

ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY WEEK 2016

GROWING OUR FUTURE!

Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga, Philippines
22–26 February 2016

Stream 2 - Tackling climate change: challenges and opportunities

Call for proposals for sessions

Rationale

The Asia-Pacific region, home to one fifth of forests globally shows two salient trends: Natural forests are contracting—since 1990, over 3 million ha were converted to other land uses— and newly planted forests are expanding—Asia has an annually net forest gain of 0.7 million ha, due to tree planting efforts in China, India, Vietnam, the Philippines, South Korea and Bhutan.

Climate change increasingly challenges sustainable development and poverty reduction in the region. More frequent and severe extreme events are more strongly felt than the expected gradual, long-term increase in temperature. Climate change also markedly affects rainfall patterns, affecting ecosystem services, crop production, livelihoods and economic activities.

Forests are central to many rural livelihood systems in the Asia-Pacific region. The goods and services they provide are essential to people's wellbeing. Forests are also vulnerable to changes in rainfall and temperature, and to extreme events.

Forest loss is an important source of greenhouse gas emissions; accounting for 75% of emissions in South and Southeast Asia. Deforestation continues to be driven not by the value of the trees and forest resources harvested, but by the value of the land for other economic activities, primarily agriculture, but also mining, infrastructure, and urban expansion.

Forests are important for all sectors of society. However, bringing together climate mitigation, adaptation, livelihood improvement, and development together in multi-functional landscapes emphasizes the need for approaches beyond the forestry sector. Significant multi-level governance challenges are arising as climate policies clash with development objectives.

The global climate treaty to be negotiated at the UNFCCC COP21 in December 2015 may signal a new era in global land-based climate actions. It is supported by other global and regional initiatives, e.g. the Forest Declaration, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), or the Bonn Challenge for forest restoration. APFW2016 will be the "first stop" following the UNFCCC meetings in Paris. A new agenda will be set by what is or is not achieved in Paris in combination with the SDGs and the outcome of the Third Meeting on Financing Sustainable Development that was held in Addis Ababa. This sets the stage for APFW.

The Asian region and Pacific Island countries are characterized by their high vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters. This brings to the forefront the role of forests in increasing the resiliency of our local communities and the countries as a whole. The protection and enhancement of this

role by ensuring that forests continue to effectively provide its array of valuable services will have policy, planning, technical and implementation implications and will be of high interest to APFW participants.

Objectives of Stream 2

This Stream aims to generate discussions and facilitate information sharing on forestry, functional landscapes and climate change issues through participatory and interactive sessions including: structured information sharing, showcasing of case studies and practical solutions, and providing a platform for various stakeholders, from governments, private sector and local communities, to share experiences.

APFW2016 will come soon after the Paris Climate Change COP, and we will be the first large regional opportunity for exploring how this new agenda is relevant to forest management in the Asia-Pacific region, and how regional forest management can in turn support the new agenda.

Key messages from this meeting will be shared with the delegates of the APFC that meets in advance of the APFW and during its sessions and through that to have input to the FAO global Committee on Forestry (COFO).

Scope

The Stream will cover topics that include international and national policy issues, scientific studies, technology innovations, and local community-based actions. The sessions will inform participants of the latest climate change negotiation decisions and issues relating to forests and their ecosystem services.

Stream 2 sessions will enlighten the APFW participants on the various opportunities in climate financing, showcase climate mitigation (REDD+ and beyond, e.g. encompassing INDCs, LEDS, NAMAs etc.) and adaptation opportunities, experiences and insights from science; share the latest studies and experiences on how natural disasters and extreme events affect forests and how we can enhance the resiliency of forests and societies to cope with these impacts.

Call for proposals for sessions across six thematic areas

Stream 2 will focus on seven thematic areas, organized into one plenary session, six slots for thematic sessions and two slots for side events. Thematic session slots are of 1:30 hour duration and side events, of 1:00 hour duration. As up to two thematic discussion fora and side events can be held in parallel, there may be up to 12 thematic discussion fora and up to 4 side events depending on proposals submitted. All sessions will have 2 rapporteurs and a skilled facilitator and/or moderator. We are also planning for a final session about what has been learned and providing an outlook.

Below is an initial list of proposed topics and sessions – organizations are invited to submit proposals along similar themes to run one or more sessions or side events. **To request an event, register your interest in this [online form](#).** If you are unable to access the online form, please contact Valerie.wayte@fao.org for further assistance.

