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REPORT

Dehradun,
India,
17-21
April
2006

Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission

Twenty-first session



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

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REPORT

of the

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

of the

ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY COMMISSION

**Dehradun, India
17-21 April 2006**

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Bangkok, 2006**

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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

For the attention of Governments and FAO

The Commission recommended:

- giving greater attention to wildland fires, forest conservation, trees outside forests, and livelihood aspects in future Forest Resources Assessments;
- strengthening support for national forest programme processes and implementation;
- improving forest law compliance and governance to combat deforestation and forest degradation;
- working to accurately reflect the contributions that forests make to the environment, rural development, poverty reduction and other economic sectors in national accounting systems, national poverty reduction strategies and other decision-making frameworks;
- ensuring that sound scientific knowledge on the actual benefits of forests and trees is readily available to policy makers;
- identifying, documenting and promoting traditional and innovative options for increasing the level of financing devoted to sustainable forest management;
- identifying options for new and additional funds to finance sustainable forest management;
- enhancing the awareness and understanding of various existing international mechanisms and strengthening the capacity of forestry officials to effectively contribute to them;
- reviewing policies and regulations, with the aim of removing unnecessary constraints to private sector investment in forestry;
- seeking greater incentives for forest certification, including through enhanced recognition and increased market access for certified forest products;
- expanding efforts to address the challenges of illegal logging and associated trade of forest products;
- enhancing the conditions for communities to contribute to sustainable forest management by increasing access to resources, strengthening local capacities, and ensuring equitable sharing of benefits;
- enhancing two-way linkages between the global forest policy dialogue and the regional level;
- conveying regional priorities identified by APFC to the UNFF for it to take into account in its future work;
- seeking modalities for a more substantive discussion of global forest policy issues raised by UNFF at APFC sessions;
- providing suggested revisions and inputs on the draft Planted Forests Code and the draft Fire Management Code to FAO by 30 September 2006;
- assessing the need for voluntary guidelines for trees outside forests to complement the Planted Forests Code, and considering the prospects for developing comprehensive codes of practice that extend beyond the harvesting focus of existing codes;
- implementing the recommendations of the pre-session workshop on forests and poverty reduction;
- expanding further the programme of activities of the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network to strengthen capacities, raise awareness and share information;
- implementing a new Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study: Towards 2020 and reporting on the preliminary findings at the twenty-second session in 2008; and
- exploring further the options for formally establishing an Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Network as an inter-sessional activity of the Commission.

For the attention of FAO

The Commission recommended:

- giving continued high priority to the Global Forest Resources Assessment, including expanded elements for monitoring, assessing and reporting on progress toward sustainable forest management;
- increasing support and seeking additional funding for strengthening national forest assessment capacities, including those of national FRA correspondents;
- maintaining a focus on ground-based forest surveys and inventories;
- developing cost-effective approaches for assessing expanded parameters under FRA;
- enhancing capacities for forest policy analysis, development and implementation;
- continuing support for cost-effective methods and approaches for forest rehabilitation;
- further promoting of the recommendations of the APFC study on forest plantation incentives;
- continuing support for reconstruction and rehabilitation of tsunami-affected areas, including integrated coastal area management, rehabilitation of mangroves and other coastal vegetation, and the development of sustainable livelihoods;
- providing information and assistance for the sustainable management, utilization and marketing of non-wood forest products;
- enhancing support for agroforestry development in the region;
- promoting sound conservation and utilization of biological resources;
- giving increased attention to emerging priority issues, including climate change, biofuels, water issues, the contributions of forests in reducing poverty, and the potential role of coastal forests in mitigating the impacts of tsunami events;
- raising awareness of the importance of investments in the forestry sector;
- monitoring and documenting the development of the various financing mechanisms and continue to inform member countries on their potential application;
- maintaining and updating the sourcebook on funding for sustainable forest management developed by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;
- providing sound scientific information on relationships between forests and water, forests and carbon sequestration, and other environmental services;
- facilitating the continued exchange of information and views on the development and evolution of experiences with payments for environmental services;
- strengthening collaboration and harmonization with other organizations and processes, with a view towards avoiding duplication and improving efficiencies;
- strengthening capacities in member countries to support the development and implementation of codes of practice for various aspects of forest management;
- continuing the multi-stakeholder processes for formulating the Planted Forests Code and the Fire Management Code at regional, national and sub-national levels;
- presenting the draft Planted Forests Code and the draft Fire Management Code to the eighteenth session of COFO, in March 2007, for its consideration and appropriate action;
- monitoring the need for technical guidelines for field-level activities related to planted forests in different ecological zones, for different purposes, and for different species groups, and assisting in developing such guidelines as appropriate;
- providing continuing support for the implementation of codes of practice for forest harvesting and the application of improved forest harvesting practices;
- supporting further practical training, awareness raising activities, demonstration forests, and dissemination of information on reduced impact logging; and
- seeking additional resources to support the implementation of the regional strategy for the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network.

INTRODUCTION

1. At the invitation of the Government of India, the twenty-first session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) was held in Dehradun, India, from 17 to 21 April 2006. Delegates from 29 member countries and 3 United Nations organizations participated in the session, along with observers and representatives from 3 non-member countries and 25 regional and international inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations. A list of participants is given in *Appendix B*. The Commission welcomed Kiribati and Tuvalu as new members.

Opening ceremony

2. The opening of the session featured several high-level speakers, including the Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Government of India, the Chief Minister for the Indian State of Uttaranchal, the Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, senior officials from the Ministry of Environment and Forests (hosts of the session) and senior FAO officials. Ministers responsible for forestry in Tuvalu and Viet Nam also addressed the session.

3. Shri G.K.Prasad, Additional Inspector-General, Ministry of Environment and Forests, and Director-General of the Indian Council for Forest Research and Education (ICFRE), welcomed participants on behalf of the Government of India. Shri J.C. Kala, Director-General of Forests and Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, also addressed participants and outlined some of the salient forestry programmes of the Government of India.

4. Mr. He Changchui, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, welcomed participants on behalf of the Director-General of FAO. He thanked the Government of India, and especially the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the Government of Uttaranchal, and the many forestry institutes based in Dehradun, for hosting the meeting and for the excellent arrangements. Mr. He acknowledged the important roles of forestry in contributing to the achievement of FAO's mandate of improving nutrition, enhancing agricultural productivity, bettering the lives of rural populations, and supporting sustainable economic growth.

