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REPORT

Thimphu,
Bhutan,
9-11 June
2010

Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission

Twenty-third session



PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION

First session	Bangkok, Thailand	9-17 October 1950
Second session	Singapore/Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	1-13 December 1952
Third session	Tokyo, Japan	9-21 April 1955
Fourth session	Bandung, Indonesia	8-12 June 1957
Fifth session	New Delhi, India	12-18 February 1960
Sixth session	Hong Kong	12-17 September 1962
Seventh session	Rotorua, New Zealand	22 September-2 October 1964
Eighth session	Seoul, Korea (Rep. of)	1-8 May 1969
Ninth session	Canberra, Australia	20-28 September 1973
Tenth session	Kathmandu, Nepal	6-10 June 1977
Eleventh session	Suva, Fiji	6-10 April 1981
Twelfth session	Bangkok, Thailand	19-23 March 1984
Thirteenth session	Beijing, China	30 March-3 April 1987
Fourteenth session	Manila, Philippines	12-16 March 1990
Fifteenth session	Colombo, Sri Lanka	9-13 August 1993
Sixteenth session	Yangon, Myanmar	15-20 January 1996
Seventeenth session	Yogyakarta, Indonesia	23-27 February 1998
Eighteenth session	Noosaville, Queensland, Australia	15-19 May 2000
Nineteenth session	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	26-30 August 2002
Twentieth session	Nadi, Fiji	19-23 April 2004
Twenty-first session	Dehradun, India	17-21 April 2006
Twenty-second session	Hanoi, Viet Nam	21-25 April 2008

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REPORT

of the

TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

of the

ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY COMMISSION

**Thimphu, Bhutan
9-11 June 2010**

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Bangkok, 2010**

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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

For the attention of Governments and FAO

The Commission recommended:

- assisting in developing and implementing efficient and practical forest monitoring and assessment mechanisms, assisting in accessing available technologies, and building capacities for utilizing such systems;
- making full use of the wealth of information and analysis that has been generated by the APFSOS, by integrating it into national strategic planning, national forest programme processes, and forest policy formulation;
- enhancing participation of foresters in multilateral biodiversity dialogues and strengthening international arrangements, including due attention to financing and international assistance, as a means of facilitating action at national levels;
- collaborating with other international partners, to assist countries in identifying and studying key problems of regional significance related to biodiversity conservation, determine strategic priorities and supporting implementation of recommendations;
- sharing experiences and advising on efforts to enhance biodiversity conservation, including opportunities to capitalise on bioprospecting;
- in collaboration with other international organizations and partners, providing assistance to build capacities to fight illegal logging and other forest crimes, and helping countries secure financial resources for effective FLEG implementation;
- adherence to the true spirit of the Bali Action Plan by inclusion of the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of carbon stocks in REDD-plus mechanisms;
- assisting member countries in developing viable strategies for attracting increased investment in forestry, including formulating national strategic plans for financing that address constraints, establish priorities, and facilitate the involvement of other related sectors;
- maintaining the strong level of activity and collaboration of the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN);
- continuing efforts in establish a regional support network for forestry education, and supporting forestry-related education of youth, university students and forestry practitioners.

For the attention of FAO

The Commission recommended:

- taking a leading role in supporting technical aspects of REDD-plus in collaboration with UNEP and UNDP;
- developing methodologies to include evaluation of environmental services into national forest resources assessments for countries that might wish to include these in their national assessments;
- completing and publishing planned country reports, thematic studies, policy briefs and sub-regional outlook study reports;
- in collaboration with partner organizations, supporting sub-regional workshops on strategic planning in forestry and further scenario development;
- in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other partners, providing advice and tools to assess forest degradation, forest fragmentation and

- related biodiversity loss and further addressing the harmonizing of forest-related definitions through the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;
- collaborating with other international organizations and partners to facilitate additional regional dialogue on FLEG to discuss shared concerns, identifying best practices in FLEG implementation, and establishing mechanisms for cooperation;
 - providing continued support for fundamental issues surrounding climate change and sustainable forest management, including capacity building, sharing of information and experience, partnership building, and facilitating the exchange of technologies and best practices;
 - continuing support for policy-related work under the APFC-initiated Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank.;
 - continuing active engagement as a partner of the Mangroves for the Future Initiative and providing targeted project support for mangrove and coastal resources management;
 - facilitating and supporting capacity-building in priority technical, management and policy-related areas needed to make further progress towards sustainable forest management;
 - assisting forestry agencies in reviewing structures, policies and functions to better align with the new demands and expectations being placed on forests and forestry;
 - carefully monitoring and evaluating activities to ensure effectiveness and increase efficiency of future delivery;
 - reporting more extensively on APFC and FAO-supported activities in the Pacific at future sessions;
 - in collaboration with member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, developing joint communication materials to convey key messages relating to forests during the International Year of Forests.

