



*Workshop on Forestry Strategic
Planning in the Asia-Pacific Region*



MEETING REPORT



Millennium Hotel
ROTORUA, NEW ZEALAND
3 NOV 2013

1. Introduction

Strategic planning is an important process to lay out long-term directions of forest management to achieve sustainable forest management (SFM) and other objectives such as green growth or poverty reduction. In facing the global challenges, such as climate change, ecological degradation, natural resources depletion, food security *etc.*, economies in the Asia-Pacific region have begun reviewing and adjusting their Forestry Strategic Plans to adapt to and address those challenges.

APFNet, in collaboration with FAO, co-organized the ***“Workshop on Forestry Strategic Planning in the Asia-Pacific Region”*** at the Millennium Hotel in Rotorua, New Zealand, on 3 November 2013, as a pre-session event of the 25th Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC). Twenty-eight participants from APFNet members, regional and international organizations attended the workshop.

The workshop aims to achieve the following objectives: 1) Reviewing current forestry strategic planning and implementation; 2) Identifying gaps and key challenges for forestry strategic plan development and implementation; 3) Sharing experiences and lessons learned in the process of development and implementation of forestry strategic plans; and 4) Establishing an effective communication and information-sharing mechanism to promote development and implementation of forestry strategic plans.

2. The Importance of Forestry Strategic Planning

Mr. Guilin Qu, Executive Director, APFNet Secretariat, delivered an opening address. He highlighted the need for exchange of experience and lessons learnt in forestry strategic planning considering both the differences and similarities in the region and the need to keep the good momentum of forestry development in the region through forestry strategic planning. A practical and innovative approach should be adopted in forestry strategic planning to adapt to the development and changes in the region. He further urged participants to consider the proposal of establishing a regional dialogue mechanism on forestry strategic planning.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Patrick Durst, FAO Senior Forestry Officer, stressed the need for economies to make use of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study in strategic planning and policy making. He noted the unprecedented changes are undergoing in the Asia-Pacific region, socially, politically and environmentally, which present new challenges and opportunities for the forest sector. He noted further that

implementation of SFM has been lagging behind due to insufficient resources and poor institutional capability. Many economies are now putting considerable effort and funding into forest conservation, rehabilitation, and management – not just for environmental reasons but also to increase production of forest products. The unprecedented level of awareness and appreciation of the value and benefits of forests is beginning to translate into significantly greater resources for forestry than in the past. Again, it's important for us in the forestry community – and especially those involved in forestry policy and planning – to take advantage of this opportunity for increased resources.

A review of forestry strategic planning in the Asia-Pacific region was presented by Mr. Yurdi Yasmi from FAO Regional Office in Asia and the Pacific Region. He highlighted the challenges faced in the region such as deforestation and forest degradation, poverty, governance and institutional arrangement as well as the opportunities in climate change discourse, tenure reform and participatory forestry. To make the strategic planning process effective, he proposed the following advice: 1) make use of the wealth of information in the strategic planning and policy making process; 2) support and learn from each other through exchange of information or network; 3) strengthen capacity building to support strategic planning process.

3. Forestry Strategic Plans among Economies

3.1 Overall Forestry Strategic Plans

Participants from China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, PNG, and the Philippines were invited to give presentations on development and implementation of forestry strategic plan in each economy. The key information as followed.

Mr. Chen Jiawen, Division Director for Forestry Strategic Plan, Department of Planning and Finance Management of State Forestry Administration of China briefed the Forestry Plan System and the 12th Five Year Plan for Forestry Development in China, which include 6 quantitative strategic goals and 10 development strategies, such as eco-security, eco-culture, forest industries, land tenure reform, and natural disaster prevention etc. There are also about 100 thematic plans to complement the 12th Five Year Plan for Forestry Development, referring to natural forest protection, climate change, bamboo industry, buildings improvement for forest residents, ecological civilization, and forest fire controlling etc.

Mr. Khamphachanh Bounnakeo, the Deputy Head of Planning and Cooperation Division, Department of Forestry Inspection of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Lao PDR, introduced that the Forestry Strategy 2020 (endorsed in 2005) is

in the mid-term review now. The challenges to achieve its targets include:

- FDI mainly into the agriculture sector is threatening both food security and SFM through clearing and converting much forest land;
- REDD+ in Laos lie under two ministries, the leading ministry not yet affectively functioning due to mainly capacities and readiness;
- Requirements of high technical aspects of REL/RL and MRV;
- Revision of relevant laws and establishing new regulations can take time, and link with many other issues and agencies outside forestry sectors.
- Other issues, such as shifting cultivation practices, legal and illegal logging, illegal wildlife trade.

