Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2016 was a large and dynamic event that attracted unprecedented interest and enthusiasm from a mix of stakeholders representing a wide spectrum of backgrounds and perspectives. It brought together many of the most outstanding forestry leaders, some of the most eloquent and knowledgeable forestry advocates and many of the finest forestry minds, available to the Asia-Pacific region, and indeed the world. More than 1,300 participants assembled to share a rich diversity of experiences, knowledge and information, to discuss forestry issues around the theme Growing Our Future!, and to develop tangible action plans to carry the region through to 2030 and beyond.

Key decisions with long-lasting impacts on forestry have been made in new and evolving contexts on the world stage. The development of the post-2015 agenda, the SDGs and the Paris Agreement have set new directions for forestry and featured strongly in more than 70 events, arranged by more than 90 agencies, during the APFW 2016. This publication covers the wide range of events held during Forestry Week and bears testament to the diversity of forestry activities in the region.

"Growing Our Future!, APFW 2016's theme, underscores the seriousness and urgency of embracing forestry as an inseparable sector in the overall context of the sustainable development efforts of a nation."

Marcial C. Amaro, Jr., DENR, the Philippines

"For forestry, the challenge is to convert political attention to action with true impacts on the ground."

Eva Müller, FAO

"Forests are not only trees, but we have to take into account the wisdom, knowledge and role of the people who know how to ensure the health of forests."

Sagita Arhidani, ASEAN Social Forestry Network Indonesia

"We should design a sustainable and equitable forestry system that will generate better living standards for people in this region."

Neil Byron, Alluvium Consulting, IFA
ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY WEEK

GROWING OUR FUTURE!

A summary of Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2016

Clark Freeport, Philippines, 22-26 February 2016

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, 2017
## CONTENTS

CONTENTS  iii
FOREWORD vii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ix
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS xii
THE FOREST OF LIFE xix

INTRODUCTION  2
WELCOME ADDRESS  6
OPENING REMARKS  8
KEYNOTE ADDRESS  11
VOTE OF THANKS  13
OPENING CEREMONY  15
OPENING PLENARY SESSION  17
Report of the 26th session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission  23

STREAM 1 - PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY: FUTURE TRADE AND MARKETS  33
Situation and trends in world forest product trade  34
Partnerships for positive change: Towards new Chinese overseas forest investment and trade  36
Innovative NWFP marketing channels and mechanisms  38
Opportunities and challenges for market access  40
Small forest enterprises: Barriers and opportunities in participating in responsible wood product trade  42
Global significance of teak – present and future  49
Public/government procurement policies for certified forest products in the Asia-Pacific region  51
Updates on timber trade and timber legality  53
Legal and logic sciences for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT)  55
Forests and beauty: Regional assessment of NWFPs related to the cosmetics and fragrances sector  57
Challenges and opportunities for the development of timber legality definition with special emphasis on sustainable forest management in the early stage of the FLEGT/VPA process in Lao PDR  60

STREAM 2 - TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE:
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES  62
Tackling climate change: Opportunities and challenges (opening plenary)  63
Sharing first experiences on REDD+ safeguards and related benefit-sharing mechanisms from Pacific Island Countries  67
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STREAM 3 - SERVING SOCIETY: FORESTRY AND PEOPLE</th>
<th>87</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Role of forests in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (opening plenary)</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals and community forestry – a symbiotic relationship for people and forests of the Asia-Pacific region</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The importance of agroforestry in achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“We benefit from the forest…” Getting a fair share in the benefits derived from forests: Approaches and tools</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forests and water in action</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender-inclusive communications for the achievement of SDGs</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Way forward for people and forests of the Asia-Pacific region in the context of SDGs</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community-based sustainable forest management and food security (Our forest, our life)</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STREAM 4 - NEW INSTITUTIONS, NEW GOVERNANCE</th>
<th>105</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New institutions, new governance (opening plenary)</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why forest policies and governance are important for tenure reform and improved livelihoods? Cases from Cambodia, Nepal and Viet Nam</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Foresters’ Summit</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerging governance mechanisms in ASEAN: Supporting improved standards and conformance infrastructure for forest sector legality and sustainability initiatives</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving forest communication for people and forests</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobilizing the full potential of C&amp;I for SFM in the Asia-Pacific region</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raising governance standards: Developing capacity for cross-sectoral investments in forests, climate change and livelihoods</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenure/land rights and food security: ‘Our rights, our forests’</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drivers affecting forest change in the Greater Mekong subregion</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing work with FFPOs facilitated by We Effect and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FAO/FFF in Yen Bai, Viet Nam 136
The research agenda for forested landscapes in 2017-2022: Partnership opportunities 144
Evidence-based forestry: Approaches and results in the Asia-Pacific region 146
Scaling-up communities and indigenous peoples’ forest resource rights 147

STREAM 5 - OUR GREEN FUTURE:
GREEN INVESTMENT AND GROWING OUR NATURAL ASSETS 149

Our green future: Green investment and growing our natural assets (opening plenary) 150
APFISN workshop on transboundary cases of forest invasive species management 153
A high-level regional consultation to develop an action plan for forest and landscape restoration in the Asia-Pacific region 155
Community forestry experiences 157
Fourth Asia-Pacific forestry education coordination mechanism meeting 160
Forest landscape restoration – challenges and opportunities for ecological resilience, economic development and enhancing livelihoods in Asia and the Pacific 163
Mobilizing investments in Asia-Pacific forests: Interactive workshop 165
Forest spatial information and user-oriented service system 168
Fifteen years of AKECOP: Experiences and lessons learned 170
Focus on Asia’s tree diversity: Highlights of regional collaboration in implementing FAO’s Global Plan of Action on Forest Genetic Resources 173
Forest landscape restoration and land degradation neutrality in Asia 175
Positive impacts from investing in communities and smallholders: The forest production systems of the future 177
Forest and landscape restoration: Growing our future 179
The Restoration Opportunity Assessment Methodology (ROAM) 181

OTHER EVENTS 182

Forests and climate change after Paris: An Asia-Pacific perspective 183
Forest beauty CANopy: Communities Speak CANopy Corner and ‘Wild and healthy: Forests foods for nutrition’ session 184
Creative events 187
APFW field trips 194
APFW contests 200

CLOSING ADDRESSES 207
Patrick Durst 208
Demetrio L. Ignacio Jr. 211

PHOTO MEMORIES 213
DAILY NEWSLETTERS 215
APFW 2016, co-hosted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the Philippines and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), followed the success of the two previous Forestry Weeks held in Hanoi, Viet Nam in April 2008 and in Beijing, China in November 2011, each event attracting more than 700 forestry experts from the Asia-Pacific region. Drawing from the previous experiences, the third Forestry Week was the biggest Forestry Week yet, attended by around 1,300 participants from governments, non-government organizations (NGOs), research institutions, regional and international networks, United Nations (UN) agencies, universities and colleges.

The global acceptance of the milestone agreements in 2015 – adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Agreement – resulted in the idea for the theme ‘Growing Our Future!’, which reflects the need for society to integrate forestry into the wider context of sustainable development. The theme provided an opportunity for diverse decision-makers and stakeholders to discuss, exchange ideas and develop a plan on how to implement these global agreements on a local scale in forestry.

Convening more than 70 events in one location during a single week presented an enormous challenge to the host country – but the DENR and its collaborating agencies rose to the occasion and were delightful and enthusiastic hosts who spent a significant amount of time and energy to make APFW 2016 memorable for all participants.

A Forestry Week of such scale would not have been possible without dedicated partner organizations and the collaboration of numerous agencies – more than 90 to be precise – that supported one or more of the 70 events that were arranged in five thematic streams:

- ‘Pathways to Prosperity: Future Trade and Markets’ (organized by ITTO and WRI);
- ‘Tackling Climate Change: Challenges and Opportunities’ (organized by CIFOR and SPC);
- ‘Serving Society: Forestry and People’ (organized by RECOFTC and ASFN);
- ‘New Institutions, New Governance’ (organized by FAO and SPC); and
- ‘Our Green Future: Green Investment and Growing Our Natural Assets’ (organized by APFNet and AFoCo).

The contributions of the stream leader organizations, in terms of time, effort, resources and enthusiasm, established a sound foundation on which the undoubted success of Forestry Week was built.

APFW 2016 paid a significant amount of attention to running dynamic, interactive and participatory activities to provide opportunities for informal interaction, networking and exchange of ideas. For the first time, Forestry Week featured a fashion show to promote traditional skills and use of non-wood forest products (NWFPs). The presentation of the Champion of Asia-Pacific Forestry award to Filipino-American forest restoration advocate Patrick Dugan emphasized an increased focus on rebuilding the region’s natural forest resource base. In addition, participants could
take part in forestry art creation, attend a film festival, visit the Forest Spa and Wild Bar, take in a photo exhibition and enjoy editorial cartoon and poem writing competition entries in the ‘CANopy’ room. These activities were enthusiastically supported by IFSA youth, ESSC, NTFP-EP Asia, AFA, AIPP, FFF of the FAO and SSNC and helped to create energy, emphasize diversity and add a fun element to the proceedings.

Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2016: Growing our future!
A summary of Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2016 provides an overview of the enormous variety of issues and topics discussed and debated during the event. It is hoped that the publication serves as a reminder, to those who were able to attend, of commitments made and objectives set during the week. For those who were not able to attend it offers a detailed summary of discussions and an overview and roadmap of activities that will help to achieve sustainable forestry in the Asia-Pacific region.

Kundhavi Kadiresan
Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Asia-Pacific Forestry Week (APFW) 2016 was made possible through the generous support provided by a wide range of partners and contributors who together shape the vibrant and changing landscape that characterizes Asia-Pacific forestry. With more than 70 events taking place throughout the week, the energy and enthusiasm provided by a wide range of partners, collaborators, sponsors and resource people ensured the success of APFW 2016. FAO wishes to express its gratitude to more than 90 organizations that accepted the opportunity to support and be involved in APFW 2016 and the 26th session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC). Although the individuals contributing to the success of APFW are too numerous to list it is hoped that this publication does justice to their efforts in capturing the activities and outcomes of the events held by partner organizations during the week.

Particular gratitude is expressed to the Government of the Philippines and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as hosts and to all stream leader organizations:
Stream 1:
• International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)
• World Resources Institute (WRI)

Stream 2:
• Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
• Pacific Community (SPC)

Stream 3:
• RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests
• ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN)

Stream 4:
• Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
• Pacific Community (SPC)

Stream 5:
• Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)
• ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation (AFoCo)

Many thanks to the following organizations for their support in holding events and/or exhibit booths, and for their help in organization of Forestry Week:

• ASEAN-Korea Environmental Cooperation Unit (AKECU)
• ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN)
• ASEAN-ROK Environmental Cooperation Project (AKECOP)
• ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation (AFoCo)
• ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)
• Asia Forest Network (AFN)
• Asia Indigenous People's Pact (AIPP)
• Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA)
• Asia-Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI)
• Asia-Pacific Forest Communication Network (APFCN)
• Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN)
• Asia-Pacific Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism (AP-FECM)
• Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)
• Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
• Betis Crafts, Inc.
• Bioversity International
• Center for International Forest Products Trade (CINFT)
• China’s State Forestry Administration (SFA)
• Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
• Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF)
• Clark Development Corporation
• College of Forestry & Natural Resources, University of Philippines – Los Baños (UPBL-CFNR)
• Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers (CGIAR) Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry
• Department of Forestry (DoF)/Department of Forestry Inspection (DoFI), Lao PDR
• Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Philippines
• Deutsche Gesellschaft für Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
• Earth Day Network Philippines, Inc. (EDNP)
• Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau – Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ERDB-DENR), Philippines
• Energy Development Corporation (EDC)
• Environmental Leadership & Training Initiative (ELTI)
• Environmental Science for Social Change (ESSC)
• EU FLEGT Facility of the European Forest Institute (EFI)
• EU-FAO Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (EU-FAO FLEGT) Programme
• European Union (EU)
• Finance Alliance for Sustainable Trade (FAST)
• Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
• Forest and Farm Facility (FFF)
• Forest Management Bureau – Department of Environment and Natural Resources (FMB-DENR), Philippines
• Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
• Forest Trends
• Foundation for the Philippine Environment (FPE)
• Green Climate Fund (GCF)
• Haribon Foundation
• HELVETAS Swiss Intercoporation Nepal
• Indonesian Forest Honey Network (JMHI)
• Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
• Institute for Tropical Ecology & Environmental Management, Visayas State University (VSU-ITEEM)
• International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA)
• International Model Forest Network (IMFN)
• International Society of Zoological Sciences (ISZS)
• International Teak Information Network (TEAKNET)
• International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
• International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)
• Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
• Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI)
• Korea Forestry Promotion Institute (KOFPI)
• Korea Forest Service (KFS)
• Low Emission Development Strategies Global Partnership (LEDS GP) Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use Working group (AFOLU WG)
• Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK), Indonesia
• Ministry of Fisheries and Forests (MFF), Fiji
• National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI), Lao PDR
• National Instrumentation Center for Environmental Management (NICEM), Seoul National University
• National Power Corporation (NPC), Government of the Philippines
• Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), Philippines
• Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV)
• New Forests
• Non-Timber Forest Products-Exchange Programme Asia (NTFP-EP Asia)
• Non-Timber Forest Products Task Force (NTFP-TF)
• Pacific Community (SPC)
• Pampanga State University, Philippines
• Pan-ASEAN Timber Certification Initiative (PATCI)
• Papua New Guinea Climate Change and Development Authority
• Papua New Guinea Forestry Authority (PNGFA)
• Philippine Native Plants Conservation Society Inc. (PNPSCI)
• Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation (PTFCF)
• PolyTor Global
• Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification International (PEFC International)
• Rain Forest Restoration Initiative (RFRI)
• RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests
• Regional Model Forest Network (RMFN)
• Reina Federation of Parents Association, Inc.
• Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information (RIFFI)
• Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade (RAFT) Program
• Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI)
• Southeast Asia Regional Programme (SEARP, OECD)
• Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA)
• State Forest Research Institute, India
• Subic Bay – Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA)
• Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
• The Asia Foundation (TAF) Indonesia
• The Dalit Welfare Association
• The Forest Trust (TFT)
• The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
• The Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network (TRAFFIC)
• Tropical Forest Foundation (TFF)
• United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD)
• United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service
• Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)
• University of British Columbia (UBC)
• University of the Philippines at Los Baños College of Forestry and Natural Resources (UPLB-CFNR)
• We Effect
• Westfields International School
• World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)
• World Bank
• World Resources Institute (WRI)
• World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) China
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACB</td>
<td>ASEAN Center for Biodiversity</td>
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<td>AFA</td>
<td>Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFFM</td>
<td>Agriculture and Farmer Federation Myanmar</td>
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<td>AFN</td>
<td>Asia Forest Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFoCo</td>
<td>ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation</td>
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<tr>
<td>AIPP</td>
<td>Asia Indigenous People's Pact</td>
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<tr>
<td>AKECU</td>
<td>ASEAN-Korea Environmental Cooperation Unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>AKECOP</td>
<td>ASEAN-ROK Environmental Cooperation Project</td>
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<td>AMS</td>
<td>ASEAN Member State</td>
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<td>ANR</td>
<td>assisted natural regeneration</td>
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<td>AP</td>
<td>Asia-Pacific</td>
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<tr>
<td>APC</td>
<td>Apu Palamguwan Cultural Education Center</td>
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<td>APP</td>
<td>Asia Pulp and Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>APAFRI</td>
<td>Asia-Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>APEC</td>
<td>Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation</td>
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<tr>
<td>APECO</td>
<td>Aurora Pacific Economic Zone and Freeport</td>
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<td>APFC</td>
<td>Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>APFCN</td>
<td>Asia-Pacific Forest Communication Network</td>
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<td>AP-FECM</td>
<td>Asia-Pacific Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism</td>
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<td>APFISN</td>
<td>Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>APFNet</td>
<td>Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation</td>
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<tr>
<td>APFORGEN</td>
<td>Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme</td>
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<td>APFPTT</td>
<td>Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank</td>
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<tr>
<td>APFW</td>
<td>Asia-Pacific Forestry Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASEAN</td>
<td>Association of Southeast Asian Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASFCC</td>
<td>ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASFN</td>
<td>ASEAN Social Forestry Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>BMUB</td>
<td>German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOD</td>
<td>Board of Directors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
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<tr>
<td>BPF</td>
<td>Bagong Pagasa Foundation</td>
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<td>BRG</td>
<td>Peatland Restoration Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSM</td>
<td>benefit-sharing mechanism</td>
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<tr>
<td>C&amp;I</td>
<td>criteria and indicators</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAF</td>
<td>Chinese Academy of Forestry</td>
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<tr>
<td>CB</td>
<td>certification body</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBD</td>
<td>Convention on Biological Diversity</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBO</td>
<td>community-based organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBF</td>
<td>community-based forestry</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBFM</td>
<td>community-based forest management</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCDA</td>
<td>Papua New Guinea Climate Change and Development Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>CE</td>
<td>Collect Earth</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEO</td>
<td>chief executive officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>CF</td>
<td>community forestry</td>
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<td>CFCC</td>
<td>China Forest Certification Council</td>
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<td>CFCS</td>
<td>China Forest Certification scheme</td>
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<tr>
<td>CFUG</td>
<td>community forest user groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>CGIAR</td>
<td>Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIDT</td>
<td>Centre for International Development and Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIFOR</td>
<td>Center for International Forestry Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>CINFT</td>
<td>Center for International Forest Products Trade</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIP</td>
<td>Bangladesh Country Investment Plan</td>
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<td>CITES</td>
<td>Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora</td>
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<tr>
<td>CMCC</td>
<td>Custom Made Crafts Center</td>
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<td>CNN</td>
<td>Cable News Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>CoC</td>
<td>Chain of Custody</td>
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<tr>
<td>COP</td>
<td>Conference of the Parties</td>
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<tr>
<td>COFO</td>
<td>Committee on Forestry</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSDM</td>
<td>Centre for Sustainable Development in Mountainous Areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>civil society organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>DENR</td>
<td>Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines</td>
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<tr>
<td>DG</td>
<td>Director-General</td>
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<tr>
<td>DNA</td>
<td>deoxyribonucleic acid</td>
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<tr>
<td>DoF/DoFI</td>
<td>Department of Forestry/Department of Forestry Inspection, Lao PDR</td>
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<tr>
<td>DPRK</td>
<td>Democratic People's Republic of Korea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
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<tr>
<td>DPWH</td>
<td>Department of Public Works and Highways, Philippines</td>
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<td>EBF</td>
<td>evidence-based forestry</td>
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<td>EDC</td>
<td>Energy Development Corporation</td>
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<td>EDNP</td>
<td>Earth Day Network Philippines</td>
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<tr>
<td>EFCC</td>
<td>Bangladesh Environment, Forestry and Climate Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>EFI</td>
<td>European Forest Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELTI</td>
<td>Environmental Leadership and Training Initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td>ERDB</td>
<td>Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau, Philippines</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESG</td>
<td>environmental, social and governance</td>
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<td>ESSC</td>
<td>Environmental Science for Social Change</td>
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<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<td>EUTR</td>
<td>European Timber Regulation</td>
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<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAO RAP</td>
<td>FAO Regional office for Asia and the Pacific</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAST</td>
<td>Finance Alliance for Sustainable Trade</td>
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<tr>
<td>FECOFUN</td>
<td>Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal</td>
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<td>FDI</td>
<td>Foreign Direct Investment</td>
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<tr>
<td>FFF</td>
<td>Forest and Farm Facility</td>
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<td>FFPO</td>
<td>forest and farm producer organizations</td>
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<td>FGR</td>
<td>Forest Genetic Resources</td>
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<td>FHCM</td>
<td>Forest Harvest Collective Mark</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIS</td>
<td>forest invasive species</td>
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<tr>
<td>FLEG</td>
<td>Forest Law Enforcement and Governance</td>
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<tr>
<td>FLEGT</td>
<td>Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLR</td>
<td>Forest Landscape Restoration</td>
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<tr>
<td>FM</td>
<td>forestry management</td>
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<td>FMB</td>
<td>Forest Management Bureau, Philippines</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOs</td>
<td>farmers’ organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>FPE</td>
<td>Foundation for the Philippine Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>FPIC</td>
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<tr>
<td>FSC</td>
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<td>GCF</td>
<td>Green Climate Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>GCS</td>
<td>global comparative study</td>
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<tr>
<td>GGCRS</td>
<td>Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy</td>
</tr>
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<td>GHG</td>
<td>greenhouse gas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIZ</td>
<td>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Zusammenarbeit</td>
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<td>GMS</td>
<td>Greater Mekong Subregion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPA FGR</td>
<td>Global Plan of Action on Forest Genetic Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GTSP</td>
<td>Global Teak Support Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAS</td>
<td>invasive alien species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICCO</td>
<td>International Cocoa Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICEL</td>
<td>Indonesian Center for Environmental Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICRAF</td>
<td>World Agroforestry Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDRC</td>
<td>International Development Research Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>IEC</td>
<td>information, education and communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFSA</td>
<td>International Forestry Students’ Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGES</td>
<td>Institute for Global Environmental Strategies</td>
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<td>ILFTF</td>
<td>International Land and Forest Tenure Facility</td>
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<td>IMFN</td>
<td>International Model Forest Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>IMM</td>
<td>Independent Market Monitoring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDC</td>
<td>Intended Nationally Determined Contribution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPCC</td>
<td>Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPO</td>
<td>independent producers’ organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPRA</td>
<td>Indigenous People’s Rights Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPs</td>
<td>indigenous peoples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISZS</td>
<td>International Society of Zoological Sciences</td>
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<td>ITTO</td>
<td>International Tropical Timber Organization</td>
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<td>IUCN</td>
<td>International Union for Conservation of Nature</td>
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<td>IUFRO</td>
<td>International Union of Forest Research Organizations</td>
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<td>IWPA</td>
<td>International Wood Products Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>JEST</td>
<td>Jungle Environment Survival Training Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>JICA</td>
<td>Japan International Cooperation Agency</td>
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<td>JIFPRO</td>
<td>Japan International Forestry Promotion and Cooperation Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>JMHI</td>
<td>Indonesian Forest Honey Network</td>
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<td>JOAS</td>
<td>Jaringan Orang Asal SeMalaysia</td>
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<td>JOFCA</td>
<td>Japan Overseas Forestry Consultants Association</td>
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<td>K2F</td>
<td>Kids-to-Forests</td>
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<td>KAN</td>
<td>Indonesia’s National Accreditation Committee</td>
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<td>KCAE</td>
<td>Kho Chakan Agroforestry Community Enterprise</td>
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<td>KFRI</td>
<td>Kerala Forest Research Institute</td>
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<td>KFS</td>
<td>Korea Forest Service</td>
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<td>KLHK</td>
<td>Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia</td>
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<td>KOFPI</td>
<td>Korea Forestry Promotion Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LD</td>
<td>Legality Definition</td>
</tr>
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<td>LEDS GP</td>
<td>Low Emission Development Strategies Global Partnerships</td>
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<td>LFGI</td>
<td>The Asia Foundation's Land and Forest Governance Index</td>
</tr>
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<td>LWPA</td>
<td>Lao Wood Processing Association</td>
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<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
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<tr>
<td>MA&amp;D</td>
<td>Market Analysis and Development</td>
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<td>MAF</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR</td>
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<td>MDGs</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
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<td>Mangroves for the Future</td>
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<td>MFF</td>
<td>Ministry of Fisheries and Forests, Fiji</td>
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<td>Multi-stakeholder Forestry Programme Indonesia</td>
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<td>MODI</td>
<td>Modern Indigenous</td>
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<td>MOIC</td>
<td>Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR</td>
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<td>MoEF</td>
<td>Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia</td>
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<tr>
<td>MOA</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture</td>
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<td>MoLEP</td>
<td>Ministry of Land Environmental Protection of DPRK</td>
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<tr>
<td>MOU</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding</td>
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<tr>
<td>MRV</td>
<td>Measurement, Reporting and Verification</td>
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<td>MTC</td>
<td>Malaysian Timber Council</td>
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<td>NAFRI</td>
<td>National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute, Lao PDR</td>
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<td>NAIA</td>
<td>Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Philippines</td>
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<td>NAMAC</td>
<td>National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Cooperatives</td>
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<td>NDC</td>
<td>Nationally Determined Contribution</td>
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<td>NEDA</td>
<td>National Economic and Development Authority</td>
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<td>NFI</td>
<td>National Forest Inventory</td>
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<td>NFMS</td>
<td>National Forest Monitoring System</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organization</td>
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<td>NGP</td>
<td>National Greening Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>NICEM</td>
<td>National Instrumentation Center for Environmental Management</td>
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<td>NIFoS</td>
<td>National Institute of Forest Science of the Republic of Korea</td>
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<td>NPC</td>
<td>National Power Corporation, Philippines</td>
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<td>NTFP</td>
<td>Non-Timber Forest Product</td>
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<td>NTFP-EP</td>
<td>Non-Timber Forest Products-Exchange Programme</td>
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<td>NWFP</td>
<td>Non-Wood Forest Product</td>
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<td>OBOR</td>
<td>‘One Belt, One Road’ Initiative</td>
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<td>OML</td>
<td>Oscar M. Lopez Center</td>
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<td>PATCI</td>
<td>Pan-ASEAN Timber Certification Initiative</td>
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<td>PATIC</td>
<td>Philippine American Timber Company Inc.</td>
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<td>PCA</td>
<td>Yen Bai Provincial Cooperation Alliance</td>
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<tr>
<td>PDC</td>
<td>Participatory Development Communication</td>
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<td>PEFC</td>
<td>Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification</td>
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<td>PES</td>
<td>Payments for Ecosystem Services</td>
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<td>PGS</td>
<td>Participatory Guarantee System</td>
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<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
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<tr>
<td>PICs</td>
<td>Pacific Island Countries</td>
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<tr>
<td>PNG</td>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
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<tr>
<td>PNGFA</td>
<td>Papua New Guinea Forestry Authority</td>
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<td>PNPSCI</td>
<td>Philippine Native Plants Conservation Society Inc.</td>
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<td>POC</td>
<td>Province of China</td>
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<tr>
<td>POs</td>
<td>producers’ organizations</td>
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<td>PROFOR</td>
<td>Program on Forests</td>
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<td>PTFCF</td>
<td>Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation</td>
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<td>RAFT</td>
<td>Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>RD</td>
<td>roundtable discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>RECOFTC</td>
<td>Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific</td>
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<tr>
<td>REDD+</td>
<td>Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation</td>
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<tr>
<td>RFRI</td>
<td>Rain Forest Restoration Initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td>RIFPI</td>
<td>Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RMFN</td>
<td>Regional Model Forest Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROAM</td>
<td>Restoration Opportunity Assessment Methodology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROK</td>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
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<tr>
<td>RRI</td>
<td>Rights and Resources Initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td>SBMA</td>
<td>Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCI</td>
<td>Standards and Conformance Infrastructure</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDC</td>
<td>Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDG</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goal</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEARCA</td>
<td>Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEDP</td>
<td>socio-economic development plan</td>
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<td>SFA</td>
<td>China’s State Forestry Administration</td>
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<td>SFE</td>
<td>small forest enterprises</td>
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<td>SFFI</td>
<td>Society of Filipino Foresters Inc.</td>
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<td>SFM</td>
<td>sustainable forest management</td>
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<td>SIS</td>
<td>safeguard information systems</td>
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<td>SME</td>
<td>small and medium enterprises</td>
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<td>SNV</td>
<td>Netherlands Development Organisation</td>
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<td>SPC</td>
<td>Pacific Community</td>
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<td>SS</td>
<td>sustainability standards</td>
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<td>SSNC</td>
<td>Swedish Society for Nature Conservation</td>
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<td>SVLK</td>
<td>Timber Legality Assurance System, Indonesia</td>
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<td>TAF</td>
<td>The Asia Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>Technical Cooperation Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>TEAKNET</td>
<td>International Teak Information Network</td>
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<td>TFF</td>
<td>Tropical Forest Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>TFT</td>
<td>The Forest Trust</td>
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<tr>
<td>TLAS</td>
<td>Timber Legality Assurance Systems</td>
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<td>TNC</td>
<td>The Nature Conservancy</td>
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<tr>
<td>ToT</td>
<td>training of trainers</td>
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<td>TPP</td>
<td>Trans-Pacific Partnership</td>
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<td>TRAFFIC</td>
<td>The Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>UBC</td>
<td>University of British Columbia</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td>United Nations Economic Commission for Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNEP</td>
<td>United Nations Environment Programme</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<td>UN-REDD</td>
<td>United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation</td>
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<td>UNFCCC</td>
<td>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</td>
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<td>UNFF</td>
<td>United Nations Forum on Forests</td>
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<td>UPBL-CFNR</td>
<td>College of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Philippines – Los Baños</td>
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<td>UPM</td>
<td>Universiti Putra Malaysia</td>
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<td>USA</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
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<td>USAID</td>
<td>United States Agency for International Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>USDA</td>
<td>United States Department of Agriculture</td>
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<td>VGGT</td>
<td>Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Lands, Fisheries and Forests</td>
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<td>VNFU</td>
<td>Viet Nam Farmers’ Union</td>
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<td>VPA</td>
<td>Voluntary Partnership Agreement</td>
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<td>VSL</td>
<td>Village Saving Loan Group</td>
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<td>WRI</td>
<td>World Resources Institute</td>
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<td>WWF</td>
<td>World Wide Fund for Nature</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
THE FOREST OF LIFE

The APFW 2016 theme song written and composed by Francis de Veyra.

Verse 1:
We plant a seed and watch it grow
And pray for a green tomorrow
Around it hand in hand we stand
Our voices calling for a rain

Bridge:
We must make this world a better place to live
For the chorus of the leaves resounds our soul
We must defend it
With our lives and songs that we sing

Verse 2:
From the tree a village grows
How it fed us, who would know?
Faith in the soil, faith in each other
Our voices awaken Mother Earth

Last chorus:
This is our home
This is our future
And together hand in hand we’ll make a stand
This is our hope
This is our nature
As we grow our dreams tomorrow we will rise
With every step (with every step)
In every way (in every way)
We’ll build a brighter future
For us…
For you and me
‘Cause
This is our home (growing our future)
This is our home (growing our future)
This is our home…

Chorus:
This is our home
This is our future
And together hand in hand we’ll make a stand
This is our hope
This is our nature
As we grow our dreams tomorrow we will rise
With every step in every way
This is our home (Growing our future)

Verse 3:
We must know who we are
Mother Nature is our star
Guiding us in our journey
In every moment of our lives (Repeat chorus)

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1 The song can be found at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xpCLEEeqvWc.
INTRODUCTION
INTRODUCTION

Asia-Pacific Forestry Week (APFW) 2016, co-hosted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the Philippines and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), followed the success of the two previous Forestry Weeks held in Hanoi, Viet Nam in April 2008 and in Beijing, China in November 2011. In conjunction with APFW 2016, the 26th session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) provided a forum for governmental participants to consider, discuss and debate the most pressing issues facing the region’s forestry sector.

The Asia-Pacific region is home to about 3.74 billion people, accounting for half of the world’s population. However, the region contains only one-fifth of global forest area – 723 million hectares. In many parts of the region this leads to intense pressures on forests and complex challenges in forest management with the rapidly growing needs and demands of this economically vibrant region. In addition, APFW 2016 was held at a crucial time, immediately subsequent to the establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement setting new
directions for forestry. For this reason, APFW 2016's theme Growing Our Future! underscored the seriousness and urgency of embracing forestry as an inseparable sector in the overall context of sustainable development efforts, and revealed the compelling reasons behind these efforts: a brighter future for our children and the following generations and the priceless legacy of liveable space with a sound environment.

APFW 2016 was structured along its five thematic streams, which broadly encompassed the major development issues relating to forests and forestry and presented important areas where the forestry sector could pave the way for a nation's standing in terms of economic development, forestry governance, climate change responsiveness and service to society in what is termed a 'Green Future'.

- **Stream 1** ‘Pathways to Prosperity: Future Trade and Markets’ debated issues surrounding future trade and markets as being the pathways to prosperity, including emerging trends in timber and NWFPs and how these are changing in the new millennium.
- **Stream 2** ‘Tackling Climate Change: Challenges and Opportunities’ discussed the complexities and challenges confronting forestry in the climate change arena and discussed opportunities that will arise as the challenges are met.
- **Stream 3** ‘Serving Society: Forestry and People’ recognized that people-centred development is increasingly the focus of forestry policies, and talked about the mainstreaming of decentralization, participatory decision-making, benefit-sharing mechanisms and empowerment of people who live in and around forests.
- **Stream 4** ‘New Institutions, New Governance’ reviewed issues relating to institutional strengthening and forest governance including the scope and scale of illegal forestry activities and associated trade. It brought together governments, civil society organizations (CSOs) and the private sector to discuss interactions between forest law enforcement, governance and trade in the face of rapid socio-economic changes.
- **Stream 5** ‘Our Green Future: Green Investment and Growing Our Natural Assets’ addressed questions surrounding the promotion of green investment and rebuilding of the natural asset base. It discussed the ways of fostering sustainable forest management (SFM), forest rehabilitation, restoration and conservation, and also ways of mobilizing green investment.

The APFW events were held in conjunction with the 26th session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) with delegations from 28 member countries in attendance. Among the recommendations arising from the APFC session were calls for assistance in developing capacities of countries to enable them to meet the ambitious goals and targets for forestry that the new international agreements entail.

A highlight of Forestry Week was the broad range of innovative events – more than 70 – arranged by more than 90 partner organizations. There was enormous diversity in the topics and formats: plenaries, dialogues, sessions, seminars, summits, workshops, meetings, networks, moderated debates, field trips, book launches, story-telling, the Forest Spa, the Wild Bar, film screenings, the CANopy room and a fashion show, which brought together representatives from governments, NGOs, research institutions, regional and international networks, UN agencies, the private sector, universities and colleges, all of them willing to share their experiences, ideas and knowledge in efforts to support forestry in maintaining a central role in the region's rapid development.

We trust that participants left APFW 2016 with new ideas, connections and renewed vigour to continue to work towards SFM in Asia and the Pacific. We hope this publication reinforces the impetus towards achieving this ambitious goal.
Growing Our Future!

Constructing the plywood tree centrepiece for the CANopy room

Members of the DENR Organizing Committee coordinated by Mayumi Quintos-Natividad (second from the right)

The hard-working registration team at APFW 2016
ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY WEEK

The hard-working registration team at APFW 2016

Some of the FAO APFW organizing committee

Visitors at the FAO booth

APFW 2016 participants taking selfies as part of social media promotion
Assistant Secretary for Field Operations, DENR, the Philippines; Chair, 26th Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission

On behalf of the DENR and as the newly-elected Chair of the 26th Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission, allow me to welcome everyone to this vibrant Clark Freeport zone – our venue for Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2016 (APFW 2016).

The Philippines is indeed pleased and honoured to host APFW 2016, the third to be convened after the first in Hanoi, Viet Nam in 2008 and the second in Beijing, China in 2011.

Growing Our Future!, APFW 2016’s theme, underscores the seriousness and urgency of embracing forestry as an inseparable sector in the overall context of the sustainable development efforts of a nation. Forestry is a vital component amongst economic, social and environmental concerns.

APFW 2016, structured along its five thematic streams, is geared towards sharing views, exploring new options and developing action plans on forestry-related issues by involving participants of diverse disciplines and varied perspectives.

We are delighted to have a multisectoral attendance of partners from CSOs, research and capacity-development institutions, the academe, the private sector, project and programme agencies, and from the government.

The five streams present major areas where the forestry sector could pave the way for a nation’s standing in terms of economic development, climate change responsiveness and service to society forestry governance and what we call our ‘Green Future’.

Growing Our Future! also underscores the compelling reason behind these efforts: our children and the next generations and the priceless legacy of a liveable space with a sound environment. Nurturing children and providing the requirements for their growth and...
transformation to responsible citizens can be equalled to seedlings that need proper and tender care in order to grow into mature trees and develop into forests capable of meeting our innumerable demands.

Esteemed participants, colleagues, guests, ladies and gentlemen, in the next few days, we shall be privileged to listen to a number of interesting topics and participate in the discussions. Like entering a vast forest with diverse types of trees and plants, treat APFW 2016 as an adventure to explore and discover.

It is our earnest hope that by the end of this week, we shall have gathered fresh and invaluable insights to enable us to bring to new heights our efforts to sustainably manage and develop our forests for the welfare of our children and our future.

I wish everyone a fruitful and memorable Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2016! Thank you.
OPENING REMARKS

Eva Müller

Director of Forestry Policy and Resources Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

It is a pleasure for me to welcome you, on behalf of FAO, to Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2016. First of all, allow me to extend our deepest appreciation to the Government of the Philippines for providing us with this superb location and for the great hospitality we have been enjoying from the very first moment we arrived. In this tranquil setting, with the famous Philippines’ hospitality and magnificent preparations, everything is in place for a memorable and highly productive week and we are truly grateful for this.

FAO and its regional forestry commissions have been organizing regional Forestry Weeks since 2008, mobilizing great interest and participation, and making Commission sessions accessible for wider audiences. I have to note that with over 1,100 registered participants APFW 2016 is the best attended ever. This, of course, would not have been possible without the remarkable contribution of so many, and here I would like to recognize in particular the co-leads of the five thematic streams and the organizers of the over 70 events that will take place during this week. This also demonstrates the true power of stakeholder collaboration which is emphasized so often when we talk about forest issues. Again, thank you all very much for this!

This Forestry Week takes place at a very critical moment. It has been widely noted that 2015 was a crucial year, with several major global processes concluding in landmark agreements shaping the global sustainable development agenda. Recalling these in time sequence, I would like to note that the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) agreed in May 2015 on strengthening the International Arrangement on Forests and extending it through to 2030. During its ministerial segment, the 11th session of the UNFF also agreed on a declaration on the ‘Forests We Want: Beyond 2015’, committing to actions to strengthen SFM worldwide.

The outcome of the UNFF session was also intended to feed into the United Nations Sustainable
Development Summit held in September last year, which adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. The 17 goals and the associated targets represent the most ambitious developmental agenda ever, posing enormous challenges and offering great opportunities at the same time.

Thanks to the hard work of many and in particular the wisdom of the global community, there is a rewarding recognition of forests in the SDGs, in particular in Goals 6 and 15. The SDGs represent a stronger than ever political commitment to protect, restore and promote the sustainable management of forests and other terrestrial ecosystems.

The last major global achievement of 2015 was the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). After the often difficult negotiations of the past years, COP21 produced a universal, legally-binding agreement which will supersede the Kyoto Protocol and which seeks to prevent irreversible changes in the global ecosystem.

Like the SDGs, the Paris Agreement also gives a substantive role to forests in achieving its ambitious objectives and is expected to mobilize financial resources that will help to convert the political commitment to concrete actions in support of forests and SFM so that they can fulfil their important roles in adapting to and mitigating climate change.

FAO itself was also home to major developments. It was an important step for the whole organization that the 39th Session of FAO Conference approved the reviewed Strategic Framework and the five new Strategic Objectives, transforming our way of working so that FAO is fully capable now to address key developmental challenges in a truly cross-sectoral manner.

Looking more closely at forestry and FAO, we were proud to co-organize the XIV World Forestry Congress with the Government of South Africa. I hope many of you were among the more than 4,000 participants and will surely agree that the discussions during the Congress and the outcome documents, in particular the ‘Durban Declaration: 2050 Vision for Forests and Forestry’, represent a major contribution to furthering our efforts for SFM.

With all these developments it is not an exaggeration to say that forests have never been more in the spotlight in global policy agendas. But can any year match the importance of 2015? The answer is affirmative. The overarching theme for APFW, Growing Our Future! carries a symbolic message and highlights the need for 2016 to match the past year in shaping our future. Foresters always work for the future, because in this profession thinking in decades or even in centuries is a common practice. Most of what we do is not really for ourselves, but for the generations that come after us. But, right now we need to focus on different and shorter time horizons and on issues that require immediate and determined action so that we can lay down a solid foundation of good work for the coming years.

With far-reaching global agreements in place and agendas set, now is the time to decide on how to implement these actions and embark on processes to turn them into reality. This phase of global and regional collaboration may attract less public attention and may be less rich in fanfare, but as always, hard work is not spectacular, but is still the only way of reaching tangible goals.
For forestry, the challenge is to convert political attention to action with true impacts on the ground. To turn words into visible actions and outcomes is a challenge that we must not fail to meet. While forests are recognized directly in two of the SDGs, we are convinced that, overall, they have a role to play in achieving many of the others as well. Especially those related to reducing poverty, ending hunger and providing access to energy. Thus, the success of SFM in general depends largely on how well we can translate forests’ enormous potential to contribute to much broader sustainable development needs.

In the climate change arena, the role of forests is well noted but the real question is whether the international community can go beyond focusing on forests’ role in the global carbon cycle and see them in a more holistic way, understanding all their mitigation and adaptation potentials, and agreeing to support SFM as a means of addressing them. And last but not least, the big challenge for the global forest community is to find ways to embark on effective cross-sectoral collaboration so that forestry’s ambitious agendas can be understood and supported beyond the sector itself and seen as part of the solution in broader developmental policies, leading to, among others, improved means of implementation.

The FAO Regional Forestry Commission has been addressing these questions during the past three months, the 26th session of the APFC being the last one to consider and enrich the recommendations of other Commissions and provide guidance to its members and also to FAO, through the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific and, in particular, through the Committee on Forestry for translating policy decisions into mandate and action.

I would like to note that the 26th session of APFC has a very rich agenda, focusing on timely issues of both global and regional importance. In addition, the APFW offers a great opportunity for a lively multistakeholder dialogue, which is so important in addressing forestry questions. By having the APFW focus on key issues such as trade and markets, climate change, the relationship between forests, institutional and governance reforms and green investments for a greener future, a wide spectrum of stakeholders will make their voices heard and share their wisdom, knowledge and experience. And most importantly, the Commission will receive valuable input from the five thematic streams for consideration for future action.

Let me conclude by stating that FAO, as a membership-driven international organization, deeply involved both in supporting intergovernmental dialogues and actions on the ground, is very much looking forward to receiving your guidance on how to best promote the sustainable management of the world’s forests and how to best integrate these tasks in the reviewed strategic framework of our organization.

For the benefit of all of us, I wish you every success in your deliberations, and very much look forward to participating in an exciting and successful APFW.

Thank you very much for your attention.
Distinguished delegates and participants, ladies and gentlemen, a pleasant good morning to everyone!

First and foremost, let me express our gratitude to you for honouring us with your presence to the third APFW. We also thank FAO for co-hosting this event with us.

This is a fitting occasion for the movers in the forestry sector in this region to contemplate on how to mainstream actions relating to our countries’ resolutions concerning two important events that transpired last year.

One is the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015, wherein countries adopted a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. Goal 15 of the agenda calls for the protection, restoration and promotion of the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable management of forests, combating desertification, halting and reversing land degradation and stopping biodiversity loss.

The other is the adoption of a new climate agreement in Paris, France by 195 countries belonging to the UNFCCC’s Conference of Parties. The agreement aims for a target of limiting global warming to 2°C above pre-industrial levels and collectively meeting it by reducing each party’s carbon emissions through nationally determined contributions. It also recognizes the vital role of forests in meeting these targets and underscores the importance of adequate and predictable financing in reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation through various activities.

It is encouraging to note that within the Asia-Pacific region, bold steps have been undertaken by different nations. For example, positive changes are happening in combating deforestation. The FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015 reports that out of the ten countries reporting the greatest annual forest area gain,
eight are member countries of the APFC and the Philippines is one of them, ranking fifth in the list.

Indeed, despite our fiscal limitations, the Philippines is seriously endeavouring to preserve its forests and reverse deforestation in our country by pursuing vital reforms through the imposition of forest protection measures and by rehabilitating denuded forest lands; and in this regard, we are willing to share our experiences, knowledge and best practices. We have a massive regreening programme that we started in 2011; the goal is to plant 1.5 billion trees on 1.5 million hectares by next year. Upon completion, this would translate to an absorption capacity of 30 million tonnes of CO₂ annually. We have also intensified our anti-illegal logging campaign, reducing by 88 percent the number of municipalities and cities considered to be illegal logging hotspots.

However, we cannot deny the fact that deforestation is still occurring in our part of the world and surmounting the challenges to reverse this trend requires innovation in forest governance. What is called for at this rapidly changing time is a dynamic and adaptable forest management paradigm that can adapt to the needs of the times.

More efforts should be made to communicate to the rest of society that reducing deforestation need not be incompatible with economic development and that forests and the ecosystem services that they provide serve to ensure productivity in the other economic sectors and the very survival of forest-dependent communities in our region. The international community is not lacking in tools that can help us to achieve this. For example, the United Nations system of environmental-economic accounting provides a framework on how to account and value our natural capital such as forests.

Another major challenge facing the forestry sector is how to provide sustainable financing for SFM. In this context, let us build partnerships to mobilize green investments from international, regional and national sources especially those coming from the private sector.

Most importantly, let us always include our forest communities, our partners on the ground, in designing and implementing our forestry plans and programmes for it is our firm belief that if we put people first, SFM will follow.

Ladies and gentlemen, let us not waiver in the face of these challenges but instead let our optimism towards our common future grow along with the forests that have been entrusted under our care!

With this, I am wishing everyone a fruitful and successful APFW! Thank you and good day.
It is my very great pleasure to welcome you all to APFW 2016 and to offer a vote of thanks on behalf of FAO and the Secretariat of the APFC.

I would like to begin by offering our sincere appreciation to Hon. Ramon Paje, Secretary of the DENR for his very welcome offer to host this third APFW, including the 26th session of the APFC. The Philippines’ willingness to undertake this enormous task speaks volumes for the country’s regional leadership and contributions to forestry and emphasizes the country’s much-famed hospitality. We have been particularly grateful for the help and support of the DENR, which has been an excellent collaborator in the organization of this Forestry Week. Secretary Paje, please accept our grateful appreciation for all the efforts of the DENR.

To Marcial Amaro, Assistant Secretary for Field Operations and Ricardo Calderon, Director of the Forest Management Bureau, DENR and to your organizing team: The DENR staff has borne the brunt of the organization of Forestry Week, and have done so with unfailing courtesy, cheerful enthusiasm and steady competence. It has been our great pleasure to work with you and your staff in preparing for this event, and we look forward to continued excellent collaboration throughout the remainder of the week and, indeed, into the future. I would particularly like to thank the Overall Coordinator of the DENR Organizing Committee, Ms Mayumi Quintos-Natividad for her enormous efforts and to apologize for the many sleepless nights we may have given you. Mr Amaro and Mr Calderon, please accept our heartfelt thanks to you and your team.