5. Mr. Wulf Killmann, Director of the Forest Products and Economics Division, represented the FAO Forestry Department. He applauded the region's achievements in forest plantation establishment, which had resulted in a net gain of forest cover in the region between 2000 and 2005, after several decades of decline. At the same time, he noted the troubling pattern of continued losses of natural forests in many countries, totalling more than six million hectares during the past five years. Mr. Killmann emphasized the importance that FAO attributes to its regional forestry commissions and complimented the Commission on its strong record of networking, information sharing and collaborative initiatives.

6. Dr. R.K. Pachauri, Director-General of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, presented the keynote address. Dr. Pachauri warned against unsustainable levels of consumption in the world and stated that the threshold of global sustainable development was crossed in the 1980s. He warned that the human ecological footprint was expanding and was unbearably heavy in many areas. He urged forestry professionals to consider forestry within the broader context of sustainable development.

7. His Excellency Narayan Datt Tiwari, Chief Minister, Uttaranchal, delivered the presidential address. He noted the growing awareness and appreciation of the roles of forests in providing important environmental services, including carbon sequestration, landscape beauty, biodiversity conservation and watershed protection. He elaborated on the experiences of Uttaranchal in supporting decentralized watershed management, including pioneering participatory approaches involving farmers, villagers and local organizations.

8. His Excellency Namo Narain Meena, Honourable Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Government of India, provided the inaugural address. He noted that the forestry sector was undergoing dynamic evolution, with public attention focused on it as never before. He also pointed out that forest governance systems were likewise evolving rapidly, leading to new roles and responsibilities for governments, private sector, indigenous communities and civil society. These emerging forest governance structures would need to deal with a range of new challenges and expectations.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA (Item 1)

9. Under the guidance of Mr. Samuela Lakataki (Fiji), on behalf of the outgoing Chair of the Commission, the provisional agenda (FO:APFC/2006/1) was reviewed and adopted (see *Appendix A*). Documents considered by the Commission are listed in *Appendix C*.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Item 2)

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

Chairperson:	J.C. Kala (India)
Vice-Chairpersons:	Adam Gerrand (Australia)
	Liu Hongcun (China)
	Bambang Murdiono (Indonesia)
Rapporteur:	Marcial Amaro, Jr. (Philippines)

Mr. Patrick Durst (FAO) served as Secretary of the Commission.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS (Item 3)

11. Dr. R.K. Pachauri presented the keynote address during the Opening Ceremony, as noted in paragraph 6.

12. His Excellency, Hua Duc Nhi, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam, addressed the Commission and highlighted recent developments in the forestry sector in Viet Nam.

13. His Excellency, Samuelu Penitala Teo, Minister for Natural Resources of Tuvalu, also addressed the Commission and expressed his appreciation for Tuvalu's recent membership in APFC. He highlighted the challenges related to climate change and rising sea levels faced by Tuvalu, and the importance of coconuts and coastal vegetation, including mangroves.

PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN THE REGION (Item 4)

Results of the Forest Resources Assessment 2005

14. The Commission considered progress towards sustainable forest management in the region on the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2006/4.1, national reports, and a discussion report prepared by the Secretariat, which elaborated the regional results of the 2005 Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA 2005). Several country delegates provided useful summaries of recent developments and issues in their countries.

15. The Commission noted the positive trend of forest plantation expansion in the region, which had resulted in a net gain in forest area in the region during the past five years, but expressed concern over the continuing loss of natural forests. Delegates cited several common threats to the region's forests, including illegal and uncontrolled logging, invasive species, forest fires and competition from alternative land uses. The Commission noted that countries were sometimes constrained in dealing effectively with these issues by insufficient budgetary resources, weak institutional capacities, and inadequate political will.

16. The Commission congratulated FAO and member countries on the completion of FRA 2005, and acknowledged the value of the assessment as the most comprehensive compilation of forest resources statistics to date. Delegates recognized the importance of reliable data and information on forest resources, and systematic monitoring and assessment, in achieving progress towards sustainable forest management in the region.

17. The Commission welcomed the expansion of the Global Forest Resources Assessment to include new data on six of the seven thematic elements agreed upon by inter-governmental processes as a framework for monitoring, assessing and reporting on progress towards sustainable forest management. While recognizing that basic information on the extent of forest cover and changes in forest conditions could now be obtained using remote sensing technology, delegates emphasized that new demands for more information on other elements such as biodiversity, protective functions of forests, and socio-economic aspects required increased field surveys and strengthened capacities to ensure reliable reporting.

18. The Commission requested FAO to continue giving high priority to the Global Forest Resources Assessment, based on the expanded elements for monitoring, assessing and reporting on progress toward sustainable forest management. It urged FAO to provide increased support and seek additional funding for strengthening capacities, including those of national FRA correspondents, which would help to ensure the reliability of data and information under the expanded reporting framework.

19. The Commission urged FAO to maintain a focus on ground-based surveys and inventories, as the most effective way to ensure reliability of data. It recommended that FAO and member countries give greater attention to the assessment of the impacts of wildland fires, forest conservation, trees outside forests, and livelihood aspects. FAO was requested to assist in developing pragmatic and cost-effective approaches and methodologies for assessing these and other parameters.

20. The Commission noted with satisfaction the convening of the pre-session workshop on Future Directions for Forest Resources Assessment in Asia-Pacific, held at the Forest Survey of India, on 16 April 2006 (see *Appendix E*).

21. The Commission concluded that members were making progress toward sustainable forest management as a result of re-orientation of policies, decentralization and devolution of forest management, application of best management practices and codes of practice for forest harvesting, expansion of protected areas, acceleration of plantation development and rehabilitation of degraded areas. However, it was recognized that progress was not consistent across the region and that major efforts were still required to achieve broad-based sustainable forest management.

APFC and other FAO accomplishments in the region

22. On the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2006/4.2, the Commission reviewed APFC and FAO-supported activities carried out during the past two years, including follow-up to the recommendations of the twentieth session of the Commission, and priorities for future work.