Dr. San Win from the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry of Myanmar highlighted 14 priorities of Forestry Master Plan (adopted in 2000 and until 2030) in Myanmar. He also introduced the new development of forestry in Myanmar with emphasis on ecosystem services & people orientation, financial resource mobilization, as well as the challenges from sustainable agriculture, forest land conversion, illegal logging and climate change. He mentioned that the sustainable forest management plan at regional level should be taken into consideration.

Dr. Ruth Turia, the Director of the Forest Policy and Planning of the PNG Forest Authority explained that Strategic planning process in PNG started with the look on the constitution, existing policies and legislations. PNG is addressing its Target “Build a forestry sector that is sustainable and highly profitable” by: (1) Embracing whatever assistance it can receive from partners (Multilateral and Bilateral); (2) Reviewing the National Forest Plan (1991) to take into consideration other emerging issues as climate change and REDD +; (3) Developed its 2012-2015 Strategic Plan; (4) Engaging with collaborative partners to revise the forest resources data through the development of a Forest Base Map.

Ms. Edna Dilig Nuestro, the Head of the Planning and Project Management Division of the Forest Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines, introduced the Master Plan for Forest Development (MPDF) 2003. It focuses on “sustainable forest management, poverty alleviation and food security in upland communities in the Philippines”. The vision of MPDF is a sustainably managed watershed and forest resources providing environmental and economic benefits to society with globally competitive industries contributing to the national economy and upliftment of upland communities’ welfare. The implementation status of MPDF has been evaluated with the result of delaying implementation. MPDF is in revision now. The specific objectives of the revised

version have been identified and several support programs are being adopted.

3.2 Thematic Plans

Participants from Australia and the United States were invited to give presentation on the plantations plan and the national forest management.

Mr. Ben Mitchell, the Director for International Forest Policy, Australian Government Department of Agriculture presented that The 2020 Vision launched in 1997 and revised version released in 2002 is one of the strategies, which has been developed and implemented to build upon and complement the National Forest Policy Statement. It is a partnership of the Australian and state and territory governments and the plantation timber growing and processing industries. The target is trebling the area of commercial tree crops by 2020, which could be achieved by establishing an average of 80,000 hectares of plantation per annum covering all sectors. So far it has reached half of its national target now, but confronting a series of emerging issues and challenges, such as significant changes in the ownership structure, declining new plantation establishment, plantations in marginal areas reverting back to former or agricultural uses, changing markets of EWPs and bioenergy, likely shortage of sawlog supply for domestic consumption leading to increased imports etc.

Mr. Gary Man, Forest Health Specialist of the USDA Forest Service introduced briefly The USDA Forest Service Strategic Plan for FY 2007-2012 because the version for next phase has not been developed. The Plan sets the overall focuses that the agency wants to put efforts on during the strategic period and doesn't cover everything and every detail. The most important part is the performance metrics which set accountabilities to be measured and monitored on the plan implementation. Regarding the national forests management in the United States, they are compliance to the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976 which can tell how to manage national forests (20% of America forests). So far, there are 127 forest plans under NFMA which were revised every 10 to 15 years to guide the implementation at forest landscape scale. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 could help to guide the implementation at project level. NEPA is similar to the forest plan process. But it is at the project scale, not forest landscape scale. Other thematic plans such as invasive species were also briefed.

3.3 The key challenges to the forestry strategic planning

Participants from Malaysia, Mongolia and Thailand were invited to give presentations on latest progress and key challenges in forestry strategic planning in their economy.

Ms. Iqtie Qamar Laila Mohd Gani, Assistant Director, come from Consultancy & Quality Assurance, Forest Planning & Economic Division, Forestry Department of Malaysia briefed the National Forest Policy, National Forestry Act and other forestry related laws and legislations. She highlighted that Malaysia has systematically managed its forests under 3 pillars, namely: economically viable, environmentally sound and social accepted. The management focus has been changed from single produce (timber production) to multiple produce which indicates the commitment to manage the forest for multiple uses. In Malaysia, forests are classified into three types as 11% of State/Alienated forests, 79.1% of Permanent Reserve Forest (PRF), and 9.9% of National Parks, Wildlife & Bird Sanctuaries. National Forestry Act 1984 allows PRF be classified into any of 12 forest functional classes (multiple uses), which means that management are more than just about trees. It should be beyond trees.