Of course, Forestry Week could not take place without the help and assistance of a wide range of partners, collaborators, sponsors and resource people. The list is very long and there are so many people deserving of our thanks that I cannot begin to name them all. In fact, at last count, we had more than 80 partner organizations involved in Forestry Week activities.

I would, however, like to make special mention of the eight stream leader organizations that have partnered with FAO to organize the five thematic streams of the APFW and whose help in coping with the enormous
logistical challenges has been essential to the success of the event. May I offer our sincere gratitude to:

**Stream 1 leaders:** International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the World Resources Institute (WRI);

**Stream 2 leaders:** The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the Pacific Community (SPC);

**Stream 3 leaders:** RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests and the ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN);

**For Stream 4:** FAO and, again, the Pacific Community (SPC); and

**Stream 5 leaders:** The Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet) and ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation (AFoCo).

I would also like to thank three other organizations that have also been part of our overall organizing committee: the Asia-Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFLRI), Environmental Science for Social Change (ESSC) and the International Forestry Students Association (IFSA). Although not all these organizations’ contributions are immediately visible, they have each carried out an enormous amount of invaluable work behind the scenes to ensure our experiences here in Clark are memorable.

Thank you very, very much to these organizations and the staff who have worked with us.

Finally, on a personal note, I would like to thank my colleagues at FAO – in the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, in the FAO Representative’s Office here in the Philippines and in FAO Headquarters in Rome. Many have worked far beyond the call of duty to ensure that the APFW meets and, we hope, exceeds the high expectations created by the enormous success of previous Forestry Weeks.

Ladies and gentlemen, to conclude this vote of thanks, I invite you to join me in acclamation of our hosts, organizers, collaborators and contributors. It is through their tremendous efforts that the success of APFW 2016 has been ensured.

Thank you very much.
The DENR prepared an extraordinary opening ceremony which started with a unique audio-visual dance show by the talented Buganda Tribe. The dance group thrives in blending pulsating rhythms with energetic movements. The performance creatively drew inspiration from traditional Philippine dances and combined them with modern technology including lasers and neon lights. This festive inauguration was accompanied by a display of flags from countries attending APFW 2016.

Following this exciting introduction, the El Gamma Penumbra – the 2015 Asia’s Got Talent winner – performed a sublime shadow play emphasizing APFW’s theme Growing Our Future! and raising awareness on important environmental issues.

After an impressive display of Filipino talent, participants were treated to an original composition ‘The Forest of Life’ prepared exclusively for APFW 2016 by the famous Filipino composer and song writer Francis de Veyra. The song was performed by multiple-award winner, singer/actress Dulce, also known as Asia’s Diva.

After a brief intermission, which included welcome speeches, the Kids-to-Forests group continued with their own interpretation of the theme song. At the same time, children from Westfields International School handed out seedlings to participants.

The APFW theme song was performed again in an emotional rendition during the closing ceremony by the talented Angeline Quinto, Bryan Termulo and Bayang Barrios.

The event was moderated by Miss Earth 2015, Angelia Ong from the Philippines.
Growing Our Future! – children carrying tree seedlings for reforestation

The Buganda Tribe during their unique audio-visual performance with neon lights at the opening ceremony

Asia’s Diva, Dulce, sings the APFW 2016 theme song during the opening ceremony

Participants at the APFW 2016 opening ceremony

Asia’s Got Talent winners, El Gamma Penumbra, perform a shadow dance during the opening ceremony
Facilitator: Veronica Pedrosa, broadcast journalist, Al Jazeera
Panellists:
• Neil Byron, Non-Executive Director and Adjunct Professor;
• Doris Capistrano, Advisor, the ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC);
• John Innes, Dean, Forestry Department, University of British Columbia;
• Tony La Viña, Dean, Ateneo School of Government;
• May Anne Then, President, International Forestry Students Association; and
• Budi Soehardi, CNN Hero.

The opening plenary took the form of a panel discussion. Each panellist made a brief introduction identifying key and innovative contributions that forestry can make to Growing Our Future! in broader social, environmental, economic and cultural spheres. Subsequent wide-ranging discussions were facilitated by Veronica Pedrosa.
Introduction to the panellists

Neil Byron was the Commissioner for Environment, Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Issues in the Australian Productivity Commission from 1998 to 2010. Previous appointments included managing a project for FAO and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bangladesh and Assistant Director General of CIFOR, based in Indonesia. Neil has also consulted internationally in the design and evaluation of forestry projects since 1980, especially in social and community forestry. He is an Adjunct Professor in Environmental Economics at the Australian National University and the University of Canberra. In 2014/2015 he chaired an independent review of the Biodiversity Legislation in New South Wales which led to the drafting of a new Biodiversity Conservation Act. Neil was a non-executive director of a plantation forestry company in New Zealand for four years and has been a Director of Earthwatch Institute Australia since 2010. In his private life, Neil enjoys long walks.

Doris Capistrano is Senior Advisor of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)-supported ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC). She is the Chair of the Board of Trustees of RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests. She was Director of Forests and Governance of CIFOR and Visiting Professor in Forest and Conservation Policy of Wageningen University. She served as Ford Foundation’s Deputy Representative for India, Nepal and Sri Lanka and Program Officer for Rural Poverty, Resources and Environment in Bangladesh. She previously taught economics at the University of the Philippines at Los Baños.

John Innes is Dean of the Faculty of Forestry at the University of British Columbia and also leads the Sustainable Forest Management Laboratory. His current research includes application of the principles of SFM to real world situations and how internationally agreed criteria and indicators of SFM can be improved. He is also working with a number of indigenous peoples looking at how they are implementing SFM including how the impacts of climate change are affecting forest-dependent communities. He is closely involved with a number of international projects in China and elsewhere and is the Vice President for Policy of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations.

Tony La Viña is currently Dean of the Ateneo School of Government. In Asia, especially in the Philippines, he is a well-known human rights and environmental lawyer, having worked for more than 25 years now to promote the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities and the protection of the environment. Tony has been a lead negotiator for the Philippines in climate change negotiations since 1997. He has played prominent leadership roles in the processes especially on land-use change and forestry issues and in Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) negotiations. He was lead negotiator and delegation spokesman for the Philippines in negotiating the Paris Agreement, working particularly for a 1.5°C global target and the integration of human rights and climate justice into an agreement which would be ambitious and effective in overcoming the climate challenge.

May Anne Then was born in Malaysia and raised in Brunei-Darussalam. She recently graduated from the University of British Columbia with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Sciences, focusing on Disturbance Ecology. She is currently serving her second term as President of the International Forestry Students’ Association (IFSA). She has spoken at a number of international conferences and decision-making processes as a representative of the IFSA.
Budi Soehardi, or ‘Pak Budi’ as he is widely known, was until recently an airline pilot, a profession he served in for almost 40 years. He has worked for major international airlines including Singapore Airlines, Garuda Indonesia, Korean Air and Scoot. As a pilot, he has flown to major cities in Asia, Europe, Australia and North America. In 2009, he was recognized as a ‘CNN Hero’, a major television tribute to honour individuals who make extraordinary contributions to humanitarian aid and make a difference in their communities. His award gave recognition to his dedication in helping orphans left behind by the conflict during the separation of Timor-Leste from Indonesia in 1999. For these children, Pak Budi is their father. He founded Roslin Orphanage and now it is home to 178 children. Pak Budi is developing a self-sufficient farming system for his orphanage transforming uncultivable and rocky land to rice fields, vegetable gardens and a fruit tree orchard. He has given public talks in many international forums including in Dubai, the USA, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Panellists’ discussion

In the first part of the plenary, the panellists discussed the meaning of Growing Our Future! and the ways in which this can be achieved in forestry.

Neil Byron has been monitoring forests in many countries over the past 40 years and noticed that SFM achievements over this period have been patchy and less successful than generally hoped. In his view, the greatest opportunity to move forward is to share experiences of what has worked, what has not worked and why, and to learn from all the policy experiences. He emphasized that when visiting the field we have to be particularly observant in order to find the evidence that will challenge the following long-held assumptions: (i) natural forests in tropical areas will thrive if they are simply left alone; (ii) the best way to ensure conservation is to declare an area as a national park; (iii) industry is always the enemy of SFM; (iv) plantations are always bad – even if they are grown by smallholders as a cash crop – and need to be tightly regulated; and (v) poor rural people cherish their traditional lifestyles and do not want to change. He remarked that instead of perpetuating these myths, there should be a focus on designing forestry institutions that are fit for their purpose in the Asia-Pacific region to create sustainable and equitable forestry systems that will generate better living standards for people living in the region.

Tony La Viña categorized forestry in the Philippines as a sunset industry in the past, but now it is regrowing and adjusting. In the Philippines, there is currently a challenge to completely stop deforestation, while in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region there is the challenge of economic integration, which will bring new pressures on forests and natural resources. In particular, there is the issue of how this integration can be leveraged to ensure that investments in forests will help to determine the future of the forests in the region. As someone who has played key roles in climate change negotiations, he sees the new climate change agreements as an opportunity for forests. He facilitated negotiations on Article 5 of the Paris Agreement relating to forests and carbon sinks, and is excited that a new legally-binding agreement that grandfathers earlier work on REDD+ has been established. Besides this, the Paris Agreement also has very strong language on human rights and biological diversity. A framework is now in place to enable forests to take a central role in addressing challenges created by climate change.

Doris Capistrano has an optimistic view for the future of Asia-Pacific forests based on the significant progress made across a number of fronts in recent times. The SDGs enshrine and recognize the important
contributions of forests. She further noted that it is not necessary to make a trade-off between conservation of natural resources and development – empirical evidence shows that we can have both under the right conditions. The tools to translate the aspirations enshrined in the SDGs into action on the ground already exist. She noted that present problems are not necessarily technical or silvicultural, they are instead institutional and governance-related. She also highlighted the acceptance by regional leaders that for ASEAN economic integration to be successful this will require ensuring inclusive, equitable sustainable growth. Lack of equity is a major constraint in motivating people to manage their resources well. Similarly, she noted that if SFM is to be achieved, we have to place people in the centre of the equation because “local people are the key to healthy forests.”

May Anne Then emphasized that Asia-Pacific youth are very diverse, coming from a range of different cultures, educational systems and facing different challenges, so it is hard to speak in the name of all of them when it comes to forests and forestry. She spoke against stereotypes perpetuated by media that limit youth engagement with current forestry issues. Quite the opposite, youth are highly concerned with environmental and forestry issues and feel strong responsibility towards addressing them as these are what they are inheriting. Today, youth are very passionate about growing a sustainable future and unless they are included in the regional dialogue it is almost impossible to talk about the sustainable future of forest management.

John Innes observed that despite the numerous international and national efforts to stop deforestation, natural forests are still being lost at a rate of 5.5 million hectares per year – primarily in tropical regions. There are many discussions around REDD+, FLEGT and climate change commitments – many ideas, many words – but now is the time to implement these ideas on the ground. He highlighted that an important area that we should address is forest governance. Special attention needs to be given to the concept of illegal logging and check if laws might actually be ‘illegal’ if they make harvesting of trees by indigenous peoples a crime even if they have been doing so for hundreds of years. He urged participants to consider that today half of the timber used in the world is still used for fuelwood and charcoal, which is likely not optimal. But there are also many things that we can think positively about, such as the increasing use of plantations for industrial wood. The role of smallholders in these plantations will grow and this needs to be recognized. In addition, the roles of indigenous peoples, women and youth in sustainable forestry are increasingly being recognized, but still much work needs to be done to consider them as equal partners. Further, forest rehabilitation is succeeding in many regions, but there are still huge areas of degraded forest land that need to be addressed, and there is a need to better define what a degraded forest is. He also drew attention to improving forestry education systems: especially as enlightened forestry schools are doing well with increased enrolments and new programmes emerging. Finally, we can also observe a change in the world order within the forestry sector – new organizations are emerging, like APFNet and AFoCo, and becoming increasingly important while on the other hand some of the older European or American institutions are declining.

The second part of the plenary developed into a lively discussion among the panellists. Neil Byron presented his thoughts on the question of whether there is a certain way in which we should think about forests and forestry management. He noted that in current forestry the challenging of conventional wisdom is not
encouraged. One example is the stories of the ecological disaster perpetrated by companies, but "stopping the bulldozers has not saved the forests." It is true that companies do take big 'bites' out of natural forests, but there are also tens of thousands of little people taking tiny bites that are almost invisible and thus hard to regulate. He believes that we have done a great job in stopping the big companies, but the little people are the ones who are much harder to regulate, educate and influence. For the latter, we still have not developed good mechanisms as this requires rethinking of tenure issues. In the Asia-Pacific region, unlike many European and North American countries, landownership is often not clearly defined.

John Innes elaborated the tenure issue for the case of China. He noted that the Chinese tenure programme is based around the government giving the right to use land back to villagers (though not giving full ownership of the land). The programme has helped to raise hundreds of millions of people out of poverty and thus resulted in high success. But the programme still needs to be carefully monitored to avoid undesirable effects. Villagers who cut down the trees are faced with high fines which improves conservation of forests.

The tenure issue is also a major topic in other countries of the Asia-Pacific region and panellists exchanged their views on this topic. Tony La Viña noted that in the Philippines, a major issue has been addressing the rights of indigenous peoples, and resolving these issues is important to ensure SFM. The Paris Agreement puts people at the centre of attention, instead of forests or carbon. Doris Capistrano reinforced the point that there are many experiences around the world where sharing rights and responsibilities makes SFM much more realistic and successful. She noted that forest agrarian reform tends to threaten authority and has, in the past, resulted in an antagonistic relationship between governments and other societal sectors. She noted the existence of many different models of tenure reform and user rights that have worked – and that most of the countries that have been most successful in reforming forest management and have increased their forest areas have undertaken significant tenure reform. May Anne Then exposed the tendency to ignore a large portion of youth who are present on the ground and emphasized the need for capacity development among them.

With regard to climate change, John Innes considered the biggest challenges to be the lack of data and underdeveloped climate models – he identified a range of data deficiencies including data accessibility, local-level data, growth rates for individual species, and some of the science being applied in relation to REDD+. Tony La Viña noted the phased approach to REDD+ is designed to help overcome some of these deficiencies and that efforts need to now translate the structures developed into action on the ground. Neil Byron added that in many cases when forests are turned into national parks this negatively affects wildlife. He noticed that national park models work in developed countries but have failed in other countries as the national park concept does not have the same popular support and governments do not have resources to enforce regulations. In addition, population pressure further compromises these areas. He suggested that in developing Asian countries, large companies might be conscripted to assist in national park management.

Doris Capistrano drew attention to the potential role of indigenous people in managing national parks, stressing that indigenous people often do a better job of conserving and protecting than some governments as is also supported by many recent analyses of protected areas. She believed that a mix of models for conservation is the right direction for the future and stressed the idea that indigenous people respond
strongly to incentives. She noted the importance of identifying incentives that promote conservation and sustainable use of forests and also to identify those incentives that prevent deforestation.

The opening plenary concluded with a presentation from CNN Hero Budi Soehardi. He presented his life-work of helping orphans left behind by the conflict during the separation of Timor-Leste from Indonesia in 1999. He founded the Roslin Orphanage in West Timor, which is now a home to 178 children. In addition, he has put considerable effort into making the orphanage self-sustaining by developing a self-sufficient farming system that has transformed uncultivable and rocky land to rice fields, vegetable gardens and a fruit tree orchard. His key message to delegates was that life is beautiful, be in it and the future is now!
Summary of recommendations

For the attention of Governments and FAO

The Commission recommended:

• that FAO and member countries facilitate the participation of smallholders and small enterprises in trade and markets;

• that member countries promote and support sustainable use and trade of timber, as well as broader adoption of approaches fostering sustainability and legality of forest products, with particular attention to the needs of small forest enterprises and producers of non-timber forest products;

• that member countries, with the support of FAO, enhance funding and coordination among agencies and sectors to strengthen actions on climate change in support of the elaboration and implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions and share results of their efforts during the 27th session of APFC;

• that member countries strengthen local stakeholder rights (noting that rights need to be defined within national contexts), and enabling investment in local institutions and capacities;

• that FAO and member countries continue to implement activities that enhance the roles of key stakeholders including private sector, smallholders, indigenous peoples, communities, civil society organizations and youth in supporting sustainable forest management and forest landscape policies, plans and practices through appropriate policy mechanisms, capacity building and exchange of information and best practices;

• that member countries promote green investment in forests and other natural assets by encouraging dialogue among forest policymakers and financiers in the public and private sectors, with a view to creating an enabling policy environment for green investment;

• that FAO elaborate a regional action plan for forest restoration in Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with member countries and relevant international partners;
Growing Our Future!

• providing information and technical support relating to best practices in wildfire responses and transboundary fire management;
• providing technical support for rehabilitation of mangrove areas to help restore and stabilize coastal forest ecosystems, establish biodiversity corridors and assist in mitigating the impacts of tsunami, typhoons and storm surges;
• finalizing a regional strategy and action plan on forests and natural disasters including giving specific attention to vulnerability mapping;
• exploring modalities for supporting integration of community forestry producers and smallholders into market and trading systems for forest products;
• supporting sharing of experiences and lessons for community forestry from regions beyond Asia and the Pacific;
• continuing to provide technical support for forest landscape restoration including restoring ecosystem services and enhancing biodiversity conservation;
• strengthening capacity for national and local forest inventories, including monitoring, reporting and verification in support of REDD+ programmes;
• supporting assessment of bamboo, rattan and other non-timber forest resources in the Global Forest Resources Assessment and other relevant reporting processes;
• continuing, in partnership with other relevant organizations, support for a broad range of activities to build REDD+ readiness including compiling a publication on experiences and lessons learned from the wide variety of REDD+ activities being implemented in the region;
• convening a cross-sectoral workshop to share and explore perspectives on green investment and other public-private partnerships;

The Commission recommended:
• continuing technical assistance to countries to meet the requirements of forestry-related NDCs including building capacities, conducting and analysing national forest inventories, and understanding and meeting the requirements of the Transparency Framework;
• that future sessions of APFC engaged with UNFF processes, including issues relating to the implementation of the United Nations Forest Instrument and the International Arrangement on Forests beyond 2015;
• assisting in identifying appropriate forestry indicators for measuring progress toward SDGs implementation;
• continuing support for strengthening sustainable forest management systems for climate change mitigation and adaptation;
• providing information on utilization of trees and forests for floodplain management and protection;
• that FAO and member countries promote greater awareness of the benefits of forests through the International Day of Forests;
• that the Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank support the development and strengthening of holistic national forest policies that encompass cross-cutting multi-sectoral issues;
• that the Asia-Pacific Forest Communication Network provide training in communicating forestry issues to the general public;
• that the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network explore the potential to utilize biomass from invasive species for productive purposes, as one element of the control and management of invasive species.

For the attention of FAO

The Commission recommended:
• continuing technical assistance to countries to meet the requirements of forestry-related NDCs including building capacities, conducting and analysing national forest inventories, and understanding and meeting the requirements of the Transparency Framework;
• that future sessions of APFC engaged with UNFF processes, including issues relating to the implementation of the United Nations Forest Instrument and the International Arrangement on Forests beyond 2015;
• assisting in identifying appropriate forestry indicators for measuring progress toward SDGs implementation;
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• providing information on utilization of trees and forests for floodplain management and protection;
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• that the Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank support the development and strengthening of holistic national forest policies that encompass cross-cutting multi-sectoral issues;
• that the Asia-Pacific Forest Communication Network provide training in communicating forestry issues to the general public;
• that the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network explore the potential to utilize biomass from invasive species for productive purposes, as one element of the control and management of invasive species.
• assisting member countries in accessing funds for forest restoration through the Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund and similar avenues;
• providing technical support to forest restoration activities in Asia and the Pacific, including through the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism;
• continuing support for innovative youth programmes such as Kids-to-Forests.

Introduction

1. At the invitation of the Government of Philippines, the twenty-sixth session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) was held in Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga, Philippines, from 22 to 26 February 2016. Delegates from 28 member countries and one United Nations organization participated in the session, along with observers and representatives from 22 regional and international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

Opening ceremony

2. The opening ceremony featured addresses by the Undersecretary for Field Operations, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of Philippines and the FAO Director of the Forestry Policy and Resources Division.
3. Demetrio Ignacio Jr., Undersecretary for Field Operations, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, welcomed participants to the Philippines. He noted the importance of recent decisions emerging from global policy processes for forestry, including the post-2015 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and negotiations at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. He noted significant achievements in Philippines’ forestry in recent times include major reductions in the incidence of illegal logging, globally significant increases in forest cover and ambitious goals for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.
4. Eva Muller, FAO Director of the Forestry Policy and Resources Division welcomed participants on behalf of the FAO Assistant Director-General for Forestry. She commended the APFC Executive Committee for setting an agenda for its twenty-sixth session, which is fully responsive to global challenges while maintaining a strong regional focus. She noted additional milestone agreements and events during 2015 included adoption of the International Arrangement on Forests beyond 2015 during the 11th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF); the Durban Declaration – 2050 vision for forests and forestry arising from the XIV World Forestry Congress; and approval of the FAO reviewed Strategic Framework at the 39th session of the FAO Conference.

Adoption of agenda (Item 1)

5. Under the guidance of Anna Tyler (New Zealand), on behalf of the outgoing Chair of the Commission, the provisional agenda (FO:APFC/2016/1) was reviewed and adopted (see Appendix A). Documents considered by the Commission are listed in Appendix C.

Election of officers (Item 2)

6. The Commission unanimously elected the following individuals to hold office until the commencement of the twenty-seventh session:
   Chairperson: Marcial Amaro Jr. (Philippines)
Vice-Chairpersons: Tungalag Majig (Mongolia) 
Aruna Sathurusinghe (Sri Lanka) 
Goodwill Amos (Papua New Guinea) 
Rapporteur: Sapol Boonsermsuk (Thailand) 
Patrick Durst (FAO) served as Secretary of the Commission.

Beyond Paris: what next for forests and forestry in Asia-Pacific? (Item 3)

7. On the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2016/2, the Commission considered the outcomes of the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

8. The Commission:
   a. emphasized its strong commitment to achieving the aims of the Paris Agreement;
   b. recognized that forests and forestry will be major contributors in meeting Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in many countries;
   c. acknowledged that ambitious goals set for forestry contributions pose significant challenges for many countries;
   d. requested that FAO continue to provide technical assistance to countries to meet the requirements of forestry-related NDCs including building capacities, conducting and analysing national forest inventories, and understanding and meeting the requirements of the Transparency Framework.

Global policy processes (Item 4)

9. On the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2016/11, the Commission considered major outcomes of global policy processes with strong relevance to forestry.

10. The Commission:
   a. emphasized that decisions emerging from global policy processes in 2015 are of decisive importance to global forest governance and to sustainable forest management at country level;
   b. highlighted that various strands of global policy processes relating to forests require harmonization within countries’ national forest programmes;
   c. noted that forestry needs to be mainstreamed into broader national policy and planning processes;
   d. supported a suggestion that future sessions of APFC engaged with UNFF processes, including issues relating to the implementation of the United Nations Forest Instrument and the International Arrangement on Forests beyond 2015;
   e. requested that FAO assist in identifying appropriate forestry indicators for measuring progress toward SDG implementation;
   f. urged FAO to continue to support strengthening sustainable forest management systems for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Outcomes of the XIV World Forestry Congress (Item 5)

11. On the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2016/12, the Commission considered outcomes of the XIV World Forestry Congress.

12. The Commission:
   a. commended the Durban Declaration – 2050 vision for forests and forestry;
   b. highlighted the opportunity afforded by the International Day of Forests to promote key messages arising from the World Forestry Congress;
c. acknowledged and welcomed the interest of the Republic of Korea in hosting the XV World Forestry Congress in 2021.

**Forests and natural disasters (Item 6)**

13. On the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2016/4, the Commission considered needs and priorities in relation to utilizing trees and forests to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters.

14. The Commission:
   a. highlighted the value in sharing experiences in managing forests to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters including reducing forest fuel loads, establishing national forest fire monitoring systems and participatory approaches in establishing protective forests;
   b. recognized that while trees and forests have significant roles in mitigating the impacts of natural disasters, they also have clear limitations in the degree of protection they can afford;
   c. urged FAO to provide information on utilization of trees and forests for floodplain management and protection;
   d. requested that FAO provide information and technical support relating to best practices in wildfire responses and transboundary fire management;
   e. urged FAO to provide technical support for rehabilitation of mangrove areas to help restore and stabilize coastal forest ecosystems, establish biodiversity corridors and assist in mitigating the impacts of tsunami, typhoons and storm surges;
   f. requested that FAO finalize a regional strategy and action plan on forests and natural disasters including giving specific attention to vulnerability mapping.

**Building momentum for community based forestry and forest farm producer organizations (Item 7)**

15. On the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2016/5, the Commission considered the importance of community-based forestry and forest and farm producer organizations in achieving food security, responding to climate change, conserving biodiversity and reducing poverty.

16. The Commission:
   a. highlighted that community-based forestry is a vital tool in managing and improving the condition of forests in the region, as well as an important vehicle for alleviating poverty;
   b. acknowledged that many challenges to the effectiveness of community-based forestry remain evident, including security of tenure, linkages to forest products markets, allocation of rights to utilize forest resources, access to technical knowledge, and illegal logging and harvesting;
   c. recognized that while the Durban Declaration “We know the forests and the forests know us” statement gives voice to smallholders, local communities and indigenous people, the declaration will have little impact unless countries actively support its provisions;
   d. requested that FAO explore modalities for supporting integration of community forestry producers and smallholders into market and trading systems for forest products;
   e. requested that FAO support sharing of experiences and lessons for community forestry from regions beyond Asia and the Pacific.
Gender policies, youth and forestry education (Item 8)

17. On the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2016/6, the Commission exchanged perspectives on gender policies, youth and forestry education.

18. The Commission:
   a. highlighted the importance of increasing the participation of women and youth in forestry and mainstreaming gender and youth into forest policies;
   b. emphasized the need to make forestry education relevant, dynamic and integrated with key global issues;
   c. endorsed the importance of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism in strengthening forestry education and its capacity to meet rapidly evolving societal needs.

State of forestry in the Asia-Pacific region (Item 9)

19. Based on Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2016/7, the Commission considered the state of forestry in the Asia-Pacific region.

20. The Commission:
   a. highlighted the challenges of smallholders and small enterprises in relation to compliance costs and barriers to entry, including requirements relating to timber legality and certification;
   b. highlighted the importance of reforestation and forest restoration using a variety of recognized techniques including forest landscape restoration and assisted natural regeneration, with emphasis on the quality of the restoration achieved;
   c. noted the importance of careful analysis to correctly identify direct and underlying drivers of deforestation and forest degradation;
   d. recognized the value of sharing experiences and lessons learned on a wide variety of forest-related topics including devolution of forest management, invasive species, and climate change mitigation and adaptation;
   e. requested that FAO and member countries facilitate the participation of smallholders and small enterprises in trade and markets;
   f. requested that FAO continue to provide technical support to forest landscape restoration including restoring ecosystem services and enhancing biodiversity conservation;
   g. requested that FAO provide support to strengthening capacity for national and local forest inventories, including monitoring, reporting and verification in support of REDD+ programmes.

Regional analysis of the global forest resources assessment (Item 10)

21. In conjunction with Item 9 and on the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2016/8, the Commission considered the process and findings of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015.

22. The Commission:
   a. appreciated the importance and value of the Global Forest Resources Assessment as a primary source of global, regional and national data on forests;
   b. noted the importance of collecting forest data at subnational and local levels to enhance ground-level forest management capacities;
   c. underlined the need for capacity building, technology transfer, sharing of best practices, and international collaboration on forest
resources assessment and monitoring and national forest inventories, including remote sensing technologies;

d. requested that FAO continue supporting assessment of bamboo, rattan and other non-timber forest resources in the Global Forest Resources Assessment and other relevant reporting processes.

Progress in implementing APFC- and FAO-supported activities in the region (Item 11)


24. The Commission:

   a. commended the range of activities being implemented in the region and noted the importance of activities being linked to priorities identified in FAO’s strategic framework;

   b. welcomed efforts to engage youth in forestry activities, including the Kids-to-Forests programme;

   c. endorsed the value of the post-COP meetings and encouraged FAO to explore expanding the scope of these to include exploring areas of potential collaboration among countries;

   d. requested that FAO in partnership with other relevant organizations continue to support a broad range of activities to build REDD+ readiness including compiling a publication on experiences and lessons learned from the wide variety of REDD+ activities being implemented in the region.

Growing Our Future: reports and recommendations from Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2016 streams (Item 12)

25. Based on Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2016/10 and presentations from each of the five thematic streams of Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2016, the Commission considered issues, challenges and opportunities in relation to:

   • Stream 1: Pathways to prosperity: future trade and markets;
   • Stream 2: Tackling climate change: challenges and opportunities;
   • Stream 3: Serving society: forestry and people;
   • Stream 4: New institutions, new governance;
   • Stream 5: Our green future: green investment and growing our natural assets.

26. The Commission:

   a. noting the diverse needs and responsibilities of consumer, producer and processing countries;

   b. recommended that member countries promote and support sustainable use and trade of timber, as well as broader adoption of approaches fostering sustainability and legality of forest products, with particular attention to the needs of small forest enterprises and producers of non-timber forest products;

   c. recommended that member countries, with the support of FAO, enhance funding and coordination among agencies and sectors to strengthen actions on climate change in support of the elaboration and implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions and share results of their efforts during the 27th session of APFC;
d. recommended that member countries strengthen local stakeholder rights (noting that rights need to be defined within national contexts), and enabling investment in local institutions and capacities;

e. recommended that FAO and member countries continue to implement activities that enhance the roles of key stakeholders including private sector, smallholders, indigenous peoples, communities, civil society organizations and youth in supporting sustainable forest management and forest landscape policies, plans and practices through appropriate policy mechanisms, capacity building and exchange of information and best practices;

f. recommended that member countries promote green investment in forests and other natural assets by encouraging dialogue among forest policymakers and financiers in the public and private sectors, with a view to creating an enabling policy environment for green investment;

g. requested that FAO convene a cross-sectoral workshop to share and explore perspectives on green investment and other public-private partnerships.

28. The Commission:

a. highlighted that very high priority should be accorded to forest restoration activities in Asia and the Pacific;

b. recognized that devolution of forest restoration responsibilities to subnational and local levels creates both challenges and opportunities;

c. recognized that responsibilities for degraded land restoration are often mandated to government agencies outside the forestry sector;

d. recognized the importance of correctly identifying drivers of deforestation and forest degradation to ensure these processes are curtailed;

e. appreciated that translating forest restoration results and techniques from pilot projects to large-scale implementation involves significant additional complexities;

f. appreciated the large number of organizations and initiatives working on forest and landscape restoration in the region and noted the importance of cooperation in various activities including exchanging information, sharing best practices, creating enabling environments and accessing financing to enhance efficiency and avoid duplication;

g. requested FAO to continue assisting member countries in accessing funds for forest restoration through the Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund and similar avenues;

h. requested that FAO continue to provide technical support to forest restoration activities in Asia and the Pacific, including through the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism;

i. recommended that FAO elaborate a regional action plan for forest restoration in Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with member countries and relevant international partners.
Inputs to FAO governance (Item 14)

29. Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2016/16 provided guidance to the Commission in identifying priority issues for consideration by the Committee on Forestry (COFO), for the attention of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, and for the FAO Programme of Work in Forestry.

30. The Commission identified recommendations for the attention of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific. These included recommendations relating to: (i) identifying indicators for measuring progress toward Sustainable Development Goal implementation; and (ii) mobilizing resources for strengthening action on climate change to support the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions.

31. The Commission proposed topics for the agenda of the 23rd session of COFO including several relating to: (i) the Sustainable Development Goals; (ii) forestry’s contributions in addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation challenges; (iii) youth and education; (iv) roles of trees and forests in mitigating the impacts of natural disasters.

32. Priorities for the FAO Programme of Work in Forestry identified by the Commission included several relating to: (i) the Sustainable Development Goals; (ii) climate change; (iii) forest and landscape restoration; (iv) coordination with UNFF; (v) gender and youth.

33. The Commission noted that the APFC Chairman and the Secretary would work to identify other recommendations from the proceedings of the 26th session for the attention of COFO, the Regional Conference and the Programme of Work in Forestry, as appropriate.

Other business (Item 15)

34. The Commission was informed of activities implemented by four of its working groups:
   • Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN), including capacity building in pest management and voluntary guidelines for the development and implementation of a biosecurity plan for planted and natural forests;
   • Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank (APFPPTT);
   • Asia-Pacific Forest Communication Network (APFCN) including preparations for the International Day of Forests 2016;
   • Kids-to-Forests (K2F) initiative.

35. The Commission:
   a. encouraged the Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank to support the development and strengthening of holistic national forest policies that encompass cross-cutting multi-sectoral issues;
   b. encouraged the Asia-Pacific Forest Communication Network to provide training in communicating forestry issues to the general public;
   c. encouraged the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network to explore the potential to utilize biomass from invasive species for productive purposes, as one element of the control and management of invasive species;
   d. recognized the importance of relevant legislation and regulation to address the challenges of invasive species;
   e. encouraged FAO to continue supporting innovative youth programmes such as Kids-to-Forests;
   f. urged FAO and member countries to promote greater awareness of the benefits of forests through the International Day of Forests.
Date and place of the next session (Item 16)

36. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the delegation from Sri Lanka to host its twenty-seventh session. The delegation from the Republic of Korea indicated its interest in hosting the subsequent session of the Commission and the fourth Asia-Pacific Forestry Week.
STREAM 1

PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY:
FUTURE TRADE AND MARKETS

Stream Leaders:
International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)
World Resources Institute (WRI)
**Introduction**

This session was held on 23 February 2016 and focused on the situation and trends in world forest product trade. After the Stream was opened by co-leaders Steven Johnson, Officer-in-Charge of ITTO and Charles Barber, Director of Forest Legality Alliance and Government Relations of WRI, seven keynote speakers and panellists and more than 100 participants joined the informative and interactive discussions.

**Objective**

The objective of Session 1 was reviewing the latest developments in international forest trade and markets in the context of sustainable forest trade and pathways to prosperity of the region.

**Main topics**

The following issues were discussed:

- Review and assessment of the world’s forest product trade and the contributions of the Asia-Pacific region;
- Future trends in forest product trade from/to and within the Asia-Pacific region (including the projected impact of ASEAN economic integration);
- Trade of new forest products and services, including NWFPs; and
- Demand and supply of forest products: emerging domestic markets and new markets for forest products and services.

**Speakers and presentations**

Chen Hin Keong from TRAFFIC International was the moderator of the plenary. A keynote presentation was made by Frances Maplesden, ITTO consultant, who introduced the current situation and future trends in world timber trade and the tropical timber trade, with a particular focus on the Asia-Pacific context.

A series of interactive panel discussions was presented by the following panellists with topics from the perspectives of timber producers and consumers:
Khairul Anwar, Director of Market Promotion Division, Malaysian Timber Council (MTC): ‘Timber Outlook for 2016: Malaysian Perspective’;

Alejandrino Sibucao, Chief, Forest Economics Section, the Forest Management Bureau, DENR, Philippines: ‘Forest-based Products Trade in the Philippines: Trends and Prospects’;

Rupert Oliver, consultant for Independent Market Monitoring (IMM): ‘Timber Market and Trade from EU Perspective’;

Lu Wenming, timber trade and certification specialist, Director for International Cooperation, Chinese Academy of Forestry: ‘China’s Timber Industry and Trade’; and


After the presentations made by the keynote speakers and panellists, participants actively took part in the discussions through questions and answers.

**Outcomes and conclusions**

- China remains a dominant force in tropical wood trade, imports surged in 2014 but there was a sharp slowdown in 2015 with uncertain long-term consequences;
- Demographic and economic trends indicate long-term projected increase in demand for wood fibre in the Asia-Pacific region;
- Supply and demand projections suggest increasing shortfalls in wood fibre supply;
- Balancing promotion of forest product market development and access with forest protection and sustainability;
- There is a rising need to focus policy, regulations and investment on forest resources and material efficiency;
- Trade agreements such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) are increasingly having an influential impact on trade in the Asia-Pacific region; and
- There is a need to expand the perspective on forest product markets to better encompass and support NWFPs.

**Recommendation**

The APFC should promote and support sustainable use and trade of timber, as well as broader adoption of approaches fostering the sustainability and legality of forest products, with particular attention to the needs of small forest enterprises and NWFPs, bearing in mind the diverse sets of needs and responsibilities of consumer, producer and processing countries.
Summary of the event

China’s rising demand for timber products has had far-reaching impacts on global forest product trade and investment. This impact is expected to accelerate further in the coming years, especially under the new Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road initiatives – also known as ‘One Belt, One Road’ (OBOR) – which offer opportunities for Chinese businesses to leverage new partnerships in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

This event, which was co-hosted by the Center for International Forest Products Trade (CINFT) of China’s State Forestry Administration (SFA), spotlighted China’s Silk Road initiatives, its implications for the forestry sector and the potential for new partnerships for sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region. Specifically, the event featured the successful experience of the China-Gabon partnership; China’s efforts in combating illegal logging and associate trade; efforts by the private sector to promote green forest product production, trade and investment; and lessons learned from China’s forest tenure reform.

The event focused in particular on the following themes:

• China’s forest strategy thinking for OBOR;
• Trends in public-private-CSO partnerships, and how to replicate the China-Gabon partnership model in the Asia-Pacific region;
• China’s efforts in meeting international timber legality requirements; and
• China’s collective forest tenure reform.

Summary of the outcomes and recommendations

It was noted that:

• Positive and effective Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under OBOR by China’s forestry industry can be beneficial and help to alleviate the rising pressure on China’s domestic industry;
• WWF is promoting responsible Chinese forest management and trade by building bridges across the private sector, governments and other stakeholders. This model of multistakeholder collaboration and relationship building has resulted in improved forest conditions and performance and can be replicated in other regions;
• China can play a strong role in combating illegal logging and associated trade, and promote the industry to engage in green forest product production, trade and investment. Chinese enterprises are facing a number of difficulties when meeting the international market requirements on legality and sustainability. To this end, an effective market service and motivation mechanism is urgently need to push companies to undertake legal and responsible forest product trade. Connecting China’s timber legality system to key stakeholders from the Asia-Pacific region, especially in countries experiencing deforestation, will contribute to the development of the new system; and
• China can play a leadership role in guiding partner countries on forest tenure reform through its own experience and history.

Recommendations to the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission

• Provide more opportunity for dialogue between China and key stakeholders from Asia-Pacific countries, especially those that are impacted by the growing Chinese timber market, and create initiatives to address unsustainable logging and associated trade activities; and
• Discuss the feasibility of establishing a fund under the OBOR initiative in collaboration with key countries to support mitigation of deforestation via SFM.
Though ASEAN is going through a period of economic integration, the effective and lasting synergy between community forestry producers and markets has yet to occur on a large scale. Effective and mutually beneficial marketing arrangements as well as socially inclusive market mechanisms need to be designed and implemented.

NTFP-EP and partners thus organized this event which was organized to present new developments and emerging strategies related to NWFP marketing channels and mechanisms; create and promote cross-stakeholder synergies and links around emerging NWFP marketing channels and mechanisms; and to stimulate private public sector awareness and growing trust in emerging community forestry products and labels.

The event had two sessions, the first featuring community forestry engagements with the public and private sectors. Presenters of the first session included Eri Indrawan from the Ministry of Environment & Forestry, Indonesia, Irawan Sihombing from Kaban/JMHI, a CSO partner from West Kalimantan, and Anne Marie Torres from ICCO Impact Investment. Eri Indrawan elaborated on the ‘NTFP Sentra’ concept, highlighting the support of the Ministry on NWFP policy development, facilitating NWFP stakeholder engagement and providing programmatic support and budgets at provincial and district levels. Irawan shared the history of the forest honey farmers in Kapuas Hulu, West Kalimantan and how they have worked together to form primary and secondary cooperatives from the original groupings of honey farmers. Their strong organization and strategic linkages with the public and private sectors have facilitated the growth of and increased benefits for honey farmers in the area. This presentation was supported by Anne Marie Torres who indicated that ICCO Impact Investment was keen to link large and small business to create sustainable trade chains. Torres also said that ICCO was interested in supporting the honey farmers through credit guarantee schemes.

Organizers: Non-Timber Forest Products-Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP), Ministry of Environment and Forestry – Indonesia (KLHK), Indonesian Forest Honey Network (JMHI) and ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN)
Questions during this session revolved around solving licensing problems for NWFPs. Eri Indrawan observed that in Indonesia the district-level forestry department is able to provide permits for lower levels of volumes. This facilitates quick transactions and trade while larger volumes need approval from higher levels of authority. The Ministry of Environment and Forestry was also praised for having the foresight of developing a national strategy on NWFPs and for addressing closely the needs of the NWFP gatherers and producers.

The second session focused on participatory certification and a collective mark to facilitate marketing of NWFPs and to draw optimum benefits for local gatherers and producers. Natasya Muliandari of NTFP-EP Indonesia described the initiative in Indonesia to test the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) in the forestry domain with rattan as the pilot forest product. The PGS is an alternative to third-party certification and is already widely used in organic agriculture. It is a low-cost, locally-based system of quality assurance and less complicated paper work. Muliandari was accompanied by Ibu Esah, a rattan basket weaver of East Kalimantan, and Pak Suyadi, a rattan gatherer from Central Sulawesi.

They said that the PGS system was helping to raise the value of rattan in their areas which was urgently needed in the face of the rattan export ban. Finally, Nola Andaya, elaborated on NTFP-EP’s initiative known as the Forest Harvest Collective Mark (FHCM). The collective mark is a way for honey farmers and their partners across Asia to assist each other in promotions. The collective mark is a distinctive seal or label that certifies that the products or services of members meet the standards of the mark. The label guarantees traceability of source from well-managed community forests, sustainability and good quality.

The audience was very enthusiastic and excited about the PGS and FHCM. A PGS film was shown as well. Questions were asked on how to differentiate third-party certification systems and suggestions were made by the private sector to further promote the FHCM.

Conclusions and recommendations

NWFP value chains require connectivity, policy support, capacity development, promotion and investment to realize benefits for all stakeholders, especially community forestry producers.

Traceability and assurance of sustainable NWFP trade chains are important to ensure the security of the system and support consumers’ growing awareness for sustainable consumption. Participatory, cost-efficient and community-empowering certification systems should be promoted alongside and on par with third-party certification.
Session promoted discussion and exchange of experiences among governments that have already implemented mandatory timber legality regulations, procurement policies and national timber legality assurance systems, and those that are currently considering options for voluntary or mandatory measures. The session also considered other factors affecting market access, such as forest certification, voluntary private sector measures and bilateral mechanisms (MOUs, trade agreements and similar approaches).

The first keynote speech by Rupert Oliver (ITTO Independent Market Monitoring) addressed the changing dynamic of forest governance and trade in light of emerging timber legality regulations, national standards, trade agreements and private sector measures. Afterwards, representatives from government and research agencies implementing and deliberating timber legality requirements in the USA, EU, Australia, China, Republic of Korea and Indonesia provided short statements and comments.

The second keynote presentation by Jade Saunders (Forest Trends) laid out advances and challenges in implementing in practice the timber legality regulations discussed in the first session. Afterwards, respondents from countries with legality measures in place (EU, USA and Australia) as well from private companies and industry associations provided comments and inputs based on the presentation.

Objectives

The objective of session was to provide space for discussion and exchange of experiences among representatives from governments, research institutions and CSOs on the challenges in designing and implementing timber legality regulations, procurement policies and national timber legality assurance systems. The session explicitly aimed to include a private sector perspective into the stream, as well as to provide updates on recent developments in the Asia-Pacific region.

Outcomes and conclusions

- Timber trade in the Asia-Pacific region has shifted significantly over the past decade: most timber was exported to the USA and EU markets in 2004, but by 2014, China had become by far the most significant importer of wood from the region;
- At the same time, government action in the USA, EU and Australia has required companies to conduct
due diligence/due care when importing wood into these markets. At this stage, 90 percent of all tropical timber globally is exported from countries either implementing or negotiating an EU FLEGT VPA;

- Trade agreements can also contain measures related to legality and forest governance. For instance, the TPP contains language mandating government action on illegal logging and trade;

- Government agencies and research institutions in Japan, Republic of Korea and China are discussing options for designing and implementing measures for combating illegal logging and trade. In addition, the Government of Indonesia is close to finalizing the Timber Legality Assurance System (SVLK) agreed upon under the EU FLEGT VPA between Indonesia and the EU. Taken together with the ongoing FLEGT VPA negotiations and existing or emerging national-level certification in China, Republic of Korea, Japan, Indonesia and Viet Nam, there is a significant change underway in the legal and regulatory framework affecting timber trade in the Asia-Pacific region;

- Enforcement of existing timber legality regulations in the EU, USA and Australia varies according to the national legal frameworks mandating enforcement action. However, a global norm of due diligence/due care is beginning to emerge from European Timber Regulation (EUTR) enforcement in various member states, widespread training and audits conducted by Australian Government agencies, and in the compliance plan that formed part of the recent U.S. Lacey Act enforcement case against Lumber Liquidators Inc.;

- Industry associations can provide an important bridge function in conveying information and providing training on due diligence/due care to their member companies. Due diligence/due care need to be integrated into standard operating procedures of the forest product industry as a component of general compliance measures in order to become the ‘new normal’; and

- Private sector needs and concerns need to be integrated into planning timber legality regulations and their enforcement. Private companies are taking multiple measures to respond to the due diligence/care requirements. Speakers highlighted the need for due diligence systems that evolve over time, rely on adequate knowledge of local conditions and proven suppliers, and the need to record and document information gathering and decision-making within the company. However, even with a strong commitment to due diligence, challenges remain, including corruption within producer countries, the challenge in verifying documents from source countries, complex local laws and regulations, and business pressures within the company.
Summary

The Asia-Pacific region is home to most of the world’s small forest enterprises (SFEs, small-scale timber producers and/or processors) who play a critical role in meeting the growing demand for forest products worldwide, as well as making vital contributions to livelihoods and the economy in Asian countries. The changing global rules to address issues associated with illegal and unsustainable logging and related trade require changes in how timber producers and processors do business, often involving more stringent regulatory compliance and additional up-front costs to these enterprises. When compared with large-scale businesses and producers, SFEs face a number of unique challenges in their attempts to comply and simultaneously maintain trade relationships with existing buyers. Compliance difficulties may put them at a disadvantage in the marketplace and limit their ability to practise and derive benefits from responsible forestry.