23. The Secretariat clarified that many regional activities supported by FAO were carried out within the framework of APFC. Activities generally had been concentrated in four areas: (a) ensuring sustainable supplies of wood and fiber; (b) continuous improvement in forest management; (c) participatory forestry and devolution of forest management; and (d) cross-cutting initiatives.
24. The Commission noted its satisfaction with the work programme that had been implemented and commended FAO on the number and quality of initiatives being undertaken in the region.
25. The Commission emphasized the importance of national forest programmes in providing frameworks for advancing towards sustainable forest management. It recommended that member countries, FAO and the National Forest Programme Facility strengthen support for national forest programme processes and implementation.
26. The Commission acknowledged the need for improved capacity for developing and implementing forest policies in many member countries. It urged FAO to continue efforts to enhance capacities for policy analysis, development and implementation.
27. Delegates expressed strong concern at the incidence of illegal logging and associated trade in forest products and stressed the importance of continued efforts to eliminate such illicit activities. The Commission urged member countries and FAO, in collaboration with other international and regional organizations, to increase efforts to improve forest law compliance and governance and other measures to combat deforestation and forest degradation.
28. Noting the vast extent of degraded forests in the region, the Commission emphasized the need for effective approaches and technologies for forest rehabilitation, including the creation of enabling environments to encourage investments by the private sector and local communities. The Commission requested FAO to continue its support for practical and cost-effective methods and approaches for forest rehabilitation. It also requested FAO to seek opportunities to reinforce and promote the findings and recommendations of the APFC study on forest plantation incentives.
29. The Commission expressed appreciation for FAO's support for reconstruction and rehabilitation of tsunami-affected areas. It requested FAO to provide continued support for the ongoing reconstruction efforts, including for integrated coastal area planning and management, technically sound rehabilitation of mangroves and other coastal vegetation, and development of sustainable livelihoods in affected areas.
30. The Commission noted the importance of non-wood forest products in contributing to rural livelihood strategies in many countries. It requested FAO to continue providing information and assistance for the sustainable management, utilization and marketing of non-wood forest products to maximize the benefits to the rural poor.
31. Delegates highlighted the importance of sound agroforestry practices in the livelihood strategies of many of the region's rural poor and acknowledged FAO's comparative advantage in supporting agroforestry development, encompassing two key sectors of FAO's mandate. The Commission requested FAO to enhance its support for agroforestry development in the region.
32. The Commission recognized the need for sound conservation and utilization of biological resources and recommended that FAO continue promoting this as a priority among its efforts to help countries achieve sustainable forest management. The Commission appreciated the convening of the pre-session workshop on forest genetic resources conservation and management organized by the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI) and the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) under the Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme. (see *Appendix F*)

33. The Commission recognized the emergence of important new issues confronting forestry, including climate change, demand for biofuels, water issues, the contributions of forests in poverty reduction, and the potential role of coastal forests in mitigating the impacts of tsunami events. The Commission also noted the importance of having a strong enabling environment to ensure stable investment conditions for forestry. The Commission requested FAO to increase attention to these issues and to assist member countries in better understanding the possible implications for future forest management.

FINANCING SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT (Item 5)

34. The Commission considered the challenges of securing adequate financing for sustainable forest management at regional, national and local levels on the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2006/5 and presentations from a panel of experts offering perspectives from the private sector, forest communities, environmental NGOs and national governments.

35. The Commission stressed the need to ensure that policy makers fully appreciate the wide range of contributions that forests make to the environment, rural development, poverty reduction and other economic sectors. It encouraged member countries, with support from FAO and other international organizations, to work to reflect these values into national accounting systems, national poverty reduction strategies, and other relevant decision-making frameworks, and to ensure that sound scientific knowledge on the actual benefits of forests and trees was readily available to policy makers.

36. The costs of fully implementing sustainable forest management were recognized to be significantly above current expenditure levels. Delegates recognized that funds for forest management need to be mobilized from a wide range of sources, including public and private funding, and official development assistance. The Commission urged FAO to work with member countries, donor organizations, financial institutions, foundations and others to identify, document and promote traditional and innovative options for increasing the level of financing devoted to sustainable forest management.

37. The Commission recognized that countries with advanced or rapidly developing economies have significant potential to increase investments in forestry using domestic resources, but that more efforts were required to convince high-level policy makers of the importance of investing in sustainable forest management. The Commission requested FAO and other organizations to help in raising awareness of the importance of such investments in the forestry sector.

38. Delegates appreciated the continued importance of official development assistance in supporting forest management in developing countries, especially in serving as a catalyst for innovation and further development of the sector. The Commission encouraged donor organizations and international institutions to identify options for new and additional funds to finance sustainable forest management.

39. Delegates noted the difficulty of accessing funds for forest management activities from various existing international mechanisms, such as the Clean Development Mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol and the Global Environment Facility. The Commission recognized the need for greater inputs from the forestry sector in the negotiation processes related to such mechanisms. The Commission requested FAO, in collaboration with other partners, to enhance the awareness and understanding of these mechanisms and strengthen the capacity of forestry officials to effectively contribute to them.

40. The Commission noted the critical importance of private sector investment in forestry, for developing and managing forest resources, as well as for processing and marketing of forest products. It was recognized that a favourable and stable business climate is necessary to give

confidence to the private sector for further investment in forestry. The Commission urged member countries to review policies and regulations, with the aim of removing unnecessary constraints to private sector investment. FAO was requested to assist, as appropriate, in reviewing such policies and regulations.

41. The Commission recognized the growing acceptance of forest certification systems, but noted that there have been only minor price premiums in markets for certified products to date. The Commission encouraged FAO and other international organizations to seek greater incentives for forest certification, including through enhanced recognition and increased market access for certified forest products.

42. The Commission recognized that illegal logging greatly undermines the profitability of legitimate companies and operators by supplying cheap timber to markets. It urged FAO, in collaboration with other international and regional organizations, to expand efforts to address the challenges of illegal logging and associated trade of forest products.

43. Delegates appreciated the numerous direct and indirect contributions of local communities in supporting sustainable forest management, but noted that these contributions are often overlooked or under-appreciated. The Commission urged member countries to enhance the environment for communities to contribute to sustainable forest management by increasing access to resources, strengthening local capacities, and ensuring equitable sharing of benefits.

