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Organización  
de las  
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para la  
Alimentación y la  
Agricultura

## ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY COMMISSION

### TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

Rotorua, New Zealand, 5-8 November 2013

### 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 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC), convened in Beijing, China, in November 2011. It serves as a basis for reviewing follow up to the specific requests and recommendations stemming from the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission.

#### Selected global programmes

2. The Global Forest Resources Assessments (FRA) are now produced every five years in an attempt to provide a consistent approach to describing the world's forests and how they are changing. Work towards the 2015 assessment is currently being implemented. An FRA Global Correspondents meeting was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in May 2013.

3. A major assessment of the world's forest genetic resources has been completed, and synthesis of country reports for *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* is approaching conclusion. In Asia and the Pacific, funding assistance and technical backstopping were provided to various countries to assist preparation of national reports on the status of forest genetic resources. The first Global Plan for Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources was adopted in April 2013 by FAO's Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Commission has asked FAO to develop an implementation strategy for the Plan of Action and to ensure mobilization of adequate financial resources for its implementation, particularly in support of developing countries.

4. The UN-REDD programme is active in the Asia-Pacific region, with 15 partner countries. Cambodia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon Islands and Viet Nam and Sri Lanka have received support to national programmes under the UN-REDD programme. Bangladesh, Bhutan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan are also members and are being supported through the Support to National Actions Programme. The programme supports national REDD+ Readiness efforts through provision of direct support to the design and implementation of UN-REDD national programmes and complementary support to national REDD+ action.

5. The EU-FAO Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade programme (EU FAO FLEGT programme) is a four-year initiative (2012-2016) funded by the European Union and implemented by FAO. The overall objective is to improve governance in the forest sector through improvement of policy, legal and regulatory frameworks; increasing capacity of civil society, private sector and forest sector staff to manage forest resource; enforcement of forestry legal frameworks; and knowledge sharing on the FLEGT process. A range of activities are being implemented in the Asia-Pacific region under the programme, which are reported later in this document.

6. FAO is developing a comprehensive technical package of knowledge tools, best practices, processes and their examples of application to facilitate the implementation of sustainable forest management (SFM) under varied contexts, referred to as the *SFM Toolbox*. The Toolbox aims to support forest managers and other stakeholders in progressing towards SFM in a more integrated and cohesive way, with solutions tailored to their specific needs, contexts and major areas of interest, while taking into account the socio-economic and environmental contexts. Initial elements of the Toolbox are expected to be available by September 2014.

### **Asia-Pacific activities and initiatives**

7. FAO and APFC forestry activities in the region can be grouped into three broad categories:

- Activities in the areas of economics, policies and institutions;
- Activities designed to promote improvement in forest management for multiple benefits; and
- Activities designed to foster greater involvement of people in forestry.

#### **I. *Activities in the areas of economics, policies and institutions***

8. During Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2011 (APFW2011), an inaugural workshop unanimously agreed to establish an Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank. Initial activities to operationalize the Think Tank included establishing an expert network of 30 founding members. The first major activity of the Think Tank was a two-week residential Executive Forest Policy Course held in Thimphu, Bhutan from 27 May to 7 June 2013. The course was arranged in collaboration with FAO, the SAARC Forestry Centre, the Asia Pacific Association of Forest Research Institutes (APAFRI) and the USDA Forest Service, with additional support from a number of other international and regional organizations. A Think Tank policy brief on the *Post-Rio+20 environment: challenges and opportunities for forestry in Asia and the Pacific* and a design template for future policy briefs have also been prepared.

9. A set of eight Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study (APFSOS) policy briefs on *Addressing key forestry issues* was prepared. Core APFSOS publications currently include one regional study, five subregional studies, one supplementary study (policies, legislation and institutions), a substantive APEC briefing paper and 35 working papers, as well as sundry policy briefs.

10. An ASEAN-FAO workshop on *Strategic Planning for Southeast Asian Forestry* was implemented in March 2012 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The workshop objective was to advance strategic planning in Southeast Asian forestry on the basis of studies completed under the Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study, and produce related policy briefs and recommendations.

11. A Pacific forestry expert group meeting was convened in Wellington, New Zealand in September 2012. The consultation focused on the areas of trade, climate change, REDD and illegal logging and discussed implications and future directions for Pacific forestry.

12. Building on APFSOS findings, a substantive briefing paper *Forests and forestry in ASEAN: challenges and opportunities* was prepared for an Association of Southeast Asian Nations Special Ministerial Meeting on Forestry, held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, in August 2012. A summary of the

briefing paper was presented at the meeting by FAO's Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific.