The challenges for SFEs have drawn substantial attention from global stakeholders, but success in overcoming these issues remains elusive. To better understand and communicate the challenges SFEs face in participating in the legal and sustainable wood product trade and to identify potential tools and models that can empower them to overcome and remove these barriers, the Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade Program (RAFT), the EU FLEGT Facility of the European Forest Institute (EFI) and the FLEGT Programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) co-organized a side event during APFW. The event brought together some 75 participants (including 25 female participants) representing SFEs, government institutions, private sector associations,
Participants at the Small Forest Enterprises event

Organizers: Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade Program (RAFT), EU FLEGT Facility of the European Forest Institute (EFI) and the FLEGT Programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

certification bodies, NGOs, international organizations and institutions involved in the design and implementation of legality verification and certification systems and schemes.

The event had three sessions. The first session featured two keynote speakers who gave an overview of features of SFEs in the Mekong region and Asia, focusing on challenges faced in complying with changing market requirements on the legality and sustainability of forest products, and provided suggestions on how to address these challenges. The second session was a panel discussion – members of the panel came from Viet Nam (Scansia Pacific Co.), Indonesia (Furniture Industry & Handicraft Association [ASMINDO]) and the Thailand Tree Bank. The three panellists shared their experiences and perspectives of smallholders’ needs and challenges in producing and trading legal and sustainable wood products. The last session, another panel discussion, provided insights and suggestions on the opportunities and potential solutions to address the challenges that SFEs are facing. The three panellists came from the Indonesian Multi-stakeholder Forestry Programme (MFP 3), Asia Pacific Consulting Solutions and The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC).

Over the course of the event, the following main issues were identified for SFEs in the Asia-Pacific region:

• SFES, especially those establishing and managing fast-growing plantations, are a critical component of current and future wood supplies, creating employment and contributing more broadly to rural economies; they also have a key role in taking pressure off remaining natural forests which are often degraded and have depleted timber supply;

• Excessive, complex and sometimes contradictory policies and regulations for legal compliance, as well as additional legality and sustainability requirements which may arise from the need to comply with forest certification standards can lead to increased risk of dis-incentivizing investment; and

• Besides the direct cost of legal compliance and forest certification auditing, most investment is related to the cost of setting up and complying with the legal framework (in the case of voluntary partnership agreements [VPAs]) and the day-to-day management of a certified forest.

Key recommendations proposed by the speakers and participants included:

• The level of regulation for small-scale and community forestry (especially low-risk plantations) should correspond to the level of risk to achieving policy goals; the impact of adopting lighter regulatory regimes for SFES should be assessed based on such risks;

• Developing compliance verification systems and procedures for Timber Legality Assurance Systems (TLAS) or certification standards (such as legality verification, chain of custody and forest management certification standards) to be used by small-scale producers should take into account risks to and capacity of small enterprise operations,
as well as the real necessity to comply; provision should be made for representatives of small enterprises to participate in TLAS and certification standard design so that their concerns are adequately reflected;

• Where regulation is needed to address particular risks, the feasibility of cooperative or group verification approaches should be examined and, if necessary, supported;

• Trade associations should be encouraged and supported to play a greater role in providing assistance (including legality compliance, verification and developing supply chain management strategies) to the small enterprise sector; this includes reaching out to SFEs and broadening their membership to promote and facilitate cheaper and more adapted certification and legality verification services by third-party auditors/certification bodies;

• There are opportunities for entities down the value chain which have stronger financial capacity to support smallholder suppliers with better prices for certified timber, concessionary loans to meet longer rotation lengths and technical packages to deliver timber quality specifications, including larger log sizes;

• Transparent, one-stop shops for all business registration requirements should be adopted for small businesses to reduce transaction costs;

• Certification schemes and TLAS should promote the development or further revision of standards or legality definitions for ‘farm or community grown timber’ aimed at levelling the playing field with other agricultural crops or differentiating between low and higher risk timbers;

• Forest administration agencies have an important role to play in terms of simplifying legal and policy frameworks which will in turn reduce the burden and barriers experienced by SFEs;

• Modification of existing major vehicles should be encouraged (e.g. the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification’s – PEFC – ‘Trees Outside Forests’; the Forest Stewardship Council’s – FSC – ‘Radical Overhaul of Smallholder Certification’) and innovative alternatives – Trees4Trees, The Forest Trust (TFT), Fair Forests, SHARP’s ‘Responsible Sourcing from Smallholders’ (RSS) – should be supported;

• Foster mutual recognition between certification and verification systems to reduce verification and compliance costs and to widen opportunities for market access; and

• Help improve and formalize land and tree tenure security for smallholders and communities and promote flexible and secure individual or collective smallholder lease agreements for tree plantation on public land.

**Session 1**


In order to open the discussion on barriers faced by SFEs in the Mekong region and possible solutions, Speechly provided an overview of the current stakeholders, political and legal climate, and regulation status and implications in Mekong countries, focusing on the following aspects:

• The Mekong region contains a plethora of unique stakeholders in various SFEs including producing countries and processing countries, creating a complex industry;

• SFEs in the Mekong region face many country-specific constraints to both producing and processing wood as well as challenges in complying with government regulations;
Lack of local-level rights as well as the lack of any local-level forestry management mechanisms are obstacles to business progress; and

Possible solutions include:
- appropriate level of regulation for low-risk small-scale and community forestry;
- do not introduce new regulations, e.g. for rubber wood;
- allow small enterprise representatives to participate in TLAS design;
- examine the feasibility of cooperative or group verification approaches; and
- one-stop shops for all registration requirements for small manufacturers.

2. Stephen Midgley (Director, Salwood Asia Pacific – Services in Forestry, Australia): ‘Certification and Legality: Help or Hindrance to Smallholders?’

Midgley focused his opening remarks on the increasing demand for industrial timber and the increasing role of smallholders in wood production, emphasizing the following key aspects:
- Natural forest supply is decreasing and in the next 30 years demand for timber is going to exponentially rise and the role of smallholders will become increasingly important in meeting this demand;
- Smallholders are critical to meeting commercial wood demand in countries like India, Viet Nam and Indonesia, where 80 percent of the major pulp, paper and furniture industry is supported on farm-grown timber;
- In countries like Lao PDR, extremely complex natural forest laws discourage smallholders and government processes which are applied to teak forest plantation;
- The four pillars of successful smallholder programmes are clear ownership of trees, attractive and reliable markets, sympathetic legal systems and a robust technical package;
- Tasks for proponents of smallholder certification and legality include:
  - provide clear and immediate commercial benefits;
  - reduce complexity;
  - understand growers’ motivations;
  - equitably spreads the costs of certification along the value chain; and
  - help to develop tools and support for sustainable and productive sites.

Session 2

1. Panel discussion: SFEs from Viet Nam, Thailand and Indonesia shared their challenges and experiences in producing and trading in legal and sustainable wood products

Thang Nguyen Chien, General Director, Scansia Pacific Co Ltd, Viet Nam
- Certification principles and criteria are hard to understand for smallholders and contain various limiting requirements such as restrictions and regulations on timber varieties. Also, the cost of certification requires a certain economy of scale and renders the certification of small forest units/plantations economically unviable;
- Farmers are often forced to limit the harvesting cycle to no more than five years due to the extremely expensive certification costs and high interest rates on the land, which they cannot afford; this however encourages intermediate thinning which generates earlier revenues and allows better quality timber to be produced; and
- Certification bodies need to interpret the generic standards for the local context and find a way to integrate the problems faced by smallholders.
Rudi T. Luwai, Vice-Chair, ASMINDO (Indonesian Furniture and Handicraft Industry Association)

- The Indonesian Government wants to improve the image of Indonesia as a source of legal timber. *Sistem Verifikasi Legalitas Kayu (SVLK), the national timber legality assurance system*, helps in combating illegal logging, although small industries are usually not trading with illegal wood. Regardless, more countries want traceability in their wood trade;
- Since 2013, SVLK has been mandatory for all exports. Out of 1,635 exporters, 1,138 of the ASMINDO members have legality certification in Indonesia;
- Big companies have many more resources hence it is easier for them to get SVLK certification. Smallholders however have limited trained human resources which makes it very difficult to get legal documentation for SVLK; and
- Encourage group certification with simpler, revised guidelines, such as making environmental permits not mandatory for small-scale home production of furniture and handicrafts. For example, Indonesian regulations require all cottage industries to obtain an environmental permit which is impossible to get if farmers work at home. This is an issue in many places in Java and Bali where many family businesses are home-based and therefore cannot apply for these compulsory environmental permits.

Krirk Meemungkit, Farmer, Kho Chakan Agroforestry Community Enterprise (KCAE), Member, Tree Bank, Thailand

- Forest tenure, tree ownership and timber harvesting rights are unclear in Thailand;
- Thai laws tend to favour larger enterprises and there is a growing concern about the lack of political will and support for smallholders;
- Official procedures are complicated and inconsistent. Laws are created for other contexts and do not apply to the situation for smallholders; and
- Property rights are weak in most Southeast Asian countries. Clarity on land and tree tenure is needed to allow smallholders to make a living from their farms and effectively support reforestation in Thailand.

2. Group discussion
This session focused on a variety of issues related to the challenges for SFEs in complying with certification and legality verification requirements; these include high costs, unclear trees and land tenure and insufficient representation in the FLEGT negotiation process. Some recommendations were proposed in order to address these issues.

Generally, SFEs face two main barriers for legal and sustainable compliance; one is the lack of knowledge and capacity, the other is the lack of financial resources. Comparing the two barriers, the latter is the bigger challenge. Excessive compliance requirements increase transaction costs, but small enterprises usually do not get a market premium. An approach on how to equitably spread the costs of certification along the value chain needs to be considered. To clap hands, we need to use both hands. Besides the need for tree growers to comply with the legality and sustainability requirements, it is also important that buyers offer better prices for legal and sustainable timber products.

Many smallholder timber producers and SFEs currently do not comply with the national legal requirements, for example, in Viet Nam the current version of the Vietnamese Legality Definition (LD) is not being complied with by smallholders even though it was developed through the VPA negotiation process.
legislation and therefore the LD is not simplified, future VPA-TLAS implementation will affect smallholders and SFEs and potentially push them out of business because of non-compliance. The FLEGT negotiations and legality definition development process need to ensure better smallholder participation.

Some governments are not supportive of delegating forest management rights or forest tenure to local communities. In Thailand, for example, current laws and regulations do not provide secure land and tree tenure for people and communities participating or investing in afforestation activities. It was suggested that government agencies should help to create stronger incentives for tree planting and forest management, especially on land where traditional ownership can be clearly demonstrated.

Session 3

1. Panel discussion: ‘Examining Opportunities and Potential Solutions to Address Specific Challenges Based on the Perspective of Governments, NGOs and Certifiers’

Agus Sarsito, Chief Technical Adviser FLEGT VPA, Multi-stakeholder Forestry Programme Indonesia (MFP3)

- FLEGT VPA negotiations began with the development of SVLK in 2003 and the VPA document was ratified in 2014, however, it is still not operational;
- Legality criteria for big and small industries are now differentiated based on SFE input;
- The use of self-declarations by smallholders and community timber producers, as well as traders, regarding a specific list of low-risk exotic planted species is one way to exempt SFEs from incurring costs; more demanding SVLK certification requirements are imposed on larger forest units and operators/enterprises operating in natural forests; and
- Better representation is needed for smallholders in groups working on TLAS.

Loy Jones, Managing Director, Asia Pacific Consulting Solutions

- Simplifying certification into ten overarching principles can help to create open, safe spaces for productive engagement among stakeholders;
- There is not enough incentive for certification as the process of getting the system in place takes up to five years and the reward is only given at the conclusion of the process. This is why a modular approach, starting with legality compliance and moving towards sustainability certification, can provide more rapid incentives and market access opportunities; and
- A more pragmatic approach to proving land tenure and property rights is needed as not many smallholders have land certificates.

Martin Greijmans, Senior Program Officer, The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC)

- RECOFTC strives to provide better engagement between smallholders and local government staff;
- There has been a change in perception in the Government of Thailand, which has slowly recognized that people have a right to grow, sell and profit from trees; and
- In order to scale up, RECOFTC needs to work with government agencies and get buy-in from stakeholders to prove that communities can be effective custodians of land and forest.

2. Group discussion

The discussion focused on recommendations to address the challenges faced by SFEs.
Several national forest certification schemes are endorsed by the PEFC and a few countries have developed or are developing the FSC national standards in the Asia-Pacific region. To help small enterprises, certification schemes and VPAs need to further simplify and reduce the number of verifiers by focusing on risk and critical control points which reflect local realities on the ground. The different standards or system development or revision processes need to better take into consideration the needs and realities of SFEs.

Associations need to be much more active, especially in areas of trade facilitation and marketing. Trade associations could reach out to SFEs and broaden their membership; they could facilitate the provision of cheaper and more adapted certification and legality verification services by third-party auditors/certification bodies. Associations and their larger members could support SFEs and smallholders through a supply chain approach.

The role of certification is to provide a balance between supply-side feasibility and market-side requirements. Clearer understanding of the relationship between consumers and farmers should be reflected within the certification system. The development and revision of certification systems and requirements involve hard negotiations among stakeholders. The PEFC, for example, is in the process of discussing international revisions that have been recommended by smallholders’ representatives. The FSC is also trying to determine a better way to address smallholder certification, with 12 resolutions recently passed at the general assembly to address this issue. The overall idea is to analyse and address real risks of smallholder management and increase benefits for certified smallholders. Certification, after all, should be a living tool that is continuously improving and evolving to be more accessible and beneficial to smallholders.
GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE OF TEAK – PRESENT AND FUTURE

Organizers: International Teak Information Network (TEAKNET), International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Based on 2013 World Teak Conference recommendations, there is a global initiative by IUFRO-TEAKNET-FAO to conserve the existing natural teak reserve for future genetic breeding programmes and planted teak for sustainable management. On this occasion, it was proposed to examine the current international situation with respect to the conservation efforts of the teak genetic resource base and discuss means and ways by which the supply of plantation 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.

Objectives:

- To discuss sustainable future teak resources;
- To review the global teak market trend;
- To examine the effects of TEAKNET for the global teak community;
- To consider clonal teak plantations for quality wood products; and
- To review The Global Teak Support Programme for sustainable management of teak resources.

Presentations

Delegates from the Asia-Pacific region and from other regions converged for the event, organized by TEAKNET in association with IUFRO and FAO, to discuss the way forward in promoting teak (*Tectona grandis*) as one of the major high-value tropical timber species.

Michael Kleine, Deputy Executive Director from IUFRO Headquarters, Vienna chaired the session, which was attended by over 25 participants; five papers were presented. The highlights of the deliberations were:

- Current trends show that the global demand for and importance of teak will significantly increase as a business opportunity for the private sector and thereby provide a means of income for smallholder farmers. Interest and investments in establishing teak plantations in many tropical countries have increased, mainly as a response to the decrease of log supply from natural teak forests due to the log export ban by Myanmar;
- As explained by P.K. Thulasidas, Coordinator of TEAKNET, the problems we face are two-fold:
a) the genetic diversity of the natural teak forest is gradually eroding due to forest destruction; and
b) the genetic base of planted teak established in the past is rather narrow. This endangers its sustainability, particularly in view of new challenges posed by climate change and extreme weather events.

- Production of genetically-improved quality planting stock is a prerequisite for increased productivity of teak plantations in future and clonal teak plantations are gaining acceptance worldwide as highlighted by Doreen Goh from YSG Biotech, Sabah, Malaysia. The availability of timber from selected fast-growing teak clones with straight bole form and greater heartwood content is the way to overcome the market shortage of natural teak;

- Li Qiang from ITTO, Japan presented the scenario of global teak trade and market trends in view of the log export ban by Myanmar and says that the future teak supply will come from plantations. There is a huge price difference between natural and plantation teak logs;

- Against this background, the Global Teak Support Programme currently being formulated by IUFRO, TEAKNET and FAO with the objectives of conserving existing natural teak resources for future genetic breeding programmes and sustainable management of planted teak, was presented by Michael Kleine from IUFRO; and

- M. P. Sreelakshmy from the TEAKNET Secretariat made a presentation on the services provided on a global scale with regard to the dissemination of information on all aspects of teak cultivation and management. There was a general agreement that this network needs to be further strengthened.

### Outcomes and recommendations

Following the presentations by experts on various aspects of teak management, marketing and trade, participants provided comments and suggestions and the main points made included enhanced exchange of technical and operational experiences among teak managers and scientists through TEAKNET; further genetic research on gene markers for tracing teak genetic origins; careful design of equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms for creating genetically-improved planting material and development of best practices for teak management and their dissemination to farmers through proper extension services.

As part of conserving teak genetic resources at the global level, IUFRO-TEAKNET-FAO have taken up a joint venture for a Global Teak Support Programme (GTSP) funded by ITTO, Japan. During the initial phase of the GTSP, a thorough analysis of past teak-related projects will be conducted by a group of scientists generating further inputs for this multiyear project. Overall, participants agreed that the joint initiative by IUFRO, TEAKNET and FAO will provide an important impetus in future efforts to conserve and sustainably manage the world’s teak genetic resources.
PUBLIC/GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT POLICIES FOR CERTIFIED FOREST PRODUCTS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

Organizer: Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF)

Speakers

1. Haruyoshi Takeuchi, Director, PEFC Asia Promotions Initiative, Japan: ‘Government/Public Procurement Policy for Certified/Legally Sourced Timber in Japan’ (presented by Chen Jie, Associate Professor, Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, Chinese Academy of Forestry)

2. Hu Yanjie, Associate Professor, Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, Chinese Academy of Forestry: ‘Government Procurement Policy for Timber and Wood Products in New Zealand’

3. Lu Wenming, Professor and Director, Division of International Cooperation, Chinese Academy of Forestry: ‘Feasibility of China’s Government Procurement Policy for Certified Forest Products and Its Road Map’

Topic background

As a market-based instrument, forest certification is playing a more and more important role in promoting SFM around the world. In order to further promote forest certification, many countries, mainly in Europe, adopt public/government procurement policies for certified forest products, which result in the rapid growth of forest certification in these countries both for certified forest areas and chain of custody certificates. However, in the Asia-Pacific region, only Japan and New Zealand as developed countries adopt similar public/government procurement policies for certified forest products. In China, the China Forest Certification Council (CFCC), which is the governing body and operator of the China Forest Certification scheme (CFCS), has been promoting the government procurement policy for CFCC-certified forest products; a feasibility study, road map and technical design for such policy have been completed. Communication with government ministries especially the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Environmental Protection has been strengthened.

Summary of the presentations

1. ‘Government/Public Procurement Policy for Certified/Legally Sourced Timber in Japan’: The presentation featured the development and implementation of the green procurement policy for timber in Japan which focuses on timber legality; the objectives of the policy, legality/sustainability, verification/certification and implementation effectiveness of the policy were revealed.
2. ‘Government Procurement Policy for Timber and Wood Products in New Zealand’: The presentation featured the development and implementation of government timber procurement policy in New Zealand, including the characteristics and four means of identifying legal and sustainable timber products: full certification, step-wise certification, proof of legality and identification as official New Zealand products. An APFW delegate from the New Zealand Ministry of Primary Industry provided some additional information and commented on this presentation.

3. ‘Feasibility of China’s Government Procurement Policy for Certified Forest Products and Its Road Map’: The presentation introduced the current status of the CFCS and the Government Procurement Policy in China which covers timber but does not address legality or sustainability; rather it focuses on environmentally sound manufacturing processes. The presentation focused on the Government Procurement Policy’s feasibility study for certified forest products which has three possible steps:
   - Incorporate certified forest products into the currently implemented government green procurement policy for environmentally certified/labelled forest products as one of the requirements for raw material sourcing;
   - Calling for prioritization to purchase and use certified paper products (especially office paper products) by the forestry sector (government and government-funded forestry departments and organizations); and
   - Fully incorporate certified forest products into the Government Procurement Policy when the percentage of certified forest products in terms of total amount of supplied forest products increases to a certain amount.

Questions from the floor, and responses

There were quite a number of questions for each of the three presentations, which all focused on the role and importance of government/public procurement policy for certified forest products in promoting SFM, not only in these three countries but also elsewhere.

Session’s key points

1. The session concluded that Japan and New Zealand are the only countries in the Asia-Pacific region which have adopted government/public procurement policy for certified forest products.
2. The session noted that China is considering the adoption of government procurement policy for certified forest products, using three steps in the roadmap.

Key recommendations

The session called for adoption of government/public procurement policy for certified forest products to promote SFM in Asia-Pacific countries.
The session promoted discussion and exchange of experiences among researchers, private sector representatives and government representatives on illegal logging and enforcement of timber legality regulations, private sector responses to these regulations and the impact of government measures on international trade flows in illegal timber.

**Objective**

The objective of this session was to provide space for discussion and exchange of experiences among the various stream participants, and to provide a forum for updates on enforcement, training programmes and research reports.

**Speakers and presentations**

The following panellists made presentations:

- Daowei Zhang, George Peake Jr., Professor, Forest Economics and Policy, Auburn University: ‘The Lacey Act Amendment of 2008 and the U.S. Trade Balance in Forest Products’;
- Elinor Colbourn, Senior Counsel for Wildlife, Environmental Crimes Section, Environment and Natural Resources Division, U.S. Department of Justice: ‘U.S. Timber Legality Enforcement Update’;
- Alison Hoare, Senior Research Fellow, Energy, Environment and Resources, Chatham House: ‘Trends in Illegal Logging and Forest Governance’; and
- Cindy Squires, Executive Director, International Wood Products Association: ‘Due Care Training Course for Sourcing Legal Timber’.

**Outcomes and conclusions**

- Presenters and participants discussed the different methods and analyses applied to estimating the levels of illegal logging and trade, assessing the government response to illegal logging and measuring the impact on economics and trade of timber legality regulations that have been set up by the EU, USA and Australia;
- One researcher proposed that the global recession had a larger impact on trade flows than timber legality regulations. Other factors to consider when assessing the impact of these measures are exchange rates and trade balance;
- While a 2012-2014 Chatham House assessment showed that governments worldwide were making some progress in addressing illegal logging and trade, more remains to be done. The assessment estimated that illegal timber imports into ten consumer countries were worth US$17 billion;
• Progress has been significant in producer countries, especially in Indonesia, with policy discussions and improved transparency. However, some of the more difficult problems still remain: illegality in the small-scale and artisanal sector, and the shift towards illegal deforestation for conversion to agriculture or other non-forest uses;
• The US Government has recently concluded two Lacey Act enforcement cases: illegal logging of Bigleaf maple in a national forest within the USA and the 2016 settlement of the Department of Justice with the company Lumber Liquidators, Inc. which included the first set of detailed guidance on what constitutes ‘due diligence’. In addition, the Department of Justice is actively engaging in cross-agency collaboration and in capacity development in timber-producing and processing countries; and
• Industry associations such as the International Wood Products Association (IWPA) can play a key role in training and developing capacity within the private sector on due diligence and due care. Within the business world, training conducted by other private sector representatives tends to have more success. For this reason, IWPA partnered with WRI and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to conduct a training needs assessment and to develop a compliance training course that aims to incorporate due diligence and due care into company standard operating procedures on compliance. The training will be launched this year in various locations across the USA.
Speakers

1. Keynote speaker, Lu Wenming, Professor and Director, Division of International Cooperation, Chinese Academy of Forestry: ‘Law Sciences and Logic Sciences for FLEGT’.
2. Commentator, Hu Yanjie, Associate Professor, Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, Chinese Academy of Forestry.

Topic background

Illegal logging and associated trade have become a global concern and international communities have been working together to tackle it. Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) and Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) are the key processes in such efforts. Currently, there are three related laws and regulations – the U.S. Lacey Act Amendment, the EU Timber Regulation and the Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Act. Many studies, conferences and workshops about this issue are being conducted and many reports are released every year. However, no study has been conducted on scientific aspects of illegal logging and associated trade, especially for FLEGT.

Summary of presentations

1. The keynote presentation focused on two fundamentally different categories of the violation of laws and regulations: (1) The company lacks legal status, which means lack of licences and permission, thus leading to illegal business; (2) The company has the legal status, which means having licences and permission, thus leading to legal business, but still possibly violates laws and regulations. This does not lead to illegal business, but rather just violates laws and regulations. The punishment or penalty for such violation of the laws is imposed only according to the legal liabilities of corresponding laws and regulations, not by any others. The keynote presentation then introduced a number of actual examples to emphasize the legally fundamental difference of these two different categories, followed by a number of other issues related to the law and logic sciences for FLEGT.
2. The commentator appreciated the keynote speaker’s elaboration on the legal and logic sciences for FLEGT and the many supporting examples.
Questions from the floor and responses

The session had very active discussions and even strong debates over a number of issues related to the legal and logic sciences. In summary:

• We need to consider law sciences in relation to FLEGT;

• Two types of legal violation have to be differentiated: (a) illegal operators with no licences and permission to do business; (b) legal operators who may violate some laws but have licences and permission to do business;

• It is inevitable that even the most conscientious and knowledgeable operators will violate some laws; and

• There was lively discussion about the relevance and role of due diligence and the legality verification approach.

Session’s key points

The keynote speaker noted that people working on FLEGT are very likely to be less knowledgeable about the legal and logic sciences. For example:

1. Illegal logging is a legal issue, not a technical issue. So, having knowledge about legal sciences is extremely important for all people working on this issue.

2. There is a fundamental difference between lack of licences and permission (to be illegal) and non-conformity with laws and regulations, from the aspect of legal sciences.

3. It is rather challenging to ignore ‘the burden of proof’ when citing the legality of timber, and all other products (from all other industrial sectors).

4. Anyone or any organization may violate laws and regulations unwittingly.

5. Violation of laws and regulations does not mean the illegality of products related to such violation of laws and regulations.

Key recommendations

1. The session called for more in-depth studies on legal and logic sciences for FLEGT, especially the legal sciences for FLEGT as the design of FLEGT and the associated EUTR and VPA contradicts the fundamental sciences of law.

2. The session called for all people working on illegal logging to learn more about legal sciences as it is embarrassing when people talk about legal issues (illegal logging) when they have limited knowledge about legal sciences.
A range of cosmetics derived from forests was highlighted at the Forests and Beauty event.

FORESTS AND BEAUTY: REGIONAL ASSESSMENT OF NWFPS RELATED TO THE COSMETICS AND FRAGRANCES SECTOR

Organizers: Non-Timber Forest Products-Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP) Asia supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
The use of NWFPs as natural ingredients in health, beauty and cosmetics products has a long history. For example, the ancient Egyptians used charred frankincense as Kohl eyeliner. Various other plants have been used for body paints by many ancient cultures and various aromatic plants have long histories as perfumes.

Plant-based products are increasingly popular choices in modern markets. Many facial creams, soaps, shower gels and oils are increasingly relying on natural products from forests. Examples are sandalwood (*Santalum* spp.), wild turmeric (*Curcuma aromatica* Salisb.) and thanaka (*Limonia acidissima*).

During the last decade or so, the extent of natural ingredients used by the cosmetic industry has increased. By bringing attention to the role of forests in supplying beauty products and the connections with livelihood security and utilization of NWFPs, awareness of the importance of forests and their connection with beauty will be raised. Within this context, the NTFP-EP Asia, with the support of FAO, is conducting a regional assessment of NWFPs related to the cosmetics and fragrances sector. The study will collect a cross-section of case studies examining specific NWFPs and the various ethno-botanical contexts in which they are collected, processed and marketed.

Through this APFW event, selected case studies were presented as well as an emerging synthesis on forests for beauty products. Discussion on forests for beauty products led to recommendations on further enhancing equitable arrangements between forestry stakeholders and industry players. Seventy participants from the private sector, government, the science community and NGOs attended the event.

Six speakers from different countries presented case studies: Nuning Barwa (Indonesia) on *Lancium domesticum* or langsat in Bahasa Indonesia. Insights into the trends of natural products in the cosmetics and personal care industry were also shared; Luu Huong Truong (Viet Nam) on *Sterculia foetida* and its gum and new beauty products from Vietnamese forests; Shiny Rehel (India) on *Sapindus emarginatus* or soapberry; Hla Doi (Myanmar) on *Limonia acidissima*; Cenon Padolina (Fiji) on *Santalum* spp. or sandalwood; and Charisse Reyes (Philippines) on *Canarium ovatum* or Manila elemi. A short film on forest honey hand and body lotion was also shown.

Each of these NWFPs have different functions as ingredients for beauty products. For example, *Lancium domesticum* (langsat) is traditionally used for skin whitening and *Sterculia foetida* has been used locally for skin care and to heal facial scarring. Now in the cosmetic industry, it is used in skin cleanser and creams for whitening and acne treatment. *Sapindus emarginatus* on the other hand, is used for hair and skin care preparations. *Limonia acidissima* is used as a moisturizer while protecting the skin from sun burn with its cooling effect. *Santalum* spp. is used in cosmetics, soaps, perfumery, aromatherapy and medicines. The wood is also used for incense. Traditionally, sandalwood oil is made by mixing sandalwood dust with coconut oil for skin lotions, perfumes and medicines. *Canarium ovatum* or Manila elemi, is used for ingredients in perfume and for facial skin cleansers.

Each of the products also faces its own set of challenges. For *Lancium domesticum*, short shelf-life limits expanded production. Fluctuation of *Sterculia foetida* prices and unsustainable tapping are examples of hurdles for those producing this resin. There is still a need for research in the formulation of herbal shampoo from *Sapindus emarginatus*. More research and development on other value-added products for the community level is also needed. Landownership, long-term investment and access to markets are examples of constraints for those growing *Limonia acidissima*. 
Overexploitation, genetic loss/contamination, pests and diseases and lack of an effective planting programme are challenges for the further restoration and development of Santalum spp. Finally, improvement of efficacy, stabilization and storage constrain the delivery of Canarium ovatum products.

Traditional knowledge and local wisdom are the basis for many of the products of the beauty sector. Respect and recognition for the intellectual property rights of local people on beauty products and their ownership of their biological resources should be secured.

NWFPs support hundred-billion dollar industries in the global cosmetics, perfume and personal care sectors. Supply chain support, local-level value addition, policy incentives, secure tenure for community producers, conservation interventions and price stability are important to ensure maximum benefits for all stakeholders, particularly community forestry producers.
In June 2015, the Prime Minister of Lao PDR approved the country’s formal entry into FLEGT/VPA negotiation with the EU. Through a multistakeholder dialogue process among governmental institutions, the private sector and CSOs the development of a timber legality definition has started. A Forestry Legality Compendium is the baseline for specific thematic expert groups working along the supply chain to understand the main challenges and opportunities to define ‘what is legal timber?’ Principles of participatory SFM and the legal framework have been developed for selected production forest areas and are now in the process of upscaling to the national level. The private sector is in need of a reliable source of raw materials instead of exporting logs to neighbouring countries in order to be able to increase the amount of value adding to forest products for domestic and export markets. The potential use of lesser-known timber species also plays an important role.
During this event, governmental agencies and the private sector involved in the development of timber legality definition in Lao PDR shared their points of view with the APFW participants:

• Heiko Woerner, GIZ ProFlegt Laos, provided the introduction into the timber legality definition in Lao PDR;
• Phoxai, Department of Import/Export, Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC), presented an overview of the forestry sector and timber trade in Lao PDR and the FLEGT/VPA negotiation process;
• Oupakone, Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), explained the Forestry Legality Compendium with reference to SFM; and
• Thongsavanh, Lao Wood Processing Association (LWPA), offered the private sector perspective on benefits from sustainable forest product trade including the use of lesser-known timber species.
STREAM 2

TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Stream Leaders:
Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
Pacific Community (SPC)
Introduction

The APFC’s background paper on the UNFCCC Paris Agreement places forests high on the climate change adaptation and mitigation agendas. The role of forests, and especially REDD+, has become an explicit goal in many INDCs that form the foundation of countries’ mitigation commitments to the UNFCCC. REDD+ activities over the past decade have generated new information, institutional learning and valuable on-the-ground experience.

The Stream 2 plenary session of APFW 2016 was held on 23 February 2016. It was opened by the co-leader Christopher Martius, Principal Scientist, CIFOR. More than 200 participants attended.

Objectives

1. The opening plenary session aimed at providing a high-level perspective and introduction to issues around forests and climate change and especially recent events at the UNFCCC Paris Agreement.

2. A focus of Stream 2 was on outcomes from the Paris COP21 climate change negotiations so that participants and decision-makers are better informed about current developments in climate change mitigation and adaptation policy and how they may take action.

3. Key messages from this meeting were shared with delegates of the APFC that met in parallel to the APFW and through that to the FAO Global Committee on Forestry (COFO).

4. Networks were built across the disciplinary and institutional divides (e.g. policy, practice, science, the private sector) to enable collaborative approaches to finding solutions to the challenges of climate change and forest management.

Main topics

The following issues were discussed:

• ‘What Are the Lessons from the Paris Agreement that Inform Climate Change Policy in the Asia-Pacific Region?’
• ‘How Will Countries in the Region Implement the Provisions of the Climate Agreement and Link These Efforts to Broader SDGs at the National Level?’
• ‘How Can Civil Society Organizations Support Governments to Ensure National Action Plans Are Inclusive, Participatory and Equitable?’ and
• ‘What Financial Commitments Are Needed to Support Countries’ National Action Plans? From Who and Where Will These Commitments Come from?’

Panel discussion

The panel moderator was Christopher Martius. Six expert panellists covered a wide range of perspectives and knowledge on forests and climate change:
• ‘Recap and Reflection of the Paris Climate Agreement’: Tony La Viña, Dean, Ateneo School of Government, Philippines;
• ‘Implications of the Climate Agreement for Indonesia’: Ibu Nur Masripatin, Director General, Climate Change Management, Ministry of Environment & Forestry, Indonesia;
• ‘Implications of the Climate Agreement for Viet Nam’: Nguyen Van Ha, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development, Viet Nam;
• ‘Implications of the Climate Agreement for the Pacific Island Countries’: Christine Fung, Land Use Planning and Facilitation Specialist & Deputy Team Leader, SPC/GIZ Programme ‘Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region’;
• ‘Role of Civil Society to Support National Strategies’: Joan Carling, Secretary General, Asia Indigenous People’s Pact; and
• ‘Role of the Finance Sector to Support National Strategies’: Juan Chang, Senior Forestry and Land Use Specialist, Green Climate Fund (GCF).

Each panellist briefly gave their perspectives on the topic based on their specific expertise. Tony La Viña noted that the post Paris Agreement work is about implementation. Countries need to do the legal things needed to sign and ratify the agreement and then put into place the policies and measures needed to achieve the outcomes on climate change. The Paris Agreement aims for a maximum of 2°C warming but also has an important aspirational target of trying to achieve 1.5°C. Article 5 specifically mentions forests and for the first time forests have been elevated to the main agreement. Now is the moment for countries to engage in, and for donors to fund climate change-related actions. The Paris Agreement is quite broad but there are still some gaps. Every country has to decide what to do in their own contexts and these will be the INDCs. Some countries may give conditional contributions depending on external support. The Paris Agreement is not a perfect agreement, but it is the best that 196 countries could agree at the time and a significant and positive political commitment was achieved.

Ibu Nur Masripatin from Indonesia thought that the capacity-development article is not as strong as the mitigation parts but still important and will need attention. The Paris meeting was very important politically and Indonesia’s President attended and spoke. Indonesia wants to move to a low-emission development strategy and its INDC aims to reduce emissions by 29 percent nationally, and up to 40 percent with external support. In the land-use sector, there are major challenges with fires, especially on peatland. Indonesia is actively working on REDD+ and the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) systems and the government is meeting with NGOs and other stakeholders to work on follow-up actions.
Christine Fung (SPC) said that Pacific countries were strongly pushing for the 1.5°C target so were very pleased by this being included. The Joint Mitigation-Adaptation approach is of strong interest to them as well as recognition of non-carbon benefits. Putting REDD+ into the formal agreement gives them confidence about using it. There is still a high need for capacity development to achieve the outcomes. Many countries do not have NFMS or MRV systems to properly monitor their forests to deliver and report the desired results. More than 50 percent of INDCs in the Pacific are on strengthening adaptation actions. The SDGs are important to SPC countries and SDG 15 is particularly relevant for forests. REDD+ can help in achieving the SDGs. Protection of marine resources also depends on good land management including REDD+ and approaches such as integrated participatory land-use planning and management using a landscape approach can be useful.

Joan Carling said that indigenous peoples (IPs) are in the front line of climate change impacts. Also some of the solutions, like hydropower or forest protection, may affect the lives of IPs. IPs have much to contribute based on their knowledge and experiences. There were over 400 IP representatives at Paris and they did influence the outcomes but did not get all they wanted. The Paris Agreement Pre-amble respects, promotes and considers IPs and local communities and other stakeholders. Article 5 on forests is very important for IPs. The agreement also recognizes the non-carbon benefits like IP cultural knowledge and their livelihoods.

Juan Chang noted that the Paris Agreement provides a high-level opportunity around the world. There is a need to strengthen institutions to implement the decisions. Results-based payments are a key component that needs to be achieved. The funds potentially needed (maybe US$20-40 billion/year) are far larger than the existing amounts pledged (so far only US$5 billion and maybe up to US$9 or 10 billion is planned). So it will be important that the private sector becomes more engaged but panellists noted that this will take time and effort and new approaches. The allocation of funds for mitigation/adaptation is intended to be fairly balanced in the GCF. The GCF is still relatively young and still being developed to help meet these challenges.

Several panellists noted that it is up to countries to decide how to include forests in their INDCs and many already have. On the question "Does REDD+ have to be mentioned in the countries INDC?" Juan Chang answered that it is not a requirement.

The second part of the session was introduced by the moderator on ‘How to Deal with the Challenges?’ The moderator began a dialogue by posing questions either to individual speakers or to the general panel and panellists were asked to give a short response.

Joan Carling said that many countries have policies against traditional practices like shifting cultivation and that in some cases these were unreasonable and need to change which will require high-level political will.

Christine Fung said that the alignment of different sectors is important at the national level. At the global level there are many conventions that need coordinating; the UNFCCC and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and many others create challenges for small countries. Some countries may also need to review their laws again including complex issues such as tenure, IP rights and institutional changes in government.
Tony La Viña stated that he thought the biggest gap is the gap between current emission trajectories and what is needed. The second gap is the lack of funding to implement the actions. We can improve but we cannot backslide. The Agreement will be reviewed every five years which is good and we can raise the ambitions and actions. At the moment the money needed to do all that is required to address climate change is not available. But even if the money were there, we would need to be able to use it properly, and this needs capacity development. Making the money more accessible is important. Some developed countries seem to think that the money will come from the private sector but that is not clear as there is not a global market for this.

Joan Carling said that in many regions there is a need to have consistent approaches across borders, e.g. the Mekong region. Sharing of experiences will help to develop capacity and cohesion at the regional level.

The moderator wrapped up the session with a quick summary of the discussion. He concluded with the action-oriented statement: “We now have an Agreement and we need to work on implementing it!”

Outcomes and recommendations

Stream 2 provided one overarching recommendation that was adopted by the 33 APFC member countries on forests and climate change:

- The APFC recommended that member countries, with the support of FAO, enhance funding and coordination among agencies and sectors to strengthen actions on climate change in support of the elaboration and implementation of INDCs and share the results of their efforts during the 27th session of the APFC.

For more information, see online Stream 2 key messages and recommendations on forests and climate change: http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/rap/Asia-Pacific_Forestry_Week/doc/Stream_2/APFW_Tackling_Climate_Change_Key_Messages_Recommendation_FINAL.pdf.
The event was intended to highlight the differences and commonalities of the implementation of safeguards, safeguard information systems (SIS) and benefit-sharing mechanisms (BSMs) in different countries and to discuss these topics.

The objectives were:

1. To share insights from first experiences with safeguards and SIS in the Pacific region and BSMs from other countries.
2. To foster an open discussion on current knowledge and positive experiences in- and outside the Pacific region.
3. To stimulate mutual learning and enable participants to further develop two important pillars of a functional REDD+ mechanism.

The workshop invited experts from Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Nepal as speakers. However, the experts from the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu could not participate due to tropical cyclone Winston which had struck the Pacific just before the event.

The session was opened by Jalesi Mateboto from the SPC and chaired by Christine Fung from GIZ. Over 60 people representing the whole Asia-Pacific region participated in the event which included the following presentations:

• ‘Safeguards in REDD+ Implementation in Fiji’ by Eliki Senivasa, Conservator of Forests at the Fiji Ministry for Fisheries and Forests;
• ‘Safeguards and REDD+ in Vanuatu’ by Bjoern Hecht, Fiji REDD+ Adviser and former Adviser to the SPC/GIZ Pacific REDD+ project, replacing Tate Hannington, Director of the Vanuatu Department of Forests;
• ‘Sharing First Experiences on REDD+ Safeguards and Related Benefit Sharing Mechanisms from Pacific Island Countries’, by Miller Kawanamo from PNG Forest Authority’s Forest Research Institute; and
The presenters for the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) highlighted the different national circumstances that they have to respect and follow when implementing safeguards. Among the most important circumstances are land-use rights, owing to the large share of community-owned lands. Therefore developing and following clear Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) guidelines for inclusive discussions and decision-making was highlighted in all presentations. A major challenge faced by all PICs, which was stressed by the presenters, was transparency and policy coherence between different ministries or government agencies.

The presenter from Nepal showed the example of a BSM that was put into place in a REDD+ pilot project. It was built largely on an existing BSM for community forestry management in Nepal. He stressed the positive impacts of community-based forest management on forests and communities. Another highlight was the distribution key for carbon payments that included social as well as environmental criteria.

Following the presentations there were intensive discussions between the presenters and the participants. The key conclusions were that the multiple safeguards needed to be harmonized to build up an operational and transparent mechanism. Furthermore, existing safeguards and BSMs should be analysed for their appropriateness for REDD+. These existing mechanisms need to be tailored to each country’s national circumstances.

The participants agreed that the sharing of first experiences with other countries enables countries to reflect on their current ongoing processes and gain new ideas for future development. A multisectoral approach will sensitize stakeholders to the beneficial effects that the REDD+ safeguards and BSM processes will have beyond the forestry sector.

The session resulted in a request to FAO to facilitate capacity development for countries to strengthen safeguards and BSMs in the Pacific region and to promote exchanges with Asian countries.
Background

Forest and land fires are a recurrent phenomenon in Indonesia and have become a local, national and global concern. The health issues and economic disruption caused by haze from forest and land fires have been enormous. In 2015, 43 million people were exposed to haze, half a million people suffered from acute respiratory infection and economic losses amounted to US$15-30 billion. Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines have also been affected. While fire and haze have resulted in significant costs to many people, fire is also an enormous benefit to those engaged in expansion of agriculture that has transformed Indonesia’s landscape. These beneficiaries include corporations, local elites and rent seekers involved in patronage networks. Lessons learned from existing policies and actions in Asia may help Indonesia to reduce the occurrence of fire and haze in the coming years. The newly established Peatland Restoration Agency (BRG) instituted by Indonesian President Joko Widodo, for example, presents a major opportunity to reduce fires on peatland.

Outcomes and recommendations

Stakeholders must engage in effective mediation and dialogue to achieve solutions to fire and haze, which are contested by various stakeholders with different power, benefits and impacts.

Forest governance must be improved by addressing political patronage networks, pursuing land-use reforms, land tenure policies and spatial planning, especially to reduce degradation and unsustainable use of peatlands. Banks and financial institutions need to be engaged and financial services conditioned to curb inappropriate investments.

Further research is needed to understand the threats of fire and haze to public health, food security and biodiversity.
Background

With the Paris COP21 climate decisions concluded, many decision-makers are asking: “What does it mean for us now? How do we move forward?” This event tried to answer these questions by highlighting key research and findings from CIFOR’s GCS on REDD+ and also hearing insights from Fiji’s REDD+ unit. The focus was on lessons learned for improving the effectiveness, efficiency and equity of REDD+ benefit-sharing outcomes in the Asia-Pacific region. The objectives of the session were to:

- Inform participants with up-to-date and relevant findings from CIFOR’s GCS on REDD+, particularly on benefit sharing and participation within REDD+ policies and initiatives, outlining methods for evaluation. The focus was on findings from the Asia-Pacific region;
- To obtain practical insights from REDD+ implementation by external experts; and
- To facilitate feedback and discussions on future research directions on REDD+ following the Paris global climate agreement: How can countries move
forward to implement their INDCs? Where do forests fit within these plans and what are the opportunities and challenges for national REDD+ implementation?

**Outcomes and recommendations on REDD+**

Countries must retain and build on the progress made by fostering adequate structures, institutions, networks and information flows, recognizing the influential role of non-government actors to keep the momentum of efforts towards tackling climate change effective and efficient.

Efforts to reduce emissions, establish safeguards and MRV systems, and BSMs, need to be tailored to national circumstances. At the same time, knowledge sharing and continued capacity development will enable countries to reflect on ongoing processes and strengthen national institutions.

Local people need to be involved in REDD+ design, adapt to BSMs according to local equity perceptions and limit perceived risk and potential burdens.
APFW 2016 came on the heels of the implementation of international agreements such as the adoption of the SDGs and the UNFCCC COP21 held in Paris, with forestry at the forefront of the responses to climate-related global challenges.

This event was conducted on 24 February 2016. It was born out of the ongoing study on ‘The Role of Forests in Reducing Poverty and Enhancing Climate Resilience – A Case Study of the Philippines’, implemented by the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) of the DENR and the World Bank and the Program on Forests (PROFOR).

An expert panel responds to questions on building resilience to climate change – left to right: Leonardo Paat Jr., Maurice Andres Rawlins, Kathleen Anne Capirosa-Coballes, Vicente Mesias and Ricardo Calderon (photo credit: Gordon Bernard Ignacio)
World Bank with funding from PROFOR. The aim of the study is to contribute to the understanding of how forest ecosystem services are translated into benefits for the Philippine population, particularly the poor. The event, organized by the FMB and supported by the World Bank and PROFOR, was one of the most well-attended side events at the APFW with 110 delegates.

The session had two objectives:
1. To present an ecosystem-based approach for assessing the contribution of forest services to enhance resilience to climate change, and poverty reduction.
2. Discuss how the Government of the Philippines is using data and information assessments to inform development planning.

There were two presentations – ‘Beyond Reforestation: Valuing Forest Ecosystem Services’ by Director Ricardo Calderon of the FMB and Assessing the Role of Forests in Reducing Poverty and Enhancing Climate Resilience’ by Maurice Andres Rawlins, Project Co-Task Team Leader, the World Bank. Two discussion papers were also presented, one representing the national perspective from Director Mercedita Sombilla of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and a local government perspective from Vicente Mesias, Environment and Natural Resources Officer of Bago City, Negros Occidental. A lively open forum ensued to clarify study methodology, the challenges faced and the way forward.