44. The Commission noted the emergence of various innovative financing arrangements that offer promise for increasing investments in sustainable forest management, including payments for environmental services, dedicated forestry funds, conservation concessions and public-private partnerships. The Commission recognized that additional funding would be required to implement these and other measures for achieving sustainable forest management. It recommended that FAO monitor and document the development of the various financing mechanisms and continue to inform member countries on their potential application.

45. The Commission acknowledged the value of the sourcebook on funding for sustainable forest management developed by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and requested that FAO, in collaboration with other CPF organizations, maintain and update this valuable reference as appropriate.

IN-SESSION SEMINAR: PAYMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (Item 6)

46. During a special in-session seminar, the Commission reviewed the status and potential of payments for environmental services in the region. The agenda of the in-session seminar is attached as *Appendix D*.

47. Delegates acknowledged that payments for environmental services to supplement traditional sources of income from forests is an evolving concept. They noted, however, that the actual realization of such potential was currently limited and that the significance of payments for environmental services as a source of funding for forestry was still to be determined.

48. Delegates debated the concepts of public-private partnerships, competitive tenders, and payments linked to carbon sequestration and supplies of clean water. Concerns were expressed, however, over the high transaction costs related to payments for environmental services, the difficulties in defining their values and property rights, and uncertainties over required biophysical information. The Commission urged FAO to continue providing sound scientific information on relationships between forests and water, forests and carbon sequestration, and other environmental services.

49. Delegates debated whether the “public good” aspects of environmental services might preclude establishing efficient mechanisms to link suppliers of environmental services with beneficiaries. Some delegates expressed concern over equity issues relative to payments for environmental services, noting that little evidence exists to indicate that payments actually result in improvements in the livelihoods of rural poor. Others noted variations in the level of payments available in developed countries relative to those made for similar services in developing countries.

50. Delegates noted that afforestation and reforestation were the only eligible forestry activities under the Clean Development Mechanism. Some delegates expressed concern about what components of forestry would be included under the Kyoto Protocol for the second commitment period.

51. Delegates agreed that the provision of clean and reliable supplies of water is among the most widely recognized and appreciated environmental benefits derived from forests.

52. Noting the evolving nature of various systems and approaches, the Commission encouraged FAO to facilitate the continued exchange of information and views on the development and evolution of experiences with payments for environmental services.

FROM GLOBAL TO LOCAL: THE ROLE OF REGIONAL MECHANISMS IN SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT (Item 7)

53. On the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2006/7 and presentations from a panel of experts, the Commission considered the roles of regional organizations, mechanisms and processes in advancing action on issues raised in global dialogues on sustainable forest management.

54. Panelists from FAO, the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), Asia Forest Partnership, Asia Forest Law Enforcement and Governance, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI), Asia Forest Network, and the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme shared their views on regional approaches and mechanisms to support sustainable forest management and link national and local efforts with global initiatives.

55. Delegates noted that there were considerable opportunities for increased collaboration among global and regional organizations and mechanisms dealing with forestry issues. They further reflected on the high cost of participation in numerous international meetings with similar objectives and representation. The Commission requested FAO to strengthen collaboration and harmonization with other organizations and processes, with a view towards avoiding duplication and improving efficiencies, and to report on progress in identifying and exploiting synergies at the twenty-second session of APFC.

56. The Commission recommended that two-way linkages be enhanced between the global forest policy dialogue and the regional level. Delegates emphasized that no new mechanisms should be created, but that existing processes should be used to ensure increased interaction between global and regional levels.

57. The Commission recommended that APFC, when reporting to COFO, also recommend regional priorities that the UNFF should take into account in future work. It further recommended to seek modalities for a more substantive discussion of global forest policy issues raised by UNFF at APFC sessions.

CODES OF PRACTICE (Item 8)

58. The Commission considered the development and implementation of codes of practice for forest management on the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2006/8 and presentations by invited resource persons.

59. Delegates appreciated the efforts of FAO and partner organizations in supporting the development and implementation of codes of practice for various aspects of forest management. The Commission noted, however, that greater efforts were needed to translate codes and guidelines into substantive action on the ground. The Commission encouraged member countries to further the implementation of codes. It also urged FAO to increase its efforts in capacity building in member countries.

Planted forests code

60. Dr. Rekha Pai (India) presented a summary of the pre-session workshop on the Planted Forests Code, which had convened on 16 April 2006 (see *Appendix G*). The Commission requested FAO to fully consider the recommendations of the workshop in finalizing the code, including suggestions to remove references to agroforestry and trees outside forests from the code.

61. Delegates noted the increasingly significant role of planted forests in meeting social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits in the Asia-Pacific region. They further noted that the Planted Forests Code currently being formulated through a multi-stakeholder process will provide a global voluntary framework of guiding principles to assist policy makers, senior decision makers and managers to strengthen policy, legal, regulatory and institutional conditions for sound development of planted forests. The Commission stressed the complementarity of the Planted Forests Code with other instruments aimed at implementing sustainable forest management.

62. The Commission requested FAO to continue coordinating the process, at regional, national and sub-national levels, to ensure widespread input, understanding and ownership. It further urged member countries to review the draft Planted Forest Code and provide suggested revisions and comments to FAO by 30 September 2006.

63. The Commission recommended that FAO continue to monitor the need for technical guidelines for field-level activities related to planted forests in different ecological zones, for different purposes, and for different species groups, and to assist in developing such guidelines as appropriate.

64. The Commission recommended that FAO, member countries and other stakeholders further consider the need for separate voluntary guidelines for trees outside forests to complement the Planted Forests Code.

65. The Commission recommended that the draft Planted Forest Code be presented to the eighteenth session of COFO, in March 2007, for its consideration and appropriate action. In doing so, the Commission suggested that COFO may wish to consider ways and means of providing required technical support to member countries for implementing the code, monitoring and reporting on implementation, and continuation of the multi-stakeholder process initiated in deriving the code.

Codes of practice for forest harvesting

66. Patrick Dugan (Japanese Overseas Forestry Consultants Association) summarized progress in implementing codes of practice for forest harvesting in the region.

