

Implementation of the Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines in the Asia Pacific Region Workshop during Forestry Week in the Asia Pacific Region

13.00-16.00, 25 April 2008, Hanoi, Vietnam

Introduction:

During the Forestry Week of the Asia Pacific Forestry Commission, a workshop was held to introduce the Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines, conduct a needs assessment and to discuss its implementation in the Asia Pacific region.

The workshop was aimed at those stakeholders in the Asia Pacific Region from the Government, private sector or other civil society groups responsible for fire management, policy, planning, and practices.

FAO introduced the scope and context of fire management in the Asia Pacific region, detailed the justification, process and partners in preparing the Voluntary Guidelines and introduced the guideline framework of principles and strategic actions. Additionally FAO outlined the purpose, mandate and charter for the Fire Management Actions Alliance and the role of this international partnership in implementing the Voluntary Guidelines and enhancing international cooperation in fire management.

Presentations were made by fire management specialists from Government (New Zealand/Australasian Fire Actions Council, Ministry of Forestry, Indonesia), the private sector (APRIL Group of Companies, Indonesia) and NGOs (The Nature Conservancy, USA/Asia). Each specialist outlined the actions and experiences with regard to implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines and participation in the Fire Management Actions Alliance.

At the workshop a Needs Assessment questionnaire was completed by participants to highlight strengths and weaknesses in fire management in their respective contexts. The workshop also discussed Voluntary Guidelines implementation opportunities and gave guidance to FAO and other organizations on their roles and technical support for capacity building in implementation of the Guidelines in the Asia Pacific Region.

Conclusions

It was generally agreed that improved approaches to fire management were required in the Asia Pacific region as they continued to be a tool that caused deforestation and forest degradation, whether directly, or indirectly.

It was acknowledged that there was a need to address integrated approaches to fire management, taking inter-sectoral approaches, as other land-uses (agriculture and livestock) impacted forestry and vice versa. Additionally there was a recognized need to undertake monitoring, early warning, detection, preparedness, prevention, suppression and restoration activities. Investment in prevention was generally considered more effective and efficient. Of course investment in suppression was always needed, but needed to be balanced with prevention investment with communities, communities of interest and other stakeholders.

The presentations from around the Asia Pacific region highlighted that the Voluntary Guidelines provided the framework of principles and strategic actions necessary to adopt integrated approaches to fire management. It was also recognized that not fires were bad. Some forest ecosystems are fire dependent and fire can be an effective land-use tool if managed responsibly. However, fire in fire sensitive ecosystems could be very destructive and required prevention and early suppression.

The Needs assessment highlighted that there were strengths and weaknesses in all countries represented at the workshop. The weaknesses highlighted will be used to target geographic, institutional and technical areas for future sub-regional workshop support in the region.

Recommendations

- FAO programme sub-regional workshops “Towards Implementation of Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines in the Asia Pacific region including: i) ASEAN regions (North and South); ii) UNISDR Regional Wildland Fire Regions in North East Asia and Southern Asia; and iii) the South Pacific Region; and
- FAO conduct a fire management needs assessment at the forthcoming AFAC regional conference in Australia in September, 2008.

Annexes

- Annex 1: Agenda;
- Annex 2: Needs assessment questionnaire
- Annex 3: Participants.
- Annex 4: Presentations

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Agenda

- 13:00 – 13:15 Jim Carle - FAO - Presentation of the Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines and Actions Alliance
- 13:15 – 13:30 Murray Dudfield - Australasian Fire Authorities Council - implementation actions and experiences
- 13:30 – 13:45 Yuyu Rahayu, Ministry of Forestry of Indonesia - implementation actions and experiences
- 13:45 – 14:00 Brad Sanders – APRIL Group of Companies - implementation actions and experiences
- 14:00 – 14:15 Darren Johnson – The Nature Conservancy – actions and experiences
- 14:15 – 14:30 Break
- 14:30 – 15:30 Needs assessment survey by participants
- 15:30 – 16:00 Discussion on results and follow up actions including countries/organizations willing to participate/organize future workshops to implement the Guidelines

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Needs Assessment Questionnaire

Insert the needs assessment questionnaire

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Participants

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Michael Galante	Equitech Thailand	Bangkok, Thailand	Michael.galante@equitech.biz
Murray Dudfield	NZ Rural Fire Authority	Wellington, New Zealand	murray.dudfield@fire.org.nz
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Darren Johnson	The Nature Conservancy	Brunswick, USA	Darren.Johnson@TNC.org
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Presentations

Insert powerpoint presentations already provided