PROCEEDINGS

MID-TERM TRIPARTITE REVIEW MEETING ON STRENGTHENING MONITORING, ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING ON SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN ASIA

BANGKOK, THAILAND, 16 - 19 SEPTEMBER 2008

14 NOVEMBER 2008, BANGKOK



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

FAO has implemented the project "Strengthening Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting (MAR) on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in Asia" (GCP/INT/988/JPN) (abbreviated as the "MAR-SFM Project") since January 2006. This five-year project is funded by the Government of Japan.

The main objective of the MAR-SFM Project is to develop a globally harmonized forest-related national MAR system to contribute directly to the improvement of SFM regimes in the Asia-Pacific region. Allied objectives of the project are to enhance the use of the MAR information in national decision-making, formulation of effective forest policies, and sustainable forest management and planning.

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

The implementation phase spreads over the remaining three years of the project period and focuses on the implementation of the harmonized 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 finalized on the basis of a review of outcomes of the project activities at the development phase.

All countries in the Asia-Pacific region can participate in the MAR-SFM Project, although the actual level and intensity of their participation may vary among each others. Up to November 2007, forestry departments in 26 countries have nominated their national focal points for the project.

FAO in collaboration with the Forest Agency of Japan, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), and the FAO - Norway project organized the inception workshop on the MAR-SFM Project in Sapporo, Japan, 24 - 28 July 2006. The workshop reviewed the current status of MAR in project countries, briefed participating national focal points on the project, and deliberated on a work plan of project activities. After that, the project implemented a planning workshop with 19 countries in Chiang Mai, Thailand, 31 October - 2 November 2006, a training workshop on the remote sensing-based land cover classification system with 19 countries in Dehradun, India, 4 - 8 December 2006, a workshop on harmonization of national forest inventories (NFIs) with 19 countries in Beijing, China, 26 - 31 March 2007, and a training workshop on MAR with 9 countries in Nadi, Fiji, 10 - 12 October 2007.

FAO - Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAORAP) in Bangkok manages the MAR-SFM Project in close coordination with the Forest Resources Development Division (FOMR) of FAO Headquarters in Rome and other collaborating organizations. Contact persons are:

Dan Altrell, Forestry Officer, FOMR/FAOHQ Patrick Durst, Senior Forestry Officer, RAPO/FAORAP Masahiro Otsuka, Forestry Officer, RAPO/FAORAP Dan.Altrell@fao.org Patrick.Durst@fao.org Masahiro.Otsuka@fao.org

DISCLAIMER

The MAR-SFM Working Paper Series is designed to reflect the activities and progress of the MAR-SFM project (GCP/INT/988/JPN) of FAO. Working Papers are not authoritative information sources – they do not reflect the official position of FAO and should not be used for official purposes. Please refer to the FAO forestry website (www.fao.org/forestry) for access to official information.

Participants' views reported in the working papers are regarded as their personal views. These may be the same as or different from official views of their governments.

The MAR-SFM Working Paper Series provides an important forum for rapid release of preliminary findings needed for validation and facilitation in the final development of official quality-controlled publications. Should users find any errors in the documents or have comments for improving their quality, they are kindly requested to contact Masahiro.Otsuka@fao.org.

Table of Contents

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	IV
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	V
1. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING	1
2. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING	1
3. STRUCTURE OF THE MEETING	2
4. PARTICIPANTS OF THE MEETING	2
5. MEETING SESSIONS	2
5.1. FRAMEWORK OF THE MAR PROJECT AND ITS PROGRESS/CHALLENGES	
5.3. COUNTRIES' COLLABORATION WITH THE MAR PROJECT	7 11
5.6. NEXT STEPS OF THE PROJECT 5.7. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEXT STEPS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE MAR PROJECT	14
6. EVALUATION OF THE WORKSHOP BY THE PARTICIPANTS	18
7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	18
APPENDIX 1 - AGENDA OF THE WORKSHOP	20
APPENDIX 2 - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS	23
APPENDIX 3 - PROJECT BRIEF	26
APPENDIX 4 - PLAN OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES (2008 – 2010)	27
APPENDIX 5 – PARTICIPANTS' SUGGESTIONS FOR PROJECT ACTIVITIES	30
APPENDIY 6 DARTICIPANTS' EVALUATION OF THE WORKSHOP	33

List of Abbreviations

ASEAN: Association of Southeast Asian Nations

CBD: Convention on Biological Diversity

CIDA: Canadian International Development Agency CIFOR: Center for International Forestry Research

CITES: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

COFO: The Committee on Forestry

C&I: Criteria and Indicators

CMS: Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

CPF: Collaborative Partnership on Forests CRN: Coalition for Rainforest Nations

CTA: Chief Technical Advisor RTA: Regional Technical Advisor

EEAF: Environmental and Economic Accounting for Forestry

FAOR: FAO Representation

FAORAP: FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

FBA: Field Budget Authorization

FRA: Global Forest Resources Assessment

FRA2010-RSS: FRA2010 Global Remote Sensing Survey

GIS: Geographic information system

GOFC-GOLD: Global Observation of Forest and Land Cover Dynamics

GLCN: Global Land Cover Network GTZ: German Technical Cooperation

ICIMOD: International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

ICRAF: International Centre for Research in Agroforestry INBAR: International Network on Bamboo and Rattan ITTO: International Tropical Timber Organization JICA: Japan International Cooperation Agency

LCCS: Land Cover Classification System

LOA: Letter of Agreement

MAR: Monitoring, assessment and reporting (on forests)

MDG: Millennium Development Goal

NFI: National forest inventory NFP: National Forest Programme

NFMA: National Forest Monitoring and Assessment (formerly NFA: National Forest Assessment)

NSC: National Steering Committee PSA: Personnel Service Agreement PSC: Project steering committee

Ramsar: Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

REDD: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation

RSS: FRA 2010 Global Remote Sensing Survey

SAARC: South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

SFM: Sustainable forest management SPC: Secretariat of the Pacific Community

SPREP: South Pacific Regional Environment Programme

TPR: Tripartite mid-term review (meeting)

UNCCD: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

UNDP: United Nations Development Programme UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme

UNFF: United Nations Forum on Forests

UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

WCMC: World Conservation Monitoring Centre

Executive Summary

The tripartite mid-term review meeting (hereinafter abbreviated as the TPR meeting) on the project "Strengthening Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting (MAR) on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in Asia (GCP/INT/988/JPN) was held at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAORAP) during 16 - 19 September 2008. The purpose of the meeting was to review achievements of the MAR Project until now and elaborate a plan of project activities until December 2010 with FAO, a donor country (Japan), and 18 project countries. Thirty persons participated in the meeting. The meeting was comprised of presentations and discussions on the scope, achievements and issues on the MAR Project, outcomes of collaboration with countries, and next steps of activities. The meeting participants generally agreed on the effectiveness of project activities achieved until now, while suggesting strengthening of project implementation for the remaining period. The participants underlined the significance of concentrating efforts for development of harmonized MAR techniques and improvement of national capacities to apply them. Coordination with related programmes of FAO and other organizations is essential to facilitate coherent project implementation. National MAR programmes should be accelerated to enhance capacity building of government staff in close linkage with the project. Outcomes of project activities at the global and national levels should be disseminated among Asia-Pacific countries by developing regional or sub-regional MAR networks. The Project Management is requested to take necessary action according to the recommendations made.

Mid-Term Tripartite Review Meeting on Strengthening Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting on Sustainable Forest Management in Asia

Bangkok, Thailand, 16 - 19 September 2008

1. Background and objectives of the meeting

The Project "Strengthening Monitoring, Assessment, and Reporting on Sustainable Forest Management in Asia" (GCP/INT/988/JPN) (hereinafter referred to as the "Project") aims to develop a globally harmonized forest-related national monitoring, assessment and reporting (MAR) system to contribute directly to improving sustainable forest management (SFM) in the Asia-Pacific region. The Project makes efforts to strengthen national forest MAR systems with technical guidance, focusing on regular collection, analysis, and reporting of forest-related information to promote better informed national-level decision making and improved formulation of forest policies and management plans. Twenty-six countries nominated national focal points for participation in project activities at varied levels.

The project consists of the Development Phase for the first two years and the Implementation Phase for the next three years. Project activities during the Development Phase included international activities for development of a globally harmonized framework on MAR by elaboration of guidelines and database structure and sub-regional or national activities for facilitating harmonization of MAR through development of networks of stakeholders, studies on current national MAR systems, and training workshops. National forest databases will be established in selected project countries in addition to these activities during the Implementation Phase. Six regional workshops took place on project inception, planning, remote sensing-based land cover classification, national forest inventories, collaboration in South Pacific, and database management.

The Project which has the duration of five years was inaugurated on 1st January 2006 and will end on 31st December 2010. The project office is located at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAORAP) in Bangkok, Thailand.

As mandated under the project document, progress in the MAR Project was reviewed jointly by the three cooperating parties: the donor agency - the Government of Japan; the executing agency - FAO; and representatives of the participating countries - The Governments of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam as well as the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

2. Organization of the meeting

FAO implemented the mid-term tripartite review (TPR) meeting workshop at the FAORAP in Bangkok, Thailand from 16 to 19 September 2008. Representatives of 18 countries participated in the meeting as well as the donor country (Japan) and officers of FAO-Headquarters and FAORAP.

3. Structure of the meeting

Appendix 1 shows the agenda of the workshop made up of opening sessions, introductory sessions, country presentations, technical/operational sessions, and planning sessions, and wrap-up sessions. Presentations and discussions were made on the status, issues and next plans of project activities and progress in and issues on countries' collaboration with the project. Priority activities were clarified through deliberations with national representatives.

4. Participants of the meeting

Appendix 2 lists participants of the workshop. Thirty participants attended the workshop from 18 Asian countries as well as FAO. The Vanuatu representative could not attend the meeting, but sent presentation material to FAO.

5. Meeting sessions

Results of presentations and discussions of the TPR meeting are as follows:

5.1. Framework of the MAR Project and its progress/challenges

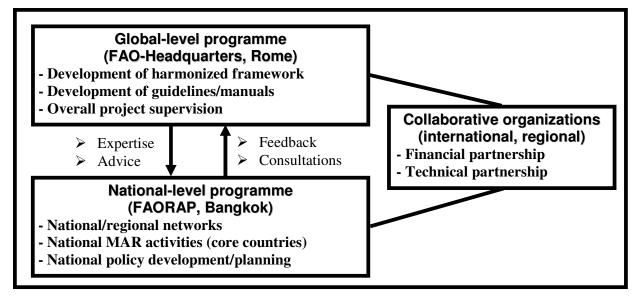
Mr. Otsuka (FAO) made a presentation on the framework of the MAR Project, its progress, and challenges. **Appendix 3** summarizes an outline of the MAR Project. **Figure 1** presents the structure of the MAR Project shared by FAO-Headquarters, FAORAP, and other organizations for development of global guidelines and management of operational activities. He reviewed achievements of the project until August 2008.

A. Outcomes of project activities

1.1 Identification of MAR processes

The following processes have been identified: COFO, FRA, UNFF, CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD,

Figure 1 Structure of the MAR project



ITTO, CITES, INBAR, MDG, Ramsar, CMS, UNEP/WCMC, ASEAN, SPREP, etc.

1.2 Project linkages with international programmes/processes

The project has developed linkages with the following organizations: ITTO, INBAR, UNEP, GLCN, SPC, UNDP, ASEAN, World Bank, CIFOR, ICRAF, GTZ, JICA, etc.

1.3 Identification of key project countries

The project did not determine key project countries definitely, but approximately 10 countries have collaborated intensively with the project with their initiatives. These countries are considered as core countries.

1.4. Initial setup

Twenty-six countries have nominated National Project Coordinators (NPCs) for the project. National Steering Committees were created for the project in 8 countries, while 7 other countries build on existing forestry committees for project management.

1.5. Stakeholder identification in selected countries

The project has received information from Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, and Myanmar with filled-out questionnaires. Stakeholders were identified in detail through a national study in Pakistan. Major stakeholders were also determined through meetings and individual consultations in Cambodia, India, Mongolia, New Zealand, Philippines, Thailand, Vanuatu, and Vietnam.

