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PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING APFC- AND FAO-SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION

SECRETARIAT NOTE

Introduction

1. This note reports on progress in implementing APFC- and FAO-supported activities and initiatives since the 26th Session, which was convened in Clark, Philippines, in February 2016. It serves as a basis for reviewing follow up to specific requests and recommendations from the meeting.
2. The 26th Session of the APFC produced 29 recommendations, of which 11 were generated for the attention of governments and FAO and 18 were generated for the attention of FAO specifically.
3. The APFC Secretariat has evaluated progress in implementation using a traffic light system, whereby green indicates recommendations that have been addressed through concrete actions, yellow denotes recommendations that have been partially fulfilled and red for those recommendations against which no actions have been taken.
4. Overall, 22 recommendations were evaluated as green, seven as yellow and none as red. Recommendations marked as yellow appear in **bold text** in the table below which summarizes the progress made and action taken.

Recommendations from the 26th Session of the APFC and follow-up actions taken by FAO

Recommendations	Actions taken
<i>For the attention of governments and FAO</i>	
1. FAO and member countries facilitate the participation of smallholders and small enterprises in trade and markets.	- The FAO Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Programme is in the third phase of implementation with funding commitments from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the European Union (EU) and FAO totaling approximately €45 million for 2016-2020. In Asia, FAO FLEGT continues to support six Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) countries (Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar, Lao PDR and Viet Nam) and two non-VPA countries (the Philippines and Papua New Guinea). Renewed (Phase-3) support to Cambodia (a non-VPA country) will depend on the confirmation of funding commitments and the endorsement of the Programme's Steering

	<p>Committee. The FAO FLEGT Programme is providing focused support to the private sector, in particular small and medium forest enterprises (SMFEs), which encompass both small-scale timber producers and small businesses engaged in processing and trading forest products. In Asia, FAO FLEGT is supporting private sector federations/associations as well as relevant government agencies and local civil society organizations (CSOs) to facilitate the development of supportive legal and policy frameworks, legal compliance and market access. FAO FLEGT is supporting SMFE participation in VPA processes and facilitating compliance with legality and sustainability requirements leading to improved market access.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the Asia-Pacific region, Myanmar, Nepal and Viet Nam are receiving support under the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF). In Nepal, support has been provided to community forestry user groups and a federation of small-scale industries for the establishment of small forest and farm enterprises in two districts and for the initiation of multisectoral platforms at district and national levels. In Myanmar, support is being given to establish township- and provincial-level community forestry product organizations in two states and to the Community Forestry National Working Group. In Viet Nam, support to the Viet Nam National Farmers Union is helping producers form marketing groups around cinnamon and timber in two provinces. Finally, the Asia Farmers Association has been holding a series of consultations with forest-dependent farmers in the region to identify priority policy issues for advocacy at national and regional levels. - Under the UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase 2 Programme, FAO has promoted the incorporation of support for small forest owners to improve management of plantation forests, develop smallholder associations and develop capacity for group certification, as part of the revised National REDD+ Action Programme (NRAP). FAO is using funds under the UN-REDD Programme for the implementation of activities in two provinces to pilot this support, as well as the development of national guidelines for group certification. - Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) projects are being implemented in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Nepal and Viet Nam to enhance agroforestry development including enterprise development and income generation at the local level.
<p>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 of non-timber forest products.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The FAO FLEGT Programme supports member country efforts to address illegal logging and promote trade in legal timber products. The programme has provided technical and financial support to the following countries: <u>Indonesia</u> FAO FLEGT supports SVLK (Indonesia's timber legality assurance system) roll-out (with a focus on community forestry and SMEs) and independent monitoring activities. FAO FLEGT also anticipates requests for support related to SVLK impact monitoring, the acceleration of SVLK certification in forest management units, real-time forest monitoring and control, and a High-level Market Dialogue to discuss experiences and impacts of FLEGT licensing in Indonesia and international markets.