I. Plenary

International policy development in climate change and forests after Paris

The plenary session will be dedicated to mapping out the policy implications of the Paris decisions for land and forest based climate actions, with a particular emphasis on the Asia-Pacific region, as a background for all other discussions in the stream.

The plenary may not be held on Tuesday but another day so that all plenaries in APFW are not held in parallel, allowing for more people from other streams to attend this important session.

II. Thematic sessions (up to two in parallel)

1. Tapping into climate financing instruments

An array of climate financing instruments have emerged with the increasing priority on climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. Climate finance experts will provide an overview of current and emerging opportunities for the forestry sector including forest carbon financing on both the fund-based and market-based mechanisms. Will there be enough money and how and when will it come? How this can be integrated with other forest uses and values to ensure the sustainable management of forests? These will make for lively discussions.

Mode of delivery: Options include presentations from climate finance experts followed by a market place. The market place can be a set-up of 4 -5 table as “stalls” where the different financing agencies, institutions or representatives can set up shop for the participants to visit and ask questions on a one-on-one basis. Panel discussion can also be the other option.

2. Forests for climate change mitigation: REDD+

Many countries are gearing up for REDD+ and it is one of the most developed available mitigation option as of now. Many technical, social and economic challenges remain. MRV requirements for REDD+ are driving towards more robust forest monitoring systems. MRV technologies have been evolving towards more accurate, efficient and cost-effective monitoring. Monitoring of social and environmental safeguards is a requirement for REDD+. However, national safeguard information systems structures are less well advanced than MRV systems. How do we address crucial policy cornerstones of effective REDD+ such as tenure reform? Discussions and open space session will allow participants to raise these challenges and discuss feasible solutions based on their experiences.

Mode of delivery: Introductory presentations from experts followed by a moderated debate.

3. Forests for climate change mitigation: beyond REDD+

There are activities beyond REDD+ that address land-based mitigation: How can we build effective mitigation into INDCs and NAMAs before 2020? How do FLEGT, Lacey, and other institutional mechanisms fare compared to solutions such as REDD+ which include market based options? How do we incorporate other mitigation options such as zero-deforestation commitments by the private sector? How to integrate REDD+, LEDS, INDCs into realistic pathways, roadmaps and development plans? Will

the proposed action for post-2015 and post-2020 provide sufficient impetus to guarantee our sustainable future?

Mode of delivery: Options include an introductory key lecture to introduce the topic followed by a world café on challenges and solutions. Participants can be grouped around small tables of 10-12 people. Each table tries to address challenges posed by previous “round-table”.

4. Forests and bioenergy: sustainable fuel for the future

Biofuels have been proposed for years as an alternative to the world’s dependence on fossil fuels. Use of forest as a source of bioenergy is gradually gaining more attention as an alternative solution to fossil fuels. However, there are growing concerns on balancing the world’s needs for forest products while protecting forests to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The economics of biofuels from forest biomass remain difficult, and related social issues such as land grabbing need to be addressed. How do we harmonize the growing needs for forest products (timber, energy, nutrition, etc.) in an expanding bio-economy context with food production? How do we ensure sustainable pro-poor forest-based energy production? How clean and green is bioenergy from forest and bioproducts? What are the modern technological advances in bioenergy from wood and other biomass that could be game changers?

Mode of delivery: Presentations by experts on the various topics followed by panel discussions.

5. Disasters, loss and damage, and forests in the Asia-Pacific region

Asia-Pacific is one of the most disaster prone regions in the world. Natural disasters abound (floods, droughts, cyclones/typhoons, tsunamis and salt water inundation) and are exacerbated by man-made hazards (unmanaged fires). The impact and responses of these disasters of humans might be, to a certain extent, mitigated by the use of forests and trees. Mangroves can provide protective fringes but are increasingly decimated by commercial fisheries, the paper industry and tourism. But trees are also vulnerable to these increased catastrophic events. We can learn a lot from recent natural or man-made disasters like the massive Indonesian peat fires in 2015, cyclones Pam in Vanuatu and Hayan, in the Philippines. We also need to address loss and damage, an important UNFCCC discussion, in the Asia Pacific region.

Mode of delivery: Possible options include expert panels; presentations of case studies from the Asia-Pacific region.