INTRODUCTION

1. At the invitation of the Government of Bhutan, the twenty-third session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) was held in Thimphu, Bhutan, 9 to 11 June 2010. Delegates from 28 member countries and 4 United Nations organizations participated in the session, along with observers and representatives from 17 regional and international inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations. A list of participants is given in *Appendix B*.

Opening ceremony

2. The opening ceremony featured addresses by the Minister of Works and Human Settlement of Bhutan, the Director-General of the Department of Forest and Park Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Bhutan and the FAO Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department. The FAO Senior Forestry Officer for Asia and the Pacific offered the vote of thanks.

3. Mr. Karma Dukpa, Director-General, Department of Forest and Park Services welcomed the distinguished guests and delegates to the twenty-third session of APFC and outlined recent accomplishments in Bhutanese forestry. He noted Bhutan's commitment to conservation and sustainable forest management and looked forward to contributing ideas for managing forests with an emphasis on heritage values.

4. Mr. Eduardo Rojas-Briales, FAO Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department, welcomed participants on behalf of FAO. He thanked the Government of Bhutan, and especially the Department of Forest and Park Services, for the preparatory work and arrangements for the twenty-third session of APFC. Mr. Rojas-Briales noted a range of opportunities and challenges confronting forestry in Asia and the Pacific; vast plantation programmes are being implemented in some countries, while deforestation, loss of biodiversity, and weak forest law enforcement and governance occurs in other countries. He stressed that, while carbon financing may assist in addressing these issues, such financing also will come tagged with its own expectations and requirements.

5. His Excellency, Lyonpo Yeshey Zimba, Minister of Works and Human Settlement, provided the keynote address. He outlined the concept of Gross National Happiness, and noted the importance of environmental conservation, including community forestry, in the country's development paradigm and policies. The Minister enumerated a variety of roles played by forests and noted that deforestation remains a challenge for many countries. He expressed concern over negative impacts of climate change and noted potential roles for forests in climate change mitigation.

6. Mr. Patrick Durst, FAO Senior Forestry Officer for Asia and the Pacific, offered a vote of thanks to the Minister of Works and Human Settlement, Minister of Agriculture and Forests and the Government of Bhutan for their willingness to host the twenty-third session of the Commission. Mr. Durst thanked the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests and Department of Forest and Park Services for their excellent collaboration and arrangements. Other partners and sponsoring organizations were also thanked.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA (Item 1)

7. Under the guidance of Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Binh (Viet Nam), the outgoing Chair of the Commission, the provisional agenda (FO:APFC/2010/1) was reviewed and adopted (see *Appendix A*). Documents considered by the Commission are listed in *Appendix C*.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Item 2)

8. The Commission unanimously elected the following individuals to hold office until the commencement of the twenty-fourth session:

Chairperson:	Karma Dukpa (Bhutan)
Vice-Chairpersons:	Wu Jian (China) Dato' Razani Ujang (Malaysia) Gordon Konairamo (Solomon Islands)
Rapporteur:	Meredith Stokdijk (New Zealand)

Mr. Patrick Durst (FAO) served as Secretary of the Commission.

STATE OF FORESTRY IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION: FORESTRY IN TRANSITION
(Item 3)

9. On the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2010/2, the Commission considered the state of forestry in the region. Delegates provided informative summaries of recent developments and issues in their countries.

10. The Commission noted significant achievements in afforestation, reforestation and forest rehabilitation, with several countries reporting ambitious planted forest establishment programmes and tree-planting targets. Delegates noted efforts to provide support and incentives for small-scale and community tree-growing. The Commission was apprised of efforts to prevent and mitigate the impacts of forest fires, pests and diseases.

11. Delegates highlighted the increased emphasis being given to ecosystem services of forests. The importance of biodiversity conservation and forest protection were underscored by many delegates. The Commission was informed of efforts to promote ecotourism, improve watershed protection and ensure clean and reliable water supplies. Delegates emphasized the growing potential for ecosystem services to contribute to financing sustainable forest management.

