

RAP Publication: 2012/03  
FO: APFC/2011/REP

*REPORT*

Beijing,  
China,  
7-11  
November  
2011

# Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission

## Twenty-fourth 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
Twenty-third session	Thimphu, Bhutan	9-11 June 2010

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ISBN 978-92-5-107166-3

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**REPORT**

**of the**

**TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION**

**of the**

**ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY COMMISSION**

**Beijing, China  
7-11 November 2011**

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
Bangkok, 2012**



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## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### **For the attention of Governments and FAO**

The Commission recommended:

- assisting countries to share experiences in climate change adaptation and to help further refine national climate change adaptation strategies;
- helping countries to develop national action plans on climate change adaptation;
- that FLEG-T awareness-raising activities should encompass broader groups of stakeholders including the judiciary, customs officials, extra-sectoral government officials, and others;
- that member countries further review the paper (on Integrating the management of wildfire-related risks in rural land and forest management legislation and policies) tabled by Australia and New Zealand, and its recommendations, and consider it more fully at the next session of the Committee on Forestry;
- to establish a Forestry Communications Working Group, under the auspices of the Commission, to pursue the following objectives: (i) share experiences and knowledge related to forestry communications among member countries and international partner organizations; (ii) exchange communication materials, photographs, mailing lists, expertise, etc. and facilitate the access to other resources for effective information management; and (iii) strengthen member countries' capacity to effectively address communication issues and challenges.

### **For the attention of FAO**

The Commission recommended:

- collaborating in promulgating forestry information to mitigate against natural disasters, including providing collaborative support for an international conference on forests and natural disasters being planned for early 2012 in Japan;
- giving additional attention to monitoring, reporting and verification aspects of forestry including: (i) potential needs to review and clarify forest definitions; (ii) preparation of voluntary guidelines and other support for conducting forest inventories and assessments, with particular focus on requirements for REDD+ reporting; and (iii) development of Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) reporting methodologies that provide greater interpretative capacity for key forestry statistics; and support to strengthen capacities for reporting to the FRA 2015 assessment;
- collaborating with partner organizations to assist with the development of measures in national forest programmes to support and build capacities for forest law enforcement and improved governance;
- collaborating with other partners, to continue awareness raising efforts, sharing of experiences, and development of capacity to address forest law enforcement and governance challenges;
- collaborating with donors and other development partners, to facilitate countries in sharing FLEG-T experiences and seek collaborative solutions to improving forest law enforcement and governance;
- providing increased support to production and marketing systems for NWFPs;

- providing increased support to build capacities and raise awareness in relation to REDD+, FLEG-T and greening activities, including in rural communities;
- supporting efforts to promote, promulgate and interpret the findings and key priorities of the second Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study;
- supporting studies on the roles that forests can play in emerging “green growth” frameworks, and assist member countries in formulating and implementing related policies and programs;
- collaborating with donors and partners to support the development of REDD+ readiness and demonstration activities;
- assisting countries to share experiences in climate change adaptation and to help further refine national climate change adaptation strategies;
- helping countries develop national action plans on climate change adaptation.



## INTRODUCTION

1. At the invitation of the Government of China, the twenty-fourth session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) was held in Beijing, China, from 7 to 11 November 2011. Delegates from 29 member countries and one United Nations organization participated in the session, along with observers and representatives from seven regional and international inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations. A list of participants is given in *Appendix B*.

2. Recognizing the Commission's desire to see specific Asia-Pacific regional issues articulated in wider regional and global processes, guided by the recommendations of the Executive Committee of the Commission, and building on the success of the first Asia-Pacific Forestry Week held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, 21 to 25 April 2008, the twenty-fourth session of the Commission was organized as a core activity within the broad concept of Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2011.

3. Asia-Pacific Forestry Week attracted more than 750 participants from more than 45 countries. More than 70 partners supported Asia-Pacific Forestry Week; organizing events, and providing financial and in-kind contributions. Special plenary sessions were organized on three separate mornings of Forestry Week, focused on forest governance, improving forestry communications, and the outlook for forestry. Forty-five parallel events were organized by partners during Forestry Week. An Information Market including a special CANopy Room featured 24 organizational booths, 25 posters, and 3 photo and drawing exhibitions.