1.6. In-country studies, training, workshops

Development of national networks, baseline studies to comprehend national MAR situations, and initial awareness workshops have been undertaken under the Letter of Agreement (LOA) in China, Bhutan, India, Mongolia, Philippines, Vanuatu, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), and under the Field Budget Authorization (FBA) in Cambodia, Pakistan, and Vietnam. However, some of these countries suffered long and complex procedure in the LOA or FBA contracts with divergent administrative procedures, bringing about the delay in programme implementation. The programme delay was also caused by the government administration due to its other duties.

2.1 International framework on MAR

The project implemented regional training workshops on remote sensing-based land cover classification systems (LCCS) and harmonization of forest classifications in Dehradun in December 2006 and on a harmonization, broadening and cross-sectoral integration of national forest inventories (NFIs) in Beijing, March 2007. Questionnaire surveys on NFIs have been conducted with 19 Asian countries and 1 Pacific country after the workshop, whose results were consolidated into NFI country briefs. These activities will need to be followed up to provide a clear framework on satellite-based and field-level monitoring and assessment on forests.

FAO is also developing a reporting framework under the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2010 and a mechanism of harmonization and streamlining of international reporting in collaboration with other international processes. Synergies should also be sought with regional and national reporting initiatives such as ASEAN Criteria and Indicators (C&I) and national forest information systems.

2.2 Harmonized technical guidelines

FAO is elaborating the National Forest Monitoring & Assessment (NFMA) to enhance countries' forest monitoring and assessment through field surveys and database management.

FAO has also developed methodologies for satellite monitoring and GIS on forests such as LCCS, GeoVis, and GeoNetwork as well as the FRA 2010 Global Remote Sensing Survey (RSS). Harmonized technical guidelines are being elaborated through these programmes, but the issue would be the applicability of the approaches recommended by FAO in countries. Accommodation with other international guidelines or processes (e.g., CBD, UNEP/WCMC, ITTO, UNFF, UNFCCC, REDD initiatives, etc.) and bilateral agencies (e.g., GTZ, AuAID, Finnish Cooperation, etc.) should also be considered. Comprehensive and adaptive guidelines will have to be developed to be made applicable in each country, covering broad thematic elements of forest MAR.

2.3 National/sub-regional workshops

National and sub-regional workshops were held in Cambodia, China, India, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, and Vanuatu, and will be implemented in Bhutan and Vietnam as well as under the programme of the SPC. Participants discussed harmonization of terms, definitions, and classifications of forests, basic monitoring techniques, harmonization of reporting formats, stakeholder analysis, and institutional mechanisms/networking. While maintaining countries' initiatives, linkages of national activities with global programmes of FAO (e.g., NFMA, FRA, etc.) will need to be strengthened.

3.1 Harmonized database elements

This work has not yet been completed. The FAO-Headquarters is elaborating harmonized database systems for forest MAR through NFMA, FRA, and other programmes. It is urgently necessary to complete database elements to be tested and applied in countries.

3.2 National MAR databases

Completion of the harmonized database elements (3.1) at the FAO-Headquarters is essential to support development of national MAR databases. Linkages with regional and national initiatives such as ASEAN C&I are also crucial to facilitate harmonized database development in Asia-Pacific countries.

4.1 International information sharing network

The Asia-Pacific Network of Experts on NFI was initiated with 27 countries and 6 organizations after the NFI workshop in Beijing in 2007, but no tangible activities were realized in it. The SPC is carrying out a study on a sub-regional network in South Pacific for its development. Coordination with networks of FRA or NFMA correspondents would be useful in development of forest MAR networks.

4.2 Facilitation in information sharing network

National networks were set up in 18 countries, out of which new networks were organized in Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vanuatu, and Vietnam. Some other countries (e.g., Australia, China, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, New Zealand, and Republic of Korea) build on existing networks for networking on forest MAR. An internal network has been developed within forest-related agencies in Thailand and will be in Papua New Guinea, but they have not yet been expanded to other stakeholders due to limited financial or human resource capacities. These national networks held 1 - 2 meetings for introduction of their activities, stakeholder identification/coordination, elaboration of work plans, and formulation of a strategy for harmonization of forest MAR. In order to reduce the risk of dependency and to enhance sustainability of the national networks, financial inputs from the MAR Project were limited to US\$1,000 per year for each country. However, countries expressed difficulties in managing activities with such limited funds.

B. Products

The project has published 34 working papers comprised of: manuals on national networks, remote sensing analysis on deforestation and forest degradation, a GIS primer on the NFI data, and biodiversity; workshop proceedings; briefs and questionnaire surveys on NFI; and proposals. China and Pakistan submitted study reports on MAR. Five issues of newsletters were disseminated to the focal points of the MAR Project as well as members of the regional NFI network and correspondents of FRA and NFMA. The MAR website was constructed under the NFMA site (http://www.fao.org/forestry/34847/en/).

Preparation of country reports needs to be accelerated under the LOA or FBA programmes. More guidelines and manuals are also required from FAO-Headquarters to strengthen collaboration with countries. On the other hand, original manuals could also be elaborated with inputs from countries for more adaptive MAR activities. Official endorsement processes of FAO or countries took a long time before dissemination of these products to all participating countries. Focal points' inputs would highly be appreciated to improve and enrich the newsletter. The MAR website will also have to be enhanced through link to other networks or government sites.

C. Inputs

The total project funds were reduced from the initial US\$2,810,045 in 2006 to US\$2,543,455 in 2008 due to financial situations of the Government of Japan. The issue is if project activities can be maintained or should be reduced with the reduced budget. Cost-effective management of activities as well as coordination with other programmes would be indispensable. The Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) retired from the MAR Project on 31 October 2007 after his service for 2 years. The Regional Technical Advisor (RTA) is assigned to the project for the whole project period with part-time technical and administrative support from FAO. Three short-term consultants were hired to complement global project activities at the FAO-Headquarters. International activities need to be continued in collaboration with the FAO-Headquarters and other external organizations. Regional and national initiatives and inputs should also be better reflected on development of MAR guidelines.

D. Overall discussions

In discussions, Mr. Than (Myanmar) said that strictly harmonized guidelines of FAO would be difficult to apply for heterogeneous forests. He also pointed out that technical assistance would be necessary in forest inventories at the forest management unit (FMU) level in addition to the national level. Mr. Altrell (FAO) responded that FAO was dealing with management of NFI at national and sub-national levels under the NFMA, assisting countries in different scope of NFI, though not undertaking FMU-level support. Mr. Kashio (FAO) and Mr. Dhital (Bhutan) mentioned that NFIs as well as remote sensing surveys had been designed initially for assessment of timber resources, but information required from NFI was broadened to non-timber resources and forest health. Therefore, countries would need external support to fill gaps between required information and collected information. Mr. Altrell suggested networking of countries to exchange skills among countries.

Mr. Miyazono (Japan) said that this meeting was expected to clarify a common vision of the project and support expected from FAO, picking out key activities from the broad scope of the project. Mr. Otsuka (FAO) expected financial and technical support from national governments

to complement project activities. Mr. Bulai (SPC) explained the status of collaboration with the MAR Project to study and develop a sub-regional network for long-term development of regional capacities for forest MAR. Mr. Durst (FAO) clarified the situation of the project implementation until now, underlining the balancing of regional and national activities upon countries' needs and collaboration with external organizations. Mr. Altrell added the collaboration of FAO-Headquarters with other organizations to enhance synergy and capacity building. Mr. S. Kim (R. Korea) suggested the simplification of the project framework by prioritizing activities, supporting FAO's initiative for development of guidelines and frameworks on MAR. Mr. H.K. Kim (FAO) suggested that there was no need to change the project framework due to time limitations, but that regional training be addressed for the remaining period. Mr. Than said that crucial activities would be in-house training on technical elements of MAR and establishment of regional/national networks for reporting systems to share experience among stakeholders.

5.2. Technical aspects of the project

Mr. Kashio introduced FAORAP's support for the MAR Project, including budget holding, general technical advice, facilitation in collaboration with countries and regional organizations through LOA, FBA, etc., and secretarial support. These services will be strengthened for increased activities at national, sub-regional and regional levels. Mr. Altrell presented the overall scope of the NFMA programme, focusing on its objectives, approaches, techniques of plot sampling, data collection, land use classification, data/information management, activity costs, contributions to REDD and biodiversity assessment, and linkages with MAR. He concluded that strengthening of national and regional capacities for harmonized NFMA would facilitate harmonization of forest-related reporting. Then he presented the scheme of FRA 2010, covering its background, framework, reporting tables, methodologies such as a global remote sensing survey (RSS), its harmonization with other reporting processes, and linkages or synergy with MAR like workshops on remote sensing and reporting harmonization.

Mr. Otsuka raised technical issues on the MAR Project, reviewing past project interventions, including:

- Remote sensing technologies (FRA2010-RSS, LCCS, GOFC-GOLD, Degrees Confluence Project, etc.) and their harmonization, advanced monitoring
- Field monitoring: NFMA, EEAF, other approaches (GTZ, Finland, etc.) and issues for broadened, harmonized, and continuous monitoring
- Thematic assessments (biodiversity, biomass, carbon)
- Forest information systems: applicability of NFMA and MAR working papers, harmonization
- Reporting harmonization: terms, reporting methods, data provision techniques
- Linkage of MAR with SFM policy: decision support/planning systems, NFPs
- Regional/national networks: optimal network design, linkages among related networks

Mr. Saret asked about types of software utilized for NFMA with his concern over the use of existing conventional software or new software with in-house training. Mr. Altrell answered that the Microsoft Access was used for the NFMA, suggesting that countries could apply it for database management. Mr. Miyazono advised that there should be certain categories for selection of countries in response to their needs for capacity building and that FAO provide technical assistance to countries. Mr. Altrell added that FAO would prioritize countries for NFMA activities, depending on their priorities for its application. Saying that Myanmar had worked with FAO on NFI for over 10 years, Mr. Than was concerned that the change of the

sampling design under the NFMA would require a high cost. He would think of next activities for the remaining period through analysis of NFI, convincing the government. Focus of activities would be reporting harmonization among various processes, capacity building for use of data for reporting, and networking, building on MAR workshops.

Mr. Karyaatmadja mentioned that Indonesia had set up the NFI system a long time ago and was developing a forest resource information system (FRIS) and a carbon accounting system which would be incorporated into NFI. Seeing the fact that the country had also used FRA and ASEAN C&I frameworks, he raised imminent issues on MAR like how to better link such different setting to each other at regional, national, and FMU levels. Appreciating the effort for FRIS and carbon accounting, Mr. Kashio said that the MAR Project would learn experience from countries, not imposing FAO approaches (e.g., NFMA, etc.) on them. Mr. S. Kim suggested that it be fine to monitor if the collaborating countries would use the same approaches or not in the follow-up activity plan by comparing their MAR approaches for further harmonization.

Mr. Ambia showed his interest in suitable methodologies for REDD in Asia-Pacific, countries' investment in it, and the adaptability of the NFMA process for REDD. Talking about the coordination among NFMA, IPCC and REDD, Mr. Altrell suggested that the question would be levels of countries' precision of data for investment in REDD through identification of suitable expansion factors. Mr. Chaozong (China) showed his concern over what countries had used what sampling techniques (e.g., stratified sampling, etc.), saying that it would not be easy to apply the same sampling design in all countries. Mr. Altrell answered that the systematic sampling was always applied to the NFMA, as stratified sampling could not easily be applied in insular countries like the Philippines. This sampling framework should be applicable to all countries, though national adaptation could be allowed to some degree.

Mr. Haradhan clarified the assessment for REDD under NFA in Bangladesh by collecting data on biomass and carbon using parameters of area change and carbon stock change from sample plots and remote sensing, combined with traditional methods. Assessment of below-ground level carbon would require particular methodologies. Mr. Kashio suggested that NFI data be used to assess overall biomass and carbon with stem volume and expansion factors in FRA Tables 7 and 8. Mr. Than complemented that the UNFCCC also conducted REDD case studies. In Myanmar, GEF funds were used for REDD in connection with cyclone. Mr. Kashio was also concerned about the required resolution of the satellite imagery for detailed information on biomass and carbon vis-à-vis Landsat.

5.3. Countries' collaboration with the MAR Project

5.3.1. Collaboration of the Republic of Korea with FAO

Mr. H.K. Kim outlined his current work under the Korean-funded programme at the FAO-Headquarters and a strategy for supporting forest MAR, covering the situation of SFM in Kyrgyzstan, the resolution at the UNFCCC 13th Conference and the Bali Road Map. Then he clarified a work plan (road map) for forest MAR in Asia with the NFMA component and its significance for strengthening of forest MAR and promotion of SFM in countries. In line with the road map of FAO for Asia, he will formulate technical assistance projects by selecting countries on the basis of internal and external priorities, addressing the marketing of the NFMA. The possibility of collaboration with the MAR project would be explored in new projects.