Director Calderon’s presentation showed the decline of the Philippine forest and the government’s effort to reverse the trend through the National Greening Program (NGP). He shared the vision of the updated Philippine Forestry Master Plan and the policy directions – sustain the gains of the NGP, strengthen forest governance, encourage investments in large-scale forest development, agroforestry and for energy purposes, institutional readiness and ensure that forests deliver forest ecosystem services, especially water. He also introduced the PROFOR study – the focus, objectives and the three study sites (Upper Marikina River Protected Landscape, Libmanan-Pulantuna Watershed and the Umayam-Minor-Agusan Marsh sub-basins).

Rawlins’ presentation focused on the methodology and a few preliminary results of the study. He discussed the conceptual framework adapted from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment highlighting the linkages of the forest ecosystem, the communities, ecosystem services and climate change. The key activities include qualitative research to determine how people use forest ecosystems for subsistence and livelihood support; modelling of forest ecosystem services under different scenarios of climate change; valuation of forest ecosystem services to quantify the economic importance of these services; and scenario development analysis to understand the impact of land development on forest ecosystem services and the people they support in terms of resilience to climate change and their livelihoods. He also shared the results of the key...
informant interviews conducted at the sites to better understand the link between forest ecosystems and poverty.

The preliminary results tend to validate the hypothesis that ‘healthy forests help enhance the resilience of the river basin to impacts of climate change, as well as the resilience of the communities within and outside the basin to climate-related hazards.’ The study is being implemented for 18 months, from June 2015 to October 2016.
OVERCOMING DEFORESTATION AND FOREST FIRES IN INDONESIA

Organizer: The Asia Foundation – Indonesia

The session was moderated by Erfan from CIFOR and featured four speakers, namely:

- Nur Sripatin, DG of Climate Change, Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) presented ‘Government Policy and Budget Allocation to Tackle Deforestation and Forest Fires’;
- Heri Purnomo, CIFOR researcher, who explained the political economy of forest fires in Indonesia;
- Citra Hartati, Indonesian Center for Environmental Law (ICEL), presented ‘The CSO’s Initiatives on Enforcing the Law on Forest Fires Cases’; and
- Lili Hasanuddn, Director of the Environmental Governance programme of the Asia Foundation presented ‘Improving Forest Governance through Strengthening the CSO Movement in Order to Reduce Deforestation and Land Degradation.’

The session raised the following issues: First, deforestation and forest fires in Indonesia are driven predominantly by weakness of governance rather than technical aspects and natural fires. The Asia Foundation’s Land and Forest Governance Index (LFGI) study found that the subnational government has a poor governance index for practising governance in forest and land sectors. CIFOR and The Asia Foundation also found that there was more of a political economy interest factor driving deforestation and forest fires. Second, demand for social accountability and rule of law on forest violations and fires that drive deforestation and land degradation have increased significantly. Third, the budget allocation for the Indonesian MoEF is relatively small compared to other ministries. MoEF budget allocation to tackle deforestation and forest fires is not the main issue, however it needs to be expanded with resource mobilization from other countries and institutions.

The session concluded that the following action should be taken by the government to prevent deforestation and forest fires: First, strengthen law enforcement. All speakers mentioned that it is important for the government to reform related policies in line with the enforcement of the law reform agendas. In addition, forest fires cases should be followed up by the government to enforce the law. Second, the government should promote better governance on tackling deforestation and forest fires cases in order to increase public participation. The public demands government transparency on forest fire investigation results to improve social accountability. Third, the government needs to encourage other countries to prioritize resource mobilization to tackle deforestation and forest fires.
Planning and introducing solutions at the landscape level is critical to balancing competing land-use goals and achieving synergies across multiple sectors, whilst mitigating and adapting to climate change. A climate smart landscape approach can help to address trade-offs and find common solutions across the land-use sectors of agriculture, forestry and energy, supporting food and nutrition security, ecosystem conservation and poverty alleviation. Intervening at this level offers a large enough scale to address many of the governance, market and policy failures that typically underlie the drivers of deforestation and ecosystem degradation, as well as the marginalization of the rural poor, particularly women. It also enables a deeper understanding of the impacts of climate change, as well of the necessary responses required at multiples levels of intervention.

During the session SNV and ICRAF explored some key ingredients and practical examples of working with a climate smart landscape approach. The session was moderated by Delia Catacutan, a Senior Social Scientist and Country Representative to Viet Nam for ICRAF. She has over 20 years’ research experience in Asia and Africa on integrated natural resources management focusing on institutional and policy aspects.

**Agenda and presenters**

1. ‘Addressing Drivers of Deforestation: The Need for a Landscape Approach: Examples from Indonesia’

   Presented by Richard McNally, SNV’s Global Climate Smart Landscapes Coordinator, this session covered SNV’s work on climate smart landscapes, deforestation free supply chains and evergreen agriculture.

2. ‘Integrating Environmental and Social Benefits and Risks in Sub-national REDD+ Planning: Reflections from Viet Nam’

   Presented by Richard Rastall, REDD+ Adviser with SNV in Viet Nam. Richard is currently a technical adviser to the Delivering Multiple Environmental and Social Benefits from REDD+ in South-east Asia.
(MB-REDD) project, implemented by SNV in Viet Nam and Lao PDR, funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB).

3. ‘Multifunctionality of a Conservation Landscape in Northern Viet Nam’

Presented by Do Trong Hoan, an ICRAF researcher based in Viet Nam. His research concentrates on the area of natural resource management including incentive-based forest conservation, climate change mitigation through REDD+ and carbon trade schemes, forest land tenure, BSMs for smallholders, and economic analysis of forest and agroforestry land-use systems.

The discussion addressed several key aspects in particular: (i) the necessity to work with multiple stakeholders to develop and implement programmes and strategies for low emission, climate-resilient landscape development; (ii) the importance of integrating multiple benefits and addressing environmental and social safeguards in subnational planning processes; (iii) the engagement of a wide range of stakeholders, including business, in this process by facilitating inclusive public-private-producer partnerships; and (iv) facilitating access to innovative financing and engagement with companies to unlock private investment. It was agreed that these four complementary interventions need to be applied as a package in order to achieve long-lasting impacts at scale.
Scope

Coastal wetland ecosystems provide a wide range of goods and services, including timber/wood; fish/shellfish; protection of inlands from high waves, storm surge and tsunamis; and carbon stored in the ecosystem. Low-lying coastal wetlands are among the most vulnerable landscapes to climate change/sea-level rise and subsequent land-use change for economic development. Finding the balance between conservation and development, including restoration, requires innovative actions to enhance the resilience of the ecosystems and minimize loss and damage for society. It is widely acceptable that climate change mitigation actions may go through various mechanisms recently adopted at COP21. In the context of wetlands, the guidelines provided by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) may be explored to enable countries to adopt. These may be synergized with the long-term adaptation strategies to cope with rising sea levels whereby options for local livelihoods may be considered.

The event explored the existing mechanisms of the global climate agenda while considering national circumstances in terms of social, legal and technical challenges. Engaging the private sector may broaden the opportunity to synergize with public sectors to work in coastal wetlands.

Objectives:

- To bring like-minded individuals and organizations together to explore the challenges and opportunities of climate change adaptation and mitigation in the coastal zone;
- To share information and experiences to improve understanding, preparedness and capacity to respond to climate change and sea-level rise; and
- To explore networks of regional stakeholders having common interests in coastal wetland conservation and development in the region.
Chair, speakers and presentations

- Chair: Daniel Murdiyarso, CIFOR, Bogor, Indonesia;
- Rafaela Jane Delfino, Carlo Carlos, Rodel Lasco, Laura David, Earl Juanico, the OML Center and ICRAF, the Philippines: ‘The Role of Mangroves in Typhoon-affected Areas in the Philippines: Social Perceptions, Vegetation Resistance, Regeneration Potential and Coastal Protection Options’;
- Vien Ngoc Nam, Nong Lam University, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam: ‘Restoration of Degraded Coastal Wetlands in the Mekong Delta’;
- Wahyu C. Adinugroho and Haruni Krisnawati, Forestry Research and Development Agency, Indonesia: ‘Assessing Mangrove C-stocks as Part of MRV and National Mitigation Actions’;
- Taryono Darusman and Matthew Warren, Puter Foundation and USA Forest Service: ‘Mapping Mangrove Distribution and Carbon Storage in Southern Papua, Indonesia’;
- Craig Jamieson and Rodel Lasco, ICRAF, the Philippines: ‘Coastal Wetland Resilience: Unlocking the Potential of Mangrove Palms’; and

Points of discussion

Ben Brown from Charles Darwin University, Darwin, Australia was the Discussant. Dialogue revolved around:

- Developing better algometric equations and spatially explicit distribution of mangroves species, including Nipa (*Nypa fruticans*) for better management of coastal wetland forests;
- Better understanding of coastal wetland hydrology, sedimentation and survival rates of natural and human-induced restoration and rehabilitation of degraded coastal wetlands;
- Community involvement in coastal restoration and development to improve incomes, secure livelihoods and enhance the resilience of coastal wetlands as sources of food and fibre, including the Nipa sugar industry, ethanol and renewable energy; and
- Improved governance, ecological and social resilience in coastal wetlands to achieve sustainable development’s multiple objectives.
Introduction and background

The concept of REDD+ evolved through a series of decisions under the UNFCCC negotiations between 2007 and 2015. Though intended to provide clear guidance on how REDD+ can contribute to international climate change mitigation efforts, there is a perception among many stakeholders that this process has led to increased complexity that will make it difficult for countries to implement REDD+. This session examined the underlying causes of this perception and drew on the practical experiences of REDD+ Readiness in Asia and the Pacific in order to answer the question: “Is REDD+ really so difficult?”

Objectives:

1. To critically examine the common perception that REDD+ is difficult.
2. To share experiences and lessons from REDD+ Readiness initiatives across the region.

Summary

The session included a mock debate where contrasting views were expressed about whether REDD+ was really so difficult. The presenters explained that REDD+ is not as difficult as many people think and in fact all the expected technical guidance from the UNFCCC for REDD+ implementation is in place in only a few pages of UNFCCC decisions. Collectively known as ‘The Warsaw Framework for REDD+’, the seven decisions build on earlier decisions, especially the Cancun Agreements from COP 16 which defined the five REDD+ activities, the safeguards and the phased approach.

There are only four key elements required for developing countries to participate in REDD+ to be eligible for results-based payments:

1. National Strategy/Action Plan
2. National Monitoring System
3. Safeguards Information System
4. Forest Reference Level

The fact that 14 countries have now submitted reference levels to the UNFCCC shows that REDD+ is clearly technically achievable by countries.

The session included a panel of four national representatives from different countries and thematic experts (Gewa Gamoga, PNG Forest Authority; Anura Sathurusinghe, Chief Conservator of Forests, Sri Lanka; Stepi Hakim, LTS Indonesia; and Grace Balawag, Tebtebba Foundation). It was moderated by Adam Gerrand from UN-REDD, FAO. The panellists shared their lessons learned and their perceptions, based on experiences in developing and implementing REDD+ Readiness initiatives across the Asia-Pacific region. Participants then posed questions and made comments in an open plenary.
Conclusions and recommendations

From the discussion and the panellists’ contributions, it was concluded that REDD+ is not difficult to achieve if there is also:

- The full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders: engagement among all key REDD+ stakeholders, including IPs and CSOs, is one of the keys to REDD+ success;
- An effective communication strategy about REDD+ in place, willingness to develop capacity and understanding, and approaches to avoid confusion among relevant stakeholder groups;
- Strong political will, adequate resources and commitment from decision-makers and implementing agencies; and
- Continuing efforts to increase capacity and technical expertise.

Grace Balawag noted that, “we have already made significant progress in recent years, developing a common understanding of REDD+ concepts, how to address safeguards and non-carbon benefits, and these advances are crucial for indigenous peoples and local communities.” It is not so much a matter of REDD+ being difficult; it needs recognition of the inherent complexity of forest and land-use planning and management and the building of political will and momentum to address this complexity. These are the same challenges facing countries and communities who are wanting to manage forests sustainably for other purposes, not only for REDD+. As a result of the APFW event, the discussions around REDD+ have made this task a little bit clearer and easier.
INNOVATIVE TOOLS FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT UNDER CLIMATE CHANGE

Organizers: Department of Forestry (DOF) and Department of Forestry Inspection (DOFI), Lao PDR
The event attracted 81 participants representing key stakeholders from various forestry-related sectors in the Asia-Pacific (AP) region, including academic institutions, governments, businesses and international organizations. The research shared was completed as part of the project ‘Adaptation of Asia-Pacific Forests to Climate Change’ and included explanations and demonstrations of tools developed by this project in order to provide knowledge and capacity development for all participants at the event. The purpose of the event was to share the outcomes and achievements of this research project, which are applicable and beneficial to a range of stakeholders in the AP region.

Outcomes of the project include development of a high resolution, high accuracy climate model, ClimateAP; development of a climate niche model for five key forest tree species in the AP region and integration of multiple ecological models in five pilot sites throughout the region to develop locally-specific SFM recommendations.

The event provided effective communication of project findings and their significance to participants. It included five presentations from forest adaptation experts from the Faculty of Forestry, UBC: John Innes, Dean, provided an overview of climate change and policy in the AP region; Brad Seely, Research Specialist, presented on adaptation to climate change in the AP region; and Guangyu Wang, Assistant Dean, discussed issues and solutions for SFM in a changing climate.

The presentations elicited discussion of the role of modelling tools in forest adaptation and the potential application of project findings by regional stakeholders. The key conclusion was that specific, localized climate and ecological modelling tools can help the AP region to address uncertainty related to forest management under a changing climate. Participants left the event with a better understanding of what climate and ecological modelling tools are available for them to complete climate change adaptation research in their own regions. Participants were also provided with the resources needed to find out more information about the project and tools online. The event provided a valuable opportunity for communication and networking, and emphasized the promising ability of this research to help improve capacity of the AP region to achieve SFM under climate change.
Organizers: Papua New Guinea Forest Authority (PNGFA), Papua New Guinea Climate Change and Development Authority (CCDA), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the European Union (EU), UN-REDD Programme and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

There was good attendance and presentations to share the experience of PNG on progress and to demonstrate how the country is developing its NFMS. The main objective was to generate discussion on the appropriate remote sensing tools or applications for REDD+ and the NFMS that will ensure promotion of transparency.

Goodwill Amos, Acting Managing Director of the PNGFA (former) acknowledged development partners’ efforts in supporting and assisting PNG in developing its NFMS which is crucial for monitoring REDD+. He highlighted that it was PNG and Costa Rica that introduced the concept of REDD in 2005 and it was important for the country to monitor its forests and to ensure the process of reporting transparency. With his concluding remarks, he officially launched PNG’s Forest Monitoring and REDD+ Web portal.

The side event was organized by the PNG Government, UN agencies and donors who are supporting PNG in developing its National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) for REDD+ thus promoting transparency.
The demonstration of PNG’s Forest Monitoring and REDD+ Web portal was done by Zilpah Yahamani, Remote Sensing Officer, UN-REDD National Joint Programme in PNG. She showed some of the features of the Web portal, in particular the type of information available such as that related to forestry, the environment, agriculture, mining and other information as well. She highlighted that wall-to-wall mapping was done to produce the map, which was developed out of enhanced cloudy images as PNG is very difficult to map with its year-long cloud cover. The inclusion of the global data set, in particular the Hansen Tree cover loss, was useful for land-use monitoring in comparison with national data. The Web portal is one approach in reporting transparency.

Within the NFMS, MRV is an important aspect of reporting data, in this case forest and other land use. The presentation was done by Gewa Gamoga, Senior Climate Change and REDD Officer, PNGFA. He indicated that the data generated for the forest and other land use were made possible with the Collect Earth (CE) software developed by FAO and it was the first time that PNG was able to report on the six IPCC land-use categories. He highlighted that the assessment was based on point sampling which mapped the entire country with 4 x 4 km grids and a total of 25,279 points covering the whole country. The results from the CE assessment indicated that PNG has high forest cover (80 percent) with 60 percent still in its primary state. Despite the high forest cover, PNG’s forests continue to be pressured by land-use activities such as logging, agriculture, mining and infrastructure developments. Furthermore the CE assessment indicated that the main driver of deforestation was shifting cultivation and for forest degradation was logging.

The NFMS is one of the four elements of REDD+ which are the requirement for countries undertaking REDD+ activities. The progress in developing PNG’s NFMS was presented by Hitofumi Abe, Chief Technical Advisor, UN-REDD/FAO. He gave a brief background of the country and highlighted that for the NFMS there are two components, i.e. monitoring with regard to REDD+ activities and MRV which is the measure of change in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and removals from forests. With regard to MRV for REDD+, PNG has the different systems used in generating the data i.e. Terra PNG and Collect (activity data) and also the information that will be derived from the National Forest Inventory (emission factors) which forms the basis for calculating PNG’s GHG emissions from forests. He stressed that the Web portal with the forest and land-use information will be available for all users and ensure transparency.

The panel discussion featured Christine Fung, GIZ/Fiji and Masamichi Haraguchi, Remote Sensing Specialist, FAO. The session was moderated by Hitofumi Abe.
The discussion highlighted key points and recommendations for appropriate remote sensing technologies for REDD+ NFMS and transparency.

Appropriate remote sensing technologies for REDD+ NFMS:
- Maintain a sustainable transparent NFMS (operational);
- Capacity development among national experts – crucial for the sustainability of technological transfer from international experts to local people (national);
- Use of existing freely available software and application programmes online, such as Landsat mosaic images and CE (tools developed by FAO under the Open Foris Initiative); and
- The use of different data sets or information has to be dynamic and comparable (after five or ten years similar assessments can be done) to maintain consistency.

The issue of transparency:
- Information on the Web portal should be made freely available for everyone to access and should be understood by all (regardless of their technical skills); and
- It is important that the information provided on the Web portal is accurate and verified. This depends on quality control and will serve to strengthen the system to ensure REDD+ Safeguards information is effectively addressed.

Adam Gerrand, Forest Officer from the FAO Regional Office for the Asia-Pacific region, made the closing remarks. He was impressed that PNG was progressing well in the development of the NFMS for REDD+.
STREAM 3

SERVING SOCIETY:
FORESTRY AND PEOPLE

Stream Leaders:
ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN)
RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests
Forests have a crucial role in achieving the SDGs and they are clearly defined in their agenda. The mandate is to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation as well as halt biodiversity loss. Besides supporting SDG 15, forests also contribute directly and indirectly to achieving other SDGs. Therefore, moving forward with sustainable programmes in conservation of forest biodiversity while conceptualizing the essential forest resources aiming for food security is an important agenda to reach by 2030. Mobilization of sources, including capital and human resources, i.e. governments and communities at various levels, will help the efforts to ensure all human beings can fulfil their utmost state in dignity and equality as expected by the SDGs.

**Key messages**

1. The SDGs succeed the largely successful Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), aiming at significant improvement of economic, social and environmental aspects of the world by 2030.

2. Forests play a key role in achieving the SDGs. The role of forests in achieving SDGs is clearly indicated in SDG 15 (sustainably manage forests). However, forests notably play a role in ending poverty (SDG 1), achieving food security (SDG 2), ensuring access to sustainable energy for all (SDG 7), promoting sustainable agriculture and food systems (SDG 12), and combating climate change (SDG 13).

3. The role of forests can be optimized to achieve SDGs only if they can be managed in a sustainable manner with full commitment and support from all stakeholders, including governments and communities.

**Presentations**

1. Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, Deputy Director General, Forest Department, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry/ ASFN Leader Myanmar Myanmar provides an example of how SFM can contribute to achieving the SDGs. Through several changes in forest policy, SFM has evolved to overcome various forestry sector challenges such as deforestation, overexploitation of forests.
(for timber, charcoal and fuelwood), unregulated shifting cultivation, overgrazing and forest fire, and challenges from non-forestry sectors such as agriculture, mining, hydropower and human settlement. Various approaches for SFM, such as extension of permanent forest estate, developing the timber legality and assurance system, adoption of land-use policy and land law, etc. were introduced in order to regulate deforestation challenges so forest cover can be increased and forest resources will be harvested sustainably.

2. Maria Elders, Land and Resources Division, Pacific Community, Fiji

Practical experience from Fiji has shown how community-based SFM can provide fair and equitable benefit sharing from the utilization of forest resources. Collaboration between landowners and government agencies creates a mechanism where the income from the trade of timber can bring equal percentage benefits for communities. Community participation is the key in this case, where their aspirations are being communicated to timber enterprises and the government is bridging this process and formalizing this mechanism for the benefit of communities as well as private enterprises.

3. Orlando Panganiban, Chief of Forest Resources Management Division of the DENR

In the Philippines, the integration of forest values into national and local planning to support poverty reduction strategies supports the SDGs. In reality, forests in terms of quality and quantity, are declining at the global level, including in the country itself. Various sectors have contributed to this catastrophe. Therefore, to provide a good support system, in the Philippines, the forestry development sector is integrated into initiatives such as climate-proofing, community-based forest management, protecting watershed ecosystems and the public-private community partnership programme.

4. Yuliatin, local community representative from Jember, Indonesia

At the lowest level in the grassroots community, the community forestry approach has the proven potential for livelihood empowerment of forest-dependent people and makes a positive contribution to achieving the SDGs. Experience of communities in Indonesia, for example, shows how, if managed properly, forest resources can be reliable sources of income, food and water for communities. The key success for this is the role of communities in protecting forests from overexploitation which leads to deforestation. To ensure community members know how to manage forests, capacity development and awareness-raising programmes are crucial.

**Key conclusion**

The session provided real-life evidence from Asia and the Pacific on how forests have played a vital role in various aspects of human activity, particularly for those who rely on forests as their main source of livelihoods. The cases showed that, if managed sustainably, forests can contribute significantly to the achievement of the SDGs.
Session 2 was presided over by Ricardo L. Calderon, CESO III, Director of the FMB of the DENR of the Philippines in his capacity as the ASOF Leader, Philippines. It was highlighted that we all want to achieve the SDGs – and community forestry is a vital tool for achieving these goals in the Asia-Pacific region. This session asserted that community forestry (CF) is the answer to many of the challenges facing rural communities in the region and provided answers as to why it deserves greater attention and support. Following the introduction and session overview by David Gritten of RECOFTC, Isabelita Austria the ASFN National Focal Point co-facilitated the open forum of the session with David Gritten.

‘Assessing the Impacts of CF: 40 years of Community-based Forestry (CBF)’ Presented by Fred Kafeero, FAO, Rome

FAO has recently examined the extent and effectiveness of CBF globally. CBF includes both collaborative regimes and smallholder forestry (forestry practices by smallholders on land that is generally privately owned); it includes formalized, customary and indigenous as well as government-led initiatives.

The findings of this report indicate that formally recognized CBF regimes have grown over the last 40 years and now almost one-third of the world’s forests are under it. In addition, we have seen the institutionalization of CBF into mainstream national development plans/programmes, and the emergence of various CSOs that represent community interests. The study also noted the restitution and privatization of forest land in Central/Eastern Europe, the rapid expansion of smallholder forestry and the shift from
subsistence to market-oriented CBF in some cases through the commercialization of CBF products.

Findings indicate that CBF is a powerful vehicle for generating jobs and income for rural communities. Further, the study illustrated that CBF often results in improved forest cover and forest conditions, given sustainable management practices. CBF was also found to be a useful tool for improved local governance and enhancing grassroots democracy in some cases.

In addition, recent work has shown that there are several conditions for effective CBF. Secure tenure is only one part of the equation. More general enabling regulatory frameworks and strong governance are also required. In addition, viable technology, adequate market knowledge and access, and a supportive bureaucratic culture help to ensure CBF success.

Still, key challenges remain in fully understanding successful CBF, given the limited data available. Therefore, FAO is working with partners to improve data collection on the extent and effectiveness of CBF at the national level. Work is ongoing in eight countries including Mongolia, Myanmar and Nepal. In order to assess the extent and effectiveness of CBF, the framework examines:

- Area, extent and coverage:
  - area and percent of forest land under different tenure regimes; and
  - number of people and groups involved in each CBF regime.

- Institutionalization:
  - institutionalization of CBF into government policy, legislation, planning and programmes; and
  - CSOs that represent CBF stakeholders.

- Level of empowerment:
  - rights and responsibilities associated with CBF regimes.

The framework looks at three asset classes: natural, social/institutional/human and financial.

In general this work has pointed towards several recommendations for improved CBF:

- The need for a strong regulatory framework: A supportive legal framework, secure tenure rights and benefit-sharing arrangements;
- Financial incentives: CBF in strengthening REDD+ benefits, commercialization and employment opportunities; and
- Capacities: Strengthening local-level institutions, new skills for government staff.

‘ASEAN Cooperation on Forestry (2016-2025) and SDGs’
Presented by Dian Sukmajaya, Food, Agriculture and Forestry Division, Sectoral Development Directorate, ASEAN Economic Community Department, ASEAN Secretariat

The second talk of the session focused on the ASEAN strategy for food, agriculture and forestry, and how it relates to the SDGs. ASEAN has a vision of competitive, inclusive, resilient and sustainable food, agriculture and forestry sectors integrated with the global economy, based on a single market and production base contributing to food and nutrition security and prosperity. It aims for forest resources to be sustainably managed at the landscape level to meet societal needs, both socio-economically and culturally, and to contribute positively to sustainable development.
The Strategic Plan of Action for ASEAN Cooperation in Forestry has five aspects:

- Promoting SFM;
- Enhancing trade facilitation, economic integration and market access;
- Strengthening ASEAN’s joint approaches on regional issues affecting the forestry sector;
- Enhancing the forestry sector’s resilience and role in climate change; and
- Institutional strengthening and human resource development.

**Key conclusions**

Conclusions were presented by Kinnalone Phommasack, the Acting ASFN National Focal Point of Lao PDR. They included:

- CBF can potentially contribute to many SDGs, especially nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 13, 15 and 16;
- CBF has been proven to be a powerful vehicle to improve livelihoods in rural communities;
- Effective CBF can be achieved by ensuring tenure security, an enabling regulatory framework and strong governance;
- ASEAN envisions sustainably managed forest resources at the landscape level to provide better livelihoods for people; and
- The recently launched Strategic Plan of Action for ASEAN Cooperation in Forestry (2016-2025) aims to make use of forests to accomplish the SDGs.
The 17 new SDGs continue the mission of the previous MDGs, placing greater emphasis on critical aspects of climate change and environmental protection. While the SDGs include the mention of forests in specific contexts, there is a noticeable gap vis-à-vis the functionality of full landscapes and their influence on the goals. In particular, the interrelatedness of the water-food-energy-income nexus and benefits of agroforestry in this context are overlooked. At first glance, agroforestry has a clear connection to a select number of the SDGs. However, a more nuanced assessment that considers the multifunctionality of landscapes taken as a whole, reveals the importance of agroforestry throughout the 17 SDGs. This session discussed evidence on agroforestry as a key part of tropical land use supporting the SDGs, and the opportunities that a more holistic land-use perspective through agroforestry can provide. The session brought together experts in tropical land use and agroforestry in an insightful discussion on the benefits and interconnectedness of agroforestry from the individual farmer, to national and regional policy levels.

“All the Sustainable Development Goals are interconnected; we can’t achieve one without the others,” began Meine van Noordwijk. Importantly, when taken separately, the SDGs will require a higher degree of intensification of more land than is available. The multifunctionality of agroforestry is therefore essential. When looking at the SDGs, they can be divided into six categories: ending poverty; ending hunger; clean water and sanitation; affordable and clean energy; keeping climate change in check; and social issues such as conflict, equity, transparency and gender. Agroforestry plays a key role in each of these, from the provision of income from tree products, diversifying nutritional sources, water regulation, greening cities and contributions to climate change adaptation and mitigation. Social issues are linked to the ‘soft’ side of agroforestry, related to people and their interactions with each other and the environment.

Agroforestry was identified as contributing to the SDGs in four key ways. As a land-use system in-between forest and open-field agriculture, it can provide a range of...
goods, benefits and services simultaneously, such as nutritious food, renewable energy and clean water while conserving biodiversity. Efficient multifunctional land use supports sustainable intensification. Agroforestry is institutional response to contested resource access, allowing gender and social equity and empowerment. Also agroforestry as an integrative mind-set and culture can help create synergy between the SDGs in a multifunctional landscape.

Through the panel-led discussion in the session, a number of opportunities for the integration of agroforestry as well as barriers were identified. A representative from the ASEAN-German Programme on Response to Climate Change in Agriculture and Forestry, Imelda Bacudo, indicated a strong alignment between the multifunctionality framework of agroforestry and initiatives and goals within ASEAN and its visions for 2025. Notably, Bacudo pointed to the ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Framework on Climate Change and Food Security (AFCC) as an entry-point for mainstreaming agroforestry in regional climate change mitigation and adaptation and climate-smart agriculture techniques.

Additionally, experts from Viet Nam, the Philippines and Indonesia discussed national integration of agroforestry in their respective countries. While there have been a number of successes, for example through supportive policies and subsidies for integrating trees outside of forests, challenges remain. In particular, administrative dichotomies segment agriculture and forestry leaving an unconducive policy environment for agroforestry. This division also relates to the mind-sets and attitudes of policy-makers, as well as farmers and actors in between, about the role of trees and their integration in agricultural landscapes. The resulting bureaucratic soloing has led to agroforestry being overlooked by both agriculture and forestry ministries, creating gaps in policies, institutions and investments, as well as an embedded separation in the mentality of the people. There also remain knowledge gaps that need to be filled, particularly with regard to trade-offs.

Facilitating agroforestry as a multifunctional landscape vehicle for development goals requires a transformation of the mind-sets and skills of farmers, extension workers, government officials and policy-makers. To address the administrative bottleneck, a top-down approach would require further generation of scientific evidence to present to officials as well as close collaboration and negotiation regarding land-use planning. Agroforestry should also be encouraged in small and large enterprises and in public-private partnerships. However, the issue should not remain an entirely top-down approach, as bottom-up initiatives have also been successful. Both approaches require champions of the initiative, instilling and inspiring ownership in the transformation.
“WE BENEFIT FROM THE FOREST…” GETTING A FAIR SHARE IN THE BENEFITS DERIVED FROM FORESTS: APPROACHES AND TOOLS

Organizers: Non-Timber Forest Product-Exchange Programme Asia (NTFP-EP Asia) in cooperation with the Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA) and the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) with support from the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Over 100 participants from different Asia-Pacific countries and other regions representing various national, regional and international sectors from CSOs/NGOs, CBOs, peoples’ organizations, funding institutions, networks, legislators, government representatives, the academe and students attended the session.

Objectives

The fair share session featured community leaders’ voices, best practices, experiences and mechanisms on accessing benefits from forests, development and implementation of equitable benefit-sharing agreements, and sustaining these benefits from the forests, contextualizing their contribution in achieving key SDGs, and upholding a reinforced understanding of the community livelihood benefits from the forests.

Highlights of the session

Eman Sulaeman, Chairperson, Ujung Kulon Farmers’ Union in Indonesia presented their guarantee scheme for ‘Odeng’ forest honey and explained how collaboration and community involvement were crucial in the value chain. The result of implementing their participatory guarantee system provided many positive social, economic and environmental impacts.

In the Philippines, Arnel Ignacio of PASAKAMI Yamang Gubat of Mindoro presented their BSM for forest honey, which has increased participation by members and
increased support for their SFM initiatives. He emphasized that sustainability can be achieved through network linkage strengthening and support for market expansion. Rolito Landuan of Samahan ng Palawano ng Amas, Brooke’s Pt., Multipurpose Cooperative in Palawan, then shared the perennial challenge of tedious, cumbersome and costly processes to secure permits for harvesting Almaciga resin. The permit application includes technical requirements from three levels of local government units, and FPIC from the rest of the community in the domain which ironically takes over a year or more to complete, surpassing the duration of the permit. Weak government support for their efforts also makes it hard to sustain the enterprise.

Duong Hoang Cong of the Centre for Sustainable Development in the Mountainous Areas (CSDM) presented its case for Viet Nam and underscored that communities have traditional knowledge to protect and benefit from the forest; customary community law and tradition can ensure sustainable forest protection and enrich forest resources while ensuring sustainable livelihoods as cited in the Dao people’s case in the district of Van Chan.

Lastly, Dulmaa, of the National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Cooperatives (NAMAC) presented Altan Nuga Davaa’s initiatives to combat desertification in their village through Saxual tree (*Haloxylon ammodendron*) restoration. Through concerted efforts, they have been able to sustain livelihoods by selling Saxual trees and protect their local area from sand movement. However, the NAMAC is experiencing lack of technical assistance and policy support from the government.

Additional inputs were provided by Olivia Melendrez of NTFP-EP Philippines on key lessons from their REDD+ benefit-sharing case studies and discussed several
Conclusions and recommendations

1. Benefits from the forests must accrue first to the local farming families, indigenous communities and their organizations, who are the closest to these resources based on ownership, needs, performance and sustainable practices.
2. Clear and secured tenure rights are critical to achieving stable, equitable benefit-sharing arrangements.
3. Provide coherent and simplified policy and process for the legal recognition of the customary tenure and resource management practices including the regulations on the utilization and management of forest resources.
4. Different national agencies and CSOs should provide assistance and facilitate in empowering local communities, and implement supportive programmes and activities. Policy development at different levels is encouraged to draw lessons and guidance from grassroots' experiences.
5. Support and enhance the livelihoods of communities to make them more sustainable. These livelihood opportunities not only provide economic benefits, but also expand the opportunity to avail social and environmental benefits for the communities.
6. Strong, empowered, transparent and accountable community organizations with adequate support systems are important to ensure an effective and sustainable benefit-sharing scheme. This necessitates investing in capacity development of communities, indigenous peoples, smallholders and local institutions, unlocking financial mechanisms, linkages and windows for them.
Background
It is widely recognized that forests have value beyond timber and goods. They provide ecosystem services, which support communities both near to and far from forested areas. Water is one such ecosystem service that connects landscapes and communities that can be relatively easily measured and valued.

With increased extreme precipitation events, such as flooding and droughts due to changing climate and land use, and increased pressures on water resources due to growing populations and agricultural expansion, water security is a growing issue. Sustainable forest management can be a potential solution. Financial incentives, such as payments for forest ecosystem services (PES) can encourage communities to engage in more sustainable land management activities.

In September 2015, at the World Forestry Congress in Durban, South Africa, a ‘Forests and Water Action Plan’ was launched advocating for increased recognition of integrated forest-water policies and practices, including PES mechanisms and improved monitoring and evaluation of forest-water interactions. Based on this Action Plan, FAO has developed a new ‘Forest and Water Programme’, which provides technical assistance to countries interested in the relationships between forests, trees and water, and which would like to establish policies and activities that will contribute to the SDGs.

Objectives
1. Increase awareness of forest-water interactions and the critical role trees and forests play in the hydrological cycle, particularly the regulation and provision of high-quality water for various uses.
2. Advocate for the integration of forests and water in practice and policy.
3. Expand the network of researchers, practitioners and policy-makers; generate dialogue regarding forest-water interactions; strengthen engagement in the Asia-Pacific region.

Outcomes
The event discussed the important issue of managing forests for water-related ecosystem services, such as erosion control and providing high-quality water. Specifically the event highlighted the scientific knowledge related to forest-water interactions; incentives for the sustainable management of forests and the water-related ecosystem services they provide; as well as how forests and water fit within the new SDGs.
Don Gilmour, a Fellow for RECOFTC, tried to debunk four prevalent ‘myths’ in popular narratives: forests increase water yield, forests reduce floods, forests increase base flows and forests reduce erosion. Although there is truth to these statements, Gilmour emphasized that there are specific contexts or limitations to the truth. To date, these simplified statements have been broadly applied in policy and practice and have not always garnered the expected results.

Due to greater pressures on water resources, growing populations, changes in land use and climate change, water is an increasingly important topic. Thomas Enters, Regional Technical Coordinator of UN-REDD (UNEP), stated that incentivizing local communities to sustainably manage their forests, including for water, is challenging. He reiterated that PES are defined as a voluntary transaction where a well-defined service is purchased from a provider that can prove that the service is being provided (conditionality). Enters emphasized that PES should be combined with command and control approaches, as well as the importance of regular monitoring to ensure ecosystem services are actually being provided, and improving if applicable. “We need to get the science right to have conditionality,” Enters concluded.

Conditionality is why Victoria Gutierrez, Chief Science Officer of WeForest, is incorporating scientific research in reforestation projects that aim to improve the livelihoods of local communities. A project in the East Khasi Hills of the Meghalaya region of India aims to study the impact of reforestation of degraded forests on water quality and quantity. It is an interesting case study as Meghalaya is the wettest region on the planet, experiencing more than 11 000 mm of precipitation, but has two months of drought.

Elaine Springgay, Forestry Officer at FAO, introduced the Forests and Water Action Plan to the Asia-Pacific region, highlighting its objective to integrate forest and water-related science, policy and practice. She concluded that due to the complexity of the forest-water topic, there needs to be a better understanding of forest-water interactions within different contexts and at different scales, and that this understanding needs to inform policy and practice. She also called for greater cross-sectoral engagement, particularly among the forestry, water and agriculture sectors. “FAO has launched a new Forest and Water programme, providing support to countries who would like to meet the targets for the Sustainable Development Goals 6 (water) and 15 (forests),” Springgay announced, inviting APFW participants to contribute to the Action Plan.
Session 6 focused on the power of communication to strategically raise awareness on the importance of gender equity, and to amplify the voices of indigenous and marginalized women in rural areas. The session highlighted the experiences of different actors working on forestry and gender equality (SDG 5) through strategic communication.

**Key considerations for gender-inclusive communications**

Gender-inclusive communications take into consideration the difference in information access and generation between men and women. Maria De Cristofaro – the Communications and Outreach Officer for the Forestry Department at FAO – noted that a ‘gender check’ is necessary for all communication products in order to avoid reinforcing discriminatory gender stereotypes. Maria further emphasized that when producing communication products, it is important to consider “where men and women meet and interact; how they acquire and communicate information; what kinds of media are used; and who listens to men and women.”

**Cases of gender-inclusive communications**

Numerous cases related to gender-inclusive communications were shared from a diverse range of actors during the session.

Ciput Purwianti from the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection of Indonesia shared her concern regarding the gap in implementation of Presidential Instruction 2000 on Gender Mainstreaming. Only with the piloting of gender-responsive planning and budgeting at the national level a decade later have concrete efforts been initiated to communicate and raise awareness on issues such as gendered e-learning for extension and service/workers. According to Ciput, “The Ministry has worked on empowerment and gender mainstreaming models at the grassroots level through an approach called Community Dialogue, which has been integrated with the Child Friendly School Programme, and with policies and actions related to climate change.”
Cynthia Maharani from CIFOR elaborated on their organizational strategy to mainstream gender into all of their research. CIFOR aims to improve the quality and volume of gender-responsive research, approaching gender integration as a cross-cutting theme. They hope to facilitate gender equality in decision-making, resource access and control, management and benefit sharing. Cynthia specifically mentioned, “CIFOR’s team offers support on gender sensitive indicators, and information on gendered methodologies. They also produce gender-specific publications looking at perceptions of men and women in natural resource management and develop indicators for mainstreaming gender in REDD and other policies.”

Joan Carling from AIPP also shared experiences regarding the adoption of an organizational gender policy in 2008. AIPP’s gender-inclusive communication strategy is being promoted to surface the unheard and untold stories of indigenous women. Joan emphasized, “AIPP sees women as agents of change and thence mainstreams their participation in our advocacy approach. We have produced a variety of knowledge products on indigenous women, lands, forests and food security in the form of videos, infographic posters, and publications.”

Februanty Suyatiningsih from RECOFTC (Indonesia office) addressed the gender-inclusive communication approach in the context of her REDD+ Grassroots Capacity Building Project, which provides an enabling environment to further enhance the capacities of participants, with a particular emphasis on women. Februanty highlighted that in her work “mainstreaming gender at all project levels includes initiatives that gather and communicate disaggregated data, guarantee a space and platform for women’s participation, and consider training venue and timing in order to accommodate women’s schedules.”

**Impacts at the community level**

Community representatives – Rupho Chodo from Thailand, and Yuliatin from Indonesia – shared their experiences as well during the session. Rupho, a member of the Karen ethnic minority from Chiang Mai Province elaborated on the key role of women in community forest management. Further, she discussed her recent work with indigenous women’s networks that advocate for the ancestral land rights of communities living in forest reserves.

Yuliatin discussed her participation in the REDD+ Grassroots Capacity Building Project, particularly her role as a local facilitator to raise awareness on issues of climate change. Despite initial resistance from her husband and other community members, she successfully worked to transfer knowledge through community institutions such as Islamic classes throughout her involvement in the project.

**Key messages**

Gender-inclusive communication is a powerful tool that can be strategically used to achieve gender equality and empowerment through increased women’s participation in SFM. Engaging men at different levels is also indispensable to achieve positive impacts. Good practices need to be widely shared, promoted and adopted in forestry institutions and organizations in the region so that gender equality policy can become a reality.
This session was facilitated by Ronnakorn Triraganon, Manager of Capacity Development and Technical Services at RECOFTC. Practical and realistic commitments are required from all stakeholders for the SDGs to be achieved. The session provided the venue for participatory inputs and by the end, participants had developed action plans and commitments for the coming years to ensure that forestry and people can support achievement of the SDGs.

Three speakers from Thailand, Cambodia and Malaysia shared their vastly different experiences with community forestry, and then the floor was opened for closing comments and questions.

Krirk Meemungkit, Thailand, a representative from a local community enterprise in Sa Kaeo Province: Krirk is involved with TreeBank, a CSO that aims to motivate farmers to grow trees on agricultural land and to gain assets from those trees by harvesting them when they are mature, despite an unclear tenure regime in Thailand. TreeBank also manages a database documenting and valuing the living trees of farmer groups and eventually aims to act as a financial institution so that trees can be treated as collateral for loans. This would help farmers that lack land tenure certificates, which are normally accepted by banks. As it currently stands, the law does not give people the opportunity to benefit from afforestation. Given their lack of tenure rights, government officers object when Krirk's community tries to cut their trees when they reach maturity. Therefore, Krirk issued a call to action for the government to change its perspective, adjust obstructive laws and support afforestation. He asserted that trees can help release communities from a cycle of poverty.

Long Ratanakoma, Cambodia, Deputy Director of the Department of Forest and Community Forestry, Forestry Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries: CF has been progressing in Cambodia for the last 23 years. Cambodia has nearly 499 CF sites recognized (as of 2015), comprising around 500,000 hectares, across 21 provinces. Ratanakoma asserted that CF development allows for stakeholder engagement, secure forest land tenure, strong
participation from local communities and CSO development. He also argued that CF contributes to climate change mitigation/adaptation, encourages respect for local people's rights, equitable benefit sharing, and capacity and knowledge development.

Still, more must be done for CF to address SDGs in Cambodia. He argued that the country needs policy reform to encourage local participation in forest management through a reduction of the royalty payment for the government; it also requires institutional strengthening (at all levels), sectoral integration and technical support (on CF management plans, CF business plans, NWFP processing). Finally, the country needs to encourage SMEs in CF, and to push for further legal recognition in practice.

Mashor Mohd Jaini, Malaysia, Head of Sustainable Forest Management, Sabah Forestry Department: In Malaysia forestry is under the jurisdiction of respective state governments (article 74 [2] of the Malaysian Constitution). The National Forestry Policy recognizes the vital role of forests for the welfare of communities and the national economy. And it aims to promote active local community involvement in various forestry development projects, to maintain involvement in agroforestry programmes and to develop a comprehensive programme in social/community forestry for the needs of rural and urban communities.

However, a number of issues related to CF remain. These include: conflicts over land tenure rights (forest law/enactment does not allow landownership within forest reserves and protected areas); joint forest management between community and relevant agencies is not yet fully explored, especially in the state's reserves; and the incorporation of traditional knowledge management has yet to be fully realized.

Still, Malaysia recognizes the vital role of CF as an instrument in SFM implementation and to achieve the SDGs.

Audience comments and questions

• What limits the achievement of SDGs through CF? Weak benefit sharing, weak tenure and low capacity (at various levels). We must secure ownership and stewardship which respects customary institutions including shifting cultivation. We must recognize interdependency between forestry and agriculture. Further, benefits need to flow to communities and community organizations. We also need to set standards to monitor implementation; and to facilitate communication across governments, CSOs and communities;

• CSOs have a critical role to play in linking governments with communities, especially in addressing land rights in forest reserve areas; and

• We must address ‘development projects’ and their encroachment on local and indigenous rights. We need affirmative pro-poor policy from the government, with mutual respect, mutual trust and mutual benefit. We need a movement for poor people, not a project approach.

Key messages

We all want to eradicate poverty, hunger and combat climate change effectively, reduce inequality and achieve gender equality and sustainably manage our natural resources – in other words we all want to achieve the SDGs. In the Asia-Pacific region, CF is key to achieving the above. Sadly, barriers are still being faced in CF delivery. Therefore, we must develop action plans and ‘ways forward’ – at various scales – to ensure that CF can work for the SDGs.
There are more than 80 million indigenous people in Asia practising shifting cultivation as part of forest conservation and management practices. This is integral to their cultural and spiritual well-being, including their food security. However, as Joan Carling pointed out, this sustainable practice is restricted if not prohibited, and the land rights of IPs are not fully recognized and/or protected. Further, small-scale farmers practising sustainable agroforestry for their food security also face insecurity with regard to their lands and livelihoods. The event speakers found it important to mainstream sustainable practices of IPs and farmers and initiate partnerships and collaboration to combat climate change and achieve the SDGs, particularly in ending poverty (goal 1), eradicating hunger (goal 2) and empowerment of women and girls (goal 5) based on the recognition and protection of their land rights and livelihoods.