### Opening ceremony

4. The opening ceremony featured addresses by the Minister of the State Forestry Administration, Government of China, the Secretary-General of the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet), the Assistant Director-General of the FAO Forestry Department, the Director of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and prominent keynote speakers. The FAO Senior Forestry Officer for Asia and the Pacific offered the vote of thanks.

5. His Excellency, Jia Zhibang, Minister of the State Forestry Administration, Government of the People's Republic of China, welcomed the distinguished guests and delegates. He highlighted the multi-functionality of forests and their importance in economic and social development, including important roles in climate change adaptation and mitigation, energy security, and mitigation of natural disasters. The Minister emphasized the importance of new green growth concepts in advancing sustainable development. He noted that the region is the world's most economically vibrant, including being a leader in reversing deforestation trends, and urged countries to set ambitious reforestation and rehabilitation targets to respond to severe ecological challenges. He stressed the importance of secure forests as an element underpinning China's successful afforestation/reforestation programmes.

6. Mr. Eduardo Rojas-Briales, Assistant Director-General, FAO Forestry Department, welcomed the participants on behalf of FAO. He thanked the Government of China and especially the State Forestry Administration and the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation, for their outstanding preparatory work and arrangements. Mr. Rojas-Briales noted that Asia-Pacific forestry has made dramatic changes over a very short period, and that many positive lessons and experiences could be shared among countries and other regions. He cited developments in climate change and green economy as exemplifying the new challenges and opportunities confronting forestry. He emphasized that APFC and Forestry Week provide important opportunities to set priorities for FAO's programme of work.

7. Ms. Jan McAlpine, Director, United Nations Forum on Forests, stressed the multi-functionality of forests, but noted that narrow, compartmentalized views of forestry predominate, when broader cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approaches should predominate. She emphasized that important decisions made now will shape the world and set the direction for future dialogue. These need to emphasize a holistic view of forestry that encompasses the many functions of forests.

8. Mr. Qu Guilin, Secretary General of the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet), noted the rich culture of the Asia-Pacific region, and how culture shapes forestry. He noted important challenges including global economic conditions, climate change and ecological rehabilitation. He emphasized the need to find a balance between development and conservation. He noted the need for practical and realistic benefit sharing with stakeholders.

9. Mr. Andrew Steer, Special Envoy for Climate Change, World Bank, noted that Asia-Pacific is the region that is driving the world. He emphasized that the forestry sector has been a pioneer in the “greening” trade through the development of global certification and product tracking systems, but that other sectors, such as energy and transport, have developed more coherent messages to seek political support. He suggested the forestry narrative needs to be built around five key aspects: (i) reducing poverty and creating employment is a core business for forestry; (ii) consumption patterns are changing and emerging markets are increasingly shaping the future for forestry; (iii) forestry approaches should encompass the holistic rural landscape and, specifically, ensure REDD is integrated into broad concepts of “green growth”; (iv) forestry needs to find means to spend international funding more quickly and more efficiently; and (v) there is no single silver bullet; the forest sector needs to creatively combine a full range of approaches.

10. Mr. Tim Rollinson, Director General, Forestry Commission, Government of United Kingdom, noted the critical importance of interconnected policy-making and emphasized the need for forestry policy-making to be made in closer conjunction with other sectoral policies including food, energy, landuse and ecosystem services. He noted that there are vast areas of degraded lands that offer opportunities for rehabilitation; in the process enabling new livelihoods and opportunities to provide employment and food security. He described the roles and activities of the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration. Mr Rollinson emphasized: (i) a need to look at landuse in a multi-sectoral framework; (ii) a need to restore natural capital; and (iii) a need to think bigger and move towards holistic landscape approaches.

