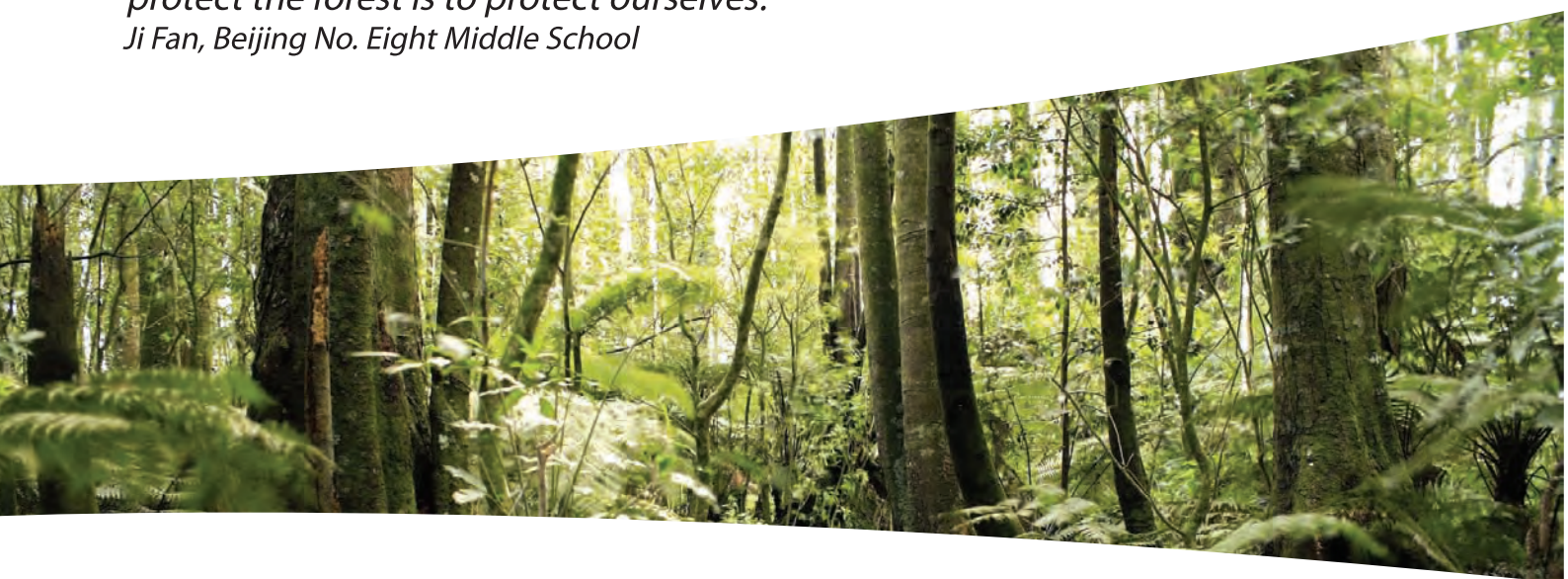
Forestry Week aimed to take stock of existing challenges in Asia-Pacific forestry while also exploring new developments. The overarching objective was to improve management of the region's forest resources taking full account of associated social, economic, cultural and environmental values. This publication covers the wide range of events held during Forestry Week and bears testament to the diversity of forestry activities in the region.

"Forest and forestry for future economies is about forests for development and forests for people. It is about the new politics that will fix the world."
Sunita Narain, Center for Science and Environment, India

"There is the capacity of the global community to help drive social change and to put pressure on the governments and market place to make the shift to the green economy."
Avrim Lazar, Forest Products Association of Canada

"The future is not all doom and gloom for the forestry community and sector. Out of the challenges come many new opportunities, new ways of thinking...new ways of doing business, new products, new technologies, and new markets."
Eduardo Rojas-Briales, Forestry Department, FAO

"May I venture to call on each and every one of you to care for the forest, because to protect the forest is to protect ourselves."
Ji Fan, Beijing No. Eight Middle School



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