During this event Edio P. Domino presented a case of IPs in the Philippines, ‘Indigenous Peoples and Shifting Cultivation in the Philippines: Palawan’s Case on Uma’ while Veronica Dung brought attention to indigenous women with her presentation ‘Roles and Contribution of Indigenous Women in Sustainable Forest Management’.
STREAM 4

NEW INSTITUTIONS, NEW GOVERNANCE

Stream Leaders:
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Pacific Community (SPC)
Rapid changes in economies, environmental conditions and social structures require that policies, institutions and sectoral governance are often required to undergo major transformations to meet new priorities and shifting demands. On the one hand, increasing wealth, lower poverty rates and greater access to information have, together with demands for social equity, stimulated moves to promote more participatory and devolved forms of governance. However, at the same time, dramatic deterioration in the extent and quality of forest resources in many countries has led to criticism and questioning of the roles, objectives and implementation capacities of many forestry agencies. In addition, processes of economic, social and technological transformation have created political imperatives to enforce major changes in policy objectives, the roles of government and the way the forestry sector is governed.

The Stream 4 opening plenary aimed to frame some of the key questions surrounding the need for re-invention of forestry institutions and new modes of governance. The plenary took the form of a panel discussion facilitated by Chun K. Lai with five panellists:

1. Eva Muller, Director of the Forestry Policy and Resources Division, FAO.
3. Dewi Bramono, Deputy Director of Sustainability and Stakeholder Engagement, Asia Pulp and Paper Group.
5. Andy White, Coordinator, Rights and Resources Initiative.

Eva Muller made an introductory presentation in which she outlined the need for a more holistic approach to forestry. She noted that rapid changes – especially societal and economic changes – drive a need for continuous reform and improvement of forest institutions and policies. Significant changes in recent times include: adoption of a broader and more cross-sectoral concept of SFM that recognizes that forests need to be managed with recognition of their interdependence with other sectors such as agriculture, water and energy; adoption of better governance practices; promotion of greater access to forests and decision-making; strengthened voluntary and market mechanisms, such as certification, PES, and legality verification; and integration of international agreements and conventions into forest management.
considerations. She noted that further transformation of the institutional framework will likely include the greater provision of incentivized solutions that provide positive incentives for behavioural changes. The way forward also demands new institutions and new governance mechanisms that fully recognize and account for the diversity of new forest users and their needs including development of multistakeholder mechanisms and partnerships that focus on participation and equity.

Marcial Amaro Jr. made a brief presentation giving a government perspective on aspects of forest governance. He noted that, in the Philippines, forestry is governed by Presidential Decree, which covers a broad sphere of forestry activities encompassing aspects including plantation establishment, establishment of wood-processing plants and incentives for an integrated wood product industry. However, the decree was issued in 1975 and since that time no new forestry laws have been legislated. The DENR has been working on a new law for 20 years, but to date has not succeeded in having draft bills passed into formal legislation. Nonetheless, some important reforms have taken place including revisions of national codes of practice, enactment of related legislation such as watershed management laws and various Executive Orders that have been issued. Nonetheless, forest areas and forest quality have generally continued to decline. In recent times, a two-pronged approach to arresting forest decline has been undertaken with some success. A national moratorium on logging has significantly limited forest clearance by industrial harvesting, while the National Greening Programme has resulted in significant afforestation.

Dewi Bramono gave an overview of how Asia Pulp and Paper (APP) conducts its operations and some key elements of private sector-government interactions to ensure good governance. For forest industries with large capital investments in forests and wood processing, land tenure and security of wood supplies are critical issues. A legislative framework that gives certainty in decision-making is critical to efficient operations – as is good governance at the corporate level. She noted that APP had recently launched its governance policy, which provides new perspectives on land management. In particular, for its Kalimantan concessions, which are surrounded by many stakeholders and supporting industries there is a need for strong multistakeholder approaches. Ensuring the health of forests and protecting areas identified for conservation from encroachment are important elements. She noted that companies can only do “so much” in terms of managing forests. There is a dependence of governments to establish frameworks and economies that encourage and enable companies to manage forests optimally and that governments and the private sector need to work together in a coordinated fashion to achieve this.

Marlea Pinor Muñez outlined some of the key impacts of forest governance issues on IPs. She noted that many policies remain oppressive to IPs – being fundamentally non-inclusive and myopic – resulting in their displacement and impoverishment. Forest policies need to be based around human rights and recognition that to disregard forest ecosystems is to disregard human rights. She pointed out that forest governance issues may endanger the very existence of IPs. A critical need is to raise the level of competence in forest governance – including enhancing transparency and encompassing participatory and multistakeholder approaches. She noted that many IPs are marginalized as beneficiaries but not as participants in forest management and forest policy development. For example, forest land-use planning is usually done by people who are not affected by the plans they establish.
while, conversely, poor land-use planning can have massive negative impacts for IPs. She also noted the need for IPs to be better supported to participate in markets and value chains – failures to enable and encourage these aspects lead to IPs being marginalized and driven out of their homelands.

Andy White addressed emerging opportunities to reform tenure. He noted that many institutions are in flux during the current period of dramatic upheaval. Right now is an exciting moment with lots of opportunities to bring the forestry sector into a new era with respect to human rights. A key issue is to maintain a realistic understanding of the current situation and how we got here. In general, there is a need for institutions to change because forestry has been a failure. Deforestation has ruined the lives of many people. He identified three major forces driving change: (i) citizens have had enough of being abused – having their lands taken away, being marginalized, being impoverished. There are growing demands for justice and recognition of people as individuals; (ii) consumers and investors are tired of losing money in forestry companies who suffer conflicts; and (iii) people are becoming increasingly more connected – social media and other tools are giving people a voice and helping to drive disruption where practices are unacceptable. In Asia, there are major opportunities right now to identify and establish rights of IPs including enacting new laws to support them. For example both India and Indonesia have established new laws recognizing customary rights and with increasing recognition that forest management needs to reflect human rights.

A brief question and answer session focused mainly around questions related to whether rights should be balanced against people’s capacities to manage their forests and how wider law enforcement agencies can be convinced to promote SFM.

The panellists noted that ownership does not hinge on capacity and knowledge. Almost everyone is born into an immediate capital inheritance, but with zero capacity to manage it. Rights need to be respected and protected. Additionally, many communities may not have formal knowledge of scientific forestry and planning procedures, but they often have great knowledge of local environments and traditional ways that are effective management tools in local contexts. Several basic principles should be applied: (i) the need to recognize a difference between ownership of land and regulation of land use; (ii) the need to give communities time, including allowing to learn by failing and allowing them to grow; and (iii) governments need to be smart in how they regulate to ensure they establish conditions that encourage and enable IPs to succeed, including providing mentoring and coaching.

The panellists noted that bureaucracies tend to be slow to react and change and there are limits to what governments can do to promote SFM. The private sector can help governments in establishing protective measures against land degradation and promoting sustainable management.
The key objective of the event was to provide an opportunity for policy-makers, development workers, academics and researchers to share experiences and discuss forest policies and governance in Asia using the reference of the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) on 'Strengthening Forest Tenure for Sustaining Livelihoods and Generating Income' that has been implemented in Cambodia, Nepal and Viet Nam. In addition, the plenary discussed opportunities and challenges in advancing forest tenure and suggested some pragmatic recommendations to move forward. More than 70 participants from various organizations and countries participated in the event. Yam Malla from IUCN Nepal was the moderator.

At the beginning, Yurdi Yasmi from FAO-RAP provided an introductory overview of FAO’s TCP and a summary of the outcomes so far achieved from the TCP intervention.

Ganga Ram Dahal, an international consultant on forest tenure policy, provided a global and regional overview on the status and trends of forest tenure and its impact on the ground.

While sharing the country experiences, Long Ratanakoma from the Forestry Administration in Cambodia, Phadindra Pokharel from the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation in Nepal, and Vu Tan Phuong from the Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences presented the key results of TCP work in their respective countries. Some of the key highlights of the country presentations are as follows:

- Community forestry (CF) in Nepal and Cambodia, and Forests and Forest Land Allocation in Viet Nam have huge economic potentials to improve the livelihoods of forest-dependent people, however due to regulatory barriers and insecure tenure such potentials have not been fully explored yet;
Current policies favour large-scale land acquisition and forest land concessions in Cambodia, expansion of protected areas in Nepal and Viet Nam, undermining the rights of smallholders’ local communities whose livelihoods depend on forests; Policies and regulations are largely ineffective in resolving existing conflicts caused by overlapping claims by local communities and concessionaires in Cambodia; claims over customary forest and forest land by ethnic communities in Viet Nam; and Current policies and regulations do not widely support the expansion of CF in pilot countries. For example, the CF registration process in Cambodia is too complicated and lengthy, forest allocation/forest land allocation in Viet Nam is limited to production forest zones and CF in Nepal is mainly restricted to the mid-hills despite having the potential for expansion in the lowlands (the Terai region).

The results among the three countries were quite different. Overall, Nepal and Viet Nam possess relatively stronger tenure policies than Cambodia although in those countries a few aspects still need to be further strengthened, e.g. the role and responsibility of the state and non-state actors and administration of tenure. In Cambodia, tenure policies seem to be relatively weak. Four areas need serious attention such as legal allocation and transfer of tenure rights, gender equity and access to justice. Tenure policies still do not provide a strong basis for local people to benefit from the management of forests. In Cambodia, policies tend to favour large-scale land acquisition and forest land concessions. In Nepal, regulatory barriers limit the potential extraction of timber and development of forest-based enterprises in community and leasehold forests. In Viet Nam, forest land allocation is limited to production and plantation areas, but economically viable natural forests in protection zones are not allocated to local communities and households. In all three countries forests allocated to local people are in poor condition. Current policies do not adequately address customary rights such as the rights of ethnic minorities and IPs, resulting in conflicts.

Policy recommendations

- Formulate and revise policies and regulations to enable local people to fully benefit from forest resources;
- Formulate or revise policies and regulations to support the expansion of community ownership and management and consider the ‘community’ as a legal entity. Policies should ensure that communities can obtain access to forests and forest land of good quality to benefit from forest management; and
- Put in place resources, such as financial and human resources, knowledge and skills required for the implementation of tenure policies.
The Young Foresters’ Summit gathered youth, students and professionals to discuss the role of youth in the attainment of SFM in the Asia-Pacific region. The International Forestry Students’ Association-led event was presided over by the Overall Youth Events Coordinator, Maria Paula Sarigumba. She discussed why the IFSA made an effort to organize the Young Foresters’ Summit and share stories during the planning stages.

The Dean of the College of Forest and Natural Resources of the University of the Philippines at Los Baños, Willie P. Abasolo, opened the event and acknowledged the organizing team of the IFSA for making it possible to help students voice their concerns on the global and regional status of forestry education and CF. He also expanded on how the younger generation uses present technology like social media in communicating their ideas and providing possible solutions to existing problems. They have the idealism and flexibility that is needed to move forward.

Afterwards, Tommy Valdez, President of the Society of Filipino Foresters Inc. (SFFI), also provided his welcoming remarks to the participants and discussed relevant activities that the DENR is implementing like Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) and the Philippine Forest Certification System. In ending his speech, he posed a question to the participants, “When given the chance to lead, what will you do? Will you just observe or be a forester?”

This was followed by the presentations of young foresters and practitioners. Magdalena Lackner, Coordinator of the IUFRO-IFSA Joint Task Force on Forest Education, which covers work packages for graduate thesis and studies, explored ways on how to improve global forest education.

Subsequently, the Coordinator for ‘Social Inclusion and Gender Equity’ of RECOFTC, Ratchada Arpornsilp, presented the importance of youth in developing CF. Part of her presentation addressed the qualities of youth such as their fresh mind-sets on forestry. She also explained the key challenges which hinder the continuous empowerment of youth like the lack of funding support and resistance among senior members of the forestry sector to incorporate youth. In light of these challenges and opportunities, the role of youth was highlighted in order to groom future decision-makers and designers of sustainable forestry.
Next, Wing Tuen Veronica Leung, IFSA Asia-Pacific Regional Representative, shared information on forestry in Taiwan Province of China (POC). The presentation revolved around the characteristics of the forestry sector in her country. These include restoration/conservation efforts and the challenges they face. She hoped that “the youth will be engaged more in forestry to make Taiwan POC a better place.”

As a proof of the significant contribution that youth can provide for forest restoration and conservation efforts, the Pulangiyan Youth Foresters from Bendum, Bukidnon, the Philippines exemplify the traits of youths who wants to make a change for the future of their communities. They presented their conservation interventions within their ancestral lands. They learned forestry in an unconventional way, not within a classroom but through practising forestry in the field. These youth leaders train members of the local community, including out-of-school youth, on forest practices such as assisted natural regeneration and stream bank management and restoration. These efforts are made possible through awareness and appreciation campaigns on the relevance of the forest ecosystems to the community and the strengthening of the communication of their elders with the youth.

After the presentations, a workshop was conducted which was led by May Anne Then, President of the IFSA. This involved the younger generation’s conception of a forester, reflection on their current and future roles in forests and their vision on forestry and forest education in the region for the next 20 years. This was accomplished through an art-inspired session on foresters today and through the creation of a major headline in a magazine that focuses on youths’ major accomplishments for the next 20 years.

The event was concluded by an inspirational speech by Patrick Dugan, the ‘Champion of Asia-Pacific Forests’. He was impressed by the efforts of today’s youth and their dedication in helping to provide a better future not only in the Asia-Pacific region but also in every region in the world.
EMERGING GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS IN ASEAN: SUPPORTING IMPROVED STANDARDS AND CONFORMANCE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR FOREST SECTOR LEGALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

Organizers: ASEAN Working Group on Pan ASEAN Timber Certification Initiative (PATCI), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

Introduction

This side event brought together relevant stakeholders across the Asia-Pacific region to discuss country initiatives and needs to support ‘Standards and Conformance Infrastructure’ (SCI) including scheme managers, accreditation, standards, certification and independent or government auditors. The overall framework for the side event included forest governance, trade facilitation, economic integration and market access elements of ASEAN’s ‘Vision and Strategic Plan for Cooperation in the Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sector’.

It brought together national and international practitioners involved in forestry sector verification ‘systems’ including voluntary certification and Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs). The objective was to consult stakeholders on country progress and to inform the design of a possible regional programme in support of better and more multipurpose SCI in ASEAN. Without providing official and comprehensive country positions, interested stakeholders had the opportunity to share experiences among actors facilitating the trade in/of legal or sustainable forest products across the region and beyond.
Stakeholders reflected on the status of current initiatives and the development of potential synergies leading to more robust, cost-effective and accessible verification systems in support of better forest governance and wider market access. The event demonstrated that ASEAN provides a solid framework to facilitate experience sharing and mutual assistance among countries with varying capacities and progress towards the establishment of robust SCI. ASEAN could also provide the right vehicle to promote synergies among systems.

Over 60 participants came together from 17 countries, all ASEAN + 6 were present (except Brunei, Cambodia, Singapore and India). Participants used a framework defining components of the SCI for the three main forestry sector verification systems to develop country reports.
### Country group work reports

#### 1. ASEAN member states

**Indonesia**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components</th>
<th>Activities and needs (PEFC, FSC, VPA)</th>
<th>Existing/planned synergies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Accreditation bodies**        | • SVLK-KAN (INDO-Timber Legality Assurance System /Sistem Verifikasi Legalitas Kayu (SVLK)) – Indonesia’s National Accreditation Committee (KAN);  
• Indonesian Forestry Certification Cooperation (IFCC)/ PEFC-IAF (ACCREDA- Italian National Accreditation Body);  
• Accreditation Services International (FSC-ASI) ; and  
• The Indonesian Eco-labelling Institute (LEI-LEI). | Possibility: SVLK-IFCC  
Possibility: SVLK- FSC/ASI |
| **Scheme managers**             | • SVLK: Multistakeholders (managed by the government);  
• PEFC-IFCC (PEFC National Governing Body);  
• FSC-Standard Development Group (managed by LEI, approved by FSC); and  
• LEI-LEI. | Possibility: SVLK- IFCC  
Possibility: SVLK- FSC  
FSC-LEI |
| **Legality standards**          | • SVLK-VLK;  
• PEFC-controlled sources;  
• FSC-controlled wood;  
• LEI-CoC/PHAPL, PHTL, PHBML;  
• LEI-PHAPL: Sustainable Production Natural Forest Management Certification;  
• LEI-PHTL: Sustainable Plantation Forest Management Certification;  
• LEI-PHBML: Sustainable Community-based Forest Management; and  
• FSC Controlled Wood National Risk Assessment in progress. | Possibility: SVLK-IFCC  
Possibility: SVLK- FSC  
FSC-LEI |
| **Sustainability standards (SS)** | • SVLK-PHPL;  
• PEFC-IFCC Forestry Management (FM);  
• FSC-NFSS (ongoing process in Indonesia); and  
• LEI-PHAPL, PHTL, PHBML. | Possibility: SVLK-IFCC  
Possibility: SVLK- FSC  
FSC-LEI |
| **Chain of custody (CoC) requirements** | • SVLK-VLK;  
• PEFC-CoC;  
• FSC-CoC; and  
• LEI-CoC. | Possibility: SVLK-IFCC  
Possibility: SVLK- FSC  
FSC-LEI |
| **Certification bodies (CBs)**   | • SVLK, more than 20 CBs accredited;  
• PEFC/IFCC-FM (2 CBs), CoC (+/- 5 CBs);  
• FSC: FM (6 CBs), CoC (9 CBs); and  
• LEI-FM (3 CBs), CoC (3 CBs). | Possibility: All CBs  
as long as they are accredited |
| **Auditors (independent, government)** | • Independent | Possibility: All CBs |
| **System auditors, independent monitors** | • SVLK independent monitoring;  
• PEFC/IFCC endorsement;  
• FSC: ASI, disputes; and  
• LEI- DPS (Certification Evaluation Council). | Possibility: Independent monitoring network |
### Lao PDR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components</th>
<th>Activities and needs (PEFC, FSC, VPA)</th>
<th>Existing/planned synergies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Accreditation bodies** | • Science + technology accreditation focal point under ASEAN;  
• Including accreditation capacity;  
• Focus on product stands, e.g. classification for timber in construction; and  
• ASI. | • MOU Viet Nam-Lao PDR (ABs);  
• Work with ACCSQ (Viet Nam);  
• National accreditation and standard development under Department of Standard and Methodology; and  
• Timber Export Standard 1415/DOIH.MOIC. |
| **Scheme managers** | • National Steering Committee, national expert group;  
• FLEGT standing office;  
• Future verification entity for TLAS;  
• Capacity development on decision-making; and  
• Potential FSC National Standard Development Group. | • Use certification and FLEG consultation. |
| **Legality standards** | • Draft legality definition for log 1-3 in production under the thematic expert groups;  
• Projects for testing legality (TLAS pilot provinces);  
• Use CoC and due diligence; and  
• FSC Controlled Wood National Risk Assessment in progress. | • FLEGT Legality Definition+Association+ CoC/FSC Certification;  
• Timber Export Standard 1415/DOIH.MOIC;  
• Product Standard 2005 under DIMEX.MOIC;  
• FSC Interim forestry management standard/Rainforest Alliance; and  
• National COC Standard under the development of DOIH/MOIC. |
| **Sustainability standards** | • SUFORD developing a national standard based on control wood;  
• Interim FSC (CB) standard and full national standard; and  
• Develop national standard. | • National voluntary standard to prepare for FLEGT;  
• Develop steering group; and  
• Implementation of SUFORD Phase II. |
| **Chain of custody requirements** | • Forest products;  
• NWFPs; and  
• Improve use of due diligence/CoC for smallholder plantations. | • FLEGT Steering Group |
| **Certification bodies** | • At the moment only overseas auditors;  
• Expensive because of no national auditors; and  
• Viet Nam + Thailand independent auditors for plantations. | • Association functions;  
• Government expert group;  
• FSC, PEFC, FLEGT auditors; and  
• Support certification bodies to train national auditors. |
| **Auditors (independent, government)** | • Train national independent auditors and government officers. | • Association;  
• Government expert group;  
• FSC, PEFC, FLEGT auditors; and  
• State Auditing Organization under the Prime Minister’s Office. |
| **System auditor** | N/A | N/A |
## Malaysia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components</th>
<th>Activities and needs (PEFC, FSC, VPA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accreditation bodies</td>
<td>• Accredited national systems; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• ASI.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheme managers</td>
<td>• Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC); and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• FSC Malaysia National Office and National Standard Development Group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legality standards</td>
<td>• Legality definition developed through VPA negotiation. Currently available and implemented by relevant authorities (3 regional TLAS documents but with similar requirements);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• VPA negotiation ongoing, will require capacity development/training of auditors to VPA requirements if no synergy developed with existing certification schemes; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• FSC Controlled Wood National Risk Assessment in progress.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainability standards</td>
<td>• MTCS – support for implementation of group certification, especially for smallholders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chain of custody requirements</td>
<td>• MTCC CoC; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• FSC CoC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certification bodies</td>
<td>• International and national accredited systems;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• More CBs can provide audit services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditors (independent, government)</td>
<td>• Capacity development, e.g. training for potential auditors, internal auditors/ FMU managers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System auditors, independent monitors</td>
<td>• When the VPA/FLEGT licence is up and running, no auditors.</td>
</tr>
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## Myanmar

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components</th>
<th>Activities and needs (PEFC, FSC, VPA)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accreditation bodies</td>
<td>• Ministry of Science and Technology, Department of Research Innovations; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• ASI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheme managers</td>
<td>• Myanmar Forest Certification Committee (MFCC); and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Potential FSC National Standard Development Group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legality standards</td>
<td>• Criteria and Indicators for Legality of Timber in 2009 (MTLAS); and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• FSC Controlled Wood National Risk Assessment in progress.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainability standards</td>
<td>• Criteria and Indicators of Forest Management in 2007 (being revised).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chain of custody requirements</td>
<td>• CoC requirements; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• FSC CoC certificates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certification bodies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditors (independent, government)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System auditors, independent monitors</td>
<td>• Not available, need to be trained</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Philippines

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components</th>
<th>Activities and needs (PEFC, FSC, VPA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accreditation bodies</strong></td>
<td>• Philippine Accreditation Bureau-Department of Trade and Industry (PAB-DTI). It is an IAF member, to be involved in the forestry sector; and • ASI.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scheme managers</strong></td>
<td>• Philippines Forest Certification System (PFCS); • Interim NGB: Government and non-government; • Due diligence system DTI-CFIP (The Department of Trade and Industry [DTI]) – Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines (CFIP); and • Potential FSC National Standard Development Group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legality standards</strong></td>
<td>• PEFC COC; • FSC-controlled wood; and • FLEGT/TLAS (TLAS: Drafted standards for finalization).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sustainability standards</strong></td>
<td>• Drafted by the Forest Development Centre under FMB support.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chain of custody requirements</strong></td>
<td>• Certification bodies to be accredited; • FSC CoC; and • Can be created, adoption of PEFC-CoC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Certification bodies</strong></td>
<td>• Many available auditors (SGS).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Auditors (independent, government)</strong></td>
<td>• Training of potential auditors; and • Need training for forestry auditors.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Thailand

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components</th>
<th>Activities and needs (PEFC, FSC, VPA)</th>
<th>Existing/planned synergies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accreditation bodies</strong></td>
<td>• National Standardization Council: Enhanced capacity development in the forestry sector; • Cooperation activity for FLEGT; and • ASI.</td>
<td>• Use third-party accreditation in FLEGT.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scheme managers</strong></td>
<td>• Thailand Forest Certification Council (TFCC)/ The Federation of Thailand Industries (FTI): Develop TISI 14061 (SFM system) and implement to international standards; and • Potential FSC National Standard Development Group.</td>
<td>• National scheme that is recognized by all (PEFC, FSC, FLEGT, VPA).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legality standards</strong></td>
<td>• Royal Forest Department (RFD)/FLEGT; • FSC-controlled wood; and • FSC Controlled Wood National Risk Assessment in progress.</td>
<td>• Accreditation bodies &amp; RB work together to support FLEGT.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sustainability standards</strong></td>
<td>• TISI-developed TIS 14061: Programmer recognized by RFD for SME, training.</td>
<td>• RFD and Thai Industries Standards Institute (TISI) 14061 (SFM) used in the plantation law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chain of custody requirements</strong></td>
<td>• TISI-developed TISI standards for CoC training for all stakeholders; and • FSC CoC.</td>
<td>• Mutual recognition agreement for CoC in product certification by CBs of the region.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Certification bodies</strong></td>
<td>• Develop local CB training for good practice.</td>
<td>• Develop accredited CBs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Components</td>
<td>Activities and needs (PEFC, FSC, VPA)</td>
<td>Existing/planned synergies</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Auditors (independent, government)</td>
<td>• Training/workshops for certification.</td>
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<tr>
<td>System auditors, independent monitors</td>
<td>• Training/workshops in line with international standards.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Viet Nam**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components</th>
<th>Activities and needs (PEFC, FSC, VPA)</th>
<th>Existing/planned synergies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accreditation bodies</td>
<td>• Capacity development for scheme managers;</td>
<td>• Signatories to IAF MRA (QMS, products, FSMS).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Capacity development for assessors for accreditation of CBs/auditors; and</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• ASI.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheme managers (VFCC)</td>
<td>• Training for scheme managers/standard development group (standard setting, procedures of implementation and administration etc.);</td>
<td>• VFCS was approved (decision 83, Jan. 2016) – VNForest/VAFS;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Standard development for SFM;</td>
<td>• Establish National Forest Certification Council (VFCC);</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Development of technical regulations &amp; certification procedures;</td>
<td>• Mobilizing funding support for starting VFCS;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Promotion of VFCS;</td>
<td>• Promotion of national network;</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>• Implementing VFCS;</td>
<td>• FSC Vietnamese National Standard approved by end 2016.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Effective monitoring system (including complaints mechanism);</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• National network development; and</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• FSC National Standard Development Group.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legality standards</td>
<td>• Stakeholder consultations of standard on SFM;</td>
<td>• Initial work on gaps analysis of standard in Circular 38 – FCS-based standard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• National approval of the standard;</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• FSC Controlled Wood National Risk Assessment in progress.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainability standards</td>
<td>• National standard endorsed by PEFC.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chain of custody requirements</td>
<td>• Adoption of existing CoC standard (link to TLAS/VPA); and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• FSC CoC (481 certificates).</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Certification bodies</td>
<td>• Capacity assessment of existing &amp; potential CBs;</td>
<td>• Assessing existing CB capacity;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Capacity development for key CBs with focus on forestry; and</td>
<td>• Capacity development plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Support an enabling environment for CBs.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Auditors (independent, government)</td>
<td>• Training on standards &amp; procedures;</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Capacity development for national auditors.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>System auditors, independent monitors</td>
<td>• Independent, government; and</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Development of monitoring systems (including complaints mechanism).</td>
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</table>
## 2. ASEAN +6

### Australia/New Zealand

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components</th>
<th>Activities and needs (PEFC, FSC, VPA)</th>
<th>Existing/planned synergies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accreditation bodies</td>
<td>• Joint Accreditation System of Australia (JAS-ANZ) PEFC endorsement;</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Provide services for Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific; and</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• ASI.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scheme managers</td>
<td>• AFS – Australian Forest System – recognized by PEFC;</td>
<td>• FSC New Zealand National Standard approved 2012; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• FSC Australia National Office; and</td>
<td>• FSC Australia National Standard approval mid-2016.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• FSC New Zealand.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legality standards</td>
<td>• Australian regulation;</td>
<td>• Use CoC DDS for countries without FLEGT, e.g. Australia into PNG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• EUTR; and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• FSC Controlled Wood National Risk Assessments in place for Australia and New Zealand.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainability standards</td>
<td>• PEFC/FSC.</td>
<td>• Build sustainability standard for the Pacific.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chain of custody</td>
<td>• 14 CBs.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>requirements</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Certification bodies</td>
<td></td>
<td>• PEFC; and</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• EUTR/Australia Illegal Logging Regulation.</td>
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### China

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<th>Components</th>
<th>Activities and needs (PEFC, FSC, VPA)</th>
<th>Existing/planned synergies</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accreditation bodies</td>
<td>• CNAS – China National Accreditation Services; and</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• ASI.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scheme managers</td>
<td>• CFCC – China Forest Certification Scheme; and</td>
<td>• FSC China National Standard approval mid-2016.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• FSC China National Office.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legality standards</td>
<td>• FSC China National Standard process approved; and</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• FSC Controlled Wood National Risk Assessment in progress.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainability standards</td>
<td>• CFCC.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chain of custody</td>
<td>• CFCC CoC; and</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>requirements</td>
<td>• FSC CoC (4 296 certificates).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certification bodies</td>
<td>• 8-10 CFCC; and</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• FSC accredited CBs (10).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auditors (independent,</td>
<td>• 380.</td>
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<tr>
<td>government)</td>
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<tr>
<td>System auditors,</td>
<td>• Complementary systems for the CFCC.</td>
<td>• ASIA and ISEAL national standard that is independent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>independent monitors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Components</td>
<td>Activities and needs (PEFC, FSC, VPA)</td>
<td>Existing/planned synergies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accreditation bodies</td>
<td>• Japan Accreditation Board (JAB); and</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• ASI.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scheme managers</td>
<td>• SGEC – Sustainable Green Eco-system Council; and</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• FSC Japan National Office.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legality standards</td>
<td>• GOHO; and</td>
<td>• SGEC.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• FSC Controlled Wood National Risk Assessment approved.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainability standards</td>
<td>• SGEC; and</td>
<td>• Use of FLEGT for risk mitigation (recognition of FLEGT licences).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• FSC Japan: National standard is approved.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chain of custody</td>
<td>• SGEC CoC; and</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>requirements</td>
<td>• FSC CoC (1 044 certificates).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certification bodies</td>
<td>• 3; and</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• 6 FSC CAB.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auditors (independent,</td>
<td>• 20.</td>
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<tr>
<td>government)</td>
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<tr>
<td>System auditors,</td>
<td>• Complementary systems: SGEC.</td>
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<td>independent monitors</td>
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### Republic of Korea

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components</th>
<th>Activities and needs (PEFC, FSC, VPA)</th>
<th>Existing/planned synergies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accreditation bodies</td>
<td>• Korean Accreditation System (KAS)/Korean Accreditation Board (KAB);</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• KAS is a member of IAF; and</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• ASI.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scheme managers</td>
<td>• Korean Forest Certification Council (KFCC); and</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Potential FSC National Standard Development Group.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Legality standards</td>
<td>• FSC Controlled Wood National Risk Assessment in progress.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainability standards</td>
<td>• KFCC.</td>
<td>• Use of FLEGT for risk mitigation (recognition of FLEGT licences).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chain of custody</td>
<td>• KFCC; and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>requirements</td>
<td>• FSC CoC (256).</td>
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</table>

### 3. Follow up/next steps

- Develop a PEFC Concept Note which outlines activities that should be supported for pre-emergent, emerging and mature countries;
- Develop an FAO Concept Note for Regional Support to ‘Improved Compatibility and Synergies between Forestry Standards and Conformance Infrastructure in the ASEAN Region’;
• Report to the ASEAN Secretariat on the outcome of this side event including different concept notes and identify relevant ASEAN structure to lead future support actions and to liaise with relevant organizations involved to continue supporting the development of standards and conformance infrastructure and synergies between initiatives or systems; and

• Countries should continue consolidating the initial analysis and complete the list of current actors, needs and potential synergies to improve the quality of infrastructure.
This session aimed to raise awareness and promote the notion that effective communication is a critical means of not only allowing forestry people and the public to understand the value of forests in our society, but also a means of seeking needed changes for the benefit of people and forests. The session aimed to address the urgent need for the forestry sector to communicate forest issues more effectively, and to use appropriate communication approaches to more effectively reach key target audiences.

The session brought together more than 60 APFW participants, including government, international organization, NGO, UN and CSO communication officers and practitioners working to promote sustainable forests in Asia and beyond.

Participants learned about what works in forest communication through discussions with top communication experts. By the end of this session, participants had learned how different kinds of
communication approaches – participatory development communication and working with mass media – can contribute towards different kinds of forest programme goals.

The host of the session as well as a key speaker was Veronica Pedrosa, a veteran of 20 years’ international news experience as a correspondent and anchor for BBC, CNN and Al Jazeera. Pedrosa started the session by telling the audience that “You forest people are terrible communicators!” and that “Forest issues are boring.” She then posed the question, “How can we make them more exciting?” Her session, entitled ‘People, Forests and Their Stories’ focused on making forest issues more interesting. She provided examples of interesting forest news stories in her career: Borneo’s burning forests and arts of the forest. Pedrosa then discussed how to format a story for the media (the content pyramid), emphasizing the need for a strong start and hook, such as a strong statistic or something new and surprising. She also urged the need to formulate a very clear key message, saying that “if people don’t know what you are up to, they won’t play along.”

The next part focused on participatory development communication (PDC) and was presented in the form of a participatory drama. It was led by volunteers from the Asia-Pacific Forest Communicators Network, along with Guy Bessette, formerly a programme specialist for the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and author of People, land and water: participatory development communication for natural resource management, and Winifredo Dagli and Maria Stella Tirol, from the College of Development Communication, University of the Philippines at Los Baños. The presenters acted out key components of a PDC strategy through role plays. One role play depicted dissemination of information products to communities who were expected to adopt them by development practitioners wanting to ‘push’ their products to communities resulting in little impact. Alternatively, another role play shifted the focus from informing people to facilitating exchanges between stakeholders. The exchanges enabled participants to address a common problem and discuss a joint initiative. The role plays showed how the focus is not on information to be disseminated by experts to local communities. Rather, it is on horizontal communication processes that enable local communities to identify their development needs and the specific actions that could help to fulfil those needs. Bessette wrapped up with an overview on the three main phases of PDC: understanding, relating and researching; formulating and developing the strategy; and validating and organizing. He cautioned that “We have to do the homework and understand the structure of power in the community we are working in, and who in the community represents whom” and ended by saying that PDC supports “shifting the centre of power to communities.”
Next was the ‘Ask Dr Comms’ panel, where audience members were invited to bring their communication ‘ailments’ to global communication specialists and members of the Global Forest Communication Network – Kay Montgomery, Caroline Liou, Kai Lintunen, Patricia Sfeir, Ingwald Gschwandtl, Raul Perez Albrecht and Maria De Cristofaro. Audience members actively brought their communication challenges to the panel, including questions on how to monitor and evaluate communication projects and activities; what are effective ways to communicate internally within the forestry sector; how to handle conflict with the government on sensitive issues; and what are effective ways of reaching local people.

Kai Lintunen, European Forest Communication Network, Communication Manager, Finnish Forest Association, Finland then gave a presentation on forest communication challenges and opportunities. He gave an overview of the explosive growth in social media platforms and advised that while networking can and should include social networking online, communicators must form strong bonds and differentiate themselves from the pack, and that there is no substitute for connecting in person.

The session wrapped up with an overview of the successes of the European Forest Communication Network, in a presentation by Ingwald Gschwandtl, FAO/UNECE Network Director, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Austria. Caroline Liou from the Asia-Pacific Forest Communication Network (APFCN) then appealed to the audience to join the APFCN and closed the session.
During 2014, FAO undertook an assessment of current uses and opportunities to strengthen the use of C&I for SFM at different levels in Asia. A regional workshop on C&I was held in April 2015, hosted by the Philippines, focusing on:

• Using C&I to facilitate SFM practices;
• Using C&I to enhance assessment and monitoring in the context of REDD+, FLEGT and forest certification; and
• Using C&I to strengthen results-based policy-making (and monitoring).

Outcomes of the Asia regional workshop on strengthening C&I for SFM in policy and practice and follow-up work

In his keynote presentation Thang Hooi Chew emphasized that in Asia C&I have been used as a tool for achieving a common understanding of SFM, in planning, implementing and monitoring results, for working in partnerships and in increasing participation; and they have helped to enhance accountability and transparency. He presented the key recommendations of the Asia regional C&I workshop to strengthen the use of C&I in policy, monitoring and practice as follows:

• Link different regional C&I initiatives and promote global partnership to facilitate C&I in policy;

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1 Documents and presentations from the C&I workshop in Manila can be found at: fao.org/forestry/ci/89189/en/.
• Facilitate policy dialogue with other sectors and empower local communities in monitoring;
• Foster harmonization of C&I data sets and demonstrate value and governance in the use of C&I;
• Simplify, harmonize and streamline international reporting formats with a few common core indicators;
• Harmonize impact monitoring for various initiatives (SFM, legality, REDD+) involving governments and development partners;
• Enhance synergies and compatibility between VPA-TLAS and voluntary certification systems (standards, PCI and assurance systems); and
• Provide capacity development for various stakeholders to strengthen the uptake and use of C&I.

The outcomes from the workshop together with those in Latin America, Africa and the Near East have contributed to a vision and roadmap for ‘Mobilizing the Full Potential of C&I for SFM in Policy and Practice: The Way Forward’ which was presented at the World Forestry Congress Global Forest Indicator Forum, held on 8 September 2015 in Durban, South Africa. Ten actions were also proposed for moving forward mobilization of the full potential of C&I for SFM to promote and demonstrate SFM (see http://www.fao.org/forestry/ci/90348/en/).

Hooi Chew also informed the audience that FAO has been working with other bodies on a set of indicators on SFM for the SDGs, in particular SDG 15.2 which will be discussed by the UN Statistics Commission in early March 2016. Furthermore, a global C&I workshop is being organized in May by FAO, the Montreal Process, ITTO and FOREST EUROPE, hosted by Canada. A C&I event is also planned to be held at the COFO/World Forest Week in July 2016.

Plenary discussion and way forward

In the plenary discussion facilitated by Chun Lai, three distinguished panellists were invited to discuss follow-up actions and needs from different perspectives:
• Using C&I to facilitate SFM practices (panellist: David Gritten, RECOFTC);
• Using C&I to enhance assessment and monitoring in the context of REDD+, FLEGT and forest certification (panellist: Andrew Haywood, EFI REDD Facility); and
• Using C&I to strengthen results-based policy-making (and monitoring) (panellist: Md. Yunus Ali, Bangladesh Forest Department).

This was followed by a discussion with participants. Key aspects highlighted in the plenary discussion on the way forward were:
• Criteria could be used more strongly at the policy level, while indicators are highly relevant at field/operational levels;
• The sets of C&I used currently for SFM, etc. need to be reduced in number for them be practical and effective for use in CF management; and
• The sets of C&I used currently for SFM need to be expanded if they are to be useful and capture REDD+, FLEGT and forest management certification processes.
Event description

The objective of the event was to provide a forum for countries, the private sector and development partners in the Asia-Pacific region that are experimenting with innovative ways to align and strengthen financial and institutional frameworks to share experiences, achievements, lessons and remaining challenges.

The event was able to raise ample interest in the APFW and was attended by a large audience (60, excluding the panellists). It was facilitated by Yurdi Yasmi, Forestry Officer, FAO RAP Bangkok. The agenda was:

a) Introduction and overview: Yurdi Yasmi, Forestry Officer, FAO RAP

b) Opening remarks: Abdullah Al Mohsin Chowdhury, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Bangladesh

c) Country-level experiences
   - Bangladesh Country Investment Plan (CIP): S.M. Mahboob, FAO-BD;
   - Philippines National Greening Program, Marcial Amaro, Jr., Director, DENR; and
   - Nepal Community Governance, Yam Malla, IUCN Nepal.

d) International cooperation perspectives
   - Ottilie Mooshofer, GIZ; and
   - Heru Prasetyo, former Chief of REDD+ Institution, Indonesia

e) Moderated Q&A.

Presentation on Bangladesh CIP

The presentation of Bangladesh's EFCC CIP included the following: rationale for a CIP for EFCC, CIP concepts, CIP contents (first draft) and CIP's potential contributions in improving governance. Based on the presentation, the audience addressed three specific topics:
1. The rationale for deciding upon four pillars of the CIP, knowing that the pillars are not mutually exclusive and can have cross-cutting impact amongst themselves. It was explained to the audience how the country perspectives and scopes of potential activities led to the identification of four pillars.

2. Whether enhanced coordination among the stakeholders will be possible given the bureaucracy existing in South Asia. It was explained that improved coordination has potential given the changing world and times. Also experiences from the CIP tell us that better coordination and communication are possible if an appropriate platform and incentives are provided to government agencies.

3. Participation of the private sector in improving governance in the public sector. This was rather a common question for the whole plenary and participants discussed it from their own perspectives.

Otherwise, representatives from the Centre for International Development and Training (CIDT) of the University of Wolverhampton showed their interest by meeting personally with participants after the event. They indicated that they had helped the Government of Rwanda in preparing a similar Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy (GGCRS) and can also extend assistance in the CIP development process as well as capacity-development activities on forest governance.

**Donor perspectives**

The GIZ representative emphasized that improved coordination is a necessity not only among government agencies, but also among the donors working in a country to avoid duplication of investments and getting good results for money invested. The former Indonesian REDD+ chief shared many of his experiences and commented that having good data over a period of time as well as continuous monitoring are critical factors for successful governance.
TENURE/LAND RIGHTS AND FOOD SECURITY: ‘OUR RIGHTS, OUR FORESTS’

Organizers: Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA) in cooperation with the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) and Non-Timber Forest Product-Exchange Programme Asia (NTFP-EP Asia), and with support from the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Around 80 participants from the Asia-Pacific region and Europe, representing various national, regional and international organizations of farmers, IPs, CBOs in forested landscapes, NGOs, funding institutions, government representatives and the academe participated in the session.

Objectives:

1. To learn from cases that describe the struggles and initiatives in securing tenure rights.
2. To list policy recommendations to promote secured rights to forest lands for local communities, IPs and farmers in forested landscapes.

Highlights of the session

The session started with a video presentation on the struggles and initiatives of the Karen community in Thailand to secure their rights over their lands.

Janie Lasimbang, Secretary General of Jaringal Orang Asal Je (JOAS) and a member of the Sabah Social Forestry Working Group in Malaysia, described the Tagal Hutan, a traditional practice of collection governance and responsibility and management of resources based on the legal framework, tradition and culture and land rights of indigenous communities.

Tint Lwin, Secretary General of Agriculture and Farmer Federation Myanmar (AFFM), a farmers’ organization, together with his translator Tichia Tedim, indicated that in 2015, the AFFM had successfully registered four community forest user groups (CFUGs), benefiting 142 families and covering 1,000 acres. The government still has to distribute 136,000 acres of forest lands under community forestry.

Florence Mayocyoc-Daguitan from the Tebtebba Foundation and a member of the Kankanaey Igorot IP community in the Philippines, observed that the Kalanguya community is committed to restoring their indigenous land management to bring back the balance of their ecosystems, which have been destroyed by monocrop vegetable production.

Bharati Pathak, Secretary General of the Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN), described community forestry policy and practice in Nepal. At present the country has 18,334 CFUGs covering 1,664,918 hectares and involving 2,194,350 families. Major challenges include the unstable political situation, delays in hand-over processes and implementation of CF plans, forest encroachment, corruption, and legal and bureaucratic barriers to sustainable forest and forest enterprise development.

During the open forum, questions for clarification were raised as well as additional issues and initiatives. Egay Morondoz from PAKISAMA, a national farmers’ organization from the Philippines, said that the Philippine Government has a plan to construct a mega
A dam that will submerge 28,000 hectares of forests and affect 10 million families, mostly from the Dumagat/Agta communities. Mayocyoc-Daguitan then noted that the Cordilleran people, whom she belongs to, were the first IPs in Philippine history to stop the construction of a big dam (the Chico dam) in the 1970s. Currently a local government unit plan to construct a mini hydropower dam has been postponed owing to the strong unity of the people in promoting their rights to the lands and forests.

**Recommendations**

The moderator, Esther Penunia, Secretary-General of AFA, summarized the key recommendations:

1. Producers, local communities and IPs living in forested landscapes need secured rights over their lands and forests, including rights to use and access forest resources.

2. When producers, local communities and IPs are able to manage the forests well, especially using traditional, local, indigenous management systems, then food security increases, making the attainment of the SDGs more possible. When local communities are able to manage their forests well, they have the food, fibre, medicine, fodder, energy, water and the ecosystem services they need.

3. There is a need to raise awareness among producers, local communities and IPs about their rights and the legal instruments to use, such as the VGGT and community forestry laws, as well as to develop their capacities to organize, to advocate, to network and build partnerships to influence policies in their favour.

In his response, Fred Kapeero, Participatory Forest Research Officer of FAO, said that the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Lands, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT) is a good instrument to use to push for tenure rights. He encouraged producers and local communities to build partnerships and influence policies.
DRIVERS AFFECTING FOREST CHANGE IN THE GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION

Organizers: Environmental Science for Social Change (ESSC), Asia Forest Network (AFN) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO-RAP)
Objectives

The objective of this workshop was to share not only the negative but also the positive drivers of forest change in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) and to identify how we could ‘grow our future’ by tackling negative drivers while nurturing positive drivers in the region and beyond.

Workshop summary

Facilitated by Chun Lai, Session 1 opened with Yurdi Yasmi’s regional overview on drivers of forest change in the GMS countries. He noted that negative and positive drivers co-exist and influence forest changes directly or indirectly.

Chhun Delux said that Cambodia experiences continuing high deforestation rates driven by demand for forest land and forest resources. Key positive drivers are CBFM, including CF, community-protected areas, community fishery and the IP land-titling programme. The government’s efforts such as REDD+ and the certification scheme for forestry and trade also contribute to promoting better forest management.

Lao PDR is another GMS country that has seen a steady decline of forest cover in recent years. Rowena Soriaga reported that leading causes likely come from illegal logging and agricultural expansion while positive drivers have yet to be discovered. Strengthening enforcement of existing forest-related laws and regulations, improving the performance of forest financial incentive schemes and improving forest monitoring through intersectoral coordination, among others, are recommended as steps forward.

Maung Maung Than observed that Myanmar also suffers high deforestation rates and has yet to identify positive drivers for forest changes that are well supported by scientific evidence. He emphasized that reform must include all sectors, not only the forestry sector, and the importance of a detailed inventory of forests.

Woranuch Emmanoch elaborated on the positive drivers for forest change in the context of Thailand, which targets 40 percent of forest coverage of total land by 2024. The positive drivers shared were: (1) aligning incentives with income and jobs; (2) strengthening enforcement of forest-related legislation; (3) promoting SMF through CF; (4) harnessing REDD+ mechanisms; (5) closer collaboration with EU-FLEGT; and (6) employing technologies such as satellite imagery in forest management.

Tran Ngoc The explained that Viet Nam already has several laws and decrees addressing deforestation as well as positive drivers including social forest management and REDD+ projects in place. Total forest cover has shown an increase but this mainly comes from plantation forests while deforestation and forest degradation of natural forests still continue.
Causes of deforestation and forest degradation are attributed to agricultural expansion, official conversion of forest land to infrastructure and cash crop plantations.

Nguyen Tuong Van of Viet Nam and Sok Khim of Cambodia reflected on the country presentations and shared their experiences. Van emphasized the importance of Viet Nam’s political will for SFM as the key positive driver for forest change and Sok Khim gave innovative examples of integrating reforestation initiatives within existing community and social events.