11. Ms. Anggun Cipta Sasmi, FAO Goodwill Ambassador, told participants that deforestation is directly affecting the livelihoods of millions of people worldwide. Deforestation and land degradation are reversible through political will and adequate law enforcement. She noted the challenges of climate change, environmental degradation and natural disasters impact most severely on the poorest and most vulnerable. She emphasized the importance of listening to youth perspectives and expressed strong support for Forestry Week’s “Make it Young” strategy.

12. Mr. Patrick Durst, FAO Senior Forestry Officer for Asia and the Pacific, offered a vote of thanks to the Minister of the State Forestry Administration and the Government of China for their willingness to host Asia-Pacific Forestry Week and the twenty-fourth session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission. Mr. Durst thanked the State Forestry Administration and Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation for their excellent collaboration and arrangements. Other partners and sponsoring organizations were also thanked.

#### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA (Item 1)**

13. Under the guidance of Mr. Karma Dukpa (Bhutan), the outgoing Chair of the Commission, the provisional agenda (FO:APFC/2011/1) was reviewed and adopted (see *Appendix A*). Documents considered by the Commission are listed in *Appendix C*.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS** (Item 2)

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

Chairperson:	Su Chunyu (China)
Vice-Chairpersons:	Annapurna Nand Das (Nepal) Abdul Rahman bin Abdul Rahim (Malaysia) Alan Reid (New Zealand)
Rapporteur:	Marcial Amaro Jr. (Philippines)

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

**STATE OF FORESTRY IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION: NEW CHALLENGES – NEW OPPORTUNITIES** (Item 3)

15. On the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2011/2, the Commission considered the state of forestry in the region. Delegates provided informative summaries of recent developments and issues in their countries. Delegates noted the relevance of the overall theme of Asia-Pacific Forestry Week, “New challenges – new opportunities” and particularly emphasized prospects to turn challenges into opportunities.

16. The Commission noted significant progress in enhancing forest cover, including achievements in afforestation, reforestation and forest rehabilitation. Several countries reported the establishment of ambitious forest expansion targets and “greening” initiatives. Delegates highlighted efforts to develop and enhance coastal protection forests and rehabilitate mangrove areas. Several countries reported on forest plantation development, forest sector revitalization plans, and urban forestry initiatives.

17. Delegates noted increasing emphasis on participatory approaches, community forestry, and devolution of forest use rights. Forestry contributions to poverty alleviation and livelihood development were emphasized, including the need to strengthen and support community forest management capacities.

18. The Commission recognized the need for dynamic institutional structures that evolve to meet new and emerging challenges. Several countries highlighted institutional strengthening initiatives. Challenges associated with unstable political environments were noted.

19. The Commission noted increasing demands for forest ecosystem services, including those provided by planted forests. Delegates highlighted the importance of biodiversity conservation, soil and water protection, recreation and ecotourism, but noted that efforts to implement payment systems for ecosystem services are constrained by high establishment and transaction costs.

20. The Commission noted opportunities for collaboration in development and utilization of new systems and technologies. Delegates highlighted collaboration in development of timber tracking systems in supply chains to support legality and sustainability requirements, and a need for increasing vertical integration between forest growing and timber end-uses, especially in planted forests.

21. Delegates recognized that impacts of climate change are increasingly in evidence in the form of extreme weather events in the region, and biotic disturbances. The need for increased emphasis on adaptive and mitigative measures to respond to climate change was noted. The Commission noted urgent needs to develop, strengthen and standardize methodologies for measuring carbon sequestration, accelerate REDD readiness, and develop capacities to participate in, and respond to, an increasing range of carbon market mechanisms and carbon-related frameworks. The Commission expressed concern at the high costs associated with REDD compliance.

22. The Commission welcomed the numerous collaborative efforts reported including establishment of subregional forestry networks, collaborative work related to the improved use of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, and transboundary cooperation on issues such as wildlife migration and water.

23. The Commission requested FAO to collaborate in promulgating forestry information to mitigate against natural disasters, including providing collaborative support for an international conference on forests and natural disasters being planned for early 2012 in Japan.

