

RAP Publication: 2013/15
FO: APFC/2013/REP

REPORT

Rotorua,
New Zealand,
5-8
November
2013

Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission

Twenty-fifth session



PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION

First session	Bangkok, Thailand	9-17 October 1950
Second session	Singapore/Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	1-13 December 1952
Third session	Tokyo, Japan	9-21 April 1955
Fourth session	Bandung, Indonesia	8-12 June 1957
Fifth session	New Delhi, India	12-18 February 1960
Sixth session	Hong Kong	12-17 September 1962
Seventh session	Rotorua, New Zealand	22 September-2 October 1964
Eighth session	Seoul, Korea (Rep. of)	1-8 May 1969
Ninth session	Canberra, Australia	20-28 September 1973
Tenth session	Kathmandu, Nepal	6-10 June 1977
Eleventh session	Suva, Fiji	6-10 April 1981
Twelfth session	Bangkok, Thailand	19-23 March 1984
Thirteenth session	Beijing, China	30 March-3 April 1987
Fourteenth session	Manila, Philippines	12-16 March 1990
Fifteenth session	Colombo, Sri Lanka	9-13 August 1993
Sixteenth session	Yangon, Myanmar	15-20 January 1996
Seventeenth session	Yogyakarta, Indonesia	23-27 February 1998
Eighteenth session	Noosaville, Queensland, Australia	15-19 May 2000
Nineteenth session	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	26-30 August 2002
Twentieth session	Nadi, Fiji	19-23 April 2004
Twenty-first session	Dehradun, India	17-21 April 2006
Twenty-second session	Hanoi, Viet Nam	21-25 April 2008
Twenty-third session	Thimphu, Bhutan	9-11 June 2010
Twenty-fourth session	Beijing, China	7-11 November 2011

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ISBN 978-92-5-108123-5 (print)
E-ISBN 978-92-5-108124-2 (PDF)

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REPORT

of the

TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

of the

ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY COMMISSION

**Rotorua, New Zealand
5-8 November 2013**

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Bangkok, 2013**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS	iv-v
	Paragraphs
INTRODUCTION	1-7
ADOPTION OF AGENDA	8
ELECTION OF OFFICERS	9
APFC SESSION THEME: “FORESTS FOR PROSPERITY”	10-12
FOREST FINANCING: INVESTING FOR PROSPERITY	13-18
FOREST LAW ENFORCEMENT, GOVERNANCE AND TRADE: EMERGING LEGALITY RESTRICTIONS AND RESPONSES	19-27
STATE OF FORESTRY IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION	28-38
IN-SESSION SEMINAR: BUILDING RESILIENCE IN FORESTS, LANDSCAPES AND COMMUNITIES	39-45
PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING APFC- AND FAO-SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION	46-56
HEADS OF FORESTRY DIALOGUE: POLICIES TO SUPPORT WOOD PROCESSING DEVELOPMENT	57-61
FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE: PATHWAY TO PROSPERITY? ...	62-68
STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS IN FAO AND THE UN	69-75
TOOLS FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT	76-82
FORESTS AND FOOD SECURITY: FOLLOW-UP TO THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE	83-86
PREPARATIONS FOR THE XIV WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS	87-90
REGIONAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (COFO) AND THE FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC	91-94
OTHER BUSINESS	95
DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION	96
	Page
<i>APPENDIX A</i> AGENDA	12
<i>APPENDIX B</i> LIST OF PARTICIPANTS	13
<i>APPENDIX C</i> LIST OF DOCUMENTS	32

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

For the attention of Governments and FAO

The Commission recommended:

- giving increased attention to forest landscape restoration, including natural regeneration of forests, and developing natural regeneration strategies to complement intensive planted forest programmes;
- that member countries request support from FAO, as a GEF agency, to support the formulation and implementation of new forestry-related GEF projects and programmes, particularly under the upcoming sixth replenishment period of the Facility;
- that member countries explore opportunities to interface activities on building community resilience with the International Year of Family Farming (2014);
- that member countries participate actively in the 2015 Global Forest Resources Assessment and submit their reports in a timely manner;
- that member countries report on progress in developing new wood-processing capacity at subsequent APFC sessions;
- seizing the opportunity for promoting the importance of the forestry sector that is presented by growing recognition of the links between forests and climate change;
- working to increase disaster preparedness and build greater understanding of the roles of trees and forests in mitigating natural disasters and supporting post-disaster recovery;
- providing technical support to build capacities in member countries to address climate change adaptation at policy levels and to strengthen resilience and implementation of climate change adaptation measures at community levels;
- the development of a stand-alone sustainable development goal on forests and emphasized the need to raise the profile of forests in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and that member countries actively engage in the discussions on a forest-related SDG through the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals established through the Rio+20 process;
- that forestry interests be strongly represented in national delegations and/or in national processes to develop priorities for presentation to the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific.