Dr. Batchuluun Tseveen, the Director of Environmental Education Center of the National University of Mongolia introduced that the forest coverage in Mongolia is 8.03% in which spruce and larch trees make 75.4% and saxaul forest is 24.6%. The forestry strategies in Mongolia is as “In order to improve living standards of people who are depending on the forest resources we need to increase the forest product values and support ecologically clean and friendly technology uses based on forest’s characteristics in to promote utilization of forest resources sustainably”. Specific actions included are invest in business entities and increase new employment opportunities in green field for about 30% by 2020, use by-products after forest cleaning with subsidies and low percent loans, encourage NTFP resources utilization, Increase the import tax for construction materials and decrease industrial tax on internal producers etc.

Mr. Korn Manassrisuksi, Director of Forest Geoinformatics Division, Forest Land Management Bureau, Royal Forest Department of Thailand. Forests in Thailand suffer the loss but the rate of deforestation is declined now. The main reasons of deforestation in Thailand include (1) Land prices; (2) Land productivity; (3) Crop prices; (4) Off-farm employment and income; (5) Forest accessibility; (6) Wood demand and prices; (7) Population growth. The constraints of SFM in Thailand include: lack of continuity, lack of manpower with GIS knowledge, small allocated budgets comparing with the amount activities, more parties needed to implement National Forest Policy, balance between conservation and development, and international cooperation on SFM.

Mr. Preecha Ongprasert, Director of Training Division, Central Administration Bureau and Director of International Convention and Commitment Division, International Forestry Cooperation Office of the Royal Forest Department of Thailand introduced the forest dynamics of ASEAN countries and evolution of forestry development policy in Thailand. He highlighted that urban forestry and management is a new paradigm for increasing forest cover in Thailand. The Bang Kachao project for

biodiversity conservation and natural learning center has been implementing with funding of APFNet.

4. Regional Dialogue on Forestry Strategic Planning

A Regional Dialogue on Forestry Strategic Planning as a Platform was proposed by APFNet. The aims of the Platform is, to promote the experience exchange and information sharing, to raise the capacity of forestry officials and experts in developing and implementing forestry strategic plans and, to contribute the APEC inspirational goal of increasing forest cover in the Asia-Pacific region by at least 20 million hectares of all types of forests by 2020.

The Platform will collaborate with other partners to contribute the specific objectives as follows:

- To mainstream the key policies and programmes of forestry strategic plans into development plan of economy;
- To identify the existing issues, key challenges and priorities to be focused on during the course of developing and implementing forestry strategic plans;
- To strengthen the information sharing on forestry policies, legislations and strategic plans as well as the theories and methodologies in relation to forestry strategic plans;
- To raise the capacity for developing economies in development and implementation of forestry strategic plans; and
- To explore innovation approach in forestry strategic planning aims to provide multiple benefits with healthy forest ecosystems and livelihoods improving for local people.

The platform is open to all economies, relevant organizations, businesses and individuals in the Asia-Pacific region who are interested in forestry strategic planning. APFNet will provide seed funds to support the specific activities of the Platform in future 3–5 years in the region.

5. Findings and Suggestions

All participants emphasized the importance of strengthening regional collaboration to support economies in improving strategic planning process. Not only the plans need to be reviewed periodically, but also global changes will impact on forestry development in each economy.

Most of economies are facing the challenges on development and implementation of strategic plans. These include conflicts among policies and regulations in forestry

sector and with other sectors, land use planning still need to identify the land to remain solely for forests or to use for great favorable agriculture, adjusted policies and changing markets, insufficient propaganda of the forests importance to other sectors as well as public, lacking very important support from political wills, not having enough resources (financial and staff) to implement the plans etc.

Some economies such as the Philippines, PNG, and Lao PDR are reviewing the forestry strategic plans. The Platform can provide opportunities for experiences communication and information sharing to these economies and others in the future. Participants suggested taking practical steps forward on the Platform. The suggestions are as followed:

- Get the political support;
- Build on what already exists and strengthen communication and cooperation.
- Identify the specific needs of an economy or group of economies with regard to strategic planning and define practical steps for intervention;
- Conduct scoping of where each economy or group of economies is in order to define targeted capacity building of strategic plans, such as the training on effective communication, communication to public or other sectors etc;
- Involve CBOs or NGOs in the training in local language, who can help distribute skills or disseminate information;
- Consider relevant tools e.g. webinar for cost-effective meetings;
- To review the existing results on the strategic planning in the region and then decide the possible themes to be studied;
- Sharing the information through APFNet website, such as the PPTs of the workshop in Rotorua
(http://apfnet.cn/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=540&Itemid=132)

ANNEX 1.