6. Forests and climate change adaptation: planning for resilience

How to address the adaptation of people and forests to climate change, manage risks better and increase their resilience to ever greater climate variability and climate extremes in a warming world? How to use forests and trees for ecosystem-based adaptation so that humans can cope better with natural disasters (e.g. drought, flood, landslide, coastal protection – tsunamis, cyclones etc.)? What are the benefits of joint mitigation and adaptation in NAPs: trade-offs and synergies? There are decades of experiences in forest restoration in Asia: what can we learn, and what can the world learn from the region? How can we scale them out?

Mode of delivery: Possible options include presentations from adaptation experts followed by a market place. The market place can be a set-up of 4 -5 table as “stalls” where the different financing agencies, institutions or representatives can set up shop for the participants to visit and ask questions on a one-on-one basis. Panel discussion can also be another option.

7. The role of forests in Low-Emission Development Strategies (LEDS)

How do we make use of the competitive advantage of the position of forests at the interface of development, adaptation and climate mitigation? How do we best coordinate the different and sometimes conflicting objectives of development, climate change mitigation and adaptation to climate change? Will sufficient climate finance be made available? What are the financial mechanisms needed to increase access to funding and manage commercial and financial risk (insurance, reinsurance, investment)? The ‘green’ discourse: how do ideas live up to practice and reality? What is the role of private-sector commitments such as zero-deforestation pledges?

Mode of delivery: One introductory key lecture to introduce the topic followed by a world Café on challenges and solutions. Participants are grouped around small tables of 10-12 people. Each table tries to address challenges posed by previous “coffee group”.

III. Side events

Side events are organized by partners who want to have a specific angle not covered by the main Stream topics. Side events stand alone, as the contents do not necessarily have to be closely linked to the stream sessions.

Formats

Stream 2 will consist of:

- Opening plenary with thematic keynotes that address the state of knowledge
- Sessions organized by two partners in each of 5 thematic areas, in different formats (the ‘modes of delivery’ indicated above are just indicative)
- Closing plenary that takes stock of what was learned over the week

Session formats may include discussion forums, mini-seminars, debates, etc.

Sessions should be innovative and participatory, using creative approaches (e.g., Knowledge Sharing toolkit, www.kstoolkit.org/; and Liberating structures, www.liberatingstructures.org). Innovative methods of engaging participants. We expect that the use of PowerPoint presentations in the sessions is reduced to the needed minimum.

Expected outcomes

The outcomes from the Stream are expected to be:

1. Participants and decision makers are better informed about current developments in climate change mitigation and adaptation policy following the Paris decisions;
2. Networks are built across the disciplinary and institutional divides (e.g. policy, practice, science,

private sector) to enable collaborative approaches to finding solutions, and

3. Policy relevant points on forests and climate change are sent to the heads of forest agencies attending Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission that will be in session during the conference week.

Partners

A wide variety of partners from international organizations, governments, the private sector and civil society are invited to contribute to the success of this stream which is sure to be very popular. The number of parallel sessions will be limited to two, hence we will retain the option to reject applications or suggest that various organizations merge their proposed sessions into one.

How to get involved and request a session or side event

To request a session or side- event, register your interest in this [online form](#). If you are unable to access the online form, please contact Valerie.wayte@fao.org for further assistance.

Session costs

Organizations interested to host a session will need to cover the costs of US\$ 4,000 (it is possible to share this with co-hosting partners). These funds will be used to cover costs of venue-hire, equipment, session set-up, materials, lunches and coffee-breaks. All the logistics are arranged and the conference will give you exposure to a potential audience of hundreds of people very interested in forests across the region.

Donors, development partners and projects working in the forest & climate change sector and in REDD+ are invited to provide additional support. This will also include the availability of resource persons for the Stream sessions.

Individual Registration

Individuals wanting to participate in the session will soon be able to register online and tick Stream 2 so we can plan knowing the potential attendance. Please start to make plans to attend and seek sponsorship if you do not have your own funding to attend.

Communicating Stream 2

The communications program to mobilize participation in Stream 2 will make use of all partners' existing communications and partner engagement programs. Flyers and posters will need to be ready for marketing at the Paris COP (30. Nov. – 11. Dec. 2015). CIFOR will work on a social media campaign for Stream 2. Close collaboration with FAO and the host country Philippines will give wide visibility for this event and ensure high attendance.