



Forestry Department

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON
DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL UMBRELLA
ANNUAL PLAN OF ACTIVITIES
UNDER THE MAR-SFM PROJECT

PROCEEDINGS

STRENGTHENING MONITORING,
ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING (MAR)
ON SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT (SFM) IN ASIA
(GCP/INT/988/JPN)

31 OCTOBER - 2 NOVEMBER 2006
CHIANG MAI, THAILAND



Strengthening Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting (MAR) on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in Asia (GCP/INT/988/JPN)

FAO initiated the project “Strengthening Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting on Sustainable Forest Management in Asia” (MAR-SFM) (GCP/INT/988/JPN) in January 2006. The 5-year project is funded by the Government of Japan.

The main objective of this project is to develop a globally harmonized forest-related national monitoring, assessment and reporting (MAR) system to contribute directly to the improvement of sustainable forest management (SFM) regimes in the Asia-Pacific region. An allied objective of the project is to enhance the use of the MAR information in national decision-making, formulation of effective forest policies, and sustainable forest management and planning.

The project accomplishes its objectives in two phases. The first two years, the development phase, the project would focus on: (a) international activities like the establishment of linkages with forest-related processes; (b) development of a globally harmonised framework, guidelines and database structure, including pilot testing in some countries; (c) use of MAR information in forest planning and development of forest policies at the national level; (d) establishment of a country-level network of national focal points to various forest-related processes and (e) initiate a set of national activities that facilitate the implementation of the harmonised MAR.

The Implementation Phase spreads over the remaining three years of the project period and focuses on the implementation of the harmonised MAR, including facilitation in the establishment of database at the national level in selected project countries within the Asia-Pacific region through studies, reviews, training, workshops and expert consultations. The detailed design of this phase will be finalised on the basis of a review of the activities and the outputs of the first phase.

All countries in the Asia-Pacific region can participate in the project, although the actual level and intensity of their involvement may vary among them. Forestry departments in respective countries have been requested to nominate their national focal points for this project.

FAO, in collaboration with Japanese Forest Agency, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) and FAO-Norwegian project, organised the inception workshop on this project in Sapporo, Japan, 24 - 28 July, 2006. The workshop aims to explore the current status of MAR in the project countries, brief the participating national focal points about the project, and deliberate on the work plan of project activities for the next one year.

The MAR-SFM project is managed under the Forest Resources Division (FOR) at FAO headquarters in Rome and FAO - Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAORAP). Contact persons are:

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Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	i
1. BACKGROUND FOR THE REGIONAL UMBRELLA PROGRAMME (RUP) OF THE MAR-SFM PROJECT	1
1.1. BACKGROUND, AND MANDATE	1
1.2. JUSTIFICATION	2
1.3. OBJECTIVES AND APPROACHES.....	2
1.3.1. Objectives	2
1.3.2. Approaches	2
2. ORGANIZATION OF THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL UMBRELLA ANNUAL PLAN OF ACTIVITIES UNDER THE MAR-SFM PROJECT (GCP/INT/988/JPN).....	2
2.1. OBJECTIVES/OUTPUTS OF THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP.....	3
2.2. STRUCTURE OF THE WORKSHOP	3
2.3. PARTICIPANTS OF THE WORKSHOP	4
3. WORKSHOP SESSIONS	4
3.1. INTRODUCTORY SESSION.....	4
3.2. BACKGROUND PRESENTATIONS & JOINT DISCUSSION.....	10
3.3. GROUP DISCUSSIONS ON RUPA	21
4. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS	31
APPENDICES	A1
APPENDIX 1 – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS	A2
APPENDIX 2 – AGENDA OF THE WORKSHOP.....	A6
APPENDIX 3 – WELCOME AND CLOSING ADDRESSES	A9
APPENDIX 4 – RESULTS OF WORKING GROUP DISCUSSIONS	A13
APPENDIX 5 – PLAN ON ORGANISATION OF NATIONAL NETWORKS (NNs) AND THEIR MEETINGS	A28
APPENDIX 6 – LOGICAL FRAMEWORK OF THE REGIONAL UMBRELLA PROGRAMME.....	A31

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Regional Workshop on Development of Regional Umbrella Annual Plan of Activities under the MAR-SFM Project aimed to introduce the concept of a regional umbrella programme (RUP) and to develop a regional umbrella plan of activities (RUPA) under the MAR-SFM project until the end of 2007. The specific workshop objectives included: i) introducing RUP and its planning process to the participants; ii) sharing experiences in the development of national networks (NNs) for MAR-SFM; and iii) increasing understanding and appreciation of current situations and needs of participating countries for MAR-SFM. The workshop was organised to follow up to the discussions at the inception workshop in Sapporo, Japan last July.

The RUP would consist of joint regional programmes initiated by FAO and combined national programmes to be supported by the project and/or other organisations. The main objective of the RUP is to harmonise forest-related national MAR systems by developing national networks (NNs), harmonizing MAR information, and strengthening policy development and planning through better use of MAR information. The RUP is to be implemented in two phases: 1) the Development Phase (2006-2007) focusing on improvement of the MAR systems and capacities; and 2) the Implementation Phase (2008-2010) focusing on databases and information networks and enhanced use of MAR information. During the Development Phase, the RUP will support studies, trainings, workshops, and meetings/consultations. 23 countries in the Asia-Pacific region have already participated in the RUP, although levels of their participation may vary from intensive collaboration to simple sharing of information. Participants stressed the need to recognise the different needs and situations of project countries in developing the RUP.

The RUPA will be elaborated for implementing the RUP, defining priority regional and national programmes with estimated budgets, responsibilities of participating countries, and modes of collaboration with FAO. The structure of the MAR-SFM project involves implementation at two levels: 1) a global-level programme aimed at harmonizing international processes on monitoring, assessment, and reporting related to sustainable forest management; and 2) a regional/national-level programme (RUP) to harmonise regional and national MAR in accordance with the global-level programme.

The main objective of the NNs should be to enhance the capacities and efficiency of national MAR-SFM systems. NNs are to facilitate regular sharing of MAR information, promoting linkages among MAR information users, and work toward strengthening forest-related policies and planning based on better information. NNs should logically be hosted by forest-related institutions and involve all willing national stakeholders; nevertheless, it was recognised that each country could develop its NN in a flexible way. It was recommended that NNs convene regular meetings to strengthen dialogue among stakeholders and initiate well-coordinated action on MAR.

Three countries presented on NN experience. India established a NN on MAR-SFM to strengthen monitoring mechanisms, harmonise international reporting processes, and enhance policy interventions in SFM at the national level. It was organised through consultations among a variety of governmental and non-governmental organizations. India's NN holds regular meetings to prepare for international reporting, develop indicators, formulate policy and develop consensus positions for international negotiations. The remaining challenge for India's NN is to maintain the continuity of their experts' participation in meetings, and support their participation costs. Mongolia organised the first meeting of its NN to introduce the MAR-SFM project to various participants and discuss potential activities. Participants in their NN inception meeting discussed the structure and functions of the NN and the responsibilities of its members. The current constraints on MAR-SFM in Mongolia include lack of data and limited access to data,

insufficient internet facilities, and low institutional capacities. Participants agreed to hold another meeting to further discuss the organization of the NN and formation of a national steering committee (NSC), capacity building, and technical support. New Zealand introduced its existing MAR systems in indigenous and plantation forests to workshop participants. The success of the New Zealand MAR-SFM systems was attributed to shared needs, political commitment, partnerships with stakeholders, clear standards for “true and fair” information, voluntary supply of data, etc.

The three presentations revealed diverse approaches to NN development. India has set up a more formal national network, while New Zealand actively promoted MAR coordination with the private sector. Mongolia has just initiated a new NN approach, tackling existing challenges. It was noted that NNs should be institutional vehicles for improving MAR-SFM. It was also recognised that the roles and functions of national steering committees (NSCs) would also need to be considered by the NNs.

FAO presented guidelines for country proposals for national MAR-SFM activities in line with the principles of the RUP. Participants were reminded that the MAR-SFM project could only complement national programmes of the highest priority with minimal support to selected project countries. Smaller fund requests would be more practical to realise due to budgetary constraints. Country proposals will be reviewed in view of country conditions and project outlines. Modes of collaboration between FAO and selected project countries will be established using the simplest processes available. Participants questioned the commonality of the project for countries with highly varied needs related to MAR. FAO was requested to play a catalytic role in harmonizing MAR through capacity building.

The three working groups presented the results of their discussions on the RUPA. Among the first group (Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka), four countries (India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and China) already had national networks for national reporting. Common shortcomings of NNs were discussed, such as lack of awareness and understanding, low institutional capacities, poor coordination mechanisms, and insufficient funds. High priority was given to strengthening NNs as well as studies on MAR-SFM systems and methodologies (e.g., C&I, etc.) and policy needs. The group debated the necessity for awareness raising and training for stakeholders and policy makers, as well as meetings for harmonization. The level of requested funds will need to be reconsidered in light of budget constraints.

Among the second group (Cambodia, Japan, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand), only Japan has established a NN. The group examined the unclear roles of stakeholders, poor legal basis or institutional setting, and lack of commitment to NNs. Even the existing NNs would have to expand their membership to include forest user groups other non-governmental organizations. In some countries, official approval of the host ministry or formalization of networks with clear TORs may be required, although simplified processes are recommended for the initiation of the NNs. For harmonization of MAR, participants were concerned about inadequate data and lack of consensus on definitions as well as inconsistent reporting using the same data. Few countries have used MAR information effectively for policy development due to insufficient data and lack of understanding of forest statistics and policy development processes. Many countries recommended diagnostic studies on these issues, restructuring of existing networks, capacity building and pilot testing. Countries in this working group generally proposed smaller levels of funding assistance.

Among the third group (Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu), New Zealand and Mongolia have established NNs. Lack of awareness and expertise and weak coordination were the major challenges identified. Other issues identified included the

need for harmonization of data sets, out-dated data, differing reporting processes, and the recognition of different country conditions in harmonization. Several countries have some experience in applying MAR to forest policy development; however, they share common problems such as poor coordination of reporting, inconsistent data sets, lack of data sharing, and inadequate quantification of non-tangible forest functions. Studies, training, and improvement of data sets were recommended. The third group also highlighted the need for clear definitions and consistent use of terms in implementing the project.

The workshop participants identified the common aspects of the group discussions, such as the need for diagnostic studies on MAR, awareness raising and capacity building. Discussions were productive enough to formulate priorities for the RUPA for common action. However, the larger financial inputs requested by some countries would not be feasible within the limitations of project funds; moreover they risked establishing mechanisms that would be unsustainable after the project ends. The reporting officers clarified that costs of NNs development would have to be minimised to ensure sustainability and commitment.

The workshop provided productive results on the formulation of the RUPA through presentations and discussions among the participants. Participants improved their common understanding of the concepts of MAR-SFM and the RUP in general. They articulated their needs and prioritised activities with some budget estimation. They were also motivated to establish NNs and organise their first meetings. However, requested funds by some countries are still overambitious and require further modification.

Several aspects will need to be further clarified, such as: i) criteria for selecting national programmes and participating countries; ii) modes of collaboration with member countries under the project, including effective allocation of budget to the selected national programmes; iii) balancing of regional and national programmes under the project; iv) the widely differing needs and approaches among member countries under the common concept of RUP; and v) recognition and utilization of existing informal networks as NNs on MAR-SFM.

Based on the workshop discussions, the proposed programmes will be reviewed by FAO for the finalization of the RUPA. Financial assistance to selected project countries will be determined according to their current needs and capacities. Joint regional programmes will also be organised by FAO to respond to the stated common needs of the participating countries, such as capacity building and awareness increase. In the meantime, development of NNs will be the first priority in most project countries.

Regional Workshop on Development of Regional Umbrella Annual Plan of Activities under the MAR-SFM Project

Chiang Mai, Thailand, 31 October - 2 November 2006

1. Background for the regional umbrella programme (RUP) of the MAR-SFM project

Strengthening Monitoring, Assessment, and Reporting (MAR) on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in Asia (GCP/INT/988/JPN) was inaugurated in January 2006, funded by the Government of Japan, with a view to developing a globally harmonised forest-related national monitoring, assessment and reporting (MAR) system to contribute directly to the improvement of sustainable forest management (SFM) in the Asia-Pacific region.

The inception workshop in Sapporo, Japan, 24 – 28 July 2006 revealed the necessity for the development of the MAR-SFM project at the regional level, responding to actual needs and situations of participating countries. Accordingly, elaboration of a regional umbrella programme (RUP) was propounded with proposals of project countries for national activities on MAR-SFM and basic principles of the MAR-SFM project.

The following chapters describe a background, a mandate, objectives, and approaches of RUP under the project.

1.1. Background, and Mandate

FAO implemented the Inception Workshop on Strengthening Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting (MAR) on Sustainable Forest Management in Asia in Sapporo, Japan, during 24 - 28 July 2006. The workshop provided ample information on guidelines for the project: Strengthening Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting (MAR) on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in Asia (GCP/INT/988/JPN), introduction to various MAR processes, situations of MAR in project countries, and the Criteria and Indicators (C&I) of the Montreal Process (MP).

The participants discussed next steps of the project, agreeing to elaborate proposals for national activities under the project through deliberations in their national networks of focal points of various forest-related agencies and processes after the Sapporo workshop. The proposals were expected to capture actual situations and felt needs of MAR systems in project countries.

The participants and FAO agreed that a regional workshop would be organised in Thailand in late October 2006 to facilitate discussions on prioritisation of national activities in the country proposals and matching them with available budget provisions. It was agreed that this would form the basis of development of a regional plan of project activities for the next 12 months for the Asia-Pacific region under the supervision and support of the Regional Office of FAO for Asia and the Pacific (FAORAP).

FAO accordingly planned the next workshop from 31 October 2006 to 2 November 2006 to facilitate the formulation of a regional umbrella plan of project activities, supporting national activities on MAR-SFM requested by project countries.

1.2. Justification

The project needs to develop its work plan of activities for the next 12 months. Organisation of this workshop is essential to do this task in an open, fair and participatory manner. The workshop will achieve its objective through prioritization of country proposals and definition of roles and responsibilities of countries and FAO to implement the plan.

The MAR-SFM project deals with international-/regional-level activities and national-level activities for the purpose of harmonizing, synergizing, and streamlining the MAR-SFM components under the management of FAO-Headquarters and FAO-Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. In this respect, outputs of the workshop will noticeably contribute to the project by shaping the whole regional/national programmes and ushering them in possible collaboration with forest-related programmes of FAO and other organisations in the harmonised MAR-SFM process.

1.3. Objectives and Approaches

1.3.1. Objectives

a. Main objective

Harmonise a forest-related national MAR system for the improvement of SFM.

b. Specific objective

- Establish/develop national networks (NN) of focal points on forest-related MAR-SFM
- Harmonise collection, analysis and reporting on forest-related MAR information
- Facilitate the use of information on forest-related MAR for planning and policy development

1.3.2. Approaches

- Case studies/data collection
- Consultations/meetings
- Workshops/seminars
- Training
- Pilot testing (with FAO-HQ)
- Information management/ communications
- Documentation/publications

2. Organization of the Regional Workshop on Development of Regional Umbrella Annual Plan of Activities under the MAR-SFM Project (GCP/INT/988/JPN)

Following up the inception workshop in Sapporo, Japan, 24-28 July 2006, the regional workshop on development of regional umbrella annual plan of activities under the MAR-SFM project was organised in Chiang Mai, Thailand, 31 October to 2 November 2005 together with project countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The workshop aims to integrate country initiatives into the regional programme (RUP) of the MAR-SFM project through the formulation of the joint regional umbrella plan of activities (RUPA). The countries were requested to do some preparatory work for the workshop, including the elaboration of proposals for national programmes on MAR-SFM consolidating their needs. The workshop focuses on deliberation of the country proposals in terms of principles of the project and the availability of the budget, while

providing the participants with background information on the project and facilitating their discussions on important issues of the project.

2.1. Objectives/outputs of the Regional Workshop

A. Main objective

Develop a regional umbrella plan of activities under the MAR project for the next 12 months.

B. Specific objectives

- Develop a detailed regional umbrella plan of project activities (RUPA) in two biannual (six-month) phases, based on activity plans of individual countries
- RUPA should clarify roles and responsibilities of member countries and FAO in implementation of this plan.

C. Expected outputs

The RUPA is formulated for the next 12 months (broken down into two six-month periods) that contain prioritised and budgeted activities by each sub-region and each country.

2.2. Structure of the Workshop

Agenda of the workshop is annexed in **Appendix 2**. The workshop is made up of welcome/closing addresses (**Appendix 3**), introductory sessions, background presentations and joint discussions, group discussions and joint wrap-up discussions. Introductory sessions facilitate participants' easy comprehension of objectives and outlines of the workshop, addressing key issues for the project. Background presentations focus on particular issues of RUP, especially the national network on MAR-SFM and guidelines for formulation of proposals. Group discussions clarify urgent needs and prioritised activities of participating countries in the form of activity plans. The joint wrap-up session synthesises outputs of the group discussions into RUPA to uphold the initiatives of member countries. All sessions will have a chair person and/or a facilitator and a reporter.

