



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

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ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY COMMISSION

NINTH MEETING OF THE APFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chiang Mai, Thailand, 3 May 2013

APFC Executive Committee Terms of Reference

Introduction

1. The Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) is one of six regional forestry commissions of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. It was established in 1950 as a statutory body of the FAO Conference.
2. The overall objective of APFC is to support the efforts of member countries in the region to develop and implement legislation, policies, plans and programmes to implement sustainable forest management.
3. APFC is a forum in which member countries can share experiences in dealing with forestry challenges, advise FAO on regional forestry priorities, and initiate joint action on key forestry issues. The Commission currently has a membership of 33 countries, making it the region's most inclusive inter-governmental body dealing with forestry.
4. APFC implements its activities through study groups, working groups, networks and committees established to address specific issues. This informal method of working enables member countries to participate in activities that are of interest and relevance to their particular countries. Specific activities to be implemented by APFC are decided upon by member countries during the APFC sessions, convened every two years.
5. An Executive Committee for the APFC was established to act as a steering body of APFC, in particular, to guide the general orientation of the programme of work of the Commission and assist in the application of the programme approved by it.

Modalities

6. The Executive Committee will comprise of:
 - the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur(s) of the Commission elected during the general APFC session;
 - the Senior Forestry Officer, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (*ex-officio*);

- the outgoing Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman of the Commission (serving in an advisory capacity as requested by the Secretariat); and
- others appointed by the Committee.

7. Members of the Executive Committee will be elected during the general APFC sessions by establishing a consensus through discussion or, if necessary, by a vote. A new Committee will thus be established at two-year intervals for appointment duration of two years.

8. The Executive Committee membership is vested within national governments of the member countries, who are encouraged to quickly provide a replacement to the Executive Committee should their representative retire, leave government service or be appointed to other duties that would conflict with their ability to serve. Consultation with the Secretariat is encouraged to facilitate a speedy transition and a smooth implementation of the APFC work programme.

9. The Chairman of the Commission shall chair the Executive Committee.

10. The Executive Committee will meet on an *ad hoc* basis as required, but at least twice per biennium in between APFC sessions.

11. Funding for participation in Executive Committee meetings will be secured on an *ad hoc* basis, as required, to enable participation by all Committee members.

Duties

12. The Executive Committee will act as a consultative steering group to provide guidance on a broad range of issues to help the APFC operate more efficiently and effectively. Specifically, the Executive Committee will:

- review the recommendations from APFC sessions and suggest programmes of work to address them;
- propose work priorities for the Commission and its members;
- report on the progress of follow-up work on the recommendations of the Commission;
- act as a consultative group to provide *ad hoc* guidance to the Secretariat (via e-mail, phone, etc);
- discuss agenda items and other organizational issues for the next APFC session;
- make recommendations on significant issues, which can be discussed and ratified by the Commission;
- represent the Commission at the Regional Forestry Commission Bureaux of the FAO Committee on Forestry (the Chairman or another Committee member appointed by the Chairman); and
- represent the Commission at international meetings.