



# Stream 5

## Our green future: Green investment and growing our natural assets

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**ASIA-PACIFIC  
FORESTRY WEEK 2016**  
*GROWING OUR FUTURE!*



# Overview

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16 events, 100+ speakers, 200+ participants



Stream 5 Opening Plenary

# Background to Stream 5

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*Our green future: green investment and growing our natural assets*

Natural resource stocks have declined in unprecedented fashion over the last three decades. We cannot sustain growth in the same resource-depleting ways as the past. We need to promote green investment and at the same time re-growing our natural assets. In doing so, how can **we foster SFM, forest rehabilitation and restoration and conservation?** To what extent and how can we **mobilize green investment?**

# Stream 5 Topics

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- Understanding and mobilizing green investments
- Large-scale forest industries in smallholders and communities
- Community forestry
- Forestry education
- Forest landscape restoration
- Forest resource management technologies
- Biodiversity
- Genetic resource conservation
- Invasive species management

# Key Messages

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- The concept of green investment involves **socially and environmentally responsible corporate governance** as a way of reducing investment risk and at the same time promoting green development.
- **Differentiating between asset-building and enabling investments** is necessary to clarify investment goals and satisfy the interests of all stakeholders.
- Green investment appeals to **long-term institutional investors**, who are increasingly looking for opportunities in Asia-Pacific forests that are profitable, socially beneficial and environmentally sustainable.
- A **paradigm shift** is needed from the current model of capital looking for natural resources, to a model where local private sector (e.g. smallholders and communities) seeks capital from investors. It is therefore crucial to increase the capacity of forest communities to develop SFM based enterprises.

# Key Messages (cont'd)

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- Participatory green investment is not just the right thing to do: there is evidence that encouraging co-investment by local people helps **create more robust rural economies, which in turn strengthens national economies.**
- **Intrinsic to green investment projects:** participation of stakeholders in policy development, implementation, monitoring and the sharing of benefits; secure, equitable tenure; intersectoral cooperation; transparency, reliable data and trust-building.
- **Funding mechanisms** can accelerate the uptake of green investment through enabling and asset-building green investments. (E.g. building business development capacity, technology transfer and sharing policy approaches and lessons learned).

# Key Messages (cont'd 2)

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- Many **new technologies and approaches** are emerging in the region to restore degraded landscapes. Examples include:
  - Rainforestation Farming;
  - ROAM (Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology);
  - Agroforestry action research supported by the ASEAN–Korea Environmental Cooperation Project (AKECOP);
  - The Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network;
  - Forest spatial information systems, such as those supported by AFoCo; and
  - FLR initiatives supported by APFNet, FAO, IUCN, IUFRO and WRI.

# Recommendations

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*The Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission and its members and stakeholders may wish to consider:*

- **Facilitating cross-sectoral** dialogue and partnerships among policymakers, financiers and other stakeholders in the **public and private sectors**, with a view to **creating an enabling policy environment** for green investments in forests and other natural assets in the Asia-Pacific region. Initial actions may involve forming **public–private partnerships** to:
  - convene a regional-level, cross-sectoral multistakeholder **workshop to build knowledge and relationships on green investment**; and
  - **seek enabling investments** from mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility



# Recommendations (cont'd)

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- Working to **secure forest resource tenure rights** and increase community ownership as part of promoting green investment.
- Focusing on the **interface between companies, smallholders and communities** for effective interventions aimed at improving the productivity and inherent sustainability of forests.
- **Promoting forestry education** by strengthening regional cooperation and collaborations on education tools (E.g. Asia-Pacific Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism's SFM Online Course).
- **Increasing transboundary efforts to combat threats by invasive species** (E.g. small-scale regional projects to manage identified serious forest invasive species, creating an information-sharing platform).

# Recommendations (cont'd 2)

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- **Using ROAM to design and identify FLR opportunities**, while engaging the private, public and investment sectors; local communities and indigenous groups along the way.
- **Considering regional cooperation** to support national restoration activities.
- Supporting programs to **document indigenous knowledge** on propagating native species, and transforming research sites into **“learning centres of excellence”** for collaboration on FLR research to underpin green investment.
- Encouraging members to join and contribute to the **Asia-Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN)** as a mechanism for regional collaboration, and encourage APFORGEN to establish a regional training centre on forest genetic resources.

# Thank You!



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



Asia-Pacific  
Forestry  
Commission



Department of Environment  
and Natural Resources



Green Tree Foundation