Day 1

- Welcome addresses/self-introduction
- Introduction to the MAR-SFM project/RUP
- Review of outcomes of the Sapporo workshop in Japan, 24-28 July, 2006
- National networks on MAR-SFM

Day 2

- Guidelines for proposals for national programmes on MAR-SFM
- Group discussions on situations, needs, and priority activities

Day 3

- Group discussions
- Wrap-up discussions
- Synthesis on RUP/RUPA

2.3. Participants of the Workshop

List of participants of the workshop is annexed in **Appendix 1**. 21 persons participated in the workshop from 19 countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vanuatu

Four staff of FAO accompanied these participants for technical and logistic support during the workshop.

No other participants were invited to the workshop for ensuring internal discussions on the MAR-SFM project.

3. Workshop Sessions

3.1. Introductory Session

Introduction to the Workshop Programme (FAO/Masahiro Otsuka)

FAORAP organised the regional workshop in Chiang Mai after the inception workshop in Sapporo, Japan, 24 - 28 July which brought to light the significance of comprehension of situations and needs for MAR, focusing on proposals for national activities and national networks of project countries. The main objective of this workshop is to develop a regional umbrella plan of project activities until the end of December 2007 through prioritization of national activities and deliberation of modes of collaboration. The workshop consists of the introductory session on the outcomes of the Sapporo workshop and the RUP, background presentations and plenary discussions on national networks and guidance/synthesis of proposals and components of RUP, group discussions on situations and needs of project countries, and joint wrap-up discussions on elaboration of the RUPA with recommendations. The background presentations aim to promote participants' common understanding of programme concepts. Initial joint discussions aim at thematic reviews and comprehension of approaches to planning. Group discussions facilitate elaboration of programmes, evolution of partnership, and sharing expertise among countries. Then the wrap-up discussions consolidate participants' ideas for planning of next steps. The workshop is expected to clarify components of RUPA by prioritisation of project activities with budget estimation, clarification of roles and responsibilities and modes of collaboration such as agreements and funding.

Topics of the workshop will be current situations/needs of project countries for MAR-SFM, sharing the concept of the MAR-SFM project, important activities, cost-effective programme design, programme participants and partnerships, and so on. 21 national representatives participated in the workshop from 19 countries.

Summary outcomes of the inception workshop in Sapporo, Japan (FAO/Patrick B. Durst)

The Inception workshop on MAR-SFM in Asia was convened in Sapporo, Japan, 24 - 28 July 2006 with 16 countries and 9 organizations, comprised of presentations, discussions, open forums, and field visit. The workshop was organised by FAO, under the financial support of the Forestry Agency of Japan, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), International Network on Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), and FAO-Norway Project. Its objectives were to introduce the project to the participants, brief them on current MAR-SFM expectations at the global level and the use of MAR information for forest policies/planning, share

experiences/insights on the current status of MAR in project countries, and deliberate on proposed project work.

Presentations were made on concepts of MAR-SFM, international/regional activities on forest-related reporting, state of forest-related reporting in project countries, information/knowledge management, harmonization mechanisms on MAR, C&I processes, national networks, and policy development. The participants discussed on situations and needs of project countries for MAR-SFM to initiate future programmes, capacity building for national/regional networking and harmonization of MAR, harmonization and information sharing on MAR among international processes, and evolution of cost-effective approaches to remote sensing. The training workshop on remote sensing-based forestland use classification was announced at the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS) in Dehradun, India, during 4 - 8 December 2006.

Basic elements of the project were reviewed and inadequacy was found. Regional project formulation was advocated, presenting opportunities for countries. Ownership of the project would need to be understood well at the national/regional levels rather than its mere implementation.

Conclusions of the workshop were as follows:

1. The project should focus on:
 - Stimulation of synergies of MAR activities at regional and national levels consistent with country needs and priorities
 - Establishment of effective national networks (NNs) for MAR open to all stakeholders (The project supports direct meeting costs of meetings for the NNs.)
 - Capacity building
 - Harmonization of MAR
 - Enhanced management of information and communications.
2. It is significant to use MAR information to improve forest policies/planning.
3. The need for a standardised remote sensing/land classification should be recognised as oriented in the training workshop in India.
4. The project steering committee (PSC) should be constituted with national focal points and donor representatives, holding meetings at least annually in conjunction with other regional workshops or meetings. The PSC is generally open to other partners except for sensitive discussions.

Subsequent steps are to be establishment of national networks and their meetings with financial/technical support, formulation of proposals for national activities on MAR and stocktaking of country needs/situations, leading to this workshop.

Outline of Regional Umbrella Programme (RUP) (FAO/Masahiro Otsuka)

The MAR-SFM project is comprised of the global-level programme and the regional umbrella programme (RUP, national-/regional-level programme). The global-level programme is based in FAO-HQ, Rome, aiming at development of globally harmonised frameworks, formulation of general guidelines and methodologies, and overall project coordination/supervision. The RUP is based in FAORAP, Bangkok, focusing on national/regional networks and their coordination, development of national guidelines and methodologies, and national policy development/planning in consultations with the global-level programme. Both programmes would explore technical and financial partnership with collaborative organisations.

The main objective of RUP is to harmonise a forest-related national MAR system for the improvement of SFM. Its specific objectives are:

1. Establish/develop national networks (NN) of focal points on forest-related MAR-SFM
2. Harmonise collection, analysis & reporting on forest-related MAR information
3. Facilitate the use of information on forest-related MAR for planning and policy development

Expected outputs are clear responsibilities and structure of NN, secure resources of NN for MAR, alternative national methodologies for harmonised MAR, coordination mechanisms among national agencies for harmonised MAR, clear systems for application of MAR information to policies/planning, and improved capacities for the use of MAR information for policies/planning. Activities of RUP are grouped into three major components, such as NN, harmonization of MAR, and use of MAR for policies/planning. For the NN, activities include:

1. Identify institutions/stakeholders
2. Elaborate responsibilities/roles
3. Develop coordination mechanisms
4. Assess current needs/capabilities
5. Improve resources of NN
6. Develop/manage MAR information
7. Enhance monitoring/evaluation

For harmonisation of MAR, activities would be:

1. Study needs for harmonised MAR.
2. Develop effective methodologies.
3. Elaborate harmonised definitions and terms
4. Alternative methods for data compilation
5. Build capacities on harmonised MAR.
6. Build up synergies among national, regional, and international processes
7. Develop national mechanisms for harmonised MAR.
8. Raise the public awareness on harmonised MAR.

The use of MAR for policy/planning would include the following activities:

1. Study systems for policy development with MAR-SFM.
2. Develop effective methods for policies/planning with MAR.
3. Build capacities on policy frameworks/methodologies for MAR.
4. Establish national feedback mechanisms to policies on MAR-SFM.
5. Facilitate synergy on decision makings for MAR-SFM among international, regional, and national processes.

These objectives, outputs, and activities constitute a framework of the project by hierarchical structure. The framework is presented in **Appendix 6**.

Activities of RUP are divided into the following two categories:

1. Combination of national activities through selection of programmes and countries and coordinated project support in/among countries; and
2. Joint regional programme open to all willing countries organised by FAO in response to country needs, including training and workshops.

In accordance with the project phases, RUP is also classified into 2 phases:

1. Development Phase (2006 - 2007)

At this phase the initial processes of the harmonised MAR-SFM is facilitated, including the development of national networks, studies, capacity building, application for policy/planning, consultations on harmonised MAR, etc.

2. Implementation Phase (2008 - 2010)

The harmonised MAR is to be fully implemented at this phase, based on outputs of the Development Phase. In particular, establishment of databases at the national level and development of information-sharing networks will be supported.

Advantages in RUP are facilitation in consensus/common understanding of the project in/among countries, concerted actions, coordinated support from the project, and partnership among countries for mutual support, exchange of expertise, and information networking.

Nowadays 23 countries participate in the MAR-SFM project, but their levels of participation in RUP would be varied, classified presumably into:

1. Countries receiving intensive project support to national/regional programmes
2. Countries invited to joint regional programmes
3. Countries that can provide technical/financial/personnel support
4. Countries receiving information from the project

The first to the third countries ought to have their national project coordinator (NPC).

Approaches of RUP are case studies, consultations/meetings, workshops/seminars, training, pilot test, information management/communications, and documentation/publications. The pilot test will be initiated in the global-level programme at the Development Phase, in collaboration with the RUP.

The RUP is interlinked partly with individual national programmes by prioritization of proposed activities. Adopted components of national activities will be incorporated into the RUP, while each government will work with the RUP to initiate its national programme. The RUP will collaborate with other schemes of FAO and other related organizations. During the implementation of RUP, it is expected that each country will get technical inputs to apply them to its whole programme. The countries will also evolve regional networking in the RUP for strengthening collaboration and networking.

Formulation of the regional umbrella plan of activities (RUPA) (FAO/Masahiro Otsuka)

Objectives of the regional umbrella plan of activities (RUPA) are to identify national/regional programmes on MAR through prioritization of activities with country initiatives and project principles, elaborate roles of countries, determine modes of project support with agreements, and clarify linkages of countries with the MAR-SFM project by facilitating national/regional networking.

Content of RUPA includes compilation of selected national activity sets with development of components, prioritization of components/activities at national and regional levels, clarification of roles/responsibilities, budget estimation, elaboration of evaluation processes, and deliberation on project support and mechanisms of collaboration/partnership.

Components of activities signify a group of project activities in particular categories. They should have self-explanatory and concise titles. Each component should be comprehensive in one category with clear demarcation among each other to avoid overlapping, covering a policy or technical aspect. The components should also have clear linkages with the MAR-SFM project by strengthening functions of national networks. Each component needs to have feasible setting, not too ambitious. The components must be structured consistently.

Suggested components are: 1. Strengthening of national networks for MAR-SFM with stakeholders; 2. Harmonization of MAR-SFM systems (definition, terms); and 3. Policy development with MAR for SFM (tools, mechanisms). Considering the project is at the Development Phase, the components should focus on the innovation of effective MAR-SFM with studies, trainings, workshops, consultations, etc., not full-scale implementation.

Due to the budget constraints of the MAR-SFM project, prioritization of components/activities is required for optimal collaboration. It is stressed that all activities or countries could not always be accepted in RUP. The prioritization should be made for RUP in terms of the relevance to the project, national strategies (policy, technical), originality of the programmes, urgent needs for technical assistance, technical/financial feasibilities, risks/uncertainties, measurable impacts, and sustainability.

Budget is to be estimated for national programmes under RUP. Financial support of the MAR project would be minimum and complementary, supplementing financial resources of national governments and national networks. Other financial sources would be sought for the programmes given the highest priority. The RUP also provides technical assistance through training, consultations, etc., and transfer of expertise/knowledge. Network facility is expected to enhance exchange of information/expertise through meetings/workshops and IT.

Monitoring/evaluation of RUP by NSC and NN are essential on a regular basis for review and occasional modification of the activities. A matrix of activities with a logical framework should be elaborated with verifiable indicators for measuring technical/policy impacts on harmonised/standardised MAR and feedback to national SFM planning and regional dissemination/integration.

➤ **Discussions (1 – 4)**

India

- SFM has many aspects (social, economic, environment, policies, cultural), differing from country to country.
- It is significant to understand SFM in ecological and social aspects. Diverse socio-economic aspects will have to be considered in response to needs of people living around forests, depending on their resources.
- India has deliberated how to implement the concept of SFM, identifying relevant international processes. However, lack of resources is a major constraint on SFM. Building capacities of related institutions and development of socio-economic indicators are essential for MAR-SFM.
- Each country is still at the initial step of harmonization on MAR-SFM, collecting parameters and indicators individually among which commonality might be found. There is no clearly defined or commonly agreed understanding on SFM. MAR can play a significant role in comprehension of SFM and capacity building needs. The MAR-SFM project of FAO is expected to clarify mechanisms of MAR, supporting each country.

FAO (M. Kashio)

- This project may aim to strengthen collection of reliable and accurate information on SFM in each country, especially in physical aspects such as standing volume, biomass, carbon stock, species composition, biodiversity, ecological/environmental functions of forests, etc.
- In the forest resources, we still have weakness in time-series information on biomass, carbon stock capacity, and biodiversity. However, socio-economic data might be too complicated for foresters, better to be excluded.

- It is important to clearly define what useful information should be collected, supplied, monitored, and reported. There may already be harmonised definitions such as for FRA 2005, but people's understanding is mutually different. Therefore, APFC also focuses on capacity building of forest-related personnel.

Bangladesh

- Processes of SFM and C&I are going on in the world, such as the Montréal Process and ITTO, containing 7 criteria and a lot of indicators. However, these parameters, extended to the underground levels, are so complicated and difficult to estimate in less developed countries due to limited resources.
- Simpler criteria and indicators are important to assess the extent of forest coverage and biomass.

FAO

- Simplified indicators will be favourable for discussions. Developing countries keep up with intricate indicators and processes, but less developed countries may have to recognise the most important criteria for decision makings on SFM under the budget limitation.
- Supporting this point, it is suggested to use the indicators of C&I from the effectiveness and relevance. What information or processes are important depends on decisions of each country. The project is still at the early stage of development, but we will discuss this issue next year.

Lao PDR

- We agree to our needs for harmonization in general. However, it is not certain how much the harmonisation is successful, seeing diverse situations of countries. Excessive harmonization will result in loss of detailed information in each country. Country-specific situations should be addressed more attentively.
- It is reasonable to address biophysical, socio-economic and political aspects as common factors in SFM.

Philippines

- It is important to recognise different needs of MAR in seeking for harmonization. Conditions are diverse with individual reports by different groups under different mechanisms even inside the country, reflected by diverse forest conditions. Common understanding of MAR-SFM is a critical issue.

FAO

- It is true that some countries struggle over different sets of information, while other countries have only one source of information, often not guaranteed technically. Information needs are varied among countries.
- Open information exchange is essential to help each other, but it is obstructed at the political level arising from pressure of politicians on forests. It is crucial to break through political barriers as hidden challenges.

Philippines

- Beneficial users of MAR should be policy makers for formulation of policies to prevent misuse of forest resources and promote their appropriate use. MAR should contribute to better policy agreement by collection, reporting, and dissemination of information using criteria and indicators. There should be a modest attempt to identify common information needs for future harmonization and capacity building.

3.2. Background Presentations & Joint Discussion

Guidelines for the National Network (NN) on MAR-SFM (FAO/Masakazu Kashio)

National networks (NN) on MAR-SFM are conceived for simple and action-oriented reporting and enhanced analyses, harmonised MAR for SFM with capacity building to improve national MAR, and policy actions and planning at the national level, following the advice of COFO and FAO councils at the international level. The main objective of NN is to enhance capacities/efficiency of national MAR systems for the improved SFM. Its specific objectives are:

1. Institutionalise standardization of MAR
2. Integrate national MAR systems: multiplicity
3. Provide better/regular information
4. Facilitate better decision-making for SFM
5. Promote various policy linkages (forestry, environmental, social, economic,...)
6. Support regional networks: shared knowledge
7. Satisfy regional/international policy dialogues

Principles of NN are:

1. Owned/maintained by countries
2. Open to all willing stakeholders
3. Multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral
4. Fair, transparent, accessible to all
5. Medium to disseminate MAR information
6. Meetings - all stakeholders
7. Linkages - national, regional, international agencies/processes
8. Integration with ongoing programmes
9. Cost-effective, efficient and productive

The process of NN development includes:

1. Established in a forest-related institution
2. All willing national-level stakeholders
3. Visibility with IT (Websites), etc.
4. Clear leadership and functions with records
5. Link to technical expertise: Capacity building
6. Regular technical/thematic meetings
7. Sharing with national, regional, international meetings to diffuse the presence of NN
8. Contributions to national activities on forests
9. Meetings in conjunction with other meetings to economise resources and time and maximise its presence

NN should be owned and managed by countries themselves with flexible approaches to development. A host institution is to be established inside the forest-related agency. Focal points, a secretariat, and a national steering committee (NSC) will be determined inside NN. It is important to consider long-term perspectives of NN to maintain it with the resources of the host-institution linking with other processes/programmes. Planning and reporting processes should be fixed regularly.

The MAR-SFM project could provide only a modest support to NNs to cover direct costs of meetings. Each NN could search for other resources of FAO such as the grant facility of the national forestry programme (<http://www.nfp-facility.org>) as well as external support from other organizations. However, NNs will have to evolve an independent process of development for its

internalization especially after the end of the project for avoidance of dependence on external financial input.

Issues related to NNs include membership, development processes, organizational structure and leadership, legislative status, activities and their short-/long-term planning, financial, material, and human resources, and monitoring/evaluation.

Challenges to NN are identification/characterization of all public/private stakeholders, lack of experience/expertise on NN, lack of budget, divergent organizations/policies, linkages with existing networks, and countries' self-reliant capacities to establish NN.