24. The Commission requested that FAO give additional attention to the monitoring, reporting and verification aspects of forestry including: (i) potential needs to review and clarify forest definitions; (ii) preparation of voluntary guidelines and other support for conducting forest inventories and assessments, with particular focus on requirements for REDD+ reporting; and (iii) development of Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) reporting methodologies that provide greater interpretative capacity for key forestry statistics; and support to strengthen capacities for reporting to the FRA 2015 assessment.

### **THE GOVERNANCE CHALLENGE: IMPACTS ON FORESTS, LESSONS LEARNED AND STRATEGIES FOR THE FUTURE**

25. A special Asia-Pacific Forestry Week plenary session titled “*The Governance Challenge: Impacts on Forests, Lessons Learned and Strategies for the Future*” highlighted the importance of governance in achieving the desired balance among social, economic, ecological and climatic values.

26. The session emphasized the following points: (i) acknowledging that illegal logging is a major challenge is, in itself, significant progress; (ii) participation of all stakeholders, including communities, is critical for success in addressing governance challenges and ensuring social justice; (iii) transparency, accountability and access to information are core elements of good governance; (iv) laws and regulations need to be suited to local conditions and developed in the context of local cultures; and (v) new financial instruments and mechanisms, including payments for ecosystem services and REDD+, will contribute significantly to improved forest governance.

### **FLEG-T: CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN FOREST GOVERNANCE (Item 4)**

27. On the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2011/3 and the special plenary session, the Commission considered progress in improving forest governance in the region.

28. The Commission acknowledged that significant governance challenges continue to affect forestry in the region.

29. Countries reported on concrete measures to improve forest governance, especially in relation to regulatory frameworks and institutional arrangements. Several countries reported significant progress in developing legislation and methodologies to support improved forest governance, including more stringent timber legality verification and enforcement procedures, increased enforcement capacities, certification, guidelines for national companies operating abroad, criteria and indicators for sustainable management, and new monitoring techniques and technologies.

30. The Commission highlighted the importance of international processes and mechanisms, including bilateral and multilateral initiatives, in supporting improved governance. The Commission observed that regulatory mechanisms need to be consistent, robust, and mainstreamed into national economic and policy frameworks and that mutual understanding of national FLEG systems is an important element of international efforts to combat illegal logging and associated trade. The

Commission suggested that efforts to build consensus on the meaning of timber “legality” in various contexts would assist in these processes.

31. Delegates noted the importance of participatory approaches, including effective engagement of local communities, the private sector and civil society in strengthening forest governance and requested FAO to assist in accelerating this process.

32. The Commission urged FAO to collaborate with partner organizations to assist with the development of measures in national forest programmes to support and build capacities for forest law enforcement and improved governance.

33. The Commission recommended that FAO collaborate with other partners, including the Asia Forest Partnership, to continue awareness-raising efforts, sharing of experiences, and development of capacity to address forest law enforcement and governance challenges. The potential for South-South collaborative efforts in awareness-raising and sharing of experiences was noted.

34. The Commission recommended that FLEG-T awareness-raising activities should encompass broader groups of stakeholders including the judiciary, customs officials, extra-sectoral government officials and others.

35. The Commission requested FAO, in collaboration with donors and other development partners, to facilitate countries in sharing FLEG-T experiences and seek collaborative solutions to improving forest law enforcement and governance.

#### **PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING APFC AND FAO-SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION** (Item 5)

36. The Commission considered progress in implementing APFC- and FAO-supported activities in the region on the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2011/4.

37. The Commission highlighted the central importance of activities to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and alleviate poverty. Delegates stressed the important contribution of non-wood forest products (NWFPs) in supporting rural livelihoods, particularly of the poorest and most vulnerable. The Commission requested FAO to provide increased support to production and marketing systems for NWFPs.

38. The Commission requested FAO to provide increased support to build capacities and raise awareness in relation to REDD+, FLEG-T and greening activities, including in rural communities.

39. The Commission endorsed the key priorities identified by the second Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study and urged FAO to support efforts to promote, promulgate and interpret the findings.