Mr. Dhital asked about how the Korea-funded programme could prioritize Asia to strengthen NFI and how to apply for collaboration with it. Mr. H.K. Kim answered that only a few countries could be invited to the project due to limited funds, though he could not yet clarify the countries amid preparation of the Road Map. The chairperson (Mr. S. Kim) suggested that this project be discussed more intensively in another workshop or via internet. Mr. Kashio commented that the Korean support had initially been oriented to the MAR Project, but that it had been changed to collaboration with the NFMA. He also expected the dispatch of a Korean expert to FAORAP, seeing that the MAR Project would deal with wider issues than the NFMA programmes. Mr. H.K. Kim explained that the Korean collaboration had been decided through political deliberations, agreed by the FAO-Headquarters. He would explore potential collaboration with the MAR Project.

Mr. Altrell added that the MAR Project had not only a regional component but also a global component. He also explained that the FAO-Headquarters were developing harmonized guidelines for MAR systems and will provide financial and technical support to activities in Asia and the Pacific. Mr. Miyazono commented that this was the first regional project related to MAR sponsored by the Government of Japan, and thus the experience accumulated through the project would be valuable for Japan when considering any future initiatives.

5.3.2. Countries' collaboration with the MAR Project

A. Cambodia, China, India, Mongolia and Pakistan

In the first sub-session participants of Cambodia, China, India, Mongolia and Pakistan made presentations on national MAR programmes, respectively. Mr. Saret reviewed activities in Cambodia (national network development, study on national MAR using C&I, and a workshop), and pointed out lack of data, funds, and stakeholders' interest. He suggested further development of the MAR format at national and FMU levels, database development, strengthening of an information sharing network, and capacity building to national network members. Mr. Min introduced a diagnostic study on the development of a forestry monitoring system and harmonization of international reporting in China, highlighting widespread national reporting schemes along various international processes and overloaded reporting burdens. He suggested harmonization of national reporting for international arrangements through development C&I framework, harmonization of forest-related assessment with NFIs, simplification of international reporting formats and indicators, and enhancement of national reporting capacities.

Mr. Negi presented programme achievements such as development of a national steering committee and a national network and assessment of the national MAR system in India. He suggested strengthening of working plan processes for forest MAR, dovetailing of C&I as a part of working plan processes, monitoring of SFM through C&I, intensive regional and national networking of stakeholders, and increase of awareness amongst stakeholders. Mr. Dagdandorj reviewed national network development as well as an overall forest monitoring framework and NFIs in Mongolia. He advocated needs for systematic review of methods, regulations, and budgets for NFIs. Mr. Zarif focused on national network development for harmonization and improvement of national MAR in Pakistan, motivating stakeholders to participate in discussions on data collection methodologies.

Mr. Altrell advised country representatives to convince policy makers of prioritizing the implementation of MAR programmes. He also recommended them to include non-forestry

government sectors in national networks. The presenters responded that private and public non-forestry stakeholders were already included in national networks. Mr. Than commented that the government had started development of centralized forestry statistics systems, inviting all sectors of central organizations including statistical agencies for harmonization of MAR under the ASEAN framework. Mr. Karyaatmadja (Indonesia) pointed out two problems in MAR activities: how to harmonize various national reporting in different systems and how to make national networks effective with many stakeholders for successful MAR. The chairperson (Mr. Dinh) concluded that countries should gradually find the best solutions by themselves in planning of MAR activities during the next phase, as they initiated different activities in different situations.

B. Bhutan, Philippines, Vanuatu, Vietnam, SPC

Participants of Bhutan, Philippines, Vanuatu, Vietnam, and SPC presented national or sub-regional project activities. Mr. Dhital presented the scope of the national MAR programme in Bhutan such as strengthening of a national network, study on MAR-SFM, and a workshop on harmonization of MAR. The network will focus on data collection processes for assessment of forest cover change with higher-resolution imagery (SPOT). However, the Government of Bhutan could not start activities due to a long procedure for signature and funding in the LOA contract. Mr. Tamayo presented progress in the programme for raising awareness and strengthening capacities on application of forest auditing systems using C&I in the Philippines, such as identification of regional focal persons, review of the current national C&I framework, awareness campaign, and preparation of a training module.

Mr. Otsuka presented the status of MAR activities in Vanuatu on behalf of the national focal point (Ms. Kamasteia): organization of a national steering committee and national network; study of national MAR systems whose completion was delayed due to increased survey activities and other duties of the survey staff. Ms. Kamasteia suggested the development of egovernment to ensure easier access to forest information. Mr. Dinh presented MAR situations in Vietnam and the scope of collaboration with the project after the establishment of a national network. Despite the development of forest classifications and monitoring systems, Vietnam still faces difficulties in harmonization of MAR. He expected that newly started collaboration with the MAR project would contribute to development of harmonized forest MAR. Mr. Bulai introduced collaboration of SPC with the project for studying MAR systems in Pacific countries, development of a regional MAR network, and elaboration of a long-term umbrella plan of MAR activities. The SPC conducted questionnaire surveys with Pacific countries, and will visit selected countries for intensive consultations. After that, a meeting will be held with national focal points.

Mr. Zarif appreciated contributions from the SPC on a need for sub-regional collaboration and sharing of information resources and expertise. He also suggested the development of a similar sub-regional network to develop a regional resource base for South Asian countries on GIS, field data collection techniques, etc. Mr. Negi advised that the SAARC Forestry Centre in Bhutan be a good mechanism to study and develop a South Asian sub-regional network for MAR. Mr. Dhital added that the SAARC Forestry Centre had been established for regional forestry cooperation in coordination with the ICIMOD in Nepal for land cover assessment, playing a leading role in reporting harmonization. Mr. Than also agreed on the significance of collaboration among countries through regional coordination for harmonization of forest reporting with C&I. He was also concerned with institutional linkages for MAR within countries.

Mr. Durst questioned difficulties in applying C&I for different ownership categories in the Philippines. Mr. Tamayo explained that the difficulties arose from the use of the generic C&I that had initially been developed for timber industries in different regions or forest areas owing specific requirements, above all community-based operations. Mr. H.K. Kim acknowledged the Philippine initiatives to integrate C&I into the MAR framework at the FMU level, and suggested that it be expanded to other countries. He also mentioned that NFMA experiences in the Philippines and Bangladesh would be useful for comparison of C&I processes. Responding to his question, Mr. Tamayo explained that the NFMA team in the Philippines assisted the incorporation of C&I into the FRA reporting process at the FMU level. Data collection was actualized at the field level through capacity building, and focal points of the national network presented C&I data to stakeholders. While acknowledging potential value of e-governments,

Mr. Kashio asked about communication facilities in the Pacific region. Mr. Bulai answered that internet facilities were quite good in general, though not so favourable in a few countries or remote areas. Computerization of government offices is going on in the Pacific region now. Mr. Ambia (Papua New Guinea) added that internet access and telecommunications were good in the capital city, but that had problems in provinces. He also mentioned that forestry offices of 19 provinces could be connected with e-mails. He had another concern that updating of satellite data cost high as they were managed mostly on a commercial basis. Summarizing the history of MAR development in Vietnam, Mr. Dinh mentioned that field-level data were stored in computerized database systems, though translation of database into English was a bottleneck. Mr. Kashio indicated that FAO had helped countries improve forest-related database, noticing the importance of electronic data capturing. Meanwhile, he also noted difficulties in disseminating local information to external institutions due to misinterpretation from the local language into English.

C. Other countries (Bangladesh, Fiji, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Thailand)

Representatives of nine other countries made presentations on situations of national MAR and suggested project activities. Mr. Haradhan introduced results of the National Forest Assessment, remote sensing in Bangladesh, and the scope of collaboration with the MAR Project. He acknowledged the role of NFA (2005 – 2007) in FRA reporting in Bangladesh. He requested the simplification of the FAO procedure for easier implementation of national MAR activities. He also suggested that FAORAP authorize the FAO Representation in Bangladesh to sign the LOA on its behalf. Mr. Siga outlined overall forest management and monitoring programmes including NFI and coordination with various stakeholders for comprehensive MAR in Fiji. He pointed out the lack of human resources in MAR activities there. Mr. Karyaatmadja presented overall forest monitoring and information systems and the initial setup of a national network for harmonization of reporting and development of MAR, building on NFI, FRA, ASEAN C&I, etc. He will facilitate development of the network through consultations with potential members.

Mr. Sanoty overviewed the recent development of MAR in Lao PDR like the NFI development with the CIDA and forest monitoring from 1992 to 2002. The second assessment is to be started with database management in coordination with the World Bank Carbon Facilities. Introduced methodologies need to be translated into local language to be disseminated to provincial governments. Mr. Muda (Malaysia) introduced national MAR systems such as Malaysian C&I, NFI, and forest information systems. Mr. Than analyzed general situations of MAR in Myanmar, such as insufficient development of NFI and database systems as well as lack of budget and personnel.

Mr. Ambia commented that an intra-network would be established soon, eager to learn other countries' experience in network development. He also showed his concern with carbon accounting in conjunction with the REDD. Mr. S. Kim made a review of overall Korean MAR programmes, trying to establish a national MAR system to enhance collection of forestry information. Explaining overall MAR systems in Thailand, Ms. Meedej presented the status of collaboration with the project like the organization of a national task force on MAR and planning of a national network. She also showed interest in pilot testing of the NFMA manual, soliciting technical assistance from FAO.

Responding to the presentation by Ms. Meedej, Mr. Altrell announced a technical consultation on the NFMA, NFI, and official contact channels for collaboration on 19 September. The chairman (Mr. Zarif) emphasized that MAR should be owned by the countries as it was vital for SFM.

5.4. Operational issues on the project

Mr. Kashio illuminated the following operational issues of the MAR Project in his presentation:

- Delay in activities: There is a need for rescheduling activities for the remaining period
- Effective coordination and synergy within FAO and with countries for timely implementation
- Optimal partnership with international and regional organizations or processes
- Smooth travel arrangements for national participants with speedy travel authorization by FAO and visa arrangements by countries
- Enhanced contracts with countries for timely collaboration (under LOA, FBA, and PSA)
- Strengthening of collaboration with countries (addressing incentives for focal points' work and countries' security with the UN security clearance)
- Project monitoring: functions of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and the National Steering Committee (NSC)

Mr. Zarif asked if the countries always had to use internal financial resources to satisfy international obligations. Mr. Altrell commented that external assistance could be sought to supplement funds, although few donor agencies might be interested in investment in MAR. Mr. Miyazono suggested that MAR activities could be strengthened in collaboration with other agencies like bilateral cooperation through development of regional networks. Mr. Ambia responded that data users could provide monetary incentives to data providers (focal points) to encourage their work for the project. Mr. Karyaatmadja said that technical assistance especially in harmonization of various reporting systems would be more important for focal points than financial incentives. He also underlined the importance of adapting national needs to new reporting formats. Meanwhile, Mr. Haradhan remarked that it would be important to consider incentives for focal points charged with project work by government departments without additional payment.

Mr. Kashio explained that FAO could not provide monetary incentives, but that focal points could enjoy non-monetary benefits through collaboration like exchange of ideas with participants during meetings. Referring to the currency in LOA contracts, Mr. Durst clarified that US dollars could be used for regional organizations such as the SPC for more flexibility. Mr. Bulai mentioned that LOA funds were utilized for travel and overall programme

management. The SPC secured resources with collaborating organizations through technical partnership, which ensures flexible management of activities. Mr. Haradhan talked about the work of the Government of Bangladesh with FAOR in Bangladesh to prepare an LOA, requesting FAO to authorize FAOR-Bangladesh to sign it first and then arrange a bank account later. Mr. Durst suggested the use of FBA instead of LOA for collaboration in Bangladesh. Mr. Otsuka explained that he had ever suggested the FBA to FAOR-Bangladesh, while it appeared that they might not have accepted heavier financial arrangements under it. Mr. Siga recommended the formulation of guidelines for cooperative programmes with FAO to be more familiarized.

