



Workshop on Mainstreaming Degraded Forest Restoration into Forestry Strategic Plans

Background

Many economies have suffered forest loss or degradation in the past decades and these issues are receiving worldwide attention, including from initiatives such as the Bonn Challenge proposed by a ministerial roundtable in Germany in 2011 which calls for the restoration of 150 million hectares of deforested and degraded lands by 2020. Other international processes are also giving importance to degraded forest restoration to help economies to achieve their commitments in this area: the CBD (Strategic Plan Target 15), the UNFCCC (the REDD+ goal), the Rio+20 land degradation target, FAO Forest Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM), as well as the UN Climate Summit in September 2014 for example.

The benefits of restoring degraded forests are widely accepted. They include biodiversity conservation, better water catchment management, disaster risk reduction, climate change mitigation and adaptation, livelihood improvement of rural communities, among others. Mainstreaming degraded forest restoration into forestry strategic plans will help to raise public awareness and gain policy and financial support. Some economies are already implementing successful practices while others are exploring various approaches and measures or are developing relevant strategies and action plans.

APFNet is promoting sustainable forest management and rehabilitation in the Asia-Pacific region through capacity-building, information-sharing, regional policy dialogues and pilot projects. Following the Forestry Strategic Planning Workshop in the Asia-Pacific Region in 2013, APFNet and the Forestry Administration of Cambodia is organizing a workshop on mainstreaming degraded forest restoration into forestry strategic plans under the platform of the Regional Dialogue on Forestry Strategic Planning. It will take place in Phnom Penh, Cambodia from 17 to 19 December 2014. Officials and experts of forestry planning and forest restoration in the Asia-Pacific region will be invited to share best practices and lessons learned on forestry planning and degraded forest restoration.

Objectives:

- 1 Exchanging information and discussing policies and measures relevant to degraded forest restoration;
- 2 Identifying the trends and key challenges associated with degraded forest restoration;
- 3 Exploring effective approaches to address the challenges of degraded forest restoration;
- 4 Discussing priority activities to be promoted in 2015 under the Regional Dialogue on Forestry Strategic Planning in the Asia-Pacific.

Expected outputs

- 1 Sharing current policies, plans, interventions, institutional arrangements, financing mechanisms and key challenges related to degraded forest restoration;
- 2 Reviewing international initiatives on degraded forest restoration, such as Bonn Challenge, Aichi Target, REDD+, UN Climate Summit, Rio20+, GPFLR, and FLR Mechanism;
- 3 Recommending ways to mainstream degraded forest restoration into forestry strategic plans and;
- 4 Identifying one or two priority activities to include in the Platform in 2015.

Participation

Approximately 30-50 participants will be invited, including government officials and experts who are engaged in forest restoration and forestry strategic planning in the region.

Working Language

English

Venue and Timing

A two-day meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia and a one-day field trip, from 17 to 19 December 2014.

Application

The registration form (Annex) must be completed and returned to APFNet no later than 15 October 2014.

Financial Support

A limited number of participants from developing economies and resource people will receive financial support based on funding availability. Selected participants will receive confirmation of such assistance from APFNet before 20 October 2014, following the policy of first come, first served.

Contact

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