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Organization of the
United Nations

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Incheon,
Republic of
Korea
17-21 June
2019

Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission

Twenty-eighth session

REPORT

of the

TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

of the

ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY COMMISSION

**Incheon, Republic of Korea
17-21 June 2019**

**REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
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CONTENTS

	Page
Summary of recommendations	v-vi
Paragraphs	
Introduction.....	1-2
Adoption of agenda.....	3
Election of officers.....	4
APFC session theme: “Forests for Peace and Well-being”.....	5-6
Forest and landscape restoration.....	7-8
Community forests, trade and markets.....	9-10
Impacts of technological advances on forests and forestry.....	11-12
FAO’s work on biodiversity.....	13-14
Progress in implementing APFC- and FAO-supported activities in the region.....	15-16
Asia-Pacific forest sector outlook study III.....	17-18
Forests and climate change.....	19-20
State of forestry in Asia and the Pacific.....	21-22
Preparations for the Committee on Forestry (COFO 25) and the - XV World Forestry Congress.....	23-24
Forests for peace and well-being: Reports and recommendations from - Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2019 Streams.....	25-26
Global processes.....	27-28
Implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and collaboration with UNFF.....	29-30
Other business.....	31-34
Date and place of the next session.....	35
Page	
<i>APPENDIX A</i> Agenda	9
<i>APPENDIX B</i> List of participants	11
<i>APPENDIX C</i> List of documents	24
<i>APPENDIX D</i> APFC recommendations	25
<i>APPENDIX E</i> Forests for Peace and Well-being: Reports and recommendations from Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2019 Streams	29

PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION

First session	Bangkok, Thailand	9-17 October 1950
Second session	Singapore/Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	1-13 December 1952
Third session	Tokyo, Japan	9-21 April 1955
Fourth session	Bandung, Indonesia	8-12 June 1957
Fifth session	New Delhi, India	12-18 February 1960
Sixth session	Hong Kong	12-17 September 1962
Seventh session	Rotorua, New Zealand	22 September-2 October 1964
Eighth session	Seoul, Korea (Rep. of)	1-8 May 1969
Ninth session	Canberra, Australia	20-28 September 1973
Tenth session	Kathmandu, Nepal	6-10 June 1977
Eleventh session	Suva, Fiji	6-10 April 1981
Twelfth session	Bangkok, Thailand	19-23 March 1984
Thirteenth session	Beijing, China	30 March-3 April 1987
Fourteenth session	Manila, Philippines	12-16 March 1990
Fifteenth session	Colombo, Sri Lanka	9-13 August 1993
Sixteenth session	Yangon, Myanmar	15-20 January 1996
Seventeenth session	Yogyakarta, Indonesia	23-27 February 1998
Eighteenth session	Noosaville, Queensland, Australia	15-19 May 2000
Nineteenth session	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	26-30 August 2002
Twentieth session	Nadi, Fiji	19-23 April 2004
Twenty-first session	Dehradun, India	17-21 April 2006
Twenty-second session	Hanoi, Viet Nam	21-25 April 2008
Twenty-third session	Thimphu, Bhutan	9-11 June 2010
Twenty-fourth session	Beijing, China	7-11 November 2011
Twenty-fifth session	Rotorua, New Zealand	5-8 November 2013
Twenty-sixth session	Clark Freeport Zone, Philippines	22-26 February 2016
Twenty-seventh session	Colombo, Sri Lanka	24-27 October 2017

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

For the attention of FAO

The Commission recommended:

