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para la
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y la
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ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY COMMISSION

NINTH MEETING OF THE APFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chiang Mai, Thailand, 3 May 2013

PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING APFC- AND FAO-SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

SECRETARIAT NOTE

INTRODUCTION

1. This note reports on progress in implementing APFC and FAO-supported activities and initiatives since the 24th 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 24th 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. A FRA Global Correspondents meeting will be held in Chiang Mai, Thailand in May 2013.

3. A major assessment of the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources is approaching conclusion. In Asia and the Pacific, funding assistance and technical backstopping has been provided to various countries to assist preparation of national reports on Status of Forest Genetic Resources. The first Global Plan for Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources was adopted last week 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.

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ASIA-PACIFIC ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES

4. 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

5. During Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2011 (APFW2011), an inaugural workshop unanimously agreed to establish an Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank. Subsequent to APFW2011, initial activities to operationalize the the Think Tank have included establishing an expert network of 30 founding members and preparation of an FAO Technical Cooperation Programme project document titled *Strengthening forest policeis in Asia and the Pacific* designed to provide US\$410,000 to support Think Tank activities. The project has been endorsed by Secretariat of the Pacific Community and ASEAN, collectively encompassing 20 APFC member countries. The project document is presently in the final phase of FAO HQ peer review.

6. The first major activity of the Think Tank will be a two week residential Executive Forest Policy Course - *Forest Policies for the 21st Century* course to be held in Thimphu, Bhutan, 27 May-7 June 2013. The course is being arranged in collaboration with FAO, SAARC forestry centre, APAFRI and 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.

7. A set of eight Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study (APFSOS) Policy Briefs *Addressing key forestry issues* has been prepared. A South Asian regional study and several additional working papers have also been published subsequent to the 24th Session of APFC. 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.

8. An ASEAN-FAO Workshop on Strategic Planning for Southeast Asian Forestry was implemented in March 2012 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. for country representatives to discuss major issues and develop policy guidance on the basis of information collected during the outlook study and other recent wide-ranging forestry-related initiatives. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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 in August 2012. A summary of the briefing paper was presented to the Ministerial meeting by the FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific.

11. In collaboration with RECOFTC, a multi-country 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 also be held.

12. With support from SIDA, a study on enhancing investments into Asia-Pacific forestry was undertaken. The study took into consideration the core concerns of governments, rural communities, and private sector investors, with the view to attracting additional financing into forestry. The study culminated in a publication *Guidelines for formulating national forest financing strategies* was released in early-2013. The publication specifically examined key financing aspects including the roles of governments and other public institutions, incorporating the interests of investors, safeguarding the interests of rural communities, and incorporating 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.

13. A variety of initiatives being implemented under the broader EU FAO FLEGT Programme involve Asia-Pacific countries. A new phase of the programme is being implemented in the period 2012-2016. An assessment of the potential impacts of forest products legality regulations and REDD+ on forest products 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 will be held in Bangkok, Thailand in May 2013. 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 on-going in Vanuatu. Development of new forestry legislation for Tonga has been initiated with supported from the EU FAO FLEGT Programme. 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* is approaching completion, with compilation of a compendium of policies in forestry and natural resources for the country on of the final tasks being completed.

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

14. 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 titled *Invasive alien in the forests of Asia and the Pacific* has been prepared and is in the final stage of review prior to publication. A subregional FAO Technical Cooperation Programme Project on *Control and management of destructive forest invasive species in South Asian natural and plantation forests* has been prepared and is undergoing final peer review in FAO HQ.

15. An international seminar on the roles of forests in natural disasters was organised in collaboration with Japanese partner agencies in Sendai, Japan in February 2012. A policy brief summarizing the key messages of the workshop 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) has been prepared and is presently being printed.

16. A regional workshop on *Reduced impact logging: challenges, opportunities and strategies in the emerging forest carbon economy* was held in Kota Kinabulu, 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+.

17. FAO continues to support TEAKNET an international network of teak producers. A recent highlight of this support was organization of the five day World Teak Conference 2013 on *Sharing our Planet: Teak Model Development towards the Improvement of Mankind* in Bangkok, Thailand during March 2013.

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

19. 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 Reduced Impact Logging (RIL), road building and silviculture. An FAO Technical Cooperation Programme project on community-based forest harvesting is being implemented in Viet Nam.

20. FAO continues to strongly promote forest restoration and rehabilitation in Asia and the Pacific. An FAO Technical Cooperation Programme regional project on Applying assisted natural regeneration (ANR) for restoring forest ecosystem services in Southeast Asia has built on experience with an earlier project in the Philippines. An August 2012 study tour to the Philippines for Southeast Asian officials to see firsthand implementation of ANR techniques has been a significant component of this project. FAO will also collaborate 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. Activities will take place in 6 Model Forests in 5 countries. FAO will oversee the production of a multi-country policy document on Forest Landscape Restoration that will include an additional 4 Asian countries. A new FAO Forest and Farm Facility was launched in September 2012 and aims to promote sustainable forest and farm management by supporting local, regional, national and international organizations and platforms for effective engagement in policies and investments that meet the needs of local people.