Session 2 saw distinguished resource persons and the participants actively exchanging ideas on:

1. What drivers of forest change resonate in your context?
2. What is the most crucial action to take now to give positive drivers a chance to ‘grow our future’ in the next 20-25 years?

Aulia Aruan and Yani Septiani of Indonesia agreed that GMS countries share the same negative drivers such as agricultural expansion and mining with their contexts in Indonesia. Aruan expressed that implementable good practices involving communities through a step-wise approach are essential. Septiani added the importance of strengthening coordination at regional and local levels and encouragement of governance transformation at all levels.

Yam Malla of Nepal emphasized the importance of regulatory frameworks for positive changes to take place on the ground: policies need to be supported by legislative acts, and acts need to be supported by implementation guidelines. Appropriate institutional mechanisms at both national and local levels are also crucial.

Neil Byron noted commonalities with other Southeast Asian countries, Latin America and Africa. He pointed out that the underlying cause of negative drivers is the lack of jobs in the formal economy, thus creating more attractive jobs can reduce conversion pressures. He also recommended continuing advocacy with big forestry corporations to employ sustainable practices and to assist livelihoods.

The importance of clear land tenure and access to cheap start-up financing as enabling factors were also added from the floor. To a new question of ‘what are the new drivers to anticipate for forest change,’ the answers included urbanization as well as the need for ecosystem service payments for forest communities, for which clear land tenure is essential.
The event aimed to present the partnership and first results of the collaboration between We Effect and FAO/FFF in Viet Nam.

**Background of the FAO – We Effect partnership and scope in Asia**

This was a joint presentation by FAO’s Sophie Grouwels, Forestry Officer, Forest and Farm Facility and We Effect’s Magnus Persson, Regional Director for Europe and Asia.

The partnership between We Effect and FAO in Southeast Asia is an offshoot of the experience initiated to strengthen producers’ organizations (POs) in Kenya. It is a country- and demand-led initiative and activities in Kenya have generated interest from other countries with similar partners.

To expand the partnership, an MoU was signed by the director-general of FAO and the chief executive officer of We Effect in September 2015. The partnership was launched at the World Forestry Congress in Durban. The overarching objectives of the partnership are to:

1. Support countries in strengthening capacities of POs, boosting their internal governance and gender equality, advocacy and access to markets.
2. Increase availability and access to training opportunities, capacity-development processes and materials for POs.
3. Enhance resource mobilization in support of POs and to improve the institutional environment for their development.
4. Facilitate advocacy and knowledge sharing.

The global partnership initially covers eight countries: Kenya, Zambia, Malawi, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Viet Nam, and Myanmar. Country-based partnerships are now being worked out in Guatemala, Viet Nam and Zambia.

Forging the partnership in Viet Nam is a practical move as both We Effect and FAO have a common Vietnamese partner (Viet Nam Farmers’ Union, VNFU) and common international donor partners. Both believe that advancement of strong POs is key for the development of the country to achieve the SDGs. Both have gender-.
sensitive approaches to strengthening POs and have designed training materials to build PO capacities.

The partnership will gain from FAO’s:
- Global experience in supporting policy formulation and dialogues and in enhancing the participation of producers and POs in policy processes;
- Global expertise in forestry and agriculture;
- Strong field projects in different sectors and in several regions;
- Expertise and tools in business development and marketing for communities and FFPOs;
- Multisectoral approach covering broad sectors such as food security, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, etc.;
- Linkages with UN country teams and donors;
- Visibility and well-known actors; and
- Work in most developing countries that generates lessons learned and success stories.

On the other hand, We Effect brings the following to the partnership:
- Long experience working in the cooperative sector;
- Experience supporting POs with gender mainstreaming and women’s empowerment;
- Proven tools, methodologies and approaches to strengthening local POs;
- Experience in results-based management of partner organizations;
- Rights-based and gender-sensitive approach;
- Experience with member-based savings and loan associations and study circles;
- Local presence and regular monitoring; and
- Linkages to other partners in Asia.

Therefore the partnership is deemed to be mutually-reinforcing between FAO and We Effect and it is hoped that working together will bring synergy that can contribute to the sustainable development of small farm and forest producers in Viet Nam.

Summary of ongoing work done in Viet Nam

1. **FAO/FFF: Presenter – Vu Le Y Voan, VNFU**

The Forest Farm Facility (FFF) implemented in partnership with the VNFU aims to promote trust, cooperation, and market access for better lives among small farm and forest producers in Viet Nam. The FFF is being implemented in the provinces of Bac Kan and Yen Bai. Y. Voan related that seven FFPOs have been established as cooperation groups with 105 members constituting 36 women and 69 men. The breakdown of these groups is given in Table 1:
Table 1: FFPO products, membership and area covered

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cluster/group</th>
<th>Main product</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Area (ha)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Timber processing groups</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lem forestry producing and processing group in Phu Thinh commune</td>
<td>Acacia</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>47.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hop Thinh forestry growing and processing group in Phu Thinh</td>
<td>Acacia</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>51.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May Phay forest development groups in Chu Huong commune</td>
<td>Magnolia</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>66.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khuoi Coong forest business and development group in Chu Huong commune</td>
<td>Magnolia</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khuoi Slien forest development group in My Phuong</td>
<td>Magnolia</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>25.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cinnamon groups in Dao Thinh commune</td>
<td></td>
<td>34</td>
<td>132.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thach Ngoa’ Star anise growers’ group in My Phuong</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FFF is focused on three pillars, and under each, the project has accomplished the following (Table 2).

Table 2: FFF pillars and accomplishments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pillar</th>
<th>Significant accomplishments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Pillar 1**<br> Strengthening smallholder, women’s, community and IP producer organizations for businesses/ livelihoods and policy engagement | • Being trained on facilitation skills, training of trainers (ToT) on market analysis and development (MA&D), the local facilitators indicate farmers are confident enough to facilitate the FFPOs to search and find market information;  
• FFPOs have knowledge about business development and improved ability to find buyers, access markets;  
• Products with best potential selected (acacia, magnolia, cinnamon, star anise);  
• 7 enterprise development plans were completed with clear direction and implementation plans, and focus on combined timber processing and selling;  
• Found more partnership buyers with better prices (increase 10%/m³ equal to US$10-15);  
• Realized the benefit of group work: stronger voice, do business together for more benefits and better prices, access funds prepare proposals etc.; and  
• Experience sharing and exchanges between FFPOs and involving men and women resulted in increased resilience, improved practices and continued networking. |
### Pillar 2
Catalysing multisector stakeholder policy platforms with governments at local and national levels

- Sharing and improving understanding on FFPOs among sectors to get more inputs and advice via focus group discussions, roundtable discussion (RD), workshops, advisory committee meetings;
- Being involved in the small grants proposal development process and proposal writing training, the FFPOs have more capacity to invest in sustainable forest and farm management as well as loan and project application;
- Via roundtable discussion at different levels (commune, district, province), dialogues directly between FFPOs and local governments and relevant stakeholders also resolved some problems/aspirations of the FFPOs and improved the roles and responsibilities of the local authorities in policy implementation;
- Enhanced the coordination and collaboration of the government’s interministerial and multistakeholders for better forest development and management; and
- Some policies and programmes affecting FFPO operations within forest and farm landscapes are being shared and reviewed.

### Pillar 3
Establishing linkages between local and national groups and regional/international federations

- Through the forum, RD, workshops, the lessons learned from VNFU/FFF and FFPOs in Viet Nam were shared with other FFPOs at local, national and regional levels; the voices of Vietnamese FFPOs are brought to the regional and world forums;
- An FFF communications strategy plan (prepare Web stories, maintain Web site at the VNFU level and Bac Kan and Yen Bai provincial level, translate FFF material into Vietnamese, FFF T-shirts, FFF hats and books, leaflets etc.) is being developed;
- Contribute the initiatives, experience sharing/ideas to regional and global programmes/strategies on forest and farm protection and development;
- Data on FFPO members (full name, ethnicity, contact numbers, age, forest area), promising products, types of organization, existing status, their main challenges etc. are being profiled for progress assessment and monitoring; and
- FFF experiences and the lesson learned were shared via the field visit of the Nepalese, Myanma delegation to Viet Nam.

### Ways forward:

- Capacity development for FFPOs (training for local facilitators and FFPO representatives and leaders on communication, policy advocacy, FFPO organizational governance, including financial management, business development etc.). Learn about more successful FFPO models in Viet Nam and other countries via exchange visits;
- Help FFPOs to conduct marketing activities and provide market information to FFPOs and access financial resources, banks, supporting fund for farmers, grants etc.;
- Technical assistance in developing their business and organization capacity development training (management, financing etc.) in collaboration with relevant organizations and agencies (VCA, SNV, ICRAF, NVCARD etc.);
• Collaborate with the forest branch of Yen Bai, Bac Kan, companies, IKEA etc. to help FFPOs to get sustainable forest certificates and make contracts with processors and companies;
• Work out a participatory development communication strategy; and
• To work with partners, such as Vietnamese forest bodies, We Effect, ICRAF, UN REDD, RECOFTC etc. to strengthen capacity and create the resources to help FFPOs as well as policy advocacy at national and regional levels.

2. We Effect: Presenter – Hoang Tuan Cuong, Southeast Asia Programme

The rural development programme of We Effect in the region is ‘Strengthening Member-based Organizations to Fight Poverty and Injustice in Rural Areas of Southeast Asia’. The programme covers projects in Vietnam, Cambodia and Myanmar. Cuong’s presentation focused on the project ‘Developing Agricultural Cooperatives for Ethnic Minority Groups in Yen Bai Province’. The development objective of the project is to improve the socio-economic conditions of households in agricultural cooperatives of ethnic groups to contribute to poverty reduction in Yen Bai Province. Specifically, the project is aimed at improving and making agricultural cooperatives of ethnic groups in Yen Bai more effective and bring more benefits for members and labourers.

The project is being implemented in partnership with Yen Bai Provincial Cooperative Alliance (PCA) which was founded in 1994 as a socio-economic organization so that farmers and labourers could have better lives. It operates under the Vietnamese Cooperative Law and the Charter of Viet Nam Cooperative Alliance and is a legal representative to protect the rights of members and support the development of cooperatives.

Table 3: Project basic data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project duration: 36 months, from 2014 to 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of direct beneficiaries: 3 637 Male: 2 084 Female: 1 553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of indirect beneficiaries: 13 480 Male: 7 780 Female: 5 700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of organizations directly involved: 16 (8 Commune People Committees, CEMA, DARD, DEMA, DOIT, DOLISA, DOH, FU, WU)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of target communities in 2014-2016: 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development components:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Strengthened organization development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Business development for cooperatives and members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Sustainable production promotion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Advocacy promotion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Gender and equity promotion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The project has facilitated the increase in monthly average income of members of cooperatives from US$34 to US$48. The number of poor households has also been reduced as 263 out of 763 poor households or 35.7 percent have escaped the poverty trap. The impact of the project can also be categorized according to groups of stakeholders (Table 4).
**Table 4: Project impact**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>On women’s participation</th>
<th>On members/farmers</th>
<th>On target cooperatives</th>
<th>On the partner, Yen Bai PCA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Participated in social activities</td>
<td>&gt; Changed thinking and habits</td>
<td>&gt; Diversifying services for cooperatives and trade promotion</td>
<td>&gt; Mobilizing new members into cooperatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Women in Board of Directors (BOD) (8/10) being prioritized in cooperative activities</td>
<td>&gt; Be enterprising in applying advanced techniques in livestock and cultivation models</td>
<td>&gt; Members of cooperatives are provided better services with cheaper prices than in the market</td>
<td>&gt; Became a consultant of setting up new cooperatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Leaders in Village Saving Loan Group (VSL)</td>
<td>&gt; Improved living conditions</td>
<td>&gt; Create more labour for members</td>
<td>&gt; Annual increase in new cooperatives rose: from 20 to 25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Synergy assessment report on programmes of We Effect and FAO/FFF in Yen Bai**

Presenter – Tran Viet Dung, Consultant

Capacity assessment was done through FGDs with leaders and members of FFPOs and farmer cooperatives involved in the FAO and We Effect projects. Questionnaires were administered and data were collected from two target FFPOs and eight target cooperatives in Yen Bai Province. The consultant noted that the levels of organizational development in FFPOs/cooperatives have generally improved for the past two years in terms of:

- Better management and governance work;
- Improved democracy;
- Higher profit from business activities;
- Better ability of members;
- Stronger unity of organization’s members;
- Methods for marketing;
- More active in doing business;
- Policy improvement and access to policies;
- Broader availability of resources; and
- Improved working environment.

Organizational improvements can be attributed to the following:

- Capacity development for the BOD;
- Restructuring the internal system;
- Conducting production demonstrations with on-farm training; and
- Market linkage development.

At the organizational level, the capacity-development needs identified are:

- Supporting development of the most feasible and effective business plans;
- Systematically reviewing, reporting and following up;
- Modernization of machinery and new technology transfer;
- Capital support to boost production, manufacture products with processing technology standards and expand organizations. The support may include: i) capital itself, ii) establishment and frequent updating of the database on potential and suitable funding/loan sources, and iii) fundraising capacity (focusing on knowledge and skills); and
• Accessing large potential enterprises outside the province to sign long-term stable contracts for purchasing products.

In terms of organizational mechanisms and the external environment two areas were noted:
• Investment for construction of new roads, shortening the forestry exploration process; and
• Networking and sharing experiences on production, processing and marketing.

At the staff level, the following staff development needs were identified:
• Long-term education/training for potential staff;
• Education/training for young personnel on leadership and business management;
• Training on group management, financial management;
• Training on marketing and product promotion;
• Enhancing knowledge on the value chain; and
• Learning production, processing and business models.

The study also included an assessment of possible service providers from the government, non-government and local enterprise organizations that can be tapped to enhance the partnership efforts.

The synergy assessment recommended the following potential areas of cooperation that can be explored:
1. Reviewing, sorting existing cooperatives which are not yet transferred/reorganized in accordance with the Cooperative Law of 2012. Supporting operationally capable agriculture cooperatives to be transferred/re-organized in accordance with Cooperative Law 2012.

2. Supporting the establishment of new cooperatives and cooperative groups in accordance with the law of 2012. Direct support for farmers’ organizations (FOs), capacity development for those FOs so that they work directly with their members to establish cooperatives or cooperative groups based on their needs, voluntary participation and decisions.

3. Training and guiding agriculture cooperatives/cooperative groups and production groups in development of business plans, contracted production, participation in the value chain of key products at the locality, diversification of products and brand name construction, organizational development, financial management etc.

4. Enhancing capacity for staff in charge of management of agriculture cooperatives/cooperative groups.

5. Conducting production models with the participation of agriculture cooperatives/cooperative groups/production groups and involvement of local enterprises, taking part in product value chains.

6. Promoting the development of agriculture cooperatives/cooperative groups via communication for changing knowledge and behaviour, and building up trust and belief through proper cooperative models that bring benefits to many members in communities.

7. Dissemination of results/lessons learned on agriculture cooperatives/cooperative group development and advocacy for development of cooperative economics, integrating with new rural development programmes; local socio-economic development plans (SEDPs) as well as other national targeted programmes.
8. Building up the platform for cooperatives/cooperation groups/FOs to discuss the issues related to policies and the policy implementation mechanism to develop all types of cooperative economics at different levels.

9. Conducting a study on the existing policies/implementation mechanism related to development of cooperatives/cooperation groups, showing the gaps and work on policy advocacy for cooperative and cooperation group development.

Open forum and feedback

The responses of participants highlighted three points:

The first point is the role of the government in enacting and enforcing laws to promote community-based forestry and enhance access and control of upland communities to forest resources. In the Philippines, even with the passage of the Indigenous People's Rights Act (IPRA), a proposed dam to be constructed would displace some 4,000 IPs from their ancestral lands. Legalized land grabbing was done when a law was passed (the Aurora-Pacific Economic Zone and Freeport [APECO] Law or Republic Act 10083) which took away 11,900 hectares of ancestral lands without the FPIC required by the IPRA. Participants echoed the same sentiment that providing a political environment so that FFPOs can grow to perform their key roles in promoting sustainable resource management is warranted. It is important for stakeholders to conduct advocacy and lobbying so that laws beneficial to FFPOs can be legislated and that they should remain vigilant to ensure that such laws will be enforced by the government.

The second point concerns the role of women in natural resource management, specifically in community-based forest management. While women's traditional knowledge and skills in farming and forest conservation have been widely acknowledged, the prevailing traditional view persists that forestry, particularly timber extraction, is naturally a male domain. In some countries, there are restrictions on women's land rights that hinder their ability to access other resources and information. Rural women are valuable partners in community development and natural resource management, and every effort should be made to ensure their participation in the process as well as in the benefits.

The third point targets the merits of having committed and like-minded stakeholders working together to expand their efforts in facilitating sustainable change. Examples cited included conducting joint lobbying efforts and in consolidating FFPO products to be more competitive in the market. In this regard, the initiative of FAO and We Effect and their partners to collaborate is a welcome development.

In his closing message, Jeffrey Campbell quoted an African saying that fittingly ended the session: “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”
About 30 people joined this event with discussions on communication, partnership and capacity development. Using the '20 questions' as a reflection of what a wider community sees as important topics, and the available knowledge/answers that apparently do not reach those interested, the event focused on the gaps between 'knowledge' and 'action'.

The participants were interested in the agenda as a whole, generally from the perspective of a specific location/situation in which they work, and found it hard to zoom in on a single flagship topic, as all are connected. For many the issue was indeed how to better link an agricultural and a forestry perspective on policy and associated access to development support. How to reduce complexity of the current access rules was pondered deeply.
For any credible theory of change in forests, trees and agroforestry there is a need for strengthened links to institutionalized capacity development (universities, colleges, extension systems), that can replicate, adapt and adopt research findings and emerging knowledge. One such institution for Southeast Asia, the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) based in Los Baños, specifically asked for follow-up discussions (there is ongoing dialogue with ICRAF-Philippines).

Research interests:
1. Agroforestry in relation to land-use intensity and level of diversification.
2. Diversification at the species level.
3. Capacity development.
4. Trade-offs between land-use options, including hydrological relations.
5. Incentives for tree planting.
6. Watershed management.

Questions and research topics from a REDD+ perspective (acknowledging that this includes agroforestry, forestry and a landscape mosaic approach):

- Agriculture policy and production – how to integrate these issues (and related incentives) effectively into the work. From ministry through field extensionists to the farmers;
- How to get communities involved – buy-in, ownership, taking the lead, driving the process;
- MRV approaches to measure/monitor forest degradation. Field inventories are the most reliable methods. More cost-effective and quicker methods;
- How to access the existing international funding support framework (REDD+ and other topics);
- Alternatives to oil-palm; and
- Impacts of capacity activities – methods, approaches, and documentation.
Over the past three years, the Evidence-based Forestry (EBF) initiative has been supporting the use of robust research synthesis methodologies to inform decision-making in forestry and landscape management. While other sectors have well-established procedures for using systematic approaches to identify and consolidate research findings, transparent methods for assessing a body of evidence have been used rarely to inform decision-makers in the forestry arena. This opens the potential for bias in the evidence that underpins policy, and for poorly informed policy decisions. Systematic maps and reviews examine ‘what works’ in assessing the effectiveness of different policy interventions through the identification of the best available research evidence.

Wen Zhou of CIFOR presented an overview of the EBF initiative and systematic review methodology with a diverse audience of researchers and practitioners from the Asia-Pacific region, discussed lessons learned from the generation of 18 such maps and reviews under the EBF initiative and presented early findings on the social and environmental impacts of national and subnational forest policies in East and Southeast Asia. Following the presentation, attendees formed groups to discuss priority questions that could be addressed using systematic review methodologies and further considered the potential audiences for whom the results of such a review would be useful in practice; these questions were:

- How do population changes affect the use of forest resources (in quantified terms)?
- What are the best practices in methodologies used for ecosystem service valuations?
- What are institutional factors affecting success and challenges in joint forest management?
- What are the impacts of logging restriction policies on Taiwan POC’s forestry sector?
- Which national-level policies (in Southeast Asia) are more likely to have an impact on households’ migration decisions and why?
- What have been the impacts of the Philippines’ National Greening Program on poverty reduction, climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity conservation, and what are the appropriate indicators for their measurement?
Overview

Globally, a strong consensus has emerged on the centrality of recognition of forest rights for local communities and IPs as a core strategy for sustainable forest governance, reduction in deforestation, biodiversity and carbon conservation, local sustainable development and poverty alleviation, food security and reduction of climate vulnerability and reduction of land and forest conflicts. Local communities and IPs lay customary claim to most of the forests in the Asia-Pacific region; however, as speakers at the event observed, most governments have been slow in acknowledging these claims. Even in countries which have taken important steps towards recognizing the rights of local communities and IPs, the actual implementation of rights recognition has been difficult and challenging.

Summary of presentations

The event comprised three sessions that promoted sharing of experiences from forest tenure reforms in critical countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Speakers discussed key challenges in recognizing rights of IPs and local communities and presented the Tenure Facility, a new instrument for facilitating recognition of forest and land rights of IPs and local communities. Each session was followed by an open discussion.

The first session – ‘Scaling Up Communities and IPs and Opportunities from India, Nepal, Indonesia and Philippines’ – examined and assessed the potential and challenges in recognizing customary tenure rights in forest areas at the global level and provided analysis from experts on developments from India, Nepal, the Philippines and Indonesia:

- Andy White, Co-ordinator, RRI, provided an introduction with ‘Global Overview of Communities and IP Land and Forest Rights’;
- Ghan Shyam Pandey, Green Foundation, presented forest tenure reform challenges from Nepal;
- Ingrid Gorre illustrated the case of forest tenure reforms in the Philippines;
- Sisilia Nurmala Dewi, HuMa, Indonesia, showed challenges of forest tenure reforms from Indonesia; and
- Madhu Sarin, RRI Fellow, demonstrated the case of forest tenure reforms in India with ‘Undoing Historical Injustices? India’s Forest Rights Act’.

The second session on ‘Challenges and Opportunities’ examined some of the major challenges which affect the rights recognition of local communities and IPs over forests. Lack of recognition of rights has meant that forests customarily claimed and inhabited by local communities and IPs have been transferred to companies as concessions or declared as protected
areas across the Asia-Pacific region. The results from these unilateral and exclusionary decisions have been dispossessions of local communities and IPs. This session deepened the discussion from the first session, focusing on specific issues such as the political economy of forests impeding forest rights recognition, conflicts and human rights violations linked to forest rights issues, the criminalization of local communities and IPs by forest laws and the linkages between the private sector and tenure rights of communities and IPs. The following panellists made presentations:

- Norman Jiwan, TUK, Indonesia, introduced ‘Political Economy of Rights Recognition’;
- Siti Maimunah, Sajogyo Institute, Indonesia, presented ‘Human Rights and Forest Rights of IPs and Local Communities – Women’s Perspective on Conflicts and Criminalization’; and
- Kent Wheiler spoke on ‘Forest-based Industry and Community/IP Forest Rights’.

The third session concentrated on ‘The International Land and Forest Tenure Facility (ILFTF)’. The ILFTF has been launched as a global facility to support land and forest tenure recognition of IPs and local communities. It is a demand-based, responsive and adaptive financing institution that seeks to provide rapid financing and technical assistance to local and national change agents to address insecure community land and resource rights that drive conflict and undermine progress on global human rights, the environment and development goals. Andy White introduced the Tenure Facility mechanism, while Yoga Saeful Rizal, AMAN, discussed the first Asian pilot project funded by the Tenure Facility in Indonesia. At the end, Joan Carling, AIPP, also highlighted the relevance of the Tenure Facility for indigenous peoples in the Asia-Pacific region.
STREAM 5

OUR GREEN FUTURE:
GREEN INVESTMENT AND
GROWING OUR NATURAL ASSETS

Stream Leaders:
ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation (AFoCo)
Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management
and Rehabilitation (APFNet)
OUR GREEN FUTURE:
GREEN INVESTMENT AND GROWING OUR NATURAL ASSETS (OPENING PLENARY)

Organizers: ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation (AFoCo) and Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)
Background

To ensure a sustainable future for Asia-Pacific forests, increased investment is needed to ensure a steady supply of forest goods and services for future generations. Such ‘green’ investments form an integral part of SFM.

What is the state of developing green investments in the region? What are the key barriers to ensuring successful investments, and what opportunities are available? This event set the stage for the stream’s activities and discussions.

Opening remarks

During his opening remarks, Qu Guilin (Executive Director, APFNet) touched on the importance of forestry investments to carry out the social, environmental and economic functions of forests. He encouraged all participants of the APFW to keep these functions in mind while exploring challenges and opportunities in sustainable forestry efforts.

Hadisusanto Pasaribu (Executive Director, AFoCo) remarked on the long-term nature of forestry investment and acknowledged the need to identify incentive policies that are needed for private forestry investments to be desirable.

Five major forestry trends that impact Asia-Pacific forests

During his keynote speech, David Brand (CEO, New Forests) discussed the following major trends in the global forestry sector:

1. The rise of Asia as the primary source of demand growth – today, China is the largest importer of logs and lumber, while Japan is the largest importer of hardwood woodchips. This has resulted in a restructuring of international timber markets.

2. A systematic shift in world timber supply from harvesting extensive natural forests to intensively managing timber plantations – it is estimated that the future supply of naturally harvested timber will plateau or start to decline. In this sense, timber plantations supplying Asian demand will be seen as a good investment opportunity.

3. Significant shifts in markets caused by technological innovation – the emergence of the bio-economy (where forestry biomass is used for energy, fuels, fabrics, platform chemicals and bioplastics) and global climate action are stimulating public policy and research. For institutional investors setting targets to move away from fossil energy investments, the forestry sector will become increasingly desirable as an area to expand investments.

4. The rise of forestry in institutional investment – there has been a wholesale shift in investment portfolio allocations towards stable long-term ‘real assets,’ which include real estate, infrastructure, forestry and agriculture. Whereas real assets represented only about 5 percent of institutional portfolios in the 1990s, today they represent about 15 percent, and will likely reach 25 percent within the decade.

5. The growing standardization for investment outcomes to be socially and environmentally beneficial – for example, independent third-party certification and active engagement with communities have become standard practices required by many of today’s institutional investors.

In addition, Brand mentioned that the many opportunities emerging from the Asian forestry sector also come with impediments, which increase investment risks and in turn raise the returns needed to justify investment. Therefore, the rate at which investment will flow into Asian forestry will depend on how
well governments can establish fair and clear land-use rights, reliable legal systems and stable investment policies.

**China’s efforts on forestry development**

Dong Yan (Director of the Forestry Division, Chinese Ministry of Finance) discussed several cases initiated by the central government to promote afforestation, forest quality enhancement and natural forest protection. This included the Grain for Green Program (2002 to 2006) in which 9.3 million hectares of farmland reverted back to forest land and 13.2 million hectares of forests were afforested. Farmers affected by the programme were subsidized to support farmland construction, energy development and ecomigration elsewhere in Western China.

**The experience of REDD+ in Indonesia**

Based on experiences from REDD+ initiatives in Indonesia, Heru Prasetyo (Head, REDD+ Management Agency in Indonesia) discussed three important factors to stimulate investment:

1. The existence of a strong business case with incentives supported by rules and regulations.
2. Competitive fiscal and monetary policy that avoids subsidizing conflictive actions.
3. Incoming funding must be used to leverage bigger investments and create competitive advantages.

**The importance of scaling up forestry investments**

Choi Young-tae (Director, Korea Forest Service) remarked on the importance of scaling up green investment in order to achieve the 2015 SDGs and objectives set out in the Paris climate change agreement. He argued that efforts are needed to raise forestry investments higher in the agendas of global environmental agreements and conventions, to secure support through programmes such as the Global Environment Facility.

**Perspectives from the development finance sector**

Michael Allen Brady (Senior Operations Officer, International Finance Corporation) discussed the importance of forestry investment to deliver strong development impacts, boost employment and livelihoods, mitigate climate change and conserve biodiversity. Key success factors at the upstream level (plantations and natural forests) include land tenure sustainability, incorporation of environmental and social responsibility, and access to markets. Meanwhile, it is important that proper investment timing is in place to achieve supply-demand balance at the downstream level (processing).
Invasive alien species (IAS) are well recognized for their severe ecological, economic and social impacts. In South Asia, IAS are adversely affecting local and globally significant biodiversity, threatening forest habitats and impacting, indirectly, the livelihoods of millions of people depending on forests for ecological products and services. In Asia and the Pacific, forest invasive species (FIS) are invading and threatening habitats of significant biodiversity importance, reducing the forest productive capacity and adversely affecting livelihoods. The management of FIS can be challenging due to:

- Difficulties and delays with their detection (especially at early stage of introduction);
- The diversity of organisms from microbes to trees that become invasive;
- The inability to forecast invasion and to mount timely intervention strategies; and
- The limited resources available for the task at hand.

Intercountry collaborative efforts in pest monitoring and surveillance are paramount for the successful management of transboundary invasive species. The
management of an FIS requires an understanding of the specific behaviour in its original habitats and natural enemy complex associated with the species there.

The workshop had the following objectives:

1. Sharing experiences from the transboundary project on the Polyphagous shoot hole borer.
2. Transfer of knowledge and capacity development for foresters on inexpensive pest trapping and ground-based monitoring methods.
4. Identification of common FIS problems of interest and prospective small-scale and regional projects on transboundary FIS.

Thirty-six participants representing 13 countries and the FAO offices attended the workshop which started with a welcome address by Shiroma Sathyapala, FAO, Rome. A brief summary of the activities of the APFISN secretariats in Kerala, India and Beijing, China was presented by T.V. Sajeev and Chunxu Han respectively.

Two projects were presented and discussed in detail during the workshop. The first was the TCP project on ‘Control and Management of Destructive Forest Invasive Species in South Asian Natural and Plantation Forests’ which was conducted in India and Maldives. The second was on the ‘Survey and Monitoring for Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB) in Viet Nam’.

There were presentations on:

- Guidelines for managing tree invasions in South Asian natural forests;
- Invasive species in the forests of Central and Eastern Europe; and
- High risk site and plantation surveys for multiple hosts.

Pest survey and monitoring methods in two countries – USA and China – were also presented and discussed.

Based on these presentations the stage was set to discuss the survey methods practised in each of the APFISN member countries and the ways to enhance them. Led by Gary Man, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the workshop had detailed discussion on developing or enhancing surveying and monitoring in APFISN member countries. The discussion focused on:

- What kind of interest does the country/institution have in developing or enhancing forest surveying and monitoring? and
- What are major challenges to enhancing or establishing a surveying and monitoring programme?

The following action points were determined during the workshop:

2. Preparation of a TCP Programme for management of terrestrial invasive plants involving Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar.
3. The schedule and responsibilities regarding the preparation of ‘INVASIVES’ – APFISN’s newsletter during 2016 were decided.
4. The Kerala and Beijing secretariats will work out specific capacity-development initiatives for countries in the region.
The consultation provided the opportunity for heads of forestry and a diverse group of individual and organizational stakeholders to come together and discuss forest restoration and landscape progress in the Asia-Pacific region. More than 100 participants attended the meeting.

Objectives

The objectives of the consultation were:

- Reviewing current concepts and initiatives on forest landscape restoration;
- Considering the establishment of a regional mechanism that could add value to national strategies and actions; and
- Laying the foundation for coordinated regional forums, dialogues and actions.

Discussion highlights

Participants had some consensus on: setting an ambitious restoration goal for the Asia-Pacific region; establishing a regional mechanism with major functions that add value to countries; and exploring various financial resources. However, there was no clear view on the location for such a regional mechanism.

There was general consensus on setting a higher goal than the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal. However, besides the area size targeted, other considerations...
such as socio-economic, cultural and institutional factors will determine the fulfilment of the goal. The regional goal should be consolidation of national targets that include forest restoration and mitigating forest degradation.

These national targets should be assessed for their achievability to be carried out in a bottom-up manner. The goal should also have an attention-catching title.

Such a regional mechanism needs to be able to add values for countries and local people and help to build political will and commitments in restoration efforts at the regional level. It could perform major functions such as exchange of information and knowledge, provide technical assistance for national restoration plans and mobilize capacity development and financial resources. Creating enabling conditions for the mechanism is important. Inter-regional (i.e. Africa, Asia and Latin America) dialogues or forums have been suggested as a next step.

A variety of funding resources is available such as national finance, impact investors and bilateral and multilateral donors. Given the Asia-Pacific region has a large area and more diversity, a few subregional mechanisms could be put in place. Grant application should also integrate the contribution of restoration activities to poverty alleviation and national economic growth.

Next steps

To move this initiative a step forward, it was suggested that the 23rd session of FAO’s Committee on Forestry (COFO) would provide a good platform to bring together countries in the Asia-Pacific region interested in furthering regional cooperation and dialogue on forest restoration with their counterparts from other regions, particularly those involved in the Latin American 20x20 and AFR100 initiatives. The proposed consultation would consider a draft action plan that would contain specific suggestions on (i) the functions of a proposed regional initiative or regional mechanism and (ii) the institutional and operational aspects of the proposed initiative/mechanism. The outcomes of this consultation could be tabled for discussion at the 23rd COFO in July 2016.
Speakers

1. Paciencia P. Milan, Foundation for the Philippine Environment, Chair & CEO.
2. Cherylon Herzano, Project Officer of the Foundation for the Philippine Environment.
3. Jerry Cabacungan, President of Maddiangat Upland Farmers Association.

Topic background

Both public and private sectors engage in tree-planting activities. Over the years, it has been observed that many of the reforestation efforts in the Philippines show bias for monoculture and the use of introduced or exotic species because of their fast-growing and easy germination properties. This kind of mind-set towards forest restoration does not support the survival of wildlife species. In addition, fast-growing exotics are mostly pioneer species that have a short lifespan, involving repeated clear cutting and exhaustion of soil nutrients, making reforestation more and more difficult.

Part of changing people’s perceptions about proper forest restoration is sharing successful strategies being implemented by organizations and individuals nationwide. The concept of ‘Rainforestation Farming’ is to plant trees native to their forests. It has been proved that the forest becomes more sustainable and increasingly diversified if local trees are planted instead of foreign species. This strategy aims to replace the destructive forms of shifting cultivation, creating a buffer zone around the primary forests, protecting their biodiversity and helping to maintain the water cycle. Moreover, this strategy provides farmers with stable and higher income. Many testimonies from local communities have proved that the inception of such a strategy is able to provide economic, environmental and social benefits.

The objectives of this session were to:

- Introduce a scientifically-studied and field-tested strategy like Rainforestation Farming for successful forest restoration projects;
- Promote the use of native species, including non-timber forest species trees for forest restoration and other land-use management objectives;
- Disseminate awareness on the importance of planting native species to protect the remaining forest, restore degraded land, conserve native

“Many restoration projects fail because of sheer neglect of our native trees.”
Paciencia Milan
biodiversity, improve the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities and return the full range of ecosystem services; and

• Provide an opportunity for participants to hear testimonials from three community members from different areas in Luzon on the benefits and effects of Rainforestation to their communities.

Summary of presentations

The forest ecosystem in the Philippines is of increasing interest nowadays due to the realization of the threat of climate change and other consequences brought by forest degradation. However, in spite of numerous reforestation efforts, both by the public and private sectors or by local and international programmes, we still see continuous decline in our forests, especially in our primary forests. Government policies that still drive land-use change, increase in population and change in people’s lifestyles cause high demand for forest products, poverty and unclear land tenure, as well as climate change impacts, among other issues, thus putting intense pressure on forest ecosystems.

The need to look for a new or better paradigm in forest restoration is imperative if we have to restore at least 15 percent of degraded forest by 2020 (Aichi Target 15). We have seen unsuccessful attempts to save our forests as we fail to understand the ecological objectives of forest restoration. Rainforestation or the use of native or indigenous trees in reforestation has met with reluctance due to misconceptions that it is difficult. Hence, the use of introduced monoculture species has gained popularity without considering the survival of local wildlife species and loss of forest genetic resources. It has been proved over the years that Rainforestation has more benefits than disadvantages in arresting loss of forest biodiversity, in combating land degradation and erosion of soil nutrients, retaining culture and tradition, and in providing stable and higher income for farmers. Moreover, implementation of Rainforestation becomes successful when stakeholders and upland/rural communities work in unison. This was shown by two speakers who shared their community experience in nurturing native species (i.e. performance of native tree and livelihood species that grow well with at least an 85 percent survival rate); there has been a change of community perception and practices from destructive methods to a conservation-based sustainable livelihood approach. Indeed these types of projects will be effective and truly successful when using a science-based restoration mechanism that supports and conserves local biodiversity or considers forest as an ecosystem while creating a strong partnership with the communities or farmers.

Questions from the audience

What is the next step in terms of widening the reach of this type of restoration? What is the first step in ensuring that the project will be successful? Are technical persons who provide consultancy available?
Session’s key points

1. There is still much work to do in terms of forest restoration in the Philippines.
2. Rainforestation Farming supports forest biodiversity, helps to restore ecological services and provides stable income to farmers. Furthermore, local knowledge about forest rehabilitation of communities must also be captured and observed scientifically.
3. Information, education and communication (IEC) is an important (first) step to raise awareness, educate and engage the community on issues surrounding forest destruction, such as its root causes, consequences and possible solutions, including Rainforestation. In addition, the proper assessment of the type of strategy and IEC strategy that fits the need of our targets must also be considered.
4. Community-based projects should always employ the participatory approach during the entire process – from planning to implementation to monitoring – so all stakeholders develop a sense of ownership and commitment to the project. This would also foster innovation and empowerment that would make the project more successful in terms of adaptability and sustainability.
5. Creating a ‘network of support’ is crucial to start and to sustain a project, thus, a multistakeholder approach is also needed. Legalizing partnerships through MOAs can help ensure the delineation of roles and responsibilities, and the level of commitment and accountability that the different stakeholders are willing to make (and take).

There is a need for true, meaningful engagement and partnership building between key stakeholders in pushing for Rainforestation. Translating rich scientific studies into useful strategies and principles that can easily be adopted/accommodated on the ground by advocates, community partners or even the government is warranted.

Key recommendations

1. More research on native species biology, including germination, growth performance on different soils/elevation/climate and in different management regimes, and timber and non-timber uses. (ERDB, the academe and research institutions.)
2. Documentation of indigenous knowledge, skills and practices on propagation of native species. (The academe and research institutions together with IPOs/POs.)
3. Strict enforcement of existing policies on use of native species (MC 04-06) and draft complementary policies to support existing ones, e.g. grow native species in DENR nurseries and address lack of supply of native species seedlings, create and support the market for native species to address the demand side. (National government and DENR.)
FOURTH ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY EDUCATION COORDINATION MECHANISM MEETING

Organizers: Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet) and University of British Columbia (UBC)
**Theme:** Regional forestry education resource sharing and mutual course recognition

**Background**

Forestry universities and institutions in the Asia-Pacific region currently face various challenges such as updating curricula to meet the rapidly changing demands of society, balancing educational resources and ensuring sufficient information sharing both on forestry education and international forestry issues.

To address these challenges, the Asia-Pacific Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism (AP-FECM) (previously known as the Forestry College Deans Meeting Mechanism in the Asia-Pacific Region) was established in 2011. The AP-FECM aims to promote forestry education by strengthening cooperation and collaborative actions.

APFNet was one of the initiators of the mechanism. It has provided financial and technical support over the years, and will continue supporting decisions made by participating universities to the fullest extent possible.

The fourth AP-FECM meeting focused on forestry education resource sharing and mutual course recognition at the regional level. The objectives of the meeting included:

1. Providing a platform to enhance regional networking.
2. Launching SFM online courses.
3. Understanding challenges and opportunities in forestry education sharing, mutual course recognition and student mobility in the Asia-Pacific region.
4. Identifying the needs of international collaborations among regional universities.
5. Assessing the feasibility of newly proposed projects for the AP-FECM.

**Discussion and key recommendations**

Over 50 representatives from 28 universities and organizations in the region participated.

During the three keynote presentations and nine case study presentations, examples of bilateral/trilateral education programmes between Canadian/USA/Australian/Japanese universities and Southeast Asian/South Asian universities were shared. It was also identified that South-South collaboration between Southeast Asian universities is common. Typical models of cooperation include short-term exchange of students and/or faculties, dual or joint degree programmes and joint research-led teaching.

International collaborative programmes were also acknowledged for their potential to provide high-quality education resources to universities that currently face inadequate or insufficient resources in forestry faculties, laboratories and field facilities. They also lead to joint research projects. Students of collaborative programmes can gain not only quality education, but also hands-on experience, language skills and cultural understanding. For example, a Japanese student can learn about tropical forestry in the field under joint programmes between Kyushu University and ASEAN universities.

However, universities are also facing challenges in implementing collaborative programmes, such as:
• A lack of balance in the availability of curricula between international and domestic forestry programmes: international courses are sometimes limited in non-English speaking economies, and existing international programmes tend to be general forestry programmes that lack specific courses on topics such as forestry policy, forest hydrology, forest ecology, wood properties and forest management;

• Accreditation systems vary in different regions, which forms a barrier to implementing mutual course recognition;

• Inequitable access: funding capacity to support studies in other economies varies among students;

• Inadequate financial resources to mobilize exchanges for students and faculty members; and

• Language and cultural barriers between exchange students and faculty members with their host universities.

In response to the above challenges, the following potential solutions were discussed:

• Online courses: a cost-effective alternative of teaching that requires relatively low funding in the long term (besides initial development and set-up), where resources can be easily accessed by students and faculties. Participating universities noted efforts should be put into accreditation and marketing;

• Scholarships: financial support can allow more students to study abroad; and

• Mobilizing faculty members: instead of promoting student exchange, the mobilization of faculties can at times actually be a more effective method of mobilizing education resources, to benefit more students at relatively lower cost.
With the adoption of the SDGs/Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in 2015, the global community has taken major steps towards our green future. Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) offers huge potential for implementation of these international agreements. The multitude of possible co-benefits and their importance for securing long-term effects of landscape restoration make FLR an integral strategy in the implementation of REDD+ and for effectively and efficiently combating the impacts of climate change and securing achievement of the SDGs. However, restoring forest functionality at the broader landscape level is a complex and challenging process.

The event featured presentations of various partners from the Asia-Pacific region, sharing lessons learned from existing FLR approaches, outlining challenges faced and solutions developed, and discussing practical options to promote FLR in Asia and the Pacific.

The keynote speech of DENR-FMB Director Ricardo L. Calderon highlighted experiences and lessons learned from implementing the country’s National Greening Program (NGP). He also gave an outlook on the expanded NGP, under which forest development activities shall be harmonized, including development of forest plantations and forest parks, bringing together...
the private sector, local government units and organized upland communities.

Dian Sukmajaya from the ASEAN Secretariat presented the vision and the new ‘Strategic Plan of Action for ASEAN Cooperation on Forestry until 2025’. While the promotion of SFM at the landscape level is featured as its backbone, ASEAN efforts need the support of partners at the regional level to formulate and strengthen FLR throughout the region.

Juan M. Pulhin, University of the Philippines, gave an overview on FLR based on the current status of research and forest restoration challenges in the ASEAN region. He stressed the need to address the overarching challenge of balancing the trade-offs between financial and livelihood benefits, and biodiversity across the landscape to achieve optimal benefits that satisfy present and future needs of various stakeholders.

Abdullah Abraham Hossain, Bangladesh Forest Department, shared experiences of the ‘Management of Natural Resources and Community Forestry of the Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary’ project. In addition to facilitating assisted natural regeneration and enrichment planting in the sanctuary’s core zone and social forestry in the buffer zone, the project took several measures to alter forest users’ behaviour. Although challenges like tenure conflicts and capacity limitations regarding ecosystem management were faced, ecological integrity was enhanced and co-management activities secured public credibility and acceptance of FLR.

Ilaitia Leitabu, Emalu landowner representative, and Jalesi Mateboto, SPC, presented social and technical experiences from the extensive participatory land-use mapping and planning exercise at the Emalu REDD+ pilot site in Fiji. To decrease pressures from encroaching agricultural clearance by inhabitants of the surrounding degraded grassland area, the project identified alternative areas for agriculture, rehabilitated degraded areas for food security and ecosystem restoration and introduced alternative livelihood options and training on sustainable agriculture and land management practices as well as awareness-raising on REDD+. Both presenters identified land conflicts, high expectations of communities and the length of preparation/readiness period as main challenges to be tackled, besides technical issues.

Herwin Purnomo from the Forestry Service South Sumatra, Indonesia showed how the community-based forest management project ‘Village Forest’ addressed challenges of forest rehabilitation on peatlands after land and forest fires through a forest management unit approach to FLR. Specifically, he highlighted crucial governance and tenure arrangements that have to be put in place, ensuring community engagement and sustainable use of NWFPs to pursue effective and sustainable forest rehabilitation and management.

The event culminated in a lively open discussion on technical, operational, social and governance issues with regard to FLR. Questions raised concerned the identification, practical usage and possible source of (especially native) species, the concrete role of local stakeholders, both within the decision-making process as well as in implementing FLR, as well as the challenge of sustaining FLR achievements vis-à-vis directly or indirectly addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the long run. Responses given by the presenters highlighted the essential role of securing local stakeholders’ full participation within the decision-making process and their subsequent ownership. This calls not only for inclusive and extensive but flexible capacity development and expansive preparation periods but also for clearly established and secure tenure rights, directly addressing trade-offs and assuring social and economic benefits.
MOBILIZING INVESTMENTS IN ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTS: INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP

Organizers: Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet) in partnership with Finance Alliance for Sustainable Trade (FAST), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and New Forests
Background

At the global level, institutional forestry investments (e.g., investments in funds, insurance companies and banks) are now a US$100 billion industry, but many investors are struggling to expand these investments to tropical forests including those in the Asia-Pacific region. At the same time, the integration of environmental, social and governance (ESG) lending practices to the forestry sector and deforestation-linked commodities are not yet mainstreamed. A rising group of impact investors reportedly invested more than US$700 million in sustainable forestry between 2009 and 2013, but only a small portion of this is believed to have reached Asia-Pacific forests. With growing interest in financing forestry, we face the question of how to mobilize private finance to support both conservation and production of Asia-Pacific forest resources.

This workshop built understanding on forestry investment, shared case studies and examples on overcoming investment challenges in the sector and provided a platform for cross-sector stakeholder discussion.