- to support regional and national capacity building on conflict management and dispute resolution in forestry;
- to continue to provide support to forest and landscape restoration including for capacity building and to national and regional programmes;
- to leverage opportunities within the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) to work with other international organizations including the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) that have a trade focus to their mandate and are well placed to develop further mechanisms for community forests to contribute to the legal and sustainable trade in timber products;
- to continue to provide support to developing community forestry programmes including community enterprise development;
- to conduct a review of the use of technology in forestry including identifying prerequisites for creating enabling environments for technology development and uptake;
- to conduct further work on the basis of the APFSOS III publication to develop supporting issues-based materials, targeted at specific stakeholder groups, and tailored for various media distribution mechanisms;
- to develop quantitative forecasts to 2030 and 2050 for consumption, production and trade in forest products in Asia and the Pacific;
- to continue to expand efforts to support climate change adaptation and mitigation measures including building resilience against natural disasters;
- to support member countries to promote the carbon-storage properties of forest products and advance the role of forest products in addressing climate change;
- to pursue opportunities to promote and implement the work of the Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (SW4SW) initiative in the Asia-Pacific region;
- to implement a study on the spread of forest invasive species in the context of climate change and propose adaptive measures;
- to ensure that its budget allocations are sufficient to properly meet its roles and obligations as Chair of the CPF, including provision of adequate support to the Global Forest Goals;
- to compile a set of various national forest policy documents developed by Asia-Pacific countries and make these available through a web-based portal;
- to develop a scoping document outlining potential elements and processes for the review of APFC modalities, including budgetary implications.

INTRODUCTION

1. At the invitation of the Government of Republic of Korea, the twenty-eighth session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) was held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 17 to 21 June 2019. Delegates from 20 member countries and 2 United Nations organization participated in the session, along with observers and representatives from 21 regional and international inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations. A list of participants is given in *Appendix B*.

Opening ceremony

2. The opening ceremony featured welcoming remarks from Mr. Thomas Hofer, Secretary of the Commission and a welcoming address by Mr. Ko Ki-yeon, Director-General, International Affairs Bureau, Korea Forest Service, Republic of Korea. Mr. Ko welcomed participants to the Republic of Korea and noted the importance of the session theme, “*Forests for peace and well-being*”. He emphasized that a high proportion of the Korean population lives in cities and noted that the country provides strong attention to well-being aspects in management of forest ecosystem services, enabling the general populace to enjoy the forests while also helping to build support for forestry. He reminded participants of the 17 June celebration of World Day to Combat Desertification and highlighted challenges of increasing dry areas and declining land productivity in Asia and the Pacific.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Item 1)

3. Under the guidance of Mr. Kyaw Kyaw Lwin (Myanmar), outgoing Vice-Chair of the Commission, the provisional agenda was adopted as presented in document FO:APFC/2019/1 (see *Appendix A*). The Secretariat proposed that under Item 16 Other Business, the Commission briefly discuss implementing a process to review APFC modalities and seek ways to enhance its efficiency. Documents considered by the Commission are listed in *Appendix C*.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Item 2)

4. The Commission unanimously elected the following individuals to hold office until the commencement of the twenty-ninth session:

- | | | |
|-------|--------------------|--|
| (i) | Chairperson: | Mr. Ko Ki-yeon (Republic of Korea) |
| (ii) | Vice-Chairpersons: | Ms. Emma Hatcher (Australia)
Mr. Bambang Supriyanto (Indonesia)
Mr. Bishwanath Oli (Nepal) |
| (iii) | Rapporteur: | Mr. Sapol Boonsermsuk (Thailand) |

Mr. Thomas Hofer (FAO) served as Secretary of the Commission.

APFC SESSION THEME: “FORESTS FOR PEACE AND WELL-BEING” (Item 3)

5. On the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2019/2, the Commission considered the roles of forests in promoting peace and well-being in Asia and the Pacific.

6. The Commission:

- a. recognized the important contributions forests can make to peace-building and people’s well-being;
- b. highlighted the need for specific policy recommendations on peace and well-being aspects of forestry;
- c. invited member countries to collaborate in research and development, and sharing of experiences, on health, well-being and livelihood aspects of forestry including potential for generating employment;
- d. requested that FAO support regional and national capacity building on conflict management and dispute resolution in forestry.

FOREST AND LANDSCAPE RESTORATION (Item 4)

7. Based on Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2019/3, the Commission considered progress in forest and landscape restoration in the region including implementation of the *Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Forest and Landscape Restoration in Asia-Pacific*.

8. The Commission:

- a. appreciated the broad range of national, regional and global initiatives in forest and landscape restoration that are currently being implemented;
- b. invited member countries and international organizations, including FAO, to collaborate in developing new partnerships to access finance for forest and landscape restoration;
- c. invited member countries to develop ambitious voluntary national contributions to the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 to further progress towards the Global Forest Goals, including target 1.1 (forest area is increased by three percent worldwide).
- d. requested FAO to continue to provide support to forest and landscape restoration including for capacity building and to national and regional programmes.