21. FAO has been increasingly involved in the formulation and implementation of forestry-related GEF projects. The GEF-PAS Forestry Conservation and Protected Area Management in Fiji, Vanuatu, Samoa, and Niue has been operational since July 2011. Several baseline exercises and studies have been completed for proposed protected areas and work is on-going. Also in the Pacific, GEF Project Identification Forms (PIFs) for Solomon Islands and Vanuatu under the GEF-5 STAR Allocation have been developed and submitted to the GEF Secretariat. In Asia, GEF projects are being formulated in Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Sri Lanka on various aspects of natural resources management. In Mongolia an FAO Technical Cooperation Programme project on participatory natural resources management is bridging between a previous Dutch-funded project and a GEF project that is presently being formulated.

22. A wide variety of Technical Cooperation Programme and Trust Fund projects relating to forest resources management are being implemented. Projects implemented in the past biennium include: (i) Enhancing community-based forestry management in Cambodia; (ii) Designing a multipurpose National Forest Inventory to support REDD+ mechanisms in Cambodia; (iii) Capacity building for the implementation of integrated pest and sustainable forest management practices to

protect forest resources in DPR Korea; (iv) Strengthening Forest Resource Database Management in Myanmar; (v) Technical assistance for Leasehold Forest and Livestock Programme in Nepal; (vi) Technical Assistance to the review and scaling up of Leasehold Forestry in Nepal; (vii) Promoting Sustainable Forest Management by Developing Effective Systems of Forest Planning, Monitoring and Control in Papua New Guinea; (viii) Participation of tree plantation farmers in sustainable forest management in Thailand; (ix) UN Joint Programme on Integrated Highland Livelihood Development in Mae Hong Son, Thailand.

23. The UN-REDD programme is active in the Asia-Pacific region, with 14 partner countries. Cambodia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon Islands and Viet Nam have received support to national programmes underin the UN-REDD programme, while Bangladesh, Bhutan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, and Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka have more recently become members.

24. A number of other discrete 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 a small group of partner agencies to synthesize expert views on the implications of decisions taken at each CoP for the Asia-Pacific forestry sector. A set of small booklets summarizing the consensus views of these consultations have been widely disseminated. Three FAO Technical Cooperation Programme projects relating to climate change are being implemented relating to (i) Climate change adaptation and resilience with micro-watershed approaches in Cambodia; (ii) Support to regional framework on climate change adaptation in Eastern Himalayas; and (iii) Linking communities to voluntary carbon markets in forestry. Guidelines for communities in accessing voluntary carbon markets have also been prepared.

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

25. FAO, in collaboration with APFNet and Asia Forest Network implemented a multi-country 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 aimed to assess the extent to which poverty has been reduced through forestry activities in the region and covered 11 countries.

26. 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 activities for children.

27. The 24th session of APFC recommended establishment of a forestry communications platform. Early preparations to establish an Asia-Pacific forestry Communications Network have been put in place and a workshop to inaugurate the new network is planned to be held in September 2013.

28. A range of local enterprise development activities relating to non-wood forest products are being implemented in projects in Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Nepal, Thailand, Laos including: edible insects, sericulture, bamboo/rattan, lacquerware, hand-made paper, forest fruit wines, black pepper, cinnamon, etc. Edible insects have been a particular focus during the past several years. An FAO Technical Cooperation Programme project on sustainable collection, farming and marketing of edible insects in Lao PDR has recently concluded. A publication *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 under-utilized foods held in Khon Kaen, Thailand in June 2012.

III. Other activities

29. A publication summarizing the events of Asia-Pacific Forestry Week was produced in 2012. The Report of the 24th session of APFC was also published. The 8th APFC Executive Committee meeting was held in Rome in September 2012. The APFC Chair represented the Asia-Pacific region at a COFO Steering Committee held in Quebec City, Canada in May 2012.

ANNEX 1 – RECENT RAP FORESTRY PUBLICATIONS

(since 24th Session of APFC in Beijing)

Invasive alien plants in the forests of Asia and the Pacific (forthcoming)

RAP Publication - 2013/06

Forests and landslides (forthcoming)

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

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 RAP FORESTRY TEAM SINCE THE 24th SESSION OF APFC

| Date | Title | Venue |
|--------------------|--|-------------------------|
| 27 May-7 June 2013 | Forest policies for the 21st century. Executive Forest Policy Course 2013 (forthcoming) | Thimphu, Bhutan |
| 9-10 May 2013 | Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Programme in Asia: Regional Experiences to Address Governance and Trade Challenges in the Forest Sector (forthcoming) | Bangkok, Thailand |
| 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 |
| 5 Feb 2013 | Regional Experts Consultation: Implications of Doha for Climate Change and Forests in Asia-Pacific | Bogor, Indonesia |
| 29-30 Nov 2012 | Workshop on Establishing an East Asia Office of the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network | Bangkok, Thailand |
| 25 Sept 2012 | Eighth Executive Committee Meeting for the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission | Rome, Italy |
| 7-9 Aug 2012 | Assisted Natural Regeneration Study Tour to the Philippines | Philippines |
| 24-25 July | 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 Apr 2012 | Regional Inception Workshop for Assisted Natural Regeneration | Chiang Mai, Thailand |
| 21-23 Mar 2012 | ASEAN-FAO Workshop On Strategic Planning For Southeast Asian Forestry | Chiang Mai, Thailand |
| 21 Feb 2012 | Post COP-17 Consultation on the Implications of Durban for Forestry | Manila, Philippines |
| 5-6 Feb 2012 | International Seminar on Role of Forests in Natural Disasters | Sendai, Japan |
| 7-11 Nov 2011 | Second Asia-Pacific Forestry Week and 24th Session of APFC | Beijing, China |