	<p><u>Lao PDR</u></p> <p>Renewed FAO FLEGT support should contribute to more effective engagement of the Lao CSO network and key private sector associations in the VPA process. New projects will help SMEs to better understand and apply legality requirements, and provide complementary support to help improve product quality, chain-of-custody (CoC) management and product marketing. Additional support will be provided to train enforcement agencies in species identification, critical to law enforcement. FAO FLEGT anticipates an additional direct assistance request to follow up on the results of the first VPA negotiation round conducted in April 2017.</p> <p><u>The Philippines</u></p> <p>As part of its renewed engagement in the Philippines, FAO FLEGT, together with the Forest Management Bureau (FMB), conducted a forestry sector situational analysis to inform the development of a FLEGT roadmap for the Philippines. A draft roadmap was developed during a multistakeholder workshop and is now being implemented with guidance from the national Technical Working Group on Wood comprised of government agencies, private sector associations, academia and CSOs. The FLEGT roadmap covers three main areas of work: 1) improvement of information and services; 2) strengthening of assurance and certification systems; and 3) policy, legal and regulatory reform.</p> <p><u>Malaysia</u></p> <p>FAO FLEGT continues to support Malaysia in strengthening and supporting the roll-out of Timber Legality Assurance Systems initially developed through the VPA process. Improving legality assurance of imported timber will be of particular importance for Malaysia.</p> <p><u>Myanmar</u></p> <p>FAO FLEGT is considering support to the development of standard operating procedures related to the new Community Forestry Instruction. Support will also be provided to enhance private sector engagement in the upcoming VPA process and to develop the capacity of private sector associations to better represent and serve their members and to help them to respond to market requirements and policy change. Similar support to CSOs is being envisaged together with ad hoc support to the government.</p> <p><u>Papua New Guinea</u></p> <p>Through the National Forest Inventory project and together with the Responsible Asia Forestry & Trade partnership (RAFT), FAO FLEGT is supporting a participatory gap analysis of the current Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS) against international best practices. The results of the gap analysis will inform future work in support of the consolidation and initial roll-out of a PNG TLAS.</p> <p><u>Thailand</u></p> <p>The FAO FLEGT Programme will continue funding the Thai-EU FLEGT Secretariat Office supporting the VPA negotiation process. The programme will continue supporting RECOFTC–The Center for</p>
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	<p>People and Forests and the CSO FLEGT Network to enable this stakeholder group to represent the interests of smallholder farmers and communities, to actively contribute to VPA negotiations and to propose legal reform in support of smallholder or community timber production on private and public land. Additional support to private sector associations will be provided to help them contribute to proposals for rationalizing and improving legality verification, especially for plantation timber.</p> <p><u>Viet Nam</u></p> <p>The FAO FLEGT Programme (also through the UN-REDD Programme) will continue to support activities leading to the implementation of the final VPA agreement signed in May 2017. Ongoing support to group CoC/due diligence certification of SMEs, the development of association-level due diligence systems and the development of TLAS-compliant national certification standards should contribute to improved legality compliance, Viet Nam TLAS preparedness and stronger linkages between the VPA and voluntary certification. The FAO FLEGT Programme is also considering continued support to CSOs to strengthen their role in the independent monitoring of VPA implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase 2 Programme has supported two State Forest Companies (SFCs) to develop their capacities to meet international standards for SFM. These companies have now achieved certification under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) forest management standard. This work is being replicated with two other SFCs and support has been initiated for two groups of small forest owners to attain FSC group certification. Support for the development of a national forest certification standard is incorporated as part of the revised NRAP.
<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO has developed a new Regional Initiative on Climate Change for the 2018-19 biennium. The initiative will work to achieve FAO's vision for "<i>Food and agriculture systems and dependent livelihoods become more resilient to the impacts of climate change through scaled up adaption measures and mitigation options</i>" in Asia and the Pacific. The initiative will primarily focus on strengthening capacities of member countries in the region to develop and implement policies, strategies and investment programmes to scale up climate change adaptation and mitigation in the agriculture sectors, as part of countries' implementation of NDCs, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other international commitments. At the same time, it will strengthen FAO's leading role, both technical and coordination/partnership building for climate resilient food and agriculture systems and dependent livelihoods in Asia-Pacific. - FAO became an accredited implementing entity for the GCF in October 2016. FAO country offices have been consulting with Nationally Designated Authorities and relevant technical agencies in member countries to identify initial projects, consistent with member country nationally determined contributions (NDCs), which can be developed into potential GCF projects. The forestry sector and REDD+ feature prominently in the GCF projects currently under development with member countries in the region.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO-RAP supported senior officials from ASEAN member states to develop a common regional position on agriculture and climate change based on FAO analysis of NDC priorities in the region. This position was later officially adopted by ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry. The position was presented in a coordinated manner by ASEAN at UNFCCC COP22 in Marrakesh and integrated into the agriculture negotiating positions of the Group of 77 and China. This position continued to influence country negotiating positions during the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) discussions in May 2017. - Through the UN-REDD Programme, FAO provides support to 19 countries in the Asia-Pacific region for the development of Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) approaches for the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector, and is exploring the potential to build on this work through the GEF-funded Capacity Building Initiative on Transparency (CBIT) projects, to contribute to the MRV of other sectors under countries' NDCs. - GCF projects with forestry sector elements, which will directly or indirectly contribute to objectives of national REDD+ strategies, are being developed with FAO as the Lead Accredited Entity in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal and Viet Nam, and FAO is contributing to the development of other forestry GCF projects by other Accredited Entities in Lao PDR and Sri Lanka. The modality for this interagency collaboration may be replicable for GCF projects in other countries.
<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A GEF-funded project under implementation by FAO in Mongolia 'Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation, SFM and Carbon Sink Enhancement into Mongolia's Productive Forest Landscape' is supporting forest user groups to strengthen local stakeholder rights. - FAO completed a regional Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project on 'Strengthening Forest Tenure for Sustaining Livelihoods and Generating Income' to enhance the contribution of forests to the livelihoods and incomes of forest-dependent communities in Cambodia, Nepal and Viet Nam. The project focused on: 1) strengthening forest land tenure policies as preconditions for better incomes and livelihoods; and 2) strengthening institutional capacity to ensure significant impacts at scale. Follow-up activities are being implemented in Nepal and Viet Nam specifically focusing on agroforestry to enhance livelihoods and incomes.
<p>5. FAO and member countries continue to implement activities that enhance the roles of key stakeholders including private sector, smallholders, indigenous peoples, communities, civil society organizations and youth in supporting sustainable forest management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO is currently supporting Indonesia through a project titled 'Strengthening Forest Management Unit (FMU) for Sustainable Forest Management and Community Empowerment' (TCP/INS/3602) to strengthen FMU human resources and empower local communities to obtain full benefits from FMUs through more meaningful engagement in forest management. Two FMUs in Sulawesi are being supported and various exercises for capacity development and institutional backstopping thrusts have been conducted.