40. The Commission recognized the need for FAO support to all subregions, including the strengthening of forestry activities in South Asia, particularly in relation to building capacities for monitoring, reporting and verification and including methodologies to measure forest degradation and trees outside forests.

41. The Commission requested FAO to support studies on the roles that forests can play in emerging “green growth” frameworks, and assist member countries in formulating and implementing related policies and programs.

42. The Commission requested FAO to collaborate with donors and partners to support the development of REDD+ readiness and demonstration activities.

### **NEW MEDIA – NEW MESSAGES: FORESTRY COMMUNICATIONS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

43. A special Asia-Pacific Forestry Week plenary session titled “*New media – new messages: forestry communications in Asia and the Pacific*” examined experiences with the use of new media channels to market messages related to important forestry initiatives. The session conveyed a wide variety of examples, techniques and experiences to support improved communications.

44. Key points raised in the session included: (i) there is a need to improve forest-related communications to increase awareness and update entrenched perceptions; (ii) a wide variety of new media tools and innovative communication channels are available, but presently underutilized by the forest sector; (iii) forestry organizations are competing in many spheres, intra- and extra-sectorally, including for financial resources, political attention, land, and market share. Effective communications are a key to success in implementing programs and achieving objectives.

### **JOURNEY TO 2020: THE FUTURE FOR FORESTRY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

45. A special Asia-Pacific Forestry Week plenary session titled “*Journey to 2020: the future for forestry in Asia and the Pacific*” offered a diverse range of perspectives on how the complex future that confronts forestry in the region may unfold.

46. The following key points emerged from the special session: (i) the immediate future for Asia-Pacific economies will be difficult and no economy will be insulated from the current financial crisis; (ii) in the longer term, “green economy” concepts relating to the earth’s capacity to sustain human populations and demands will gain increasing importance; (iii) forestry for future economies is about forests for development and forests for people; (iv) forest governance and benefit sharing will be important; and (v) the positive vision of REDD+ is compelling, but outcomes remain uncertain and strong efforts are needed to ensure the desired results.

### **HEADS OF FORESTRY DIALOGUE: DEFINING THE FOREST SECTOR’S ROLE IN THE EMERGING “GREEN ECONOMY” CONCEPT (Item 6)**

47. A special Heads of Forestry dialogue provided an opportunity for direct exchange of views among delegates on *defining the forest sector’s role in the emerging “green economy” concept*. (ref Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2011/5).

48. The Commission noted that forests provide natural capital that assists many other sectors to participate in the “green economy”. The potential to leverage this to restore and rebuild forest landscapes and natural capital was noted.

49. The Commission emphasized that the “green economy” should not be a “top down” process, nor should it commoditize nature, compromise national growth, or constitute a trade barrier. The “green economy” should support participatory approaches, contribute to new livelihoods, include equitable sharing of benefits among stakeholders, assist in poverty alleviation, and build on low-carbon economies. It was emphasized that the concept of “green economy” should complement, and not replace, the concept of sustainable development.

50. The Commission noted the need for values of forest ecosystem services to be more accurately represented in national accounting frameworks. The need to establish market based approaches and standards for provision of ecosystem services was noted.

#### **CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE (Item 7)**

51. The Commission considered climate change adaptation and ecosystem resilience on the basis of Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2011/6.

52. Delegates noted the importance of mitigating and adapting to, the impacts of climate change. The Commission emphasized the importance of incorporating climate change actions into national programmes, plans and strategies.

53. The Commission noted that climate change reduces biodiversity and ecosystem resilience and increases the risks of fire and of pest and disease incursions. The importance of strengthening monitoring systems to assess the impacts of climate change was noted. The Commission appreciated FAO's publication "*Guide to the implementation of phytosanitary standards in forestry*".

54. The Commission urged FAO to assist countries to share experiences in climate change adaptation and to help further refine national climate change adaptation strategies.

55. The Commission requested FAO to help countries develop national action plans on climate change adaptation.

56. Delegates noted that the poorest, including forest dwellers, are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Delegates also observed that discussions on REDD+ should emphasize simplicity, flexibility and cost effectiveness.

