

**Rotorua, New Zealand
5-8 November 2013**

Issue 5
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Inside this issue: highlights of
agenda items & closing

25th Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission



Forests for Prosperity

***Quote of the day:** "What we are doing to the forests of the world is but a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another" - Mahatma Gandhi*

Key APFC Recommendations for future FAO support to the region

- ◆ Assist countries in understanding and accessing forest finance
- ◆ Raise understanding of international demand-side legality requirements including support for small-scale timber producers
- ◆ Disseminate and build awareness of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure
- ◆ Give increased attention to forest landscape restoration, including natural regeneration of forests
- ◆ Support countries in building resilience to natural disasters, including developing a regional action plan
- ◆ Strengthen capacities for forest monitoring and assessment
- ◆ Conduct analysis on the impacts of demographic, economic and other drivers of change on forests
- ◆ Develop a regional action plan on gender mainstreaming into forest policies
- ◆ Explore a mechanism to foster an enabling environment for rational and competitive wood processing
- ◆ Support REDD+ initiatives
- ◆ Increase disaster preparedness and build greater understanding of the roles of trees and forests in mitigating natural disasters
- ◆ Build capacities and support regional sharing of information, forest data and experiences related to the roles of forests in climate change adaptation
- ◆ Complete the SFM toolbox and provide training on its use
- ◆ Strengthen regional cooperation on fire-related activities
- ◆ Develop methodologies and terminology for the reporting of data on the contributions of forests to food security

Key APFC Recommendations for member countries

- ◆ Mainstream forestry in national planning and policy-making
- ◆ Focus on forest landscape restoration, including natural regeneration
- ◆ Work with FAO to access funding for forestry, including through GEF 6
- ◆ Explore opportunities, through the International Year of Family Farming 2014, for activities on resilience
- ◆ Participate actively in the 2015 Global Forest Resource Assessment
- ◆ Report on progress in developing new wood-processing capacity at subsequent APFC sessions.
- ◆ Seize the opportunity of increased attention on forests to promote greater awareness of their importance
- ◆ Build greater understanding of the roles of trees and forests in mitigating natural disasters
- ◆ Actively engage in the discussions on a forest-related Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)
- ◆ Highlight the contributions that forests make to food security at World Food Day celebration
- ◆ Strong representation of forestry in national delegations and processes to develop priorities for presentation to the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, March 2014
- ◆ Participate in the XIV World Forestry Congress in Durban, South Africa!



Jarred Mair - New Zealand has been delighted to host this silver anniversary. It has been a very good meeting, many interesting topics have been discussed. I hope delegates have enjoyed their time in Rotorua.



The XIV WFC

- September 7-11, 2015
in Durban, South Africa
- Suggested themes included 'Forests in everyday lives' and 'Forests for all'
- Suggested topics to cover included forests and climate change

Tools for sustainable forest management

Mette Loyche Wilkie outlined the progress made in developing the SFM Toolbox and National Forest Monitoring Guidelines, and presented the FAO Smart Fire programme. Delegates encouraged FAO to assess the usability and applicability of the Toolbox to ensure that it meets the needs of the intended users. They also urged FAO to identify gaps and avoid duplication in international reporting requirements and to facilitate integration of forest monitoring data into policy-making processes. Countries suggested future areas of work for the Smart Fire programme including: case studies on successful fire management efforts, facilitating exchange of experiences, and promoting regional collaboration. It is recommended that FAO make use of GEF-6 funding to support these efforts, and to collaborate with international organizations in work on SFM to avoid duplication.

Regional issues identified by the Commission

Eva Muller presented reforms aimed at streamlining the inputs of RFCs into COFO, and emphasized the need for the APFC to set clear priorities in order to promote forestry issues within Regional Meetings. Patrick Durst highlighted the inclusion of a forestry agenda item at the upcoming APRC of FAO. Bhutan expressed concern that forestry may be buried under the revised strategic objectives. Indonesia reiterated their desire for a stand-alone forestry SDG. Ms. Muller responded that there was a need for recommendations at regional and global level, and confirmed that the Commission would consider recommendations made throughout this APFC session.

APFISN, Policy Think Tank, Forestry Communications Network and Kids to Forest

TV Sajeew outlined the work of the APFISN and the future plans for the network, including the opening of a new office in Beijing. Yurdi Yasmi presented the progress of the forest policy think tank, among which six forest policy short courses were particularly well-received. Jalesi Mateboto announced the initiation of a regional forestry communications network, which led to the establishment of a working group to build capacities and networking to improve forest communication in the region. Janet Martires introduced the Kids to Forest (K2F) programme. This programme has built partnerships between educators and foresters in six countries. It has explored ways to cover environmental and forestry issues in the curricula of primary and secondary schools throughout the region and beyond.

Forests and food security

Eva Muller summarized the outcomes of the Conference on Forests and Food Security. These included the need to address issues of land tenure and market access, and to improve data sharing and communication. Indonesia suggested to use World Food Day to promote the role of forests in food security. Ms. Muller closed the session by highlighting how forests often lose out in land use conflicts, and urged countries to develop better land use planning schemes to balance SFM and agriculture.

Side event: Implementing the Forest Instrument

Speakers from India, China, Philippines and Mongolia presented their experiences in implementing the non-legally binding forest instrument and outlined various approaches including workshops and participatory initiatives. The positive outcomes included improved forest governance, increased multi-stakeholder participation in the forest sector and awareness of SFM.



Next APFC.....

A proposal to host the 26th session of the APFC in 2015 was put forward by the Philippines. This proposal was welcomed by the APFC Secretariat.

We hope you enjoyed reading the newsletters!



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