

Updates and progress of ongoing activities and initiatives since the 26th session of APFC (Clark, Philippines, February 2016)

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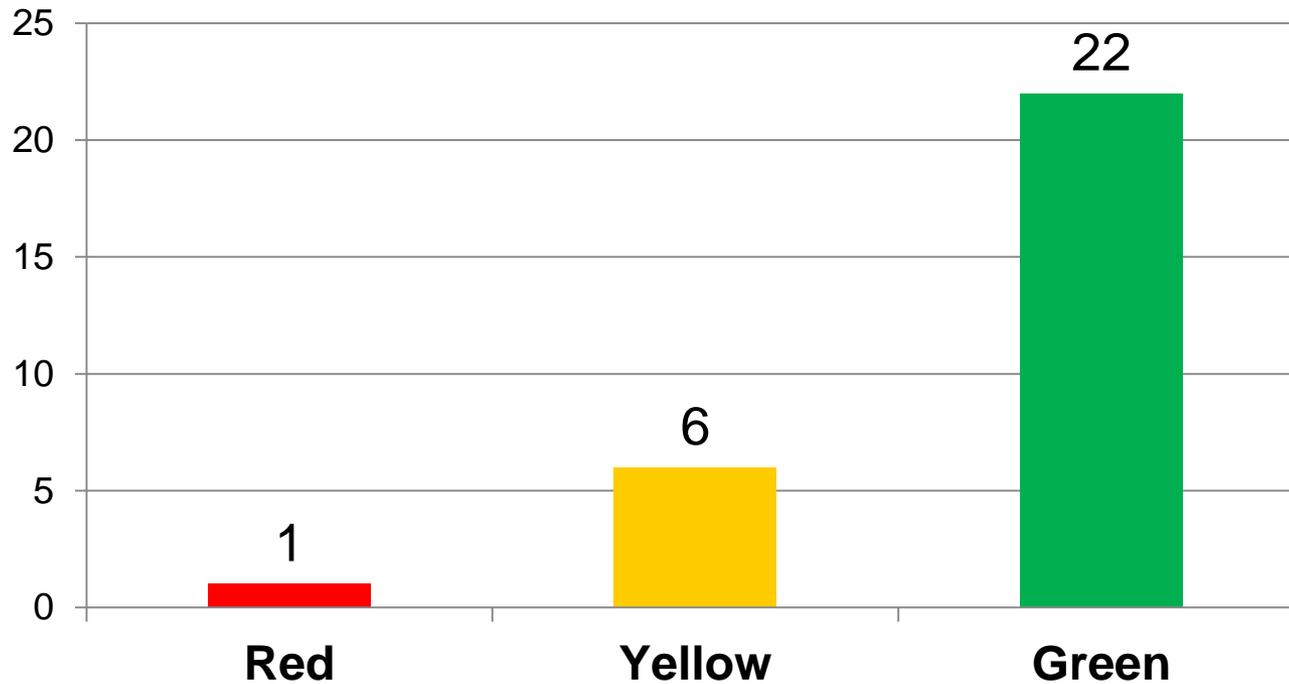
Background

- ❑ **The 26th APFC produced 29 recommendations**
 - ✓ 11 for the attention of governments and FAO
 - ✓ 18 for the attention of FAO

- ❑ **The APFC Secretariat has evaluated the progress using traffic light systems**
 - ✓ **Green: Concrete actions, progress on track**
 - ✓ **Yellow: Concept notes developed, actions being explored or initial/partial action undertaken**
 - ✓ **Red: No actions taken yet**



Overall rating



Update on activities to address APFC recommendations

For the attention of governments and FAO

Recommendations and activities	Assessment
1. FAO and member countries facilitate the participation of smallholders and small enterprises in trade and markets.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Third phase of FAO FLEGT Programme supporting six VPA and two non-VPA countries in the region, focused support to SMFEs▪ FFF supporting Myanmar, Nepal and Viet Nam, assisting small farm and forest enterprises▪ UN-REDD Viet Nam supporting small forest owners to improve plantation management, form smallholder associations, and build capacity for group certification▪ New TCP projects on agroforestry in DPRK, Nepal, Viet Nam	
2. Member countries promote and support sustainable use and trade of timber, as well as broader adoption of approaches fostering sustainability and legality of forest products, with particular attention to the needs of small forest enterprises and producers NTFPs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ FAO FLEGT Programme support to tackle illegal logging and promote trade in legal timber products.▪ UN-REDD Viet Nam supporting State Forest Companies to build capacity to meet international SFM certification standards	

3. Member countries, with the support of FAO, enhance funding and coordination among agencies and sectors to strengthen actions on climate change in support of the elaboration and implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions and share results of their efforts during the 27th session of APFC.



- Developing regional support program to enhance member country capacity to implement INDCs
- Consultations with NDAs to identify GCF project ideas
- Support for ASEAN to develop a common position on AFOLU issues for COP 22
- UN-REDD exploring to build on MRV work through Capacity Building Initiative on Transparency (CBIT) being established under the GEF

4. Member countries strengthen local stakeholder rights (noting that rights need to be defined within national contexts), and enabling investment in local institutions and capacities.



