

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;

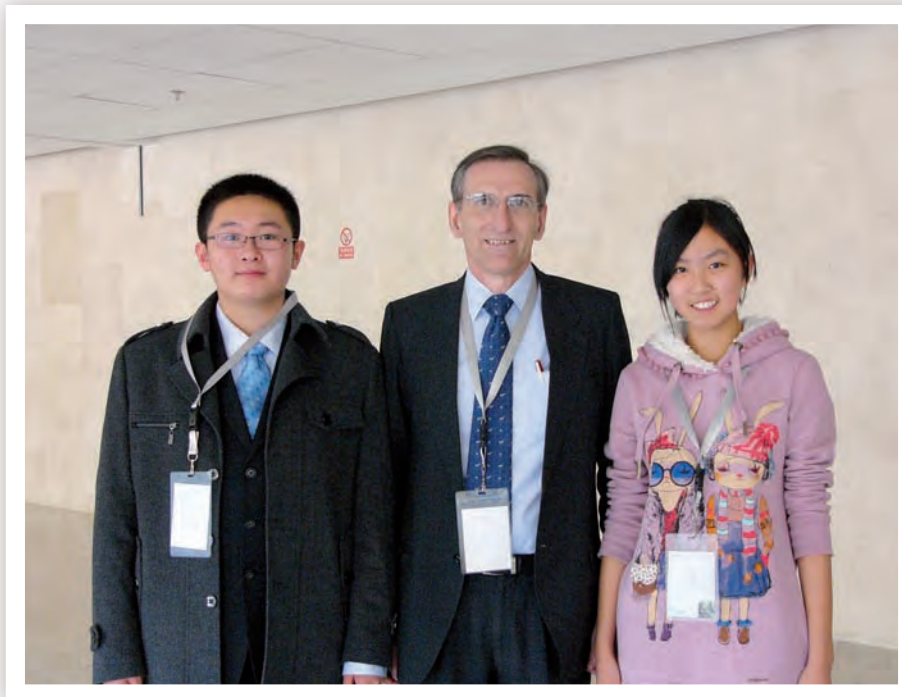
‘Changing trends in global trade in forest carbon credit’ by Dr Wu Shuirong, Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, Chinese Academy of Forestry; and

‘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.

