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REPORT OF THE

Beijing, China
30 March - 3 April 1987

THIRTEENTH SESSION
OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC
FORESTRY COMMISSION



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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	12-13 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

REPORT
OF THE THIRTEENTH SESSION
OF THE
ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY COMMISSION

held in Beijing, China
30 March - 3 April 1987

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rome, 1987

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CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. ADDRESSED TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS

1. The Commission noted with concern the frequency and magnitude of forest fires and attack by pests and diseases and recommended that countries should intensify protective measures (para. 12).
2. The Commission recommended that developing countries of the Region should take advantage of readiness of donors to assist them within the framework of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan (para. 23).
3. The Commission recommended that governments should encourage the creation of off-farm employment based on forestry to endow the rural poor with purchasing power and thereby access to food (para. 28).
4. The Commission recommended that governments should take steps to reorient forestry curricula to suit the changing needs and reflect concerns of integrated forestry development including social issues (para. 34).
5. The Commission recommended that governments should intensify programmes for training of trainers and initiate schemes for offering refresher courses.
6. The Commission took note of the non-traditional approaches to forestry extension highlighted by some countries and recommended that forestry extension should be adapted to the socio-cultural environment and be based on a bottom-up and participatory approach (para. 41).

B. ADDRESSED TO FAO

7. The Commission recommended that the FAO Regional Office should consider publishing and circulating widely an updated version of the 1984 RAPA publication on National Development Strategies of the Forestry Sector (para. 9).
8. The Commission unanimously endorsed FAO's Tropical Forestry Action Plan and recommended that it be adapted to reflect regional and sub-regional needs, conditions and priorities for its effective implementation (para. 22).
9. Recognizing the value of sharing problems, concerns and approaches and promoting collective self-reliance at the regional level, the Commission recommended that FAO should consider organizing separate regional meetings for those engaged in forestry education and forestry research. (para. 39).

C. OTHER

10. The Commission observed that the Tropical Forestry Action Plan provides an excellent vehicle for improving educational and research capabilities in the Asia-Pacific Region and recommended that bilateral and multilateral agencies should give priority to funding such projects (para. 40).

INTRODUCTION

1. The Thirteenth Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations was held in Beijing from 30 March to 3 April 1987, at the kind invitation of the Government of the People's Republic of China. The session was attended by delegates from the following Member Countries: Australia, Burma, China, Fiji, France, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the United States of America; representatives from the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco); and observers from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). A full list of participants is given in Appendix B.

2. The Director-General of FAO, Mr. Edouard Saouma, was represented at the session by Dr. M.A. Flores Rodas, Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department. Dr. Y.S. Rao, FAO Regional Forestry Economist, acted as Secretary. The inaugural session was chaired by H.E. Yang Zhong, Minister of Forestry of the People's Republic of China.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

(a) Adoption of the agenda

3. The Provisional Agenda FO:APFC/87/1 was adopted (see Appendix A). Documents submitted to delegates for consideration are listed in Appendix C.

(b) Election of officers

4. The Commission unanimously elected the following officers to hold office until the commencement of the Fourteenth Session of the Commission:

Chairman	:	Qin Fengzhu (China)
First Vice-Chairman	:	Dato' Muhammad Jabil (Malaysia)
Second Vice-Chairman	:	Johnson Mantu (Papua New Guinea)
Rapporteur	:	Paul Allan (Australia)

THE STATE OF FORESTRY IN THE REGION: NATIONAL PROGRESS REPORTS

5. The Commission reviewed the developments which had taken place since its last Session.

6. Forest Policies and Development Strategies: The Commission recognized that despite differences in social systems and the levels of development, countries of the Region had many common problems and concerns. Although considerable progress in forestry development had been made in identifying problems and devising strategies to overcome them, countries of the Region still faced serious challenges. The major emerging issue was identified as achieving a balance between conservation and utilization of forest resources in an economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sensitive way. The need to formulate integrated policies of sustainable use and development which take into consideration the wider socio-economic canvas was apparent.

7. The Commission took note of the shifts in forest policies and development strategies that had been reported. Broadly, these changes reflected the concern of reporting countries about the rapid rate of resources depletion and the need for intensified efforts into reforestation, particularly through involvement of people, rural enterprises and industry. Important among these developments were the enactment in Indonesia of the Basic Industrial Law to regulate forest products' utilization; the National Forestry Act and the Wood-Based Industries Act 1984 of Peninsular Malaysia; and the National Forest Policy of 1985 of Thailand.

