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الأغذية والزراعة
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PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING APFC- AND FAO-SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION

SECRETARIAT NOTE

Introduction

1. This note reports on progress in implementing APFC- and FAO-supported activities and initiatives since the 27th Session, which was convened in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in October 2017. It serves as a basis for reviewing follow up to specific requests and recommendations from the meeting.
2. The 27th Session of the APFC produced fourteen recommendations for the attention of FAO.
3. The APFC Secretariat has evaluated progress in implementation using a traffic light system, whereby green indicates recommendations that have been addressed through concrete actions, yellow denotes recommendations that have been partially fulfilled and red for those recommendations against which no actions have been taken.
4. All fourteen recommendations were evaluated as green, and none as yellow or red. For further details about certain actions taken towards fulfilling the recommendations, a website link highlighted in blue text has been provided.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE 27th SESSION OF THE APFC AND FOLLOW-UP
ACTIONS TAKEN BY FAO**

Recommendations	Actions taken
<p>1. In collaboration with other international agencies, continue to provide technical information, support and assistance in strengthening capacities and identifying best practices to apply landscape approaches in forestry.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO has continued to engage in a number of activities related to provision of technical support for forest and landscape restoration. These include: 1) ongoing support to Cambodia, DPRK and the Philippines under the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism; 2) development of a national GEF project with a component of forest and landscape restoration in Indonesia; 3) implementation of GEF projects in China, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan and Philippines with a strong focus on landscape approaches; 4) implementation of the GEF global programme “The Restorative Initiative” in partnership with IUCN and UN Environment; 5) dialogue and collaboration with regional partners in promoting landscape approaches in forest restoration; and 6) recent launching of a project funded by the global International Climate Initiative (IKI) focusing on forest landscape restoration including Fiji and the Philippines from Asia and the Pacific. - FAO, through the EU-ACP AAD (Action Against Desertification) Project and in collaboration with the Fiji Ministry of Agriculture and SPC (Secretariat for Pacific Island Countries), has been promoting and supporting forest restoration activities on degraded agricultural and forest lands. The project and partners worked with local communities providing seedlings, technical advice and capacity building. Mixed species are planted, mainly local native species. - Under the GEF4 and GEF5 projects, on-going support, technical advice and capacity building is being provided to Fiji, Vanuatu, Samoa, Niue and Vanuatu. Landscape restoration activities in both agriculture and forestry are being targeted and supported. Many of the activities are carried out in partnership with local NGOs, regional organizations and with overseas scientific and research institutions.
<p>2. Continue to support countries in the implementation of forest and landscape restoration in line with the Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Forest and Landscape Restoration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please refer to actions taken in response to recommendation no. 1.
<p>3. Provide guidance in identifying effective forest sector measures and best practices for climate change adaptation and to support countries in incorporating the forest sector into National Adaptation Planning (NAP) processes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO is finalizing a publication on forestry sector specific guidance for integrating forestry into National Adaptation Planning processes. This publication will be available later in 2019. Similar guidance for agriculture was developed and published by FAO in 2017. - FAO was invited to make a presentation on forest monitoring tools for climate change under the Paris Agreement at the Indonesian Climate Change Festival week held 15-18 January 2018. FAO has supported tree planting activities to restore degraded sites and