67. The Commission noted the positive advances of many member countries in formulating and implementing national codes of practice for forest harvesting, consistent with the *Code of Practice*

for *Forest Harvesting in Asia-Pacific* developed by APFC. FAO was requested to continue providing support for the implementation of codes of practice and the application of improved forest harvesting practices.

68. Delegates highlighted various constraints encountered in implementing codes of practice for forest harvesting, including lack of forest workers trained in reduced impact logging techniques and skilled field operations managers, lack of awareness of codes and the potential for improved forest harvesting, and resistance to change from current practices. The Commission requested FAO and other international organizations to continue support for practical training, awareness raising activities, demonstration forests, and dissemination of information on reduced impact logging.

Voluntary guidelines for wildland fire management

69. Acknowledging the significant impacts of fire on the environment, livelihoods and land use in the region, delegates appreciated efforts to develop a Fire Management Code (previously referred to as “Voluntary Guidelines for Wildland Fire Management”). The Commission recognized that the Fire Management Code would provide a global framework of guiding principles and operational guidelines for holistic approaches to fire management and to facilitate greater collaboration related to prediction, prevention, preparedness, rapid response and restoration following fires.

70. Delegates appreciated the multi-stakeholder processes through which the Fire Management Code was being developed. It requested FAO to continue coordinating the processes, including at regional and national levels. It further urged member countries to review the draft Fire Management Code and provide feedback to FAO by 30 September 2006.

71. The Commission recommended that the draft Fire Management Code be presented to the eighteenth session of COFO, in March 2007, for its consideration and appropriate action. The Commission suggested that COFO may also wish to consider ways and means of providing required technical support to member countries for implementing the code, monitoring and reporting on implementation, and continuation of the multi-stakeholder process initiated in deriving the code.

Do we need a broader code for sustainable forest management standards?

72. David Rhodes (New Zealand) introduced discussion on the potential benefits and implications of developing a broader code of practice to guide the full range of forest management activities.

73. The Commission recognized that sustainable forest management encompasses a multitude of factors and that existing codes do not adequately cover many aspects of forest management, such as management of non-wood forest products, natural forests and others.

74. Delegates acknowledged that advantages could be gained by developing comprehensive codes of practice that extend beyond the harvesting focus of existing codes, but recognized that development of such comprehensive codes would require substantial effort and cost. The Commission encouraged FAO and member countries to further consider prospects for developing such codes.

REPORT OF THE PRE-SESSION WORKSHOP ON FORESTS AND POVERTY REDUCTION (Item 9)

75. Dr. Smrithi Talwar (Asoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment) presented a summary of the workshop (see *Appendix H*). The pre-session workshop was attended by 85 participants from 15 countries and various international and regional organizations and non-governmental organizations.

76. The workshop made recommendations to member countries and for collaborative action by APFC in three areas that pertain to forests and poverty reduction:

- (a) policies and legislation;
- (b) community-based forest management and forest-based enterprises; and
- (c) institutions.

77. The Commission endorsed the workshop report and encouraged member countries to effectively implement the recommendations.

INFORMATION ITEMS (Item 10)

Forest law enforcement: report on FAO/ITTO guidelines

78. On the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2006/INF.4 and a presentation by Steven Johnson (ITTO), the Commission was informed of ongoing regional activities related to forest law enforcement, including an initiative by FAO and ITTO on best practices for improving law compliance in the forest sector. The Commission was informed of plans to convene a regional workshop on best practices for improving law compliance under the initiative in collaboration with the Asia Forest Partnership, Asia FLEG and other partners.

79. The Commission requested FAO to support the efforts of member countries in combating illegal logging by enhancing the exchange of information and sharing experiences on relevant programmes.

Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network

80. The Commission was informed of the activities of the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN) on the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2006/INF.5 and a summary report presented by A.K. Goyal (India), the chairperson of the pre-session workshop on development of a strategy for the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (see *Appendix I*).

81. The Commission noted its satisfaction with the work programme implemented by the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN). It stressed the significance of forest invasive species to the Asia-Pacific region and noted the high priority many countries accord to forest invasive species issues. The Commission encouraged APFISN to continue building its programme of activities to strengthen capacities, raise awareness and share information. The Commission requested FAO to seek additional resources to support the implementation of the regional strategy for APFISN.

Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study

82. The Commission was informed of preparatory arrangements for a new Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study on the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2006/INF.6.

83. The Commission acknowledged the value of the first Asia Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study and noted that its time horizon ends in 2010. The Commission endorsed the implementation of a new Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study: Towards 2020 and requested that preliminary findings of the new study be presented to the twenty-second session.

REGIONAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (Item 11)

84. Recognizing COFO's stated desire to see FAO's regional forestry commissions strengthened, the Commission wished to bring to the attention of COFO the vibrance and vitality of APFC, as demonstrated by the large number of important inter-sessional activities implemented in the past two years and the record level of participation at the twenty-first session. The Commission considered it particularly noteworthy that these activities were achieved largely as a result of the commitment and contributions of member countries themselves.
85. The Commission emphasized the importance of national forest programmes in providing frameworks for advancing towards sustainable forest management and its recommendation that member countries, FAO and the National Forest Programme Facility strengthen support for national forest programme processes and implementation.
86. The Commission wished to bring to COFO's attention its request to FAO to continue giving high priority to the Global Forest Resources Assessment, based on the expanded elements for monitoring, assessing and reporting on progress towards sustainable forest management, and its request to FAO for increased support for strengthening capacities to ensure the reliability of data and information under the expanded reporting framework.
87. The Commission wished to draw COFO's attention to the difficulties in accessing funds for forest management activities from various existing international mechanisms and the need for more input from the forestry sector in the negotiations related to such mechanisms. The Commission also wished to acknowledge the value of the sourcebook on funding for sustainable forest management developed by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its desire to see it maintained and updated.
88. Cognizant of the global concern over illegal logging and associated trade, the Commission wished to stress the importance of continued efforts to eliminate such illicit activities and its request to FAO to provide additional technical support to assist member countries.
89. The Commission wished to highlight to COFO the need to build capacities for dealing with the serious threats posed by invasive species. The Commission was pleased to inform COFO of the steadily expanding work of the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network, established under the auspices of APFC.
90. The Commission requested that the draft Planted Forests Code and the draft Fire Management Code be presented to the eighteenth session of COFO, in March 2007, for the Committee's consideration and appropriate action. The Commission also wished to highlight to COFO the significant progress made by member countries in the region in formulating and implementing national codes of practice for forest harvesting, consistent with the regional code developed under the auspices of APFC. The Commission urged COFO to consider prospects for developing a comprehensive code of practice that extends beyond the harvesting focus of most existing codes.
91. The Commission wished to highlight its recommendation to seek modalities for a more substantive discussion of global policy issues raised by UNFF at future APFC sessions.
92. The Commission wished to draw the attention of COFO to its appreciation of FAO's support for reconstruction and rehabilitation of tsunami-affected areas.