COMMUNITY FORESTS, TRADE AND MARKETS (Item 5)

9. On the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2019/4, the Commission considered opportunities and challenges facing community forestry, with particular reference to markets and trade in forest products.

10. The Commission:

- a. recognized a broad and diverse range of community forestry programmes operating in many countries in Asia and the Pacific;

- b. emphasized the importance of integrating community forests into national development plans and developing mechanisms to enhance the link between community forests and markets for forest products and ecosystem services;
- c. noted that arrangements around community forestry, including land tenure, are often insufficiently robust to meet international legality requirements;
- d. urged FAO to leverage opportunities within the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) to work with other international organizations including the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) that have a trade focus to their mandate and are well placed to develop further mechanisms for community forests to contribute to the legal and sustainable trade in timber products.
- e. requested that FAO continue to provide support to developing community forestry programmes including community enterprise development.

IMPACTS OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES ON FORESTS AND FORESTRY (Item 6)

11. Based on Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2019/5, the Commission considered recent technological advancements and their impacts on forests and forestry.
12. The Commission:
 - a. recognized the increasingly important roles technology will play in improving efficiency in forest products industries and advancing progress towards sustainable forest management;
 - b. emphasized the need for raised awareness of available technologies and capacity building to enhance their uptake;
 - c. noted potential opportunities for development and transfer of open source technologies; and the need to cooperate further on issues related to restrictions on proprietary technology and data;
 - d. noted an increasing number of timber legality measures in the region and a related need for FAO to broaden the scope of its legality work to better support these measures and to encourage the development of policies and technology to address the circumstances in the region;
 - e. appreciated the important roles played by youth in development and dissemination of technologies, and noted their potential to enhance technology uptake by supporting technological learning and capacity building for youth;
 - f. requested that FAO conduct a review of the use of technology in forestry including identifying prerequisites for creating enabling environments for technology development and uptake.

FAO'S WORK ON BIODIVERSITY (Item 7)

13. On the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2019/6, the Commission considered FAO's work on biodiversity.
14. The Commission:

- a. highlighted the need for forests to be given due attention in the development of the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform;
- b. endorsed FAO's work to date on the draft Biodiversity Strategy, including the over-arching goal of sustainable food and agricultural systems that integrate biodiversity considerations throughout value chains, as well as recognition of indigenous and local knowledge;
- c. endorsed FAO's work in convening multi-stakeholder dialogues as part of its initiative to act as Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform.

PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING APFC- AND FAO-SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION (Item 8)

15. Based on Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2019/7, the Commission reviewed progress in implementing APFC- and FAO-supported activities in the region.

16. The Commission:

- a. appreciated the collaborative and cross-cutting nature of APFC- and FAO-supported activities being implemented in the region and the potential for further scaling-up the activities;
- b. highlighted the overarching importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (ASD) in guiding the work of FAO and the Commission, including that work should directly contribute to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- c. invited FAO to consider mapping impacts of activities against organizational strategic goals and objectives in future reporting to the Commission;
- d. encouraged FAO to continue or strengthen its engagement in projects supporting and building capacities of Pacific island countries and other Least Developed Countries to address their particular needs and objectives.

ASIA-PACIFIC FOREST SECTOR OUTLOOK STUDY III (Item 9)

17. On the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2019/8, the Commission considered the newly-released third Asia-Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study (APFSOS III).

18. The Commission:

- a. welcomed release of the APFSOS III as an important tool to support development of forest policies, strategies and plans in Asia and the Pacific;
- b. highlighted the importance of building resilience and capacities for disaster risk management;
- c. appreciated the value in conducting a regional assessment of best practices related to adaptive management, which should capture national examples provided on a voluntary basis;
- d. noted the increasing importance of trees outside forests as an important source of wood and incomes for smallholders in most countries;
- e. recommended that FAO conduct further work on the basis of the APFSOS III publication to develop supporting issues-based materials, targeted at specific stakeholder groups, and tailored for various media distribution mechanisms;

- f. requested that FAO develop quantitative forecasts to 2030 and 2050 for consumption, production and trade in forest products in Asia and the Pacific.

FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (Item 10)

19. On the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2019/9, the Commission considered forest-related actions included in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) made by countries in Asia and the Pacific under the Paris Agreement and implications for the implementation of the Agreement once it commences in 2020.