12. The Commission noted regional trends towards community forestry, devolution of forest user rights and participatory forestry. Opportunities for revitalizing forest sectors to contribute to poverty alleviation, economic recovery, employment and rural development, including through public-private partnerships, were also highlighted.

13. The Commission noted ongoing efforts to review and reformulate forest policies and revise or enact new legislation. The importance of national forest programmes in improving forest governance, including within FLEG frameworks, was highlighted. The Commission highlighted the benefits of ongoing international collaboration and provision of technical support. The contributions of forest certification and forest codes of practice as tools for achieving sustainable forest management were noted.

14. Delegates highlighted the importance of national forest inventories and the need to strengthen related capacity for this work, including in support of emerging programmes related to climate change mitigation. The Commission was apprised of several recently conducted or proposed national forest inventories, as well as programmes to delineate and demarcate forest lands.

15. The Commission expressed concern over the potential negative impacts of climate change on forests. Delegates reported on national forestry responses to climate change including enhanced carbon sequestration capacities, efforts to reduce carbon emissions, development of "climate compatible" strategies, and development of REDD-plus strategies and readiness. The Commission

requested FAO to take a leading role in supporting technical aspects of REDD-plus in collaboration with UNEP and UNDP.

IN-SESSION SEMINAR: ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTS – NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

(Item 4)

16. A special in-session seminar highlighted newly released findings from the *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010* of relevance for the Asia-Pacific region and the *Second Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study* (ref. Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2010/3).

Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010

17. The Commission noted with satisfaction the release of preliminary findings of the *Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2010* and looked forward to the publication of a comprehensive FRA 2010 report. Delegates reiterated the importance of reliable data and information on forest resources in achieving progress towards sustainable forest management in the region.

18. The Commission acknowledged the need for continuous improvement in forest monitoring, assessment and reporting to improve the accuracy and comprehensiveness of collated FRA data. The Commission noted that the quality of FRA is largely dependent on national forest information systems and reporting, although an FAO remote sensing survey will provide new and additional global and regional forest data.

19. Delegates noted that the complexity of national reporting under the FRA process creates significant challenges for countries. The Commission acknowledged that society's increasing demands on forests and requirements for more comprehensive information will likely increase the complexity of FRA reporting in the future.

20. The Commission requested FAO to assist countries in developing and implementing efficient and practical forest monitoring and assessment mechanisms, to assist in accessing available technologies, and to help build capacities for utilizing such systems. The Commission requested that FAO develop methodologies to include evaluation of environmental services into national forest resources assessments for countries that might wish to include these in their national assessments.

Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study

21. The Commission congratulated FAO and member countries on the publication and release of the Regional Report of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study (APFSOS) and encouraged FAO to complete and publish planned country reports, thematic studies, policy briefs and sub-regional outlook study reports.

22. Delegates emphasized the importance of ongoing forward-looking analysis of issues, challenges and opportunities affecting forests and forestry. The Commission urged FAO and member countries to make full use of the wealth of information and analysis that has been generated by the APFSOS, by integrating it into national strategic planning, national forest programme processes, and forest policy formulation.

23. Recognizing the wide range of challenges and conditions across the region and the consequent need for specific analyses and responses, the Commission requested FAO and partner organizations to support sub-regional workshops on strategic planning in forestry and further scenario development.

24. Considering the critical relationships between forests and indigenous peoples, the Commission emphasized the importance of free, prior and informed consent with respect to all forestry-related policies, programmes and activities that might impact indigenous peoples.

FORESTS AND BIODIVERSITY: CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF OUR FOREST TREASURES (Item 5)

25. The Commission considered the conservation and sustainable use of forests and biodiversity on the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2010/4.

26. The Commission noted significant achievements in expanding protected area networks and efforts to enhance biodiversity. The Commission was informed of efforts to enlist local communities in biodiversity conservation activities and noted the need for conservation efforts to protect the rights of indigenous peoples.

27. The Commission noted strong synergies between REDD and biodiversity conservation, with significant potential for joint implementation of biodiversity conservation and REDD initiatives. The Commission expressed satisfaction at the development of tools¹ to assess areas of high carbon and high biodiversity values.

28. The Commission noted that plantations provide many ecosystem services including biodiversity functions, but these functions are not a substitute for the biodiversity functions of natural forests. The Commission emphasized that planning for, and management of, planted forests should encompass provisions for biodiversity enhancement and other ecosystem services.