For the attention of FAO

The Commission recommended:

- assisting countries in understanding and accessing sources of forest financing and in preparing high-quality proposals for seeking financing;
- collaborating with partner organizations, the private sector and other FLEGT support programmes to raise awareness on evolving international demand-side legality requirements, through regional information or training workshops and other mechanisms, giving particular attention to supporting the needs of small-scale producers and increased engagement with the private sector;
- exploring the potential for establishing a regional mechanism for sharing information related to trade in illegally logged timber in collaboration with other partners and member countries;

- building awareness of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests, through regional and national workshops and training-of-trainers, and facilitating the sharing of experiences and approaches in implementing the Guidelines;
- conducting additional analysis on the impacts of drivers of change on forests;
- building resilience in forests, landscapes and forest-dependent communities to natural disasters, including developing a regional action plan in relation to forests and natural disasters;
- producing a knowledge product on forests and droughts in Asia and the Pacific;
- providing technical support for strengthening national capacities for forest monitoring and assessment, and efforts to harmonize data collection and reporting;
- continuing to give high priority to promoting forest landscape restoration and forest rehabilitation, including giving attention to watershed management and soil and water conservation;
- developing a regional action plan on gender mainstreaming into forest policies in collaboration with partner organizations;
- assisting countries in understanding and responding to international agreements, participating in dialogues and formulating proposals for donor support;
- exploring mechanisms to support special diagnostic missions to interested countries with a view toward fostering an enabling environment for rational and competitive wood processing;
- working closely with partner organizations within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to support REDD+ initiatives;
- supporting regional sharing of information, forest data and experiences related to the roles of forests in climate change adaptation, in collaboration with other international and regional partners and established mechanisms;
- strengthening FAO's role in the global forest architecture, especially the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, taking into account the review of the international arrangement on forests to be conducted for the eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests in 2015;
- supporting the process of consideration and development of a sustainable development goal (SDG) on forests and particularly the development of relevant targets and indicators;
- providing training on the use of the sustainable forest management (SFM) Toolbox when completed;
- continuing work with other organizations to harmonize definitions and streamline forest-related reporting, building on the work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting and on the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire;
- strengthening international cooperation on fire-related activities and supporting regional networks and initiatives;
- developing methodologies, standard definitions and terminology to support the collection, analysis and reporting of data on the contributions of trees and forests to food security and nutrition, and to provide guidance and assistance to member countries in implementing such activities;
- exploring the potential for incorporating a high-level ministerial component as part of the XIV World Forestry Congress.

INTRODUCTION

1. At the invitation of the Government of New Zealand, the Twenty-fifth session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) was held in Rotorua, New Zealand, from 5 to 8 November 2013. Delegates from 28 member countries and 2 United Nations organizations participated in the session, along with observers and representatives from 17 regional and international inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations. A list of participants is given in *Appendix B*.

Opening ceremony

2. Delegates were welcomed by a traditional maori powhiri conducted by the local Te Arawa iwi.

3. The opening ceremony featured addresses by the Associate Minister for Primary Industries, Government of New Zealand, the FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, and the FAO Director of Forest Economics, Policy and Products. The FAO Senior Forestry Officer for Asia and the Pacific offered the vote of thanks.

4. Mr Hiroyuki Konuma, the FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, welcomed participants on behalf of FAO. He thanked the Government of New Zealand and especially the Ministry for Primary Industries, for their outstanding preparatory work and arrangements. He stressed the importance of pursuing proactive, prosperity-enhancing approaches that do more than simply lift people out of poverty. He informed delegates that FAO has restructured its programmes under five new cross-cutting Strategic Objectives that will enhance its ability to address challenges in more effective, integrated and multi-disciplinary ways.

5. Ms Eva Muller, FAO Director of Forest Economics, Policy and Products welcomed participants on behalf of the FAO Assistant Director General for Forestry. She noted the importance of the Regional Forestry Commissions as part of an inclusive, transparent priority setting approach for FAO's forestry programme. She identified several crucial events for forests in the forthcoming biennium including the development of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, the review of the international arrangement on forests and the 14th World Forestry Congress. She highlighted the importance of people-centred, landscape-scaled approaches in forestry that recognize and maximize the contributions of forests and trees to food security, sustainable livelihoods and eradication of poverty.