20. The Commission:

- a. welcomed reports from member countries on a range of national initiatives being implemented to address climate change challenges;
- b. highlighted the need to ensure climate change dialogues are constructively advanced, duplication of effort is avoided and clarity of purpose is maintained;
- c. encouraged member countries, as appropriate, to effectively plan, implement and monitor forestry-related mitigation and adaptation activities consistent with their national strategies and approaches, including those identified in their nationally determined contributions (NDCs), where applicable;
- d. requested FAO to continue to expand efforts to support climate change adaptation and mitigation measures including building resilience against natural disasters;
- e. requested that FAO support member countries to promote the carbon-storage properties of forest products and advance the role of forest products in addressing climate change;
- f. requested that FAO pursue opportunities to promote and implement the work of the Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (SW4SW) initiative in the Asia-Pacific region;
- g. requested that FAO implement a study on the spread of forest invasive species in the context of climate change and propose adaptive measures.

STATE OF FORESTRY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (Item 11)

21. Based on Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2019/10, the Commission considered the state of forestry in the Asia-Pacific region.

22. The Commission:

- a. welcomed reports on recent forestry developments in member countries;
- b. welcomed offers by countries to share experiences and information on a range of forestry issues.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (COFO 25) AND THE XV WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS (Item 12)

23. Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2019/11 informed the Commission on identifying priority issues for consideration by the Committee on Forestry (COFO), for the attention of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, and for the FAO Programme of Work in Forestry. The Secretariat Note also outlined preparations for the XV World Forestry Congress (WFC).

24. The Commission:

- a. encouraged FAO to give attention to phasing the COFO agenda so that topics follow an orderly advance into the programme for the XV WFC;
- b. identified a number of priority topics for the attention of the forthcoming sessions of COFO and the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, and for the FAO Programme of Work in Forestry. These included: forests for peace and well-being; the role of forest products and their storage of carbon in tackling climate change; roles of forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation; quantifying forestry contributions to national economies; biodiversity in forests; forest education; and quantitative forecasting for global production consumption and trade in forest products;
- c. identified a number of potential themes and topics that could form the basis of technical sessions at the World Forestry Congress including: a cross-cutting stream on technological developments; legal and sustainable wood products including combating illegal logging and associated trade, and promotion of legal products; the UN Global Forest Goals including the proposed launch of the 2021 UNFF Flagship Publication by the UNFF Secretariat; utilization of planted forests and challenges in relation to sustainable forest management; improvement of employment environments and work safety in forestry; strengthening resilience against climatic disasters by utilizing forests; carbon storage in wood products as a counter-measure to climate change; the role of forests in addressing energy challenges; circular economies and bio-economies; the role of forests in climate change; and inclusion of a youth-led stream to focus on the contributions of youth to forestry.
- d. noted that the World Forestry Congress will provide an important opportunity to facilitate cross-sectoral engagement with non-forest sectors to discuss practicality of policy ideas, managing landscape approaches, securing financing, and the overall implementation of solutions.
- e. requested the Secretariat to consider the recommendations, translate them into the respective templates and attach them to the current report as Appendix D.

FORESTS FOR PEACE AND WELL-BEING: REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY WEEK 2019 STREAMS (Item 13)

25. Based on Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2019/12 and presentations from each of the five thematic streams of Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2019, the Commission considered issues, challenges and opportunities in relation to:

- Stream 1: Restoring our forests and landscapes;
- Stream 2: People and forests living in harmony;
- Stream 3: Building a resilient environment;
- Stream 4: Promoting responsible trade and markets;
- Stream 5: Innovating governance and institutions.

26. The Commission:

- a. acknowledged the presentations from the five thematic streams and the robust discussions within the wider APFW 2019;
- b. encouraged that member countries to mainstream forest and landscape restoration into national policy and development agendas;
- c. encouraged member countries, where appropriate to, should continue to work to clarify land and forest tenure rights, while also encouraging the forest sector to seek and expand collaboration with other sectors;
- d. invited, as appropriate, member countries to facilitate private-sector engagement to build environmental resilience with innovative financing for a range of strategies and mechanisms, including REDD+, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), agroforestry and peatland restoration, and natural disaster prevention, as appropriate;
- e. invited member countries to continue to adapt and implement measures to regulate and promote legal and sustainable trade in forest products, and where necessary, adapt measures to improve market accessibility for smallholders, communities and micro-enterprises;
- f. encouraged member countries to seek opportunities to strengthen governance and establish effective institutions, including through innovative approaches across landscapes and beyond the forest sector;
- g. requested the Secretariat to summarize the presentations made by the five thematic streams and attach the summary to the current report as Appendix E.