Mr. Bulai said that it would be difficult to set up a single steering committee for the MAR Project, but that it would be better to build on the existing multi-sectoral stakeholder committee of SPC or the SFM committee with GTZ. Mr. Otsuka agreed to his suggestion. Mr. Zarif made clear that the forestry committee would be complex structure with various organizations in bigger countries, which would make agreements more difficult. Mr. Negi also pointed out a difficulty in working with many institutions in the national MAR network.

5.5. Financial aspects of the project

Mr. Durst reported the status of utilization of project funds with the reduced amount (See the project budget and expenditure in **Appendix 4**). More funds were spent on travel, followed by contracts (e.g., LOA, FBA, etc.) and regional training. Travel, regional training, and consultants would be the major items of financial inputs for the remaining period. Then he exposed budgetary issues such as:

- Balancing of regional programmes and national programmes in budget preparations
- Prioritization of project activities
- Categorization of countries in terms of the intensity of technical collaboration and financial capacities
- Streamlining of project activities through collaboration and cost sharing with related programmes of FAO and other organizations

The chairperson (Mr. Suttisrisilapa) invited all the country representatives to make comments on his presentation. Mr. Dhital proposed the alteration of national MAR activities under the LOA from consultant recruitment to a national workshop. Mr. Negi said that the LOA could not allow pilot testing for harmonization of MAR due to the lack of funds to cover high travel costs. Mr. Zarif suggested that more local resources and participants be ensured in data collection which was undertaken by the Forestry Department for strengthening and streamlining of forest monitoring, because local people would perceive change of forest resources more explicitly. Mr. Haradhan said that the government had endorsed the project budget only recently for each item. The next national network was expected in December 2008, but the LOA should be concluded earlier to manage MAR activities.

Mr. Than mentioned that the Government of Myanmar would hopefully accept a sample LOA to support MAR soon. He also said that the national network could advise the government to use the national budget for strengthening monitoring and assessment. Then he expected the MAR Project to help the government with technical inputs for decision makers. Mr. Dinh said that the budget for 2008 - 2010 would be reasonable, while suggesting its well-balanced distribution to different activities with his expectation for the NFMA programme. Mr. Altrell complemented that the NFMA programmes would be expanded to new countries as well as existing countries with new donors in 2009 and 2010. Mr. Saret said that the government

budget was still limited to support project activities despite a lot of activities like capacity building and data collection. Although he already made a budget proposal for the next activities, it would be difficult to get government funds in 2009. Mr. Sanoty suggested that the focus of the Implementation Phase should be the harmonization of MAR and data collection, though they would require more funds.

Ms. Meedej emphasized that more important would be technical inputs than funding in collaboration for MAR. Regular government funds would be allocated for pilot testing of NFMA. Sharing of experience with our colleagues through training would also be essential. Mr. Dagdandorj expressed his expectation for more technical assistance from FAO in NFI, while he was concerned about the difficulty in application of the recommended system to the country. Mr. Chaozong showed his expectation that the MAR Project could strengthen countries in national activities with global partners to enhance harmonization of forest MAR. Mr. Muda emphasized the importance of the budget preparation to support data collection on changes in forest resources over time. He raised an issue on how to better utilize existing databases with available data to move ahead the MAR Project. Mr. Karyaatmadja suggested the mobilization of more funds from other donor agencies to support MAR activities. Mr. Tamayo also requested that required financial resources be allocated by other donor agencies for assistance in C&I and FRA activities involving decision making processes in the Philippines. The country gained experience in using information generated from NFA for FRA2005 and providing scientific bases for setting cutting regimes with it.

Mr. Siga agreed that financial matters were heavily important for MAR. The Government of Fiji would require funds for technical assistance in setting up a national network. It would be crucial to develop an inter-country network for sharing information and influencing top-level decision making as well as facilitating cost sharing among partners for MAR activities. Mr. Bulai stressed that the SPC made use of joint technical resources effectively with financial and technical partners to respond to countries' needs like back-to-back meetings to minimize costs. He also added that the SPC would continue to support sharing of local expertise within the region to assist Pacific Island countries. He advised that the MAR Project be seen as filling gaps for data, while the project should concentrate on supporting countries that lagged behind.

Mr. Miyazono explained that a budget proposal to the Ministry of Finance of Japan should be made every year, even though the MAR Project is a five-year project. Budget proposals were already submitted to the Ministry of Finance of Japan four times up to 2009. There was political decision on the overseas development assistance of Japan to reduce the budget amount by 4% annually over the years. If the planned project activities could not be carried out due to financial constraints, they should be revised as appropriate and/or would have to be complemented by other potential collaborators. Mr. Kashio asked about the original currency in budget programme formulation. Mr. Miyazono answered that the project budget was calculated in Japanese yen, whose dollar amount was affected by the exchange rate of the year. Mr. Kashio also suggested a possibility of utilizing interest accrued from project funds on the bank account to supplement the project budget, but Mr. Miyazono responded that the interest could not be utilized.

The chairperson called on Mr. Durst to wrap up the session. Appreciating participants' valuable discussions, he underscored the necessity to find other financial resources for MAR activities. He also agreed to an essential need to identify gaps in project countries to advance MAR activities like in the case of SPC. There would still be a need to discuss with countries about their specific needs to try mobilization of donor funding. FAO has been successful in sourcing funds from other organizations like in the example of FRA. As in Mr. Siga's

comments, it is important to better use gathered information to influence decision making processes more effectively. Due to limited resources against a lot of financial needs, synergy should be sought to complement project activities with other organizations. The MAR Project was organizing a workshop jointly with FRA.

5.6. Next steps of the project

Mr. Otsuka made two presentations on the scope of project activities and an activity plan for the Implementation Phase until December 2010, consisting of the completion of global components (e.g., international frameworks/guidelines, database elements, and regional information networking) and development of national/sub-regional activities (e.g., in-country training, pilot MAR activities, database development, and networking). Then he proposed activities within the financial capacities of the project, such as:

- Regional workshops on reporting harmonization, C&I, national monitoring and assessment systems, database management, etc.
- Short-term consultants on remote sensing and database management
- National MAR programmes (e.g., technical consultations, training, pilot activities, etc.)
- Information networking
- Publications (newsletters, reports, manuals, etc.)

Appendix 4 consolidates a summary of proposed activities.

The chairperson (Mr. Miyazono) focused on balancing of global and national activities for the remaining periods. Mr. Karyaatmadja recommended the continuation of global activities as the first priority before shifting to national activities, while budget preparations should be balanced between both activities. He mentioned that budgets of US\$1,000/year per country would be too small to organize national network meetings with various stakeholders. Mr. Altrell advised that global and national activities should not be duplicated. Due to its limited funds, he recommended some additional programmes outside of the MAR Project. He also explained that FRA aimed mainly at harmonized international reporting, while NFMA would develop methodologies for collection and management of data on forest resources in correspondence with international-level database elements. Then he mentioned that FAO could support countries to apply methodologies for national-level database development. In response to Mr. Karyaatmadja's request to increase funds for national networks, Mr. Kashio advocated a need for common understanding and agreement on the national network and its budget not to create future problems. Mr. Otsuka suggested the incorporation of national network activities into overall national MAR programmes rather than managing them as stand-alone programmes.

Mr. Ambia also affirmed that US\$1,000 would be minimal only for a small group with 10 persons. Then he suggested the management of national network activities in conjunctions with other meetings. Mr. Than argued that the steering committee would require no funds for meetings, as supported technically or financially by other donor organizations (e.g., UNDP, etc.), NGOs or national consultants. The Forestry Statistics Division undertakes MAR activities with operational funds. Mr. Miyazono asked Mr. Than about a possibility of utilizing the facilities which had been constructed with the assistance of JICA in Myanmar to save the cost. Mr. Than answered that the government was provided with rooms and office supply. Mr. Chaozong expressed his concern with international-level database development, expecting that FAO can provide a framework for harmonization of national-level database to improve national database systems. Mr. Haradhan asked if national networks could be continued with other funds after the end of the MAR Project and suggested follow-up activities on the MAR

Project in another project. Mr. Negi pointed out difficulties in incorporation of current national databases into national forestry programmes, because managed in other projects, advocating a need for collaboration between the forestry sector and other sectors.

Mr. Miyazono clarified that, in principle, the donor would need to see tangible achievements of the project for the remaining period to examine the possibility of the follow-up phase. Mr. S. Kim suggested the prioritization of national activities to receive financial support from external agencies, asking FAO to motivate countries to set the priorities by their political decision. Mr. Siga talked about the integration of the MAR framework in the country to achieve national and regional commitments. Again Mr. Karyaatmadja suggested that the government continue national network activities by themselves in a flexible way, asking for other support. In response to Mr. Otsuka's questions on the collaboration, Mr. H.K. Kim explained that he would consider future collaboration with the MAR Project. He was concerned about how to develop international MAR frameworks and guidelines after the CTA left the project, suggesting the incorporation of frameworks of other international processes into the project. Mr. Miyazono also agreed to better incorporate and rearrange international activities from a regional viewpoint. Mr. Kashio also explained the structure of the project by showing figures on page 9 of the project document, stressing the linkage between regional and national perspectives. Mr. Sutthisrisilapa requested that the MAR Project support clarification of MAR formats. He also clarified the organization of a task force on MAR and administrative problems of program formulation in Thailand.

5.7. Recommendations for next steps of activities for the MAR Project

Appendix 4 lists recommended project activities with participants' priorities at national and global levels. Each participant also filled out a questionnaire on suggestions for the next activities. Its results are presented in **Appendix 5**.

Mr. Otsuka requested participants to provide comments on global-, regional-, and nationallevel activities through discussion about the presented table (Appendix 4). Mr. S. Kim suggested the collaboration between MAR and FRA as well as other international organizations for harmonization of international reporting, providing assistance to countries to fill out reporting tables effectively. Mr. Musa also expected that MAR and FRA would evolve a complementary process without overlapping of work. Mr. Otsuka explained that the activities would aim to develop technical guidelines to harmonize forest information and develop database structure in collaboration with FAO and other organizations, but that harmonization should also be facilitated at national and regional levels by sharing of experiences among countries. Mr. Dhital stressed that strengthening of national activities through a national network would be the most important. The chairperson (Mr. Haradhan) suggested that completion of MAR would facilitate the FRA reporting. Mr. Zarif said that harmonization and standardization of NFI methodologies with competent technical institutions would be the most important. Mr. Tamayo considered that it would be important to examine the applicability of recommended models in countries in terms of sustainability of and requirements for their application to national programmes.

Mr. Negi requested the balancing between national and sub-regional activities during the remaining period. Mr. Otsuka said that he would consider the sub-regional activities as well. Mr. Sanoty agreed to the proposed activities which suited the national need to improve data on forest cover. Mr. Than said that national training activities should focus on harmonization of

MAR by evaluating current MAR systems with stakeholders in a national network. He also highlighted that MAR would cover broader issues (e.g., NFI, national networks, etc.), requiring a wider range of information accordingly, than FRA2010 which might be a copy of FRA 2005 in general. Mr. Kashio supplemented that assessment techniques were updated with finer but more costly resolution in FRA 2010. The crucial issue would be how to analyze changes in forests and climate using the current imagery and data. Mr. Altrell added that capacity building would be provided repeatedly to countries to satisfy basic information needs for harmonization of FRA reporting and its global remote sensing surveys. Stakeholders should use the same approaches for data collection and language definitions which were agreed by international processes for harmonized reporting. Mr. Ambia expected that the MAR Project could support countries to make data collection more consistent among different data sets. He also suggested needs for study of remote sensing technologies for elimination of cloud coverage and provision of forest data as well as database management systems.

Mr. Bulai said that a regional back-to-back meeting would be organized for FRA and MAR in November for capacity building to South Pacific countries, while regional initiatives would be maintained on data collection through sharing of technical information. Mr. Otsuka expressed his expectation that the SPC would collaborate with FAO for regional training workshops. Mr. Chaozong expected that the MAR Project could strengthen national capacities for continuous assessment and reporting by conducting thematic studies and pilot testing on biodiversity, biomass, and carbon at the national level. Mr. Karyaatmadja suggested training programmes with other agencies because it would be necessary to facilitate harmonization among a number of ministries involved in MAR.