6. The Honorable Jo Goodhew, Associate Minister for Primary Industries, Government of New Zealand, welcomed the distinguished guests and delegates to Rotorua. She noted that the Seventh session of the Commission also convened in Rotorua in 1964. She highlighted the importance, to the New Zealand economy and for other countries in the region, of developing advanced wood processing capacity. The Minister emphasized her government's commitment to sustainability, including the importance assigned to indigenous forests. She stressed the importance of combating illegal logging due to the harm it causes to the environment, local communities and the legitimate industry.

7. Mr. Patrick Durst, FAO Senior Forestry Officer for Asia and the Pacific, offered a vote of thanks to the Associate Minister for Primary Industries and the Government of New Zealand for their kind offer to host the Twenty-fifth session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission. Other partners, sponsoring organizations and contributors were also thanked.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA (Item 1)

8. Under the guidance of Mr. Su Chunyu (China), the outgoing Chairman of the Commission, the provisional agenda (FO:APFC/2013/1) was reviewed and adopted (see *Appendix A*). Documents considered by the Commission are listed in *Appendix C*.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Item 2)

9. The Commission unanimously elected the following individuals to hold office until the commencement of the Twenty-sixth session:

- i. Chairperson: Jarred Mair (New Zealand)
- ii. Vice-Chairpersons: Taisuke Shimada (Japan)
Harry Santoso (Indonesia)
Kantharaj Jude Sekar (India)
- iii. Rapporteur: Marcial Amaro Jr. (Philippines)

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

APFC SESSION THEME: “FORESTS FOR PROSPERITY” (Item 3)

10. Mr Warren Parker, Chief Executive Officer of Scion Crown Research Institute provided a keynote address. On the basis of this address and Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2013/2, the Commission considered the session theme, “Forests for prosperity.”

11. The Commission recognized that the Millennium Development Goals provide a framework for enhanced global prosperity and poverty alleviation. Delegates highlighted a need for sustained growth with equity, recognizing a need to avoid depletion of natural resources. Several countries highlighted a need to accelerate towards green economy principles. Education, capacity building and access to technology were identified as key components of development.

12. Delegates identified several key impediments to enhanced prosperity through forestry including shortfalls in financing and investment for sustainable forest management, degraded forests and depleted biodiversity, illegal logging and its associated trade, and inadequate recognition and valuation of the full range of ecosystem services provided by forests. Several countries highlighted measures being implemented to address these impediments including identifying wildlife protection as a concrete goal, national conservation and greening programmes, timber legality requirements, and certification.

FOREST FINANCING: INVESTING FOR PROSPERITY (Item 4)

13. On the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2013/3, the Commission considered the current status and challenges related to forest financing.

14. The Commission noted that forest financing is a major challenge with significant shortfalls in funding for sustainable forest management. Delegates recognized that broad options for forest financing include state budgets, private sector investment, financing from the international community and payments for ecosystem services.

15. The Commission noted the importance of recognizing, and reflecting in market considerations, the multiple benefits provided by forests, including timber, non-wood forest products and ecosystem services, in order to strengthen the financial basis for sustainable forest management. Countries recognized a need for more effective data collection and monitoring of non-wood forest products and ecosystem services, and for international cooperation and knowledge sharing, to support emerging payment mechanisms.

16. Delegates recognized significant difficulties in valuing ecosystem services, and in implementing practical systems of payments for ecosystem services, as appropriate for respective member countries. The Commission highlighted a need for further work on methodological issues related to payments for ecosystem services, including development of valuation methods that recognize the full benefits and values of forests.

17. The Commission emphasized that more needs to be done to draw attention to the multiple benefits of forests, including strengthening forestry communications efforts. Delegates noted a significant opportunity to mainstream forestry in national planning and policy-making, including allocation of national budget, in view of the values provided by forest ecosystems.

18. The Commission recognized the complex array of existing forest financing mechanisms, including funds provided by multilateral development banks. The importance of formulating high-quality proposals in seeking financing support was underscored. The Commission urged FAO to assist countries in understanding and accessing sources of forest financing such as from multilateral development banks.

FOREST LAW ENFORCEMENT, GOVERNANCE AND TRADE: EMERGING LEGALITY RESTRICTIONS AND RESPONSES (Item 5)

19. The Commission considered developments in forest law enforcement, governance and trade (FLEGT), with particular emphasis on emerging legality restrictions and responses on the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2013/4. The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forestry were also considered, on the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2013/5, under this agenda item.

20. Delegates noted that strong commitments to improving forest law enforcement and governance have been made by countries of the region over the past decade, building upon the Bali Declaration issued at the Forest Law Enforcement and Governance East Asia Ministerial Conference, which took place in 2001.