- GEF project “Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation, SFM and carbon sink enhancement into Mongolia's productive forest landscape”
- Regional TCP on strengthening forest tenure in Cambodia, Nepal and Viet Nam. Milestones include: 6 multi-stakeholder national policy dialogues; ToTs involving 200 people; and exchange visit to China.

5. FAO and member countries continue to implement activities that enhance the roles of key stakeholders including private sector, smallholders, indigenous peoples, communities, CSOs and youth in supporting SFM and forest landscape policies, plans and practices through appropriate policy mechanisms, capacity building and exchange of information and best practices.



- TCP project on strengthening Forest Management Unit (FMU) in Indonesia
- FLEGT support to strengthen capacity of all forest sector stakeholders to engage in national governance, policy and legal form process
- Range of initiatives that aim to enhance the roles of stakeholders in SFM, including gender work, national projects with components on stakeholder engagement, work through FLR Mechanism, K2F

6. Member countries promote green investment in forests and other natural assets by encouraging dialogue among forest policymakers and financiers in the public and private sectors, with a view to creating an enabling policy environment.



- Supporting Myanmar, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam to revise forest policy and laws to respond to new changes and demands.
- Role of FAO as a GEF agency in supporting countries access GEF funds
- Initiating support to countries identifying GCF project ideas
- “Towards effective national forest funds” as part of FAO’s work to strengthen financing for SFM

7. FAO elaborate a regional action plan for forest restoration in Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with member countries and relevant international partners.



- Draft regional strategy and action plan on FLR has been developed through an extensive consultation process and presented at COFO23

8. FAO and member countries to promote greater awareness of the benefits of forests through the International Day of Forests.



- Forestry debate on forests and water organized to celebrate IDF 2016. Similar activities planned for 2017
- Many countries and partners in the region organized their own IDF events in 2016

9. Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank support the development and strengthening of holistic national forest policies that encompass cross-cutting multi-sectoral issues.



- 9th Executive Forest Policy Course, Yogyakarta, Indonesia - highly successful and appreciated.

10. Asia-Pacific Forest Communication Network provide training in communicating forestry issues to the general public.



- Interactive session on forest communications organized at APFW 2016 with RECOFTC
- Network remained active in sharing info via social media and providing tips on communicating effectively

11. Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network explore the potential to utilize biomass from invasive species for productive purposes, as one element of the control and management of invasive species.



- Regional TCP project on invasive species have explored this potential in India and Maldives. APFISN will further explore this topic.

Recommendations and activities

Assessment

1. Continue technical assistance to countries to meet the requirements of forestry-related NDCs including building capacities, conducting and analyzing national forest inventories, and understanding and meeting the requirements of the Transparency Framework.



- Regional workshop “Understanding Capacity Needs for the Paris Agreement Enhanced Transparency Framework in Agriculture and Land Use sectors in Asia and the Pacific”, June 2016 with UN-REDD Programme
- Assisting countries to prepare GEF proposals to enhance country capacity for transparency under the Paris Agreement.
- “The Agriculture Sectors in the INDCs: Analysis” has been drafted and shared for public comments
- Support to NFI through UN-REDD, TCP and donor funded projects (Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Myanmar, PNG, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam)
- NFI data analysis and FRL development through FCPF in Bhutan

2. Future sessions of APFC engaged in UNFF processes, including issues relating to the implementation of the United Nations Forest Instrument and the International Arrangement on Forests beyond 2015.



- Discussion with UNFF to organize a one-day UNFF-related session in conjunction with the next APFC session

3. Assist in identifying appropriate forestry indicators for measuring progress toward SDG implementation.

- FAO is 'custodian' UN agency for 20 indicators (SDGs 2, 5, 6, 12, 14 and 15).
- As a custodian agency, FAO will: 1) collect validate, harmonize data from national sources; 2) contribute to annual SDG progress reports; 3) establish partnerships to monitor indicators.
- FAO is working with partners to harmonize and streamline existing data collection processes to reduce reporting burden through FRA and FAOSTAT.

4. Continue support for strengthening sustainable forest management systems for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

- Promoting SFM is at the core of FAO's work in forestry, which is being addressed through a wide range of activities undertaken by FAO.
- TCP project "Strengthening the Role of Communities in CCM through Participatory Forest Management in Bhutan"
- GEF project in Sri Lanka "Promoting Sustainable Biomass Energy Production and Modern Bio-Energy Technologies"

5. Provide information on utilization of trees and forests for floodplain management and protection.

- Workshop on forests and disasters in SE Asia organized in August 2016 in collaboration with ESSC.
- Asia-Pacific Regional Strategy on Forests and Natural Disasters is being developed
- Two projects on preventing, stabilizing and mitigating landslides in Nepal

6. Provide information and technical support relating to best practices in wildfire responses and transboundary fire management.

- Engagement with other donors to explore potential support to fire management in Indonesia
- In Myanmar, a potential project on landscape fire management is being explored for GEF funding.