Mr. Dinh said that MAR would be very important for FRA. A national workshop on NFI would be organized in Vietnam, in which the NFMA would also be considered. Mr. Otsuka said that he would follow up on the national workshop there. Mr. Altrell mentioned that FAO was collaborating with the Coalition for Rainforest Nations (CRN) for joint training on the NFMA. It was desired that Asian and Pacific countries would become a member of the CRN. Mr. Saret pointed out that detailed MAR data on biodiversity and carbon were not yet fully reflected in FRA. National FRA activities should be strengthened with updated inventory data by multi-stakeholder participation thorough national network meetings. Mr. Siga said that the SPC had focal points and a supporting system with GTZ, SOPAC, etc. to strengthen capacities with regional concepts. Consultations would be made on national-level forest-related harmonization with all other organizations by developing an information network and advisory.

Mr. Sutthisrisilapa stressed that it would be significant to organize a refreshing workshop on national MAR with technical staff and a meeting with high-level officers like the Director General (DG) to discuss political commitments to MAR. Incentives to motivate higher officers would also be crucial to have them strengthen MAR activities. Mr. H.W. Kim agreed that minister-level activities would be important for MAR. He also suggested that the linkage between MAR and FRA be essential in policy aspects for decision makers as well as technical aspects. Mr. Kashio argued that the APFC should take up MAR as important issues to offer regional-level discussions on policy advice in the forestry sector. Mr. Miyazono suggested that FAO could utilize the next COFO in Rome, attended by higher officers like the DG, as appropriate, in order to discuss regional MAR issues and deliver core messages to political leaders on the importance of MAR.

Mr. Durst underscored the importance of collaboration with other organizations to complement MAR activities. National-level activities would require further consultations in terms of budget availability. It would be good that the FAO side identify and coordinate with potential partners

and discuss planning of joint activities and resource sharing at an early stage for their optimal participation. He also agreed to a high-level meeting in COFO with FRA as a good opportunity to get various support and influence decision makers. Mr. H.K. Kim complemented that forest inventory programmes should be an essential part of MAR, needing propaganda to countries and international organizations on its importance. It would be favourable to invite higher officers to the COFO to discuss forest inventory programmes.

After a short break, discussions were continued on next project activities, highlighting capacity building, guidelines and information sharing. Mr. Bulai remarked that programmes of different organizations broadened MAR approaches in Pacific, suggesting a wider focus on information sharing in various fields besides forestry. Mr. Altrell responded that collection, analysis and distribution of information would be different among countries, resulting in their divergent information needs. Mr. Karyaatmadja suggested countries' comparison of results of various guidelines through general information access. He also requested an increase in training workshops in the project. Mr. Altrell suggested that the MAR Project consider thematic studies at the international level through coordination with programmes of FAO-Headquarters. Mr. Miyazono added that the MAR project should aim to find out a common idea to promote, not touching on all the MAR issues. Every county should take more opportunities to strengthen capacity building with information sharing.

Mr. Than suggested that the MAR Project should work together with other organizations to share information. Mr. Altrell said that FAO would facilitate cooperation with NGOs and other organizations. Mr. S. Kim commented that international guidelines such as a guideline for FRA 2010 were difficult to apply vis-à-vis national guidelines due to a limited budget and different commitments. Mr. Muda suggested that there would be several possible ways for harmonization of MAR. Mr. Negi commented that guidelines should be tested on information support. Mr. Karyaatmadja recommended that guidelines be used to help countries to collect and analyze information. Mr. Chaozong requested that guidelines be prepared at national and international levels so that countries could monitor MAR at the national level accordingly. He also mentioned that international MAR networks should guide national networks for harmonized assessment of MAR and its guidelines in national activities in collaboration with FAO, agreed by Mr. Altrell.

Mr. Otsuka presented international and regional priority activities by consolidating participants' prioritization in their questionnaires (**Appendix 4**), focusing on training workshops. Mr. Dhital recommended the elaboration of a guideline for NFI. Mr. Haradhan suggested a training workshop for database management and decision making in May 2009. Mr. Chaozong asked about the relationship between national MAR activities and global MAR programmes: whether global FRA remote sensing surveys could be applicable especially to big countries. A regional training workshop should be initiated on harmonization of international reporting frameworks to countries, including FRA2010 which would be difficult to apply at the national level without training. Mr. Altrell suggested the organization of separate workshops to cope with this issue such as contributions of the FRA team to increase countries' capacities for remote sensing. Mr. Haradhan desired that workshops would be carried out as soon as possible. Mr. Dinh suggested the combination of workshops of priorities 1 (reporting harmonization) and 2 (forest monitoring and assessment) into one workshop, but Mr. Dhital as well as Mr. Otsuka did not agree to it due to complicated management.

Mr. Otsuka presented national and sub-regional activities which the participants prioritized. Mr. Vitus suggested the combination of priority activities again, addressing the organization of workshops. Mr. Kashio brought up thematic studies on biomass and carbon with training and

pilot testing for data collection at the country level. Mr. Altrell requested further clarification of pilot testing activities: What could be done within the limited amount of funds? Mr. Than suggested inclusion of travel costs to forest areas in the budget for MAR programmes. Mr. Negi said that some of the pilot activities could be done by countries' financial contributions to share activity costs. Mr. Altrell asked again if more regional activities should be undertaken than national activities. Mr. S. Kim said that project activities should be comprehensive, covering both regional and national activities. Mr. Negi suggested that both national and regional activities could go together in some mechanisms. Mr. Miyazono underlined again that the MAR Project could not realize all of the activities requested if itsfinancial capacity could not meet all the requests. Mr. Otsuka introduced a final project evaluation mission to be carried out in 2010.

The participants finally agreed to the following priority activities:

1. Regional activities

Priority 1: Training workshop on a guideline for harmonization of international reporting

Priority 2: Training workshop on comprehensive national forest monitoring and assessment (encompassing the NFMA of FAO and thematic assessment)

Priority 3: Training workshop on harmonized database systems and decision support systems for MAR

Priority 4: Training workshop on updated remote sensing technologies

2. National activities

Priority 1: Consultations on strengthening of national networks for harmonization of national forest information (including FRA and other reporting processes)

Priority 2: Development of national forest monitoring and assessment (field data collection/analysis) with training and testing

Priority 3: Development of national database management systems with training and testing

Priority 4: High-level policy dialogue on MAR for sustainable forest management (possibly combined with other programmes)

6. Evaluation of the meeting by the participants

Appendix 4 summarizes participants' evaluation of the meeting. All of the participants evaluated the meeting well (47 % answered "very good", and 53 % answered "fairly good."). They felt that presentations on countries' collaboration on MAR were the most useful for them, followed by presentations on the MAR Project and discussions on next activities. They were also satisfied at the venue and period in general. However, some of them requested time allocation for field visit or sightseeing in or around Bangkok. Some participants requested the increase of participants from each country for the meeting. Some others suggested another meeting with focal points at the beginning of 2009 to assess overall achievements of the project.

7. Conclusions and Recommendations

Through discussions during the TPR meeting, the participants generally agreed on the effectiveness of project activities achieved until now, while suggesting strengthening of project implementation for the remaining period. The participants underlined the significance of concentrated efforts for development of harmonized MAR techniques and improvement of national capacities to apply them. Trial of NFMA and strengthening of reporting to FRA will

be highlighted. On the other hand, participants requested further clarification of the scope and linkages of MAR, FRA, and NFMA to be more familiar with their differences and avoid confusion or duplication over activities. Coordination with related programmes of FAO and other organizations is essential to facilitate coherent project implementation. National MAR programmes should be accelerated to enhance capacity building of national government staff in close linkages with the project. Positive partnership between FAO, the Government of Japan, and other organizations will be explored for optimal technical assistance to project countries. Outcomes of project activities at the global and national levels should be disseminated among Asia-Pacific countries by developing regional or sub-regional MAR networks. The final project evaluation mission will be organized in the middle of 2010. Its recommendations will provide a basis for formulation of an eventual follow-up initiative.

The project management is requested to take necessary action according to the recommendations that were made during the TPR meeting.

Appendix 1 - Agenda of the meeting

Tripartite Mid-term Review Meeting on the Project: Strengthening Monitoring, Assessment, and Reporting (MAR) on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in Asia (GCP/INT/988/JPN)

Organized by:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Funded by: Government of Japan

In collaboration with:
Project countries in the Asia-Pacific region; and

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAORAP), Bangkok 16 - 19 September 2008

15 September 2008 (Monday): Arrival of participants in Bangkok, Thailand

Day 1

16 September 2008 (Tuesday) (Conference room)

08:00 - 09:00 Registration

Opening session:

09:00 - 09:10 09:10 - 09:20 09:20 - 09:30	Welcome address by FAO (He Changchui) Welcome address by the donor agency/Japan (Hiroki Miyazono) Opening remarks by the representative of the project country/Thailand (Wichan Tawichai)
09:30 - 09:40 09:40 - 09:45	Introduction of participants Announcements
09:45 - 09:55 09:55 - 10:15	Group photo Coffee/tea break
10:15 - 10:25 10:25 - 10:35	Introduction to the meeting (Patrick B. Durst) Agenda and meeting organization (Masahiro Otsuka)

Session 1: Review of the project activities (framework/design, performances)

10:35 - 10:50 Presentation: Scope of the MAR project and its achievements during the Development Phase (Masahiro Otsuka)

10:50 - 12:00 Discussions:

- Project framework and design (project document) (Activity sets 1.1. 4.2.)
- Overall project performances (inputs, outcomes, and challenges) during the Development Phase (Activities 1.1. 4.2.), including linkages and synergies with related programmes of FAO
- 12:00 13:30 Joint luncheon

Session 2: Review of technical aspects of the Project for the next activities

13:30 - 13:40 Presentation: Forest MAR activities in FAORAP (Masakazu Kashio)

13:40 - 14:00 Presentations (Dan Altrell):

- National Forest Monitoring and Assessment (NFMA)
- Global Forest Resources Assessment

14:00 - 14:15 Presentation: Technical aspects of MAR (Masahiro Otsuka)

(monitoring/assessment technologies, database, networking, reporting, etc.)

14:15 - 15:30 Discussions

Session 3: Collaboration with countries

3.1. Collaboration with the Korean programme

16:00 - 16:15 Presentation: Cooperative programme of the Republic of Korea (Hyung Kwang Kim) 16:15 - 17:00 Discussion: Collaboration between the Korean programme and the MAR Project

19:00 - Welcome Dinner (New Siam Riverside Hotel)

Day 2

17 September 2008 (Wednesday) (Conference room)

3.2. Project cou	intries' collaboration for national MAR programmes 1
08:30 - 08:40	Cambodia (Khorn Saret)
08:40 - 08:50	China (Xia Chaozong)
08:50 - 09:00	India (Sharad Singh Negi)

08:50 - 09:00 India (Sharad Singh Negi) 09:00 - 09:10 Mongolia (Ulziibayar Dagdandorj) 09:10 - 09:20 Pakistan (Raja Muhammad Zarif)

09:20 - 10:00 Discussions

10:00 - 10:30 Coffee/tea break

3.3. Project countries' collaboration for national MAR programmes 2

10:30 - 10:40 Bhutan (Dhan Bahadur Dhital) 10:40 - 10:50 Philippines (Nonito Tamayo) 10:50 - 11:00 Vanuatu (Phyllis Kamasteia)

11:00 - 11:10 Vietnam (Khanh Huu Dinh)

11:10 - 11:20 Secretariat of the Pacific Community (Sairusi Sevu Bulai) 11:20 - 12:00 Discussions

12:00 - 13:00 Lunch

3.4. Consultations on national MAR activities and collaboration with the MAR Project

13:00 - 13:05 Orientation (Masahiro Otsuka)

13:05 - 13:50 Brief presentations by individual countries (Bangladesh, Fiji, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Thailand)

13:50 - 14:30 Discussions

14:30 - 14:45 Coffee/tea break

Session 4: Review of operational aspects of the Project for the next activities)

14:45 - 15:00 Presentation: Operational aspects of the project (Masakazu Kashio)

15:00 - 16:00 Discussions:

- Project management and monitoring (including functions of PSC/NSCs)
- Institutional linkage

Session 5: Review of financial aspects of the Project for the next activities

16:00 - 16:15 Presentation: Project budget and expenditure (Patrick Durst)

16:15 - 17:15 Discussions:

- Financial assistance to project countries
- Budget preparations by project countries

Day 3

18 September 2008 (Thursday) (Conference room)

Session 6: Discussions on major activities during the Implementation Phase

6.1. Scope of activities during the Implementation Phase of the Project

08:30 - 08:45 Presentation: Introduction to planned activities during the Implementation Phase (Masahiro Otsuka)