Status of the national network on MAR-SFM (NN-MAR) in India (Participant/Jitendra V. Sharma)

Objectives of NN-MAR are harmonization of the SFM related reporting to various global, regional and sub-regional processes, framing country views for international negotiations particularly on SFM-related matters, policy interventions at the national level for better implementation of SFM, and strengthening of a monitoring mechanism at the national level for the assessment of the sustainability of forests.

NN-MAR was organised by consultation through meetings. The agenda of the meeting was circulated to the members of NN-MAR. The convener made presentations on NN-MAR with discussions for decision makings and political approvals for policy interventions in SFM at the meeting. Policy development is undertaken on the basis of political decisions.

Members of NN-MAR include officers of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (including the Secretary as the chairman and DIG-Forest Policy as the convener), focal points of international conventions (UNFF, ITTO, CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC, CITES, INBAR, FAO/APFC), experts (forestry/environment, climate change, economics, law, forest resource assessment), research institutes (Forest Survey of India, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Indian Council of Forest Research and Education), other ministries (Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Private Affairs, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Commerce), and representative of NGOs.

Activities of NN include discussions on submission of national reports to international/regional processes (CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, UNFF, APFC, ITTO, etc.), development of different indicators out of the predetermined criteria in ecological, economic, and social aspects for the assessment of SFM, framing country's view for international negotiations and meetings, and policy development on the basis of international commitments.

Meetings of NN are prepared by setting annual schedules on the basis of calendars for the global, regional and sub-regional meetings. Agenda of the meeting is finalised in accordance with the agenda for global meetings and the need of the reporting as well as the requirement of policy development at the national level.

The government of India holds the budget for 5 - 6 meetings/roundtables of NN per year up to USD 20,000, covering travel expenses, DSA, and logistics. However, external funds of USD 10,000 are expected to make up for financial deficits.

Problems of NN are identified as follows:

1. All experts are not available for each meeting, even through the meeting schedule is fixed one year in advance.

2. Less DSA is prepared for non-official experts to participate in the meetings.

Solutions would be the alteration of experts if they do not participate regularly in 2-3 meetings per year or not contribute to the NN as well as external funding to NN-MAR.

Strengthening of MAR for SFM must focus on the following elements particularly in developing countries:

1. Developing indicators for assessment of sustainability of forests classified into 16 ecosystems, including socio-economic indicators
2. Institutional development by strengthening existing institutions
3. Capacity building of the related institution with the national network, if already developed
4. Negotiations for harmonising SFM-related national reporting to global, regional and sub-regional processes
5. Policy intervention with harmonised MAR at the national level on the basis of assessment of the sustainability of forests

National Network (NN) in Mongolia (Participant/Zagdaa Narangerel)

The main objective of NN is to bring together all national focal points to forest related national, regional and international processes in a country to enhance capacities and efficiency of the national MAR systems to directly contribute to the improvement of SFM. Specific objectives of NN are:

1. Institutionalise processes of coordination, standardization and harmonization of forest-related information
2. Integrate a national MAR system along its multiple dimensions
3. Provide better and regular information on a sustained basis
4. Facilitate better informed decision-making and formulation of forest policies and planning at the national level
5. Improve the linkage of MAR with development of national forest policies and planning
6. Promote the linkage of national forest policies with environmental, social and economic policies
7. Provide support to a similar network at the regional level to share information, experience and knowledge among countries
8. Satisfy regional and international policy dialogues related to conventions and processes dealing with global biodiversity, carbon sequestration, soil condition, and the effects of climate change.

NN is comprised of a head, a national steering committee (NSC), a secretary, and members in open membership. Participating institutions share responsibilities for communications, consultations, and implementation of activities. NN should function as a vehicle to build database by collecting, updating and sharing of data, seeking for suitable technology, methodology, and equipment. The specific name of NN is proposed such as Forest National Network (FNN), Forest Network (FN), Forest Operations Network (FON), Forest-related Network (FRN), MAR-SFM Network, etc., considering that the NN has an extensive implication.

NN should serve for research, education, and policy development/planning with all stakeholders including communities and tourists at the local to international levels. NN must be sustained in a cyclic process of collection, enrichment, updating, storage, and distribution of data.

The first meeting of NN was convened with 25 persons from forest-related organizations (forestry/environmental administration, research institutes, universities, forest industry association, NGO) at the Ministry of Nature and Environment on 10 October 2006. Agenda of the meeting includes briefing on the MAR-SFM project, introduction of NN with discussions,

introduction of forest related projects, and selection of NN members. The participants discussed the establishment of NN, responsibilities of members, activities, benefits of NN, sustainability of NN, forest policies, and funding to NN. Then they agreed to select forest-related organizations for NN, formulate a draft agreement, establish NSC and a secretariat, and initiate activities to support capacity building, development of a new methodology and technology, and elaboration of a forest management system and a forest policy.

Constraints on the NN development were identified at the meeting, such as weak relationship among organizations, no internet connection to some organizations, no digital data for some information, lack of technical standards for forest-related mapping, overlaying different formats, confidentiality and limited ownership of some data with high costs for acquisition, poor capacity building, insufficient and obsolete technologies, and what is more serious, instability of forest-related organizations susceptible to political situations.

The following activities are planned at NN:

1. Organise a meeting to agree on member institutions of NN and NSC in TORs
2. Assess the current situation of database of NN member institutions
3. Conclude a contract with member institutions on cooperation
4. Identify information and data to be included in the NN (database) and tools
5. Standardise information to be shared with the NN (map, data, table, text, etc.) in line with regional and international MAR systems
6. Develop a methodology to coordinate with NNs at the regional level
7. Formulate a recommendation for the long-term operation of NN
8. Identify problems for sustainable development of NN

Forestry Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting: New Zealand Case Study (Bridget V. Geard)

MAR of New Zealand has a wide range of processes in plantations and indigenous forests, focusing on national processes and driven by policy and planning for sustainable development. Traditionally, MAR has been active for plantation forests. Recent global environmental issues has strengthened indigenous forest MAR.

National monitoring of indigenous and plantation forests are based on the permanent sample plot (PSP) system, the national forest survey, the national exotic forest description (NEFD), satellite imagery-based maps, and the forest carbon accounting system (FCAS). The NEFD was established by industry recommendations in 1982, comprised of three components: forest area-age class data, yield tables, and wood availability forecasts. A steering group of NEFD is made up of government officials and representatives of forest associations and research organisations. Reasons for the success of NEFD would be shared needs, a partnership approach, standards for “true and fair” information, a least-cost approach, voluntary supply of data, and trust among stakeholders. Wood availability forecasts are implemented for national assessment of recoverable volume on plantations by base, early, and late cuts.

The FCAS covers both indigenous and plantation forests. The system of inventory plots across the country includes biodiversity study, forest health monitoring, and wall-to-wall mapping through stakeholder discussions. Reasons for the success of FCAS would be the institutional setup to help the country meet international obligations under the Kyoto Protocol, a commitment to the project at a senior level, involvement of stakeholders in discussions (steering groups, stakeholder groups, project groups for reporting), and clear standards, objectives and deadlines for MAR.

Indigenous forest information covers state owned land of 4.7 million ha (no harvesting) and privately owned land of 1.6 million ha, regulated by the Forests Act and SFM plans and permits. The national MAR on economic and social information collects data on estimated round-wood removals, wood processing, employment, and trade in forest products reported quarterly or annually. Time series of information are for over 60 years.

The MAR information is used by: 1. government agencies for policies, forecasts, strategic planning, and international reporting on SFM; 2. forest industry for investment opportunities, support services, SFM initiatives (certification), and forest health monitoring, supported by strong economic indicators for SFM; and 3. others such as infrastructure and service providers and NGOs. The national MAR information is available on the website.

The MAR information supports policy and planning for SFM and satisfies international SFM obligations such as the Montréal Process. New Zealand is strong in physical and economic indicators, but would have to highlight more unvalued services and socio-cultural indicators.

With the experience in MAR-SFM, the following conclusions are offered:

1. Good information is essential for good decision making
2. A shared sense of purpose and trust between information providers and information managers is important
3. Agreed standards are required to ensure that the collected information is consistent and that presents a “true and fair” picture
4. Reporting must ensure that information at a suitable level is readily available to all interested parties
5. There is a strong relationship between information needed for good policy and planning decisions and information needed to report on sustainable forest management
6. Traditionally MAR processes have been closely linked to economic utilisation of forests but international environmental processes are starting to strengthen the national MAR on non-commercial issues

➤ **Discussions (1 – 4)**

Nepal

- How to collect national data on age classes (by training?)
 - Data collection is established through PSP, NEFD, FCAS, national forest surveys, etc. Collaboration with private sectors is effective for getting data.
- How to realise voluntary supply of data from individuals of different organizations?
 - They are highly motivated for collecting data out of their economic or environmental concerns over forests.

PNG

- These cases are informative to PNG that is eager to learn the development of NN from other countries. Comments are helpful on the first meeting of the national network from Mongolia that has just initiated the NN. India and New Zealand already have experience in NN.
- The question to each of them is if they have also set up an intra-network within their organizations. In FRA and UNFCCC there are also internal small groups. PNG is undertaking the organization of intra-NN.

Pakistan

- Who is planning the existing NN in India and Mongolia? What are their mandates? How are these cases evaluated with the guidelines of FAO? (in the sense that NN institutionalises the harmonisation of MAR by publishing and collecting data)

- Differences among the three countries were recognised in conditions of NN. FAO is requested to prepare clearer guidelines for NN so that each country can follow them.

Mongolia

- The NN of Mongolia is assessing current situations on data. One problem is the confidentiality of data, restricting their use.

India

- NN is already organised at the national level for development of national forestry, reporting to different international processes, and discussing SFM globally. Meetings of NN will be planned shortly, in which concepts, definitions and terminologies of MAR will be determined by final decisions with emphasis on international reporting and indicator setting.
- One agent coordinates different institutions and stakeholders for ecological assessment in FRA. Member countries develop their own protocol for FRA. They evolve concepts for better outcomes of SFM balancing people's needs in diverse situations, developing indicators at national levels.

FAO

Priced information between different ministries and languages in database should be noted in harmonisation of MAR.

Malaysia

- Malaysia issues an annual report on forestry, covering forestry-related information. This report becomes a common reference in reporting.
- Should networks include NGO? How to manage the NN with NGO? The challenge is how NN can harmonise MAR and can affect decision making processes, and NGOs will be essential for this work.

India

- NN of India does not yet involve NGO because of its uncertain quality. A committee will be established for the selection of NGOs to NN.
- Baseline studies will be conducted for harmonisation. Experts will also be selected for reviewing basic parameters on SFM.
- For policy decisions, the MEF comprehends the multi-sectoral characteristics of decision makings, and will establish an intergovernmental panel with other sectors by informal nomination of focal points. They provide other officers/stakeholders with the expertise at their informal meetings. The government adopted their approaches to use C&I (especially indicators) for tracing the SFM status easily. A political commitment is important to minimise conflicts between stakeholders.

Myanmar

- Won't the network need to get political approval inside the government? How long will it take for consultative meetings?

India

It depends on the nature of the programme. Related officers prepare agenda and gets approval from their ministry. However, it will take a longer time for the multi-sectoral nature of the network like UNFCCC, involving environmental and developmental sectors.

PNG

- What processes can be taken for the development of NN? Is the step-by-step process acceptable or not?

- The Forestry Authority of PNG will be a host agency. What will be expected mandates or responsibilities (and financial burdens) of the host agency for NN?

Philippines

- Following the comments of PNG on the capability of creating NN, institutional interventions will be required to cope with the establishment of NN and solution of data problems, coming out with country experiences.
- In the Philippines, Forest Management Bureau (FMB) is discussing with other divisions for MAR at the same level, forming informal networks. However, it is critical to determine a host institution which could assume bigger responsibilities together with fund raising and execute an influential power on others.
- Formal meetings will be required to set up a mandate to generate official MAR information in the government bureaucracy. India established a bigger network, but it seems that it was organised with secondary institutions. Is it already formalised or not yet?
- What will be the position of the private forest sector in NN? Can information be given to them?

India

- The NN of India is based on the partnership between the public and private sectors. It was informally established at the beginning, and came to be cared by the host institution (MEF). The Forest Department institutionalises NN.

China

- Decision makings of China are different. Every country comprehends the NN, but its management should be flexible.
- China already established the comprehensive national forest inventory system for gathering information, which could act as the NN. Four national institutes established forest inventories by issuing an order to local units to supply information, and forest reporting is enough at the domestic level.
- The problem is on international reporting, however, as types of data to be collected are varied, including biodiversity, wildlife, carbon accounting, etc., which are quite different from NFI. The Forest Department is trying to extend its efforts to collect other parameters.
- However, it is questionable if the NN is effective in harmonisation of MAR in China. Departments responsible for international reporting are reluctant to set up NN currently, because The NN is not an efficient way to harmonise a working system.

FAO

- Regarding the three presentations and most discussions, it is obvious that conditions on NN are different from country to country, reflected by their ecological and socio-cultural conditions. The discussions focused on institutional setting, and the question is if informal networks are not sufficient as NN on MAR. Concerning C&I and data processing, it is not realistic to define large targets, but it is better to set small steps for substantial progress. Practical reality should be noted rather than ideal ambiguity.
- Mongolia jumped up starting NN in open and flexible membership, and such a case could be advocated to other countries. The India case makes sense as a more formal NN dominated by government agencies, but it is good that it still has representatives of NGOs and private sectors. India has been successful in joint forest management, but the question is how they are represented in NN. The New Zealand case is guided by the strong private sector with local stakeholders. In actual mechanisms of New Zealand, the question is who convenes the groups to NN and steers it (FOA?) The reasons for the success of NEFD are informative.

- The first networking exercise is essential to find ways to come. DSA and per diems should be refrained for the sustainability of the networks. The NN should be managed by sharing needs and value to make it an effective network, as seen in the Asia-Pacific Agroforestry Network (APAN).
- The host institution is controversial for NN. It should usually be the forest administration, but there should be arguments with competing agencies over the hegemony and mandate. They may hate the domination of a single equivalent institution. It may be better to select a more neutral body such as a university group.

Pakistan

- Size of NN needs to be clarified. Concerning the open membership to any stakeholders, it is necessary to clarify how to identify suitable stakeholders or local NGOs should be included or not. There are forums on forestry for coordination on forest-related issues, involved in specific tasks for harmonisation and standardisation of MAR. However, they do not cover all the stakeholders.
- In formulating NN in each country, it may be crucial to nominate appropriate organisations to intensify efforts on MAR in two aspects, e.g., contribution and utilisation of data. Not all forest-related stakeholders may be invited to NN in this regard.
- It is not realistic to invite a large number of related persons (more than 6,000 persons?) to NN. The optimal group needs to be evolved in order that data can be best used, looking at the best composition of stakeholder representatives. Therefore, statement of FAO “all stakeholders” might not be correct.

Sri Lanka

- In the matrix of stakeholders received from the MAR-SFM project, all the parts cannot be filled out because it is quite difficult to specify roles of institutions. Four institutions have been identified as stakeholders so far, but it is not easy to define their roles in NN.

Bangladesh

- It is necessary to give national focal points some more information to create and build capacities on national MAR. It is difficult for stakeholders to consider MAR without information. Those working in forestry are actually diverse, including commercial sectors, but not always forest-related personnel.
- Institutionalisation of the MAR system and standardisation of its process are necessary with the guidelines for the selection of stakeholders to avoid confusions in customisation of MAR in each country.
- Bangladesh requests FAO to further clarify objectives of NN in order to get clearer guidance to follow.

FAO

- Structure and functions of NN are different from country to country, depending on international correspondence and reporting processes. So countries should keep its development flexible. A task-force approach will be appropriate with existing accurate information.
- In the case of New Zealand, the network is based on private sector forestry with exotic species plantation. There is a partnership among collectors and managers of data for this purpose. They can utilise existing networks but not needing to have a new network.
- Human networks may exist in South Pacific countries, and it would be easy to set up NNs, building on them. However, the weakness is a lack of institutional setting from whom reliable information can be obtained.

- India and China as big countries have institutional mechanism with readily available information and more formal networks are developed. Only the difference may be a way of approaches (top-down in China, coordination in India). Myanmar in the military regime may also require the formal setting. It is emphasised that NN is not an objective in itself but a tool to realise an effective MAR.
- Indicators of ITTO or C&I are based on findings of member countries most cases. The widest varieties exist in mid-sized countries where concentrated support would be required. The C&I guidelines have been elaborated with consultations, and useful though not always applicable to all countries. Bigger countries may require more indicators like in India, while other countries will need fewer indicators.

Indonesia

- NN has not yet been established in Indonesia. An inception meeting will be held in January 2006 with all potential members on MAR-SFM to be members for this project. It is not certain if they want to participate or not, but the Government of Indonesia will try to invite them to the first meeting, asking for their willingness for discussions on MAR-SFM.
- The host institutions will be the Ministry of Forestry to be supported by the MAR-SFM project. It is important to synchronise a national forest policy and planning processes with the fixed allocation of funds to support required activities.