13. With support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), a study on enhancing investments in Asia-Pacific forestry was undertaken. The study culminated in a publication *Guidelines for formulating national forest financing strategies*, which was released in early 2013. The publication examines key financing aspects including the roles of governments, incorporating the interests of investors, safeguarding the interests of rural communities and integrating payments for ecosystem services into national forestry financing strategies. An expert consultation to share and review the findings and recommendations of this publication was held in Bangkok, in August 2012.

14. The EU-FAO FLEGT programme is building a greater presence in the Asia-Pacific region, working with local stakeholders in countries negotiating or implementing Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) and other eligible timber-producing countries. The programme will soon be supporting implementing partners in Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal and Viet Nam. An assessment of the potential impacts of forest product legality regulations and REDD+ on forest product production and trade in Asia and the Pacific has been implemented utilizing FAO's Global Forest Products Model (GFPM). A meeting on *Regional Experiences to Address Governance and Trade Challenges in the Forest Sector* was held in Bangkok, Thailand, in May 2013. A regional workshop on *Capacity Building Needs to Support FLEGT in Asia* will be held in October 2013, in Bangkok, Thailand. Two projects have been implemented as part of the FLEGT programme in Papua New Guinea, addressing issues relating to illegal logging, good forest governance and legality issues for landowner groups. Development of planted forest legislation (prepared under FLEGT arrangements) is ongoing in Vanuatu. Formulation of new forestry legislation for Tonga has also been initiated with supported from the EU FAO FLEGT programme.

15. A German-funded project on *Moving Forward in the Implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests in Liberia, Nicaragua and the Philippines* was completed in mid-2013. In the Philippines, a compendium of policies on forestry and natural resources was compiled and the project strengthened forest governance through review of forest policies and measures required for effective implementation of the Forest Instrument.

16. The new *Voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security* promotes secure tenure rights and equitable access to land, fisheries and forests as a means of eradicating hunger and poverty, supporting sustainable development and enhancing the environment. The Guidelines were developed based on an inclusive consultation process started by FAO in 2009 and finalized through intergovernmental negotiations that included participation of a broad range of stakeholders. Regional technical workshops to raise awareness on the Guidelines were organized by FAO and partners in Bangkok, Thailand, for the Asia region and in Nadi, Fiji, for Pacific countries, in July and August 2013.

17. The UN-REDD programme is supporting steps to build transparent and accountable national REDD+ systems and processes in pilot countries in the region. These interventions include: (1) stakeholder consultation and participation in REDD+ planning and implementation; (2) cross-sectoral coordination in REDD+ planning and implementation; and (3) legislative review towards reform and enforcement.

18. FAO supported the organization of a *Regional Technical Forestry Meeting*, in Nadi, Fiji, in September 2013. The meeting was hosted and led by the Secretariat for Pacific Community (SPC) and other donor partners. This meeting is convened regularly by SPC to report and exchange perspectives related to ongoing and new forestry activities and programmes in the Pacific region and to facilitate technical discussions on current developments and opportunities in the forest sector.

## II. Activities designed to promote improvement in forest management for multiple benefits

19. A meeting of the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN) Executive Committee held in Bangkok in November 2012 agreed to establish an APFISN Beijing Office. The new office will provide additional coordination capacity to the network and enable China to enhance its contribution to the network. A publication entitled *Invasive alien species in the forests of Asia and the Pacific* was published in 2013. A subregional FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project on *Control and Management of Destructive Forest Invasive Species in South Asian Natural And Plantation Forests* has been approved and implementation will commence imminently. A workshop on *Tools for Ecological and Economic Impact Assessment of Invasive Alien Species in Forest Ecosystems* will be held as a pre-session event at the 25<sup>th</sup> session of the APFC.

20. An international seminar on the roles of forests in natural disasters was organized in collaboration with Japanese partner agencies, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) and the Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC) in Sendai, Japan, in February 2012. A follow-up seminar will be held as a pre-session event at the 25<sup>th</sup> session of the APFC. A policy brief summarizing the key messages of the Sendai seminar has been prepared. Also relating to the theme of natural disasters, a publication on *The role of forests and forestry in the prevention of landslides and rehabilitation of landslide-affected areas in Asia* (and a summary brief) were published in 2013.

