



Concept Note and Agenda

Asia-Pacific Forestry Planning Workshop

18 – 19 January 2017
Bangkok, Thailand

Background

Strategic planning in forestry is becoming more complex in the context of globalization and the increasing interconnectedness of the different economies. Impact of changes in forests and forestry in one economy¹ is often felt in far-away places. Rapid growth of trade and geographical shifts in forest industries have necessitated fundamental changes in the planning process. Economic and ecological impacts are transcending economy borders and what happens (or what is done) in one economy will have far-reaching implications on other economies. Necessarily this requires that strategic planning pursues a broader approach, capturing the larger picture of change at the sub-regional, regional and global levels and adopt a more analytical evidence-based approach.

APFNet in collaboration with FAO and other partners organized two workshops in 2013 and 2014 in Rotorua, (New Zealand) and Phnom Penh (Cambodia) respectively to share various issues relating to strategic planning and to explore what needs to be done to strengthen economy level planning capacity. Both the workshops recommended the establishment of a regional platform to strengthen strategic planning, especially to share information and experience and to pursue issues of common interest.

Building on the recommendations of the previous workshops, this workshop aims to concretize the idea of a regional network, outlining how we may develop such a network and what kind of activities may be pursued by the network to support economy level strategic planning in the forest sector.

¹ Consistent with APEC terminology, government members of APFNet are referred to as “economy” or “economies”.

Objectives of the workshop

The workshop is being organized to:

1. Provide a better understanding of the processes and approaches adopted for strategic planning in the forest sector in the different economies in the Asia-Pacific region;
2. Analyze the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that forestry planning in the Asia-Pacific region need to confront in the coming years;
3. Present the proposal regarding the establishment of the planning network identifying areas for regional collaboration to strengthen the planning process at the economy level; and
4. Develop a comprehensive programme and work plan for supporting regional collaboration to improve strategic planning at the economy level.

Structure of the workshop

The workshop will consist of a number of inter-related sessions spread over two days as indicated in the provisional programme given below:

Provisional programme

Date and time	Session	Topic
DAY 1. 18 January 2017		
0900 – 10.00	Opening Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and opening remarks<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ APFNet○ FAO○ Royal Forestry Department, Thailand.• Icebreaker• Introduction to the workshop• Participants feedback and expectations from the workshop
10.00 – 10.30	Coffee break	
10.30 – 11.30	Technical Session 1	An overview of strategic planning in forestry in the Asia-Pacific economies
11.30 – 12.30	Technical Session 2	Sharing of economy level experience in strategic planning
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch	
13.30 – 15.00	Technical Session 3	Expert panel discussion on forestry strategic planning in Asia-Pacific economies
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee break	
15.30 – 17.00	Technical Session 4	SWOT Analysis of strategic planning process in forestry
18.00	Welcome dinner	
Day 2: 19 January 2017		

0900 - 0920	Recap of Day 1 discussions	Recap of key points emerging from Day 1 discussions
0920 - 1030	Technical Session 5	Group Work: Regional Mechanism for Strengthening Planning
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee break	
11.00 – 12.30	Technical Session 6	Asia-Pacific Forestry Planning Network – An overview of the proposal
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch	
13.30 – 15.00	Technical Session 7	Discussion on Asia-Pacific Forestry Planning Network – Long term objectives and priorities
15.00 – 16.00	Coffee break	
16.00 – 17.00	Technical Session 7 (Cont.)	Discussion on Asia-Pacific Forestry Planning Network – Work plan and the next steps
17.00 - 1730	Closing Session	Summing up and closure of the Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key conclusions • Remarks by representatives of participants • Closing remarks by APFNet and FAO