08:45 - 10:15 Discussions:

- Framework of activities for the Implementation Phase of the Project (donor and beneficiary countries)
- Modification of the framework of activities for the Implementation Phase

10:15 - 10:45 Coffee/tea break

6.2. Elaboration of follow-up activities (Suggestions for a draft work plan)

11:00 - 12:00 Discussions:

- Suggested components of project activities
- Countries' roles/responsibilities
- Budgetary needs and project inputs
- Technical/financial partnership

12:00 - 13:00 Lunch

13:00 - 15:00 Discussions:

- Major components of the project work plan
- Strengthening of the PSC/NSCs
- Networking of national stakeholders
- Institutional coordination (identification of potential organizations/ schemes)

15:00 - 15:15 Coffee/tea break

Concluding session:

15:15 - 16:15 Discussion on draft minutes of the meeting (to be prepared in advance)

16:15 - 16:45 Adoption of the minutes of the meeting

16:45 - 17:00 Closing

Day 4

19 September 2008 (Friday)

09:00 - 09:30 Debriefing to ADG/DRR of FAORAP on the TPR meeting by FAO/donor (ADG's room)

08:30 - 10:30Technical consultations with countries on project activities and related FAO programmes on forest monitoring, assessment and reporting (MAR)

(Room B101)

10:30 - Individual consultations (Room No. B101/B312a)

Departure of participants from Bangkok, Thailand

Appendix 2 - List of participants

No	Name	Title	Organization	Address	Country	Tel	Fax	e-mail
1	Mr. Banik Haradhan (Sponsored)	Assistant Chief Conservator of Forests	Bangladesh Forest Department	Bana Bhaban, Plot # E-8 B-2, Agargaon, Dhaka- 1207	Bangladesh	+8802-8127779	+8802- 8118671	banikhd@yahoo.com; accf- df@bforest.gov.bd
2	Dr. Dhan B. Dhital (Sponsored)	Joint Director	Forest Resources Development Division, Ministry of Agriculture	P.O. Box 751, Thimphu	Bhutan	Office +975 2 325835 Mobile+1760-7014	975 2 322560	dhan.dhital@yahoo.co m; db_dhital@moa.gov.bt
3	Mr. Khorn Saret (Sponsored)	Chief of Forest Management Office	Forestry Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fishery	No. 40 Preah Norodom Blvd., Phnom Penh	Cambodia	+855 23- 214651	+855 23 212 201	ksr_nang2006@yahoo.
4	Mr. Xia Chaozong (Non-sponsored)	Senior Engineer	Academy of Forest Inventory and Planning, State Forestry Administration	18 Hepingli East Street, Dongcheng District, Beijing 100714	China	Office +86-1084238305 Mobile +86- 13681228951	86- 1084238305	xiachz1975@gmail.co m
5	Mr. Zhang Min (Sponsored)	Deputy Director	Department of Forest Management, State Forestry Administration, China	18 Hepingli East Street, Dongcheng District, Beijing 100714	China	Office +86-10- 84238410 Mobile +86- 13611195496	86- 1084238305	zhangmin@forestry.go v.cn dcczhmn2k@vip.sina. com
6	Mr. Sairusi Sevu Bulai (DSA-sponsored)	Coordinator, Forests & Trees Group	Secretariat Of The Pacific Community (SPC)	Land Resources Division, Secretariat Of The Pacific Community, Pmb, Suva	Fiji	Office: +679-3300-432 Mobile: +679- 9305- 806	+679-330-5212	SairusiB@spc.int
7	Mr. Eliki Senivasa Siga (Sponsored)	Acting Principal Extension Officer	Forestry Department	Forestry Department, Box 2218, Government Building, Suvai	Fiji	Office: +679- 332-0211 Mobile: +679-920-8524	+679- 332- 0957	senivasa@yahoo.com
8	Dr. Sharad Singh Negi (Sponsored)	Director	Forest Research Institute	P.O. New Forest, Dehradun (Uttaranchal) 248 006	India	Office: +91-135- 2755277 Residence: +91-135-2756803	+91-135- 2756865	sharadnegi@hotmail.c om; negiss@icfre.org
9	Mr. Basoeki Karyaatmadja (Sponsored)	Director of National Forestry Planning and Statistics	Ministry of Forestry	Manggala Wanabakti Build. Block Vii, Fl 5. Jl Gatot Subroto, Jakarta	Indonesia	Office: +62-21-573- 3435 Mobile: +62- 811116803	+62-21-572- 0216	karyaatm@dephut.go.i d; basoekikaryaatm@yah oo.com
10	Mr. Hiroki Miyazono (Non-sponsored)	Deputy Director	International Forestry Cooperation Office, Forestry Agency, Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries	1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100- 8952	Japan	Office: +81-3-3502- 8111(ext.6212) +81-3-3591-8449 (direct)	+81-3-3593- 9565	hiroki_miyazono@nm. maff.go.jp
11	Mr. Sungho Kim (Sponsored)	Senior Researcher	Korea Forest Research Institute	207 Cheongyangni-dong, Dongdaemun-gu, Seoul 130-712	Korea	Office: +82-2-9612842 Mobile: +82- 1047801538	+82-2-9612869	shkimfri@forest.go.kr
12	Mr. Somchay Sanonty (Sponsored)	Director of Forest Inventory and Planning Division	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Department of Forestry	P.O. Box: 2932 Vientiane	Lao PDR.	Office: +856-21- 413184 Mobile: +856- 202338014	+856-21- 561181	somchaysanontry@ya hoo.com

No	Name	Title	Organization	Address	Country	Tel	Fax	e-mail
13	Mr. Yusoff Bin Muda (Sponsored)	Deputy Director, Forest Management Division	Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia	Jalan Sultan Salahuddin, 50660 Kuala Lumpur	Malaysia	+603-26164488 +6019-9851721	+603- 26925657	yusoff@forestry.gov. my
14	Mr. Ulziibayar Dagdandorj (Sponsored)	Forest Database Specialist	Forest and Water Research Center of Mongolian Ministry of Nature and Environment	Baruun Selbe Street 15 MAS Building 2 4 th Floor Door #409	Mongolia	+976-11-327269 +976-91698659	976-11-327269	d olzii21@yahoo.com
15	Mr. Maung Maung Than (Sponsored)	Deputy Director	Forest Department; Ministry of Forestry	Building 39; Forest Department; Nay Pyi Taw	Myanmar	95-67-405109	95-67-405016	komaung@mail4u.co m.mm; maungmaungthan@g mail.com
16	Dr. Raja Muhammad Zarif (Sponsored)	Director General	Pakistan Forest Institute	Pakistan Forest Institute, Peshawar University Campus, Peshawar	Pakistan	+92-91-9216123/ +92-91-9216127	+92-91- 9216203	rajazarif@yahoo.com dgpfi@pfi.com.pk
17	Mr. Vitus Bandebangu Ambia (Sponsored)	Divisional Manager	Forest Planning Division, Papua New Guinea Forest Authority	P.O. Box 5055, Boroko, National Capital District, Port Moresby	Papua New Guinea	+675-327-7874 +675-6813675	+675-327-7839	vambia@pngfa.gov.pg v_ambia@hotmail.co m
18	Mr. Nonito Tamayo (Sponsored)	OIC-Chief, Natural Forest Division	Forest Management Bureau, Department of Environment & Natural Resources	Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City	Philippines	+632-927-4873 +632-9215541793	632-928-0425	nonie_tamayo@yahoo. com
19	Mr. Pichart Watanaprateep (Local)	Director	International Cooperation Division, National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	61 Phaholyothin, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900	Thailand	Office: +66-2-579-6666 ext: 231 Mobile: +66-(0)89-746- 6366	+662-940-7134	Icddnp123@gmail.co m
20	Mr. Chudchawan Sutthisrisilapa (Local)	Consultant	Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	61 Phaholyothin, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900	Thailand	Office: +66-2-5610777 ext: 239 Mobile: +66-(0)86- 9965693	+662-940-6569	csutthi@gmail.com
21	Ms. Khanita Meedej (Local)	Senior Forestry Officer	Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	61 Phaholyothin, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900	Thailand	Office: +66-2-579-9484	+66-2-579- 9484	meedejk@gmail.com
22	Mr. Anuchit Ratanasuwan (Local)	Senior Forestry Officer	Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	61 Phaholyothin, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900	Thailand	Office: +66-2-5610777	+66-2-579- 9484	anuchit@dnp.go.th
23	Ms. Phyllis Kamasteia (Absent)	Senior Forest Officer	Planning Division, Vanuatu Department of Forests, Ministry of Agriculture, Quarantine, Forestry and Fisheries	Private Mail Bag 9064 Port Vila	Vanuatu	+678-23171	+678-25051	pkamasteia2000@yah oo.com; phylliska@gmail.com

No	Name	Title	Organization	Address	Country	Tel	Fax	e-mail
24	Mr. Khanh Huu Dinh	Vice Director	Forest inventory and planning	Vien Dieu Tra Quy	Viet Nam	Office: +84-4-8613858	+84-4-8612281	vienkhanhfipi@yahoo.
	(Sponsored)	Deneral of FIPI	institute	Hoach Ruwng Thanh Tri Ha Noi		Mobile: +84- 904758679		com
25	Mr. Dan Olof Altrell	Forestry Officer	FOMR, FAO	Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153, Rome	Italy	+39-6-57056417	+39-06- 57055137	Dan.Altrell@fao.org
26	Mr. Hyung-Kwang Kim	Senior Forestry Officer	Forest Management Division, FAO	Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153, Rome	Italy	+39-6-57056417	+39-06- 57055137	Hyungkwang.Kim@fa o.org; kk520@hanafos.com
27	Mr. Patrick Durst	Senior Forestry Officer	FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific	Maliwan Mansion, 39 Phra Athit Road, Bangkok 10200	Thailand	Office: +66-697-4000 (ext.4139)	+66-697-4445	Patrick.Durst@fao.org
28	Mr. Masakazu Kashio	Forest Resources Officer	FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific	Maliwan Mansion, 39 Phra Athit Road, Bangkok 10200	Thailand	Office: +66-2-697-4000 ext. 4141	+66-697-4445	Masakazu.Kashio@fa o.org
29	Mr. Masahiro Otsuka	Forestry Officer	FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific	Maliwan Mansion, 39 Phra Athit Road, Bangkok 10200	Thailand	Office: +66-697-4000 (ext.4130)	+66-697-4445	Masahiro.Otsuka@fao .org
31	Ms. Alisa Wacharasetkul	Secretary	FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific	Maliwan Mansion, 39 Phra Athit Road, Bangkok 10200	Thailand	Office: +66-697-4000 (ext.4175)	+66-697-4445	Alisa.Wacharasetkul@ fao.org

List of suggested chairpersons/note takers

Date	Time	Session	Chairperson	Note taker
16/09/2008	10:35 - 12:00	Session 1	Mr. Basoeki Karyaatmadja	Mr. Dhan Dhital
16/09/2008	13:30 - 15:30	Session 2	Mr. Sairusi S. Bulai	Mr. Somchay Sanoty
16/09/2008	16:00 – 17:00	Session 3.1	Mr. Sungho Kim	Mr. Xia Chaozong
17/09/2008	08:30 - 10:00	Session 3.2	Mr. Khanh H. Dinh	Ms. Khanita Meedej
17/09/2008	10:30 - 12:00	Session 3.3	Mr. Maung M. Than	Mr. Eliki S. Siga
17/09/2008	13:00 - 14:30	Session 3.4	Mr. Raja M. Zarif	Mr. Nonito Tamayo
17/09/2008	14:45 – 16:00	Session 4	Mr. Sharad S. Negi	Mr. Yusoff Muda
17/09/2008	16:00 – 17:15	Session 5	Mr. Chudchawan Sutthisrisilapa	Mr. Vitus B. Ambia
18/09/2008	08:30 - 10:15	Session 6.1	Mr. Hiroki Miyazono	Mr. Khorn Saret
18/09/2008	10:45 - 12:00	Session 6.2	Mr. Banik Haradhan	Mr. Ulziibayar Dagdandorj
18/09/2008	13:00 - 15:00	Session 6.2	Mr. Dan O. Altrell	Mr. Zhang Min
18/09/2008	15:15 – 17:00	Concluding	Mr. Durst B. Patrick	Mr. Masahiro Otsuka