21. The Commission welcomed the many tangible measures and support for addressing issues related to FLEGT that had evolved in recent years, including legality requirements in consumer countries, voluntary partnership agreements, timber legality verification systems, forest certification, codes of practice for forest harvesting, guidelines for forest enterprises and operators, timber tracking systems, chain-of-custody certification, and enhanced monitoring by civil society.

22. The Commission requested FAO to continue efforts to raise awareness and increase understanding of evolving international demand-side legality requirements, through regional information or training workshops and other mechanisms, and further coordinate with other FLEGT support programmes. The Commission encouraged efforts to more actively engage the private sector in these activities.

23. The Commission urged FAO to explore the potential for establishing a regional mechanism for sharing information related to trade in illegally logged timber in collaboration with other partners and member countries.

24. The Commission requested FAO, in collaboration with other partner organizations, to address FLEGT capacity building needs through targeted support provided through the EU-FLEGT Programme. Noting particular challenges in meeting legality assurance requirements to small-scale timber producers, and to those sourcing raw materials from these smallholders, and/or from trees outside forests, home gardens and farm forests, the Commission urged FAO to give particular attention to supporting them.

25. Delegates appreciated the development of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests and highlighted their usefulness in helping to inform tenure reform processes and providing a framework for further discussions on sensitive issues related to forest and land tenure.

26. The Commission recommended that FAO build upon initial efforts in disseminating and building awareness of the Guidelines through regional and national workshops. It further recommended that FAO support training-of-trainers to extend awareness and build capacity among stakeholders at all levels for implementing the Guidelines.

27. The Commission encouraged FAO to facilitate the sharing of experiences and approaches in implementing the Guidelines among member countries for mutual learning and more effective implementation.

STATE OF FORESTRY IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION (Item 6)

28. On the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2013/6, the Commission considered the state of forestry in the region. Delegates provided informative summaries of recent developments and issues in their countries, underscoring various challenges and achievements.

29. The Commission noted that several countries had formulated new strategies related to forestry, biodiversity, climate change, wood processing and marketing of forest products, and revitalization of the forest sector.

30. Many countries reported significant progress in enhancing forest resources, including achievements in afforestation, reforestation and forest restoration, establishment and rehabilitation of coastal forests, fire management, and slowing the rate of deforestation where forest loss was still occurring.

31. Continuing threats to forests from land concessions for agro-industrial development, mining, and hydro-electric and other infrastructure were noted. Delegates also underscored the escalating pressures on forests as a result of growing populations, expanding economic development and changing societal expectations. The Commission encouraged FAO to conduct additional analysis on the impacts of these drivers of change on forests.

32. In line with the “Forests for prosperity” theme of the Commission session, several countries reported on recent initiatives to expand value-added wood processing, enhance wood recovery from forest resources, tap new market opportunities, develop payments for ecosystem services, and create more jobs in the forestry sector.

33. The Commission welcomed the increased attention on forests as a result of growing recognition of the linkages between forests and climate change and greater appreciation for the environmental, cultural and spiritual values of forests, and noted that this has helped attract more resources for forest management and protection in many countries.

34. Delegates highlighted the growing importance given to adaptive and mitigative measures to respond to climate change and natural disasters. Significant progress was reported in strengthening capacities for measurement, reporting and verification, forest monitoring and assessment, and national forest inventories, often supported by REDD+ readiness programmes. Progress was also reported with respect to governance structures and participatory processes, and disaster risk assessment and preparedness. The Commission nonetheless noted many remaining challenges, including lack of technical capacity and high costs constraining REDD+ readiness activities, climate change adaptation, and resilience to natural disasters.

35. Delegates highlighted continuing emphasis on decentralization and devolution of forest management, community forestry, participatory approaches, and strengthening of forest tenure and access rights for local forest-dependent people.

36. The Commission noted the efforts of many countries to address illegal logging and associated trade of forest products, comply with new demand-side legality requirements, review and revise codes of practice for forest harvesting, and improve forest management and productivity.

37. Delegates noted the results of the pre-session workshop on forest landscape restoration and the success of some countries in employing low-cost natural regeneration approaches for restoring and rehabilitating forests. The Commission encouraged FAO to work with regional partners and member countries to give increased attention to forest landscape restoration, including natural regeneration of forests, and to develop natural regeneration strategies to complement intensive planted forest programmes.

38. The Commission was reminded of the growing opportunities for utilizing Global Environment Facility (GEF) funds for forestry-related projects. Member countries were encouraged to request support from FAO, as a GEF agency, to support the formulation and implementation of new forestry-related GEF projects and programmes, particularly under the upcoming sixth replenishment period of the Facility.