GLOBAL PROCESSES (Item 14)

27. Based on Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2019/13, the Commission considered major outcomes of global policy processes with strong relevance to forestry.

28. The Commission:

- a. appreciated FAO's engagement with various international bodies on forestry issues including ASEAN, APEC and APFNet and invited FAO to consider asking relevant organizations to report under this agenda item at future sessions;
- b. encouraged FAO and member countries to play active roles in the Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit. Track #8: Nature-Based Solutions and in the reform process for the International Poplar Commission;
- c. advised that FAO's core work on forestry should not be weakened by allocating additional effort to urban forestry, while at the same time recognizing increasing risks to urban areas from disasters such as landslides and debris flows;
- d. invited countries to engage with youth in forest-related international processes.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FORESTS AND COLLABORATION WITH UNFF (Item 15)

29. On the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2019/14 and a statement by the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), the Commission considered implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) and collaboration with UNFF

30. The Commission:
- a. encouraged FAO and UNFF to seek opportunities at other Regional Forestry Commissions to replicate the strong collaboration evident in jointly organizing Stream 5 of APFW;
 - b. supported harmonization of work in the UNSPF;
 - c. urged FAO to ensure that its budget allocations are sufficient to properly meet its roles and obligations as Chair of the CPF, including provision of adequate support to the Global Forest Goals.

OTHER BUSINESS (Item 16)

31. The Commission was informed of activities implemented by five of its working groups and initiatives:

- TeakNet;
- Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank (APFPTT);
- Asia-Pacific Forest Communication Network (APFCN);
- Kids-to-Forests (K2F) initiative;
- Asia-Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN).

32. The Commission:

- a. commended the diversity of work being carried out by the various working groups and initiatives;
- b. noted that several of the initiatives appear to be losing momentum and require efforts for reinvigoration including provision of regular updates on activities to member countries;
- c. requested that the APFPTT compile a set of various national forest policy documents developed by Asia-Pacific countries and make these available through a web-based portal.

33. The Commission also considered a proposal by the Secretariat that during the forthcoming intersessional period a process to review APFC modalities and seek ways to enhance its efficiency be implemented.

34. The Commission requested the Secretariat to develop a scoping document outlining potential elements and processes for the review, including budgetary implications.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION (Item 17)

35. The Commission noted the expression of interest made during the twenty-seventh session by the delegation from Mongolia to host its twenty-ninth session and subsequent informal discussions with the Secretariat reiterating this expression of interest. The delegation from Australia indicated that in case no offers to host the twenty-ninth session are received it will reconsider its position.

AGENDA

“Forests for peace and well-being”

1. Adoption of the agenda
 2. Election of officers
 3. APFC session theme: “Forests for peace and well-being”
 4. Forest and landscape restoration
 5. Community forests, trade and markets
 6. Impacts of technological advances on forests and forestry
 7. FAO’s work on biodiversity
 8. Progress in implementing APFC- and FAO-supported activities in the region
 9. Asia-Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study III
 10. Forests and climate change
 11. State of forestry in Asia and the Pacific
 12. Preparations for the Committee on Forestry (COFO 25) and the XV World Forestry Congress
 13. Forests for peace and well-being: reports and recommendations from Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2019 Streams
 - Restoring our forests and landscapes
 - People and forests living in harmony
 - Building a resilient environment
 - Promoting responsible trade and markets
 - Innovating governance and institutions
 14. Global processes
 15. Implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and collaboration with UNFF
 16. Other business
- Reports from the subsidiary bodies:
- TEAKNet
 - Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN)

- Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank (APFPTT)
- Asia-Pacific Forestry Communicators Network (APFCN)
- Kids to Forests (K2F) Initiative