29. The Commission recognized the importance of incorporating biodiversity dimensions within national forest programmes as a way of mainstreaming biodiversity conservation within central government policies. The Commission noted broad support for biodiversity conservation within international arrangements, national legislative and policy frameworks, and specific national biodiversity action plans. The Commission urged member countries to enhance participation of foresters in multilateral biodiversity dialogues and to strengthen international arrangements, including due attention to financing and international assistance, as a means of facilitating action at national levels.

30. The Commission requested FAO, in collaboration with other international partners, to assist countries in identifying and studying key problems of regional significance related to biodiversity conservation, determine strategic priorities and to support implementation of recommendations. The Commission recommended that countries share experiences and advice on efforts to enhance biodiversity conservation, including opportunities to capitalise on bioprospecting.

31. The Commission requested FAO, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other partners to provide advice and tools to assess forest degradation, forest fragmentation and related biodiversity loss and to further address the harmonizing of forest-related definitions through the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

PROGRESS IN IMPROVING FOREST LAW ENFORCEMENT AND GOVERNANCE IN THE REGION (Item 6)

32. On the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2010/5 the Commission considered progress in improving forest law enforcement and governance (FLEG) in the region.

33. The Commission noted its satisfaction at the publication of the APFC stocktaking exercise *Forest law enforcement and governance: Progress in Asia and the Pacific*.

34. The Commission noted recent important changes to national laws and policies governing imports of illegal timber including the European Union's impending due diligence regulations,

¹ www.carbon-biodiversity.net

amendments to the United States' Lacey Act, "green" procurement policies in Japan, and New Zealand's new illegal logging policy reflecting increasing market sensitivities to illegal timber. The Commission acknowledged that while such regulations can provide a positive incentive for improving forest law enforcement, they may also be perceived as barriers to trade. The Commission noted the importance of establishing bilateral dialogues between timber exporting countries and importing countries to express views and share concerns. The Commission was apprised of the establishment of bilateral memoranda of understanding in this regard.

35. The Commission welcomed the emergence of various multilateral initiatives including the Asia Forest Partnership, the Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade (RAFT) programme, Asia FLEG, FLEGT and ITTO initiatives, and the development of various certification and verification systems. The Commission noted that harmonization of various FLEG-related processes may be desirable.

36. The Commission noted that domestic forest law enforcement issues require significant attention; these may relate to small-scale illegal felling, agricultural, industrial and fisheries encroachment and urbanization. Delegates acknowledged the importance of involving local governments and reinforcing intersectoral linkages. The Commission noted the need to ensure that sustainable community forestry practices are enabled.

37. The Commission acknowledged that weaknesses in the adjudication of environmental laws may result in failures to enforce forest laws. Training and capacity building for the environmental judiciary can enhance enforcement and prosecution. Delegates noted that wider issues of corruption, including collusion between illegal loggers and elite segments of society, constitute obstacles to forest law enforcement in some countries.

38. The Commission urged FAO to collaborate with other international organizations and partners to facilitate additional regional dialogue on FLEG to discuss shared concerns, identify best practices in FLEG implementation, and establish mechanisms for cooperation. Delegates proposed topics for discussion including defining forest legality and legality verification systems. The Commission emphasized that other stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society, should be included in such dialogue. The Commission requested FAO and other international organizations and partners to provide assistance to build capacities to fight illegal logging and other forest crimes, and to help countries secure financial resources for effective FLEG implementation.

HEADS OF FORESTRY DIALOGUE (Item 7)

39. A special Heads of Forestry dialogue provided an opportunity for direct exchange of views among delegates on *Forests, climate change and REDD: beyond Copenhagen* and *Harnessing new opportunities for financing sustainable forest management* (ref. Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2010/6).

Forests, climate change and REDD: beyond Copenhagen

40. Delegates noted that the global economic crisis had created a hiatus, which has temporarily dampened interest and slowed progress in developing carbon markets. However, delegates highlighted that the outcome of the UNFCCC COP 15 was promising for forestry, including significant progress in LULUCF negotiations and recognition of carbon storage in wood products.

41. The Commission noted that engagement of all stakeholders is critical if environmental, economic, and social benefits potentially achievable through REDD and REDD-plus are to be sustainable. Delegates highlighted that while achieving "REDD readiness" is important, investment in the fundamentals of improved forest governance and management must continue.