21. A regional workshop on *Reduced Impact Logging: Challenges, Opportunities and Strategies in the Emerging Forest Carbon Economy* was held in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia in May 2012. The workshop provided an opportunity to discuss challenges, opportunities and strategies for further developing and promoting the implementation of RIL and explored strategies for improving forest management and reducing carbon emissions under REDD+.

22. FAO continues to support TEAKNET, an international network of teak producers and teak-based enterprises. A recent highlight of this support was organization of the five-day *World Teak Conference 2013: Sharing our Planet: Teak Model Development Towards the Improvement of Mankind* in Bangkok, Thailand, in March 2013.

23. With decades of experience in mangrove rehabilitation and management and in community development and community forestry, FAO is supporting Mangroves for the Future (MFF) as an institutional partner and a member of its Regional Steering Committee. MFF is a partnership-based initiative promoting investments in coastal ecosystems that support sustainable development.

24. Currently, FAO and MFF are working on a regional project that will promote mangrove conservation and sustainable development.

25. FAO is providing assistance to promote sustainable utilization and development of senile coconuts in Kiribati. This work combines assessing the status of existing senile coconuts through on-the-ground surveys, relevant policy development, sawmilling of coconut wood and training on these aspects. The objective is to improve the institutional capacity, knowledge and skills of the Kiribati Department of Agriculture to sustainably use, manage and develop its senile coconut palm resources.

26. The Government of Australia is supporting an FAO/Government Cooperative Programme project on *Promoting Sustainable Forest Management by Developing Effective Systems of Forest Planning, Monitoring and Control in Papua New Guinea*. The project is focusing on strengthening elements of the Logging Code of Practice, particularly with a focus on RIL, road building and silviculture. An FAO TCP project on community-based forest harvesting is being implemented in Viet Nam.

27. FAO continues to strongly promote forest restoration and rehabilitation in Asia and the Pacific. An FAO TCP regional project on *Applying Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) for Restoring Forest Ecosystem Services in Southeast Asia* has built on experience with an earlier award-winning project in

the Philippines. Under the project, a study tour to the Philippines was organized for Southeast Asian officials to observe advanced implementation of ANR techniques. FAO will soon begin collaboration with the International Model Forest Network and APFNet in implementing a project on *Forest Restoration at the Landscape Level in Asia: A Unique Model Forest Approach*. The project aims to build the capacity of communities, local officials and other partners to rehabilitate forests as a means to restore degraded land, increase forest cover, improve forest quality and enhance livelihoods. A workshop on forest landscape restoration will be held as a pre-session event at the 25<sup>th</sup> session of the APFC.

28. FAO has been increasingly involved in the formulation and implementation of forestry-related projects funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The GEF-PAS Forestry Conservation and Protected Area Management Project in Fiji, Vanuatu, Samoa and Niue has been operational since July 2012. Several baseline exercises and studies have been initiated for proposed protected areas. Also in the Pacific, GEF Project Identification Forms (PIFs) have been drafted for Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Kiribati and Tonga under the GEF-5 STAR Allocation. All have components dealing with improved forestry practices, establishment of forest assessment and monitoring mechanisms and SFM/REDD+. Elsewhere in the region, GEF projects are being formulated in Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar and Sri Lanka on various aspects of forestry and natural resource management. In Mongolia, an FAO TCP project on participatory natural resource management is bridging a previous Dutch-funded project and a GEF project that is presently being formulated.

29. A wide variety of TCP and Trust Fund projects relating to forest resource management are being implemented. Projects implemented in the past biennium include: (1) *Enhancing Community-based Forestry Management in Cambodia*; (2) *Designing a Multipurpose National Forest Inventory to Support REDD+ Mechanisms in Cambodia*; (3) *Capacity Building for the Implementation of Integrated Pest and Sustainable Forest Management Practices to Protect Forest Resources in DPR Korea*; (4) *Strengthening Forest Resource Database Management in Myanmar*; (5) Technical assistance for *Leasehold Forest and Livestock Programme in Nepal*; (6) Technical assistance to the *Review and Scaling Up of Leasehold Forestry in Nepal*; (7) *Promoting Sustainable Forest Management by Developing Effective Systems of Forest Planning, Monitoring and Control in Papua New Guinea*; (8) *Participation of Tree Plantation Farmers in Sustainable Forest Management in Thailand*; (9) *UN Joint Programme on Integrated Highland Livelihood Development in Mae Hong Son, Thailand*.