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

9:00-9:30	Registration
Session I: The Importance of Forestry Strategic Planning	
09.30-09.40	Chair: Wang Hong Participant introduction and Outline of agenda
09.40-10.00	Opening remarks: Mr. Qu Guilin and Mr. Patrick Durst
10.00-10.20	A review of forest strategic planning in the Asia-Pacific region by Yurdi Yasmi, Q&A
10.20-10.30	Group photo
10.30-11.00	Coffee break
Session II: Forestry Strategic Plans	
11.00-12.30	Chair: Cenon Padolina - Plantations for Australia: the 2020 vision by Mr Ben Mitchell - Forestry Development Plan in China by Mr Chen Jiawen - Forestry Strategic Planning in PNG by Dr Ruth Turia - Updating and Climate Proofing of the Philippine Master Plan for Forestry Development by Ms. Edna Dilig Nuestro - Strategic Forest Planning in the United States by Mr Gary Man
12.30-13.30	Lunch
Session III: Latest Progress and Key Challenges Relevant to Forestry Strategic Planning	
13.30-14:30	Chair: Aru Mathias Brief the latest progress in forestry and key challenges/ suggestions of SFM in economy - Presentation by Mr. Korn Manassrisuksi, Thailand

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation by Mr. Khamphachanh Boungnakeo, Lao PDR - Presentation by Dr Tseveen Batchuluun, Mongolia - Presentation by Ms Iqtie Qamar Laila Mohd Gani, Malaysia - Presentation by Mr. Preecha Ongprasert, Thailand - Presentation by Dr. San Win, Myanmar
14.30-15.00	Group discussion
15.00-15.30	Coffee break
Session IV: Regional Dialogue on Forestry Strategic Planning	
	Chair: Yurdi Yasmi
15.30-16.00	Introduction of the proposal of regional dialogue mechanism on forestry strategic planning by Wang Hong
16.00-17.00	Group discussion on the proposal
Session V: Closing Session	
17.00-17.30	Brief summary
19.00	Buffet Dinner

Annex 2.

List of Participants

	Name	Organization
1	Mr Khamphachanh Boungnakeo	Deputy head of planning and cooperation division Department of forestry inspection Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry LAO PDR bkhamphachanh@gmail.com
2	Mr Preecha Ongprasert	Director of Training Division, Central Administration Bureau, and Director of International Convention and Commitment Division, International Forestry Cooperation Office Royal Forest Department Thailand preecha_ong@yahoo.com
3	Mr Korn Manassrisuksi	Director of Forest Geo-informatics Division Forest Land Management Bureau, Royal Forest Department Thailand korn45@gmail.com
4	Dr Batchuluun Tseveen	Director of Environmental Education Center National University of Mongolia Mongolia batchuluun@num.edu.mn btseveen@yahoo.com
5	Mr Xiaosong Wu	DDG, Department of Agriculture and Economy National Development and Reform Commission P. R. China
6	Ms Yanhong Zhang	DDG, Department of Planning and Financial Management State Forestry Administration P.R. China
7	Mr Jiawen Chen	Division director, Department of Planning and Financial Management State Forestry Administration P.R. China cjw299@163.com
8	Ms Jinlan Shen	Division director, Department of Planning and Financial Management State Forestry Administration P.R. China

	Name	Organization
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10	Mr Cenon Padolina	Forest Genetic Resources Officer Secretariat of the Pacific Community cenonp@spc.int
11	Mr Jalesi Kumila Mateboto	Community Forestry Technician Secretariat of the Pacific Community JalesiM@spc.int
12	Ms Edna Dilig Nuestro	Head, Planning and Project Management Services Division, Forest Management Bureau Department of Environment and Natural Resources The Philippines andii_23@yahoo.com
13	Dr Ruth Turia	Director – Forest Policy and Planning PNG Forestry Authority PNG rturia@pngfa.gov.pg
14	Ms Iqtie Qamar Laila Binti Mohd Gani	Assistant Director , Consultancy & Quality Assurance II Forest Planning & Economics Division Forestry Department, Peninsular Malaysia Malaysia iqlaila@forestry.gov.my
15	Mr Gary Man	Forest Health Specialist USDA Forest Service USA gman@fs.fed.us
16	Dr. San Win	Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Myanmar trdd.fd@gmail.com
17	Mr Akindele Akinagbe	Assistant professor, Fiji National University akin.akinagbe@gmail.com
18	Mr Inoke Wainiqolo	Permanent Secretary Ministry of Fisheries & Forests Fiji
19	Ms Marlea Munez	Executive Director, National Conservation on Indigenous Peoples

	Name	Organization
20	Mr Patrick Durst	FAO Regional Office in Asia and the Pacific Region patrick.durst@fao.org
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