IN-SESSION SEMINAR: BUILDING RESILIENCE IN FORESTS, LANDSCAPES AND COMMUNITIES (Item 7)

39. A special in-session seminar highlighted the emerging issue of building resilience in forests, landscapes and communities (ref. Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2013/7).

40. The Commission noted a need to ensure resilience building activities in the full range of forest types including secondary forests, coastal forests and mangroves. The importance of restoring forests and maintaining natural forest dynamics, before severe depletion occurs, was also noted.

41. The Commission recognized an urgent need to increase self reliance and resilience in many forest-dependent communities. The importance of capturing cross sectoral synergies between forestry and agriculture in building community resilience was noted. Delegates highlighted the potential of the Forest and Farm Facility for building the capacity of countries in this regard. Delegates noted that globalization and new regional trade agreements may adversely affect some rural communities. Several countries recognized that new resilience paradigms need to incorporate the sustainability concepts often present in traditional knowledge and methods.

42. The Commission requested FAO to facilitate the sharing of experiences on building resilience in forests, landscapes and forest-dependent communities.

43. Delegates recognized the important roles of forests in building resilience and protecting against natural disasters. The Commission requested that FAO give increased attention to building resilience to natural disasters, including developing a regional action plan in relation to forests and natural disasters.

44. Delegates recognized specific threats and uncertainties posed by climate change. Several countries observed the need to anticipate change and implement measures to adapt or mitigate as appropriate. Community-based adaptation to climate change and co-management were recognized as important measures to build community resilience. The Commission requested that FAO produce a knowledge product relating to forests and droughts in Asia and the Pacific.

45. Delegates noted the need for diverse approaches to building community resilience that recognize the widely differing situations that occur throughout the region. The Commission urged member countries to explore opportunities to interface these activities with the International Year of Family Farming (2014).

PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING APFC- AND FAO-SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION (Item 8)

46. The Commission considered progress in implementing APFC- and FAO-supported activities in the region on the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2013/8.

47. The Commission acknowledged the importance of the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) programme. Delegates noted the importance of trees outside forests, including fruit trees, in many countries in the region. The use of remote sensing technology and associated capacity building and technology transfer under the FRA programme was welcomed. The Commission urged member countries to participate actively in the 2015 Global Forest Resources Assessment and to submit their reports in a timely manner. The Commission further requested FAO to provide technical support for strengthening national capacities for forest monitoring and assessment, and efforts to harmonize data collection and reporting.

48. The Commission welcomed the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank (APFPTT) and the Asia-Pacific Forestry Communications Network (APFCN) as mechanisms for capacity building, awareness raising, and sharing information, expertise and knowledge. Delegates highlighted the roles of the two mechanisms in promoting grassroots success stories in Asia-Pacific forestry.

49. The Commission noted the importance of research and education in developing a sound foundation for sustainable forest management. The various initiatives of international organizations working to promote education and research in the region were acknowledged, including FAO's efforts to establish an Advisory Panel on Forest Knowledge.

50. The Commission acknowledged FAO's on-going efforts to promote forest landscape restoration and forest rehabilitation. The Commission requested FAO to continue to give this work high priority, including giving attention to watershed management and soil and water conservation.

51. The Commission noted the particular vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to natural disasters. A need for individualized approaches to provision of support to SIDS was acknowledged. Several countries appreciated FAO assistance in utilization of senile coconut resources. Delegates highlighted a need for support to some countries to obtain access to appropriate forest tree seed supplies.

52. The Commission noted the need for greater support to communities and grassroots stakeholders in countries. The Commission highlighted the benefits of translation of relevant publications into local languages.

53. The Commission noted on-going work on mainstreaming gender into forest policies and requested FAO and partner organizations to develop a regional action plan on gender mainstreaming to progress this work.

54. Several countries noted the complex array of international agreements, processes and financing mechanisms (including the Global Environment Facility) relating to forestry. The Commission requested that FAO continue to assist countries in understanding and responding to international agreements, participating in dialogues, and formulating proposals for donor support.

55. The Commission urged FAO to continue to seek opportunities to collaborate and harmonize work on cross-cutting issues with other international agencies including the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

56. The Commission noted the potential for greater involvement of national offices of FAO Representatives in forestry activities. Delegates highlighted the value of receiving written reports on implementation of their activities from relevant international forestry organizations at future APFC sessions. The Commission noted the value of giving greater attention to evaluating and reporting on the relative effectiveness of various APFC initiatives.

HEADS OF FORESTRY DIALOGUE: POLICIES TO SUPPORT WOOD PROCESSING DEVELOPMENT (Item 9)

57. A special Heads of Forestry dialogue provided an opportunity for direct exchange of views among delegates on policies to support wood processing development (ref. Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2013/9).

