

Dialogue with Statutory Bodies in Forestry (COFO/2022/6.6)

26th Session of the Committee on Forestry

Statement by the APFC Chair

Distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to provide the Committee with a brief summary of the work of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission.

In terms of major initiatives implemented during the past biennium, I would like to highlight three areas.

Firstly, delegates may recall that in 2017, APFC endorsed a *Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Forest and Landscape Restoration in Asia-Pacific*. The Regional Strategy has continued to provide guidance to FLR activities in the past biennium including the implementation of a Regional Technical Cooperation Project on upscaling FLR and several trainings on resolving conflicts in forestry.

Secondly, as a follow-up to the *Third Asia-Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study*, released in 2019, APFC has implemented a specific outlook study for Pacific Island countries to help identify and address forestry issues unique to this subregion.

Thirdly, also as a follow-up to the Outlook Study, two roadmaps for Asia-Pacific – one on primary forest conservation and another on innovative forest technologies – were developed in partnership with the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and released in earlier this year.

Distinguished colleagues,

The 29th Session of the APFC was held in February 2022, as a virtual session hosted by the Government of Mongolia. The relevant recommendations from the Session fall in three main areas.

Firstly, as regards “Forests and Green Recovery in Asia Pacific”, the overarching theme of the Session, key recommendations relate to:

- upscaling forest and landscape restoration and reducing deforestation;
- supporting legal and sustainable forestry value chains; and
- strengthening capacity as regards biodiversity and zoonotic disease prevention through the One Health approach.

Secondly, the agenda item on “Mainstreaming forestry into FAO’s work on agrifood systems” emphasized the importance of strengthening cross-sectoral collaboration for sustainable agrifood system transformation.

And, thirdly, as the Secretariat Note mentions, the Commission is currently undertaking a Governance Review. Specifically, a Scoping Study was prepared in late 2021 and presented to the Commission at its 29th Session. More recently, in late-July, a two-day informal consultation was held virtually, to seek further views, suggestions and inputs on key issues to enhance the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency of the APFC. The Consultation was attended by representatives of 18 member countries and seven key institutional partners. The Co-Chair’s summary from this consultation will inform the development of specific recommendation for consideration at the Commission’s 30th Session, which will be hosted by the Government of Australia in August next year.

Thank you.