



Forestry in a new landscape

27th Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission

23-27 October 2017 | Colombo, Sri Lanka

Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall

PARTNER EVENTS

Consultation to develop sub-regional network to support forestry research in Southeast Asia

Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)

Monday | 23 October 2017 | 0830-1700 | Orchid Room

Recognizing the significant role of forestry research, many international institutions have developed different programs to support it. For example, among those are World Forest Institute International Fellowship, the Special Programme for Development of Capacities (SPDC) of IUFRO, etc.

Despite continuous efforts to enhance the forestry research capacity in the region, there is a huge disparity among economies, and many developing economies are still challenged by insufficient funding and human resource. This is particular so in Southeast Asia.

Therefore, to contribute to bridging the gap between the demand of research and a lack of funds and personnel, APFNet proposes to develop a Sub-regional Network of Forestry Research Institutes in Southeast Asia, underpinned by four action programs: APFNet Research Award, APFNet Research Fellowship, APFNet Research Grant and Early Career Academics Forum.

APFNet would like to gather forestry research institutes in Southeast Asia, to discuss in-depth the status, challenge and strategy of forestry research in the sub-region, consult on steps for developing the program-oriented network, and to develop an action plan for the network.

Advances in NFI

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO RAP)

Monday | 23 October 2017 | 0830-1200 | Saffron Room

National Forest Inventory (NFI) is commonly used to describe the technical process of data compilation and analysis of forest resources from a multitude of data sources, including field inventories and remote sensing, to estimate relevant forest characteristics at particular points in time. The forest statistics and other information produced by the NFI are widely used in forest policy making at national and international levels, and national forest management planning, planning of forest industry investments, assessing sustainability of forestry and in forest certification, evaluation of greenhouse gas emissions and changes in carbon storage and research.

NFI is considered as backbone in forestry assessment, planning and sustainable management. To help countries in improving their effectiveness in NFI implementation, FAO is organizing a partner event focused on: (a) technical challenges in NFI methodological issues; (b) institutional arrangements; and (c) NFI implementation challenges.

Understanding the scope for GCF support to the forestry sector and REDD+

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO RAP)

Monday | 23 October 2017 | 1330-1700 | Saffron Room

The Paris Agreement confirmed the opportunity for developing countries to access adequate and predictable financial sources, including for results-based payments (RBPs) for Reducing Emission from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) and identified the Green Climate Fund (GCF) as one of the potential sources. It also committed developing countries, regardless of their voluntary participation in the REDD+ mechanism, to report on a regular basis to the UNFCCC on their progress towards implementing their Nationally-Determined Contributions (NDCs) in all sectors, including Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU). FAO is supporting Asia-Pacific countries in accessing support through the GCF to build capacity within the forestry and land use sector among others.

APFISN Workshop on Habitat and species specific protocols for management of forest invasive species in the Asia-Pacific region

Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO RAP)

Monday | 23 October 2017 | 0830-1700 | Tulip Room

Wednesday | 25 October 2017 | 1530-1700 | Tulip Room

A quick assessment of the issue of alien species invasion in the Asia-Pacific region reveals that while there are many common invaders across countries, the perceived impact of them on the biodiversity, and ecosystem stability and function varied between countries. To mitigate these impacts, the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN) has been active in enhancing the capacity of countries in the region to manage IAS. Efforts have also been put to develop protocols to manage the spread of some of the main species. At this juncture, APFISN considers it worthwhile to compile the various management protocols developed for certain specific species and habitats. Species-specific protocols are intended to prevent the influx of a specific species to a habitat and to curtail its establishment, spread, reproduction and finally to manage/eradicate the species. Habitat specific protocols are aimed at protecting specific habitats from invasion and its restoration if the invasion is already in vogue. In both cases, definite plans for site restoration using fast growing indigenous species need to be evolved. Otherwise, either the same or a new invasive species will occupy the habitat frustrating the very objective.

The current workshop will provide a platform where the habitat and species-specific protocols for managing IAS across the Asia-Pacific region will be presented and deliberated. It is proposed to share all available information on management of invasive herbs, shrubs, climbers and trees and insects, mollusks, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. A session on invasive microbes such as viruses, bacteria and fungi is also planned if there is sufficient interest/response.

A Large Role for Small-and-Medium Forest Enterprises: The current status of SME's capacity for legal timber production and trade in the Asia-Pacific region

FAO-EU FLEGT Programme, Responsible Asia Forestry & Trade partnership (RAFT) and European Forest Institute (EFI)

Monday | 23 October 2017 | 0830-1200 | Lavender Room

It is widely recognized that individual tree farmers, out-growers and community managed forests play a crucial role in combating illegal logging through legal timber production that can supply timber to domestic and international forest industries. The majority of domestic market demand for forest products in developing countries is met by SMEs, oftentimes dwarfing a given country's volume of timber exported. Engaging and supporting SMEs with the means to "go legal" is vital for sustainable development outcomes, including poverty reduction.