	<p>support climate change adaptation in Niue and Tokelau (coastal areas) as well as to provide capacity building for local government staff and communities.</p>
<p>4. Provide additional technical and capacity-building support to REDD+ including exploring potential for additional regional support programmes for REDD+ strategy implementation and investment planning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO supported the completion of Forest Reference Level (FRL) documents for Mongolia and Myanmar, and their submission to UNFCCC in January 2018. Similarly, FAO has supported PNG and Solomon Islands in the documentation and submission of their Forest Reference Level (FRL) reports. These are the only two countries in the Pacific that have submitted their FRL reports. FAO provided support to these countries, and to Lao PDR, in the FRL technical assessment process with UNFCCC experts. It also provided continuing support to Bangladesh and Bhutan in drafting and finalizing FRL documents. - FAO finalized project agreements in Thailand (through World Bank) and Cambodia and PNG (through UNDP) to support implementation of REDD+ Readiness activities under the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). These were all initiated in 2018. An agreement was drafted for FCPF implementation in Nepal, but this could not go forward due to matters beyond control of FAO and the Ministry of Forests and Environment. - An agreement was reached between FAO and the World Bank in January 2019 to mobilize US\$3 million of funds under the FCPF Readiness Programme to support countries in the Carbon Fund pipeline to build capacity for measurement of REDD+ results at sub-national level. This will include direct support to Nepal and Viet Nam, the terms of which are currently under negotiation with relevant national partners. - FAO finalized agreement for a GCF Readiness project in Lao PDR, on private sector engagement in REDD+ strategy implementation. This project was initiated in 2018. - FAO supported scoping exercises in Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam on the potential for FLEGT/REDD+ linkages. - FAO has supported the development of projects under the GEF-administered Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) of the Paris Agreement in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Mongolia, PNG and Sri Lanka, to build on the capacity developed through FAO/UN-REDD on Greenhouse Gas inventory for the forest sector by scaling up to the Agriculture, Forest and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sectors. GEF Project Preparation Grants (PPGs) have been mobilized; Cambodia, Mongolia and PNG projects initiated in 2019 and Bangladesh and Sri Lanka PPG phases are due for completion in 2019. - A GCF full project proposal was developed for Nepal, on ecosystem-based mitigation and adaptation in the Churia range, as a part contribution to Nepal's REDD+ strategy implementation. This proposal was submitted to GCF in 2018. - Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) plans were supported for four State-managed Forest Entities in Viet Nam, including capacity built for achieving FSC certification as part of NRAP implementation. Support was provided for development of a national guideline for development of smallholder associations of forest owners to enhance market influence and facilitate SFM implementation and certification.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO has been continuing to support REDD+ related capacity development including a study tour on forest inventory, to Germany and Italy, for 10 participants from India and Indonesia in October 2017; a Pacific Regional Forest Monitoring workshop on 5-9 Dec 2017 in PNG; a workshop on using the FAO SEPAL satellite data processing system in Indonesia on 2-6 Dec 2017. A REDD+ Academy training on the potential for mangroves in REDD+ was held for IUCN and MFF staff 22-26 January 2018. FAO was involved with USAID and SilvaCarbon in supporting the SERVIR-Hindu Kush project on improving land cover mapping methods on 4-6 April 2018. FAO and the Bangladesh Forestry Department held a Regional Exchange Workshop on Forest Monitoring and Assessment with participants from 13 countries held in Bangladesh 7-10 May 2018. - FAO has also successfully developed and secured \$1m funding for a project to support Indonesia's Peatland Restoration Information and Management System (PRIMS). - In PNG and Solomon Islands, FAO in collaboration with partners has established forest monitoring laboratories to assist Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) work. Similar support is being provided to Tonga and to certain extent Vanuatu (under GEF5 support). - In addition, the UN-REDD Programme has provided technical assistance to strengthen and institutionalize forest monitoring systems in Indonesia, Myanmar and Viet Nam.
<p>5. Assist, particularly, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to balance competing economic, social, environmental and cultural objectives for forests and forestry.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are several GEF-funded projects in the Pacific to address balancing competing objectives for forests and forestry. These include: Integrated Forest Management in the Solomon Islands; Integrated Sustainable Land and Coastal Management in Vanuatu; Integrated Land and Agro-ecosystem Management Systems in Tonga; Resilient Islands, Resilient Communities in Kiribati; and Community-based Integrated Natural Resource Management in Fiji (PPG phase).
<p>6. Increase support to the work of the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In order to revitalize the Network, the APFISN Secretariat has been shifted from Kerala Forest Research Institute, India to the University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia. The new secretariat has revamped the APFSIN website, updated and continued seeking nominations for new national focal points and is working actively in conducting training exercises, facilitating networking and disseminating relevant information. - With the support of the Beijing Secretariat and partners including the US Forest Service, a training workshop titled "Developing skills in forest protection: an integrated approach" was organized in Beijing, China, 23-27 October 2018. Another training event, "Science informing forest invasive species policy: pine wilt disease as a case study" is being organized as part of APFW 2019.
<p>7. Ensure due attention is given to consultative and participatory approaches in developing global and regional forestry activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO continues to ensure that due attention is given to consultative and participatory approaches in developing global and regional forestry activities. APFC sessions where member countries are actively participating provide a formal and established platform for consultations with member countries, while APFC Executive

