

Towards Responsible Management of Planted Forests in the Asia Pacific Workshop during Forestry Week in the Asia Pacific Region

0900-1200, 25 April 2008, Hanoi, Vietnam

Introduction:

During the Forestry Week of the Asia Pacific Forestry Commission, a workshop was held to introduce the Voluntary Guidelines for Responsible Management of Planted Forests and to discuss its implementation in the Asia Pacific region with different stakeholder groups.

The workshop was aimed at a wide range of planted forests stakeholders in the Asia Pacific Region, including senior Government, private sector, NGO, CBO, academic, scientific and other civil society groups responsible for policy, planning, managing, monitoring and investing in planted forest developments.

FAO introduced the scope and context of planted forests in the Asia Pacific region, detailed the justification, process and partners in preparing the Voluntary Guidelines and introduced the guideline framework of principles. The contexts of planted forests, stakeholder processes and implementation actions and experiences with the Guidelines were presented by Thailand, Lao PDR, China, Vietnam and New Zealand, to illustrate different geographic, socio-economic, environmental and governance situations in which planted forests were being undertaken and the Voluntary Guidelines being used. The results of the Chiang Mai sub-regional workshop “Towards Responsible Management of Planted Forests” and the preparatory stakeholder workshops in Thailand, Lao PDR, China and Vietnam were highlighted and the outputs discussed.

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

Conclusions

It was recognized that planted forests, whether intended for productive or protective functions currently play a critical role in providing a wide range of goods and services in the Asia Pacific region. The continued expansion of planted forests in the region would ensure that they would increasingly supply wood products, fibre, bioenergy, non-wood forest products and social or environmental services in the future.

It was acknowledged that the expansion of planted forests had not always complied with best practices and negative social, environmental and economic impacts had resulted. It was recognized that a better understanding and commitment to balance the social, cultural, environmental and economic dimensions of planted forests development was necessary in the Asia Pacific Region.

The Action Frameworks prepared by Thailand, Lao PDR, China and Vietnam at the Chiang Mai sub-regional workshop “Towards Responsible Management of Planted Forests” to improve planted forests policies, planning and implementation practices were considered valuable tools. However, Governments, FAO, multi-lateral and bi-lateral donors, private sector and other institutions needed to have the will and commit resources to support implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines at the policy, planning and practices levels in planted forests programmes and projects.

It was agreed that the Voluntary Guidelines provided the framework of institutional, economic, social/cultural, environment and landscape principles necessary to maximize the benefits and minimize the negative impacts of planted forests in differing contexts in the Asia Pacific Region.

The Needs assessment highlighted that there were strengths and weaknesses in all countries represented in the workshop. These were across all the principles, whether institutional, economic, social/cultural, environmental or landscape. The weaknesses highlighted will be used to target geographic, institutional and technical areas for future sub-regional workshop support in the region.

Recommendations

- FAO support conducting sub-regional workshops “Towards Responsible Management of Planted Forests” in SE Asia (including Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, possibly Myanmar and others), South Asia (India and Sri Lanka) and the South Pacific regions.
- Countries attend sub-regional workshops “Towards Responsible Management of Planted Forests” and prepare Action Frameworks to discuss implementation with their Governments and donors to integrate the policy, planning and practices initiatives in planted forests into their programmes and projects.

Annexes

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

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Agenda

- 09:00 – 09:15 Jim Carle - FAO - Presentation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Responsible Management of Planted Forests and the Chiang Mai Workshop
- 09:15 – 09:30 Monton Jamroenprucksa, Kasetsart University, Thailand – context, implementation actions and experiences
- 09:30 – 09:45 Inthavy Akkharath, Department of Forestry, Lao PDR - context, implementation actions and experiences
- 09:45 – 10:00 Liu Daoping, State Forest Administration, PR China – context implementation actions and experiences
- 10:00 – 10:15 Pham Duc Chien, Forest Science Institute of Vietnam, Vietnam – context, implementation actions and experiences
- 10:15 – 10:30 Alan Reid, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, New Zealand – context, implementation actions and experiences
- 10:30 – 10:45 Refreshments
- 10:45 – 11:30 Needs assessment survey by participants
- 11:30 – 12:00 Discussion on results and follow up actions including countries/organizations to willing to participate/organize future workshops to implement the Guidelines

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Needs Assessment Questionnaire

Insert pdf file

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Participants

Name	Organization	Location	E-mail
Jim Carle	FAO, Rome	Rome, Italy	jim.carle@fao.org
Alan Reid	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Wellington, New Zealand	alan.reid@maf.govt.nz
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Mohamed Nasir Hassan	Forestry Department, Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	hjnasil@forestry.gov.my
Hadi Susilo Arifin	Department of Landscape Architecture, IPB	Bogor, Indonesia	hsarifin@ipb.ac.id
Suraphong Chawweepak	Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation	Bangkok, Thailand	schaweepak@yahoo.com
Pham Duc Chien	Forest Science Institute of Vietnam	Hanoi, Vietnam	p.d.chien@uu.nl
Roger Steinhurd	Plantation International/ Lao Plantation Forests Ltd, Oji Pulp and Paper	Vientiane, Lao PDR	roger@LPFL.biz
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Presentations

Jim Carle, FAO, Rome, Italy

Monton Jamroenprucksasri, Kasetsart University, Thailand

Inthavy Akkharath, Department of Forestry, Lao PDR

Liu Daoping, State Forest Administration, PR China

Pham Duc Chien, Forest Science Institute of Vietnam, Vietnam

Alan Reid, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, New Zealand