<p>and forest landscape policies, plans and practices through appropriate policy mechanisms, capacity building and exchange of information and best practices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO FLEGT has supported numerous initiatives to strengthen capacities of forestry sector stakeholders to engage in national governance, policy and legal reform processes. The main focus of the FAO FLEGT Programme is to support ongoing VPA processes and other multi-stakeholder processes including the development of national certification and legality verification systems as well as more general policy and legal reviews. FAO FLEGT is also engaging in REDD+ readiness processes by promoting FLEGT-related activities as possible responses to drivers of forest degradation and deforestation. - FAO is also involved in many other initiatives that aim to enhance the roles of stakeholders in SFM, including work in mainstreaming gender into forestry, a wide range of national projects with components related to stakeholder engagement, work through the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism, Kids-to-Forests Programme, etc. - FAO, in collaboration with RECOFTC, conducted a training course on ‘Promoting Gender Mainstreaming in Natural Resource Management: From Policy to Action’ in Bangkok, Thailand, January 2017. The training was attended by 14 participants, including nine participants from FAO projects in various countries.
<p>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 for green investment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO is supporting a number of countries including Bangladesh, Myanmar, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam to revise forest policies and encourage investment. In Bangladesh, FAO is supporting the development of a Country Investment Plan (CIP) in the context of the environment, forestry and climate change in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The CIP is expected to be an important tool for guiding investment in a coordinated and integrated manner. In Myanmar, FAO is helping to revise the Community Forestry Guidelines. In Timor-Leste, an FAO TCP project has supported the formulation of the first National Forest Law and a revision of the National Forest Policy. In Viet Nam, FAO is evaluating agroforestry policies and impacts in order to develop a national strategy for agroforestry and to improve related policies. - As a GEF agency, FAO continues to support countries in accessing GEF funds. As an accredited agency under the GCF, FAO is also working with member countries and partner organizations to develop priority GCF projects with a number of project concepts currently at various stages of development. - As part of FAO’s work to strengthen financing for SFM, the publication <i>Towards effective national forest funds</i> was released in late 2015 to address the need for more information on how national forest funds work and how best to establish and manage them.
<p>7. FAO elaborate a regional action plan for forest restoration in Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with member countries and relevant international partners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO has developed a draft regional strategy and action plan on forest and landscape restoration through an extensive consultation process. The draft was presented at a side event during the 23rd Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO 23) and further discussed during a regional workshop on natural regeneration organized in June 2017. The final document will be tabled for endorsement at the 27th Session of the APFC.