30. A number of other activities have been implemented in relation to forestry and climate change in the region. A series of post-UNFCCC COP consultations (post-Copenhagen, -Cancun, -Durban and -Doha) have been held in collaboration with various partner organizations to synthesize expert views on the implications of decisions taken at each COP for the Asia-Pacific forest sector. Booklets summarizing the consensus views of these consultations have been widely disseminated. Two FAO TCP projects relating to climate change are being implemented relating to: (1) Climate change adaptation and resilience with microwatershed approaches in Cambodia; and (2) Support to the regional framework on climate change adaptation in the Eastern Himalayas. Another TCP project on linking communities to voluntary carbon markets in forestry has been completed; guidelines for communities in accessing voluntary carbon markets were prepared under the project.

31. Relating to data needs to support REDD+ readiness and related climate changes initiatives, FAO is co-organizing the workshop on *Thematic Geospatial Information in Tropical Peatland for Agriculture*, to be held in Bogor, Indonesia, November 2013. The workshop aims to provide a forum for sharing experience in peatland mapping, facilitate exchange of information related to peatland management and raise awareness of the urgency in developing updated national inventory and mapping of tropical peatland given the critical role that peatlands play in climate change mitigation.

### **III. Activities designed to foster greater involvement of people in forestry**

32. FAO, in collaboration with APFNet and the Asia Forest Network, implemented a multicountry project and policy study on *Making Forestry Work for the Poor: Adapting Forest Policies to Poverty*

*Alleviation Strategies in Asia and the Pacific*. The study, covering 11 countries, assessed the extent to which poverty has been reduced through forestry activities in the region.

33. The 'Kids-to-Forests' initiative continues to operate in several countries in the region. Kids-to-Forests aims to expose younger generations to the multiple benefits of forests through hands-on learning experiences that can lead to a better understanding of sustainable forest management. Preparation of teaching toolkits and training-for-trainers initiatives are integral parts of current FAO-supported activities contributing to direct forest-related, out-of-school learning and awareness-raising activities for children.

34. The 24<sup>th</sup> session of the APFC recommended establishment of a forestry communications network. A workshop on *Strengthening Forestry Communications in Asia and the Pacific* was held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, in September 2013. The workshop resolved to establish an Asia-Pacific Forestry Communications Network, which will facilitate sharing of best practices, media contacts, information/knowledge, research initiatives and marketing.

35. A range of local enterprise development activities relating to non-wood forest products are being implemented (or have recently been completed) in projects in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam, including: edible insects, sericulture, bamboo/rattan, lacquerware, hand-made paper, forest fruit wines, black pepper and cinnamon. Edible insects have been a particular focus during the past several years. An FAO TCP project on sustainable collection, farming and marketing of edible insects in Lao PDR was recently concluded. A publication entitled, *Six-legged livestock: edible insect farming, collection and marketing in Thailand* was released in March 2013. Edible insects also featured strongly in the forestry component of an FAO seminar on underutilized foods held in Khon Kaen, Thailand, in June 2012.

36. FAO has been supporting forest producer organizations for many years in collaboration with various partners, through the 'Forest Connect' initiative and more recently through the Forest & Farm Facility (FFF). In 2012, FAO and its partners published *Strength in numbers: effective forest producer organizations* to provoke discussion among service providers and policy-makers for setting frameworks in which producer organizations can flourish. In November 2013, the International Conference on Forest Producer Organizations will be organized in Guilin, China, to follow up on the issues raised in the publication. It will bring together representatives of forest producer organizations, service providers and government representatives from around the world to discuss the experiences of producer organizations, the role of support networks and services, and the legal, policy and institutional environment required for successful producer organizations.

37. The new Forest & Farm Facility (FFF) was officially launched in September 2012. Drawing on the lessons learned from both the National Forest Programme (NFP) Facility in 80 partner countries and the closely-related Growing Forest Partnerships (GFP) Programme, the FFF will address the remaining challenges in NFP implementation. It will also support new initiatives to help countries improve governance structures at different levels (local, national and regional) to achieve sustainable forest landscape management, while boosting food security and promoting climate-smart agriculture. During its first meeting held in Rome, in January 2013, the Steering Committee selected six pilot countries, two from each region. For Asia-Pacific, Nepal and Myanmar were selected, the FFF has been launched in both countries and activities underway.