17. Date and place of the next session

18. Adoption of the report

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Rapporteur:	Mr. Sapol Boonsermsuk (Thailand)
Secretary:	Thomas Hofer (FAO)

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LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Code	Title
FO: APFC/2019/1	Provisional Agenda
FO: APFC/2019/2	APFC session theme: “Forests for peace and well-being”
FO: APFC/2019/3	Forest and landscape restoration
FO: APFC/2019/4	Community forests, trade and markets
FO: APFC/2019/5	Impacts of technological advances on forests and forestry
FO: APFC/2019/6	FAO’s work on biodiversity
FO: APFC/2019/7	Progress in implementing APFC- and FAO-supported activities in the region
FO: APFC/2019/8	Asia-Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study III
FO: APFC/2019/9	Forests and climate change
FO: APFC/2019/10	State of forestry in Asia and the Pacific
FO: APFC/2019/11	Preparations for 25 th Session of the Committee on Forestry and the XV World Forestry Congress
FO: APFC/2019/12	Forests for peace and well-being: reports and recommendations from Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2019 Streams
FO: APFC/2019/13	Outcome of global policy processes of relevance for the Regional Forestry Commissions
FO: APFC/2019/14	Implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and collaboration with the UN Forum on Forests
FO: APFC/2019/INF.1	Information Note
FO: APFC/2019/INF.2	Provisional Timetable
FO: APFC/2019/INF.3	List of Documents

APPENDIX D

RFC recommendations for the attention of COFO (issues to be considered for inclusion in the Agenda)

<i>Priority issues for COFO to consider</i>	<i>Expected outcome (information/discussion/decision)</i>	<i>Possible follow up activities for COFO and FAO</i>	<i>Reference to other RFC recommendation</i>
Forests for peace and well-being	Discussion/decision	Development of policy recommendations	
The role of forest products and their storage of carbon in tackling climate change	Discussion/decision	Development of guidance materials on utilization and maximizing life-cycle effectiveness of forest products as a means of storing carbon.	
Roles of forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation	Discussion/decision	Development of comprehensive guidance on how forests can best contribute to each of climate change mitigation and adaptation	
Quantifying forestry contributions to national economies	Discussion/decision	Development of methodologies for quantifying value of forestry contributions to national economies and estimates of national contributions	
Biodiversity in forests	Discussion/decision	Enhanced efforts on mainstreaming biodiversity	
Forest education	Discussion/decision	Reform of forestry education to better prepare students for current challenges	
Quantitative forecasting of global production, consumption and trade in forest products	Discussion/decision	Implementation of a comprehensive quantitative forecasting programme for global wood and wood products production, consumption and trade (e.g. FAO Global Forest Products Outlook Study implemented in 1990s)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential themes and topics that could form the basis of technical sessions at the World Forestry Congress include: • a cross-cutting stream on technological developments; • legal and sustainable wood products including combating illegal logging and associated trade, and promotion of legal products; • the UN Global Forest Goals including the proposed launch of the 2021 UNFF Flagship Publication by the UNFF Secretariat; • utilization of planted forests and challenges in relation to sustainable forest management; • improvement of employment environments and work safety in forestry; 	Discussion/decision	For consideration as potential themes and topics that could form the basis of technical sessions at the World Forestry Congress	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> strengthening resilience against climatic disasters by utilizing forests; carbon storage in wood products as a counter-measure to climate change; the role of forests in addressing energy challenges; circular economies and bio-economies; the role of forests in climate change; and inclusion of a youth-led stream to focus on the contributions of youth to forestry. 			
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RFC recommendations for the attention of the RC

<i>Priority issues for the RC to consider</i>	<i>Expected outcome (information/discussion/decision)</i>	<i>Possible follow up activities for FAO)</i>
Strengthening cross-sectoral education facilities and opportunities relating to forest and landscape management and other multi-sectoral issues	Discussion/decision	Establishment of a cross-sectoral education working group to develop recommendations for strengthening cross-sectoral tertiary education.