42. The Commission urged adherence to the true spirit of the Bali Action Plan by inclusion of the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of carbon stocks in REDD-plus mechanisms.
43. The Commission acknowledged that carbon market mechanisms are highly complex. While this may present significant challenges for implementation, it may also be a signal that the market is maturing. Delegates noted that high carbon market transaction costs threaten benefits received on the ground, thus innovative solutions to create workable mechanisms are needed.
44. Delegates noted accessing carbon markets was a particular challenge for rural communities and stressed the need for fully engaging local communities. In this respect, lessons learned from efforts to access funding for forestry-related activities under the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol may be applied.
45. The Commission emphasized FAO's strategic role in providing continued support for fundamental issues surrounding climate change and sustainable forest management, including capacity building, sharing of information and experience, partnership building, and facilitating the exchange of technologies and best practices.

Harnessing new opportunities for financing sustainable forest management

46. Delegates observed that, despite an increase in interest and funding for forestry as a result of concerns over climate change, huge funding gaps exist in many countries. The Commission noted that key challenges for developing countries include: (a) inadequate financial resources; (b) inadequate capacities; and (c) inadequate access to technologies.
47. The Commission emphasized that sustainable forest management requires funding from a diverse range of sources, including both public and private entities, and from traditional as well as new and innovative approaches. Delegates acknowledged that investment was likely to flow most rapidly to countries that have addressed key areas of concern such as resource tenure, corruption, and excessive bureaucratic regulation; but, that this may not help those countries most in need.
48. The Commission recognized the importance of a conducive enabling environment to attract and retain investment in the forestry sector. Common constraints across the region included unclear tenure rights, weak judiciaries, excessive regulation, and lack of political will.
49. The usefulness of formulating national strategic plans for forest financing that address constraints, establish priorities, and facilitate the involvement of other related sectors, was considered very important. The Commission urged FAO to assist member countries in developing viable strategies for attracting investments.

APFC AND FAO-SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION (Item 8)

50. On the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2010/6 the Commission reviewed APFC and FAO-supported activities carried out during the past two years, including follow-up to the recommendations of the twenty-second session of the Commission, and priorities for future work.
51. The Secretariat clarified that many regional activities supported by FAO were carried out within the framework of APFC. Activities generally had been concentrated in three areas: (a) economics, policies and institutions; (b) improvement in forest management for multiple benefits; and (c) involvement of people in forestry.
52. The Commission noted its satisfaction with the work programme that had been implemented and commended FAO on the number and quality of initiatives being undertaken in the region.

53. Delegates expressed particular appreciation for the Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study, regional policy studies, and the forest policy short course. The Commission requested FAO to continue support for policy-related work under the APFC-initiated Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank.

54. Delegates applauded the work of the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN), established by the Commission at its twentieth session in 2004, and noted with appreciation that it was viewed as a model for effective regional cooperation on invasive species throughout the world. The Commission encouraged FAO and member countries to maintain the strong level of activity and collaboration of APFISN.

55. The Commission noted the importance of sound management of coastal ecosystems and urged FAO to continue active engagement as a partner of the Mangroves for the Future Initiative and to provide targeted project support for mangrove and coastal resources management.

56. The Commission highlighted the importance of capacity building on a wide range of topics, and emphasized the potential for member countries to provide quality resource persons and infrastructure for hosting regional and sub-regional workshops and other training activities. The Commission requested FAO to facilitate and support capacity-building in priority technical, management and policy-related areas needed to make further progress towards sustainable forest management.

57. Delegates emphasized the need for increased support for forestry education at various levels. The Commission encouraged FAO and member countries to continue efforts to establish a regional support network for forestry education, and to support forestry-related education of youth, university students and forestry practitioners.

58. The Commission requested FAO to continue assisting forestry agencies in reviewing structures, policies and functions to better align with the new demands and expectations being placed on forests and forestry.

59. The Commission urged FAO to carefully monitor and evaluate activities to ensure effectiveness and increase efficiency of future delivery. The Commission noted that activities in the region should support FAO's broader strategic plans. The Commission requested FAO to report more extensively on APFC and FAO-supported activities in the Pacific at future sessions.

INFORMATION ITEMS (Item 9)

Summary report from the pre-session workshop "Forests: Moving Beyond GDP Contributions to Gross National Happiness Considerations".

60. The Commission was informed of the outcomes and key points from the pre-session workshop. (ref. Document: FO:APFC/2010/INF.4). The workshop was organized to review economic metrics systems that can assist in reporting holistic valuations of forest benefits to society. The Commission appreciated the workshop report and encouraged member countries to take cognizance of the findings (*Appendix D*).

Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN)

61. The Commission was informed of the activities of the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN) on the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2010/INF.4.

62. A workshop on *Pathways of biological invasions into forests* was held in conjunction with the twenty-third session of APFC. A report of the workshop is attached as *Appendix E*.

Preparation of *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* report

63. The Commission was informed of progress in preparing the report on *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* on the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2010/INF.6.

64. The Commission noted that additional financing would be welcomed to assist in implementing the process to prepare *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*.

International Year of Forests – 2011

65. On the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2010/INF.5. The Commission was informed of preparations for celebrating and supporting the International Year of Forests (IYF), which has been designated for 2011. The Commission was informed that national activities would constitute the foundation of IYF and delegates were encouraged to identify opportunities for national events and activities.

66. The Commission noted a suggestion to organize high level and visible international meetings as a means of promoting forestry issues during the International Year of Forests.

67. The Commission urged member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to develop joint communication materials to convey key messages relating to forests during the International Year of Forests.

REGIONAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (Item 10)

68. Recognizing COFO's stated desire to see FAO's regional forestry commissions strengthened, the Commission wished to bring to the attention of COFO the vibrancy and vitality of APFC, as demonstrated by the large number of inter-sessional activities implemented during the past two years, including completion of the second Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study, regional forest policy studies, the third forest policy short course, FLEG stock-taking exercise, numerous activities of the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network, and others.

69. The Commission wished to highlight to COFO the completion of the analytical phase of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study and publication of the main report. Considering that several regions have now completed forestry sector outlook studies, COFO may wish to consider how FAO can best support member countries in making effective use of the wealth of information and analysis produced by the outlook studies in national strategic planning, national forest programme processes and forest policy formulation.

70. The Commission wished to bring to the attention of COFO the need for increased support for forestry education, particularly in light of the rapidly changing demands and expectations being placed on forests and forestry by society. COFO may wish to consider how FAO can best provide support through regional networks of educators and direct support for forestry-related education of youth, university students and forestry practitioners.

71. Noting the increasing demands for data and information on a wide range of forest characteristics and values, in relation to growing recognition of forest-related ecosystem services, the Commission wished to bring to the attention of COFO the need for FAO to develop methodologies for including evaluation of environmental services into national forest resources assessments.

72. The Commission wished to bring to COFO's attention its request to FAO to take a leading role in supporting technical aspects of REDD-plus in collaboration with UNEP and UNDP.

73. Recognizing that people-centred development is increasingly the focus of forestry policies, the Commission wished to highlight to COFO the need to continue efforts to enhance social forestry, including community-based forest management. COFO may wish to reflect on evolving relationships between people and forests, societies' perceptions of forests, and the need for the forestry sector's communications to reflect this evolution.

74. The Commission wished to bring to the attention of COFO the need to strengthen monitoring, reporting and assessment of statistics relating to community forestry, including within the Global Forest Resources Assessment process.

75. The Commission wished to highlight to COFO the need to develop greater appreciation of the full range of benefits that society derives from forests. In this regard, COFO may wish to consider how broader measures, such as the concept of Gross National Happiness pioneered by Bhutan, may be utilized to better reflect forestry contributions to society.

OTHER BUSINESS (Item 11)

76. The Commission received a report on the workshop on climate change in the Himalayan region held in conjunction with the twenty-third session of APFC and organized by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and the Environment and Health Foundation. A key recommendation of the workshop was to convene a conference among the five Himalayan countries to facilitate sub-regional cooperation.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION (Item 12)

77. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the delegation from China to host its twenty-fourth session and the second Asia-Pacific Forestry Week. The delegation from Malaysia indicated interest in hosting a future session of the Commission.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (Item 13)

78. The draft report was adopted by the Commission with minor corrections and clarifications, which are reflected in this report.

CLOSING

79. Mr. Karma Dukpa, Director-General, Department of Forest and Park Services, Government of Bhutan, officially closed the session.