58. Some delegates noted a wide range of constraints to investment in wood processing, including poor or excessive regulation, trade restrictions, low profitability, issues surrounding economies of scale, security of wood supplies, distance from markets, weak supporting infrastructure, monopolistic industry structures, relative incentive regimes, deficiencies in capacities and expertise, and limited access to appropriate science and technology.

59. Delegates noted a number of key elements in creating enabling environments for wood processing, including firm political commitment, market-driven policies, investment in research and development of technology, upgrading competitive advantages, development of raw material resources, and regulatory frameworks conducive to business.

60. Countries recognized a general desire to enhance domestic wood processing capacities, including development of downstream and remanufacturing facilities. Several delegates highlighted potential benefits of sharing experiences in developing wood processing industries. The Commission encouraged member countries to report on progress in developing new wood processing capacity at subsequent APFC sessions.

61. The Commission requested FAO to explore mechanisms to support special diagnostic missions to interested countries, with a view toward fostering an enabling environment for rational and competitive wood processing.

FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE: PATHWAY TO PROSPERITY? (Item 10)

62. The Commission considered the prospects for the forests and climate change agenda to contribute to prosperity on the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2013/10.

63. Delegates noted that the links between forests and climate change had served to effectively draw the attention of diverse interest groups to the environmental, social and cultural importance of forests. The Commission urged members to seize the opportunity for promoting the importance of the forestry sector.

64. The Commission highlighted the critical roles of local stakeholders in managing forests effectively in the face of challenges posed by climate change. Delegates highlighted the need for adequate financial and technical support to implement community-based natural resources management.

65. The Commission requested FAO to continue working closely with partner organizations within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to support REDD+ initiatives.

66. Delegates noted the predicted increase in the frequency and severity of natural disasters as a result of climate change. The Commission therefore encouraged FAO and member countries to work to increase disaster preparedness and build greater understanding of the roles of trees and forests in mitigating natural disasters and supporting post-disaster recovery.

67. Delegates noted that attention has largely shifted to adaptation considerations in many countries, but that capacities to support adaptation to climate change is limited in many areas. The Commission requested FAO to provide technical support to build capacities in member countries to address climate change adaptation at policy levels and to strengthen resilience and implementation of climate change adaptation measures at community levels.

68. The Commission requested FAO to support regional sharing of information, forest data, and experiences related to the roles of forests in climate change adaptation, in collaboration with other international and regional partners and established mechanisms.

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS IN FAO AND THE UN (Item 11)

69. On the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2013/11, the Commission considered the management response to the Strategic evaluation of FAO's role and work in forestry. The Commission also considered the new strategic framework and the integration of FAO's work on forestry into the five new strategic objectives of the organization (Ref. Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2013/12). The UN development agenda beyond 2015: Sustainable Development Goals (Ref. Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2013/13) was also considered under this agenda item.

70. In view of FAO's role as the leading global forestry organization, the Commission emphasized the importance of continuing FAO's core technical work in forestry under the new strategic framework. Delegates highlighted emerging areas such as the contribution of forests to food security and nutrition, and resilience of forest-dependent communities.

71. The Commission recommended FAO's role in the global forest architecture, especially the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, to be strengthened taking into account the review of the international arrangement on forests to be conducted for the Eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests in 2015.

72. The Commission noted that the multi-functionality of forests and their contributions to all three dimensions of sustainable development are inadequately reflected in the Millennium Development Goals. Delegates noted that forests have been recognized as an important element in "The future we want," the outcome document of the Rio+20 conference.

73. The Commission strongly recommended the development of a stand-alone sustainable development goal on forests and emphasized the need to raise the profile of forests in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with targets and indicators reflecting the multi-functionality of forests and their contribution to sustainable development.

74. The Commission noted that the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG) established through the Rio+20 process is currently debating the formulation of sustainable development goals. Key features of SDGs are that they should be action-oriented, aspirational, easy to communicate and should address all three dimensions of sustainable development. The Commission urged countries in the Asia-Pacific region to actively engage in the discussions on a forest-related SDG through the OWG.

75. The Commission requested FAO to support the process of consideration and development of an SDG on forests and particularly the development of relevant targets and indicators.

TOOLS FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT (Item 12)

76. On the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2013/14, the Commission considered the development of the Sustainable Forest Management Toolbox. The Commission also considered progress in the development of voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring (Ref. Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2013/15) and the shaping of the FAO Fire Management Umbrella Programme (Ref. Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2013/16) under this agenda item.