8. The Commission also noted the changes in public administration resulting from the shifts in policies/strategies, such as the process of decentralization in Indonesia and the restructuring of New Zealand's forestry organization, where emphasis had been placed on cost recovery.

9. Recognizing the value of exchanging information on the changing national forestry development strategies, the Commission recommended that the FAO Regional Office should consider publishing and circulating widely an updated version of the 1984 RAPA publication on National Development Strategies of the Forestry Sector.

10. Forest Resources and Management: The Commission noted that a major concern of most developing countries in the Region is the protection and management of forest areas. Many countries had increased the area of parks and reserves from which utilization is excluded. There had also been a general increase in national inventory exercises, including resources assessments using remote sensing imagery. Most developing countries reported an increase in the rate of deforestation and degradation of forest resources mainly due to shifting cultivation and conversion of forest lands to crop lands. In general there had been an improved appraisal of both natural forests and plantations.

11. The Commission noted with satisfaction both the enlargement of forest areas brought under intensive management and also the efforts of some countries to silviculturally treat logged-over areas to ensure sustained production.

12. The Commission noted with concern the frequency and magnitude of forest fires and attack by pests and diseases and recommended that countries should intensify protective measures.

13. Forest Plantations: The Commission noted that ambitious programmes of reforestation, which included nation-wide compulsory tree planting in some countries, had yielded visible results. Countries shared an interest in promoting the process of public involvement and some had achieved spectacular results in implementing participatory approaches in rebuilding the forest cover.

14. The Commission took note of the establishment of corporate bodies for the specific purpose of establishing large-scale plantations, tree growers' cooperatives, cooperatives of licensees and reforestation by private enterprises on a contract basis. It also noted that countries had increased the involvement of women and young people in establishment and maintenance of nurseries, in plantation establishment and watershed management activities.

15. The Commission, recognizing the limitations of existing forest legislation, suggested that countries should examine all laws relating to planting and harvesting of trees, leasing of land, usufruct rights, etc. and make suitable

amendments to motivate the rural poor, local communities and the private sector to undertake afforestation.

16. Watershed Management: The Commission noted with concern developing problems associated with the lack of watershed management. The extent of degraded and unproductive land had increased and the life expectancy of major hydro-electric dams had been substantially reduced by siltation. In some countries soil loss of up to 640 tonnes/hectares had been reported. In this context, the Commission suggested that countries should undertake systematic identification of critical watersheds and intensify efforts for rehabilitation through vegetative and engineering measures, if necessary by seeking international assistance.

17. Conservation of Eco-systems: The Commission noted that in almost every country of the Region there was a growing awareness and interest in conservation of wildlife and protection of the environment, which would lead to an increase in the number of national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, biosphere reserves and other areas similarly protected under legislation. Nation-wide conservation campaigns had been stepped up by many countries; environmental aspects had been covered through new legislation in some; and captive breeding of endangered species had been reported by a few countries.

18. Products and Processing: The Commission noted the accelerated trend in roundwood production: the production of roundwood from 24 developing countries of the Asia-Pacific Region had increased from 831 million m³ in 1981 to 873 million m³ in 1984, registering an average annual rise of 1.7 percent which was above the world average of 1.0 percent. Fuelwood/charcoal constituted the bulk of the removals, accounting for more than 70 percent of the total production of roundwood. The pattern of production and mix of exports from the Region had undergone substantial alterations; the volume of logs exported had fallen dramatically; production and export of wood based panels had registered an impressive rise of 10.5 percent per annum; and trade among developing countries of the Region had increased substantially.

19. Wood Energy: The Commission took note that countries were increasingly recognising the importance of wood not only as a source of domestic energy for survival but also for development. Several countries reported studies and surveys to promote wood energy development. The utilization of wood wastes, measures to conserve wood use in rural industries and the development of biomass energy through gasification/steam engine technology for irrigation and power were reported.