*APPENDIX A***AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Election of officers
3. State of Forestry in the Asia-Pacific region: forestry in transition
4. In-session seminar: Asia-Pacific forests – now and in the future
 - Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010
 - Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study (APFSOS)
5. Forests and biodiversity: conservation and sustainable use of our forest treasures
6. Progress in improving forest law enforcement and governance in the region
7. Heads of Forestry Dialogue
 - Forests, climate change and REDD: beyond Copenhagen
 - Harnessing new opportunities for financing sustainable forest management
8. APFC and FAO-supported activities in the region
9. Information items
 - Summary report from the pre-session workshop: “Forests: Moving Beyond GDP Contributions to Gross National Happiness Considerations”
 - Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN)
 - International Year of Forests – 2011
 - 20th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO)
10. Regional issues identified by the Commission for the attention of the FAO Regional Conference and the Committee on Forestry (COFO)
11. Other business
 - Report of the Sixth Meeting of the APFC Executive Committee
12. Date and place of the next session
13. Adoption of the report

APPENDIX B

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APPENDIX C

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Agenda Item	Code	Title
1	FO:APFC/2010/1	Provisional agenda
2	FO:APFC/2010/2	State of forestry in the Asia-Pacific region: forestry in transition
3	FO:APFC/2010/3	In-session seminar: Asia-Pacific forests – now and in the future
4	FO:APFC/2010/4	Forests and biodiversity: conservation and sustainable use of our forest treasures
5	FO:APFC/2010/5	Progress in improving forest law enforcement and governance in the region
6	FO:APFC/2010/6	Heads of Forestry dialogue
7	FO:APFC/2010/7	Report on the progress and implementation of APFC and FAO-supported activities and initiatives (including follow-up to recommendations of the 22nd Session of the Commission)
Information documents		
	FO:APFC/2010/Inf.1	Information note
	FO:APFC 2010/Inf.2	Provisional timetable
	FO:APFC 2010/Inf.3	List of documents
	FO:APFC/2010/Inf.4	Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network
	FO:APFC/2010/Inf.5	International Year of Forests
	FO:APFC/2010/Inf.6	Preparation of the state of the world's forest genetic resources report
	FO:APFC/2010/Inf.7	Report of the 6th Meeting of the APFC Executive Committee
	FO:APFC/2010/Inf.8	Summary of the pre-session workshop "Forests: Moving Beyond GDP Contributions to Gross National Happiness Considerations"

APPENDIX D

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON “FORESTS: MOVING BEYOND GDP CONTRIBUTIONS TO GROSS NATIONAL HAPPINESS CONSIDERATIONS**Introduction**

The pre-session workshop on *Forests: Moving beyond GDP Contributions to Gross National Happiness* was jointly organized by FAO, The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (Bhutan). Sixty-four representatives from 26 countries participated. The background to the workshop owes to the fact that Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and other similar quantitative economic metrics do not capture effectively the contributions from forestry, especially the goods and ecological services which are important for the wellbeing of societies. As a result, the forestry sector's contribution to sustainable development remains under-reported, and consequently the sector receives less development funds. The workshop was organized to review economic metrics systems which can help address the reporting of the true values of forests' benefits to society.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- enhance awareness of the broader issues of societal well being encapsulated under Gross National Happiness (GNH) and other related concepts; and
- discuss adequacy of existing measures/indicators in providing an indication of forestry's contribution to societal wellbeing.

Presentations and panel discussions

The introduction to the workshop was made by Mr. S. Appanah (FAO/RAP), who provided the background and objectives. Mr. B. Debroy (Center for Policy Studies, New Delhi) reviewed the gamut of existing metrics available for measuring economic development of countries. All these indicators which use quantitative data have their limitations. Simple metrics like GDP can only quantify the total value of goods and services produced over a designated time. However, notions of economic development have evolved over time, and measures of poverty, education, health, child mortality, etc. are being captured through more complex metrics such as the Human Development Index. Nevertheless, subjective elements such as “happiness” raise difficulties in measurement, sample designs, sample sizes, and even the questionnaires to be used. As such, metrics like GNH (Gross National Happiness) are unlikely to find acceptance easily. Until reliable survey systems are developed, it would be difficult to take them forward.

Dasho Karma Ura (Center for Bhutan Studies, Thimphu) provided the background and history on the development of the concept of GNH, and the technical tools being used for making “happiness” surveys. According to Dasho Ura, GNH is not against change, it propounds development which balances economic development, preservation of the environment and religious-cultural heritage. The underlying message is that people should not give up elements which are important for their happiness to gain material benefits. Under this approach, the GNH survey takes into account not only the flow of money, but also other less quantifiable and subjective elements such as time spent with family, conservation of nature, and other non-economic sources which human beings depend on. The guiding principles in the formulation of GNH are sustainable and equitable socio-economic development, conservation of the environment, preservation and promotion of culture, and good governance. This novel approach, while still regarded as work in progress, has already been encapsulated in Bhutan's constitution and is given strong emphasis in the policies of the natural resource sector.