8. FAO and member countries to promote greater awareness of the benefits of forests through the International Day of Forests (IDF).	- FAO organized a forestry debate in Bangkok on the theme of forests and energy to celebrate IDF 2017 in collaboration with RECOFTC and UN Environment to raise awareness on the benefits of forests. In addition, many countries and partners in the Asia-Pacific region organized their own IDF events.
9. Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank support the development and strengthening of holistic national forest policies that encompass cross-cutting multi-sectoral issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Tenth Executive Forest Policy Course involving 24 high-level government staff, managers and civil society representatives from 15 countries was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Participating countries were Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vanuatu and Viet Nam. - FAO has been engaged in a number of forest policy-related initiatives including the revision of Community Forestry Guidelines in Myanmar, formulation of the first National Forest Law and a revision of the National Forest Policy in Timor-Leste, and evaluation of agroforestry policies and impacts in Viet Nam.
10. Asia-Pacific Forest Communication Network provide training in communicating forestry issues to the general public.	- The network remains very active in sharing forestry information via social media and providing tips on communications. A new publication titled <i>From information dissemination to community participation in forest landscapes: How development organizations in Asia and the Pacific are using participatory development communication approaches</i> has been produced with case studies from APFCN members.
11. Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN) explore the potential to utilize biomass from invasive species for productive purposes, as one element of the control and management of invasive species.	- FAO explored the potential to utilize invasive species in a previous TCP project on control and management of forest invasive species in India and Maldives. An ongoing GEF-funded project 'Climate Change Adaptation in Wetland Areas (CAWA) in Lao PDR' is also exploring the potential of utilizing invasive species as a control measure.
<i>For the attention of FAO</i>	
1. Continue technical assistance to countries to meet the requirements of forestry-related NDCs including building capacities, conducting and analysing national forest inventories, and understanding and meeting the requirements of the Transparency Framework.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In partnership with the UN-REDD Programme and other organizations, FAO organized a regional workshop on 'Understanding Capacity Needs for the Paris Agreement Enhanced Transparency Framework in Agriculture and Land Use Sectors in Asia and the Pacific' from 27 to 29 June 2016. The workshop was attended by over 50 representatives from ministries of agriculture, environment and forestry in 12 countries. Based on the outcomes of the workshop, FAO is assisting countries to prepare proposals to a newly established GEF fund to enhance country capacities for transparency under the Paris Agreement. - FAO developed a draft paper titled 'The Agriculture Sectors in the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions: Analysis'