	<p>Committee meetings provide opportunities for provision of inter-sessional advice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In addition to APFC sessions, FAO continues to seek participation of countries and other stakeholders in regional and global programmes. For example, in the formulation and implementation of the Asia-Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Studies III (APFSOS III), FAO consulted APFC member countries at the 27th session of APFC and also wider stakeholder groups and the public through various means, e.g. online surveys and expert group meetings. Member countries have always been consulted in the implementation of FAO's Executive Forest Policy Course and other global programmes such as UN-REDD and FLEGT.
<p>8. In collaboration with other international organizations, continue to give attention to capacity building and development of tools and best practices for utilizing trees and forests in urban and peri-urban areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - World Forum on Urban Forests was organized in Mantova, Italy, 28 November - 1 December 2018. The event brought together over 600 representatives from more than 70 countries to discuss the benefits of urban forests and trees. The Mantova Challenge and Call for Action was launched at the Forum. - On 21 March 2018, to celebrate the International Day of Forests (IDF), FAO organized a forestry debate on the topic of forests and sustainable cities involving six Bangkok-based high schools and universities.
<p>9. Conduct more case studies on urban and peri-urban forests, including identifying and/or assessing economic values of urban and peri-urban forests, to support cross-sectoral policy-making.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO has been supporting a community group in Bangkachao, Thailand to conduct awareness raising and demonstration of agroforestry practices in the peri-urban area of Bangkok. The story of Bangkachao will be documented and disseminated under this initiative. - FAO released an issue of Unasylva focusing on forests and sustainable cities in 2018. - Through GEF and other FAO executed forestry projects, financial and technical support is provided to recipient countries in promoting the International Day of Forests and World Environment Day. In 2018 the theme for the International Day of Forests was "Forests and sustainable cities". A variety of activities were arranged in the region including a forestry debate, tree-plantings and school-related activities.
<p>10. Continue collaboration with APFORGEN and other relevant initiatives on forest genetic resources in the region including capacity building support for forest genetic resources conservation and seed preservation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APFORGEN was invited by FAO to submit a report on its contributions to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action on forest genetic resources (GPA-FGR). The information provided by the Network was included in the report submitted by Bioversity International. - The First Report on the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action was discussed by the 17th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources, held in Rome on 18-22 February 2019. A total of 7 Asian countries submitted their progress reports to FAO. The Commission adopted a funding strategy for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. - FAO provided technical inputs to the APFORGIS project which is coordinated by Bioversity International in collaboration with APFORGEN. FAO staff are planning to attend the final project meeting in October 2019. - FAO will present the results of the First report on the implementation of the GPA-FGR and the preparatory process of The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic

	<p>Resources to the Network during the APFORGIS meeting in October 2019.</p>
<p>11. Support countries to pilot community-based forest and landscape restoration approaches that specifically target enhanced food security and nutrition.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO is implementing a number of activities to promote landscape restoration (see update under Recommendation No. 1), benefits of which include food security and improved nutrition for local communities. However, to date no restoration activities specifically targeted to enhance food security and nutrition have been carried out. - Under GEF-4 projects in Fiji, Vanuatu, Samoa and Niue, and under the EU-ACP ADD project in Fiji, local communities were trained in climate resilient farming practices. These activities were carried out in partnership with other local, regional and international organizations.
<p>12. In collaboration with other international organizations, to continue to provide information and support to designing community-based forest programmes and pilots based on best practices adapted to local requirements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community-based forest programmes and pilots are core components of FAO work. FAO has collaborated with various international organizations to support community forestry, social forestry and agroforestry. In Nepal, FAO has worked with IUCN to identify suitable agroforestry approaches for underutilized agricultural lands. In Viet Nam, FAO has worked with ICRAF on an agroforestry project in the northwest region. FAO has also been working over the years with RECOFTC to support community forestry and small-scale enterprises. Through the Forest and Farm Facility FAO has supported smallholder farmers in several countries in Asia, namely Myanmar, Nepal and Viet Nam. FAO also works closely with the ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry on various activities and events. - FAO continues working with key partners, including ICRAF, RECOFTC, APFNet and NTFP-EP, to coordinate work in Asia on small-scale forest enterprises with the aim of creating synergies and larger impacts.
<p>13. Provide capacity building assistance and training on a range of topics including utilization of the new FRA reporting tools, platforms and methodologies, remote sensing methodologies and national spatial data infrastructure, utilizing priorities developed in needs evaluations during previous FRA exercises.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In March 2018, a global launching event for FRA 2020 was organized in Mexico. The event was attended by over one hundred FRA National Correspondents from all over the world including the Asia-Pacific region. - Under FRA 2020, three sub-regional capacity building workshops were carried out for the Asia-Pacific region: June 2018 for countries in East and Southeast Asia (in Japan); July 2018 for South and Central Asia (in India); and December 2018 for the Pacific (in Fiji). - In addition, a training workshop focusing on remote sensing under FRA 2020 was conducted in Bangkok, Thailand, 29 October - 2 November 2018. - Country reports under FRA 2020 have all been submitted and are currently undergoing review and validation.
<p>14. Translate relevant recommendations from the 27th session of APFC into the respective templates for consideration by the Committee on Forestry, for the attention of the FAO Regional Conference</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This has been carried out and the completed template was included in the Report of the 28th session of APFC.

for Asia and the Pacific, and for the FAO Programme of Work in Forestry.	
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ANNEX 1 – RECENT FAO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC FORESTRY PUBLICATIONS

(Since the 27th Session of the APFC).

Forest Futures: Sustainable pathways for forests, landscapes and people in the Asia-Pacific region

Report of the twenty-seventh session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC)
2017

Newsletters

- *Teaknet Bulletin*

ANNEX 2 – MEETINGS ORGANIZED OR CO-ORGANIZED BY THE FAO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC FORESTRY TEAM (Since the 27th Session of the APFC).

Date	Title	Venue
5-6 December 2017	Regional training and final workshop on “Promoting forest landscape restoration in selected Southeast Asian countries”	Manila and Bataan, The Philippines
5-9 December 2017	Pacific regional forest monitoring workshop	Port Moresby, PNG
9-13 April 2018	FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific	Nadi, Fiji
26 – 27 April 2018	First Advisory Committee Meeting for the Third Asia Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study (APFSOS III)	Bangkok, Thailand
7 -10 May 2018	Regional exchange workshop on forest monitoring and assessment	Sylhet, Bangladesh
4 - 5 June 2018	Mangrove and REDD+ regional consultation workshop	Bangkok, Thailand
September 2018	Asia-Pacific regional knowledge exchange on Forest Reference (Emission) Levels incl. forest inventory	Dehra Dun, India
26 - 27 September 2018	Third Asia Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study (APFSOS III) Thematic focus group discussion: Trade and forest governance	Bangkok, Thailand
29 October - 2 November 2018	Regional workshop for the South and Southeast Asia on Remote Sensing Survey 2020	Bangkok, Thailand
13 November 2018	Third Asia Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study (APFSOS III) thematic focus group discussion: Forestry scenarios in Asia-Pacific region	Bogor, Indonesia
14 -15 November 2018	Second Advisory Committee Meeting for the Third Asia Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study (APFSOS III)	Bogor, Indonesia
18 December 2018	Third Asia Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study (APFSOS III) thematic focus group discussion: Environmental services	Bangkok, Thailand
7 – 8 March 2019	Expert review meeting for the Third Asia Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study (APFSOS III)	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
20 March 2019	Regional youth consultation workshop for the Third Asia Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study (APFSOS III)	Bangkok, Thailand

21 March 2019	International Day of Forests – Forestry debate: Forests and education	Bangkok, Thailand
11 – 12 April 2019	Third Advisory Committee Meeting for the Third Asia Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study (APFSOS III)	Bangkok, Thailand
8 -10 April 2019	Regional training: Social protection and climate and disaster risk management	Bangkok, Thailand