20. Statements by Observers: The representatives of ADB, ILO, ITTO, Unesco, and WFP described the objectives and scope of the forestry activities carried out by their respective organizations in the Asia-Pacific Region during the last three years, most of them in close cooperation with FAO. Main activities described included: formulation and financing of large-scale forest development projects in several countries of the Region and preparation of a review of forest and forest industry and forest investment requirements by the ADB; vocational training of forest workers, studies and workshops on occupational safety and health, and on employment in forestry, by ILO; pilot studies concerning economic information, market intelligence, reforestation, forest management, and forest industries by the newly established ITTO; seminars, publications and audio-visual materials on forest conservation and ecology within the framework of the Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme by Unesco; and

"food for work" assistance to large-scale forestry and soil conservation projects in several countries of the Region, by WFP. The Commission was particularly pleased to note that the ITTO had now been set up.

TROPICAL FORESTRY ACTION PLAN (TFAP)

21. The Commission was informed that the TFAP was designed to serve as a basis for action by tropical countries and the international community. It focussed on five closely interrelated areas for priority action: (i) forestry in land use, (ii) forest-based industrial development, (iii) fuelwood and energy, (iv) conservation of tropical forest ecosystems and (v) institutions. FAO was playing a coordinating role in the implementation of the Plan and representatives of donor agencies had agreed to consult as appropriate to ensure consistency of action and the most effective use of resources in support of the TFAP. To date, three such consultations had been held, attended by forestry advisers of multinational and bilateral donor agencies and finance institutions, representatives of research and non-governmental organizations and forestry officials from tropical countries throughout the world.

22. The Commission unanimously endorsed FAO's Tropical Forestry Action Plan and expressed the view that it represented an important initiative in the development of appropriate solutions to tropical forestry problems. It recommended that TFAP, which is global in design, should be adapted to reflect regional and sub-regional needs, conditions and priorities for its effective implementation. A variety of appropriate and flexible approaches, which reflect the current status of planning and the current development needs of individual countries, should be adopted in implementing the plan at the country level.

23. The Commission further recommended that developing countries of the Region should take advantage of the readiness of donors to assist them within the framework of TFAP.

FORESTRY AND FOOD PRODUCTION

24. In introducing the subject Dr. Flores Rodas stressed the importance of a holistic approach which takes into account the need for multiple use forest management strategies which clearly meet defined social purposes.

25. The Commission noted the crucial role of forests for protecting the soil in the upper parts of catchments, limiting downstream damage, maintaining water quality and sustaining agricultural production. Shelterbelts and windbreaks helped to combat drought and desertification and increase production. Trees could also be used to rehabilitate salt-affected land and sand-dunes through their ability to tap moisture and nutrients from the deeper soil layers.

26. Noting the pressure for conversion of forest land to food production, the Commission stressed that what is needed is a policy for land use and agriculture expansion based on an integrated approach to land management, taking into account land capabilities and the concept of sustainable production.

27. Forest products themselves also contributed, some directly and some indirectly, to food production and supplies. Many forest products, both plant and animal, added directly to food production and some were of considerable nutritional importance.

28. The Commission noted with interest that the largest and often quite dynamic sources of employment and income in the whole forestry sector of most developing countries were in informal, small-scale enterprises performing artisanal activities at the household and workshop level. Recent studies had shown that in many developing countries forest-based small-scale enterprises were among the four largest rural industries in terms of employment. In six countries recently surveyed, they had accounted for between 41 and 71 percent of rural employment. It is in this context that the Commission recommended that governments should encourage the creation of off-farm employment based on forestry to endow the rural poor with purchasing power and thereby access to food.

29. The Commission emphasized that the contribution to food production and food security, both of forestry proper and of trees in farming systems, was a very important factor in the achievement of improved living standards for rural people. To this end, governments should promote close collaboration of agricultural, forestry and other relevant services in the establishment of sound national land use policies. Land use plans should be conceived in human as well as physical terms, in the broad context of rural development aimed at the reduction of poverty.

SELECTED INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

30. The Commission considered these against a background of the changing patterns of forestry, wildlife and forest industry in the Region. It observed that in view of the diverse nature of social, political and cultural features which characterized the different countries of the Region, institutions and institutional arrangements should be based on the fundamental concept of appropriateness to the countries concerned.

31. The Commission considered it preferable that existing institutions be adapted and improved to meet the changes affecting societies rather than establishing new institutions. To this end they should be flexible and subject to periodic evaluation. They should also coordinate more effectively with institutions outside the forestry sector.