	<p>(http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5687e.pdf) to present FAO's analysis of priority adaptation and mitigation areas, actions and support needs in agriculture sectors (crops, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture, as well as forestry).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO has supported the design and piloting of national forest inventories through the UN-REDD Programme in Cambodia, Mongolia, Myanmar and Sri Lanka. - At the request of the Government of Bhutan, FAO is implementing a programme of support for National Forest Inventory (NFI) data analysis and Forest Reference Levels (FRL) development through the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). - FAO manages projects for NFI design and implementation in Bangladesh (with USAID support), in Papua New Guinea (with EU support) and is about to launch a new project in Myanmar (with support from Finland). - In India, FAO is implementing a TCP project to review and revise the NFI methodology. - The UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase 2 Programme is supporting preparation for a new cycle of the National Forest Inventory and Monitoring Programme (NFIMAP).
<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO is engaged in a discussion with the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) to organize a one-day UNFF-related session in conjunction with future sessions of regional forestry commissions, including the APFC.
<p>3. Assist in identifying appropriate forestry indicators for measuring progress toward Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) implementation.</p>	<p>FAO is a 'custodian' UN agency for 20 indicators (including forestry-related indicators), for SDGs 2, 5, 6, 12, 14 and 15. As a custodian agency, FAO will be responsible for: 1) collecting data from national sources, validating and harmonizing them, estimating regional and global aggregates and making these available for international reporting; 2) contributing to annual SDG progress reports; and 3) establishing partnerships with other international agencies to monitor the increased number of indicators. FAO is working with member countries and other international agencies to harmonize and streamline existing data collection processes to reduce the reporting burden on member countries especially through the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) and FAOSTAT.</p>
<p>4. Continue support for strengthening sustainable forest management systems for climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As reported throughout this document, FAO is involved in a wide range of work that seeks to strengthen SFM and provide climate change mitigation and adaptation benefits. - The design of many new projects, especially under the GEF, has given much greater consideration to carbon sequestration in forest management options (e.g. longer rotations in forest plantations, forest restoration, energy substitution, etc.). - A GEF project in Sri Lanka, 'Promoting Sustainable Biomass Energy Production and Modern Bio-Energy Technologies', jointly

	<p>implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and FAO is promoting sustainable production of fuelwood for climate change mitigation benefits.</p>
<p>5. Provide information on utilization of trees and forests for floodplain management and protection.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In collaboration with Environmental Science for Social Change (ESSC), FAO organized a workshop on forests and disasters in Southeast Asia in August 2016 in the Philippines. The objectives of the workshop were to: 1) share experiences in relation to the use of trees and forests to mitigate impacts and reduce risks associated with hydrometeorological disasters; 2) increase technical and coordination capacities in mapping risk areas, designing tree and forest protection systems and preparing readiness and response plans; and 3) obtain country inputs and recommendations for the design of an Asia-Pacific Regional Strategy on Forests and Natural Disasters. - Also in partnership with ESSC, FAO is working to finalize a publication on forests and droughts which will feature eight case studies and a regional synthesis. - FAO is implementing two projects (one TCP and another funded by USAID) to prevent, stabilize and mitigate the risks of landslides in Nepal.
<p>6. Provide information and technical support relating to best practices in wildfire responses and transboundary fire management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO has engaged with other donors to explore potential support to fire management in Indonesia; a proposal for a study to document lessons learned has been drafted. - In Myanmar, a potential project on landscape fire management is being explored for future GEF funding.
<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO has completed the project 'Income for Coastal Communities for Mangrove Protection' implemented under the Mangroves for the Future (MFF) initiative. Key project results were compiled into a series of four publications to guide and facilitate the development of community-based mangrove protection projects. These results were also presented at the International Conference on Sustainable Mangrove Ecosystems organized by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) in April 2017. - Through the UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase 2 Programme, FAO is directly supporting the expansion of an aquaculture certification initiative based on maintenance of minimum proportions of mangrove areas as included in Viet Nam's revised NRAP.
<p>8. Finalize a regional strategy and action plan on forests and natural disasters including giving specific attention to vulnerability mapping.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In collaboration with ESSC, FAO is engaged in ongoing formulation of the Asia-Pacific Regional Strategy on Forests and Natural Disasters. A workshop was organized in August 2016 in the Philippines to obtain country inputs and recommendations for the design of the regional strategy.
<p>9. Explore modalities for supporting integration of community forestry producers and smallholders into market</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As part of the FAO FLEGT support to VPA processes, FAO ensures that smallholders, SMEs and community forestry producers are not left out of VPA negotiations and that they benefit from improved access to more formal national and international markets and better governance in the forestry sector.