An overview of forestry investments

Dominic Elson (Chief Executive Officer of 73, Ltd) provided an overview of how forestry investments work, different types of private forestry investments and the challenges and changes needed to ensure effective and sustainable investments in the future.

Impact investments – case studies and opportunities

Francesca Nugnes (consultant at FAST) provided case studies of impact investment models and forestry financial products.

Responsible investments – an institutional investment perspective

Mary Kate Bullen (Associate Director – Sustainability & Communications, New Forests) discussed the typical perspectives of institutional investors on investment opportunities, the emergence and impact of responsible investments in forestry, how institutional investment can help forest owners and governments meet SFM goals, and how investors seek to manage risks and concomitant significance for Asia-Pacific forests.

Forestry in capital markets – mainstreaming environmental, social and governance issues

Chris Knight (Assistant Director of Sustainability & Climate Change, Price Water Coopers; on behalf of PwC and WWF) shared findings from the WWF report: ‘Sustainable Finance in Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia: A Review of Financier’s ESG Practices, Disclosure Standards and Regulations’ and provided an overview of approaches and resources for ESG integration within the finance sector.

Subgroup discussions

Experts and participants exchanged views during subgroup discussions on the role of good forestry investment in a country’s rural development goals, specific opportunities for investors to build and support partnerships, how countries may attract the ‘right’ kind of investors while maintaining ESG standards and practices, and the challenges foreseen in encouraging private investment in forestry companies.
Key messages

- In the current forest investment model where: 1) local communities have a physical and spiritual interest; 2) governments have a legal interest; 3) operators have a contractual interest; and 4) investors have a financial interest – the awareness of land tenure is greatest at the local community level and diminishes along this chain, but in many cases communities continue to be excluded from decision-making;

- A paradigm shift is needed away from the current model towards one in which the local private sector (e.g. smallholders and communities) seeks capital from investors. Increasing the capacity of forest communities to develop successful enterprises based on the sustainable use of forest and tree resources is therefore crucial;

- Differentiating between asset-building investments (e.g. investing in a plantation) and enabling investments (e.g. donor funding to develop business capacity) is necessary to clarify investment goals and satisfy the interests of all stakeholders;

- Institutional investors are increasingly looking for green investments in Asia-Pacific forests; for example, the Tropical Asia Forest Fund is worth US$170 million. Overall, green investment appeals to long-term institutional investors, who seek profitable, socially beneficial and environmentally sustainable opportunities; and

- ESG is a key factor in conducting investment screening to identify potential issues and evaluate investment risk. However, a large gap exists in Southeast Asian banks to meet international best practices for disclosing the ESG issues. The banking sector can fill these gaps by developing sector-specific ESG policies, joining initiatives such as the Banking Environment Initiative and adopting voluntary guidelines.
Related to climate change, forest resource assessment has become increasingly important to prepare forest management strategies and to prepare emerging national and international reporting requirements. However, in many countries there is a need to enhance the capacity of the relevant government agencies to meet the country’s demand for SFM, as well as efforts to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change and protecting biodiversity.

The objective of the workshop was to introduce new and appropriate technologies for forest spatial data and service systems developed in the Republic of Korea (ROK) and to share the experience with AFoCo members as well as other countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Specific objectives were:

• Introduction of the Korean National Forest Inventory (NFI) System and its application to prepare forest management strategies in relation to climate change;
• Presentation and demonstration of drone technology in forestry and its advantages and technical limitations;
• Presentation and demonstration of some forest information tools that can help foresters during fieldwork including electronic field books; and
• Presentation and demonstration of various thematic maps for forest resource assessment and user-oriented information service systems such as ROK’s DADURIM.

Attracting more than 100 participants, the workshop featured presentations from the experts and demonstration of existing systems in ROK as well as outdoor demonstrations using drones. The workshop introduced new and appropriate technologies for forest spatial data and service systems to share with neighbouring countries and organizations in the Asia-Pacific region.
The workshop provided insight on existing forest management schemes in various countries highlighting the importance of investments, technical developments as well as application of new technology for further development of forest resources. The workshop further stressed the importance of reliable technology to efficiently manage and collect data which will be the base information in identifying the current status in order to develop a practical future direction for forest investment.

Many new technologies and approaches are emerging in the region to restore degraded landscapes including forest spatial information systems. The workshop recommended facilitating cross-sectoral partnerships among policy-makers, financiers and other stakeholders in the public and private sectors, as well as sharing knowledge and promoting capacity development, particularly in spatial technology.
Brief description

AKECOP has been conducted since 2000 for forest restoration, biodiversity conservation and local livelihood enhancement via the promotion of agroforestry and community forestry, as well as capacity development through degree programmes, training courses and workshops, and so forth. The side event was a half-day panel presentation of the highlights of the significant AKECOP achievements in forest restoration research and capacity development over the last 15 years; in this context AKECOP has launched the book *ASEAN-Korea green partnership for sustainable forest management*. The presenters were representatives from AKECOP partner organizations in the ASEAN Member States (AMS) as well as representatives from the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB).

Summary of the presentations

‘Overview of 15 Years of AKECOP’ by Don Koo Lee (Endowed Chair Professor, Yeungnam University, ROK) presented AKECOP’s history, rationale, objectives, general strategy and programmes and a summary of 15 years of accomplishments/outputs.

‘Forest Restoration of Degraded Tin Mining Land, Malaysia’ by Ang Lai Hoe (Senior Researcher, Forest Research Institute Malaysia, Malaysia) reported experimental methods, results and outcomes of pioneering research on forest restoration of degraded tin mining land in Malaysia.

‘Forest Restoration through Agroforestry Action-Research at the Gunung Walat Educational Forest, Indonesia’ by Leti Sundawati (Professor, Bogor Agriculture University, Indonesia) introduced action-research methods, results and impacts of forest restoration through agroforestry in the Gunung Walat Education Forest, Indonesia.
‘Trat Forest Restoration Research and Development, Thailand’ by Monton Jamroenprucksa (Professor, Kasetsart University, Thailand) delivered strategies and results of forest restoration research and development at the Trat Demonstration Forest, Thailand.

‘Basic Forest Restoration Research in the Philippines’ by Lucrecio Rebugio (Professor Emeritus, University of the Philippines at Los Baños, the Philippines) presented a summary of several key basic forest restoration researches in Mt. Makiling and other sites in the Philippines, methods and results; he highlighted several collaborative on-site researches on forest restoration and biodiversity between ROK and Filipino scientists.

‘Developing Human Resources for Forest Restoration through Formal and Non-Formal Training Programs’ by Thaung Naing Oo (Director, Forest Research Institute, Myanmar) summarized AKECOP approaches and strategies to building human resources and capacity for forest restoration research and development in the ASEAN region, results and outcomes.

‘Building Forest Restoration Research and Development Capacities in Lao PDR’ by Chanhsamone Phongoudome (Deputy Director-General, NAFRI, Lao PDR) revealed results and outcomes of human resource development on forest restoration in Lao PDR.

‘Building Forest Restoration Research and Development Capacities in Cambodia’ by Sokh Heng (Director, Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development, Cambodia) delivered results and outcomes of human resource development on forest restoration in Cambodia.

‘Future Challenge of AKECOP’ by Don Koo Lee looked at the challenges and role of AKECOP in supporting ASEAN Green Integration and the SDGs.
Key points

• Over the past 15 years, AKECOP research has been responsive to the pressing and evolving issues of tropical deforestation and ecosystem degradation in the Southeast Asian region;
• An upscale on the research focus was also noted with the recognition of the detrimental impacts of natural disasters, driven by poor ecosystem health and anthropogenic pressures on natural resource use;
• Co-benefits of forest restoration such as boosting biodiversity, forest income and livelihoods have also been realized in the present research agenda, in pursuance of SFM;
• Key research findings have been published in various scientific journals and books;
• Capacity development through workshops, short-term training, graduate degree programmes and cross-country visits have been organized to empower local institutions and individuals as effective stewards of the ASEAN region’s forest resources; and
• Institutional collaborations helped partner stakeholders to understand and appreciate multifaceted forest restoration strategies employing biodiversity conservation, cost and benefit analysis, economic valuation, to name but a few approaches.
Forests’ role in mitigating climate change, productivity of indigenous timber and non-timber species, and success rates in forest restoration all depend on one thing – the genetic diversity of the tree species. Objectives of this event were to:

1. Introduce regional initiatives under the Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN) that contribute to implementing FAO’s Global Plan of Action on Forest Genetic Resources (GPA FGR) in support of broader environmental and development goals.

2. Discuss opportunities for mobilizing political and financial support for the implementation of the GPA in the region, in line with national forest programmes, biodiversity strategies and action plans and other relevant programmes and planning processes.

Professor Enrique Tolentino Jr. from the University of the Philippines at Los Baños presented APFORGEN’s strategy4 to support the implementation of the GPA, which has three main objectives:

1. Mobilizing political and financial support for the GPA FGR.
2. Conservation and sustainable use strategies for regionally important and endangered tree species.
3. Strengthening tree seed programmes to facilitate ecosystem restoration, support local livelihoods and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

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4 The strategy is available at www.apforgen.org.
Research Professor Zheng Yongqi from the Chinese Academy of Forestry presented plans for establishing a Regional Training Centre on Forest Genetic Resources, spearheaded by his institute. The training centre will provide training workshops and distance learning opportunities for trainers, policy-makers, forest managers and researchers on conservation and management of FGR. The training aims to support better integration of FGR management into relevant national and international policies, strategies and legislation, including, on climate change, forest restoration and food security and livelihoods.

Riina Jalonen from Bioversity International presented initial results for the Asia-Pacific region from a global survey on seed and seed sourcing for forest and landscape restoration. According to the results, most restoration projects in the region pay insufficient attention to the genetic health of seed source forests, choosing seed sources instead primarily based on geographic proximity to the restoration site and often collecting propagation material only from very few parent trees. Three out of four respondents said the projects did not in any way consider the impacts of climate change on tree populations when planning seed sourcing. The results of the survey will be used to identify action needs and recommendations for countries and the international community on how to improve supply of quality tree seeds and seedlings in order to improve the success of restoration efforts and help meet global and national restoration targets.

Seok-Woo Lee, from the National Institute of Forest Sciences of Republic of Korea showcased the country’s approaches and achievements in FGR conservation and management. The Korea Forest Service (KFS) began ex situ conservation programmes for FGR back in 1956, with the launch of the modern tree breeding programmes. Since 1972, KFS has designated in situ conservation forests for sustainable FGR management. To achieve more systematic and efficient FGR conservation, KFS produces, every five years, a National Forest Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, a comprehensive framework for achieving the nation’s goals to conserve FGR and to implement FAO’s GPA FGR and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity of the CBD. The ASEAN-Korea Forest Cooperation (AFoCo) can make a contribution to promoting regional collaboration for FGR conservation and management.

After a vivid discussion, the event concluded with the following recommendations to the APFC:

- The APFC may wish to recognize the role of APFORGEN as a mechanism for regional collaboration on the conservation and use of FGR supporting the implementation of SFM, and to encourage countries in the region to join APFORGEN and contribute to its activities;
- The APFC may wish to encourage APFORGEN to continue its efforts to establish a regional training centre on FGR and seek partnership with countries and relevant regional and international organizations, to contribute to strengthening capacities for effective implementation of the GPA; and
- The Action Plan for Forest and Landscape Restoration in the Asia-Pacific region should include actions to strengthen tree seed supply systems, especially for the region’s native tree species, in line with the decision by the 12th Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity that called on all actors to pay due attention to native species and genetic diversity considerations in ecosystem restoration.
Description

Deforestation, forest degradation and land degradation manifest themselves in many different forms across the vast region of Asia. Out of a total land area of 4.3 billion hectares, Asia contains some 1.7 billion hectares of arid, semi-arid and dry subhumid land including deforested land areas. There are expanding deserts in China and Mongolia, and land degradation is severe in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in particular. Deforestation, forest degradation and land degradation have also negatively affected human livelihoods. The Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) approach has pursued ecological integrity in forest/land restoration as well as human well-being enhancement at the same time. It includes not only tree planting, managing natural regeneration and improving land management, but also encouraging active stakeholder engagement in sustainable agriculture, agroforestry, protecting wildlife reserves, watershed protection etc., which is a more holistic approach for restoring the environment and enhancing human livelihoods. This event shared the experiences and knowledge on this approach in Asia and discussed further cooperative measures. The presenters were representatives from IUFRO, the Ministry of Land Environmental Protection (MoLEP) of DPRK, the National University of Mongolia, the Viet Nam Academy of Forest Science and the Dry Zone Greening Department of Myanmar. This event was open to any interested parties wanting to learn and discuss about combating land degradation and the FLR approach in Asia.
Key issues discussed

1. The holistic approach for both ecological restoration and socio-economic improvement.
2. Adequate capacity development for each level of stakeholders (government officials, researchers, technicians, local community etc.).
3. Active engagement by central and local governments taking FLR as one of the national priorities.
4. Cooperation among various stakeholders to cope with the social challenges in implementing FLR.
5. Knowledge sharing and technical cooperation for effective plantation, agroforestry and sloping land management.

Conclusions

The achievements and challenges of the FLR approach in Central, Southeast and Northeast Asia were analysed. In cooperation with domestic and international levels of stakeholders, the presenting countries have achieved ecological restoration in degraded forest land areas, diversification of income sources for local communities and improvement in the capability of responding and adapting to climate change. Nevertheless, there are still challenges in social (encroachment, land tenure, inadequate legal framework for forest land management, income generation, communication among various stakeholders), technical (nursery, species selection, silvicultural treatment, soil improvement) and physical (poor soil properties, severe climatic conditions, unpredictable environments, lack of energy/financial sources) aspects.

POSITIVE IMPACTS FROM INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES AND SMALLHOLDERS: THE FOREST PRODUCTION SYSTEMS OF THE FUTURE

Organizers: The Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) and Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF)

Therefore, there is a high need for better cooperation approaches between private sectors and communities to enhance positive impacts in SFM and production increase.

The main objectives of this event included:
1. Demonstrate viable models enabling smallholders and communities to support large-scale industry.
2. Understand different models for engaging smallholders and communities.
3. Identify enabling environments such as conducive policy frameworks for supporting communities and smallholders.

With responsible development of large-scale concessions, no longer viable in Southeast Asia, investors must now work in close cooperation with communities and smallholders whose role in wood provision is increasing significantly. Moreover, smallholders are facing many challenges in market access due to new legality compliance requirements.

The event brought together four successful models from Southeast Asia: direct cooperation in Lao PDR, supporting agroforestry and outgrowers in Thailand, involving communities through a landscape approach in Indonesia and providing clear markets in Viet Nam. Forty-five participants actively engaged in following broader discussions to share their experiences and
identify where and how such models can be effectively used in Asia and the Pacific.

The main recommendations were:

- Interventions at the company smallholder interface should be further supported, especially focused on improving productivity and the inherent sustainability of the production systems;
- Partnerships with companies and industry based on smallholder forest resources should be fostered by governments, donors and associations;
- The keys to successful smallholder-based industry (markets, supportive policy, technical packages and tenure) should be enabled by companies, government and development agencies; and
- Legal verification and sustainable certification processes that are led by companies for smallholders may be a cost-effective approach for initiatives such as PEFC, FSC and FLEGT.
Background

There are over 2 billion hectares of degraded and deforested land across the world – places that have lost their ability to provide nature’s benefits to people and the planet. The Bonn Challenge is a global aspiration to restore 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by 2020. During the Climate Summit 2014 in New York, the target for the Bonn Challenge was increased to 350 million hectares by 2030. The Bonn Challenge is not a new global commitment but rather a practical means of realizing many existing international commitments, including the CBD Aichi Target 15, the UNFCCC REDD+ goal, and the Rio+20 land degradation neutral goal, as well as many national and regional goals. Underpinning the Bonn Challenge is the FLR approach, which aims to restore ecological integrity at the same time as improving human well-being through multifunctional landscapes.

FLR relies on active stakeholder engagement in the process and can accommodate a mosaic of different land uses, including agroforestry, protected wildlife reserves, regenerated forests, managed plantations, riverside plantings to protect waterways and increased resilience of coastal zones, to name a few. FLR is more than just planting trees – it is restoring a full landscape ‘forward’ to meet present and future needs through multifunctional landscapes.

Summary of presentations

The session presented the Bonn Challenge and the commitments made by countries and organizations to restore degraded and deforested lands. It took a closer look at the types of services and benefits FLR provides for the environment and human well-being using case studies from around the globe. Mirjam Kuzee, Global Coordinator Forest and Landscape Restoration Assessments, Global Forest and Climate Change Programme, IUCN, and Scott Perkins, Head, Natural Resources Group Asia, IUCN, demonstrated why FLR can be the solution to many current problems. At the end of the session, there was a presentation on the Mangroves For the Future (MFF) initiative. MFF focuses on building resilience of ecosystem-dependent coastal communities by promoting nature-based solutions and by showcasing the climate change adaptation and mitigation benefits that can be achieved with healthy mangrove forests and other types of coastal ecosystems.
Key messages

1. The Bonn Challenge is a global aspiration to restore 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by 2020, which was increased to 350 million hectares by 2030 (New York Declaration 2014).

2. The Bonn Challenge is not a new global commitment but rather a practical means of realizing many existing international commitments.

3. Underpinning the Bonn Challenge is the FLR approach, which aims to restore ecological integrity at the same time as improving human well-being through multifunctional landscapes.

4. FLR is a more than just planting trees – it is restoring a full landscape ‘forward’ to meet present and future needs through multifunctional landscapes.

Key recommendations

1. Make a pledge to the Bonn Challenge to catalyse action on the ground for FLR, to improve human well-being, regain ecological integrity and enhance resilience.

2. Restore degraded forests and landscapes to generate benefits from watershed protection, improve crop yields, enhance livestock production, boost forest product delivery and consolidate climate change adaptation and mitigation.
Many countries want to know what opportunities exist at the national and subnational levels to reverse degradation through FLR for sustainable economic growth and human well-being. But where to start? How can this potential be assessed? IUCN and the World Resources Institute (WRI) developed the Restoration Opportunity Assessment Methodology (ROAM) to help countries identify and analyse this FLR potential, and locate specific areas of opportunity to improve livelihoods, restore ecosystem function and services, enhance resilience and adaptation, and increase production.

The step-by-step methodology is flexible, participative and scalable; it is designed to produce an assessment process that is locally adaptable, robust and affordable. During the ROAM process, comprehensive information is generated in the form of maps and data to help analyse which type of restoration activities are most suitable, and what costs and benefits are expected. The ROAM process also strengthens relationships among different stakeholders at the landscape level, as they collaborate to identify the best FLR strategies for implementation. The ‘road test’ edition of the ROAM guide was published in 2014, and has been applied in several countries already.

During this interactive session, Mirjam Kuzee, Global Coordinator Forest and Landscape Restoration Assessments, Global Forest and Climate Change Programme, IUCN, explained the ROAM process using animations and guided discussions. She also showcased some of the results of the ROAM steps from around the globe.

**Key messages**

1. ROAM assists countries with the analysis and identification of FLR potential and opportunities, at national or subnational levels.
2. ROAM is a step-by-step methodology that is flexible, participative, locally adaptable and robust.
3. The ROAM process and related tools generate much data, information and learning on FLR, such as maps, analysis and partnership building.

**Key recommendations**

1. Use ROAM to analyse and identify FLR potential and opportunities, at national or subnational levels.
2. Engage the private sector, government agencies, the investment sector, local communities, indigenous groups and all other relevant stakeholders in the ROAM process to best analyse the cost-benefit of FLR and identify appropriate restoration opportunities.
OTHER EVENTS
The 21st Conference of Parties (COP 21) of the UNFCCC was held in Paris, France, from 30 November to 11 December 2015. COP 21 and the resulting Paris Agreement have been seen by many as a turning point in international climate negotiations. Their implications have been particularly significant in the context of forests. In view of this, forestry sector stakeholders in Asia and the Pacific require succinct and accurate information on the outcomes of COP 21 and the Paris Agreement.

Since 2010, FAO and RECOFTC have collaborated in organizing an annual expert consultation on forests and climate change to assess the outcomes of the UNFCCC COPs and their potential implications for Asia and the Pacific. After COP 21, it was decided that the seventh version of this event would take place as part of the APFW, in Clark Free Zone, Philippines, from 23-24 February 2016. Twelve experts presenting views from multiple countries as well as key institutions in the Asia-Pacific region participated in the meeting. As in previous years, a booklet was produced to summarize the discussions held during the consultation, which was a response to the set of 12 questions designed to inform stakeholders on the implications of the Paris COP 21.

For more information about this event, the booklet can be accessed online at:
The corner was well visited, with approximately 200 delegates from different countries including consortium members and partners; it provided a space for networking, advocacy, formal and informal conversations, and even important meetings.

**Objectives**

The CANopy Corner was conceptualized to sustain the gains from the call to action generated at the ‘Building Momentum’ workshop in preparation for the World Forestry Congress in 2015; the Corner exhibited and featured community producers’ and forest-based enterprises’ produce, highlighted the roles of women farmers and small producers, IPs, NWFP collectors and harvesters in sustaining livelihoods, healthy families and healthy forests; and promoted/disseminated knowledge materials, products and publications of organizations, networks, farmers and forest producers, among others to a wider audience and beyond existing partners.
A Wild and Healthy Forest Foods for Nutrition session was hosted at the CANopy Corner – Madhu Ramnath discusses this topic (photo credit: NTFP-EP Asia)

Preparing for Tea Time and Happy Hour at the Wild Bar (photo credit: D. Labapis)

Shiny Rehel applies a turmeric-chickpea-milk-based cream to Bernd Liss’ face – the Forest Spa was one of the highlights of the CANopy Corner (photo credit: NTFP-EP Asia)

The Wild Bar served as a venue for informal meetings and networking (photo credit: NTFP-EP Asia)

CANopy Corner prior to the opening of APFW (photo credit: D. Labapis)
Highlights

Forest products and foods showcase: Community products ranging from forest foods such as forest honey, nuts and jam to clothing, handicrafts and raw materials made from materials derived from forests, such as raw Almaciga resin, were exhibited at the event. A number of forest foods were also made available for free tasting.

Knowledge corner: The latest knowledge products and materials from NWFPs, AIPP and the AFA, were displayed and arranged according to themes, some were for viewing but most were for distribution. The corner encouraged APFW participants and delegates to roam around the fair, read these materials and also to chat with fellow delegates. Tables with knowledge materials were also made available and promotional materials for the consortium’s APFW stream sessions were displayed on Sintra boards which informed visitors about other major events of the organizations involved.

Forest Foods Session: A session entitled ‘WILD AND HEALTHY: Forest Foods for Nutrition’ highlighted the importance of forest foods in the diets of forest-based communities. Six speakers representing different Asian countries discussed links among forest foods and nutrition, culture and food security; developing a user’s guide; working with youth to revive food traditions and restore forest foods; and the importance of documentation of wild foods. The event was an intimate squeeze as over 40 participants crammed into the space to listen to the interesting discussions and sample wild foods from the forest. Key messages that the audience obtained from the session included:

- Wild foods are superior to mainstream processed foods in terms of nutrition;
- Many communities are dependent on food from the forest for subsistence and for maintaining important traditions, but these resources are becoming scarce because of deforestation; and
- There is a need to rehabilitate wild foods and bring them back into the diet of forest-based communities, if they have been lost. Documentation of wild foods and harvesting and eating practices helps to ensure that traditions are not lost forever. Involving youth is a key strategy in wild food restoration.

Hosting the Wild Bar and Forest Spa promotional events: The Wild Bar and Forest Spa were managed by NTFP-EP staff who created and served drinks sourced from a variety of indigenous community products and ingredients such as forest honey, tea and coffee in the morning. During happy hour, cocktails, mixed drinks and juices such as nipa palm gin and honey were served in a well-crafted schedule for the whole APFW duration. Often, the bar served as a hub for chats and discussion.

The CANopy Corner also hosted the Forest Spa, one of the promotional events of NTFP-EP Asia for its Forest and Beauty session under Stream 1 of the APFW. The Forest Spa featured facial care products from India, Myanmar and Indonesia that have forest-based ingredients. Demonstration and actual facial sessions were conducted, receiving praise and positive feedback from the delegates who tested and lined up to try the different products.
Culture and networking (CANopy) room

The CANopy room continued the tradition started during APFW 2011 in Beijing and broadened the sphere as host to different art and photo exhibits, a short film showcase and networking events with the involvement of many collaborators. The CANopy room provided ample space for networking and creative activities. With strategic positioning and thoughtful layout, the CANopy room became a place for participants to meet, hang out and take a break from the intensive workshops and meetings while gaining knowledge and getting inspired by forest-friendly lifestyles. ESSC, together with IFSA and with support from FAO-RAP, conceptualized the entire design of this room.

The ESSC-AFN-APC corner featured a mural produced in Bukidnon, Mindanao, as part of APFW regional celebrations by students from the Apu Palamguwan Cultural Education Center (APC) with guidance from Talaandig artists. Publications from ESSC, AFN and APC were also displayed and distributed gratis to visitors.

IFSA entertained the CANopy room audience by providing a series of films garnered from various organizations present at the APFW. Moreover, IFSA organized live art sessions with Filipino artist A.G. Saño and a graffiti art exhibition by a youth group.

Three notable networking events were held at the CANopy room: the IFSA Capacity Building Sessions, the NTFP Forest Food for Nutrition Session and the NTFP Crafts Show and Tell where an informal sharing of crafts and weavings, and the stories behind the designs was held.

The roles of indigenous communities, local people and youth in SFM were highlighted in the exhibits and presentations in the CANopy room. These key messages were in line with the overall theme of APFW, Growing Our Future!
The Kids-to-Forests (K2F) initiative captured the hearts of participants through their story wall and painting workshops. K2F gave away the outputs of the painting workshops as tokens to APFC participants after the closing plenary.

Youth events’ flyer with a schedule of the Forestry Film Festival.

Students collect forestry publications from AFN during APFW 2016 (photo credit: @apu_palamguvan)
The success of the CANopy room generated further ideas and concepts for the celebration of International Forest Day. There were discussions about bringing the art installations to FAO’s Philippines office building in Manila to disseminate the meaningful messages of the CANopy room.

Forestry Film Festival

A film screening was held inside the CANopy room. Submissions of short films from FAO, RECOFTC, AIPP and CIFOR were presented in the Forestry Film Festival. The Forestry Film Festival was undertaken in cooperation with NTFP-EP. Instead of showing a few short films in a span of two to three hours, the Film Night was rolled out as a three-day event with 23 films screened.

The Forestry Film Festival raised awareness about:
• Forest resources as sources of income and livelihoods;
• Involvement of local communities in conserving and protecting the forests;
• IPs and forests;
• Forest degradation in Indonesia; and
• What the forest can offer, solutions for forest degradation.

Onsite graffiti and live art exhibition

IFSA invited environmental artist A.G. Saño to conduct live art sessions in the CANopy room. Prior to the event, A.G. Saño conceptualized the art design. In line with the theme of APFW, the design featured the five APFW streams with Mother Earth as the centrepiece. His rationale was our actions in the streams all flow to our common environment and this is why we always have to consider the socio-environmental impacts of our lifestyles and our choices. In addition, IFSA enjoined an artist youth group based in the University of the
Philippines at Los Baños to create a graffiti wall in the CANopy room as a tribute to the APFW event. The concept behind the APFW graffiti design was to show the harmony and interdependence of flora and fauna when we talk about the forests.

Two art murals were produced onsite during the first two days of the APFW and were displayed during the rest of the week. The participatory art session was joined by representatives from different organizations. IFSA members shared their insights from the creative exercise:

“It’s like a call from Mother Nature for us to help in conserving and managing our natural environment. And how colourful it is, seems like giving us hope” – Veronica Leung, IFSA

“Mother Nature provides colour to the Earth. Without it, our planet would be a dark place to live” – Gina Tagamtam, IFSA

The FMB was offered the art murals as a token of appreciation for DENR’s hosting of the APFW and to serve as remembrance of youth efforts. FMB Director Ricardo Calderon selected the APFW 2016 as the artwork to be brought back to the DENR headquarters for display in their lobby that is currently being refurbished.

Forestry talk and fashion show

The Forestry Fashion Show was made possible through the sponsorship of FAO, DENR-FMB sponsorship and contributions from NTFP-EP, K2F and the APC. The concept was formed through the joint efforts of FAO-RAP, IFSA, ESSC-AFN, K2F Philippines, NTFP-EP with CMCC, and international fashion designer Anthony Cruz Legarda. The common aim was to energize brands and designers to develop sustainable forest fabrics, work with forest communities and invest in socially- and environmentally-responsible supply chains.

The fashion show, held on 24 February, drew an audience of almost 500 guests. FAO Senior Forestry Officer Patrick Durst opened the show with a brief message, expressing his appreciation and gratitude to the various organizations that had made the fashion show possible and pointing out that “non-timber forest products can be beautiful, creative, innovative and fun.”

The opening message was followed by a talk show moderated by Crissy Guerrero of NTFP-EP with Janet Martires of K2F Philippines, Anthony Cruz Legarda, and Femy Pinto of the NTFP-EP as discussants. Each guest talked about developing and enhancing the capacity of forest communities and the NWFP market in fashion.

The Forestry Fashion Show officially started when the eight ‘Kiddie Earth Ambassadors’ and seven youths and teachers of K2F Philippines paraded the runway. The K2F contingent walked in their hand-painted shirts...
Patrick Durst opened the fashion show with a brief message.

Crissy Guerrero moderated a talk show featuring Janet Martires, Anthony Cruz Legarda and Femy Pinto.

‘Kiddie Earth Ambassadors’ and representatives from the Kids-to-Forests initiative parade the runway.

Models walk the runway for the Borneo Chic fashion line, which showcases the creative talent of indigenous weavers whose craft risks extinction due to forest loss and a lack of appreciation for their art (photo credit: Arjay Dineros).

Four Pulangiyen foresters from Northern Mindanao wore hand-painted shirts they designed showing Kaliyaan (Dipterocarpus validus).

APFW 2016 participants dance to live music after the fashion show.
carrying symbols of their advocacy to care for the forests. These symbols show that as earth ambassadors, every day can be a day for forests!

They were then followed by four Pulangiyen foresters from Northern Mindanao who also wore hand-painted shirts they had designed showing one of the pillars of their forest, Kaliyaan (*Dipterocarpus validus*). Moreover, they had found out that the Kaliyaan seedling can survive direct sunlight.

As the highlight of the evening, the NTFP-EP presented three collections showcasing its partnership and collaboration with CSOs: the Borneo Chic collection for Indonesia; the Neo-Ethnic Fashion Collection (Philippine Textile Research Institute); and international fashion designer, Anthony Cruz Legarda of the Custom Made Crafts Center (CMCC) with the Modern Indigenous (MODI) collection.

These collections promoted the highest environmental and social standards in hand-woven textile production and natural dyeing techniques. The clothes were produced from indigenous fibres by forest people equipped with skills and trained to sustainably manage their forests.

Martha Tilaar, a leading cosmetic brand in Indonesia donated the skin creams and make-up. Even the make-up used by the models was derived from forests. The skin cream was made from putih langsat or lanzones, known to brighten the skin.

Live music and dancing capped the exciting and inspiring evening for everyone.

The APFW 2016 Forestry Fashion Show raised awareness on the multiple services that forests provide in livelihoods and fashion. By showcasing Filipino and Indonesian ingenuity and artisanship in producing natural dyes, beautiful textiles and clothes, lifestyle brands and designers as well as end users gained a better understanding of the urgency of managing our forests sustainably for the next generation. The great participation and contribution of the young models and backstage personnel helped them to gain confidence by organizing the performance for a 500-person audience.

**Social media marketing**

IFSA produced a Social Media Campaign Plan to provide online presence and publicity for APFW. The following channels were set up for this purpose:

- Twitter: @APFW2016
- Facebook: AsiaPacificForestryWeek
- Instagram: @APForestryWeek
- WeChat: APForestryWeek
- YouTube: APForestryWeek

All the social media accounts were embedded on the official APFW Web site managed by the DENR. These channels enhanced the event’s publicity prior to the actual event and covered the day-to-day happenings in APFW. It also provided virtual presence for those who could not attend the event.

Active involvement in social media by youth generated the following:

- Facebook: 768 likes;
- Twitter using the hashtag #apfw2016: 508 tweets, 36 following, 170 followers, 251 likes; and
- Instagram: 118 posts, 157 followers, 3 following.

IFSA and ESSC also produced several blogs and shared content of the event with other Web sites and newsletters such as those of the Global Landscapes Forum, IFSA local committees and Bendum News.
Capacity-development session for young foresters

Students and young professionals from the region were immersed in communication skill improvement activities. Rizza Karen Veridiano and Jan Joseph Dida, volunteer facilitators from IFSA Philippines, helped the participants in developing their skills through pitch composition and proposal development which are important in seeking opportunities that may help them in their respective careers within the forestry sector.

Such capacity-development activities and networking sessions will help young foresters to contribute to the sustainable development of forestry not only in the Asia-Pacific region but also world-wide and thus help to provide a better future for present and future generations.
A one-day field trip was scheduled on Thursday, 25 February 2016. This was an excellent opportunity to visit and discuss some of the interesting features of the Philippine forests and forestry of Central Luzon. Participants were able to choose from one of the three modules.

Module 1: Ecotourism and biodiversity

Participants of this module were taken to Subic Bay. Their first stop was a visit to the Binictican Mangrove Forest. The Binictican-Malawaan mangroves cover about 30 hectares of the Subic Bay coastline along with the Boton (12.23 hectares), Triboa A (7.80 hectares), Triboa B (2.50 hectares), Nabasan (6.60 hectares) and Ilanin (2.50 hectares) mangroves. The management, development and protection of these mangrove areas are under the jurisdiction of the Subic-Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA)-Ecology Center. This attraction showcases a great variety of mangrove species planted along Subic Bay with a total of 37 species in 28 genera and 20 families of plants. According to the DENR – Ecosystem Research and Development Bureau’s 2011
APFW participants visited Binictican Mangrove Forest

Emergency fire-lighting demonstration at the JEST camp

Participants saw countless Golden Crowned Flying Foxes during a visit to Bat Kingdom

Educational path through the mangrove forest

Bat Kingdom was a perfect place for APFW participants to observe bats in their natural environment

Participants learned jungle survival skills at the JEST camp
A study, the Binictican-Malawaan mangroves comprise 131.38 tonnes/hectare aboveground biomass and 48.87 tonnes/hectare belowground biomass.

Next stop in this module was a visit to the Bat Kingdom, which is a large protected forest that serves as the home to an amazing diversity of bat species, such as fruit bats, bamboo bats, the Golden Crowned Flying Foxes – the biggest bats in the world, and the Lesser Flat-Headed Bats – considered the smallest bats. The Golden Crowned Flying Foxes only feed on plants and play a vital role in the life cycle of the rain forest in the country. Bat Kingdom is perfect for enthusiasts who want to observe bats in their natural habitat.

At the end, participants took part in the Jungle Environment Survival Training (JEST) Camp, which is one of the premier survival course providers in the Philippines, offering adventurous souls a chance to uncover their primitive instinct for survival by teaching them indigenous skills. Besides learning jungle survival skills, participants also visited their mini bird zoo, took a short hike and tried the delicious Luto sa Kawayan (food cooked inside bamboo poles).

**Module 2: Forest rehabilitation**

Participants of this module visited the Paradise Ranch. This is an environmental project designed to educate children and the general public on protecting the environment through reforestation and animal conservation. This is done by providing jobs to many poor individuals who join their effort. Paradise Ranch proudly promotes responsible charity by promoting ‘work for food or work for school programs’ giving each of their clients the necessary assistance to help themselves instead of providing ‘Dole Out.’
APFW participants visited Paradise Ranch – an environmental project designed to educate about protecting the environment through reforestation and animal conservation.

Next stop was a visit to the Nayong Pilipino that took participants to precolonial and colonial eras of Philippine history. It is essentially a representation in miniature of the diverse Philippines and its culture, all in one place. This recreational/leisure/history-learning facility is divided into numerous geographically-sectionalized display areas, where participants were able to find representations of various regions of the Philippines.

Module 3: Forest research and extension

The first part of this module was a stop at Pampanga State Agricultural University where participants visited programmes on agriculture and forestry with facilities such as a clonal nursery, a bamboosetum, a rain forest demonstration site and a mahogany forest park.

Module 3 also visited the Nayong Pilipino described in Module 2.
Participants visited Pampanga State Agricultural University

Some participants even tried out a local Philippine dance demonstrated at Nayong Pilipino
Participants visited Pampanga State Agricultural University. Some participants even tried out a local Philippine dance demonstrated at Nayong Pilipino.
Competitions

Before APFW 2016 took place, FAO in cooperation with IFSA and ESSC organized three competitions – photo, poetry-writing and editorial cartoon. Running the contests took the steps of: (i) multilevel checking of technicalities of rules and procedures including selection criteria; (ii) calling for submissions; (iii) screening candidates; and (iv) selecting the winners. The team had five months to facilitate the competitions. Selection of the winners was done by a committee in FAO RAP. There was one winner per contest and all three contest winners were flown to Clark, Pampanga, to attend and participate in APFW.

The CANopy room exhibited a total of 22 contest entries:

- 16 photo contest finalists
  - Winning entry: Mangrove temptation – Ahmad Mustapha Mohamad Pazi (Malaysia)
  - 5 finalists:
    - Cool reward – Colin Nicholas (Malaysia)
    - The relationship – Narongdet Detkong (Thailand)
    - Post-burn assessment – Salahuddin Ahmad (Australia)
    - Sustainable future – Lyra Kyle Chu (Philippines)
    - AjourneyforGaharu(Aquilaria malaccensis)
  - 10 semi-finalists:
    - Let’s rise with sea level rise – Benjo Salvatierra (Philippines)

- 3 editorial cartoon finalists
  - Winning entry: Protect our future – Michael Mairing (Indonesia)
  - Finalists:
    - I’m not fine – Dwiki Rakanda Putra
    - It’s in our hands – Rochelle Señeres

- 3 poetry-writing finalists
  - Winning entry: Whisper in rainforest – Diah Widyasari Dardja (Indonesia)
  - Finalists:
    - Rafflesia leonardi – Dennis Andrew S. Aguinaldo
    - Trees, forest, future – Adi Gangga
The competition was organized by ESSC and FAO-RAP. The call for nominations was announced through e-mail blast and social media accounts. After that, a number of entries were received from APFC countries. FAO-RAP facilitated the selection process. Upon identification of the winner, organizers produced a poster for exhibit at the CANopy room and a plaque of recognition for use during the awarding ceremony.

To help recognize and celebrate the success of exemplary contributions to forests and forestry, FAO conducted a process to identify ‘Champion of Asia-Pacific Forests’ as part of preparations for APFW 2016. As the region’s forests are under pressure, people who make major efforts and use their abilities to reach out and effectively promote the value of forests at local and regional levels can inspire others to do the same; they are invaluable for the forest and its dependents.

Filipino-American forest restoration advocate Patrick Dugan was awarded the 2016 Asia-Pacific Forest Champion Award in recognition of his efforts to promote FLR through assisted natural regeneration (ANR) techniques in the Philippines and throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Dugan received his award at a ceremony during APFW 2016.

In both government and private sectors, Pat Dugan’s contributions and presence in programmes and forums have been an important source of practical ideas and recommendations on simple and workable action points that promote SFM.

Pat always experienced being different. The son of a Kankanna-ey mother and an American father, he grew up in the Cordillera Mountain Range in northern Philippines and after high school worked in Mindanao in the south. In the 1970s, an era when policy orientation favoured companies that extracted timber as fast as possible, Pat went ‘against the grain’. As manager of the Philippine American Timber Company, Inc. (PATIC) in Negros Oriental, he applied for a lower approved volume not only because the concession would not be able to meet the prescribed cut, but also because he realized that the forest would not survive. Although the government did not grant the request, he convinced the company to unilaterally reduce its cutting volume. At a time when concessions were using heavy machinery in poverty-stricken logging areas, Pat argued for the practical advantages of labour-based harvesting in natural forests to address the challenges of reducing costs, increasing profits, providing local employment and maintaining healthy residual stands. The PATIC concession was considered to be one of the best managed and most sustainable in the Philippines.
in the 1970s when the number of concession permits were in the hundreds. The company received national awards for its accomplishments in forest protection and conservation.

In more recent years, Pat has been instrumental in advocating, mentoring, and advising various projects related to agroforestry, ANR, reduced impact logging, bio-energy, and forest-based livelihoods in many countries such as Indonesia, Mongolia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and Viet Nam in addition to the Philippines. He influences forestry development in the region not only through the Bagong Pagasa Foundation (BPF), but also through influencing the work of a raft of international organizations, including ITTO, JOFCA, JIFPRO, USAID, JICA and FAO.

Having come from the logging industry, and acknowledging the bad as well as the good from this sector, Pat is consistently focused on working with communities and the promotion of ANR. Pat has been one of the key driving forces in the Asia-Pacific region and particularly in the Philippines in developing the techniques, promoting the concept and advocating the widespread adoption of ANR techniques. As founder and president of the BPF, Pat was instrumental in establishing ANR demonstration sites, which have been used to conduct substantial training events to
promote wider adoption of this important technique at the field level in the Philippines and around the region. Pat has been a key resource person in the associated training seminars, workshops and field visits that have benefited literally thousands of field practitioners.

Pat’s creative yet pragmatic ideas stem from his vast wealth of knowledge and experience having worked in a variety of industries – from agriculture and forestry to broadcasting. His early career in media provided him immense capacity to motivate, mentor and convey the message of SFM to the broader general public. His consistent promotion of ANR and reduced impact logging is helping to spread the word across the region. Above all, Pat’s passion for improving forest and land management has made him probably the most important and tireless advocate for ANR techniques in the past 25 years – in the Philippines and the wider Asia-Pacific region. His enthusiasm, energy, boundless optimism, coupled with his common sense, integrity, friendliness and ability to relate to people of all levels make him a very worthy recipient of the Champion of Asia-Pacific Forest Award.

Patrick Durst of FAO-RAP presented the plaque of recognition during the APFW Welcome Reception. In his acceptance speech, Dugan highlighted the important role of forest institutions in generating public awareness on ANR and reduced impact logging as good practices for SFM. The Champion of Asia-Pacific Forests award has become a platform to generate huge impact on other foresters as it gives a chance for people like Dugan to inspire others with his story. More so, he became an icon for the youth when he shared more of his thoughts during the Young Foresters’ Summit.
Ahmad Mustapha Mohamad Pazi from Malaysia won the Asia-Pacific Forest Week Growing Our Future! photo contest with his entry ‘Mangrove temptation’.

Ahmad Mustapha Mohamad Pazi is currently a student of forest management and ecosystem science at the Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia. His interest in everything related to nature and the environment started early in his childhood, and grew over time. Today his main interests are forest ecosystems, recreation, ecotourism and climate change issues. His main goal and driving passion is to see Mother Nature preserved for the next generation. In order for that to happen, he would like to invite and encourage all of us to stand together to save our natural heritage. Ahmad Mustapha is presently occupied with his research on mangroves, particularly on soil carbon storage.
Forestry student, **Michael Jose Mairing**, won the editorial cartoon contest with his entry ‘**Protect our future**’.

Mairing is a forestry student at the Universitas Gadjah Mada in Indonesia. Learning about forestry, natural resources and nature has inspired him to continue his childhood interest in drawing and illustration. His main goal is to become an entrepreneur, and not an illustrator. He sees that sometimes entrepreneurs have little respect for the balance in nature, as they can create disputes between different groups of people over natural resources and many are contributing to climate change thus driving our planet into destruction. Once he becomes an entrepreneur, he wishes to tackle all the bad things that other entrepreneurs do, in order to maintain the balance of resources besides improving people’s quality of life.

The APFW team invited original cartoons from Asia-Pacific residents to help raise awareness about the value of Asia-Pacific’s forests for sustainable development. Editorial cartoons had to illustrate a commentary on current events surrounding forests and forestry in the Asia-Pacific region.
Diah Widyasari Dardja, from Indonesia, won the APFW poetry contest with her entry ‘Whisper of rainforest’.

Dardja’s interest in writing started in primary school, where she learned from many Indonesian literature works how to comprehend a story and write a summary. This became her favourite activity, so she kept writing until high school. High school gave her an opportunity to improve her skills even more, and she started learning how to write a play for her art performance class. Her love for the environment led her to study Natural Resources and Agricultural Economy at the Institute of Agriculture in Bogor, West Java, Indonesia, and later she also earned a degree in Communication Management at the University of Indonesia. Currently, she is working at a foreign embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia. Although living in a city, she likes to maintain contact with nature. For this reason, she enjoys trekking and mountain-climbing in her free time. She is also a passionate jazz lover.
CLOSING ADDRESSES
At the closing of APFW 2016, it is my great pleasure to congratulate you all on this highly successful event.

The largest APFW yet assembled many of the most outstanding forestry leaders, some of the most eloquent and knowledgeable forestry advocates and many of the finest forestry minds, available to the Asia-Pacific region, and indeed the world. We have all greatly benefited from the ideas, learning and experiences that have been generously shared during the rich array of events that have been woven together to create this watershed event.

An outstanding feature of Forestry Week has been the broad range of innovative events – more than 70 – arranged by the more than 80 agencies that have partnered in the event. There has been enormous diversity and innovation in the topics and formats these have taken. We have had plenaries, dialogues, sessions, seminars, summits, workshops, meetings, networks,
managed debates, field trips, book launches, storytelling, spas, bars, film screenings and fashion shows – wine, beer, singing and dancing and much more besides. It is quite a list!

The theme of APFW, Growing Our Future! recognizes that key decisions that will have long-lasting impacts on forestry have been made in new and evolving contexts on the world stage.

The development of the post-2015 agenda, the SDGs and the Paris Agreement have set new directions for forestry and consequently have featured strongly in many of our deliberations during Forestry Week.

Among the recommendations arising from the APFC session were calls for assistance in developing capacities of countries to enable them to meet the ambitious goals and targets for forestry that these new accords entail. FAO is certainly cognizant of this need, and I also extend the request to our many institutional partners – that we collaborate and cooperate to ensure efficient delivery of assistance to the countries to help them deal with these complex issues.

Many of the other important recommendations arising from APFC session also reflect the five themes developed as the streams of Forestry Week.

We have talked about trade and markets as being the pathway to prosperity.

We have talked about tackling the complexities and challenges confronting us in the climate change arena and discussed the opportunities that will arise as we proceed to meet the challenges.