Vanuatu

- Vanuatu is situated in South-Pacific Islands. The issue on MAR-SFM in Vanuatu is development of the database system like in other Pacific countries (e.g., Solomon Islands, PNG, etc.) There is no updated information on MAR.
- Stakeholders on MAR are identified, and there are steering committees and focal points for international processes such as CBD and UNFCCC. However, it is not certain what data are to be provided to the international processes. The highest priority is to develop or collect updated data and improve stakeholders' capabilities for that purpose.

Cambodia

- In Cambodia, technical working groups and a national steering committee (NSC) have already been established by DANIDA with the national government, which would be equivalent to NN.
- The NN is required for MAR for suitable decision makings and international reporting, but few things are yet achieved. It is necessary to develop capacities for NN.
- The C&I process is based on the guidelines of ITTO, but the question is what kinds of data should be provided with different comments on C&I inside the government. Even developed countries cannot easily measure and monitor C&I. It is more difficult for Cambodia.

Guidance on proposals for national activities on MAR-SFM (FAO/Masahiro Otsuka)

Objectives of proposals for national activities on MAR-SFM are to accommodate MAR-SFM activities to needs/situations of countries, facilitate coherent MAR-SFM activities under the project/RUP by clarifying their targets and approaches. Proposals should be consistent with the project/RUP at the Development Phase (2006 - 2007) aiming at innovation/elaboration of MAR through diagnostic studies, expert consultations, training courses, workshops, etc. Logical formulation of proposals with a framework is recommended by definition of components of activities. Proposed activities need to be prioritised for optimal collaboration. They should be oriented to pilot programmes at sample sites, representative and applicable to other programmes. They should be achieved within a year (2007) through early monitoring and evaluation with clear indicators.

Recommended activities would include:

1. For the development of NN

- Identify and characterise stakeholders
- Design a network and coordination mechanisms
- Build capacities for MAR activities

2. Harmonisation of MAR

- Analyse MAR development processes
- Analyse operational mechanisms on forest-related information
- Elaborate alternative methods
- Initiate harmonised definitions & terms
- Innovate data compilation/review methods
- Initiate national processes of harmonisation of international reporting

3. Development of forest policies with MAR-SFM

- Raise awareness of major stakeholders
- Assess capacity building needs for policy development
- Review current policy development/implementation and their effects in SFM
- Identify key areas of MAR for effective SFM policy
- Build capacities for forest policy/national planning

Field demonstration, establishment of databases, and information networking will be postponed to the Implementation Phase (2008 - 2010).

Budgets for the proposed activities should be prepared in a cost-effective way through precise and realistic estimation for obtaining maximum outputs with small inputs. Self-reliant budgeting is recommended for maximal utilisation of domestic financial resources. It is necessary to consider justification for external assistance and sustainability of activities after the end of assistance in requesting funds from the project. Effective accounting systems should be elaborated.

Due to limitations on financial support from the project, selection of countries and activities would be required by consideration of country conditions in terms of technical/economic capabilities. Partnership would also be explored with national agencies/stakeholders, other schemes of FAO, other countries by the South-South Cooperation, and other international/bilateral organisations to supplement funds.

Proposals have been received from 7 countries until now. Proposed activities include studies on MAR (C&I, etc.), studies and development of national networks, and capacity building for development of MAR. Activities to be implemented at the Implementation Phase have to be excluded from the proposals. Periods of programmes range between 1 year and 5 years, while the project accepts only one-year programmes. Multiyear and countrywide programmes should be downsized. Some proposals aim at comprehensive coverage of programmes in the whole country, but it is necessary to consider if they can be implemented only at selected areas. Implementing organisations are the forestry administration in all proposals. The requested amount of funds is varied between USD 5,000 and USD 300,000. Smaller fund requests will be more realistic for their approval. The proportion of self-reliance (self-funding) is 27.7% in average out of the total budget per country.

Criteria for the selection of the proposed programmes include relevance to the project, technical and financial feasibility, governance, current performances such as development of national

networks, and justification for external funding. Project funds may be allocated to countries at different levels, subject to deliberations inside FAO.

A particular form of agreement will need to be concluded for the collaboration between FAO and national governments. The agreement usually states objectives of programmes, activities, general conditions (responsibilities), reporting processes, disbursement/accounting, and monitoring/evaluation. Appropriate processes are being discussed inside FAO.

➤ **Discussions (1)**

Pakistan

The question is about the commonality of this project for each country. For harmonisation of MAR with other regions and finalisation of reporting formats in Pakistan, resource persons will be demanded from FAO to support the national consultancy. They will be essential to plan and implement activities on MAR continuously.

India

NN actually has some resources to realise activities, highlighting capacity building and assessment, but the budget problem still exists. Development of indicators toward SFM, including socio-economic indicators, is essential besides ecological aspects for MAR. National institutions should be developed well.

Bangladesh

- It is expected that countries that already have NN could give support to other inexperienced countries, based on their development experiences. Bangladesh is at the very initial stage for harmonisation of MAR, working in different criteria. It is expected that FAO can support these areas of activities through NN as already presented in its proposal.
- Functional networks are desired for capacity building/training of stakeholders through assessment of actual situations for better MAR-SFM systems in consultation with them, identifying underlying problems. It is important to set standards for MAR covering 9 processes related to dry forest SFM (8 criteria, 44 indicators), such as biodiversity, ecosystem, socio-economic aspects, forest resources, etc., referring to 7 criteria and 66 indicators of ITTO.
- NN will have to customise environmental field conditions and forest-related management in the country in consideration of current conditions. Declining ecosystem health by livestock is a problem in this country, but criteria of ITTO is minimal on this subject without significant changes. Different indicators should be developed in accordance with the country conditions. Thus the first task of NN should be to prepare a harmonised MAR reporting system among various processes, and then develop a policy-related MAR system.

Philippines

In the process of formal or informal reporting, the country is dedicated to a planning process on global FRA for SFM, having socio-economic and political aspects in C&I processes. The workshop will be planned on the C&I process next June. The concern is the prescription for the FRA reporting which should be completed in 2008 and its linkage with this project. There are not so many NN to assess SFM so far. It is necessary to adapt NN for harmonisation and policy formulation in line with the finalisation of GFRA 2010 by FAO-HQ. The country must submit parameters to GFRA as inter-implementation phase, requiring the review of many C&I in GFRA 2005. Capacity building of related institutions is needed for their networking by compliance with FRA processes.

FAO

- As already presented, there may be three categories of country activities (NN, harmonisation, policy). We can adopt step-by-step processes, and groundwork will be central for developing MAR through regional collaboration during the next year (2007), leading to the implementation phase for the rest three years.
- Due to funding constraints, smaller funds are more realistic, focusing on immediate actions. There may be more funds beyond the project provided from some countries or other FAO schemes to key components, including NFP small grant facility. Some resources will be mobilised with flexibility as the potential funding. Essential is to develop more important components of activities for securer funding. In order to cope with funding limitations, we may suggest grouping of national programmes or specific needs of countries into regional programmes of FAO such as training workshops in India and China rather than implementing them individually.
- There is no worry about NN discussions, in which participants will articulate relevant issues on MAR and see how FRA is evolved as a good basis for NN meetings. International organisations are engaged in setting up frameworks for harmonisation of the global programmes. Guidance will come down from the above, providing NN with opportunities, processes, and mechanisms for harmonisation.

Pakistan`

- There may be no problem in identification of C&I process. A national framework of C&I will be developed by some testing and implementation. However, capacity building of stakeholders and institutions is needed for validation of data at the local level in line with national processes and international processes such as ITTO, Montreal Process, etc. Regarding the project funding, the overall commitment of FAO to the entire programme should be ensured by simultaneous implementation of all activity sets. NN meetings, studies, and all other activities should not be implemented separately. The framework of RUP covers comprehensive programmes of MAR-SFM as a good example. FAO must support the comprehensive MAR programme, even though priorities should be given to certain activities for selective funding. If not so, activities would be crippled.

3.3. Group Discussions on RUPA

Objectives of group discussions include:

1. Intensive discussion on the formulation of the regional umbrella plan of activities (RUPA) with country proposals for national activities
2. Clarification of involvement of each country in the regional umbrella programme (RUP).

Expected outputs of the group discussions were the shared consensus on RUP, clarification of modes of collaboration/roles of countries under RUP, prioritisation of national project activities/components in line with RUP, evolution of regional/national networks, and strengthening of partnership among countries.

The groups performed the following tasks with facilitators appointed from the participants as well as FAO staff as moderators:

1. Grouping/prioritisation of national project activities/components under RUP
2. Determination of targets/indicators - monitoring/evaluation
3. Budgeting of activities/components of RUP
4. Elaboration of roles/responsibilities for activities/components
5. Consideration of linkages of project activities with other programmes
6. Review of national networks on MAR-SFM and their regional linkages

7. Deliberation of regional cooperation

Three groups were organised for discussions, considering the regional balance of the participants:

Group 1 (7 countries)

Bangladesh (Chairperson/facilitator), China, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Group 2 (6 countries)

Cambodia, Japan, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines (Chairperson/facilitator), Thailand

Group 3 (6 countries)

Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea (Chairperson/facilitator), Vanuatu

These groups discussed the MAR-SFM activities by characterisation of current status, responsible agencies, issues and concerns, potential solutions, proposed activities, estimated budgets, potential partners, and perspectives of regional collaboration for the three components of RUP (1. National networks (NN); 2. Harmonisation of MAR; 3. Use of MAR information for policy/planning on SFM) by country, referring to the logical framework of RUP for MAR-SFM and presentation materials. A draft RUPA was elaborated at sub-group levels for later synthesis.

The following are outputs of discussions by each group.

1. Group 1

Group 1 discussed issues on NN at the country level. Details of discussions are attached in **Appendix 4 (a)**.

NN was already established in India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, while Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal have not yet. China established NN for national reporting but not yet for international reporting. The lead responsible agency of NN is the forestry/environmental government organisation in all countries.

Issues on NN are:

- Bangladesh
 - Lack of awareness and understanding
 - Difficult monitoring of MAR
 - Lack of funding
 - Hard setting of a secretariat for NN
- Bhutan
 - Lack of funding
 - Low awareness for MAR-SFM
- China
 - NN is not the efficient way to harmonise the working system.
 - The department responsible for international reporting is unwilling to set up NN currently
- India
 - Identifying gaps in the implementation of SFM
 - Capacity gaps between global and national forest policies
 - Appropriate policy intervention at the national level
 - Harmonisation of reporting on SFM
 - Assessment of the sustainability of forests with indicators for SFM
- Nepal
 - Lack of funds
 - Lack of common understanding between government organisations (GOs) and NGOs

- Constraints on planning and policy making processes for MAR-SFM
- Lack of linkages between GOs and NGOs
- Lack of information to be sent to national and international processes
- Pakistan
 - Lack of coordination among the MAR institution
 - MAR-SFM is a project-based approach but not yet internalised
 - Lack of capacities of concerned institutions for standardised techniques
 - No national standards on SFM information processing and reporting
- Sri Lanka
 - Lack of awareness on MAR among stakeholders

Potential solutions to these problems would be:

- Bangladesh
 - Funding support is needed
 - Workshop/meetings and studies should be conducted
- Bhutan
 - Funding support is needed
 - Workshop/meetings and studies should be conducted
- China
 - Harmonise all international reporting responsibilities into one department.
 - Expand the NFI system into a harmonised MAR system to cope with all forest-related MAR requirements.
- India
 - Capacity building of working plan institution for the assessment of the sustainability of forest management
 - Adjusting indicators on the basis of diverse ecological, socio-cultural, and economic aspects
 - Inventory of non-timber forest products (NTFPs)
- Nepal
 - FAO should financially support the establishment of NN
- Pakistan
 - Studies on MAR-SFM
 - Statistical analysis at the national level and its integration into Asia-Pacific reports
 - Regional studies on recommended/globally accepted technologies, methodologies and reporting formats
 - Ensuring the viability, sustainability and functional linkages between intra- and inter-NNs by facilitating partner organisations
 - Training on NN organisations, both in-country and international, on prescribed modules
 - Deputing highly qualified and experienced resource persons of FAO to Pakistan to facilitate these activities for ensuring the consistency among them.
- Sri Lanka
 - Awareness building through meetings

Common issues emerged out of these analyses, such as lack of funds, lack of linkages between GOs and NGOs, lack of coordination among MAR institutions, lack of awareness of international obligations and processes, and lack of awareness among stakeholders.

Based on these discussions, each country prioritised activities as seen in the **Appendix 4 (a)**. Most countries opted for the strengthening of NNs and studies on situations of MAR, C&I, and needs for policies/planning, followed by capacity building/training on harmonisation of MAR and policy development and dialogues with policy makers.

Budgetary demands are quite high for the proposed activities in these countries except in Sri Lanka where the total budget is estimated at USD 9,000 out of which USD 6,000 are requested from FAO. Other countries estimate the total budget at USD 72,850 for one year to USD 323,333 for five years, out of which USD 52,520 to USD 263,333 are requested from FAO.

Group 1 also planned the organisation of NN and its meetings as seen in **Appendix 5**.

2. Group 2

Group 2 discussed the three components of the RUP. Characterisation of countries on MAR-SFM is presented in **Appendix 4 (b)**. The following are the summary of their discussions.

A. NN

Japan and Myanmar established formal NNs, while others only have existing informal coordination/collaborative arrangements. Responsible organisations are mostly national forestry/environmental agencies.

Issues and concerns are:

- For the countries having NN
 - Expansion of membership to include forest users and forestry industries associations
 - Identification of GO- and NGO-members
 - Organising local user groups
- For countries without NN
 - Elaboration of rationale/TOR for NN
 - Identification of focal points/host organisation and other relevant stakeholders
 - Lack of participation/commitment among potential partners
 - Resource sharing
 - Logistical arrangements

Proposed activities are:

- Conduct of stakeholder analysis
- Studies on coordination processes
- Development of TOR (forms and functions) for NN or strengthening existing informal arrangements
- Raising awareness on MAR-SFM among stakeholders

Budget will be prepared mostly with commitments from internal sources. Yet Lao PDR, Myanmar and Philippines expressed needs for external financial assistance with the amount of \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$2,000 respectively. Potential partners will be other local forestry/forest-related organisations, focal points for international conventions/commitments and those identified in stakeholder analysis, FAO, and other donor agencies.

B. Harmonisation of MAR

There are many existing methods, systems and mechanisms in harmonisation, such as national inventories, C & I, remote sensing, databases, etc. Responsible organisations are mostly by national forestry agencies, research institutions, statistics offices, and other NN members.

Issues and concerns on harmonisation are:

- Lack of data, common data sets, common definitions and methodologies
- Insufficient GIS data

- Outdated/obsolete data
- Non-verifiable data
- Conflicting reports derived from different interpretations of same data set
- Scope and coverage of harmonisation
- Other barriers to harmonisation

Proposed activities include:

- Conduct of diagnostic/comprehensive studies
- Scoping on existing methods/systems/mechanisms on MAR-SFM for harmonisation
- Development of design for harmonisation and pilot testing
- Capability building

Funds will be provided mostly with internal budget, but there are still needs for external financial support for Cambodia, Lao PDR (USD 20,000), and Philippines (USD 10,000). Potential partners will be other local forest-related organisations within the ministries, focal points for international conventions/commitments (FAO, ITTO, etc.) and other related institutions and donor agencies.

C. Use of MAR for Policy and Planning

Except in Japan, there is apparent lack of direct relationship but weak linkage between MAR and policy development and planning for SFM. Responsible organisations should be mostly national forestry agencies.

Issues and concerns on policies/planning with MAR include:

- No or insufficient data
- Unreliable data
- Lack of common understanding of forest statistics, terms and definitions
- Limited use of forestry information in policy and planning
- Limited appreciation of policy development processes

Proposed activities are:

- Conduct of diagnostic studies on existing policy development systems
- Orientations to enhance understanding on forestry statistics
- Clarification of terms and definitions
- Capacity building on data collection, analysis and reporting

Budget will be estimated mostly with internal financial resources, but there are still needs for external budgetary support for Cambodia, Lao PDR (\$30,000), Myanmar (\$25,000) and Philippines (\$15,000). Potential partners will be other local forestry/forest-related organisations, FAO, ITTO and other related institutions and donor agencies.

Apart from these national activities, the following regional activities are proposed in high priority:

1. A three-day meeting on the development of “terms of reference” for the establishment of NN (or strengthening existing coordination mechanisms) and identification of needs and gaps (within the first six months).
2. A one-week workshop on systems for collection, analysis, and reporting of existing forestry data for the development of harmonised MAR (including design for pilot-testing) (during the first six months)
3. Pilot-testing of harmonised MAR (during the second six months or later)

4. A one-day orientation meeting with policy makers for their better understanding of forestry information (during the first six months)
5. A one-week workshop on the role of MAR in policy development and planning (including the study of existing policy development processes and corresponding data and information requirements) (during the second 6 months)
6. Awareness building on MAR-SFM among stakeholders through various modes (e.g. media exposure, meetings, etc.) (continued)

3. Group 3

The following descriptions are the summary of discussion results of Group 3. Details of discussions are attached in **Appendix 4 (c)**.