38. In collaboration with RECOFTC, a multicountry study on *Mainstreaming Gender Issues in Forest Policies of Developing Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission Member Countries* is being implemented. The study comprises preparation of a baseline analysis of integration of gender in forest policies of representative member countries of the APFC including development of recommendations for mainstreaming gender within forest policies of countries in the region. A regional workshop for policy-makers on mainstreaming gender into forest policy-making will be held as a pre-session event at the 25<sup>th</sup> session of APFC.

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**IV. *Other activities***

39. A publication summarizing the events of the Second Asia-Pacific Forestry Week was produced in 2012. The report of the 24th session of the APFC was also published. The 8<sup>th</sup> APFC Executive Committee meeting was held in Rome in September 2012, while the 9<sup>th</sup> APFC Executive Committee meeting was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in May 2013. The APFC Chair represented the Asia-Pacific region at a COFO Steering Committee held in Quebec City, Canada in May 2012, and supported the organizing of the 21<sup>st</sup> session of the Committee on Forestry in September 2012.

## **ANNEX 1 – RECENT FAO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC FORESTRY PUBLICATIONS**

(since 24<sup>th</sup> Session of APFC)

*Invasive alien plants in the forests of Asia and the Pacific*

RAP Publication - 2013/06

*Forests and landslides*

RAP Publication - 2013/02

*Six-legged livestock: edible insect farming, collection and marketing in Thailand*

RAP Publication - 2013/03

*Guidelines for formulating national forest financing strategies*

RAP Publication - 2013/01

Policy briefs: Addressing Key Issues in Forestry - Asia-Pacific Forests and Forestry to 2020

Participation of Tree Plantation Farmers in Sustainable Forest Management

Forests and Climate Change after Durban: an Asia-Pacific Perspective

*Community guidelines for accessing forestry voluntary carbon markets*

RAP Publication - 2012/16

*Sustainable bioenergy in Asia*

RAP Publication - 2012/14

*Asia-Pacific Forestry Week. New challenges - new opportunities*

RAP Publication - 2012/11

*South Asian forests and forestry to 2020*

RAP Publication - 2012/10

*Making forestry work for the poor*

RAP Publication - 2012/06

*Report of the twenty-fourth session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC)*

RAP Publication - 2012/03

### Newsletters

- *Tigerpaper/Forest News*
- *APANews – Asia-Pacific Agroforestry Newsletter*
- *INVASIVES – Newsletter of the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network*
- *Teaknet Bulletin*

## ANNEX 2 – MEETINGS ORGANIZED OR CO-ORGANIZED BY FAO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC FORESTRY TEAM

(since the 24<sup>th</sup> session of APFC)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Venue</b>
8 November 2013	Implementing the Forest Instrument: Experiences from Pilot Countries	Rotorua, New Zealand
4 November 2013	Sustainable Forest Management for Prosperity in the Pacific Island Countries	Rotorua, New Zealand
4 November 2013	Seminar on Forests and Natural Disasters	Rotorua, New Zealand
4 November 2013	Third Forestry College Deans' Meeting in the Asia-Pacific Region: Evolving Methods of Curriculum Delivery in Post-Secondary Forest Education	Rotorua, New Zealand
4 November 2013	Tools for Ecological and Economic Impact Assessment of Invasive Alien Species in Forest Ecosystems	Rotorua, New Zealand
3 November 2013	Workshop on Mainstreaming Gender Issues into Forest Policies	Rotorua, New Zealand
3 November 2013	Forest Restoration at Landscape Level in Asia-Pacific	Rotorua, New Zealand
3 November 2013	Workshop on Forestry Strategic Planning in the Asia-Pacific Region	Rotorua, New Zealand
3 November 2013	What Has REDD+ Done for the Forest Sector?	Rotorua, New Zealand
23-27 October 2013	Alien Invasive Species and International Trade	Qingdao, China
21-23 October 2013	International Symposium on Transition to Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation: the Enabling Environment and Roadmap	Beijing, China
16-17 October 2013	Regional Workshop on Capacity Building Needs to Support FLEGT in Asia	Bangkok, Thailand
15-17 October 2013	4th UN-REDD Regional Lessons Learned Workshop: National Forest Monitoring Systems for REDD+	Bangkok, Thailand
23-27 September 2013	Pacific Heads of Forestry Meeting	Nadi, Fiji
17-19 September 2013	Strengthening Forestry Communications in Asia and the Pacific	Hanoi, Viet Nam
5-14 July 2013	Training Workshop on Assessment of Trees Outside of Forests	Bali, Indonesia
27 May-7 June 2013	Forest Policies for the 21st Century. Executive Forest Policy Course 2013	Thimphu, Bhutan
6-10 May 2013	Technical Meeting of the National Correspondents to the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015 (Forthcoming)	Chiang Mai, Thailand
3 May 2013	Ninth Executive Committee Meeting for the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission	Chiang Mai, Thailand
2 May 2013	Round Table Meeting for Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission Partners'	Bangkok, Thailand
25-30 March 2013	World Teak Conference 2013	Bangkok, Thailand
5 February 2013	Regional Experts Consultation: Implications of Doha for Climate Change and Forests in Asia-Pacific	Bogor, Indonesia
29-30 November 2012	Workshop on Establishing an East Asia Office of the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network	Bangkok, Thailand
25 September 2012	Eighth Executive Committee Meeting for the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission	Rome, Italy
7-9 August 2012	Assisted Natural Regeneration Study Tour to the Philippines	Philippines
24-25 July 2012	Expert Group Meeting: an Inclusive Framework for Enhancing Investments into Asian Forestry	Bangkok, Thailand