We talked on the theme of ‘Serving Society: People and Forests,’ recognizing that people-centred development is increasingly the focus of forestry policies. We talked about the mainstreaming of decentralization, participatory decision-making, benefit-sharing mechanisms and empowerment of people who live in and around forests. A key recommendation from the APFC session was to strengthen local stakeholder rights and enable and invest in local institutions and capacities.

On the theme of ‘New Institutions and New Governance’ we reviewed the scope and scale of illegal forestry activities and associated trade. Governments, CSOs and the private sector came together to discuss interactions between forest law enforcement, governance and trade. It was very heartening to see all countries and sectoral groups – including producers, processors and consumers – assuming responsibility and expressing commitment to combating this serious challenge.

And in Stream 5, we addressed questions of how can we promote green investment and at the same time re-grow our natural assets? How can we foster SFM, forest rehabilitation and restoration and conservation? To what extent and how can we mobilize green investment?
I have found this third APFW to be enlightening, informative and extremely enjoyable. To a very large extent, this success is due to our hosts. On behalf of FAO, I wish to offer my very sincere thanks to the Government of the Philippines and especially to the DENR for their great generosity and outstanding efforts in organizing this APFW. I am fully aware that the organizational burden has been immense, and appreciate that this burden has been shouldered by our hosts with unflagging enthusiasm and unfailing courtesy.

I also offer thanks to the many, many organizations that have enriched Forestry Week by bringing innovations and creative approaches to various events and for contributing important financial resources. Of course, I once again need to particularly re-iterate our enormous gratitude to the eight other stream leader organizations:

- ITTO and the WRI;
- CIFOR and the SPC;
- RECOFTC and the ASFN;
- APFNet and AFoCo.

And to APAFRI, ESSC and the students of IFSA – particularly not forgetting the team of IFSA journalists who have worked with us long into the night – and early into the morning – to bring us the Forestry Week Gazette.

Special thanks to Janet and the Kids-to-Forests for really putting things into perspective with respect to youth and the imperative for Growing Our Future!

Most of all, thanks to all of you, who have contributed so much to this invigorating event.

Such collaboration and goodwill will long be remembered as a crowning feature of APFW 2016.

Thank you.
As the saying goes, there is time for everything. Just four days ago, you were welcomed to this very place with the utmost hospitality that we can offer and now the time has come for all of us to close the third APFW. As the representative for the host country, giving the closing speech for an important occasion like this can sometimes be harder to do than giving the opening speech. Since day one of the preparation up to today as we wrap-up, there is always that lingering concern on what might possibly go wrong as we execute our plan to make this event a success. I believe all our hard work has finally paid off.

For some of you, this is the time to reflect on what you just experienced during this past four days and ask yourself, “Is it worth my time to come all the way from my home country to attend this event? Are my expectations in this regard fully met?” It is my hope that your answer to both questions is a big yes. All I can say is that we have done our very best to make your stay in the Philippines something that is conducive to exchanges of ideas as we discussed cerebral topics offered by the five streams as well as comfortable and enjoyable enough to nourish both body and soul to provide a respite from such a hectic schedule of events.

I am confident that with the diversity of experiences shared and the opportunities for information sharing throughout the week, all of you will go back to your respective countries armed with a set of innovative goals, ideas and recommendations that will help effect necessary changes to make SFM the norm rather than the exception, especially with the vital role that forests play in addressing the threat of climate change.

With more than 70 different events discussing a wide range of topics, APFW 2016 has indeed attracted an unprecedented number of attendees from countries in the Asia-Pacific region representing a wide spectrum of interest and perspectives. This is a testament to the hard work put in by FAO and the numerous organizations...
that organized and supported these events under the five streams. Our sincerest gratitude for all your efforts and support. I believe we had very good discussions but unfortunately in some cases, these had to be shut down due to time constraints. But that is the price you pay for stimulating a lot of thought process. In this regard, the hard work of the event organizers is well appreciated. Thank you, you did an excellent job even if some did not have the opportunity to speak. However, in this day and age of advanced communications and with the networks that you have established during the past days, it is always possible that discussions of our mutual concerns for SFM will not end but continue with the zeal and passion you have demonstrated here.

I hope that you were also able to gain something from the field trips that were conducted yesterday where some of you had the opportunity to see nature-based activities such as how to combine ecotourism and biodiversity; which can give you ideas on how such fusion of goals can benefit forest-dependent communities.

With the high attendance and your active participation at each and every event, I say that we can now congratulate ourselves for we all made APFW 2016 a resounding success!

Thank you very much and till we meet again!
PHOTO MEMORIES

Grand entrance to APFW 2016

Angeline Quinto sings the APFW theme song Growing Our Future! at the closing ceremony
APFW 2016 participants visit the FAO booth

Beau Damen tries a traditional Philippines dance

National Costume Day at APFW 2016

APFW 2016 theme song sung by Angeline Quinto, Bryan Termulo and Bayang Barrios during the closing ceremony

APFW participants enjoying the closing ceremony
FAO RAP requested IFSA to cover APFW events and produce daily newsletters, following tradition from the past APFW events wherein youth actively contributed to this component through close collaboration with an editing team from FAO-RAP and printing support team from ESSC. Prior to the event, IFSA prepared several draft templates based on comments from FAO RAP. During the actual event, FAO-RAP provided primary guidance on the content while ESSC backstopped on technical and administrative issues related to printing newsletters in full colour.

A total of six issues containing four pages per issue were produced for the event. The numbers of copies per issue that were reproduced and distributed to participants each morning depended on the anticipated volume of people (between 500 and 1 500 copies). Aside from the printouts which targeted the onsite audience, FAO also uploaded the final versions onto its Web site for interested virtual readers.6

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Growing our Future!

A glance at APFC’s 26th session

The Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) will convene its 26th session in conjunction with Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2016 organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and hosted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) – Philippines in Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga, Philippines, February 22-26, 2016.

(continued on page 2)
(Continued from page 1)

The 26th session of APFC is set to gather member-country delegates and observers from international organizations to discuss key forestry issues in the Asia-Pacific region. In addition, the forum will serve as a venue to consider policy issues, review progress of ongoing initiatives and formulate new agendas for the future of the forestry sector at the regional level.

This session will aim to cover a range of relevant topics including forests and climate change, forest restoration, community-based forestry, gender policies, youth and forestry education.

APFC currently has 33 member countries and meets every two years. Its last session was held in Rotorua, New Zealand. The Commission is one of six FAO Regional Forestry Commissions. From a membership of 33 countries, APFC has grown to its current size, which includes the following member countries: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russian Federation, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu, and Viet Nam.

Other APFW events today:

APFEN Workshop on Management of Transboundary Cases of Forest Invasion

Biological invasions are considered to be a major cause of irreversible habitat loss across the world. When invasive alien species gain entry into natural habitats, it kickstarts a cascade of impacts leading to biodiversity loss, declining ecosystem services and economic loss. The workshop will feature presentations on a transboundary case of forest invasive species, the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB) and a report on a project to manage forest invasive species in India and Maldives.

Forests, Agriculture and Climate Change after COP 21 (Paris): An Asia-Pacific Perspective

The recently concluded 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC) is widely seen as a major step forward in addressing the impacts and drivers of climate change. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests will organize a workshop to gather expert views and stakeholder perspectives on future implications of the Paris Agreement on Asia-Pacific forestry and agriculture sectors.

The 26th session of APFC will be held according to the following:

Monday 22 February
08:30-17:30
Jasminne Room, Building B, Fontana Convention Center

Wednesday 24 February
08:30-17:30
Paeonia Room, Building B, Fontana Convention Center

Friday 26 February
08:30-15:00
Paeonia Room, Building B, Fontana Convention Center
Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2016 was made possible through the efforts of the following stream leaders:

**ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation (AFoCo)** is a regional forestry cooperation mechanism between ASEAN member states and the Republic of Korea. It was initiated as the first step towards the establishment of a larger Asia Forest Cooperation Organization (AFOCo).

The Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet) is a non-profit international organization dedicated to advancing sustainable forest management and rehabilitation in the Asia-Pacific region.

**ASEAN Social Forestry Network (AFSN)** is a government-driven social forestry network in Southeast Asia, with a main goal of strengthening ASEAN cooperation in social forestry through the sharing of information and knowledge.

The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) is a non-profit, scientific facility that conducts research on the most pressing challenges related to forest and landscape management around the world. CIFOR focuses on addressing emerging issues including forests and climate change on the regional level.

**FAO** is a United Nations’ agency that leads international efforts to combat hunger through improved food security. It monitors and evaluates the state of global natural resources including forests and their roles in alleviating poverty.

**ITTO** is an intergovernmental organization advocating the conservation and sustainable utilization of tropical forest resources. Its members represent about 80% of the world’s tropical forests and 60% of the global tropical timber trade. ITTO assesses and monitors current trends in forest trade and markets in the Asia-Pacific region.

**RECOFTC** - The Center for People and Forests is an international organization with a vision of local communities actively managing forests in Asia and the Pacific to ensure optimal social, economic, and environmental benefits.

**World Resources Institute** is a global research organization that spans more than 50 countries. Its mandate is to contribute to sustaining natural resources - a key for Asia-Pacific economic development.
Key APFC Agenda Items
Forests and Natural Disasters

Natural disasters aggravated by anthropogenic causes are increasing in frequency and intensity, with the greatest impacts affecting the most vulnerable populations (e.g., the poor) and ecosystems (e.g., mountain ecosystems). In mitigating the impacts of these disasters and implementing post-disaster reconstruction and recovery, forests and forestry can play indispensable roles. This agenda item aims to share experiences and provide guidance on developing a regional strategy and action plan regarding forests and natural disasters.

DID YOU KNOW?
- The Philippine archipelago is composed of 7,500 islands and three main geographic groups of Islands: Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.
- Clark Air Base in Pampanga, which dates back to the late 19th century was settled by Filipino military forces. The United States then established a presence at the turn of the 20th century.
- Based on the legal land classification of the Philippines, of the country's total land area of 30 million hectares, around 53 percent of it is classified as forestland, with slopes ranging from 18 percent and above. But not all forestland is covered with forest.

Exchange Rate
1 USD = 47.59 PHP
1 EUR = 52.96 PHP
Sources: Bloomberg Business

Gender policies, youth and forestry education
Despite their potential contribution to achieving sustainable forest management, women and youth are often overlooked in forest-related programmes and management approaches. In addition, a modern forestry education that responds to changing needs of the forestry sector is crucial to achieving sustainable forest management.
Growing our Future!

Mabuhay! Welcome to the Philippines!

We hope you find your stay here at Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga, Philippines a productive and meaningful one.

We kick off Asia-Pacific Forestry Week today with the theme “Growing Our Future”. More than 1,000 of us from governments, international and non-governmental organizations, forest industries, students, community representatives and other stakeholders are gathered here this week, not only from the Asia-Pacific region but also from other parts of the globe. (continued on page 2)
Mabuhay! Welcome to the Philippines!

(Continued from page 1)

APFW 2016, co-hosted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, follows the success of two previous Forestry Weeks held in Hanoi, Vietnam in April 2008 and in Beijing, China in November 2010. APFW 2016 will run from 22 to 26 February 2016. It is the largest Forestry Week thus far, with more than 79 different events that we hope you will find useful for your professional and social development.

Moreover, partner organizations, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), World Resources Institute (WRI), Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Pacific Community (SPC), RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests, ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN), ASEAN – ROK Forest Cooperation (AFoCo) and Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet), will serve as stream leaders for the five thematic streams.

Again we hope that you all will have a worthwhile and enjoyable week ahead of you. Immerse yourself in the moment and take part in growing our future!

First thoughts of APFC’s 26th session

The Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) began its 26th session yesterday at Fontana Convention Center in Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga, Philippines.

Member delegates from Asia-Pacific countries elected DENR Assistant Secretary Marcial C. Amaro, Jr. of the Philippines as the chairperson of the 26th session of APFC, while the first and second vice chairpersons are Ms. Tunggal Maje (Mongolia) and Mr. Anura Sathurasinghe (Sri Lanka). Mr. Sapol Boonsemisuk (Thailand) was elected as rapporteur. The nomination for third vice chairperson is still pending as the delegates from some Pacific countries could not participate in the start of APFC’s 26th session due to Cyclone Winston.

“Perhaps the biggest issue for the forestry sector in the Asia-Pacific region is its role in combating climate change. Therefore, as the new chairperson of APFC, I have responsibility of making the region a resilient community with forests as a major weapon,” conveyed Asoc. Amaro.

Mr. Beau Derrick from the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) introduced the first thematic agenda item, which focused on the challenges and opportunities that the Paris climate change agreement brings for forests and forestry in the Asia-Pacific region. Delegates expressed strong commitment to meeting the aims of the Paris Agreement and requested FAO support to help meet the forestry requirements of their NDCs.

Ms. Eva Müller, FAO Director of Forestry Policy and Resources Division discussed global policy processes and outcomes of the XIXth World Forestry Congress. Mr. Patrick Durst, Senior Forestry Officer at the FAO Regional Office hooked the interest of member delegates through his discussion of forests and natural disasters. Many member delegates underscored the importance of mangrove rehabilitation and the necessity for wildfire response policies to better manage natural disasters. Delegates requested FAO to finalize a regional strategy and action plan on forests and natural disasters. Other agenda topics considered included the importance of the Durban Declaration on community based forestry and forest and farm producer organizations; the indispensable role that women and youth play in achieving sustainable forest management; and forestry education in the Asia-Pacific region.

“We are planning to synergize the global policy processes that were discussed in the session with the sustainable development goals (SDGs) in a local basis,” said Mr. Efrian Muharram, delegate from the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR).

Several delegates agreed that APFC provides a great opportunity to exchange experiences on various country policies. “Basicallly, I just want to network with other forestry experts,” said Mr. Phrodinda Prikharel.

The APFC session will resume tomorrow in the Paeonia room, Fontana Convention Center at 8:30 am.
The following thematic streams will be highlights of Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2016.

**Stream 1: Pathways to Prosperity**
*Future Trades and Markets*
Examining emerging trends in trade and markets and global/local factors affecting these, a variety of key questions will be addressed including what new trends in timber and non-wood forest products trade are emerging and how these changed in the new millennium.

**Stream 2: Tackling Climate Change: Challenges & Opportunities**
*Stream 2 discusses the role of forests in combating climate change and presents opportunities that the Paris Agreement brings to the Asia-Pacific region. Climate-smart policy transformation is required within and beyond the forestry sector. Stream 2 will provide more information on how stakeholders should engage in effective mediation and dialogue in order to achieve solutions to fire and haze.*

**Stream 3: Serving Society: Forestry and People**
*Approximately 450 million people in the Asia-Pacific region depend on forests for their livelihoods. For the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be successful, global efforts have to begin in rural areas. People-centered sustainable management of forests to promote stronger rural livelihoods needs to be enhanced. Stream 3 will explore community forestry as a sustainable and effective instrument for achieving the SDGs—tackling poverty, food insecurity, global climate change, and promoting gender equality.*

**Stream 4: New Institutions, New Governance**
*With rapid socio-economic changes, forestry institutions should produce effective policies that acknowledge inclusive, transparent and accountable forestry governance remains relevant. Come and hear diverse perspectives on “New Institutions, New governance!” From Stream 4’s dynamic panels.*

**Stream 5: Our Green Future: Green Investment and Growing Our Natural Assets**
*Natural resources should have declined in unprecedented fashion over the past three decades. We cannot sustain growth in the same resource-depleting way. We need to promote green investment and regain our natural assets. If you are questioning how, and to what extent, we can mobilize green investment, then share your views and learn from others in Stream 5. Also do not forget to join the “High-level Regional Consultation to develop an Action Plan for Forest and Landscape Restoration in the Asia-Pacific,” which will develop a regional action plan to coordinate efforts on forest restoration.*

**Flashback**
*Forests, Agriculture and Climate Change after COP 21*
Experts from the Asia-Pacific region gathered to examine the implications of the recently concluded Conference of Parties (COP 21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on forests and agriculture in a panel discussion organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and RECOFTC - The Center for People and Forests. Opening the session, Bennicker (FAO) explained the need to communicate the significance of this landmark agreement to the forestry sector in a way that is easily understandable to stakeholders. This was the first time that the post-COP panel discussion was linked with the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week. Several observers were also allowed to witness the discussions.

Explosive questions were answered by the expert panel regarding various aspects of COP 21, including its implications for climate change and rural communities, developments in REDD+, future steps and broader climate change agenda. At the end of this two-day event, the panel is expected to come up with a zero draft of the booklet summarizing the discussions held during the consultation.

**Transboundary Cases of Forest Invasive Species Management Workshop**
Around 25 forestry practitioners convened for a three-day workshop organized by the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN) to share experiences, transfer knowledge, build capacity and identify problems currently faced regarding transboundary forest invasive species (FIS). Officials of the International Society of Zoological Sciences (ISZS), United States Forest Service (USFS), APFISN, other related experts in the field and organization representatives participated in the workshop.

Dr. Shreemath Sathyapala from FAO welcomed the participants, followed by a brief summary report of the activities of the APFISN Kerala and Beijing offices presented by Dr. TV Sajeev and Channa Han, respectively. Speakers such as RV Sankaran, TC Yokobek and Dr. TV Sajeev provided an overview of a Technical Cooperation Programme Project (TCP) for India and Malaysia; discussed invasive species in some regions, and guidelines for managing tree invasions. In the succeeding days, more substantial discussions and reports regarding the management of forest invasive species and the formulation of an action plan for APFISN for the years 2016-17 are expected.
Reminders!

- Don’t forget to register for field trips
- Check out booths and posters during the Information market
- Put on your national costumes for the dinner reception tonight

Canopy Room Events

K2F CHILDREN PAINTING SESSION
K2F STORY WALL
FORESTRY FILM FESTIVAL
9:00 onwards
9:00 onwards
14:00 - 15:30

Faces of the Day

WHAT WERE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR TODAY'S EVENTS?

"The elaboration of combined mitigation and adaptation in climate change makes it clear that whether the reduction target has a positive or negative effect on the water, energy, and food security in Indonesia."

ADI GARCIA, INDONESIA

"The setting up of not only the booth for display, but also responsible for the publication."

SUNSHINA CEBEONG, CAMBODIA

"We should rehabilitate denuded forestlands using indigenous forest species. Let’s therefore should love our own."

ALVIN LAGARDO, PHILIPPINES

"Your selfie can help send a message."

We can help spread the word on Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2016 beyond Clark. Don’t forget to use the hashtag #APFW2016.

Visit the interactive exhibition booths set up by various participating organizations at the Fontana Hotel Foyer.

Don’t miss the highlights of today’s events:

Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2016 will officially open this morning, with Eva Müller, FAO Director of Forestry Policy and Resources Division, delivering the opening remarks, followed by a keynote address from DENR Secretary Ramon Jesus Paje.

Renowned Al Jazeera broadcast journalist Veronica Pedrosa will facilitate a Q&A discussion in the Opening Plenary Session, which will include distinguished panelists Neil Byron, Doris Capistrano, John Innes, Tony La Víña, and May Anne Then. CNN Hero Award winner Budi Soehardi will also deliver a special message on growing our future in which our Earth remains not just habitable, but a better place for all of us to live.

In addition, there will be an evening Welcome Reception where delegates will be garbed in their local or national costumes. The “Champion of Asia-Pacific Forests” will be honored during this event, recognizing his exemplary contributions to forests and forestry. Winners of the APFW 2016 contests in photography, poem writing and editorial cartoon will also be recognized.

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Language: English
The Opening Plenary Session was facilitated by Al Jazeera broadcast journalist Veronica Pedrosa. She started by asking the panel the meaning of “Growing Our Future”. This was followed by a free-flowing discussion of topics based on issues raised by the panelists: Neil Byron, Doris Capistrano, John Innes, Tony La Viña and May Anne Then. During the Q&A, issues discussed included tenure of forestlands, climate change-related challenges faced by the Asia-Pacific region and the role of private sector in sustainable forest management.

Budi Soehardi, 2009 CNN Hero, also delivered a stirring message to the APFW delegates, in which he shared successful efforts to transform the Roslin Orphanage, co-founded with his wife, into a self-sufficient eco village. Showing photos of rocky, uncultivable land turned into a farm teeming with rice, vegetables and fruit trees, Soehardi emphasized that growing our future involves committing to creating a world that is better to live in.
Opening Ceremony and Opening Plenary Session

"For forestry, the challenge is to promote political impetus to act and turn words into physical actions at all cost."

"Like entering a vast forest with diverse types of trees and plants, treat AFW 2016 as an adventure to explore and discover."

"The theme Growing Our Future is indeed suitable, as we must involve all stakeholders to actively integrate forestry in the wider context of sustainable development."

Mr. Durst expressed his sincerest gratitude to the organizers and partner institutions that made AFW 2016 possible.

"We can't talk about growing the future without talking about growing the youth today."

"We all know that the problems for forestry are not necessarily technical or institutional — they are institutional and governance-related."

"How we maximize opportunities for conservation, opportunities for investments with ASEAN economic integration will matter a lot to the future of our forests in this part of the world."

"Life is beautiful. Be in it. And the future is now."

"We should design a sustainable and equitable forestry system that will generate better living standards for people in this region."

"We are doing better in terms of recognizing the roles of minorities, indigenous people, youth and women in forestry."

"As a new generation, we should continue to focus on our future."

"We all know that the challenges we face are immense, but with hard work, dedication and the right mindset, we can overcome them."

"Our goal is to create a sustainable future for our children and future generations."

"We need to work together to ensure that forestry practices are sustainable and that the forest ecosystem is preserved for future generations."

"We must continue to invest in research and development to find innovative solutions to the challenges we face in forestry."

"The theme Growing Our Future is a reminder to us all to work together to create a better future for everyone."

"We must prioritize the conservation of our forests and the biodiversity they support."

"As we continue to grow, we must also ensure that we are growing in a sustainable way."

"Our goal is to create a future where forestry is not just an economic activity, but a sustainable and environmentally friendly one."
Stream 1
Pathways to Prosperity: Future Trade & Markets

“IT was not a perfect agreement but I’m telling you, it is the best agreement that is signed by 196 countries,” emphasized Dean Tony La Viña of the Ateneo School of Government as he reflected on the Paris Agreement during the opening of the session. Christine Fung of Pacific Community (SPC) said that SPC recognizes that REDD+ if it is planned properly can provide a wide array of benefits. Juan Chang, a Senior Forestry and Land Use Specialist of Green Climate Fund (GCF) pointed out that GCF needs at least $30-40 billion per year to finance forest resource management in developing countries.

Stream 2
Tackling Climate Change: Challenges & Opportunities

Stream 3
Serving Society: Forestry & People

Panelists in the opening plenary shared their views on opportunities for developing institutions and governance. Dr. Eva Miller of FAO and David Baisin of ACR shared insights on the development of new models of governance which exhibit principles of transparency, accountability, responsibility, independence and fairness. DENR Assistant Secretary Marcial Amaro Jr. talked about the status and challenges relating to the Executive Order No. 26, the legislation which established Philippines’ National Greening Program (NGP). Marjua Mailey, President of Women’s Initiative for Society, Culture and Environment, mentioned that to successfully secure forest tenure, we need to ensure the security of key IF advocates. Andy White, coordinator of FRFI, shared experiences that communities can manage forests in an effective way.

Stream 4
New Institutions, New Governance

In the opening plenary, keynote speaker Dr. Brandt, CEO of New Forest Asset Management Ltd. highlighted the importance of the Asia-Pacific region in the world’s forestry sector & added that there are issues that inhibit green investment. Mr. Prasetyo, REDD+ Management Agency Head in Indonesia, recognized the development of multiple use forests, providing a range of economic and ecological goods & services, to attract investors and that seed capital must be used as leverage for better rules and regulation. Dr. Brady, Senior Operations officer at the International Finance Corporation (IFC), stressed the importance of integrity and due diligence in green investing.
Delegates to APTW 2016 lose themselves in the moment as they dance during the Welcome reception at the Fontana Convention Center.

Champion of Asia-Pacific Forests

Inspirational Filipino forester Patrick Dungan was honored with the “Champion of Asia-Pacific Forests” award during the welcome reception at the Fontana Convention Center last night.

Mr. Dungan, with more than sixty years of experience, has been an immeasurable source of practical ideas and recommendations for simple, but workable, actions that advance sustainable forest management.

EVENTS HAPPENING TODAY

Partner events for APTW 2016’s five thematic streams will return today. Take a sneak peek at what’s in store for some of the upcoming sessions:

Stream 1 (Pathways to Prosperity, Future Trade and Markets)

Small Forest Enterprises: Barriers and Opportunities in Participating in the Sustainable Wood Products Trade. In this session, organized by IFFR Program, EU FLEGT, EFI and FLEGT Program of FAO, unique challenges faced by small forest enterprises in the legal and sustainable wood products trade in the Asia-Pacific region will be explained.

Stream 2 (Tailoring Climate Change: Challenges and Opportunities)

Forestry Development Planning for Climate Change Resilience and Poverty Reduction. Zooming in on the Philippines Government’s National Greening Program and REDD+ Adaptation Program, this session, organized by FMB-DECNR, the World Bank and the Program on Forests, will present an access-based approach for assessing the contribution of forest services to climate change.

Stream 3 (Serving Society, Forestry and People)

The Importance of Agroforestry in Achieving SDGs. ICRISAT Southeast Asia Regional Program will present a session exploring agroforestry’s role in tropical land use in support to the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

Stream 4 (New Institutions, New Governance)

Young Forests’ Summit. Organized by IFSA, this half-day event will include a workshop where young foresters can share their visions for the future of forestry in the Asia-Pacific region.

Stream 5 (Our Green Future: Green Investment and Growing Our Natural Assets)

Mobilizing Investments in Asia-Pacific Forests. Interactive Workshop. Featuring subgroup Allocation and group sharing, this session will offer cross-sector stakeholders key information building on existing investment. This event is organized by APTFNet in partnership with FAST, the Nature Conservancy, WWF and New Trees.

Weather Forecast

M/Sunny Clark, Pampanga

ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY WEEK 227
“Youth are the voice of the forest, youth are the solution”, said Dean Willie Abasolo of the College of Forestry and Natural Resources – UPLB at the Young Foresters’ Summit convened during day three of Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2016. Afterwards, Mr. Tomy Valdez briefly introduced the Society of Filipino Foresters, Inc. Four young presenters then took the stage to discuss the changes needed in forestry education, community forestry initiatives and the role of youth in forestry. The youth present in the room assembled in three groups for a capacity-building exercise and shared their outputs. “Champion of Asia-Pacific Forests” Patrick Dugan shared his wisdom with the youth in an open forum that followed.
The Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) considered reports and recommendations from all five streams at Asia-Pacific Forestry Week (APFW) 2016 yesterday.

Mr. Yurdin Yasmi, Forestry Policy Officer of the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, opened the session with a brief overview of past APFWs and described how the thematic streams and events were organized.

Mr. Rupert Oliver, Stream 1 Rapporteur recommended that APFC promote sustainable use and trade of timber and adopt broad approaches to foster its sustainability.

Mr. Christopher Martius, Stream 2 Rapporteur suggested FAO enhance funding and coordination among agencies and sectors to strengthen actions on climate change. He also emphasized the need to support the implementation of member countries’ intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs).

Mr. Ronnakom Triraganon presented the recommendations from Stream 3 to strengthen local rights and to invest in local institutions and capacities. His message was supplemented by a passionate plea from an IP representative from Jember, Java, who urged the Commission to listen to the voices of local communities.

Mr. Jim Carle, Rapporteur of Stream 4, underscored the importance of implementing activities that enhance the roles of private sector, smallholders, communities, and youth in supporting SFM projects.

Lastly, Ms. Alexandra Wu, Rapporteur of Stream 5, strongly recommended the promotion of green investments in forests and natural resources by encouraging dialogue among policymakers and financiers. She also recommended the Commission encourage public-private partnerships (PPPs) for the region’s SFM projects.
The following are highlights of the second day of discussions in each stream.

**Stream 1**
Pathways to Prosperity: Future Trade & Markets

Ms. Emma Hatcher claimed that better cooperation among countries will aid in timber legality prosecution. Compliance, legislation and governance were pointed out as major challenges for timber legality. These problems are all interconnected; incompetent governance translates to weak legislation, which in turn promotes non-compliance with international standards, especially in the case of small holder plantations that cannot afford the costs of forest certification. Small holders play an integral part of the sustainability of commercial wood supplies; they should be supported. Philosophy of “treat small holders different from big ones” was proposed to address the issue.

Speakers from the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) - DENR, the World Bank and the Program on Forests (PROFOR) discussed how forestry development planning, which includes sustainable natural resources management and watershed management, can help build climate change resilience in Asia-Pacific countries. The significant roles of forests in reducing poverty were strongly emphasized.

**Stream 2**
Tackling Climate Change: Challenges & Opportunities

Speakers highlighted the role of land rights for indigenous peoples (IPs) in eradicating poverty, attaining food security, and combating climate change. They also stressed that shifting cultivation can be a sustainable land use management system of IPs in the Asia-Pacific region. Mr. Henry Binao, the founder of Binao Agroforestry in Bulacan, Philippines, emphasized the importance of changing the mindset of farmers from using traditional farming to agroforestry. He emphasized that it is economically-viable, environment-friendly and will help attain the SDGs.

The session “Improving Forest Communication for People and Forests” by RECOFTC, FAO and APFCN stressed the need to devise well-thought-out strategies in communicating forest-related issues, one of which being Participatory Development Communication Strategy. In a simulated advice show titled “Ask Dr. Comm”, forest communication “ailments” were brought for consultation. Dr. Comm gave recommendations on ways to monitor communication effectiveness, errors committed by forestry communicators and issues on internal communication among forestry practitioners.

**Stream 3**
Serving Society: Forestry & People

**Stream 4**
New Institutions, New Governance

**Stream 5**
Our Green Future: Green Investments & Growing our Natural Assets

Mobilizing Investments in Asia-Pacific Forests.

APFNet in partnership with FAST, The Nature Conservancy, WWF and New Forests offered multi-stakeholder discussion on how to overcome investment challenges and build forestry investment literacy.

Forest Spatial Information and User-Oriented Services System.

AFOCo and CoFPI invited speakers to present innovative methods to manage resources. The speakers were unanimous in asserting the importance of investing in new technologies (such as drones) that are faster, more convenient and efficient in processing, analysis and managing data.
During a night of revelry, the importance of forests was highlighted during a fashion show that featured works from various fashion collections and advocacy apparels.

PLACES NOT TO MISS AROUND CLARK, PAMPANGA

Get some time after APFW! Here are some places you may want to visit for more unforgettable experiences.

Mt. Pinatubo
This volcano is not in Clark. It’s a 1½-hour drive from Mabalacat to get to Mount Pinatubo. Its familiar name was made famous by the devastating eruption that took place in 1991. That calamity caused great harm to many people in Pampanga and around the area. Entrance is thru Capas, Tarlac via a 4x4 truck.

Niyemit Falls
If the explorer in you is ready to face all the hurdles and inconveniences of trekking, Niyemit Falls is where the wild meets beauty—a place of adventure where the Aetas teach you their ways in the wild. To behold the beauty at the peak requires more than four hours of walking and discomfort. ATVs are available, but walking the trail rewards you with a different view and experience, more than just being a spectator in the ride all the way to the top. Located in Porac, Pampanga, trekkers recommend that first-timers bring tons of water, ascent should start before dawn or much earlier, and they keep the good vibes. Summer is the best time to visit Niyemit Falls for a refreshing swim and trek.

HIGHLIGHTS OF TODAY’S EVENTS

Participants can choose to join one of three field trips:
• Eco-Tourism and Biodiversity at Subic, Zambales
• Forest Rehabilitation at Clark Pampanga
• Forest Research and Extension at Magalang, Pampanga

FAO and RECOFTC will hold an Asia-Pacific Forest Communication Network meeting at Widus Hotel.

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Yesterday, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Philippines organized field trips to various sites near Clark Freeport, Pampanga. Delegates chose from three modules, each tackling certain environmental concerns. Module 1 covered Ecotourism and Biodiversity and was held in Subic, Zambales. Module 2, which focused on Forest Rehabilitation, travelled to Paradise Ranch and Nayong Pilipino in Clark Pampanga. Module 3 on Forest Research and Extension included a visit to the Pampanga State Agricultural University in Magalang, Pampanga and Nayong Pilipino in Clark.
Trips and Treats!

The following are highlights of the educational trips that concluded yesterday.

"A place where forest and marine ecosystems meet." This was how Mr. Patrick Escusa of SBMA introduced the Triboba Bay Mangrove Park, the first stop of the field trip on eco-tourism and biodiversity. He also mentioned that Triboba Bay is one of the six mangrove forests in Subic with 38 mangrove species comprising 48% of all mangrove species in the Philippines. Delegates then observed Subic Bay's flying foxes found along the highway. The area is one of the last large bat colonies in the country, home to 10,000 fruit bats (Pteropus vampyrus).

The final destination was the Jungle Environmental Survival Training (JEST) Camp. Activities included learning jungle survival tips, watching an entertaining bird show and eating lunch. A dinner-style where delegates ate with bare hands on a long table with banana leaves serving plates.

First stop was Paradise Ranch, previously a demodulated site now planted with more than 500,000 trees. The Ranch engages indigenous people as its staff and takes part in educating the public on environmental protection. The opening activity was 138 delegates planting tree seedlings of Molave (Vitex spiralis). They were then treated to a tour of the Ranch’s tourist attractions, including Turtle Island, Birds and Flowers Kingdom, Little Baguio Viewpoint and a boat ride.

After lunch and some dancing and singing with the staff of the Ranch, delegates proceeded to Nayong Pilipino, where they were shown exhibits of traditional fabrics from Mindanao, including the malong, Nayong Pilipino Dance Troupe and Randalls, then showcased the Philippines’ rich culture in pre-colonial and colonial dances and music.

Participants went to Pampanga Agricultural State University (PSAU) in Magalang, Pampanga where they were shown the university’s reforestation efforts, bambusetum, mahogany park, and clonal nurseries. PSAU President Honorio Soriano, Jr. discussed the university’s efforts to protect and conserve Mt. Arayat’s rich forest and natural resources through efforts in native tree reforestation and biodiversity conservation.

Nayong Pilipino showcased the rich cultural heritage of the Philippines through a presentation of miniature versions of significant events in the country’s history. The Nayong Pilipino Dance Troupe entertained the delegates by performing colorful folk dances from in the Philippines.
More than 40 forest communicators from 15 countries in the Asia-Pacific region came together for the knowledge-sharing event aimed at enhancing forest communication. Participants, who together comprise the Asia-Pacific Forest Communication Network (APFCN) acknowledged that communication is vital to addressing forest-related issues, yet remains undervalued in terms of its potential to bring about change. Members of APFCN shared their diverse experiences as communicators from using participatory development communication approaches to effective ways of working with mass media, and discussed how to synergize and work together to improve forest communication. Members agreed to form a working group with the aim of developing a strategy for the network.
MUST TRY RESTAURANTS IN PAMPANGA

CAMALIG (ancient rice mill converted into restaurant)
#392 Sta. Rosario St., Angeles City, Pampanga

A restored grain storehouse, the Camalig (“shed” in the Kapampangan vernacular) was built in 1840 by Don Cirilo de Miranda, Angeles’ first gobernadorcillo (mayor), as a farm shed of light materials (and later upgraded in the early 1900s to its present form by the town’s first post-colonial mayor, Capitan Juan Nepomuceno).

ABE’S FARM (Events Village Country Cuisine and Spa)
Magalang, Pampanga (at the foothills of Mt. Arayat)

Enjoy the culinary delights of Abe’s Restaurant right where it comes from - the gourmet province of Pampanga, in the town of Magalang where the famed writer and artist Abe Aguilar Cruz first saw the light of day and beneath the majestic beauty of Mt. Arayat.

MATAM-HN
Clark, Pampanga

Home of Authentic Kapampangan Cuisine

#APFW2016 Social media corner

HIGHLIGHTS OF TODAY’S EVENTS

The 26th session of Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) will convene its final segments today following the agenda - forest and landscape restoration, inputs to FAO governance, other business, data and place of the next session and adoption of the report.

The remaining topics of the five streams are set to be discussed.

And, Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2016 will officially end at exactly 1800.

Growing our Future!

Everything has an ending. Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2016 has finally rolled down its final curtain.

The closing ceremony, which was held at Fontana Convention Centre, started with an audiovisual presentation from the host organization – Forest Management Bureau of DENR. It was followed by a presentation of stream leaders’ actionable recommendations to the 26th session of Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission.

An inspirational tribute was presented for FAO RAP Senior Forestry Officer Mr. Patrick B. Durst, whose unwavering leadership leading to the success of APFW 2016 and past APFWs was recognized by his colleagues...(continued on page 2)
he extended his heartfelt gratitude to CSO organizations, independent individuals, private sector, indigenous peoples, and students who actively participated in the event. "As said here in the Philippines, maraming salamat po!" conveyed Mr. Durst as he ended his speech. It is Mr. Durst's last year as secretary of APFC after serving for 21 years since 1994. Next, Undersecretary for Field Operations Mr. Demetrio Ignacio, Jr. rendered his warm regards to those individuals who have made the event successful including FMB-DENR member delegates of APFC and participants of APFW.

Thereafter, the program was ended with a fantastic performance from Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, Angeline Quinto, Bryan Tomulo, and Bayang Barrios who sang the theme song of APFW 2016 “The Forest of Life.”

DENR Undersecretary for Field Operations Demetrio Ignacio Jr. gives a bow and arrow as a token of appreciation to FAO Senior Forestry Officer Mr. Patrick P. Durst during the closing ceremony of APFW 2016.

**APFC Concludes 36th Session**

The Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) concluded its 36th session, during the last day of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week (APFW) 2016 held at Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga, Philippines.

The APFC, which has deliberated on various forest and forestry issues faced by the Asia-Pacific region starting February 22, adopted the draft report of its 36th session. The report contains 16 agenda items for discussion, which the Commission considered and provided recommendations for future action. Among these agenda items are the following:

- Beyond Paris: What’s Next for Forests and Forestry in Asia Pacific
- Global Policy Processes
- Outcomes of the NY World Forestry Congress
- Forests and Natural Disasters
- Building Momentum for Community Based Forestry and Forest Farm Producer Organizations
- Gender Policies, Youth and Forestry Education
- State of Forestry in the Asia-Pacific Region
- Regional Analysis of the Global Forest Resources Assessment
- Gender Policies, Youth and Forestry Education
- State of Forestry in the Asia-Pacific Region
- Regional Analysis of the Global Forest Resources Assessment
- Progress in Implementing APFC and FAO-Supported Activities in the Region
- Growing Our Future: Reports and Recommendations from Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2016 Streams

- Forest and Landscape Restoration
- Inputs to FAO Governance

Other matters discussed during the last-day session of APFC are activity reports from the Commission’s working groups, which include the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network, Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank, Asia-Pacific Forest Communication Network and Kids-to-Forests Initiative.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Patrick Durst, Senior Forestry Officer of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), lauded the APFC delegates for their active participation and contribution of ideas, which coincided with the organizer’s efforts to come up with a process that yields meaningful recommendations responsive to the needs of the region’s forestry sector.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka offered to host the 27th session of the APFC, while the Republic of Korea expressed interest to host the Commission’s subsequent session as well as the fourth APPFW.

**Faces of the Day**

**WHAT WAS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT IN APFW2016?**

- "The most memorable moment for me was the opening ceremony. I really felt proud that FMB was given a chance to host this magnificent event." - ROBERT KAUNAYE, Vietnam, North East
- "The ability to bring people together to work and communicate forestry's pressing issues is the biggest impact APFW made on me." - ROBERT KAYUL, Indonesia, Forest Management Authority, 2016
The following are highlights of the first day of discussions in each stream.

Stream 1: Pathways to Prosperity, Future Trade & Markets
Stream 1 session began with an event organized by Non-Timber Forest Products-Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP) Asia on “Forest and Beauty”. The workshop related to the cosmetics and fragrances sector. Forest products discussed included Laurus nobilis, Sterculia foetida, Sapindus marginatus, Limonia acidissima, Santalum spp., and Canarium ovatum. These products have been highlighted as important natural ingredients used by the cosmetics industry. The demand for natural ingredients used for cosmetic products has been increasing for the last decade. The discussion pointed out the importance of bringing attention to the role of forests in providing beauty products, as well as the connections with livelihood security and utilization of NTFPs.

Stream 2: “REDD+: is it really difficult?”
Stream 2 included a discussion on REDD+ and stakeholders’ perceptions on the complexity of its implementation in the Asia-Pacific region. Organized by UN-REDD, the session brought together panellists from different sectors who discussed the challenges faced in implementing REDD+. Among issues strongly emphasized were information dissemination, ownership of forest lands and tenure and involvement of indigenous peoples. When asked if REDD+ is achievable, the panellists responded that its achievement depends on consistent support from government and community participation. But, the basic answer was “Yes”.

Stream 3: Forests and Water in Action
Stream 3 focused on the relationship between forests and water. The speakers synthesized their arguments on the importance of forests as a natural provider of water for several uses. In addition, incentives for forest-watershed ecosystem services were also tackled and their inclusion in the policy-making process of different countries.

Way Forward for People and Forests of Asia-Pacific Region
On this topic, Community Forestry (CF) strongly asserted its role in realizing poverty reduction, sustainable forest management, and social equity among local communities. Roles for CF in meeting the SDGs were articulated. Participants developed actionable recommendations for CF contributions to SDGs.

Stream 4: New Institutions, New Governance
The workshop on “Research Agenda for Forested Landscapes” in 2017-2021 facilitated by CGIAR-FTA covered capacity building, policy implementation and local community involvement. During the group discussion, delegates highlighted issues concerning research in forested landscapes, including communication problems between experts and locals involved. Concluding the discussion, Ingrid Odom of World Agroforestry Centre stated, “If we innovate and learn from each other at different levels, we can create synergies.” Stream 4 also included a session on Evidence-Based Forestry initiatives. Wen Zhou presented CIFOR’s research, impacts on the environment and livelihoods, as well as research gaps and quality issues involving the evidence-based forestry initiative.

Stream 5: Our Green Future: Green Investments & Growing our Natural Assets
Positive impacts from investing in communities and smallholders in the forest production systems of the future.
Organized by PEFIC International and the Chinese Academy of Forestry, the session focused on the importance of community forestry and its collective role in production systems. Ms. Novakina from APRIL Indonesia, highlighted the development of programs that will cater for the interest of community forest people to ensure involvement, partnership and cooperation. After this session, Mr. Magyar from North Head discussed the pillars that support good forest conservation policies, including involvement of producers, consumers and suppliers outlook.
“Maraming Salamat!”

Closing address from Patrick Dury, Senior Forestry Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

"Distinguished participants and colleagues,

At the closing of Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2016, it is my great pleasure to congratulate you all on this highly successful event.

The largest Asia-Pacific Forestry Week, with more than 70 events by more than 80 organizations, assembled many of the most outstanding forestry leaders, some of the most eloquent and knowledgeable forestry advocates, and many of the finest forestry minds, available to the Asia-Pacific region, and indeed the world. We’ve all greatly benefited from the ideas, learning and experiences that have been generously shared during the rich array of events that have been woven together to create this impressive event.

Among the recommendations arising from the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission Session were calls for assistance in building capacities of countries to enable them to meet the ambitious goals and targets for forestry that these new accords entail. FAO is certainly cognizant of this need, and I also extend the request to our many institutional partners—that we collaborate and cooperate to ensure efficient delivery of assistance to support countries in dealing with these complex issues.

I’ve found this third Asia-Pacific Forestry Week to be enlightening, informative and extremely enjoyable. To a very large part, this success is due to our hosts. On behalf of FAO, I wish to offer my heartfelt thanks to the Government of the Philippines and especially to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, for their great generosity and outstanding efforts in organizing Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2016. I’m fully aware that the organizational burden has been immense, and appreciate that this burden has been shouldered by our hosts with unflagging enthusiasm and unfailing courtesy.

I also offer thanks to the many many organizations that have enriched Forestry Week by bringing innovation and creativity to various events and for contributing important financial resources. Of course, I once again need to particularly reiterate our enormous gratitude to the eight other stream leader organizations, ITTO and the WIPF, the CIFOR, and the SPC, the RCCOFTC and the ASP FiN, and the AP-NET and APPoCo. To APPAFR, ESCC and the students of IFSA—particularly not forgetting the team of IFSA journalists who have worked with us long into the night, and carry into the morning—to bring us the Forestry Week Gazette.

Special thanks to Janet and the Kids-to-forests for really putting things into perspective with respect to youth and the imperative for “Growing our Future.”

Most of all, thanks to all of you, who have contributed so much to this invigorating event.

Such collaboration and goodwill will long be remembered as a crowning feature of Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2016.

As said here in the Philippines...Maraming salamat po!

Thank you very much."

“You forestry people are terrible communicators.”

Renowned Al Jazeera broadcast journalist Veronica Pedrosa, in a stream session on improving forestry communication. She encouraged forestry practitioners to come up with carefully crafted communication messages to make forest issues more interesting.

[Photo of group with staff]
Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2016 was a large and dynamic event that attracted unprecedented interest and enthusiasm from a mix of stakeholders representing a wide spectrum of backgrounds and perspectives. It brought together many of the most outstanding forestry leaders, some of the most eloquent and knowledgeable forestry advocates and many of the finest forestry minds, available to the Asia-Pacific region, and indeed the world. More than 1 300 participants assembled to share a rich diversity of experiences, knowledge and information, to discuss forestry issues around the theme Growing Our Future!, and to develop tangible action plans to carry the region through to 2030 and beyond.

Key decisions with long-lasting impacts on forestry have been made in new and evolving contexts on the world stage. The development of the post-2015 agenda, the SDGs and the Paris Agreement have set new directions for forestry and featured strongly in more than 70 events, arranged by more than 90 agencies, during the APFW 2016. This publication covers the wide range of events held during Forestry Week and bears testament to the diversity of forestry activities in the region.

“Growing Our Future!, APFW 2016’s theme, underscores the seriousness and urgency of embracing forestry as an inseparable sector in the overall context of the sustainable development efforts of a nation.”

Marcial C. Amaro, Jr., DENR, the Philippines

“For forestry, the challenge is to convert political attention to action with true impacts on the ground.”

Eva Müller, FAO

“Forests are not only trees, but we have to take into account the wisdom, knowledge and role of the people who know how to ensure the health of forests.”

Sagita Arhidani, ASEAN Social Forestry Network Indonesia

“We should design a sustainable and equitable forestry system that will generate better living standards for people in this region.”

Neil Byron, Alluvium Consulting, IFA – The Institute of Foresters of Australia, University of Canberra