Mr. T. Enters (RECOFTC, Bangkok) explored the various contributions of forestry to societal wellbeing, the recognized sustainability and wellbeing indices, and what they measure. He pointed out that these indices are too simple to be meaningful, too aggregated to be realistic, and are

suffering from a questionable mix of weighting and valuation techniques. In the case of forestry, there are many difficulties arising from measurement problems, unavailability of data, subjectivity and comprehensibility. Mr. Enters argued for a simpler system to relay the forestry case.

The panelists (Mr. D. Rhodes, Mr. R. Boojh, Mr. J. Peters, Ms. R. Soriaga) presented different perspectives, ranging from concerns of the private sector, how people value forest services, education for sustainable development, and how rural societies value their spiritual aspects *vis-à-vis* that of their environment.

Conclusions

The discussions did not arrive at specific recommendations considering the issues are new to the group. Nevertheless, some conclusions were enunciated. Some held the view that existing economic metrics that work on quantitative measures cannot be spliced together with those that are subjective in nature, as the concept of “happiness” is a very subjective matter. On the other hand, there was argument that the subject of “happiness and wellbeing” are too critical to be left out, which argues for using both the quantitative and non-quantitative models for evaluating the contributions of natural resources to society’s wellbeing. While not arriving at a general agreement, the group expressed the view that this area should be further explored, so future policy formulations can benefit from such developments. It was also pointed out that as urbanization increases, the role and value of forests is likely to shift, which would need to fuse both subjective and objective valuations for ensuring the greatest goods from forests for the greatest number of people.

APPENDIX E

**REPORT ON THE APFISN WORKSHOP ON
“PATHWAYS OF BIOLOGICAL INVASIONS INTO FORESTS”**

The APFISN workshop was organized as a side event during the 23rd session of the APFC held at Thimphu, Bhutan. This workshop aimed at:

- Stock taking of current and potential invasive species transport pathways both within and across countries.
- Listing the agencies at national and international levels that need to be sensitized in biological invasions.
- Planning of awareness programs targeting governments, media and business establishments.
- Identifying linkages within APFISN and multi-agency system within member countries for targeted campaign at regional levels.

8 June 2010 -The workshop started off with introductory remarks by Mr. Patrick Durst, Senior Forest Officer, FAO Regional Office, Bangkok. Dr. K.V Sankaran, APFISN Coordinator, explained the objectives of the workshop. This was followed by presentation of country reports from China, Nepal, Japan, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Maldives, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Cambodia, India and Indonesia. Dr. Shao Winxia made a special presentation on the pest risk analysis protocol for non-crop plants in China. Following this, there were presentations on ‘Detecting target pests and risk analysis’ by Ross Wiley and ‘Pathways of plant invasions and mechanisms and factors contributing to success of invasion’ by Inderjit.

11 June 2010 – After the overview of the workshop held on 8 June by K.V. Sankaran, the workshop continued with the following presentations: Forest surveillance and pathway analysis by Ross Wylie; Global invasive species program by Tim Christophersen; Phytosanitary standards in forestry by Jose Antonio Prado; Country report on invasive species from Bhutan by Tangdin Wangdi; and Interventions at pathways – problems and prospects by T.V. Sajeev. Each of the presentations was followed by discussions on the topic. In the concluding session, the participants deliberated upon topics such as: target pests of the region; major pathways; action plans for forest surveillance and risk analysis; institutional mechanism for intervention at transport phase; listing of stakeholders; and awareness literature for the region and decided on action points for the future. A total of 35 delegates representing 13 countries attended the workshop.

The workshop made the following recommendations:

1. Neighbouring countries showing similar invasive species problems should be grouped together, so as to facilitate training based on needs of each group. Five regional groups have been identified for this as follows:
 - a. India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan, Myanmar, Bangladesh
 - b. Lao PDR, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia
 - c. China, Korea, Japan, Mongolia
 - d. Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Timor Leste
 - e. Fiji, Samoa, PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Australia, New Zealand, US
2. The network has drawn up excellent action plans for the future, but we are with zero resources to support these activities. So, all the international organizations may earmark some funds for the network activities and transfer those funds to the network.

3. There exists a lack of communication between scientists, foresters, policy makers and quarantine personnel in most member countries. The APFC may recommend member countries to promote such communications so as to enable them to fight invasive species issues better.

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