A. NN

NN for MAR was already established in New Zealand and Mongolia (for the initial meeting), while other countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, and Vanuatu) have not yet initiated it. Responsible organisations are forest-related government agencies.

Issues on NN are:

1. Lack of awareness of NN (Indonesia, Mongolia, etc.)
2. Poor coordination (Indonesia, Mongolia)
3. Lack of expertise to set up NN (Indonesia, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu)
4. Lack of budget (Indonesia, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu)

Solutions would be:

- Increase awareness of NN role
 - Workshop for NN members including a presentation of FAO on objectives of the MAR-SFM project
 - Distribution of publications on project goals
 - Media (website/radio/TV) to promote worth of NN
- Increase coordination
 - Regular meetings or communications (utilising phone and email)
- Increase capacity
 - Training for coordinators
 - Sharing experience with other countries
- Overcome monetary constraints
 - Internal/long term proposal to the Ministry of Finance for financial support
 - Use of internal resources (e.g., timber export levies) to fund work
 - Looking for other donor institutions (though not available for all countries)
 - Finding low-cost solutions (e.g. teleconferencing)
 - Plan meetings to coincide with other sectors

Proposed activities for 2007 cover the 1.1.1. - 1.2.4. of the framework (see **Appendix 6.**) for Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia and 1.1.3. - 1.1.5. for Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu. New Zealand has already achieved these activities. Some countries designed NNs and their meetings as presented in **Appendix 5**.

B. Harmonisation

Though some countries make efforts to expedite the harmonisation of MAR information, their performances are still limited as a whole.

Issues on the harmonisation of MAR include:

- Collection of information by different stakeholders
- Ambiguous decisions on what to collect
- Unclear variables to collect data for SFM
- Not standardised collection methods with discrepancies among them
- Recognition of different country characteristics
- Out-of-date information (on forest cover) or lack of information
- Differences within country data sets
- Different processes on collection and reporting of data

Solutions to them will be:

- Standardisation of variables to collect
- Clarification of definitions being used
- Efforts of international groups to harmonise their requirements/definitions for reporting of national governments
- Recognition that only one set of indicators will not suit all countries

Proposed activities generally include:

- Studies on current situation under MAR (to be achieved in all countries in 2007)
- Develop guidelines for how to harmonise national processes to international processes
- Training on requirements under each agreement
- Discussion about reporting burdens between foresters and the organisations setting requirements
- Independent review of datasets with recommendations on how to harmonise
- Updating information.

New Zealand will focus on the harmonisation at the national level in 2.2. of the framework.

C. Use of MAR information for policy and planning

Currently, Indonesia uses satellite-based data for forest cover, spatial distribution of cover, and ground checking. Information is used for timber permits and classification of forest for land-use planning. Malaysia is using MAR information for planning and policy (forest and environment) and development of the third industrial master plan and the five-year plan. Mongolia has just started implementation of the second phase of the national forest programme in 2006 (the first phase started 6 years ago). More MAR information will be included in the second phase. New Zealand is making high-level planning for forestry, social, and environmental benefits, and MAR information is used for planning and policy setting for native forest. Papua New Guinea releases guidelines for the use of MAR information, intent for the national forest plan and policy to be based on it. Vanuatu currently uses existing information for policy and planning. Despite their current efforts, however, most of the countries still face limitations on the use of MAR information for policy/planning.

Issues on policy-related MAR include:

- Reporting systems are not yet set up or difficult as a wide source of information
- Lack of coordination of reporting and timeliness of information
- Out-of-date data
- Unavailability/inaccessibility of data
- Unsuitability of data for planning
- Inconsistent data used by different people for planning
- Difficult quantification of non tangibles (water, ecotourism, etc.)
- Political reasons overriding decisions made on MAR

- Exclusive information ownership/custody and lack of sharing

Solutions to them would be:

- Stakeholder management
- Workshop on how to use information in planning
- Sharing experience
- Development of databases/websites to share information
- Cost sharing on collection of data so that they are available to all
- Research into quantifying non-tangibles

Proposed activities include:

- Workshop on methods on how to classify land into different uses/zones (GIS training)
- Research project into quantifying non-tangibles
- Meetings/use of media to raise awareness of available information
- Development of database structure to store information
- Development of guidelines for the use of MAR

Other issues were also discussed inside Group 3, addressing:

- Clear definitions and use of terms are needed for the process of FAO
- Where do we need a NSC
- If country projects are not selected, what purpose will NNs have
- What does harmonisation include (Harmonisation of data from different sources, what we report, way of reporting, who is responsible at the national/international levels, etc.)

3.4. Joint Wrap-up Discussions

Based on the group discussions, the following synthesis was made:

Item	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Countries	Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka	Cambodia, Japan, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand	Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu
Common Issues	- No established NN - No harmonised MAR-SFM - Lack of resources and trained manpower - Lack of stakeholder awareness	- Only one functional NN - No harmonised MAR-SFM - Inadequate resources and trained manpower - Lack of commitment among stakeholders - No established linkage between MAR and policy development in SFM	- Awareness or role of NN - Coordination, budget, expertise - Many information sources and no common source - Many reporting processes - Information quality - Quantifying non-tangibles of SFM
Differences, if any			- Country size - Current institutional frameworks
Prioritised Activity	- Focal Points' offices - Meetings of NN-MAR - Meetings of expert groups - Meetings of Steering Committees - Capacity building - Situational analysis of MAR-SFM	- Three-day meeting to develop TOR for NN and identification of needs and gaps - one-week workshop to harmonise MAR - pilot-testing of harmonised MAR	- Clarification or role of NN - Training to coordinators of NN - Clarification of definitions/reporting requirements - Training on requirements and how to meet them. - Independent review of country data sets for harmonisation

	- C&I identification and testing - Field trial of C&I	- One-day meeting on forestry information for policy-makers - One-week workshop on MAR in policy development months - Awareness building among stakeholders	- International groups to harmonise their requirements - Raising awareness on use of MAR through guidelines - Research into quantifying non-tangibles - Support for database development
Implementing Organisations	- Mostly the Department of Forests - In other cases, forestry related organisations	- Mostly national forestry agencies, FAO and other assisting agencies	- Mostly government departments are main implementing organisations: Ministry of Forestry/Forestry Departments/ Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Budget	USD 1.4 million	To be decided	Not looked at
Remarks			- Terms of roles of players used by FAO are not always clear (e.g. focal point, NPC, etc.) - Some confusion over the purpose of NN if a country's proposal is not selected. It takes an effort to get people involved in NN meetings. It is easier to sell a specific purpose to people with the existence of the project for soliciting their input.

The following discussions were made:

Bhutan

- Deliberation of the proposal of each country should be processed in a secret way, and only the general comparison could be made at the joint discussion.
- It is recognised that improved MAR is necessary to formulate a strategy on SFM on which a number of people depends.
- Thereby capacity building is important for stakeholders including NGOs and private sectors. MAR should also concern regional variations on SFM. For example, most of the Asian countries have a bigger scope for NTFP to satisfy people's needs. Therefore, assessment of NTFP should be given higher priority for sustaining present and future generations.

India

- It is expected that this project plays a catalytic role in harmonisation of MAR activities for promoting SFM.

FAO

- Formulation of a plan (RUPA) has two dimensions, e.g., combination of national project proposals and identification of common activities/resources. All proposed activities of individual countries will be assessed for prioritisation, but common activities will not. It may be favourable to integrate common national activities in a regional programme due to the financial constraints. A short list of priority activities of similar categories would be incorporated into a common pool of regional programmes.
- Efforts of participants are appreciated very much for providing tremendous wealth of ideas. However, proposed programmes might be overly ambitious, requiring for realistic modifications. Lower amount of funds will be faster to realise. It is also important to avoid reliance on highly demanding structure in terms of bureaucracy and money to reduce risks. Much money should not be allocated for NN in terms of sustainability. In the past experience

of FAO, programmes with large external funding have no longer been functional since the end of financial assistance.

- Harmonisation work will be one of the promising groups of activities to be supported in congruence with positive stances of international organisations for minimising reporting burdens. There is considerable progress in FAO, ITTO, EUROSTAT, CBD, etc., using a joint questionnaire. Harmonisation of definitions is one of the significant components of the international programmes, but it may still be difficult at national levels. In the series of the workshops harmonisation of forest-related definitions will be taken up.
- It is a good suggestion that the project catalyze the harmonised MAR process in project countries, focusing on international agreements and needs of different countries. NN will be the major focus of the project as a vehicle for coordination on MAR at the initial stage. It is fortunate to see a number of ideas from the participants on NN, but they may still be frustrated at its development process with overly ambitious financial requests. It is desired that they reach a common understanding of NN after this workshop. NN is expected to start up much faster with its first meeting. Some countries plan NN meetings next April or later, probably because of much more formal processes. There may be discussion on formalisation or institutional setting of NN, and in such a case it may be recommended that informal task forces or working groups be formulated prior to larger NNs to initiate discussions on MAR.
- Policy issues on MAR will be the third step after NNs and harmonisation, coming out in viable regional activities and national policy making processes. A long-term master plan will be required for decision makings on forestry.
- The tremendous range of budget is found in country proposals. Budget expectations should be realistic. Smaller funds and activities are more realistic and much easier. Activities will also have to be achieved within a year. The estimation of Group 1 is unrealistic and very difficult to realise. The budget size needs to be adapted to capacities of the project, sources of funding and overall needs. Existing proposals will be further discussed through our communications for giving priority to viable activity options with attention to scale and time-frame by a stepwise approach. There are more than enough ideas to be prioritised within existing resources into national activities and common regional activities.
- Concerning the presentation of Group 3.
 - It sounds difficult to quantify needs for forest resources, but it is questionable if there are really no projects that take on this issue
 - For different data sources, there may be a need to track different places to synthesise an issue through accessing networks.
 - NN will be a larger basis for decision making on MAR, while NSC may be a core group of NN for simple solutions on the project. There should be a consensus for their good foundation.
 - As for the purpose of NN in countries not selected for intensive project support, NN is not the product of the project nor needed only for the project. Every country should initiate NN as a basic mechanism to support packages of MAR activities. The project can nothing but catalyse it. Some countries already established NN before the project, restructuring it for better functioning. Other countries should learn how to establish NN from these countries, trying to minimise requirements from the project.

Pakistan

- It is desired that all activity sets in the framework be supported together in a package. The framework covers the comprehensive programmes of MAR to be undertaken. Is it not realistic to have all activities in the project? Although overly ambition is obvious, but the project should take up a lot of ideas which will come up in later communications.
- Countries may require coherent responses from FAO. Most of the detailed comments of FAO are fit well to the countries. Regarding the consensus on the project, however, they may still require modifications for collective formulation of its concepts.

India

- The project is expected to promote effective reporting processes at the national level to push forward SFM in the country. Common reporting formats will need to be facilitated.

Philippines (synthesis)

- The key issue is lack of common understanding in terms of resources and capacities in the harmonisation of MAR-SFM. It is essential to know how to share the commonality of MAR-SFM in the project.
- Each country sets priorities for activities with its variations on forestry programmes. The first priority should be NN, and assistance from other countries is expected for it. In the network setting the crucial issue is who is in the best position to identify a host institution. Formal and informal structure of NN which is very different among countries needs to be identified as a common priority issue. Needs for capacity building to members of networks are also an important issue. It is crucial to leverage resources for other agencies to analyse data in NNs.
- The general purpose of the workshop is to present ideas on MAR for SFM through consultations, and the participants will take earlier action to harmonise MAR based on guidelines for MAR. We give priority to activity areas on the scope of MAR for quick reaction, identifying needs for activities next year, including policy development. Information will be shared among stakeholders with their common needs for harmonisation of data, learning other cases. Awareness increase is also important to stakeholders, promoting generators to collect harmonised data.
- MAR programmes will be implemented by national forest-related institutions, but roles of international organisations such as FAO are essential to provide them with technical assistance. The project is expected to catalyse NN for harmonisation of MAR.
- Estimation of budget for the RUP will be accommodated to country priorities for harmonised MAR, associated with specific actions based on real needs. The RUP will cover national and regional programmes on MAR-SFM. It would be a good idea to set up round tables and regional workshops for further discussions on the RUP.
- The challenging issue is the lack of financial resources to support ideas of countries. However, too much prioritisation should not be conducted, but FAO should seek further opportunities to catalyse a whole set of activities under RUP as working groups expect it.

Sri Lanka

- It is important to mobilise realistic resources to the programme not to be disappointed. Good ideas were obtained for the workshop. This workshop provided satisfactory results with the participants' discussions.
- Efforts of the MAR-SFM project are appreciated for organisation of workshops and communications with the national focal points for their participation.

FAO

- It is desired that this project will be successful through positive collaboration. The Forestry Officer in charge will visit countries to intensify discussions on the collaboration.
- FAO will deliberate proposals of project countries, but it may take some time for adjustments.

4. Conclusions and Suggestions

The workshop provided productive results on the formulation of RUPA under RUP through presentations and discussions among the participants. They improved their common understanding of concepts of MAR-SFM and RUP in general. They articulated their needs and priority activities on MAR-SFM (NNs, studies, capacity building, communications, etc.) with

some budget estimation in line with the framework of the RUP. They were also motivated to establish NNs and organise their first meetings.

Meanwhile, the participants share common problems on MAR-SFM, such as lack of financial and technical capacities, lack of awareness and coordination among stakeholders, deficiencies or lack of consistency in data, etc. On the other hand, they are eager to comprehend RUP more specifically in their national contexts, while maintaining its common concept.

Budget estimation might be overambitious in several countries, requiring further modifications. Some participants requested holistic support from the MAR-SFM project to their countries for all the activity sets of RUP in order that MAR activities are not crippled. Nevertheless, prioritisation of activities will still be required for realistic management of overall activities under RUP by stepwise approaches.

Discussions with the participants revealed the further necessity for clarification of the RUP, including: i) Integration of varied needs and approaches of member countries into the common concept of RUP; ii) Balancing of regional and national programmes under the project; iii) Criteria for selection of national programmes and participating countries; iv) Modes of collaboration with member countries under the RUP; v) Effective allocation of budget to the selected national programmes; vi) Structure (membership, leadership) and functions of NNs; and vii) recognition and utilisation of existing informal networks as NNs for MAR-SFM.

Based on the workshop discussions, proposed programmes will be reviewed carefully inside FAO for the finalisation of RUPA. Development of NNs, diagnostic studies on MAR-SFM, and capacity building for strengthening MAR will be the main focus of the RUPA. Among them the development of NNs with their meetings will be the first priority in most project countries, as it is an essential vehicle for development of MAR-SFM prior to other programmes. Allocation of funds will be determined deliberately to selected project countries in consideration of their current needs and capacities. Joint regional programmes will also be organised by FAO to respond to the stated common needs of the participating countries for MAR-SFM, such as capacity building and thematic discussions.

The MAR-SFM project will make efforts to intensify collaboration with the project countries under RUP through organisation of appropriate national and regional programmes.

5. Acknowledgements

FAO would like to express its gratitude to DNP-MONRE and other collaborating organisations as well as the Suriwongse Hotel for their cordial support to the workshop.