7. Provide technical support for rehabilitation of mangrove areas to help restore and stabilize coastal forest ecosystems, establish biodiversity corridors and assist in mitigating the impacts of tsunami, typhoons and storm surges.

- Implementing an ongoing project “Income for Coastal Communities for Mangrove Protection” under MFF initiative covering Pakistan, Thailand and Viet Nam.
- UN-REDD Viet Nam supporting expansion of aquaculture certification that require mangrove protection

8. Finalize a regional strategy and action plan on forests and natural disasters including giving specific attention to vulnerability mapping.

- Ongoing formulation of the Asia-Pacific Regional Strategy on Forests and Natural Disasters in collaboration with ESSC
- A workshop was organized in August 2016 in the Philippines to obtain country inputs and recommendations for the design of the regional strategy.

9. Explore modalities for supporting integration of CF producers and smallholders into market and trading systems for forest products.

- FLEGT supporting the engagement of SMEs and community forestry producers in VPA negotiation processes and projects that facilitate commercial timber production by communities and smallholders.
- FFF supporting the integration of community forestry producers and smallholders into market and trading systems in Myanmar, Nepal and Viet Nam.
- UN-REDD Viet Nam supporting smallholder owners/managers of natural forests and plantations to access markets for certified forest products

10. Support sharing of experiences and lessons for community forestry from regions beyond Asia and the Pacific.

- An exchange visit for government officials of Cambodia, Nepal and Viet Nam to China to learn about forest tenure reforms and participatory forestry in June 2016.
- FAO publication “Forty years of community-based forestry: A review of its extent and effectiveness” was released in early 2016.

11. Continue to provide technical support for FLR including restoring ecosystem services and enhancing biodiversity conservation.

- FAO support to FLR include: 1) country support under FLR Mechanism in Cambodia and Philippines; 2) regional TCP project on FLR in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Indonesia and Philippines; 3) collaboration with the CBD Secretariat on capacity building; and 4) the development of regional strategy and action plan on FLR.

12. Strengthen capacity for national and local forest inventories, including monitoring, reporting and verification in support of REDD+ programmes.

- UN-REDD supporting the development/strengthening of NFMS in a number of countries through the development of guidance documents and capacity building events.
- Donor funded projects in Bangladesh and PNG to strengthen and implement NFI
- Supporting forest inventory through the SPC Pacific Region Forest Inventory Facility
- TCP projects in India and Myanmar strengthen NFMS.

13. Support assessment of bamboo, rattan and other non-timber forest resources in the FRA and other relevant reporting processes.

- Expected collaboration with INBAR

14. Continue, in partnership with other relevant organizations, support for a broad range of activities to build REDD+ readiness including compiling a publication on experiences and lessons learned from the wide variety of REDD+ activities being implemented in the region.

- UN-REDD programme supporting 19 partner countries in Asia-Pacific to strengthen their national capacity and actions on forest related work.
- FAO's contributions focus on NFMS and FRL - two of the four key elements that countries need to develop under an international REDD+ mechanism
- UN-REDD shares and disseminates guidance documents, tools and various other knowledge products including review of lessons learned on REDD+.

15. Convene a cross-sectoral workshop to share and explore perspectives on green investment and other public-private partnerships.

- No steps have been taken yet on this recommendation.

16. Assist member countries in accessing funds for forest restoration through the GEF, GCF and similar avenues.

- A number of GEF projects with restoration components under development and implementation.
- GCP concept note for a project on REDD+ strategy implementation in Sri Lanka under which forest restoration is one the main policies and measures.
- GCP project ideas with restoration components being explored in several countries (e.g., Nepal, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam).

17. Provide technical support to forest restoration activities in Asia and the Pacific, including through the FLR Mechanism.

- Reported earlier.

18. Continue support for innovative youth programmes such as Kids-to-Forests.

- K2F most active in Philippines
- Progress to integrate K2F activities into formal education curriculum
- “Earth Ambassador” making impressive impacts

Discussion

The Executive Committee is invited to:

- Provide comments on progress of member countries and FAO in implementing recommendations from the 26th session of APFC
- Provide suggestions on how to address the activities in red and yellow that need increased attention



Discussion – Red

Recommendations	Assessment
<i>For the attention of FAO</i>	
5. Convene a cross-sectoral workshop to share and explore perspectives on green investment and other public-private partnerships.	



Discussion – Yellow

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<i>For the attention of governments and FAO</i>	
9. Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank support the development and strengthening of holistic national forest policies that encompass cross-cutting multi-sectoral issues.	
<i>For the attention of FAO</i>	
6. Provide information and technical support relating to best practices in wildfire responses and transboundary fire management.	
8. Finalize a regional strategy and action plan on forests and natural disasters including giving specific attention to vulnerability mapping.	
10. Support sharing of experiences and lessons for community forestry from regions beyond Asia and the Pacific.	
13. Support assessment of bamboo, rattan and other non-timber forest resources in the FRA and other relevant reporting processes.	
18. Continue support for innovative youth programmes such as Kids-to-Forests.	