32. The Commission underscored the principle that foresters should learn about and understand the institutions that have an effect on forestry and how they could influence them to achieve forestry sector goals, which themselves should reflect society goals.

33. The attention of the Commission was drawn to the main problems facing forestry education in the Region, which include a great variability in the quality of teaching and teaching facilities between institutions offering professional education; general insufficiency and imbalance of available personnel in professional, technical and vocational levels; lack of linkages between education/training programmes and development needs at the grassroots level; and the need for timely action to cater for projected manpower requirements for the year 2000 and beyond.

34. The Commission recommended that governments should take steps to reorient forestry curricula to suit the changing needs and reflect concerns of integrated forestry development, including social issues.

35. The Commission recommended that governments should intensify programmes for training of trainers and initiate schemes for offering refresher courses.

36. The Commission took note of the constraints to effectiveness of research and endorsed the three-pronged strategy based on: strengthening of national research institutions; making effective use of the already existing research capability; systematic "twinning" between existing institutions and those national agencies working in the priority fields.

37. The Commission appreciated FAO's effort in preparing and publishing the FAO World Compendium on Forestry and Forest Products Research Institutions which provided worldwide information on the number of research staff, the principal fields of activity, the publications, etc. The publication should be widely distributed to enable research institutions to actively exchange information and make effective use of the already existing research capabilities. In this context the Commission observed that there was a need for achieving compatibility in research data collection, processing and presentation to enable transfer from one country to another.

38. The Commission noted that in some countries of the Region there was a trend towards organizing research on a "user pays" basis which entailed improved discipline and accountability by research institutions.

39. Recognizing the value of sharing problems, concerns and approaches and promoting collective self-reliance at the regional level, the Commission recommended that FAO should consider organizing separate regional meetings for those engaged in forestry education and forestry research.

40. The Commission observed that the Tropical Forestry Action Plan (TFAP) provided an excellent vehicle for improving educational and research capabilities in the Asia-Pacific Region. In this context, it was recommended that bilateral and multilateral agencies, particularly the Asian Development Bank, should give priority to funding such projects.

41. The Commission took particular note of the non-traditional approaches to forestry extension highlighted by some of the countries and recommended that forestry extension should be adapted to the socio-cultural environment and be based on a bottom-up and participatory approach.

42. The Commission observed that rural organizations dealing with forestry, when organized, should take into consideration the prevailing standards of labour employment and the framework of laws governing them.

REVIEW OF 1984-85 ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR 1986-87

43. The Commission endorsed FAO's long-term objectives in the forestry sector which included increasing the outputs of goods and services from forests, expanding socio-economic benefits from the use of forest resources, including the contribution of forestry to food security; and achieving an equitable distribution of such socio-economic benefits in rural areas.

44. The Commission appreciated the role played by FAO in focussing world attention on the importance of forests and trees through the observance of 1985 as the International Year of the Forest; in the issuance of the Manifesto of Mexico and in preparing and mobilizing support for the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. These steps were both critical and significant to accelerate the deployment of national and international resources for tropical forestry development.

45. The Commission took note of FAO's 1984-85 Regular Programme activities, including the activities of the FAO Regional Office, and expressed satisfaction at the scope and intensity of the programme which had encompassed meetings at the policy level, expert consultations, training courses and studies sharply focussed on issues of relevance to the Region.

46. Regarding the Programme of Work for 1986-87, the Commission endorsed the structure of the Programme of Work for the biennium which was essentially the same as for previous biennia. It noted the shifts in priorities and emphasis that had been made to strengthen certain areas. These specific areas are those related to: forestry development in the tropics, including implementation of FAO's Tropical Forestry Action Plan; contribution of forestry to rural development and food production; appropriate forest industries; support for forestry research; employment promotion through forestry activities; and improved supply and use of wood fuels for rural communities.

FORESTRY FIELD PROGRAMME IN THE REGION

47. The Commission noted that FAO-executed field programmes had expanded significantly in money terms (36 percent) from US\$ 11 million in 1984 to US\$ 15 million in 1986. However, considering the rate of inflation, the magnitude of forestry problems and unmet needs, the Commission felt that this rate of expansion was inadequate. It also noted the annual meetings of senior field project officers, which contributed significantly to improved project implementation.

48. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the overall execution of the field programme but noted that projects, in addition to having clear objectives and priorities, should be carefully reviewed and evaluated so that in an anticipated increasingly difficult budgetary situation the usefulness and effectiveness of the work undertaken was clearly demonstrable. Obstacles to smooth delivery should be kept under review, especially in recruitment and contractual services, and measures taken to remove them. The Commission observed that when planning country forestry programmes discussions should be held which integrated the efforts of the donor, the executing agent and the country. Efforts should also be made to better coordinate aid to the forestry sector from different donors and to achieve complementarity of the programmes at the country level and the regional projects.

49. The Commission was informed of the activities of the Regional Project: GCP/RAS/106/JPN - "Special Study on the Management, Afforestation and Utilization of Forest Resources in the Developing Regions". It took note of the findings of the project concerning six countries in the region (Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam) which indicated that deforestation would continue but at a reduced rate, the area of forest under intensive management would increase and that the area under man-made forests would rise substantially over the next few years.

FOLLOW-UP ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

50. The Commission was informed of the action taken by FAO on the recommendations addressed to it by the Twelfth Session.

AD HOC STUDY GROUPS ON FORESTRY EDUCATION AND FORESTRY RESEARCH - PROGRESS REPORTS

51. The Commission was informed of the activities of the ad hoc study groups on (i) Forestry Research and (ii) Forestry Education, set up at its Eleventh Session. The Commission expressed appreciation of the contributions of time and effort willingly provided by the members of the study groups, and of the valuable information gathered and presented to it.

52. It was suggested that the ad hoc study groups on Forestry Research and Forestry Education be strengthened and, as mentioned in para. 39, meetings of directors of forest research institutes and deans of forestry faculties should be held during the interval between APFC sessions to enable greater interaction among them through exchange of views and experiences, thus paving the way to the introduction of innovative approaches in their respective institutions.

MATTERS TO BE REFERRED TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

53. The Commission decided that its recommendations relating to the Tropical Forestry Action Plan; forestry and food production; institutional issues and strengthening the ad hoc study groups on Forestry Education and Forestry Research be brought to the attention of the Committee on Forestry.

OTHER BUSINESS

54. The Commission was informed that the following training courses/meetings were scheduled by FAO for the remaining part of 1987: (i) The Eighth Session of the FAO Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics (14-18 September 1987 at FAO Headquarters, Rome); (ii) Regional Training Course on Establishment and Management of Nitrogen Fixing Trees (October, 1987 at RAPA, Bangkok); (iii) Expert Consultation on Inter-Sectoral Linkages in Planning Forestry Development (December, 1987 at RAPA, Bangkok).

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

55. The delegate from the Philippines expressed the interest of the Government of Philippines in hosting the 14th Session of the APFC. However, in conformity with Rule IV-2 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the Commission requested the Director-General of FAO to decide upon the date and place of the Fourteenth Session in consultation with the competent authorities of the host country.

56. The Commission further suggested that the next session be scheduled to be held during the 1988-89 biennium.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

57. The draft report, presented by the Secretariat, was adopted.

ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY COMMISSION

THIRTEENTH SESSION

Beijing, China, 30 March - 3 April 1987

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Election of Officers
3. The State of Forestry in the Region: National progress reports
4. Forestry for development
 - a) Tropical Forestry Action Plan
 - b) Forestry and Food Production
 - c) Selected Institutional Issues - education/extension/research/participatory institutions (forestry cooperatives)
5. FAO forestry activities of interest to the Region
 - a) Review of 1984-85 activities and Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87
 - b) Forestry field programme in the Region
6. Follow-up on the recommendations of the Twelfth Session of the Commission
7. Progress Reports of ad hoc Study Groups on Forestry Education and Research
8. Matters to be referred to the attention of the Committee on Forestry
9. Other Business
10. Date and place of next session
11. Adoption of the Report

APPENDIX B

ANNEXE B

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

Chairman Président	- Qin Fengzhu (China/Chine)
Vice-Chairmen Vice-Présidents	- Dato' Muhammad Jabil (Malaysia/Malaisie) - Johnson Mantu (Papua New Guinea/ Papouasie-Nouvelle Guinée)
Rapporteur	- Paul Allan (Australia/Australie)
Secretary Secrétaire	- Y.S. Rao (FAO)

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ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY COMMISSION

THIRTEENTH SESSION

(Beijing, China, 30 March to 3 April 1987)

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