Appendices

Appendix 1: List of Participants

Appendix 2: Agenda of the Workshop

Appendix 3: Welcome and closing addresses

Appendix 4: Results of working group discussions

- a. Group 1
- b. Group 2
- c. Group 3

Appendix 5: Plan on organisation of national networks (NNs) and their meetings

Appendix 6: Logical framework of the Regional Umbrella Programme (RUP)

Appendix 1 – List of Participants

1. National Correspondents

No	Country	Name of focal point (participant)	Title, Organisation, Address	City	Tel./Fax.	e-mail	Confirmation
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8	Lao PDR	Mr. Thongphath Vongmany (Focal point)	Director, Forest Inventory and Planning Division - Department of Forestry Vientiane, PO Box: 3892, Lao PDR	Vientiane	Tel. : 856 2141 3184 Fax. : 856 2156 1181	thong_leuang@yahoo.com	Confirmed
9	Malaysia	Mr. Mr. Masran bin Mohammad Salleh	Director of Forest Management, Forestry Department Headquarters, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Peninsular Malaysia Jalan Sultan Salahuddin, 50660 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur	Tel.: 603-26164540 Fax.: 603-26965657	masran@forestry.gov.my	Confirmed
10	Mongolia	Ms. Zagdaa Narangerel (Focal point)	Forest Database Specialist, Forest and Water Research Center, Ministry of Nature and Environment, Chingeltei District, Baruun Selbe-1, Academy of Science Building-2, Mongolia	Chingeltei	Tel.: 976-91163132 976-51-263341 Fax.: 976-11-321401	znarangerel@yahoo.com	Confirmed
11	Myanmar	Mr. U. Sann Lwin (Focal point)	Pro-Rector/Director, Forest Department, Ministry of Forestry, C/O Office of the Director-General, Ministry of Forestry Building No (28), Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar	Nay Pyi Taw	Tel.: 95 067 405399 Fax.: 95 1 644201	slwin@mail4u.com.mm teaknet@mptmail.net.mm hminmaung@gmail.com	Confirmed
12	Nepal	Mr. Shree Gopal Jha (Deputy)	Deputy Director General (G.O. First), Department of Forest Research and Survey, PO Box 3339, Babar Mahal, Kathmandu, NEPAL	Kathmandu	Tel.: 977 1 4224943 Fax.: 977 1 4220159	shreegja@yahoo.com	Confirmed
13	New Zealand	Ms. Bridget Veronica Geard (Deputy)	Policy Analyst, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry PO Box 2526, Wellington, New Zealand	Wellington	Tel.: 64 4 894 4100 Fax.: 64 4 894 0741	bridget.geard@maf.govt.nz	Confirmed
14	Pakistan	Dr. Shahzad Jehangir (Deputy)	Deputy Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Environment, 2 nd Floor, Hajvary Plaza Blue Area, Islamabad, Pakistan	Islamabad	Tel.: 92 51 9219051 Fax.: 92 51 9204280	jehangir2000@hotmail.com	confirmed
15	Papua New Guinea	Mr. Vitus Bandebangu Ambia (Focal point)	Forest Planning Division, Papua New Guinea Forest Authority P.O Box 5055, Boroko, N.C.D Port	Port Moresby	Tel.: 675 311 3312 675 327 7874 Fax.: 675 3254433	vambia@pngfa.gov.pg	Confirmed

			Moresby, Papua New Guinea		675 327 7839		
16	Philippines	Mr. Marcial Amaro Jr. (Focal point)	Director, Forest Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1100	Quezon City	Tel.: 63 2 9274788/ 63 2 9289313 Fax.: 63 2 9200374	fmbdenr@mozcom.com amaromarsjr@yahoo.com mayquin@mozcom.com	Confirmed (?)
17	Sri Lanka	Mr. Ariyadasa Patabendi Kalutantri (Focal point)	Conservator of Forests, Forest Department, 82, Rajamalwatta Road, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka	Battaramulla	Tel.: 94 112 866624 Fax.: 94 112 866633	aridas@slt.lk ariyadasa@yahoo.com	Confirmed
18	Thailand	Mr. Chudchawan Sutthisrisilapa (Focal point)	Director, Planning and Information Office, National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department (DNP), Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MONRE) 61 Phaholyothin, Chatuchak, Bangkok, Thailand 10900	Bangkok	Tel.: 66 2 5799533 Fax.: 66 2 5799533	csutthi@gmail.com chudsut@yahoo.com chudsut@hotmail.com	Confirmed (One more person from another department?)
19	Thailand	Mr. Jerdpong Makaramari	Director of Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Planning and Information Office, DNP/MONRE61 Phaholyothin, Chatuchak, Bangkok, Thailand 10900	Bangkok	Tel.: 66 2 5799533 Fax.: 66 2 5799533		Spontaneous participation (at the expense of the Thai government)
20	Thailand	Mr. Adisorn Moochdamrong	Forestry Officer, Division of CITES, National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment 61 Phaholyothin, Chatuchak, Bangkok, Thailand 10900	Bangkok	Tel.: 66 2 5799533 Fax.: 66 2 5799533		Spontaneous participation (at the expense of the Thai government)
21	Vanuatu	Mr. Raxon Viranamangga (Focal point)	Senior Forest Officer - Planning, Vanuatu Department of Forests, Ministry of Agriculture, Quarantine, Forestry and Fisheries Private Mail Bag 9064 Port Vila, Vanuatu	Port Vila	Tel.: 678 23171 Fax.: 678 25051	virarexon@yahoo.com	Confirmed

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Appendix 2 – Agenda of the workshop

Regional Workshop on Development of Regional Umbrella Annual Plan of Activities under the MAR - SFM Project (GCP/INT/988/JPN)

Suriwongse Hotel, Chiang Mai, Thailand
31 October - 2 November 2006

30 October 2006, Monday	
	Arrival of the participants
31 October 2006, Tuesday (plenary)	
08:00 - 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 09:30	Welcome address ➤ FAO ➤ Thai government (30 minutes in total)
09:30 - 10:00	Self-introduction
10:00 - 10:30	Refreshments - Coffee/tea break
10:30 - 12:00	Session 1: Introduction to the MAR-SFM project
	Presentations of FAO: ➤ Introduction to the workshop programme (contents and methods) ➤ Review of outcomes of the Sapporo workshop in Japan, 24-28 July, 2006 ➤ Outline of the regional umbrella programme (RUP) under the MAR-SFM project ➤ General guidelines for the development of a regional umbrella plan of activities (RUPA) (40 minutes in total)
	Discussion (50 minutes)
12:00 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 15:30	Session 2: Background Presentations & Discussions
	Presentation of FAO on guidelines for national networks (10 minutes)
	Presentations of workshop participants on national networks for MAR-SFM (45 minutes)
	Discussion on the development of national networks for MAR-SFM (65 minutes)
15:30 - 16:00	Refreshments - Coffee/tea break
16:00 - 17:00	Discussion (continued) (45 minutes)
	Synthesis (15 minutes)
17:00	End
19:00 -	Welcome dinner

1 November 2006, Wednesday (group/breakout rooms)	
08:30 – 09:30	Session 2: Background Presentations & Discussions (continued)
	Presentation of FAO on country proposals for national projects on MAR-SFM and priority on their activities (15 minutes)
	Presentation of FAO on sub-regional discussions (10 minutes)
	Discussion on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of activity components and prioritised programmes by grouping activities in national proposals • Development of components of the regional umbrella plan of activities • Prioritisation of components/activities by development of common principles of RUP • Development of broad cost ranges for different activities of member countries in adaptation to their actual socio-economic situations • Evolution of linkages of RUP under MAR-SFM with other regional/international programmes of FAO or other organisations • Development of administrative systems to support RUP • Development of a process to coordinate and enhance opportunities for regional networking for cooperation and information sharing (35 minutes)
09:30 – 10:30	Session 3: Group discussion by sub-regional groups (East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, South Pacific Islands)
	Organisation of sub-regional groups with participants (10 minutes)
	Discussion on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grouping and prioritisation of national project activities under various components of the regional umbrella plan • Determination of targets and indicators for monitoring/evaluation of the progress in each proposed activity • Budgeting the activities and components of the regional umbrella plan by defining broad cost ranges of different countries • Definition of roles/responsibilities for each activity under the components and for each entire component • Linking project activities to other ongoing externally aided forest related activities • Review of national networks related to the MAR-SFM activities and their regional linkages • Evolution of a regional network for cooperation, coordination, and information sharing (100 minutes)
10:30 – 11:00	Refreshments - Coffee/tea break
11:00 – 12:00	Group discussion (continued) (60 minutes)
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	Group discussion (continued) (60 minutes)
	Synthesis (30 minutes)
15:00 – 15:10	Group photo
15:10 – 15:40	Refreshments - Coffee/tea break
15:40 – 17:00	Group discussion: drafting of RUPA and preparation of presentation material by each group (90 minutes)
17:00	End

2 November 2006, Thursday (plenary)	
08:30 - 10:30	Session 3: Group discussion (continued)
10:30 - 10:45	Refreshments – Coffee/tea break
10:45 - 12:00	Session 4: Wrap-up Discussion Subject 1. Synergizing outcomes of sub-group discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Presentation by three groups (45 minutes) ➤ Discussions (30 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparison of draft RUPA among sub-regional groups for synergy • Prioritisation of each component for incorporation into RUP • Consolidation of activities/budgets with broad cost ranges for RUP • Determination of roles/responsibilities for RUP • Development of linkages of RUP with other programmes • Evolution of a regional network under RUP • Innovation of administrative support systems for RUP
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch
13:00 - 15:00	Session 4: Wrap-up Discussion Subject 1. (Continued) Subject 2. Formulation of RUPA by synergizing outcomes of sub-group Discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background • Objective, justification, output • Activity, component and their prioritisation • Responsibilities/roles/linkages • Budget/financial support • Others (120 minutes)
15:00 - 15:30	Refreshments – Coffee/tea break
15:30 - 16:45	Session 4: Wrap-up Discussion (continued)
	Session 5: Conclusions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synthesis/Findings • Recommendations • Next steps/programmes • Other comments if any (60 minutes)
16:45 - 17:00	Closing remarks (FAO)
17:00	Workshop ends
	Distribution of materials (CD-ROM, etc.)
3 November 2006, Friday -	
	Departure of the participants

Appendix 3 – Welcome and closing addresses

1. Welcome Address by Mr. Patrick B. Durst, Senior Forestry Officer, RAPO/FAORAP

Distinguished Experts,
Friends and Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Regional Office of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, I'm pleased to welcome all of you to this important "Regional Workshop on Development of a Regional Umbrella Annual Plan of Activities under the MAR - SFM Project."

Many of you participated in the first project workshop in Sapporo and it's a real pleasure for me to see you again here. For those of you who are joining the MAR-SFM "family" for the first time, allow me to extend a special welcome. We're very glad to have you!

I don't have to remind anybody in this room of the importance of sustainable forest management. We all know and recognise the critical contributions that sound forest management makes to overall economic development and maintenance of healthy ecosystems. The challenging issue is to go beyond simply recognizing the importance of sustainable forest management to actually practicing it.

A fundamental pre-requisite on the path toward sustainable forest management is effective monitoring and assessment of forest resources and processes. If we don't know what resources we have, how can we manage them properly? And if we don't know the impacts of our management practices – through relevant monitoring – how can we tell if our management efforts are on the right track?

These important aspects of resource monitoring and assessment are fundamental and crucial for sustainable forest management. And yet, we find that they are weak or entirely lacking in far too many places.

It's for this very reason that FAO – with financial support from the Government of Japan – initiated the MAR-SFM project in January 2006, scheduled to run to the end of 2010. The main objective of the project is to develop globally harmonised forest-related national monitoring, assessment and reporting (MAR) systems to contribute directly to the implementation of sustainable forest management in the Asia-Pacific region.

A related objective of the project – and to me, the most important aspect – is to assist countries in making more effective use of MAR information in national decision-making, forest planning, formulation of forest policies, and implementation of sustainable forest management.

The MAR project consists of global-level programmes based in FAO headquarters, and national- and regional-level programmes coordinated by the FAO Regional Office in Bangkok, in collaboration with project countries. Our workshop this week focuses on the national and regional components of the project – to be developed in coordination with the global-level programme.

After the project inception workshop in Sapporo, Japan, in July, we agreed that this workshop would be organised to further work toward a common, or shared, vision for the project, better

understand the situations and needs of project countries related to MAR, and work to formulate a regional activity plan for the project for the next year. The regional activity plan – as we will discuss in more detail shortly – is to be based on country proposals and priorities, in line with the overall project principles.

The regional activity plan will be an essential part of the overall MAR project. Of primary importance – as described in the project document and emphasised in the Sapporo workshop – is the development of effective national networks to review, discuss, debate, harmonise and improve forest-related monitoring, assessment and reporting in project countries. The regional activities of the project will also work to harmonise MAR processes across countries and share experiences in applying MAR information for policy development and forest planning at national levels.

The workshop this week will provide an excellent opportunity to exchange information and experiences on MAR with FAO and partner countries. I anticipate that outputs of the workshop will be very valuable for strengthening our collaboration under the MAR-SFM project over the coming year.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I complete my opening remarks, I wish to acknowledge the important financial contributions of the Government of Japan in making this project possible. I also want to thank Khun Chadchawan and his colleagues in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment here in Thailand for their support and advice in organizing this workshop.

Personally, I'm very much looking forward to the workshop and to learning from your ideas and suggestions for how we can move forward together to improve the very important aspects of forest monitoring, assessment and reporting in the region. I know that collectively we'll come up with lots of excellent ideas, and I'm confident that there will be meaningful and valuable outputs from this week's workshop.

Finally, I just wish to emphasise if there is any way that we can assist you while you are here in Chiang Mai, please don't hesitate to let one of the FAO team know your needs (Mr. Otsuka, Mr. Kashio, Ms. Supaporn, or myself).

Thank you, and best wishes for a productive and enjoyable workshop.

2. Welcome Address by Mr. Chudchawan Sutthisrisilapa, Director, Planning & Information Office, National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment

Distinguished Experts,
Friends and Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure and honour to take part in this special auspicious event together with outstanding foresters and especially distinguished representatives from Asia and Pacific countries.

On behalf of the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, the Government of Thailand, I am pleased to extend a very warm welcome to all of you to Chiang Mai and express my appreciation of the ideas behind this workshop.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific to give us an invaluable opportunity to participate in this important “Regional Workshop on Development of Regional Umbrella Annual Plan of Activities under the MAR - SFM Project”. I would also like to fully appreciate the support of the Government of Japan to the project: “Strengthening Monitoring, Assessment, and Reporting (MAR) on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in Asia (GCP/INT/988/JPN)”.

We have learned a lot from our mistakes in the past. The Asian continent is very heavily affected by the environmental degradation that has followed the development and over-exploitation of natural resources. Now the multi-functionality of the new concept of development with particular emphasis on environmental conservation and biodiversity protection has become more and more fully realised under the international forums which are culminated upon the signing of the international agreement.

I sincerely hope that this workshop on Development of Regional Umbrella Annual Plan of Activities under the MAR-SFM Project can reveal some parts of the long collaboration among the participating countries, which give us new knowledge, guiding to more effective monitoring, assessment and reporting on forest resources. I do hope that it will ultimately lead to future efficient networks and collaboration on SFM.

As sustainable forest management is a highly important policy issue in Thailand together with sustainable economic development and poverty reduction. We have made great efforts to protect precious terrestrial and coastal ecosystem through the establishment of national parks and other protected areas. We have also strengthened monitoring, assessment, and reporting of forest resources at our office. MAR is also a prioritised programme at our office, and we are very pleased to attend the MAR-SFM project. I hope that we can share valuable experience and expertise through our collaboration with the MAR-SFM project. We are ready to work actively with the MAR-SFM project to improve our MAR system and contribute to the sustainable forest management in our country.

On behalf of the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department and the City of Chiang Mai: Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen; I would like to once again to extend a very warm welcome to all of you. I very much look forward to the valuable presentations. I am sure that the outcome of this workshop in Chiang Mai will be of great benefit to all of us.

Finally, my special thanks are due to the generous support and participation of the MAR-SFM project. Besides the workshop atmosphere, please do not forget that Chiang Mai is an excellent place to see the surrounding nature, typical northern Thai food, various souvenirs, the friendly atmosphere and particularly International Horticultural Exposition for His Majesty the King. I hope you will enjoy them all. I wish you every success in your deliberation and an enjoyable stay in Chiang Mai. Thank you very much.

Sustainable forest management is a highly important policy issue in Thailand together with sustainable economic development and poverty reduction. We have made great efforts to protect precious terrestrial and coastal ecosystems through the establishment of national parks and other protected areas. We have also strengthened monitoring, assessment, and reporting of forest resources at our office. MAR is also a prioritised programme at our office, and we are very pleased to participate in the MAR-SFM project. I hope that we can share valuable experience and expertise through our collaboration with the MAR-SFM project. We are ready to work actively with the MAR-SFM project to improve our MAR systems and contribute to the sustainable forest management in our country.

Chiang Mai is a very nice city, popular to Thai and foreign tourists. I sincerely hope that you will enjoy your stay in Chiang Mai during the workshop.

Thank you.

3. Closing address by Mr. Patrick B. Durst, FAORAP

On behalf of the Regional Office of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, I would like to thank all of you for your contributions to this workshop which I believe has been successful in presenting a picture of our collaboration for strengthening monitoring, assessment, and reporting on sustainable forest management in Asia and the Pacific through formulation of the regional umbrella plan of activities under the MAR-SFM project.

I hope and believe that all of you have learnt important topics during the workshop and that you have also been able to exchange specific expertise and information from which each of you evidently benefit for future development of MAR-SFM. In addition, and most important I believe, I do hope that you have added contacts and made friends who may be of future use on both professional and a personal bases.

I would like to thank our staff of FAO and participants for the efficient and pleasant organisation of this workshop as well as optimal participation. I would also like to thank staff of the Suriwongse Hotel to provide us comfortable facilities for our meeting and stay. We could enjoy a pleasant stay at the hotel and fruitful discussions at this meeting room.

Based on valuable outcomes of this workshop, I hope that we will strengthen our collaboration to improve MAR-SFM systems in the Asia-Pacific region. We will enhance our communications to keep in close touch in this project. We look forward to meeting with you at other places next time to further discuss our collaboration.

With these words, on behalf of FAO, I thank all of you for these interesting and pleasant workshop days.