<p>and trading systems for forest products.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO's Forest and Farm Facility is engaged in a number of initiatives in Myanmar, Nepal and Viet Nam to support the integration of community forestry producers and smallholders into market and trading systems for forest products. - The UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase 2 Programme has ensured, through FAO advisory services, the integration of support for smallholder owners of plantations and natural forests to access markets for certified forest products into the revised NRAP.
<p>10. Support sharing of experiences and lessons for community forestry from regions beyond Asia and the Pacific.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Through a regional TCP on forest tenure for better incomes and livelihoods, an exposure visit to Pu'er, Dehong and Kunming, China was organized for six officials from Cambodia, Nepal and Viet Nam in June/July 2016. The objective of the visit was to provide an opportunity for key government officials dealing with forest tenure in the project countries to learn from China's experiences, particularly in relation to privatization and commercialization of forest products. - An FAO publication <i>Forty years of community-based forestry: A review of its extent and effectiveness</i>, was released in early 2016. The publication reviewed and documented lessons learned during the past 40 years of experience in community-based forestry.
<p>11. Continue to provide technical support for forest landscape restoration including restoring ecosystem services and enhancing biodiversity conservation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO has been engaged in a number of activities related to provision of technical support for forest and landscape restoration. These include: 1) ongoing support to Cambodia, DPRK and the Philippines under the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism; 2) a regional TCP project on forest and landscape restoration covering Cambodia, Lao PDR, Indonesia and the Philippines; 3) collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat on capacity development in forest restoration; 4) finalization of a regional strategy and action plan on forest and landscape restoration; 5) organization of a regional workshop focusing on natural regeneration of forests in June 2017; 6) development of a regional programme concept note focusing on the Landscape Restoration Impact Programme under GEF-7; and 7) development of an International Climate Initiative (IKI) proposal focusing on forest landscape restoration in Fiji and the Philippines.
<p>12. Strengthen capacity for national and local forest inventories, including measurement, reporting and verification in support of REDD+ programmes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO provides support to the development of National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS) through the UN-REDD Programme in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Vanuatu and Viet Nam, through the development and dissemination of normative guidance documents and capacity development events. - FAO and UN-REDD have also been supporting work through the SPC Pacific Region Forest Inventory Facility. - In Bangladesh and Papua New Guinea, projects to strengthen and implement national forest inventories are being implemented, funded by USAID and EU, respectively. A full NFI project in Myanmar funded by Finland is currently in the signatory process. In India, there is an ongoing TCP project on strengthening NFMS.

<p>13. Support assessment of bamboo, rattan and other non-timber forest resources in the Global Forest Resources Assessment and other relevant reporting processes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is anticipated that FAO FRA will coordinate with and support the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) in this effort.
<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Through the UN-REDD Programme, FAO works in the context of the ‘One UN’ approach with the UNDP and UNEP to support countries across the world in their efforts towards REDD+ Readiness. In Asia and the Pacific, the member countries of the programme are Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Vanuatu and Viet Nam. - In the region, FAO, through the UN-REDD Programme, contributes to the development of NFMS and FRL, two of the four key elements that countries need to develop under an international REDD+ mechanism. - The UN-REDD Programme shares and disseminates guidance documents, tools and various other knowledge products including reviews of lessons learned on REDD+. - FAO supported Cambodia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka in the submission of their FRLs to the UNFCCC in January 2017, and has subsequently supported these countries in the technical assessment (TA) process with UNFCCC experts, as well as supporting Indonesia and Viet Nam with the TA of their submissions made in January 2016. - Through the UN-REDD Programme, FAO supported, along with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and GIZ, a regional experience-sharing workshop on the FRL TA process in Pokhara, Nepal in April 2017, including countries currently undergoing TA, those that have completed TA and countries currently in process of developing their first FRL submission. - Through the FCPF, FAO is supporting Bhutan in the development of a national FRL for submission in January 2018 and is also supporting similar work in Bangladesh, Mongolia and Myanmar through the UN-REDD Programme. - FAO has supported the development of a subnational REDD+ action planning process through pilots in Nepal and Viet Nam, identifying targeted interventions, policies and measures. This has led to these processes being mainstreamed into the national REDD+ strategy development and implementation approach in both countries and has informed similar processes in Bhutan, India, Mongolia and Sri Lanka. - FAO has developed geoportals for transparent sharing of information on forest cover and land-use change, and monitoring of