RFC recommendations for the FAO Programme of Work in Forestry related to the agenda of the current session

<i>Area/ action for FAO programme of work</i>	<i>Priority (High, Medium, Low, De-emphasis)</i>	<i>Type (new, continued,</i>	<i>Level of action (sub-regional/ regional./global)</i>	<i>Strategic Objective</i>	<i>Global Forest Goal of UNSPF</i>
Support regional and national capacity building on conflict management and dispute resolution in forestry;	H	Continued	Regional	S02	5, 6
Continue to provide support to forest and landscape restoration including for capacity building and to national and regional programmes;	H	Continued	Regional	S02	1
Leverage opportunities within the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) to work with other international organizations including the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) that have a trade focus to their mandate and are well placed to develop further	M	Continued	Regional	S03	2, 6

mechanisms for community forests to contribute to the legal and sustainable trade in timber products;					
Continue to provide support to developing community forestry programmes including community enterprise development;	M	Continued	Regional	S03	2
Conduct a review of the use of technology in forestry including identifying prerequisites for creating enabling environments for technology development and uptake;	M	Continued	Global	S02	4, 6
Conduct further work on the basis of the APFSOS III publication to develop supporting issues-based materials, targeted at specific stakeholder groups, and tailored for various media distribution mechanisms;	H	Continued	Regional	S02	1, 2, 3
Develop quantitative forecasts to 2030 and 2050 for consumption, production and trade in forest products in Asia and the Pacific;	H	Continued	Global	S02	2, 3
Continue to expand efforts to support climate change adaptation and mitigation measures including building resilience against natural disasters;	H	Continued	Regional	S05	1, 2
Support member countries to promote the carbon-storage properties of forest products and advance the role of forest products in addressing climate change;	M	Continued	Regional	S05	1, 2
Pursue opportunities to promote and implement the work of the Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (SW4SW) initiative in the Asia-Pacific region;	M	Continued	Regional	S02	2, 3
Implement a study on the spread of forest invasive species in the context of climate change and propose adaptive measures;	H	Continued	Global	S05	1, 2
Ensure that its budget allocations are sufficient to properly meet its roles and obligations as Chair of the CPF, including provision of adequate support to the Global Forest Goals;	H	Continued	Global	S02	6

Compile a set of various national forest policy documents developed by Asia-Pacific countries and make these available through a web-based portal;	M	Continued	Regional	S04	5

FORESTS FOR PEACE AND WELL-BEING: REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY WEEK 2019 STREAMS

Introduction

APFW 2019 was organized along five thematic streams that ran a series of events (meetings, workshops, seminars, etc.) throughout the week. The five thematic streams were:

- Stream 1: Restoring our forests and landscapes
- Stream 2: People and forests living in harmony
- Stream 3: Building a resilient environment
- Stream 4: Promoting responsible trade and markets
- Stream 5: Innovating governance and institutions

Under Agenda Item 13, the five thematic streams were invited to report to the Commission a concise summary of key messages emerging from each stream, as well as proposing one actionable recommendation per stream to be considered by APFC for adoption and follow-up implementation as appropriate.

This annex summarizes the presentations made by the five streams to the Commission including the sets of recommendations and action items proposed by the five streams. Additional to the recommendations adopted in the Report of the 28th Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission under Agenda Item 13, member countries may also consider implementation of the broader sets of recommendations and action items where appropriate to their circumstances.

Stream 1: Restoring our forests and landscapes

Stream 1 constituted twenty-two plenary and partner events that were organized and jointly shaped by more than twenty partner organizations. The overarching objective of the stream was to take stock of the current state of forest and landscape restoration in the Asia-Pacific region, including progress in implementation, and to reshape restoration strategies to ensure that forests and landscapes meet future needs of societies.

Discussions in Stream 1 concluded that key needs in relation to forest and landscape restoration include:

- an increased sense of urgency for scaling up the adoption of forest and landscape restoration to address the loss of ecosystem functions;
- recognition by decision makers and stakeholders of the ecological consequences associated with forest and landscape degradation and the opportunities for addressing the degradation through restoration; and
- development of a shared understanding of the window of opportunity and potential challenges in implementing forest and landscape restoration at the required scale.

The United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) will offer substantial opportunities to build increased awareness of the importance of forest and landscape restoration, leverage the accumulated knowledge on forest and landscape restoration practices, and access emerging funding streams for ecosystem restoration.

Stream 1 proposed that member countries mainstream forest and landscape restoration into national policy and development agendas. In this regard, countries may consider a range of

supporting measures that could potentially include: provision of fiscal and other incentives; resolving conflicts over land and tenure; full and transparent engagement of local residents and stakeholders, and encouraging the private sector to adopt forest and landscape principles and practices.