Appendix 4 – Results of Working Group Discussions

a. Group 1

a.1. Issues and Potential Solutions related to NN (country-wise matrix)

Country/Item	China	India	Nepal	Bangladesh	Bhutan	Sri Lanka	Pakistan
NN-MAR established	1. Yes for national reporting 2 No for international reporting	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Lead responsible agency	State Forest Administration/ Department of Forest Resources	Forest policy division, Ministry of Environment and Forest	Department of Forest Research and Survey (DFRS)	Forest Department	Forest Resources Development Division, Department of Forests	Forest Department	Ministry of Environment/Forestry wing
Issues	- NN is not an efficient way to harmonise the work system - The Department responsible for international reporting is unwilling to set up NN currently	- Identifying gaps in implementation of SFM - Capacity gaps between global and national forest policies - Appropriate policy intervention at the national level - Harmonisation reporting on SFM - Assessment of sustainability of forests through indicators for SFM	- Lack of fund - Lack of linkage between GOs and NGOs - Lack of common understanding between GOs and NGOs - Constraint on planning and policy making processes for MAR-SFM - Lack of information to be sent to national and international processes	- Awareness and understanding - Monitoring of MAR - Funding - Secretariat for NN	- Lack of funding - Awareness of MAR-SFM is low	- Lack of awareness on MAR among stakeholders	- Lack of co-ordination among MAR institutions - MAR-SFM is project based (ad hoc) - Lack of capacities of concerned institutions for standardised techniques - No national standards on SFM information, processing and reporting
Potential	- Harmonise all	- Capacity	- FAO should provide	- Funding support is	- Funding support is	- Awareness	- Studies on MAR-SFM

solution/main activities	international reporting responsibilities into one Department - Expand the NFI system into a harmonised MAR system to cope with all forest-related MAR requirements	building of working plan institution with regards assessment of sustainability of forests - Adjusting indicators on the basis of diverse ecological, socio-cultural, and economic aspects - Inventory of non-timber forest products (NTFPs)	financial support for the establishment of NN	needed - Workshop/ Meetings and Studies	needed - Workshop/Meetings and Studies need to be conducted	building through meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Statistical analysis at the national level and integration in Asia-Pacific reports - Regional studies on recommended/globally accepted technologies, methodologies and reporting formats - Ensuring viability, sustainability and functional linkages of intra and inter NNs by facilitating partner organisations - Training on NN organisations both inland and international on prescribed modules - Deputing highly qualified and experienced resources persons by FAO to facilitate these activities for ensuring the consistency among NNs
Common issues							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of funds • Lack of linkages between GOs and NGOs • Lack of coordination among MAR institutions • Lack of stakeholders' awareness of international obligations and processes 							

a.2. List of priority activities to be undertaken in their respective national projects on MAR-SFM

No	Activities/Country	India	Pakistan	Bhutan	Bangladesh	Sri Lanka	Nepal	China
1	Strengthening, facilitation and equipping NN-MAR							
	1. Focal points / offices	1	1	1	1	1	1	X
	2. Members	2	2	1	1	1	1	X
2	Research Studies							
	1. Situational analysis of MAR-SFM	3	1	1	1	2	1	1
	2. C&Is, identification, testing, framework							
	3. Need assessment of policy, planning institutions for MAR	1	x	1	1	x	1	x
		2	1	1	1	x	1	x
3	Training programme for NN and other stakeholders							
	1. Application of C&Is	2	x	2	2	X	2	X
	2. RS/GIS applications	x	1	2	2	1	2	x
	3. Reporting requirements/formats	3	2	2	2	x	2	2
	4. SFM-based Forest Management Planning	1	3	2	2	x	2	x
4	Harmonisation of MAR-SFM through							
	1. Meetings of NN-MAR	1	1	2	1	1	2	1
	2. Meetings of expert groups	2	2	2	1	1	2	1
	3. Meetings of National Steering Committees	x	x	2	1	1	2	2
5	Dialogue with policy makers/planners for need assessment on MAR-SFM	x	1	3	X	3	3	X
6	Capacity building of policy and planning institutions on MAR-SFM	1	2	1	1	1	1	2

b. 3. Proposed budget of Countries of Group

Proposed Activities/Country	India (*)	Pakistan	Bhutan	Bangladesh	Sri Lanka	Nepal	China
Estimation of Budget (US\$)	425,000	323,333	100,000	72,850	9,000	170,690	300,000
Internal/domestic support (US\$)	125,000	60,000	25,000	20,330	3,000	30,000	120,000
Potential partners (FAO)	300,000	263,333	75,000	52,520	6,000	140,690	180,000
Perspective of regional collaboration							

Note (*): Budget estimation for five years

b. Group 2

b.1. Establishment of NN

Item/Country	Cambodia	Japan	Lao PDR	Myanmar	Philippines	Thailand
1. Status	No NN but proposed	NN is existing	No NN - with the existing coordination mechanism, a coordinator is nominated	NN was mandated, awaiting the approval of the Ministry	No NN; Informal arrangements exist	Ongoing discussion on NN
2. Responsible organisations	Forestry Administration/Forest Management Office (FMO): focal point for MAR-SFM	Forestry Agency, Research Institutes, Academies, NGOs, Forest owners' association	Department of Forestry, NAFRI, NAFES, STEA	Forestry Department	FMB (principal) PAWB, DENR, LMB, NAMRIA, UPLB, PWPA, SFFI, PO Federation, etc.	DNP, RFD
3. Issues/concerns	- Unclear roles of stakeholders	---	- Lack of commitments - - lack of financial support	- Ministry approval – Organising private user groups	- Rationale/TOR for NN – Identification of focal/host institutions - Logistic arrangements	- Legal basis of existing organisations - Areas of responsibility
4. Potential solutions/ proposed activities	- Diagnostic studies - Expert consultations – Capacity building - Financial support - Encourage participation	---	- Diagnostic studies on coordination - Raise awareness on MAR-SFM	- Organise NN - Propose activities – Obtain the approval of the Ministry	- Stakeholder analysis - Design of TOR (forms and functions) for NN, if warranted - Organisation of meetings and action plans	- Organisational restructuring
5. Estimated budget -Internal -External	- Facilities - Operating costs	---	Ext.: USD 5,000	Ext.: USD 3,000	Int.: USD 2,000 Ext.: USD 2,000	---
6. Potential partners	FAO, external partners	Forestry industries	Other internal agencies; FAO, etc.	11 ministries, 20 focal points (FPs) for international commitments, 11 profit/non-profit NGOs	To be determined	DNP, RFD, DMC, FIO, KUFF, ONEP, ALRO

b.2. Harmonisation of MAR

Item/Country	Cambodia	Japan	Lao PDR	Myanmar	Philippines	Thailand
1. Status	National C&I and remote sensing exist.	National forest resources database is established.	National C&I, FOMIS, and remote sensing are available.	Forestry Planning and Statistics Units exist.	Several existing methods and processes exist.	Past Performance Rating Tool, NFI, and remote sensing exist.
2. Responsible organisations	Forestry Administration FMO and GIS/FA	Forestry Agency, Prefectures, Research Institutes, Advisers	Department of Forestry, National Statistics Centre	Ministry of Forestry	FMB (principal) PAWB, DENR, LMB, NAMRIA, UPLB, PWPA, SFFI	DNP
3. Issues and concerns	- Performance of MAR-SFM systems (e.g. NFI, forest resources mapping, data analysis, etc.)	Insufficient GIS data	- Terms, definitions and methods of harmonisation - Lack of capacities - Weak coordination	- Outdated data/information - Non-verifiable data	- No common data sets; - Proliferation of MAR processes vis-à-vis mandates and commitments - Barriers to harmonisation	Many groups with different reports based on the same data source, (who harmonises?)
4. Potential solutions/proposed activities	- Study/review systems for harmonisation - Capacity building - Financial support	- Financial support to prefectures for 5 years	- Diagnostic studies - Strengthen coordination - Capacity building	- Internal networking - Meetings	- Comprehensive studies/scoping for harmonisation - Design and development of harmonised MAR-SFM and adoption	- Establishment of working groups
5. Estimated budget -Internal -External	- Facilities - Operating costs	Guaranteed	Int.: USD 5,000 Ext.: USD 20,000	Guaranteed	Int.: USD 5,000 Ext.: USD 10,000	---
6. Potential partners	FAO, other relevant institutions	---	NSC, NAFRI, STEA, MIC; FAO, etc.	11 ministries, 20 FPs for international commitments, 11 profit/non-profit NGOs	FAO, ITTO, etc. for technical/logistical assistance	DNP, RFD, DMC

b.3. Use of MAR for Policy and Planning

Item/Country	Cambodia	Japan	Lao PDR	Myanmar	Philippines	Thailand
1. Status	Not clear	Functional linkage between MAR and policy and planning	- No common understanding of forest statistics - Limited use of information	Existing forestry planning and statistics units verify/approve all forestry data	- Limited use of MAR in policy/planning - Formal policy development process	Limited use of MAR in policy formulation
2. Responsible Organisations	Forestry Administration	Forestry Agency	Department of Forestry	Forestry Department	FMB (principal), DENR offices and attached agencies, UPLB, PWPA, SFFI, PO (People's Organisations) Federation, etc.	Ministry of Nature Resource and Environment
3. Issues & Concerns	- Data collection/analysis - Needs for capacity building	- Better use of forest resources monitoring survey for policy development	- No systems for application of forest information in policy/planning - Lack of capacities - Insufficient information	None at the moment	- No common understanding of new forest cover classification systems - Absence of procedure in generating/validating these data	Outdated/invalidated data
4. Potential Solutions/ Proposed Activities	- Develop MAR-SFM methodology - Capacity building - Financial support	- Development of method for analysing data from forest resources monitoring (within 5 years)	- Studies on current MAR - Capacity building	-----	- Orientation workshops - Development of standards and their adoption - Capacity building	- Research on data collection - Capacity building
5. Est. Budget -Internal -External	- Facilities - Operating costs	Guaranteed	Ext.: USD 30,000	Int.: USD 5,000 Ext.: USD 25,000	Int.: USD 5,000 Ext.: USD 15,000	---
6. Potential Partners	FAO and other related institutions	Research institutes	NAFRI, STEA, NUL, etc.	Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Min. of National Planning and Economic Development	ITTO-FIS Project; FAO - NFP & FRA; UNDP	NESDB, ONEP

(Note)

NAFRI: National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (Lao PDR)
NAFES: National Agricultural and Forestry Extension Service (Lao PDR)
STEА: Science, Technology, and Environmental Agency (STEА) (Lao PDR)
NUL: National University of Laos
FMB: Forest Management Bureau (Philippines)
PAWB: Protected Areas and Wild Life Bureau (Philippines)
DENR: Department of Environment & Natural Resources (Philippines)
LMB: Land Management Bureau (Philippines)
NAMRIA: National Mapping and Resource Information Authority of Philippines
UPLB: University of the Philippines Los Baños
PWPA: Philippine Wood Producers Association
SFFI: The Society of Filipino Foresters, Inc.
DNP: National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department Thailand)
RFD: Royal Forest Department (Thailand)
DMC: Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (Thailand)
FIO: Forest Industry Organisation (Thailand)
KUFF: Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University (Thailand)
ONEP: Office of Natural Resources and Environment Policy and Planning (Thailand)
ALRO: Agricultural Land Reform Office (Thailand)
NSC: National Statistics Centre (Lao PDR)
MIC: Manufacturers' Investment Credit (Lao PDR)
FOMIS: Forest Management Information System (Lao PDR)
FIS (ITTO): Forest Information System (Philippines)
NESDB: National Economic and Social Development Board (Thailand)

c. Group 3

c.1. National Network

Item/Country	Indonesia	Malaysia	Mongolia	New Zealand	Papua New Guinea	Vanuatu
1. Status	Not yet established	- Not officially established - The current mechanism is available.	Established	Established	Not yet established	- Not yet established - Existing networks are available on national/international programmes by different institutions/governmental departments
2. Responsible organisations	Ministry of Forestry	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE)	Ministry for Nature and Environment (MNE)	- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) - Ministry for Environment (MFE)	PNG Forest Authority (Planning Division)	Vanuatu Department of Forests (VoDF)
3. Issues	- Lack of awareness - Weak coordination - Lack of expertise - Budget uncertainty	- Awareness - Coordination - Expertise/capacity - Budget (internal, external)	- Awareness - Coordination - Expertise/Capacity - Budget	-----	- Lack of awareness - Coordination needs to be tested. - Lack of expertise/capacities - Budget limitations (needs for special internal funding)	a. Unwillingness of stakeholders for participation b. Lack of support from policy decision makers c. Lack of internal/external budget d. Consequence if the MAR-SFM project does not approve a proposal
4. Potential solutions	- Workshops, publications, use of mass media - Regular meetings/communications - Training, sharing experiences - Explore low cost options: use internal source - Identify other potential donors	- Awareness increase through: • Workshops • Publication • Use of media - Regular meetings/communications among members of NN for better	- Technical development - Training to database specialists and others - Workshops - Publications - Use of mass media - Regular meetings/communications - Sharing experiences	-----	- Raise awareness among stakeholders - Coordinators to be installed - Expertise/capacities should be sought from current regional networks - Budgets should be	a/b.: - Awareness increase/workshops with FAO - Publications, use of media, e-mails c. Explore options d. Identify potential donors e. Explore options for

		understanding and cooperation - Conduct training to share experience			sought from internal and external donors	approaching MAR-SFM partners
5. Proposed activities	- Inception meeting to establish national network - Workshops - Regular meetings - Trainings	- Establish a National Steering Committee (NSC) - Identify related stakeholders/institutions to be included in the NN and NSC - Develop TOR for NN - Conduct meetings of NSC	- Diagnostic studies of current situations on MAR-SFM - A workshop with FAO for members of NN - Establishment of a National Steering Committee (NSC) by fixing its members/functions - Meetings with NN member institutions/NSC for development of TORs - Discussions on current situations of forest-related information of NN member institutions - Training to members of NN on MAR-SFM - Meetings with forest-related organisations (incl. NGOs, private organisations) - Training to forest specialists on NN - Sharing experience with other countries - Standardisation of information sharing on NN - Design of forest-related website	- Share information on how NN works in New Zealand - Support via e-mail/phone - Formalise NN as related to SFM-MAR. - Check coverage of NN	- Prepare a brief for PNGFA Management (Executive Panel) and seek endorsement - Identify stakeholders to form the NN and also research existing similar networks if any - Convene meetings with stakeholders - Document proceedings of the meetings and circulate them widely	- Establish a National Steering Committee (NSC) - Identify related institutions/stakeholders and their functions in MAR-SFM - Examine coordination among identified agencies/stakeholders on development/standardisation of MAR-SFM - Elaborate responsibilities, structure, coordination mechanisms of NN with members in TOR
6. Budget estimates	USD 12,500		USD 5,000 - Internal: USD 2,000 - External: USD 3,000	Covered by MAF	- Intra Network: USD 2,004 (PNGFA) - National Network: USD 1,149 (donor)	USD 1,000