	<p>implementation and impact of REDD+ strategies, policies and measures, in Bangladesh, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam, and is in the process of developing similar facilities in Mongolia and Myanmar.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO has conducted analyses of the institutional, policy and regulatory context pertaining to REDD+ implementation in Nepal and Pakistan, and produced reports containing recommendations on institutional development and the policy, legal and regulatory environment necessary for successful implementation of REDD+ strategies. - Through the UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase 2 Programme FAO has conducted a review of the current forest land allocation (FLA) practices in six provinces, in parallel with a regional TCP project on forest tenure, and incorporated the study's recommendations into the revised NRAP.
<p>15. Convene a cross-sectoral workshop to share and explore perspectives on green investment and other public-private partnerships.</p>	<p>FAO and USAID jointly organized a regional meeting on 'Convening Private Sector Investment in Climate-Smart Commodity Production in Southeast Asia' in Bangkok, Thailand, during March 2017. This was followed by a meeting among FAO, USAID and invited country representatives to discuss how FAO/USAID can best support governments to engage with the private sector on climate change issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A workshop report was prepared identifying a number of priority actions to enhance private sector investment and financing for climate-smart, low emission agriculture and forestry commodities. - FAO is organizing a follow-up workshop in October 2017 in partnership with USAID, ASEAN Climate Resilience Network (ASEAN CRN), GIZ, the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) to strengthen the capacities of countries in Asia to achieve their NDC targets for the agriculture and land-use sectors, through improved use of scientific information in sector planning and enhanced public and private sector engagement in accelerating CSA investments.
<p>16. Assist member countries in accessing funds for forest restoration through the Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund and similar avenues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO has been working with a number of countries to develop and implement a variety of GEF projects with restoration components. - FAO has also developed initial concept notes for global and regional programmes focusing on a Landscape Restoration Impact Programme (IP) under GEF-7 to position the organization to support countries in accessing funds under this IP as the discussions on GEF-7 evolve. - Forest restoration is one of the main policies and/or measures under the FAO-supported component of the UNDP-led Sri Lanka GCF project on REDD+ strategy implementation. - As an accredited GCF agency, FAO has mobilized resources to start working with member countries to develop priority projects and programmes. Several concept notes have been prepared, some of which include restoration-related components.
<p>17. Provide technical support to forest restoration activities in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please refer to recommendation no. 11 for the attention of FAO.

<p>Asia and the Pacific, including through the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism.</p>	
<p>18. Continue support for innovative youth programmes such as Kids-to-Forests.</p>	<p>- The Kids-to-Forests (K2F) Programme is currently most active in the Philippines where significant progress has been made to integrate K2F activities into formal education curricula in two regions. The K2F Programme is being institutionalized within the Department of Education and Department of Environment and Natural Resources in two regions of the Philippines and is in the process of expansion to the National Capital Region. K2F 'Earth Ambassadors' have made impressive impacts in public via media and community appearances. Core K2F activities, i.e. educating youth on the importance and relevance of SFM and benefits from forests, continue.</p>

ANNEX 1 – RECENT FAO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC FORESTRY PUBLICATIONS

(Since the 26th Session of the APFC).

Forest tenure in Cambodia, Nepal and Viet Nam

2017

Forest change in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS): An overview of negative and positive drivers

2017

Agroforestry in rice production landscapes in Southeast Asia: A practical manual

2017 (FAO and ICRAF)

Asia-Pacific Forestry Week: Growing our Future!

2017

Report of the twenty-sixth session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC)

2017

Incentive allocation for mangrove protection

2016 (FAO and IUCN)

Mangrove carbon estimator and monitoring guide

2016 (FAO and IUCN)

Mangrove related policy and institutional frameworks in Pakistan, Thailand and Viet Nam

2016 (FAO and IUCN)

Financing for mangrove protection with emphasis on Pakistan, Thailand and Viet Nam

2016 (FAO and IUCN)

Policy briefs: Forest tenure policy and legislation in Cambodia, Nepal and Viet Nam: Status, gaps and way forward

2016

Policy briefs: Institutional capacity on forest tenure in Cambodia, Nepal and Viet Nam: Status, gaps and way forward