OTHER BUSINESS (Item 12)Report of the Second Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission Executive Committee

93. A summary of the deliberations and outcomes of the Second Meeting of the APFC Executive Committee, convened 31 August – 1 September 2005, was presented by Mr. G.K. Prasad (India).

94. The Executive Committee meeting had reviewed APFC's work in relation to recommendations from the twentieth session of the Commission; deliberated on recent developments in forestry and explored potential new APFC's priorities; identified means of strengthening APFC; and carried out initial planning for the twenty-first session of the Commission.

95. The Commission accepted the report of the Executive Committee and took note of the Committee's suggestions for priority work.

Report of the Expert Consultation on Establishing a Forest Policy Network for Asia and the Pacific

96. A summary report of the Expert Consultation on Establishing a Forest Policy Network for Asia and the Pacific, held in March 2006, in Manila, Philippines, was presented by Dato' Mokhtar bin Mat Isa (Malaysia).

97. Forty-four participants, from 19 countries, had attended the expert consultation. The consultation acknowledged the positive processes and outcomes of previous APFC and FAO regional policy studies examining logging bans, plantation incentives, devolution and other issues, and urged the establishment of a flexible mechanism to expand such policy work in the region. The consultation had also identified several potential functions of a regional forest policy network, and possible options for its structure.

98. The Commission accepted the report and endorsed the expert consultation's recommendation to continue exploration of options for formally establishing an Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Network as an inter-sessional activity of the Commission.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION (Item 13)

99. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the delegation from Viet Nam to host its twenty-second session. Delegations from China and Japan indicated their countries' interest in hosting future sessions of the Commission.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (Item 14)

100. The draft report was adopted by the Commission with minor corrections and clarifications, which are reflected in this report.

CLOSING

101. Shri J.C. Kala, Director-General of Forests and Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, officially closed the session.

*APPENDIX A***AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Election of officers
3. Keynote address
4. Progress towards sustainable forest management (SFM) in the region
 - Results of FRA 2005
 - APFC and other FAO accomplishments in the region
 - Countries discuss major developments in the region
5. Financing sustainable forest management
6. In-session seminar: payment for environmental services
7. From global to local : the role of regional mechanisms in sustainable forest management
8. Codes of practice
 - Report on pre-session workshop on planted forests code
 - Forest harvesting: country reports on implementation
 - Wildland fires: information on voluntary guidelines
 - Do we need a broader code for sustainable forest management standards?
9. Report of the pre-session workshop on forests and poverty reduction
10. Information items
 - Forest law enforcement: report on FAO/ITTO guidelines
 - Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network
 - Asia-Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study
11. Regional issues identified by the Commission for the attention of the Committee on Forestry (COFO)
12. Other business
 - Report of the second meeting of the APFC Executive Committee
 - Other items raised by members
13. Date and place of the next session
14. Adoption of the report

APPENDIX B

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APPENDIX C

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Agenda Item	Code	Title
1	FO:APFC/2006/1	Provisional agenda
4	FO:APFC/2006/4.1	Progress towards sustainable forest management in the region
	FO:APFC/2006/4.2	Report on the progress and implementation of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) and FAO-supported activities and initiatives (including follow up to the recommendations of the Twentieth Session of the Commission)
5	FO:APFC/2006/5	Financing sustainable forest management: Who is responsible?
6	FO:APFC/2006/6	Payment for environmental services
7	FO:APFC/2006/7	From global to local: the role of regional mechanisms in sustainable forest management
8	FO:APFC/2006/8	Codes of practice (COPs)
9	FO:APFC/2006/9	Report on the pre-session workshop on Forests and poverty reduction

Information documents:

10	FO:APFC/2006/INF.1	Information note
	FO:APFC/2006/INF.2	Provisional timetable
	FO:APFC/2006/INF.3	List of documents
	FO:APFC/2006/INF.4	Forest law enforcement, including the FAO/International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) initiative on best practices for improving law compliance in the forest sector
	FO:APFC/2006/INF.5	Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network
	FO:APFC/2006/INF.6	Asia-Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study

APPENDIX D

IN-SESSION SEMINAR: PAYMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Dates	19 April 2006, 14:00 - 17:00 hrs.
Venue	ICFRE Hall, Dehradun, India
Participants	Invited experts from APFC member countries; sponsors; regional organizations, NGOs and the private sector
Moderator	Dato Abdul Razak

Programme

14:00 – 14:05	Welcome remarks Simmathiri Appanah, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
14:05 – 14:35	Costa Rica's experience with payment for environmental services Hector Arce Benavides, Crédito del Fondo Nacional de Financiamiento Forestal, Costa Rica
14:35 – 14:50	Strategies for establishing public-private partnerships in PES Jim Peters, Asia Regional Biodiversity Conservation Program
14:50 – 15:00	Incentive-based mechanisms for watershed services in India: learnings from the field Chetan Agarwal, Winrock India
15:00 – 15:20	Tea break
15:20 – 15:30	Carbon sequestration aspects of PES within and outside Kyoto Protocol Promode Kant, Tamilnadu Tea Plantation Corp., India
15:30 – 15:40	Use of carbon-based PES mechanism to promote sustainable forestry in Indonesia Nur Masripatin, Ministry of Forestry, Indonesia
15:40 – 15:50	Payment for environmental services - some Australian approaches Adam Gerrand, Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
15:50 – 16:50	Open discussion
16:50 – 17:00	Wrap up

APPENDIX E

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON THE FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENT IN ASIA-PACIFIC**Introduction**

The workshop on *Future Directions for Forest Resources Assessment in Asia-Pacific* was held at the Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, on 16 April 2006, with an additional session on 19 April at the same venue. Thirty-four participants, including 20 national correspondents or their representatives from the Forest Resources Assessment 2005 (FRA) participated.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- provide a briefing on the key FRA 2005 findings of relevance to the region;
- discuss activities beyond FRA 2005; and
- develop a regional National Correspondents Network based on the recommendations of the regional workshop held in the FAO Regional Office in Bangkok in November 2004.