#### **RESPONDING TO INCREASED DEMANDS IN FIRE MANAGEMENT (Item 8)**

57. The Commission considered the challenges and opportunities in responding to increased demands in fire management, based on FO:APFC /2011/7 and a paper on *Integrating the management of wildfire-related risks in rural land and forest management legislation and policies* tabled by the delegations from Australia and New Zealand.

58. The Commission recognized that fire should be managed in an environmentally responsible manner to ensure properly functioning and sustainable ecosystems into the future. Delegates acknowledged that effective management of wildfire for any particular area of land depends on the management objectives for the land.

59. Delegates observed that they had not had sufficient time to fully review and consider the paper tabled by Australia and New Zealand. The Commission therefore recommended that member countries further review the paper and its recommendations and consider it at the next session of the Committee on Forestry.

60. The Commission noted suggestions for the formulation of a multi-donor trust fund on fire management. The Commission suggested that FAO further articulate such a proposal for consideration at the next session of COFO.

**INFORMATION ITEMS (Item 9)**Preparation of a long-term strategy for the Global Forest Resources Assessment

61. The Commission was informed of progress in the preparation of a long-term strategy for the Global Forest Resources Assessment (Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2011/INF.4). The draft long-term strategy explains the objectives, activities and outputs for the period 2012-2030. The Commission was informed of an FAO proposal to prepare a generic voluntary guideline on forest reporting.

62. The Commission observed the potential need to revisit some definitions of forests, including identifying additional categories of forest types, and the need to better capture data on forest rehabilitation that improves forest quality, particularly in the context of REDD+.

The Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for COFO for the period 2012-2015

63. The Commission was informed of FAO's intention to prepare a Multi-Year Programme of Work of at least four years duration as part of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal (Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2011/INF.5). The Commission was informed of key linkages between FAO's Committee on Forestry, the Regional Forestry Commissions and the Regional Conferences.

Update on the establishment of the Advisory Panel on Forest Knowledge

64. The Commission was informed, and welcomed, the proposal to establish an Advisory Panel on Forest Knowledge (APFK) as a catalyst for forest education and research and training programmes, projects and other activities at global and regional levels (Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2011/INF.6).

Other information itemsAsia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN)

65. The Commission was informed of the activities of the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network since the twenty-third session of the Commission in 2010 (Secretariat Note FO:APFC/2011/INF.8).

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

66. The Commission wished to bring to COFO's attention the need to promulgate forestry information to mitigate against natural disasters, including floods, cyclones/typhoons and tidal surges, landslides, tsunamis and wildfires.

67. The Commission wished to bring to COFO's attention the increasing demands for additional attention to monitoring, reporting and verification aspects of forestry including: (i) potential needs to revisit forest definitions; (ii) methodologies to measure forest degradation and trees outside forests; (iii) preparation of voluntary guidelines and other support for conducting forest inventories and assessments, with particular focus on requirements for REDD+ reporting; (iv) development of Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) reporting methodologies that provide greater interpretative capacity for key forestry statistics; and (v) support to strengthen capacities for reporting to the FRA 2015 assessment.

68. The Commission wished to highlight to COFO the importance of developing measures in national forest programmes to support and build capacities for forest law enforcement and improved governance.



69. The Commission wished to bring to COFO's attention demands for awareness-raising efforts, sharing of experiences, and development of capacity to address forest law enforcement and governance challenges.

70. The Commission wished to highlight to COFO the desire of countries for opportunities to share FLEG-T experiences and seek collaborative solutions to improving forest law enforcement and governance.

71. The Commission wished to bring to COFO's attention the roles that forests can play in emerging "green growth" frameworks, and assist member countries in formulating and implementing related policies and programs.

72. The Commission wished to highlight to COFO the importance of supporting the development of REDD+ readiness; the need to assist countries to share experiences in climate change adaptation and to help further refine national climate change adaptation strategies; and to help countries develop national action plans on climate change adaptation.