77. The Commission welcomed initial work on the development of the SFM Toolbox and noted that it could provide valuable support for sustainable forest management in the region. Delegates encouraged FAO to collaborate with other forest-related organizations, in particular ITTO and CIFOR, in the further development of the Toolbox and to focus on identified gaps and to avoid duplication of efforts.

78. The Commission urged FAO to ensure that the Toolbox covers all aspects of sustainable forest management for all types of forests and trees outside forests and that it meets the diverse needs of the target audience. Delegates welcomed the proposed usability test and suggested it be implemented early in the process. The Commission requested FAO to provide training on the use of the Toolbox when completed.

79. The Commission welcomed the work of FAO on the development of the Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring as requested by COFO 2012 and endorsed the proposed scope and process. Delegates suggested to include a section on how to integrate forest monitoring results into policy and decision-making processes in countries.

80. The Commission urged FAO to continue to work with other organizations to harmonize definitions and streamline forest-related reporting, building on the work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Task Force on streamlining forest-related reporting and on the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire. The Commission further urged FAO to continue to provide support to countries to design and implement national forest monitoring systems.

81. Delegates shared experiences on forest fire management, noting that fire management is a tool and that community-based forest fire management has proved to be effective in the region. Delegates recommended focusing more strongly on fire prevention and on the development of emergency response management systems. Delegates were provided with additional information on the International Wildland Fire Conference that will be held in the Republic of Korea in 2015.

82. The Commission welcomed the update on the “Smart Fire” Umbrella Programme and encouraged FAO to identify additional resources for its implementation. It encouraged members to take advantage of the inclusion of disaster risk reduction and wildfires in GEF-6. The Commission urged FAO to continue to strengthen international cooperation on fire-related activities and support regional networks and initiatives.

FORESTS AND FOOD SECURITY: FOLLOW-UP TO THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE (Item 13)

83. The Commission considered follow-up to the International Conference on Forests for Food Security and Nutrition on the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2013/17.

84. Delegates agreed that the conference had been valuable and timely in highlighting the numerous contributions that forests make to food security and nutrition and encouraged further initiatives to

highlight these important linkages. It was suggested that World Food Day celebrations offered excellent opportunities to highlight the contributions that forests make to food security in each country.

85. Delegates emphasized that efforts to ensure food security and nutrition should be balanced with needs for sustainable forest management, including production of timber and non-wood forest products and provision of ecosystem services of forests. Delegates further stressed that agricultural production could be increased without further loss or degradation of forests and that safeguards were needed to ensure that the full impacts of forest conversion are taken into account.

86. Delegates noted that there was a lack of comprehensive data and information on the contributions of trees and forests to food security and nutrition. The Commission requested FAO to develop methodologies, standard definitions and terminology to support the collection, analysis, and reporting of such data, and to provide guidance and assistance to member countries in implementing such activities.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE XIV WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS (Item 14)

87. On the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2013/18, the Commission considered preparations for the XIV World Forestry Congress.

88. The Commission welcomed the preparations being made for the XIV World Forestry Congress, which will be held in Durban, South Africa, in September 2015.

89. The Commission proposed several potential overarching themes for the World Forestry Congress including: (i) Forests in everyday life; (ii) Forests for food security; and (iii) Forests for all. A variety of potential topics that could help to form the basis for technical sessions at the Congress were also proposed including a framework for global forest governance, transformation of forest policies, management of ecosystem services, forest culture and eco-civilization, forest monitoring and assessment, understanding and implementation of the forest instrument, forests and economies, forest science and decision-making, and forests and climate change. The Commission recognized that the Congress would provide an excellent opportunity to promote the findings of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015.

90. The Commission requested FAO to explore the potential for incorporating a high-level ministerial component as part of the Congress.

REGIONAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (COFO) AND THE FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (Item 15)

91. The Commission noted the new governance structure of FAO including the increased importance of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific in the development of the Organization's programme of work and budget. The Commission expressed its concern over the potential for deprioritization of forestry in the new governance structure. The Commission encouraged member countries to ensure that forestry is strongly represented in national delegations and/or in national processes to develop priorities for presentation to the FAO Regional Conference.

92. The Commission recognized that an agenda item on "Restoration of rangelands and forests for climate change mitigation and adaptation and the promotion of ecosystem services" provides a vehicle for many important forestry issues to be taken up for consideration at the 32nd FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific.

93. The Commission proposed several topics for the agenda of the 22nd session of COFO including: (i) development of a stand-alone SDG for forestry; (ii) the importance of forestry in combating climate change and land degradation; (iii) payments for ecosystem services; and (iv) forest financing.