Major issues discussed

The workshop was opened by Dr. Devendra Pandey, Director of the Forest Survey of India, who gave an overview of the improvement of forest assessment activities in India.

Dr. Kailash Govil, FAO's Global FRA Focal Point for Asia, presented the key findings from FRA 2005 and outlined plans for future activities, including discussions on future FRA-related work at the Kotka V meeting in Finland, in June 2006. He noted that the FRA report presents the best available global forest resources data, but some modifications may be needed for FRA 2010.

Mr. Hiroki Miyazono, Forest Agency, Japan, briefed the participants on the concept, planned activities and expected outputs from the recently launched project on "Monitoring, assessment and reporting (MAR) for sustainable forest management in the Asia-Pacific region", which is supported by the Government of Japan and executed by FAO.

Dr. Alfred Stolle, World Resources Institute, reported on a WRI-supported project in Indonesia that uses remote sensing data to assist decision making. This included information on the remote sensing work done by University of South Dakota, USA, in consultation with FAO to develop the forest information framework for FRA 2010. WRI is looking for partners to expand the work and interest from several countries was expressed.

Mr. Adam Gerrand, Australia, provided the background and justification for the proposal to establish a regional network of national correspondents based on the recommendations from the FRA 2005 Preparatory Workshop held in November 2004, in Bangkok. He also suggested a review of the 15 tables of FRA 2005 to assess the data availability, reliability, and constraints in each country for better planning toward the next global forest resources assessment in 2010.

Mr. Masakazu Kashio, FAO Regional Forest Resources Officer, provided the basic subjects and issues to be considered for the organization and management of a regional national correspondents' network. Displaying various options for the network's structure, he suggested a proposed network should have informal, horizontal and inter-active structure and functions to ensure effective information flow among national correspondents. He also suggested the need for organizing meetings with financial and technical support from the projects and programmes provided by FAO and other organizations.

Recommendations

1. FAO should continue to assist countries in building capacity for collection of reliable forest resources information and other important parameters related to the multiple functions of forests for meeting international and national obligations.
2. Countries, with assistance from FAO, should continue to plan for and support the ongoing collection of reliable information on forest resources, through their national institutes and national correspondents, which is critical for the reliable and timely supply of information to decision makers.
3. Countries should begin preparations now for implementing FRA 2010.
4. FAO should support the establishment of a regional network of FRA national correspondents in Asia and the Pacific, to assist in building the capacity of member countries through sharing experiences and exchanging information, with a view toward improving the overall quality and reliability of forest information for sustainable forest management and reporting under future FRA initiatives.
5. FAO should develop Terms of References for the Regional Network of National Correspondents.
6. The Regional Network of National Correspondents should be established in a way that involves minimal additional expenditure, making maximum use of e-mail and website communication methods.
7. Periodic meetings of national correspondents are desirable, particularly in the lead up to the next data collection for FRA 2010; where possible, meetings should be held in conjunction with other gatherings to minimize costs and enhance efficiency.
8. FAO, member countries and donors should provide adequate financial support for enhancing country-level institutional capacity related to forest inventory and mapping activities.

APPENDIX F

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT****Introduction**

The pre-session workshop on *Forest Genetic Resources Conservation and Management* was organized by the Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN), 15-16 April 2006, in Dehradun, India. Representatives from 12 of the 14 countries currently participating in the APFORGEN programme attended the workshop: Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Bangladesh and Pakistan were not able to participate. Seven scientists from the Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) also participated as observers.

Programme review

The workshop started with an update of the programme activities by the Secretariat, currently hosted by the Asia Pacific Association of Forest Research Institutes (APAFRI) Secretariat. Major achievements of the programme during the past three years included: (i) publishing of the inception workshop (2003) proceedings; (ii) preparation of nine priority species information sheets; (iii) printing of APFORGEN brochures; (iv) establishing the APFORGEN website (www.apforgen.org) and regular updating of the web pages; and (v) organizing two sub-regional meetings of the national coordinators. Updates by the APFORGEN national coordinators indicated that many of member countries have introduced new policies and research initiatives relevant to forest genetic resources conservation and management in recent years.

The workshop also reviewed the draft action plans proposed during previous meetings. Many of the proposed actions have already been initiated by participating countries. It was decided that these action plans would need to be updated as the situation in many countries had changed during the past years. National coordinators agreed to submit the revised action plans to the APFORGEN Secretariat by the end of May 2006.

Recommendations and future actions

It was decided that the APFORGEN website will play the key role in information dissemination among member countries. In addition, the website will support individuals and activities outside member countries. Success stories in forest genetic resources conservation and management will be posted on the website.

Discussion on genetic diversity in forest rehabilitation confirmed that several APFORGEN countries have important reforestation and rehabilitation activities and that these efforts are likely to be strengthened in the future. The levels of understanding of the importance of genetic diversity in forest rehabilitation vary considerably among the countries. However, the level of scientific knowledge on genetic diversity for rehabilitation is uniformly low throughout the countries. There is strong need for international support to assist countries in increasing the genetic diversity of planted trees through scientific and research-based activities.

The national coordinators were reminded of their responsibilities to coordinate activities and contribute regularly to the programme. Establishing working groups, taskforces, and stakeholder discussion groups would greatly facilitate these tasks. Indonesia, which established a national secretariat shortly after the inception workshop in 2003, volunteered to assist other countries in establishing their national secretariats. Indonesia also volunteered to host the next APFORGEN National Coordinators' Meeting, scheduled for 2007 or 2008.