73. The Commission wished to bring to COFO's attention the establishment of an Asia-Pacific Forestry Communications Working Group, under the auspices of the Commission, to pursue the following objectives: (i) share experiences and knowledge related to forestry communications among member countries and international partner organizations; (ii) exchange communication materials, photographs, mailing lists, expertise, etc. and facilitate access to other resources for effective information management; and (iii) strengthen member countries' capacity to effectively address communication issues and challenges.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS (Item 11)**

74. Reflecting on the issues presented during the APFW plenary session on "*New media – new messages*" and discussions held during an APFW partner event on forestry communications, the Commission acknowledged the need for member countries and international organizations to strengthen cooperation and further develop capacity for effective communications in forestry.

75. The Commission agreed to establish a Forestry Communications Working Group, under the auspices of the Commission, to pursue the following objectives: (i) share experiences and knowledge related to forestry communications among member countries and international partner organizations; (ii) exchange communication materials, photographs, mailing lists, expertise, etc. and facilitate access to other resources for effective information management; and (iii) strengthen member countries' capacity to effectively address communication issues and challenges.

76. The Commission was informed of a joint workshop of Montreal Process countries and representatives of the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment, Forest Europe and International Tropical Timber Organization to address emerging issues in forest monitoring and assessment and to streamline reporting, which addressed the use of criteria and indicators.

#### **DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION (Item 12)**

77. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the delegation from New Zealand to host its twenty-fifth session. The delegation from Malaysia indicated interest in hosting the twenty-sixth 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 Su Chunyu, Director-General of the Department of International Cooperation, State Forestry Administration, Government of China, 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: New Challenges – New Opportunities
4. FLEG-T: Continuous improvement in forest governance
5. Progress in implementing APFC and FAO-supported activities in the region
6. Heads of Forestry Dialogue: Defining the forest sector’s role in the emerging “Green Economy” concept
7. Climate change adaptation and ecosystem resilience
8. Responding to increased demands in fire management
9. Information items
  - Preparation of a long-term strategy for the Global Forest Resources Assessment
  - The Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for COFO for the period 2012-2015
  - Update on the establishment of the Advisory Panel on Forest Knowledge
  - Other information items
10. Regional issues identified by the Commission for the attention of the FAO Regional Conference and the Committee on Forestry (COFO)
11. Other business
12. Date and place of the next session
13. Adoption of the report

## APPENDIX B

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Vice-Chairpersons:	Annapurna Nand Das (Nepal) Abdul Rahman bin Abdul Rahim (Malaysia) Alan Reid (New Zealand)
Rapporteur:	Marcial C. Amaro Jr. (Philippines)
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## APPENDIX C

## LIST OF DOCUMENTS

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>
1	FO:APFC/2011/1	Provisional agenda
2	FO:APFC/2011/2	State of forestry in the Asia-Pacific region: New challenges – new opportunities
3	FO:APFC/2011/3	FLEG-T: Continuous improvement in forest governance
4	FO:APFC/2011/4	Progress in implementing APFC and FAO-supported activities in the Asia-Pacific region
5	FO:APFC/2011/5	Heads of Forestry dialogue: Defining forestry's role in the emerging "Green Economy" concept
6	FO:APFC/2011/6	Climate change adaptation and ecosystem resilience
7	FO:APFC/2011/7	Responding to increased demand in fire management

**Information documents**

FO:APFC/2011/Inf.1	Information note
FO:APFC 2011/Inf.2	Provisional timetable
FO:APFC 2011/Inf.3	List of documents
FO:APFC/2011/Inf.4	Preparation of a long-term strategy for the Global Forest Resources Assessment
FO:APFC/2011/Inf.5	The Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for COFO for the period 2012-2015
FO:APFC/2011/Inf.6	Update on the establishment of the Advisory Panel on Forest Knowledge
FO:APFC/2011/Inf.7	Summary of the Seventh Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission Executive Committee
FO:APFC/2011/Inf.8	Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network



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ISBN 978-92-5-107166-3



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l2633E/1/02.12