Appendix 3 – Project summary

Title	Strengthening Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting (MAR) on Sustainable Forest
	Management (SFM) in Asia
Symbol	GCP/INT/988/JPN
Donor organization	Government of Japan
Executing organization	FAO Headquarters (Rome), Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok)
Duration	Five years (January 2006 – December 2010)
	• Phase I: Development Phase (2006 - 2007)
	Phase II: Implementation Phase (next three years)
Participating countries	All willing countries in the Asian and Pacific region
	 Core countries for intensive collaboration
	 National Project Coordinator(s) (NPC) for collaboration
	 National agencies involved:
	Forest-related agency (host institution)
	 Forest-related organizations/stakeholders
Project management	• Project Steering Committee (PSC)
	National Steering Committee (NSC)
Objectives	Main objective:
	Develop a harmonized forest-related national MAR system – improvement of SFM
	Allied objectives:
	- Enhancement of the use of the MAR information in national decision-making
	- Formulation of effective forest policies
	- Sustainable forest management and planning
Scope	Global/regional activities (framework/guidelines)
	1. Develop linkages with international reporting processes
	1.1. Identify international programmes/processes
	1.2. Project linkages with identified programmes/processes
	1.3. Identify/prioritize key project countries
	2. Internationally harmonized MAR framework/guidelines
	2.1. Develop a framework to analyze information
	2.2. Develop harmonized technical guidelines for MAR
	3. Internationally harmonized MAR database elements 3.1. Develop harmonized database elements/variables
	4. Information sharing network among stakeholders
	4.1. Develop an information-sharing network
	National/sub-regional activities (practice)
	1. Identification/resolution of current issues on MAR
	1.4 Initial setup (MOU, NPC, NSC)
	1.5 Identify major MAR stakeholders in selected countries
	1.6 In-country studies, training, workshops
	- Review issues/measures, awareness building
	2. Integration of forest MAR into SFM
	2.3 Workshops to establish an effective MAR
	3. Incorporation of forest information into forest policies
	3.2 Establish national/regional databases
	- Assessment of MAR status, SFM policies
	4. Development of information sharing networks
	4.2 Develop information-sharing networks among stakeholders:
	- National/regional networks
	(The bold portion shows priority activities for the remaining period)

Appendix 4 - Plan of project activities (2008 – 2010)

Project budget and expenditure

Budget specifications	Expenditure 2006 – 2007	Expenditure 2008	Balance (2008) (US\$)	2009 (US\$)	2010 (US\$)	Total amount 2006 – 2010 (US\$)	Balance (US\$) (2008 – 2010)
Consultant/local labour	48,278	3,510	22,571	37,000	41,000	152,360	100,571
Contract (LOA, FBA, etc.)	140,734	16,738	13,262	25,000	25,000	220,734	63,262
Travel (staff, non-staff)	187,365	11,935	50,065	64,000	65,000	378,365	179,065
Regional training/hospitality	3,457	8,729	51,621	61,300	65,300	190,407	178,221
Procurement (expendable, non-exp.)	19,013	107	6,893	6,800	6,900	39,705	20,593
Others (administrative costs, etc.)	110,741	1,191	66,355	69,998	72,173	320,459	208,526
Total	509,589	42,211	210,766	264,098	275,373	1,302,030	750,237

Activity plan (2008 – 2010)

A. Global/regional activities (e.g., training workshops, elaboration of guidelines/frameworks, development of regional networks, etc.)

Proposed activity components	No. of countries	Venue/	Funding from the project	Suggested partner (technical,	Issue
	To be involved	Period	Main budget specification	financial)	
Priority 1: Training workshop on	10 - 15	?	App. US\$ 30,000 - 40,000 per	FAO-HQ (FRA), international	- Earliest completion of technical
guidelines for harmonization of		Oct./Nov. 2008	workshop (?)	processes (e.g., UNFF, CBD,	guidelines for international reporting
international reporting (follow-up)		(follow-up	- Training, travel (non-staff,	UNFCCC, etc.), regional	around FRA2010
		workshop in 2009?)	staff)	organizations (e.g., SPC,	
				ASEAN, SAARC, etc.)	
Priority 2: Training workshop on	10 - 15	?	App. US\$ 40,000 – 50,000 per	FAO-HQ (NFMA), Rainforest	- Earliest completion of technical
comprehensive national forest		March 2009?	workshop (?)	Coalition, UNEP/WCMC,	guidelines for comprehensive forest
assessment (covering NFMA and			- Training, travel (non-staff,	REDD partners, bilateral	assessment and monitoring
thematic assessment)			staff)	agencies (e.g., GTZ, etc.), etc.	- Diversity in guidelines
Priority 3: Training workshop on	10 - 15	?	App. US\$ 30,000 – 40,000 per	FAO-HQ (NFMA), ASEAN,	- Earliest completion of technical
harmonized database systems and		May 2009?	workshop (?)	SPC, SAR	guidelines for comprehensive forest
decision support systems for MAR			- Training, travel (non-staff,		assessment and monitoring
			staff)		
Priority 4: Training workshop on	10	?	App. US\$ 35,000 - 40,000 per	FAO-HQ (FRA, NFMA,	- Study by consultant (joint recruitment
updated remote sensing technologies		July 2009?	workshop (?)	GLCN, etc.), EU-JRC, IIRS,	by FRA/MAR?)
			- Consultant, training, travel	SOPAC, etc.	
			(non-staff, staff)		

On-going/planned activities (suggested by the MAR Project):

A. Workshops:

A.1. Ongoing

- FRA/MAR workshop (on-going)	Max. 15 – 20	Kuala Lumpur, 13 - 16 October 2008	Approximately USD 35,000 (co-funding) - Training, travel (non-staff, staff)	FAO-HQ (FOIM/FRA) Forest Department (Malaysia), major international processes (?)	- Delay in preparation (coordination with FAO-HQ, Malaysia) - Voluntary support from other international processes (resource persons)
- FRA/MAR workshop in South Pacific	App. 10	Nadi, 17 – 21 November	Approximately USD 30,000 - Training, travel (non-staff, staff)	FAO-HQ (FOIM), SPC	- Support from other organizations
- ASEAN C&I training (on-going)	ASEAN member states (10)	Kuala Lumpur, 15 - 17 December 2008	App. USD 50,000 - Contract (LOA)	ASEAN/GTZ, FRIM (Malaysia)	- Completion of the ASEAN format - Time for workshop organization
A.2. Planned workshops					
- Workshop on national forest monitoring and assessment (?)	Max. 15	March 2009 (?)	App. USD 40,000 (?) - Training, travel (non-staff, staff)	FAO-HQ (FOMR/NFMA, NRCD/GLCN), UNEP/WCMC, Korea (?)	- Applicability of NFMA - Harmonization of NFI
- Workshop on database management (?)	Max. 15	June 2009 (?)	App. USD 35,000 (?) - Training, travel (non-staff, staff)	FAO-HQ (FOMR), ASEAN/GTZ, Korea (?)	- Applicability of FAO methodology - Harmonization
B. International consultants (?)					
- Remote sensing technologies	Visit 3 – 5 countries	FAO-HQ (?) January – June 2009?	App. USD 20,000 (?) - Consultant, travel (staff), procurement	FAO-HQ (FOIM)	- Availability of funds - Coordination with FAO-HQ
- Database management (?)	Visit 3 – 5 countries	FAORAP (?) May – September 2009?	App. USD 20,000 (?) - Consultant, travel (staff), procurement	FAO-HQ (FOMR), Korea (?)	- Availability of funds - Coordination with FAO-HQ
- Thematic studies (biodiversity assessment, carbon/forest degradation assessment, etc.) (?)	Visit 3 – 5 countries	FAORAP (?) August – December 2009?	App. USD 20,000 (?) - Consultant, travel (staff), procurement	FAO-HQ (FOMR, NRCD), Korea (?), Myanmar, international processes (e.g., UNFCCC, etc.)	- Availability of funds - Coordination with FAO-HQ

B. Sub-regional/national activities (e.g., improvement of national MAR systems using technical guidelines/frameworks, enhancement of national database systems, development of sub-regional/national networks, etc.)

Proposed activity components	No. of	Suggested	Funding from the project	Suggested partner	Issue
	participating	countries/	Budget specification	(technical, financial)	
	countries	Period			
Priority 1: Consultations on	7 – 10 countries (?)	?	US\$70,000 – US\$100,000? per year	FAO-HQ (NFMA),	- Stakeholders' willingness for
strengthening of national networks for	(4 sub-regions)	2008 – 2010 (?)	- Contract (LOA, FBA, etc.), travel	UNFF, CBD, UNFCCC,	harmonization
harmonization of national forest			(staff), training	UNCCD, ITTO,	- Availability of funds
information (including FRA			- US\$ 20,000 US\$40,000 for sub-	SAARC, ASEAN, SPC,	
reporting)			regional collaboration	etc.	
Priority 2: Development of national	7 – 10 countries (?)	?	US\$70,000 – US\$100,000 per year?	FAO-HQ (NFMA),	- Variations in MAR techniques and

forest monitoring and assessment (field data collection/analysis), coupled with training and testing		2008 – 2010 (?)	- Contract (LOA, FBA, etc.), travel (staff), training	UNEP/WCMC, GTZ, ICIMOD, etc.	integrity of data collection - Technical guidelines - Availability of funds
Priority 3: Development of national database management systems, coupled with training and testing	7 – 10 countries (?)	? 2008 – 2010 (?)	US\$70,000 – US\$100,000 per year? - Contract (LOA, FBA, etc.), travel (staff), training	FAO-HQ (NFMA), ASEAN, SPC, SAARC	- Models/guidelines - Availability of funds
Priority 4: High-level policy dialogue on MAR for SFM (possibly combined with other programmes)	7 – 10 countries (?)	? 2008 – 2010 (?)	US\$25,000 - 30,000 per year? - Training, Travel?	COFO, sub-regional organizations (ASEAN, SPC, SAARC, etc.)	- Availabilities of higher officers - Availability of funds
Planned activities (suggested by the M	MAR Project)			•	
- National C&I training and testing (?)	5 countries (?)	Cambodia, Philippines, (?) 2008 – 2010 (?)	App. USD 50,000 (?) - Contract (LOA, FBA, etc.), travel (staff), training	ASEAN/GTZ	- Variations and harmony in national ASEAN C&I
- South Pacific MAR network (?)	SPC involving 5 countries (?)	Fiji (with PNG, Solomon, Samoa, Vanuatu, Fiji) (?) 2009 – 2010 (?)	App. USD 35,000 (?) - Contract (LOA, FBA, etc.), travel (staff)	GTZ, SOPAC, FAOSAPA	- Technical orientations for the network
- National FRA activities	5 countries (?)	? 2008 – 2009 (?)	App. USD35,000 (?) - Contract (LOA, FBA, etc.), travel (staff), training	FAO-HQ, SPC, ASEAN, FAOSAPA	- Availability of funds
- Refreshing workshop on MAR with higher-level officers	7 countries (?)	? 2009 (?)	App. USD25,000 (?)	APFC, COFO, ASEAN, SAARC, SPC	- Availability of funds
Training on national database management (?)	7 countries (?)	Countries: ? 2008 – 2009 (?)	App. USD 50,000 (?) - Contract (LOA, FBA, etc.), travel (staff)	FAO-HQ (FOMR)	- Technical guidelines
Training on national forest monitoring and assessment (data collection) (?)	7 countries (?)	Countries: ? 2009 – 2010 (?)	App. USD 70,000 (?) - Contract (LOA, FBA, etc.), travel (staff)	FAO-HQ (FOMR), UNEP/WCMC, ICIMOD	- Variations in MAR techniques and integrity of data collection
Consultations on strengthening of national networks for harmonization of national forest information (?)	7 countries (?)	Countries: ? 2009 – 2010 (?)	App. USD 40,000 (?) - Contract (LOA, FBA, etc.), travel (staff)	FAO-HQ (FOMR), UNFF, CBD, ITTO, UNFCCC, UNCCD	- Harmonization processes within countries

C. Others

Proposed activity	No. of participating	Venue/countries to be	Funding from the project	Suggested partner	Issue
components	countries	visited/Period	Budget specification	(technical, financial)	
Final project evaluation	3 – 5 (?)	Thailand, (?)	App. USD15,000 (?)	Government of Japan	- Availability of funds
		July 2010?	- Travel (staff/non-staff), others	(donor)	- Mode of evaluation (country
		(Visit Cambodia,?)			visit, document review, etc.)