However, to date, achievements in this regard have been patchy, with many actors and SMEs operating in national or regional markets remaining marginalized from dialogue and change. There is also concern that policy and regulatory reform undertaken in the development of Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) could potentially discriminate against SMEs, by creating complex and burdensome compliance systems beyond the reach of individual tree farmers and family enterprises. Conversely, careful attention to the smallholder experience during the design of these systems could enable them to access legality processes and contribute to legal production.

This event will share success stories, and explore topical and timely questions surrounding these issues; what are the current challenges faced by SMEs in the Asia-Pacific region towards producing and trading legal timber? What kind of support is needed for tree farmers and communities to achieve their potential as suppliers of legal timber?

The Future of Forests and Forestry in Asia and the Pacific: The Path to 2030 and Beyond

Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO RAP)

Monday | 23 October 2017 | 1330-1700 | Lavender Room

Forests and forestry in Asia and the Pacific in 2030 will be different from what they are today. While some of the current challenges may persist, society would have attempted to address several others with varying outcomes. It is however certain that new challenges will emerge and so will opportunities. All these will vary across the countries and even within a given country. Given the strong interconnectedness, developments in other regions will also impact forests and forestry in the Asia-Pacific. This panel discussion aims to capture your views on how your world of forests and forestry will be in 2030, what will lead to that situation and the challenges and opportunities you envisage in the transition to the 2030 world.

Mapping the Future: Taking Forestry Strategic Planning to the Next Level

Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)

Wednesday | 25 October 2017 | 1530-1700 | Orchid Room

Strategic planning in forestry is becoming more complex in the context of globalization and the increasing interconnectedness of different economies. Necessarily this requires that strategic planning pursues a broader approach, capturing the larger picture of change at the regional and global levels and adopt a more analytical evidence-based approach.

APFNet, in collaboration with FAO and other partners, previously organized three workshops to share various issues relating to strategic planning and to explore options for strengthening national level planning capacity. The workshop participants recommended the establishment of a regional platform to strengthen strategic planning called the Forestry Planning Network (FPN).

During the latest workshop in Bangkok, participants agreed that in order for the FPN to effectively target the true needs of its members, a baseline assessment of the gaps and needs of member economies needs to be conducted. Such a baseline assessment has been conducted for several economies this year.

The purpose of this APFC side event is to present the results of the assessment and which direction the Forestry Planning Network might take in the future. The most important gaps and challenges in strategic planning will then be discussed by a round of panelists involved in forestry strategic planning, where the audience is encouraged to ask questions.

Teak in Productive Landscapes: An Introduction to Global Efforts for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Teak Resources

International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) and TEAKNET

Wednesday | 25 October 2017 | 1530-1700 | Saffron Room

Teak (*Tectona grandis*) is recognized for its physical and aesthetic qualities as one of the most important and valuable hardwoods in the world. Although it takes only a marginal position in the volume of world timber production and trade, teak together with mahogany, red cedar and Indian rosewood are the tropical hardwoods most in demand for the luxury market and for heavy duty applications and takes the top rank in more than 20 countries. Economic value (including value of timber, pulp, food, wood energy, and non-wood forest products) is one of the main reasons for nominating the species as a priority for conservation and management.

For most of the countries - albeit being an introduced species - teak represents a good opportunity to produce quality timber and is a major asset for the forestry economy. Teak-based small-scale production systems enable farmers to diversify farm production, support food security, generate income and reduce financial risk and are an important alternative source of quality timber for wood industries. In view of the imminent threat of losing natural teak forests and in order to expedite the research results achieved so far the international partners, IUFRO, FAO, and TEAKNET promote the initiation and implementation of a global program for the conservation, improvement, development and sustainable use of teak resources. Such Global Teak Support Program (GTSP) would contribute to preserve the native teak resources still existing before they decline further. The proposed partner event will discuss how best to further strengthen the understanding and knowledge of teak genetic resources, promote their sustainable use and management, and contribute to develop and promote in-situ and ex-situ conservation programs through development assistance and research collaboration.

A decade of forest monitoring, management, and protection in Bangladesh

Bangladesh Forest Department, FAO, USAID, GIZ and Silvacarbon
Wednesday | 25 October 2017 | 1530-1700 | Lavender Room

Bangladesh is one of the countries that will face the greatest challenges due to climate change, as a low-lying coastal and extremely densely populated country, and as is being exemplified by the severe flooding currently occurring in the north of the country. The forests of Bangladesh provide important ecosystem services including biodiversity conservation. The Government of Bangladesh is currently carrying out the Bangladesh Forest Inventory (BFI), ten years after the first national forest assessment of the country's history. Concomitantly, Bangladesh is developing a national forest and land monitoring system. The aim is to improve management of national tree and forest resources – the majority of which lack any extant management plan. The government has recently endorsed a Country Investment Plan for environment, forests and climate change to identify gaps in finance and improve funding allocation, which, along with the wealth of data to be obtained from the BFI, will be used to strengthen forest management. USAID, GIZ and the UN-REDD programme, in close collaboration with Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, the Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD), FAO, and Silvacarbon, are also providing financial support for strengthening the technical capacities required for forest monitoring and management.