2016

Mainstreaming gender into forestry interventions in Asia and the Pacific training manual

2016 (FAO and RECOFTC)

Forests and climate change after Paris: An Asia-Pacific perspective

2016 (FAO and RECOFTC)

Common plants of Maldives

2016 (FAO and Kerala Forest Research Institute, India)

Forest landscape restoration for Asia-Pacific forests

2016 (FAO and RECOFTC)

Newsletters

- *INVASIVES* – Newsletter of the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network
- *Teaknet Bulletin*

ANNEX 2 – MEETINGS ORGANIZED OR CO-ORGANIZED BY THE FAO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC FORESTRY TEAM

(Since the 26th Session of the APFC).

Date	Title	Venue
21 March 2016	International Day of Forests – Forestry Debate: Forests and Water	Bangkok, Thailand
5-8 April 2016	Second Training of Trainers – Strengthening Forest Tenure for Sustaining Livelihoods and Generating Income	Siem Reap, Cambodia
12-15 April 2016	Second Multi-stakeholder National Policy Dialogue on Strengthening Forest Tenure for Sustaining Livelihoods and Generating Income	Hanoi, Viet Nam
18-22 April 2016	REDD+ Monitoring, and Measurement, Reporting and Verification Workshop	Bangkok, Thailand
27-29 April 2016	Second Training of Trainers – Strengthening Forest Tenure for Sustaining Livelihoods and Generating Income	Kathmandu, Nepal
24 May-2 June 2016	Ninth Executive Forest Policy Course: Sustainable Development Goals, Climate Change and the Future of Forests in the Asia-Pacific	Yogyakarta, Indonesia
26 June-1 July 2016	Exchange Visit on Strengthening Forest Tenure Systems and Governance	Pu'er, China
24-25 August 2016	Workshop on Forests and Disasters in Southeast Asia	Antipolo, Philippines
13-14 October 2016	The 12 th Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) Executive Committee	Chiang Mai, Thailand
18-22 October 2016	International Symposium and Training Course on Forest Invasive Pests	Haikou, China
25-26 October 2016	Final Workshop of the Project on Strengthening Forest Tenure for Sustaining Livelihoods and Generating Income	Hanoi, Viet Nam
30 November 2016	Technical Meeting on Integrating Climate-Smart Agriculture and Disaster Risk Reduction	Bangkok, Thailand
7-8 December 2016	Expert Consultation on Learning from Past Forestry and Natural Resource Interventions	Manila, Philippines
20-21 December 2016	Final Workshop for the Project ‘Income for Coastal Communities for Mangrove Protection’	Bangkok, Thailand
18-19 January 2017	Asia-Pacific Forestry Planning Workshop	Bangkok, Thailand
23-26 January 2017	Promoting Gender Equality in Natural Resource Management: from Policy to Action – Training Workshop for Resource Decision-makers and Managers	Bangkok, Thailand
21 March 2017	International Day of Forests – Forestry Debate: Forests and Energy	Bangkok, Thailand
29 March 2017	Convening Private Sector Investment in Climate-Smart Commodity Production in Southeast Asia	Bangkok, Thailand

5 April 2017	Side event at the XIX Commonwealth Forestry Congress, India. Title 'Making Policy Work: Enhancing Impact on the Ground for Sustainability and Prosperity'	Dehradun, India
10-11 April 2017	Expert Consultation: Forest Reference Level (FRL) Assessment Process in Asia/Pacific	Pokhara, Nepal
15-18 May 2017	Training Workshop for FAO Country Office Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)/Emergency Officers on Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) and Data/Information Management	Bangkok, Thailand
15-25 May 2017	Tenth Executive Forest Policy Course	Colombo, Sri Lanka
8-9 June 2017	The 13 th Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) Executive Committee	Chiang Mai, Thailand
19-21 June 2017	Promoting the Role of Natural Regeneration in Large-scale Forest and Landscape Restoration: Challenges and Opportunities & Consultation to Operationalize Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Forest and Landscape Restoration in Asia-Pacific	Nanning, China
25-29 September 2017	Training of EX-ACT Professionals to Appraise Greenhouse Gas Mitigation of FAO Global Environment Facility Projects for Countries from the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation	Bangkok, Thailand