Appendix 5 – Participants' suggestions for project activities

1. Revision of the project document (activity lines, components) (if any)

Country	Suggestion
Bangladesh	The revision of the project document may be need for the Implementation Phase
Bhutan	Under the Component 2 of the national programme (LOA), we would like to hold a workshop instead of hiring a consultant to achieve the objective,
Cambodia	
China	
Fiji	
India	No revision of the project document is suggested at this stage, except that we may take up pilot testing in a few cases/countries so that the gains from this project become a part of the integral activity of the forestry sector of different countries of the Asia-Pacific region. Subregional networking in SAARC countries for MAR-SFM will facilitate sharing of knowledge and experience.
Indonesia	
Korea	The project should focus on the establishment of NFI systems or NFMA which is the most important component in MAR programs.
Laos	
Malaysia	
Mongolia	Agreed
Myanmar	I will send comments to FAO after consultations and government authorization
Pakistan	
Papua New Guinea	
Philippines	For the Philippines we wanted to add training sessions from the original one (1) to become three (3) within the on-going collaboration.
Thailand	
Vietnam	

2. Priority activities in the project (requested assistance from the MAR Project)

Country	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Bangladesh	Signing of the LOA by FAORAP (or FAORAP may authorize FAO Bangladesh to sign it on behalf of FAORAP)	Disburse funds to the Forest Department	Database preparation and development of website
Bhutan			
Cambodia	Facilitation in review and further development of the national MAR-SFM format at both national and FMU levels	National Forest Monitoring and Assessment (NFMA) and database management	Strengthening of capacity building to national network members on the MAR-SFM system
China	Enhanced field measurement of forest-related ecological conditions and evaluation techniques of ecological benefits of forests, including main indicators and methodologies	Establishment and application of species-based forest biomass and carbon estimate models and relevant sheets at national level	Development and pilot testing of harmonized forest MAR system in the Asia-Pacific region to promote national capacities for NFMA
Fiji	Conducting studies and training workshops at regional/national level	Organizing regional/national workshops to establish an effective national and regional MAR-SFM	Organizing regional-/ national-level workshops to facilitate the development of an information sharing network
India	In activities of LOA, a workshop is proposed to be organized. However, one workshop is not enough and at least two more are required for fine tuning of the MAR harmonization process	Recommendations for harmonization/standardization of MAR systems will be developed and a communication strategy will be evolved. These need to be tested on pilot basis.	Methodologies will be evolved to enhance the use of the MAR-SFM process for management support systems on important issues (e.g., REDD/ forest carbon stocks/, biodiversity assessment/NTFP, participatory forest management, etc.)
Indonesia	Finalization of internationally harmonized technical guidelines for MAR	Training to socialize and improve technical guidelines for application with better understanding	Establishment of pilot projects to better implement MAR
Korea	FAO has to encourage project countries to establish national MAR systems	It is better for FAORAP to keep in touch with NPCs or policy-makers to encourage them to continue MAR after this project	

Laos	Provide harmonized technical guidelines for implementation of national MAR	Training workshops on database management and data analysis	Harmonize and/or review reporting systems/formats with ASEAN and other regional/ International formats
Malaysia	Provide harmonized guidelines for the MAR project	Provide training related to MAR	Technical support from consultants
Mongolia	Organize training to build human capacity of a national network and meetings to strengthen cooperation with it	Renew sampling methods and NFI design, national land use classifications of forest cover	Gather information on forest resources to create and manage national forest database for providing data to FRA2010
Myanmar	Organize national workshops of a steering committee and a national network	Hire a national consultant for MAR/RS/GIS/web developer	Provide training facilities and international experts to the NFI unit (RS/GIS/Database/NFI)
Pakistan	Training of field staff inside the country on data management, reporting tables, carbon stock and C&I forest inventory methodology	Hire of consultants	
Papua New Guinea	Setting up an intra-network for MAR within the restructured PNG Forest Authority	Setting up a national network for MAR	
Philippines	Capacity building on MAR, including FRA and NFMA	Information sharing among countries and within each country, especially among direct/indirect forestry stakeholders	
Thailand	Conduct pilot studies (NFMA, biodiversity monitoring)	Upgrade national forest database	
Vietnam	Information sharing	Pilot MAR implementation	Database development

3. Countries' inputs/contributions for project activities

Country	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Bangladesh	Facilities for assessment and studies on MAR-SFM: office space,	Facilities for national network meetings such as a meeting	Facilities for harmonization of national MAR information
Bhutan	stationery, computers, etc.	room, contingency	system: room renting
Cambodia			
China	Staff, office equipment	Staff, office equipment	Staff, office equipment
Fiji	Co-funding support, facilitation in participation of all relevant stakeholders, provision of local facilities for the workshop	otan, onice equipment	otan, onice equipment
India	Venue, logistic support, vehicles, staff support, office space and other local facilities for workshops	Venue, logistic support, vehicles, staff support, office space and other local facilities for pilot activities	Local level support
Indonesia	Prepare database and information on MAR systems implemented in the country		Prepare sites and a budget
Korea	Activate a national steering committee	Continue MAR activities on a regular basis beyond the project period	
Laos	Develop/upgrade national technical guidelines	Database development	Upgrade reporting systems in Lao PDR
Malaysia	Adoption of the guidelines	Support for training programmes	Counterparts
Mongolia	Technical advisors, training officers	Technical advisors, more budget (enough budget)	Cooperation and development
Myanmar	Support staff/Venue	Office	Counterpart office
Pakistan	50% of the training cost and travel cost of participants can be borne by the country. The cost of resource persons maybe shared by the project	The cost of consultants should be paid from project	
Papua New Guinea	PNG will get up its intra-network using its own resources	PNG will use its own resources, while it would appreciate any financial support from the project	
Philippines	Manpower		
Thailand	Equipment, training, duty travel costs	Equipment, training	

Vietnam	Meeting of national networks,	Mandates, budget, materials	Mandates, equipment, budget	
	workshops, training	such as RS, GIS, equipment		

4. Other technical/financial partners to support project activities

Country	Suggestion
Bangladesh	Not applicable
Bhutan	The department of forest will take the lead role. Other stakeholders would also be involved
Cambodia	
China	Technical partners such as the Academy of Forest Inventory and Planning, SFA, Academy of Chinese Forestry Research, Beijing Forestry University
Fiji	Government, SPC, USP
India	
Indonesia	Joint activities - AUSAID for Forest Resource Information System, GTZ for C&I ASEAN-MAR
Korea	
Laos	
Malaysia	
Mongolia	
Myanmar	ICIMOD, JICA, UNEP
Pakistan	
Papua New Guinea	PNG shall look to FAO for technical assistance and also donor funding from ITTO and the Government of Australia
Philippines	Technical assistance from other government agencies
Thailand	FAO
Vietnam	

5. Other comments/suggestions (issues, etc.)

Country	Suggestion
Bangladesh	
Bhutan	NFI needs to be conducted. The last NFI was done about 30 years ago. This exercise is very important, and the government gives a very high priority to this exercise
Cambodia	
China	It is necessary to select more than one country for pilot study of globally harmonized forest MAR systems during the remaining period
Fiji	Fiji's main interest will be to harmonize all the current data systems for multi-dimensional use and to develop a national body that can effectively influence policy change toward sustainable resource management
India	As host organization/recipient organization, the Forest Research Institute of Dehradun needs more time to complete the activity in the LOA due to the unexpected delays in initial stages that needed sensitization at the appropriate level, selection of a consultant, etc. If needed, the LOA may be revised accordingly
Indonesia	
Korea	The CTA is necessary to get rid of confusion over project coordination
Laos	
Malaysia	
Mongolia	Divide participating countries into some groups depending on levels of NFI system development and area of forest cover
Myanmar	
Pakistan	Participating countries may be grouped into each sub-region by location and similarities of forest management and data/information gathering techniques to share resources and develop linkages for regional cooperation
Papua New Guinea	ITTO will be funding a multi-purpose national forest inventory in PNG. The project has already been approved by the ITTO Council Decision. Consultants (2) have already started to prepare a budget for the MPNFI project
Philippines	
Thailand	
Vietnam	

Appendix 6 - Participants' evaluation of the meeting

17 responses out of the 22 participants (77%)

- 1. Achievement of meeting objectives
 - ➤ Perfectly achieved: 29 %
 - Fairly achieved: 71 % (poorly achieved, not achieved at all, unknown): 0 %)
- 2. Content of the meeting
 - ➤ Very satisfied: 41 %
 - ➤ Fairly satisfied: 59 % (fairly dissatisfied, very dissatisfied, unknown: 0 %)

3. Useful subjects/sessions for the participants

Rank	Useful sessions	Presenter	Score
1	National activities/Country collaboration with MAR/Country Presentation	Participants	23
2	Scope of the MAR project and its achievement during the development phase/Review of the project activities/Regionalism concept	Masahiro Otsuka	15
3	Session 6: Discussion on major activities during implementation phase	Masahiro Otsuka	12
4	Working plan 2009-2010/Work plan in the next 3 years/Discussion on follow up activities		7
5	Session 5 : Review of financial aspects of the Project for the next activities	Patrick Durst	4
5	Harmonization		4
6	Review of technical aspects of the Project for the next activities		3
6	National forest monitoring and assessment (NFMA)	Dan Altrell	3
6	Topic related to remote sensing		3
6	Training/capacity building/technical support		3
7	Session 4: Review of operational aspects of the project for the next activities	Masakazu Kashio	2
7	C&I inclusion at the FMU level		2

• Scoring method:

Total score = $3 \times S_1 + 2 \times S_2 + S_3$

Where:

S₁: Frequency of a particular session considered the most useful

S₂: Frequency of a particular session considered the second most useful

S₃: Frequency of a particular session considered the third most useful

- 4. Organization of the meeting (agenda/program)
 - ➤ Very satisfied: 59 %
 - Fairly satisfied: 41%
- 5. Period (days) of the meeting
 - ➤ Very satisfied: 47 %
 - Fairly satisfied: 53 %
 - Suggestions
 - Three days are enough for this kind of meeting

- 6. Venue of the meeting (New Siam Riverside Hotel)
 - Very satisfied: 65 %
 - Fairly satisfied: 35 %
 - Suggestions
 - The venue is far located from local participant's house
- 7. Preparations/arrangements before the meeting
 - ➤ Very satisfied: 65 %
 - Fairly satisfied: 35 %
 - Suggestions
 - The tentative program always changed until the last moment

8. Recommended programs after this meeting

- Finalize methodologies to be followed for inventory and data collection
- > Increase the number of participants from countries
- > Technical assistance
- > Try to find more funds
- > Implement national activities in participating countries
- > Sharing experiences among member countries
- ➤ Adaptive approaches to the formation of national networks and regionalism especially for smaller countries
- ➤ The MAR Project Coordinator should consider another meeting possibility in Bangkok soon (within 6 months) to gauge progress, to identify countries that have made progress and to discuss what should be considered as pilot projects during the Implementation Phase.
- ➤ Organize training meetings and pilot studies on harmonized MAR processes and their information systems especially on forest biomass and carbon and ecological benefits
- > We should immediately plan capacity building activities
- > Prepare a terminal report on each country
- ➤ One more meeting for the focal points should be organized towards the beginning of 2009 to assess overall achievements of project activities
- > Training meetings on guidelines for the use of MAR information by member countries
- ➤ Management and use of MAR database
- > Capacity building on national networks, websites, and MAR studies

9. Other suggestions/comments

- ➤ Develop manuals for data collection on carbon stock, biodiversity, etc. which are not yet being collected by forest department and other stakeholders
- > There is a need to specifically identify the scope of all other related projects such as the difference between FRA, MAR and NFMA in order to know their differences and avoid duplication and confusion over activities
- ➤ Concerned FAO officers should pay more attention to countries in which implementation os national MAR programmes are slow by visiting DGs or heads of institutions in order to analyze and stimulate their operation.
- Ensure easier disbursement of funds and the signature on LOAs
- ➤ Participants should have time for sightseeing especially for first-timers in Bangkok or the organizer should arrange a one-day field visit

10 Overall rating of this meeting

- ➤ Very good: 47 %
- Fairly good: 53 % (Moderate, not very good, very bad: 0 %)