This event aims to share knowledge gained in Bangladesh on improving forest management under challenging conditions. It will also highlight the progress on forest management and the monitoring system made in Bangladesh, present the first Country Investment Plan on environment, forestry and climate change and REDD+ perspective. Moreover, the event will become an avenue to discuss the challenges of inclusive forest protection in the Sundarbans mangrove forests and to reflect on the need to integrate forest inventory and socio-economic data to inform future investments and interventions on the ground.

Celebrating people and forests in Asia-Pacific Joint APFNet and RECOFTC Networking Night

Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet) and RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests
Wednesday | 25 October | 17:00-19:00 | Cinema Lounge

In celebration of RECOFTC's 30th anniversary and APFNet's upcoming 10th anniversary, an evening networking event will jointly be organized by RECOFTC and APFNet during the 27th Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) in Colombo, Sri Lanka. This joint event aims to celebrate RECOFTC and APFNet's highlights in working with partners to facilitate progress in community forestry (CF) and sustainable forest management as well as enhancing networking with each other for better collaborations and CF results in the future.

From vision to action: Including youth in SDG implementation

International Forestry Students Association (IFSA)
Friday | 27 October 2017 | 1030-1200 | Saffron Room

Non-state actors play a critical role in achieving the sustainable development goals. While private sector engagement is being realized through forest financing and the 'business-case' for restoration, there is a great need to acknowledge and address barriers for civil society engagement. Forestry students and young forestry professionals play a key role in implementation of SDGs. A policy literate and engaged community of youth leaders will help accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda in the Asia-Pacific region. This event allows forestry students and established forestry professionals to go beyond 'visioning' youth integration and, rather, chart a pathway for collaboration centered on concrete actions taken by youth organizations.

The event will showcase youth-led initiatives throughout the Asia-Pacific region as well as efforts to integrate youth from organizations in the region. It will facilitate a focused and intergenerational dialogue on the challenges and pathways for integration of youth activities in the implementation of SDG 15. Also, it aims to highlight young forestry leaders and associations contributing to their communities and identify key barriers for youth organizations as well as the perceptions towards youth involvement by policy makers and professionals.

The 15th World Forestry Congress in the Republic of Korea and the Regional Forest Cooperation through Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO)

Korea Forest Service (KFS)
Friday | 27 October 2017 | 1030-1200 | Orchid Room

This event will showcase the 15th World Forestry Congress and the next Asia-Pacific Forestry Week which will be hosted by the Republic of Korea. Also, it will promote AFoCO's experiences in various projects to exchange information and technology and promote cooperation among AFoCO's member countries.

Harmonizing Sri Lanka's Eco-cultural heritage with emerging green economic initiatives: Case studies on Kandyan Home Gardens (KHG) and Ellangawa Cascade Systems (ECS)

Forest Department – Sri Lanka

Friday | 27 October 2017 | 1030-1200 | Tulip Room

Home gardens in Sri Lanka is considered as one of the oldest land use systems in the country. Most intensive home garden system known as “Kandyan Home Gardens” is found mainly in Kandy and Matale districts. Home Gardens provide timber, fuelwood, food and other requirements of the households for generations. Agriculture as well as forestry sector in the country has highlighted the need for promotion of home gardens. The composition and structure of home gardens depend on the climatic zone. The multi-tier canopy structure is one of the important feature of most home garden systems giving multiple benefits.

Home gardens can contribute substantially to the Sri Lanka economy as a major source of timber, fuelwood and various agricultural products. The Forestry Sector Master Plan in 1995 has identified its role in production of timber and fuelwood but since then this information has not been updated well in the country. Improvement and maintenance of existing home gardens is essential for livelihood development of middle and low-income communities.

Home gardens also contribute to increase tree cover in the country along with the natural forest cover. Further, home gardens have a large carbon stock and has a high carbon sequestration potential. Real ecological contribution of home gardens in landscape level sustainability has not been assessed adequately and can be considered as a priority research need. Therefore, the assessment of real potential of home gardens to supply industrial timber, fuelwood and other agricultural products and environmental services is stressed and expected to discuss at the forum.

Forest and landscape restoration: promoting and accelerating restoration for multiple environment and social benefits in Asia and the Pacific

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO RAP)

Friday | 27 October 2017 | 1330-1500 | Orchid Room

The partner event provides venue and a joint-platform for i) GEF Sec to apprise APFC of its relevant restoration and forest programme directions; ii) provides FAO platform to discuss its ability to serve and mobilize APFC restoration priorities, and; iii) for APFC member countries to underscore those priorities.

The 27th APFC session will provide a venue for presenting FAO's draft regional programme framework to the APFC member countries to seek their inputs and interest in being part of a developing GEF 7 regional programme. Proposal is strongly aligned with the 33rd APRC recommendations, as well as CPF outcomes and priorities for countries in the region.

Two Key Project Interventions - Ecosystem Conservation and Management Project (ESCAMP)

Ecosystem Conservation and Management Project (ESCAMP)

Friday | 27 October 2017 | 1330-1500 | Tulip Room

Ecosystem Conservation and Management Project will like to share its experience on two of the very specific project components/ sub-components implemented by them - Pilot Level Landscape Planning and Management and Human-Elephant Co-Existence for Livelihood Protection.