31 May-2 June 2012	Regional Symposium on Promotion of Underutilized Indigenous Food Resources for Food Security and Nutrition in Asia and the Pacific	Khon Kaen, Thailand
3-4 May 2012	Asia-Pacific Workshop on Reduced Impact Logging: Challenges, Opportunities and Strategies in the Emerging Forest Carbon Economy	Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia
17-21 April 2012	Regional Inception Workshop for Assisted Natural Regeneration	Chiang Mai, Thailand
21-23 March 2012	ASEAN-FAO Workshop on Strategic Planning for Southeast Asian Forestry	Chiang Mai, Thailand
21 February 2012	Post COP-17 Consultation on the Implications of Durban for Forestry	Manila, Philippines
5-6 February 2012	International Seminar on Role of Forests in Natural Disasters	Sendai, Japan
7-11 November 2011	Second Asia-Pacific Forestry Week and 24th Session of APFC	Beijing, China

**ANNEX 3 – RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE 24<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY COMMISSION AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TAKEN BY FAO**

Recommendations	Actions taken
<i>For the attention of governments and FAO</i>	
<p>1. Assist countries to share experiences in climate change adaptation and to help further refine national climate change adaptation strategies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regional workshop on forests and climate change adaptation in Asia organized in collaboration with UNEP and RECOFTC to identify priority forest-based climate change adaptation measures in Asia, and suggest how these can be implemented.</li> <li>- Policy brief on forests and climate change adaptation in Asia was developed and disseminated.</li> </ul>
<p>2. Help countries to develop national action plans on climate change adaptation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- FAO published and disseminated <i>Climate change guidelines for forest managers</i> to support forest managers in responding to climate change challenges and opportunities at the forest management unit level.</li> <li>- Post-UNFCCC COP consultations (post-Durban, post-Doha) organized, as part of a continuing series, to synthesize expert views on the implications of decisions taken at each COP meeting for forestry in the Asia-Pacific region; each consultation resulted in booklets produced in straightforward Q&amp;A format for the regional forestry community.</li> <li>- A regional TCP project collaborated with the ASEAN + 3 countries to assess climate change impacts on agriculture, forestry and fisheries as well as land and water resource management; it developed mechanisms for further regional cooperation.</li> <li>- Two Technical Cooperation Programme projects relating to climate change adaptation are being implemented: (1) <i>Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience with Microwatershed Approaches in Cambodia</i>; and (2) <i>Support to Regional Framework on Climate Change Adaptation in Eastern Himalayas</i>.</li> <li>- Regional training on climate smart agriculture policy and carbon balance appraisal of agriculture, forestry and land-use change was conducted in Dhaka, Bangladesh in February 2012.</li> <li>- GEF-funded projects addressing climate change adaptation are being formulated for Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar and Sri Lanka, in collaboration with national officials and experts.</li> </ul>
<p>3. FLEG-T awareness-raising activities should encompass broader groups of stakeholders including the judiciary, customs officials, extra-sectoral government officials and others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Since the launch of the EU-FAO FLEGT programme in Asia, awareness-raising events have been organized in Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam; participants included a wide range of stakeholders from governments, the private sector and civil society groups.</li> <li>- Several approved initiatives focus on FLEGT-related awareness raising through local media.</li> <li>- FAO is building a network of partner programmes and organizations (EFI, RAFT, GIZ, APFNet, ITTO, UNODC) which will improve and widen FLEGT-related outreach activities.</li> <li>- A regional workshop on capacity building needs to support FLEGT in Asia will be held in October 2013, in Thailand, in collaboration with GIZ,</li> </ul>