					Total USD 3,153	
7. Internal financial resources	USD 10,000 provided by the Ministry of Forestry		USD 2,000 (MNE)	Covered by government allocated budget	- Intra Network: PNGFA - NN: Possibly PNGFA, but project assistance may be needed.	Vanuatu Department of Forests
8. Potential partners	- FAO - GTZ - JICA - World Bank		- FAO - GTZ - Dutch project - UNDP - World bank, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Internal - Other government departments - Forestry research institutes - Universities - Forest Owners Association (FOA) - New Zealand Institute of Forestry (NZIF) ➢ External - Australia - Canada (Forest departments., research institutes) 	- AusAID - NZ AID - FAO, etc.	- FAO - AusAID - Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) - NZAID - GTZ
9. Regional collaboration	- Expertise/experience sharing - Data/information sharing	- Training for least developed countries through Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme - Consultancy		Support to other countries with examples of what and how New Zealand does it.	It is suggested that FAOSAPA in Samoa be more proactive in NN activities in the Pacific region.	- FAO Sub-regional Office (Samoa, Thailand) - SPC - GTZ

c. 2. Harmonisation of MAR

Item/Country	Indonesia	Malaysia	Mongolia	New Zealand	Papua New Guinea	Vanuatu
1. Status	In the process of harmonisation/integration on data categorisation, data collection, processing, recording, and reporting/publishing		Not applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work on improving systems of reporting (shared databases) - Separating plantations from native species. - Compare/contrast sources of information - National definitions around land-use classes - Work to do around non-wood values 	Not applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National forest inventory information system and the Vanuatu resource information system (VANSIS) are out of date without detailed information on Vanuatu resources.
2. Responsible organisations	Ministry of Forestry	MNRE	Division Forest Policy and Implementation, MNE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MAF for reporting Statistics NZ and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) for information and commitments 	PNGFA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - VoDF - Dept. of Lands, Survey and Registry - Dept. of Statistics - Provincial governments
3. Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data discrepancies among institutions - Data completeness - Data accuracy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data collection - Technology used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Insufficient information system - Lack of standardised forest-related information - Traditional (old) methodology of forest inventory - No GIS-based forest database 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recognition of characteristics of countries/resources different to others covered by the same agreements - Ownership of resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifying variable for MAR (FRA tables?) - Definition of the above parameters - Agreeing to national definitions and harmonising - Developing MAR-SFM system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of National Forest Sector Plan - Out-of-date forest inventory data - Out-of-date (GIS) resource information - Lack of capacity/expertise on GIS and remote sensing
4. Potential solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intensive coordination among institutions - More intensive forest inventory - Improve capacities on data collection and processing/analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harmonise methodology of data collection - Harmonise terminology amongst agencies/institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diagnostic studies - Strengthening of coordination - Study/review of systems for harmonisation - Capacity building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relationship building/negotiating a position - Getting recognition that one set of indicators will not suit all. - Looking at what is already available, what 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generators of National Resource Information disclose their information to others. - Reaching a consensus on the above perspective - Use internationally accepted definitions of MAR which refine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Institutional strengthening and capacity building (short/long-term) especially in GIS and RS

				else needed to look at and how to get this information?	nationally accepted definitions - Seek assistance from FAO, Australia/NZ	
5. Proposed activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review on MAR (situations, methodologies, etc.) - Regular meetings among related agencies to discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synergy among national/international agencies on forest-related information • Initiate nationally/internationally harmonised definition of terms • Build capacities on harmonised MAR • More comprehensive forest inventory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of standard guidelines for data collection and analysis - Standardisation of terminology used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish remote sensing capability - Train staff to handle RS and GIS - Review data collection techniques (sampling design, etc.) - Review existing information (data) and officially validated ones - Carry out fieldwork (date gaps) - Seek help from neighbouring countries/FAO, etc. to set up a MAR system - Exchange and share knowledge 	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish remote sensing capability - Train staff to handle RS - Review data collection techniques (sampling design, etc.) - Review existing information (data) & officially validated ones - Carry out fieldwork (date gaps) - Seek help from neighbouring countries/FAO, etc. to set up a MAR system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Studies on MAR (situations, methodologies, etc.) - Harmonisation of definitions/terms and data compilation - Trial/review of new methodologies e. Building capacity of NN on harmonised MAR
6. Budget estimates	USD 25,000		USD 25,000 - Internal: USD 10,000 - External: USD 15,000	-----	To be estimated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Purchase of Earth Resource (ER) Mapping software: 7,300 USD - Purchase of computers: USD 3,020 - Building capacity (2 persons): 15,000 USD
7. Internal financial resources	Ministry of Forestry: USD 10,000		- Internal: USD 10,000 (MNE)	None specifically		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vanuatu Department of Forest - Vanuatu Department of Lands, Survey, and registry
8. Potential partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Forestry - Ministry of Environment - Ministry of Agriculture - National Planning Board 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO and other related institutions - GTZ - Dutch project 	Statistics New Zealand, NZIF, NZ FOA, external organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Australia - New Zealand - Technical cooperation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO - AusAID - SPC - NZAID

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Coordinating Agency of Survey and Mapping - National Statistics Agency - Bogor Agricultural University - University of Indonesia - Indonesian Institute of Sciences - JICA - GTZ - FAO - The World Bank 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNDP - World bank 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GTZ - UNDP
9. Regional collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data/information sharing - Experience sharing - Technical support - Financial support 				Request FAO and other donors (Australia, New Zealand) to help convene regional and sub-regional workshops prior to FRA 2010.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO Sub-regional office (Samoa/Thailand)

c. 3. Policy development with MAR

Item/Country	Indonesia	Malaysia	Mongolia	New Zealand	Papua New Guinea	Vanuatu
1. Status	- MAR has not yet been used for policy and planning	Forestry/forest-related data are already used in the formulation of policy/ planning (e.g., the third industrial master plan for Malaysia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No common understanding of forest statistics - Limited use of information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fairly widely used by both private and government organisations - Continual work to improve systems (measurements, etc.) 	Ad hoc usage	Very limited due to lack of national forest sector plan
2. Responsible organisations	- Ministry of Forestry	MNRE	Division of Forest Policy and Implementation, MNE	MAF/Statistics New Zealand	PNG FA	VoDF

<p>3. Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data weakness/completeness, accuracy - The application of MAR for policy/planning is not clear 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No systems for application of forest information in policy and planning, - Lack of capacities - Insufficient information - No common understanding on new forest cover classification system - MAR has not yet used for policy and planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suitable data for analysis while protecting confidentiality and managing within budget - Anticipating quickly changing policy environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quality and consistency of information for MAR are questionable. - No “clearing house” for data - Data custody, security and usage - Presence of many data sets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of forest management plan - Forest policy to be reviewed - Lack of strategic policy implementation plan - Out-of-date resource information systems
<p>4. Potential solutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explanation of the application of MAR for policy/planning - Data improvement through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination among institutions • Improvement of capacities on data collection/analysis 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explanation of the application of MAR for policy/planning - Data improvement through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Intensive coordination among institutions * Improvement of capacities on data collection/analyses * Intensive forest inventory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interview with stakeholders - Improving website (under way) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local network “in-house” (PNGFA) to validate and certify data (information) - Set up inter-divisional technical group (committee) to check and certify data - Empower “in-house” committee to categorise information (data) to be made public and accessible - Development of common accessible database 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approval/implementation of the National Forest Sector Plan Project by FAO
<p>5. Proposed activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Study on issues, processes and tools of policy/planning - Regular meetings - Build capacities (training, expertise sharing) - Develop more suitable models/tools for application of MAR information to policies/planning 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of current situations on MAR (actors, methodologies, performances, constraints, etc.) - Regular meetings among related agencies to discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • building up synergy among 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of MAR in house (every 5 years for larger publications) - Extend to other reporting and MAR activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop an inventory of data field by the PNGFA - Establish an intra network within PNGFA - Convene meetings to learn how MAR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Studies on policy development/planning (issues, processes, tools) - Develop effective models/tools to apply MAR information - Building capacity of NN on policy framework and methodologies for MAR-

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Propose alternative methodologies - Facilitate synergy among international/regional/national processes in decision making on MAR-SFM 		<p>national/international agencies on forest-related information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • initiation of nationally/internationally harmonised definition of terms • Building capacities on harmonised MAR-SFM • More comprehensive forest inventory - Training to forest specialists on the use of MAR information 		<p>information can be best used for policy/planning related activities</p>	<p>SFM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review systems of MAR-based policy development for further improvement
6. Budget estimates	USD 20,000		<p>USD 30,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Internal: USD 10,000 - External: USD 20,000 	In-house budget upon approval	To be estimated	15,000 USD
7. Internal financial resources	Ministry of Forestry (expected): USD 10,000		- Internal: USD 10,000 (MNE)	In-house budget upon approval	Most of the activities would be undertaken with internal budgets	Vanuatu Department of Forests
8. Potential partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO - GTZ - JICA - The World Bank 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO other related institutions - GTZ - Dutch project - UNDP - World bank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest owners/managers - Other government departments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop proposals for Australia and New Zealand - Aid assistance from EU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -FAO -GTZ -NZAID -SPC -AusAID -UNDP
9. Regional collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical support - Financial support 				<p>FAO should facilitate collaboration for sharing experiences among countries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO sub-regional office (Samoa/Thailand) - SPC -GTZ

Appendix 5 – Plan on organisation of national networks (NNs) and their meetings

No	Country	National network		
		Meeting		Members
		Date	Agenda	
1	Australia			
2	Bangladesh	First: 2 nd week of January, 2007 Second: April, 2007	- Harmonisation of terminologies/definitions - Uniform reporting formats for SFM at national and - forest management levels - Mechanisms of integration with international reporting obligations under Rio conventions and UNFF - Synergies with the international reporting system - Reviewing of regional and international C&I processes	Forest Department, Department of Environment, Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation, Department of Agriculture Extension, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Haor Development Board, Representatives from universities, Donors organisations, NGOs, Neem Foundation
3	Bhutan	April 2007	To be determined later	Department of Forests, Forestry Development Corporation, NGOs, National Environment Commission, Dzongkhag Administration
4	Cambodia	First: 20 November 2006	- Establishment of NN of focal points for MAR-SFM - Discussion on activities related to NN/project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of NSC • Capacity building for NN • Identification of related stakeholders • Elaboration of structure of NN • Development of information networks 	- Forestry Administration (FA) (responsible for the MAR-SFM project), - FA will establish the national network and national steering committee (NSC). The NN will be formed with 5 staffs at the central FA and 15 staffs at the local FA (15 FA Cantonments) - NN is not yet formed so far and it will be established when the national MAR-SFM programme starts in January 2007.
5	China	7 June 2007	No plan	Dept. Forest Resources, Dept. Wildlife, Dept. Anti-Desertification, Dept. Wetlands, Forestry Inventory Institutes, Representatives from SEPA
6	India	First: 13 October 2006 Second: January 2007	- Identification of indicative elements for SFM - Framing views on reporting to ITTO and UNFF	Secretary E&F (Chairman), DGF&SS (Vice-Chairman), ADGFC (Forest Conservation), ADG-WL (Woodland), Focal Points-UNFF, ITTO, CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC, CITES, INBAR, FAO&APFC, DIG-Forest Policy (Member secretary), Min. External Affairs, Min. Tribal Affairs, Min. Rural Development, Min. Commerce, Agriculture, Industry, Experts (Forestry, Climate Change, Economics, Legal, Forest Resource Assessment), Forest Survey of India, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Indian Council of Forest Research and Education, Representatives of NGOs, Representatives of Industry
7	Indonesia	First: 4 th week of January, 2007	- FAO presentation on MAR-SFM - Elect a National Project Coordinator (NPC) - Establish a National Steering Committee (NSC) - Elaborate structure, responsibilities, and work	Min. Forestry, Min. Environment, Min. Agriculture, National Planning Board, National Coordinating Agency of Survey and Mapping, National Statistics Agency, Bogor Agricultural University, University of Indonesia, Indonesian Institute of Science, JICA, GTZ, FAO, World

			<p>mechanisms of NN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Define all necessary financial and technical supports - Assess needs and current capabilities of NN for MAR-SFM - Improve financial, material, and human resources of NN for its functionalisation - Enhance monitoring and evaluation of NN/NSC for their development/maintenance 	Bank, Association of Indonesian Forest Concessionaires
8	Japan			
9	Lao PDR			
10	Malaysia			
11	Mongolia	First: 10 October 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening (Chief, MNE) - Brief introduction of MAR-SFM project and NN (NPC of the MAR-SFM project) - Presentation: Forest management and forest information (National Forest Programme) - Presentation: Sustainable management of natural Resources (GTZ/MNE) - Presentation: Current situation of forest database and future development (NPC) - Presentation: Geoinformation Centre of Natural Resource Management (Project Coordinator) - Discussions on the project proposal and how to establish NN in Mongolia - Closing: Evaluation of the workshop (FWRC) 	Ministry for Nature and Environment (Div. International Cooperation, Dept. Sustainable Development and Strategic Planning, Div. Forest Policy and Regulation, Dept. Information, Monitoring, Assessment and Evaluation, Information Computer Centre, National Forest Programme/Green Wall Programme, National University of Mongolia, Forest Management Project (World Bank), National Geoinformation Centre for National Resource Management Project (Dutch funded), Forest and Water Research Centre (FWRC), Sustainable Management of Natural Recourse Project (GTZ)), Geoecology institute of Mongolian Academy and Science (MAS), Botanical institute of MAS, Science and Technology University
12	Myanmar			
13	Nepal	First: January 2007 Second: April 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting of NN members - Working group meetings - Meeting of experts - First meeting of NSC 	Technical members from the Ministry of Forests, Department of Forest Research and Survey (DFRS), Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPPWC), Department of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management (DSCWM), Department of Plant Resources (DPR), Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (DOF), Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MEST), national and international NGOs who are directly involved in forestry activities
14	New Zealand			
15	Pakistan	First: Second week of January 2007 Second: April 2007 (quarterly)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harmonisation of terminologies/definitions - Standardisation of field and desktop methodologies of data capturing, analysis, interpretation, processing, release and publishing of data - Uniform reporting formats for SFM at local, provincial, national levels 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public sector (forest departments/administrative) (10) 2. Public sector (Forestry-related, development) (3) 3. Universities, R&D institutions (6) 4. International organisations, projects, national focal points (5) 5. Private sector (petroleum, tobacco, wood industries) (5) 6. Non-profit organisations (IUCN, WWF, SDPI, Sungi) (4)

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mechanisms of integration with international reporting obligations under Rio conventions, UNFF - Synergies with the international reporting system - Integration with regional and international C&I processes 	Total : 33 organisations
16	Papua New Guinea	First: January 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance to be sought from countries with experience and FAO. - Election of chairman/default = PNG FA representative - Background information on MAR-SFM by country focal points - Commitment for cooperation - Scheduling of meetings to come 	PNG Forest Authority (leader/focal agency), Dept. Environment and Conservation, Univ. Technology (Forestry Department), Univ. Papua New Guinea (School of Post Graduate Studies on Natural Resources), Dept. Agriculture & Livestock, Dept. Lands & Physical Planning, Dept. National Planning, Dept. Finance, Dept. Mining and Petroleum, National Research Institute, Forest Research Institute (PNG Forest Authority), Eco-Forestry Forum (EFF), WWF, Green Peace, Forest Industry Association (EFF represents all NGO's in PNG.)
17	Philippines			
18	Republic of Korea			
19	Samoa			
20	Sri Lanka	First: December 2006 Second: February 2007	To be determined later	Forest Department, Dept. Wildlife Conservation, Min. Environment, Central Environmental Authority, Land Commissioners Department, Survey Department, Dept. External Resources, Dept. National Planning, Univ. Peradeniya, Univ. Sri Jayawardenapura, IUCN, ADB, State Timber Corporation, Environmental Journalist Forum, Environmental Foundation Ltd.
21	Thailand			
22	Vanuatu	First: By the end of November 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction of MAR-SFM - Nomination of executive members of the National Steering Committee - Deciding on a project proposal to be submitted to FAO/MAR-SFM 	Government agencies (relevant), NGOs, focal points for various conventions signed by the Vanuatu government, Trade and Forest Industry, Vanuatu Council of Women
23	Vietnam			

Appendix 6: Logical framework of the regional umbrella programme of MAR-SFM (at the Development Phase (2006-2007))

Main objective

A Forest-related national MAR system is harmonized for the improvement of SFM in member countries of the project.

Specific objective

1. National networks (NN) of focal points are established / developed on forest-related MAR-SFM in each project country.

2. Harmonized collection, analysis, and reporting on forest-related MAR information are enhanced.

3. Use of information on forest-related MAR is facilitated for planning and policy development.

Expected output

1.1. Responsibilities and structure of NN are elaborated.

1.2. Resources of NN are secured to sustain national MAR activities.

2.1. Alternative methodologies are established for harmonized MAR.

2.2. Mechanisms of coordination are evolved among related agencies for harmonized MAR.

3.1. Systems are clarified for application of MAR information for policies/planning.

3.2. Capacities are improved for the use of MAR information for policies/planning.

Activity Nominate national project coordinators (NPC).
1.1.2. Establish National Steering Committees (NSC) by fixing its members and functions.
1.1.3. Identify related institutions/stakeholders and their functions in MAR-SFM.
1.1.4. Examine coordination among identified agencies/stakeholders on development/standardization of MAR-SFM.
1.1.5. Elaborate responsibilities, structure, and coordination mechanisms of NN with its members in TOR.

1.2.1. Assess needs and current capabilities of NN for MAR-SFM.
1.2.2. Improve financial, material, and human resources of NN for its functionalization.
1.2.3. Develop and manage MAR information with IT and other tools for its dissemination.
1.2.4. Enhance monitoring and evaluation of NN/NSC for their development and maintenance.

2.1.1. Conduct studies on current situations of MAR, current methodologies, actors, technical packages, performances, and challenges.
2.1.2. Initiate nationally and internationally harmonized definition of terms and identification of alternative methods for data compilation/reviews.
2.1.3. Propose and examine alternative methodologies, technical packages, and national measures for harmonized MAR.
2.1.4. Review processes of harmonization of MAR at all levels for further evolution.

2.2.1. Build up synergy among national/regional/int'l agencies on collection, analysis, storage, and reporting on forest-related information.
2.2.2. Develop national mechanisms/processes of harmonization/standardization of MAR linking with international/regional processes on MAR.
2.2.3. Raise the awareness of related actors on needs for harmonized MAR.
2.2.4. Build capacities of NN on harmonized MAR.

3.1.1. Conduct studies on current issues, factors, processes, & tools of policy development/planning and policy issues on MAR-SFM.
3.1.2. Develop and refine effective models/tools for application of MAR information to policies/planning.
3.1.3. Propose and examine alternative methodologies to apply MAR information to policies/planning.
3.1.4. Review systems of MAR-based policy development/planning for further improvement.

3.2.1. Build capacities of NN on policy frameworks and methodologies for MAR-SFM regimes.
3.2.2. Establish national feedback mechanisms to reflect MAR information on decision making processes (policies/planning) on SFM.
3.2.3. Facilitate synergy among international, regional, and national processes in decision makings on MAR-SFM (policies/planning).