Stream 2: People and forests living in harmony

Stream 2 noted that people-centered forestry is the basis for achieving the goal of “People and forests living in harmony”. People-centered forestry is an approach to forest landscape management based on the rights, interests and needs of local communities. Inclusive, equitable people-centered forestry can build resilient landscapes and thriving communities in Asia and the Pacific.

However, progress in development of people-centered forestry has been mixed. Major constraints include insufficient security of land and forest tenure rights and unclear rules and regulations governing the use and management of forests. Insufficient collaboration with other sectors is also a constraint to development. The pace of development of people-centered forestry could be enhanced by greater collaboration with water, infrastructure, rural development, education, health and other sectors.

Stream 2 proposed that member countries should continue to work to clarify land and forest tenure, while also encouraging the forest sector to seek and expand collaboration with other sectors.

Stream 3: Building a resilient environment

Stream 3 noted a likely impending collapse of socio-ecological systems with diminishing forests, including with significant expected increases in demand for wood. The Stream noted that development of social resilience is baseless without ecological resilience and that forests have a key role in developing resilience to climate change. The stream noted several potential financing constraints including: that climate finance is a part of broader development finance and the two should work to common, rather than separate, agendas; weaknesses in financial governance can constrain availability of funding for development and adaptation; and requirements for global financing, including through the Green Climate Fund, to help countries meet ambitious targets.

Emerging new perspectives in forestry include:

- broadening acceptance of a holistic view of forest ecosystems including understory species, soil biota, and biomass, etc. as key elements;
- use of blended financing to up-scale commercial financing for development through national and international mechanisms;
- circular economies that include forests and forestry to enhance ecosystem and social resilience;
- Forests as a multi-sectoral agenda; and
- Forests included in broader national and local institutions’ plans and strategies.

Stream 3 proposed that member countries work to facilitate private-sector engagement to build environmental resilience with innovative financing for a range of strategies, including REDD+, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), agroforestry and peatland restoration, as appropriate.

Countries might also consider: (i) facilitating learning exchanges to support proactive implementation of National REDD+ Action Plans and NDC strategies amongst Asia-Pacific countries; (ii) promoting and supporting implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines for Agroforestry Development within ASEAN member states and learning exchanges in Asia and the Pacific; (iii) supporting learning exchanges on peatland restoration; and (iv) support dialogues and

planning to devise strategies for countries to easily access financing from the private sector and global financing mechanisms.

Stream 4: Promoting responsible trade and markets

Stream 4 noted an overarching observation that demand and supply side measures to promote legal and sustainable wood and non-wood forest products production and trade are increasing in importance and impact. To fully leverage trade benefits for improved governance and livelihoods, Stream 4 proposed that member countries work to adapt the measures used to regulate and promote legal and sustainable trade in wood and non-wood forest products to improve market accessibility for smallholders, communities and micro-enterprises.

Stream 4 observed that experiences in regulating legal and sustainable production and markets in the timber sector are likely to have useful lessons for developing NWFP production and markets. Similarly, experiences with NWFP initiatives in supporting and organizing smallholders, communities and micro-enterprises are likely to be beneficial for the timber sector. Furthermore, Stream 4 noted a requirement for better statistics and information management (especially for NWFPs) to improve supply chain controls, facilitate systems implementation, reduce costs, apply due diligence, inform policy and regulatory reforms, and facilitate independent monitoring activities.

Stream 5: Innovating governance and institutions

Stream 5 proposed that member countries seek opportunities to identify and scale up innovative governance and institutions across landscapes and beyond the forest sector as part of the requirements for transformational change identified in APFSOS III.

Stream 5 also suggested that countries might consider:

- using the APFSOS III report to stimulate national dialogues to further improve governance and institutions, taking into account women, youth and indigenous peoples;
- promoting online information platforms including national-level clearing houses on forest sector data to enhance transparency and accountability;
- submitting voluntary national contributions to meet the Global Forest Goals and forest-related SDGs;
- identifying pilot countries in the Asia-Pacific region to enhance collaboration among forest financing partners to enhance forest and landscape governance.

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