APPENDIX G

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON THE PLANTED FORESTS CODE**Introduction**

The pre-session *Workshop on the Planted Forests Code* was convened 16 April 2006, at the Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, India. The workshop was attended by 53 participants from 18 countries, including 35 government, 9 private sector 5 international governmental organization and 4 non-government organization representatives.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- better understand the need, the process and different multi-stakeholder perspectives in deriving the Planted Forests Code;
- encourage APFC member country feedback in the development of the Planted Forests Code;
- provide conclusions and recommendations to Agenda Item 8a of the main session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission.

Conclusions

The significant role of planted forests in meeting social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits in the Asia-Pacific region was recognized. The usefulness of the Planted Forests Code in enhancing the role that planted forests could play in meeting the Millennium Development Goals was also recognized. It was noted that the framework of guiding principles would assist policy makers, senior decision makers and managers in providing improved policy, legal and planning conditions to balance the trade offs among different uses and users of planted forests, whether in industrialized or developing countries. It was recognized that the Planted Forests Code complemented and supplemented other forest-related instruments (e.g. forest certification).

The workshop considered, however, that the full social, cultural, environmental and economic significance and value of trees outside forests were not adequately covered in the draft Code.

Recommendations

The workshop recommended that FAO:

- remove specific reference to “agroforestry” from the draft Planted Forests Code;
- insert a note under the “Scope” and the “Glossary” that trees outside forests are excluded from the Planted Forests Code; and
- consider detailed technical and editorial proposals in preparing the final draft of the Planted Forests Code.

The workshop recommended to the 21st Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission that:

- the draft Planted Forests Code be presented to the 18th Session of the Committee on Forests for its consideration and appropriate action;
- appropriate technical and other support be allocated for capacity building in implementing the Planted Forests Code;
- the multi-stakeholder process in developing the Planted Forests Code be continued at the international, regional, national and sub-national to local levels;
- the need and mechanism for monitoring and reporting on implementation of the Planted Forest Code be determined; and
- consideration be given to the need for developing a separate voluntary instrument for trees outside forests to complement the Planted Forests Code.

APPENDIX H

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON
FORESTS AND POVERTY REDUCTION****Introduction**

The pre-session workshop on *Forests and Poverty Reduction* was convened on 15 April 2006, at the Wildlife Institute of India, in Dehradun. The purpose of the workshop was to increase awareness of the links between forestry and poverty reduction, identify barriers limiting forestry's contribution, and explore possible actions to reverse the situation. The workshop was attended by over 85 participants from 17 countries, including international and regional organizations and non-governmental organizations.

Presentations and working groups

A keynote address was made by Prof. R.D. Munda, former Vice-Chancellor of Ranchi University. Three thematic presentations were also provided: M. Nurse (RECOFTC) discussed the role of community-based forest management in poverty reduction; J.V. Sharma (Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India) reviewed India's forest policy, legislation and institutional approaches for further strengthening Joint Forest Management in the country; and P. Walpole (Asia Forest Network) enlarged on the opportunities and preconditions needed for forests to contribute to the livelihoods of rural populations.

The presentations set the stage for the discussions in three parallel working groups, which addressed the following issues:

- innovative and equitable laws and policies for poverty reduction;
- approaches for strengthening incentives for community-based forest management and forest-based enterprises; and
- refinement of local authority and management structures to balance the respective rights and duties of state and local communities.

Recommendations

Participants reviewed the issues, and identified recommendations for countries and FAO to consider. Several recommendations were directed to countries with a view toward improving policies, legislation, institutional arrangements and incentives for expanding the opportunities for community-based forest management to contribute more effectively in meeting poverty reduction objectives.

The following recommendations were made to FAO for consideration and appropriate follow up, within the framework of APFC or directly with member countries:

1. Facilitate policy formulation in those countries without a formal forest policy, through technical and financial support, and encourage and assist countries to review existing policies and incorporate new approaches through open processes with broad stakeholder participation.
2. Assist, through technical and financial support, in reviewing existing forest legislation and, where appropriate, drafting new laws or amendments.
3. Enhance capacity of countries, at all levels, to undertake forest policy research and analysis.

4. Promote multi-stakeholder, community-based forest management as a poverty reduction strategy; encourage investment plans; and enhance dissemination of information related to managing forests for poverty reduction.
5. Promote and support information sharing, including scientific and indigenous knowledge, communication and technology transfer, and market information within and among government agencies, the private sector, NGOs, and local organizations to effectively reduce poverty among local communities.
6. Facilitate experience sharing among member countries on different models for the decentralization of decision-making processes and empowerment of communities for greater roles in the management of local forest resources.
7. Support the design of effective delivery systems for poverty reduction that integrate and coordinate planning and management of development activities across institutions and sectors.

APPENDIX I

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGY FOR THE ASIA-PACIFIC FOREST INVASIVE SPECIES NETWORK (APFISN)**Introduction**

The workshop on *Development of a strategy for the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network* was convened at the Indira Gandhi National Forestry Academy, Dehradun, India, on 16 April 2006, as a pre-session adjunct to the 21st session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission. The workshop reviewed APFISN activities during the past biennium, worked to finalize a draft strategy document that provides a preliminary framework for implementation of APFISN activities, and identified prospective new network activities.

Introductory presentations outlined the background and history to the network's establishment at the 20th session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission in Fiji, and provided an overview of network activities during the past biennium.

Perspectives on APFISN performance

Participants acknowledged that the Network had made significant progress on all elements of the workplan. Participants noted the importance of broad international collaboration, establishment of national invasive species networks, collaboration between agriculture and forestry, and securing adequate resources for the network. Participants also reported on key invasive species initiatives and challenges in their countries.

Future directions

A draft *Regional strategy for implementing the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network* had been prepared and circulated to participants prior to the workshop. The substantive work of the meeting comprised a detailed review and refinement to finalize a strategic framework to facilitate network activities. Specific actions and outcomes were grouped within four strategic objectives:

- Raising awareness of invasive species throughout the Asia-Pacific region;
- Defining and developing organizational structures to support the Network;
- Building capacity within member countries and APFC; and
- Developing and sharing databases and information among member countries.

The concluding activity of the workshop identified a range of technical issues – encompassing key needs and concerns of APFISN member countries – that could be addressed by future workshops.

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