



ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY COMMISSION

NINTH MEETING OF THE APFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chiang Mai, Thailand, 3 May 2013

PREPARATION FOR THE 25th SESSION OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY COMMISSION

a) Introduction

1. The twenty-fourth session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) noted with appreciation the offer of the delegation from New Zealand to host its twenty-fifth session. The FAO Director-General welcomed and concurred with the New Zealand offer. The twenty fifth session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission will, consequently, be held 4- 8 November 2013 at the Rotorua Events Centre in Rotorua, New Zealand.

2. The APFC Secretariat has been working with the Ministry of Primary Industries, New Zealand on preliminary planning for the session and text of the Hosting Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed for signature.

b) Initial preparations and timeline for next steps

1. Letter of Invitation to be sent to Heads of Forestry Agencies: 9 April 2013
2. Announcement of Agenda: 4 September 2013
3. Agenda documents prepared for circulation: 4 September 2013 or as soon as possible

c) Overall theme and potential agenda items

1. Agenda items proposed by FAO HQ for inclusion in all regional forestry commission sessions are:
 - i. Sustainable Forest Management Toolbox; National Forest Monitoring and Assessment (NFMA) guidelines; Voluntary guidelines for fire management;
 - ii. The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security;
 - iii. The XIV World Forestry Congress;

- iv. FAO's new Strategic Framework; and
- v. Key findings of the external evaluation of the FAO Forestry programme (to support the discussion on recommendation to COFO/RC/FAO forestry).

2. Agenda items suggested by APFC member countries to date: Suggested agenda received from member countries so far:

Country	Suggested themes and topics
Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major effects of climate change in third world countries • Land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) • Desertification and its mitigation • Watershed management • Biodiversity conservation • Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank • REDD+ • Social forestry • Invasive species and transboundary issues
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International arrangements on forests (IAF) • Promotion of experience sharing on SFM in the region (e.g. land tenure issues, public financing support, and innovations in forest management) • Identification of areas of common interest to promote further cooperation and collaboration in regional forestry development and to enhance coherence of the region
Myanmar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilization resources for SFM • Implementation of NLBI for SFM • Economic valuation of forest ecosystem services • REDD+ • Climate change mitigation and adaptation • Promoting forestry in emerging Green Economy • Enhancing goods and services of forests • Integrating national forest programmes with other sectoral policies and strategies • Integrating forest sector into rural development programme • Benefits of forests and trees to urban communities • Promoting trees outside forests
Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and development in forestry sector • Forest fire management- support to capacity building and instruments • Scientific forest management strategies- forest resource management with respect to demand-supply balance perspective considering migration and urbanization • Support to remote sensing and geographic information system (GIS) application to forestry sector to replace traditional techniques for monitoring (e.g. encroachment, forest fire, land slides, deforestation, forest degradation, etc.) and evaluation (e.g. change in biomass/carbon stocks, etc) • Enhancement of climate change resilience • Carbon-credit and benefit-sharing • Payment for environment services (PES) mechanism (Regional, e.g. Nepal-India-china)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recreation and eco-tourism development
New Zealand	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heads of Forestry Dialogue• Discussions on Pacific forestry issues and opportunities for planted forests
Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustainable financing for Sustainable Forest Management – corss-sectoral collaboration
Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• REDD+ readiness and implementation: sharing experiences and potential regional collaboration