94. The Commission noted that the Chairman and the Secretary would work to identify other recommendations from the proceedings of the 25th session of APFC for the attention of COFO including: (i) issues relating to forest governance, particularly in relation to forest tenure and access rights; (ii) forest landscape restoration; and (iii) building resilience against climate change and natural disasters.

OTHER BUSINESS (Item 16)

95. The Commission was informed of activities implemented by four of its working groups and initiatives:

- (i) The Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN) reported on activities implemented during the intersessional period. A wide variety of awareness-raising materials have been produced, including publications, newsletters and factsheets. Several capacity-building workshops have been implemented. A significant development is the planned establishment of a new APFISN coordination office in Beijing, China, to complement the existing office in Kerala, India.
- (ii) The Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank (APFPTT) was inaugurated at the 2nd Asia-Pacific Forestry Week, held in conjunction with the 24th session of APFC. Key activities of the APFPTT have included implementation of a two-week Executive Forest Policy Course held in Thimphu, Bhutan in May-June 2013 and two multi-country policy studies on mainstreaming gender into forest policies and forest restoration at landscape level.
- (iii) The Asia-Pacific Forestry Communications Network was inaugurated at a workshop on “Strengthening forestry communications in Asia and the Pacific” held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, in September 2013. A working group was established to develop modalities for network operations. Core functions of the network will include capacity building, information sharing and networking.
- (iv) The Kids-to-Forests (K2F) initiative has commenced activities in six countries: Cambodia, China, Fiji, Lao PDR, Mongolia and Philippines. A range of activities have been implemented including website development, social networking, development of a facilitator toolkit, and facilitator training. The initiative proposes to hold a regional summit to share experiences on children’s forestry education, expand the K2F “Kiddie Earth Ambassadors” programme, and advocate for an International Day of ‘Children of Mother Earth’.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION (Item 17)

96. The Commission noted with appreciation the expression of interest by the delegation from the Philippines to host its twenty-sixth session. The Secretariat will work with the Philippines to confirm the hosting arrangements.

*APPENDIX A***AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Election of officers
3. APFC session theme: “Forests for prosperity”
4. Forest financing: investing for prosperity
5. Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT): emerging legality restrictions and responses
6. State of forestry in the Asia-Pacific region
7. In-session seminar: Building resilience in forests, landscapes and communities
8. Progress in implementing APFC- and FAO-supported activities in the region
9. Heads of Forestry Dialogue: Policies to support wood processing development
10. Forests and climate change: pathway to prosperity?
11. Strategic developments in FAO and the UN
12. Tools for sustainable forest management
13. Forests and food security: follow-up to the conclusions of the International Conference
14. Preparations for the XIV World Forestry Congress
15. Regional issues identified by the Commission for the attention of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC)
16. Other business
 - Report of the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN)
 - Report of the Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank
 - Report of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Communications Network
17. Date and place of the next session
18. Adoption of the report

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APPENDIX C

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Agenda Item	Code	Title
1	FO:APFC/2013/1	Provisional agenda
2	FO:APFC/2013/2	Forests for prosperity
3	FO:APFC/2013/3	Forest financing: investing for prosperity
4	FO:APFC/2013/4	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT): emerging legality restrictions and responses
5	FO:APFC/2013/5	Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forestry
6	FO:APFC/2013/6	State of forestry in the Asia-Pacific region
7	FO:APFC/2013/7	Building resilience in forests, landscapes and communities
8	FO:APFC/2013/8	Progress in implementing APFC- and FAO-supported activities in the region
9	FO:APFC/2013/9	Policies to support wood processing development
10	FO:APFC/2013/10	Forests and climate change: pathway to prosperity?
11	FO:APFC/2013/11	Strategic evaluation of FAO's role and work in forestry: Management Response
12	FO:APFC/2013/12	The new strategic framework for FAO
13	FO:APFC/2013/13	The UN development agenda beyond 2015: sustainable development goals
14	FO:APFC/2013/14	Sustainable forest management (SFM) toolbox
15	FO:APFC/2013/15	Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring
16	FO:APFC/2013/16	Shaping the FAO Fire Management Umbrella Programme, managing wildfire-related risks at the landscape level and improving inter-agency coordination
17	FO:APFC/2013/17	Forests and food security: follow-up to conclusions of the International Conference
18	FO:APFC/2013/18	Preparations for the XIV World Forestry Congress
19	FO:APFC/2013/19	Contribution to FAO governance: input to the Committee on Forestry and the Regional Conferences

Information documents

FO:APFC/2013/INF.1	Information note
FO:APFC/2013/INF.2	Provisional timetable
FO:APFC/2013/INF.3	List of documents

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ISBN 978-92-5-108123-5



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I3571E/1/12.13