	EFI, DFID and RAFT, including broad stakeholder participation.
4. Member countries further review the paper ( <i>Integrating the management of wildfire-related risks in rural land and forest management legislation and policies</i> ) tabled by Australia and New Zealand, and its recommendations, and consider it more fully at the next session of the Committee on Forestry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As part of the International Liaison Committee, FAO is actively involved in the preparation of the next International Wildland Fire Conference in 2015 to be convened in the Republic of Korea (<a href="http://www.wildfire2015.kr">www.wildfire2015.kr</a>).</li> <li>- FAO is working with member countries and donors to explore opportunities for developing a comprehensive global programme which reflects integrated fire management, including community-based fire management approaches.</li> </ul>
5. Establish a Forestry Communications Working Group, under the auspices of the Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A regional workshop on strengthening forestry communications in Asia and the Pacific was organized, in Hanoi, Viet Nam, in September 2013, to establish the regional forestry communications network. A working group consisting of nine persons has been established to develop guidelines and operating modalities.</li> </ul>
<b><i>For the attention of FAO</i></b>	
1. Collaborate in promulgating forestry information to mitigate against natural disasters, including providing collaborative support for an international conference on forests and natural disasters planned for early 2012 in Japan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An international seminar on the roles of forests in natural disasters was organized in collaboration with Japanese partner agencies in Sendai, Japan in February 2012; a policy brief was prepared based on the information presented in the seminar.</li> <li>- A seminar on forests and natural disasters will be organized in collaboration with APAFRI and SPC as a pre-session event at the 25<sup>th</sup> session of APFC.</li> <li>- <i>The role of forests and forestry in the prevention of landslides and rehabilitation of landslide-affected areas in Asia</i> (and a summary brief) were published in 2013.</li> </ul>
2. Give additional attention to monitoring, reporting and verification aspects of forestry including: (1) potential needs to review and clarify forest definitions; (2) preparation of voluntary guidelines and other support for conducting forest inventories and assessments, with particular focus on requirements for REDD+ reporting; and (3) development of Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) reporting methodologies that provide greater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A review of forest definitions was done through the FRA 2015 and Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ) process. The CFRQ was developed to help reduce the forest-related reporting burden countries face.</li> <li>- FAO continues to support member countries in developing national forest monitoring systems and assessments. In collaboration with the UN-REDD programme, voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring are being developed through consultations and technical workshops.</li> <li>- FAO developed the Forest Resources Information Management System (FRIMS) to facilitate reporting for the CFRQ and FRA 2015. The FRIMS includes an online data entry system to facilitate reporting quality control and data review.</li> <li>- Capacity building related to reporting to the FRA 2015 was greatly expanded in 2012/2013 with a series of national network meetings and remote sensing training events.</li> <li>- A global meeting of national correspondents was held in Chiang Mai,</li> </ul>

<p>interpretative capacity for key forestry statistics; and (4) support to strengthen capacities for reporting to the FRA 2015 assessment.</p>	<p>Thailand and a series of regional workshops are being organized to help countries prepare for FRA 2015 reporting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring were prepared and a supporting Web site was launched at <a href="http://foris.fao.org/preview/84322/en/">http://foris.fao.org/preview/84322/en/</a>.</li> </ul>
<p>3. Collaborate with partner organizations to assist with the development of measures in national forest programmes to support and build capacities for forest law enforcement and improved governance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The EU-FAO FLEGT programme is building a presence in the Asia-Pacific region, working with local stakeholders to negotiate and implement VPAs.</li> <li>- A regional workshop on capacity building needs to support FLEGT in Asia was held in October 2013, in Thailand, in collaboration with GIZ, EFI, DFID and RAFT.</li> <li>- EFI and the EU-FAO FLEGT programme have established a joint Regional Advisory Committee to further reinforce coordination in FLEGT-related support.</li> </ul>
<p>4. Collaborate with other partners to continue awareness-raising efforts, sharing of experiences and development of capacity to address forest law enforcement and governance challenges.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two projects were implemented in Papua New Guinea as part of the FLEGT programme (phase I), addressing illegal logging, good forest governance and legality issues for landowner groups. Development of planted forest legislation (prepared under FLEGT arrangements) is ongoing in Vanuatu. Development of a new forestry legislation for Tonga has been initiated with supported from the EU FAO FLEGT programme.</li> <li>- A German-funded project on <i>Moving Forward in the Implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on all Types of Forests in Liberia, Nicaragua and the Philippines</i> was completed in mid-2013; the project strengthened forest governance through review of forest policies and measures required for effective implementation of the Forest Instrument.</li> </ul>
<p>5. Collaborate with donors and other development partners to facilitate countries in sharing FLEGT experiences and seek collaborative solutions to improving forest law enforcement and governance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security</i> were prepared through a multistakeholder process facilitated by FAO. Regional technical workshops to raise awareness of the Guidelines were organized in Thailand and Fiji in July/August 2013.</li> </ul>
<p>6. Provide increased support to build capacities and raise awareness in relation to REDD+, FLEGT and greening activities, including in rural communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Under the UN-REDD programme, FAO's lead role is to develop National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS) in selected countries to help them achieve REDD+ Readiness.</li> <li>- The TCP project on <i>Linking Communities to Voluntary Carbon Markets in Forestry</i> was completed in early 2013. Guidelines for communities in accessing voluntary carbon markets were published and distributed.</li> <li>- A regional TCP project on <i>Applying Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) for Restoring Forest Ecosystem Services in Southeast Asia</i> has strengthened capacity for low-cost forest regeneration and greening.</li> <li>- A study tour to the Philippines was organized for Southeast Asian officials to observe advanced implementation of ANR techniques.</li> <li>- A workshop on forest landscape restoration will be held as a pre-session event at the 25th session of the APFC.</li> </ul>
<p>7. Support efforts to promote, promulgate and interpret the findings and key priorities of the second</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Core APFSOS publications include the main regional study report, five subregional studies, one supplementary study (policies, legislation and institutions), a substantive APEC briefing paper and 35 working papers, as well as sundry policy briefs.</li> </ul>

<p>Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eight Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study (APFSOS) policy briefs addressing key forestry issues were prepared.</li> <li>- Building on APFSOS findings, a substantive briefing paper, <i>Forests and Forestry in ASEAN: Challenges and Opportunities</i>, was prepared for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Special Ministerial Meeting on Forestry, held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, in August 2012.</li> <li>- Using APFSOS findings and data, strategic planning workshops were conducted in each of the subregions to strengthen strategic planning and improve country policy formulation and implementation.</li> <li>- The sixth Executive Forest Policy Short Course, conducted in Thimphu, Bhutan, in May 2013, drew heavily from APFSOS findings, data and information, and recommendations.</li> </ul>
<p>8. Support studies on the roles that forests can play in emerging 'green growth' frameworks, and assist member countries in formulating and implementing related policies and programmes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Various modules of the Sixth Executive Forest Policy Short Course focused on policies and approaches for enhancing forestry's contributions to green growth.</li> <li>- The ASEAN-FAO workshop on <i>Strategic Planning for Southeast Asian Forestry</i>, conducted in March 2012, in Chiang Mai, Thailand, incorporated elements of green growth strategies.</li> <li>- A policy brief was prepared by the Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank on green economy issues entitled, <i>Post-Rio+20 environment: Challenges and opportunities for forestry in Asia and the Pacific</i>.</li> <li>- Support was given to the international symposium on <i>Transition to Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation: The Enabling Environment and Roadmap</i> held in October 2013 in Beijing, China.</li> <li>- The FAO/RAP publication, <i>Growing green assets: Removing constraints to private sector investment in forestry in Asia and the Pacific</i>, published in 2010, was used as guidance for policy-makers on approaches and priorities for removing key impediments and streamlining forestry investment in the region.</li> </ul>
<p>9. Collaborate with donors and partners to support the development of REDD+ Readiness and demonstration activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The UN-REDD programme is active in the Asia-Pacific region, with 15 partner countries. Cambodia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam have received support for national programmes, while Bangladesh, Bhutan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan have received more modest targeted support. FAO's contribution focuses on the development of forest land classification systems, national forest inventory, satellite land monitoring systems and greenhouse gas inventories for the forest sector.</li> <li>- Bangladesh, Bhutan, Mongolia, Myanmar and Pakistan have been supported in developing REDD+ Readiness roadmaps, building national capacity for implementing national forest monitoring systems and developing REDD+ demonstration activities.</li> <li>- Demonstration activities are planned under the UN-REDD Phase 2 national programme in Viet Nam; provincial strategies to guide these demonstration activities are currently under development.</li> </ul>