

Summary Report on the Workshop: “Facilitating and Promoting National Forest Programmes in Asia-Pacific Region”

Pre-Asia-Pacific Forestry Week Workshop Hanoi, Vietnam, Sunday 20 April 2008

Co-organized by the National Forest Programme Facility and FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, the Workshop on Facilitating and Promoting National Forest Programmes in Asia-Pacific Region was successfully held on Sunday 20 April 2008 in Hanoi, Vietnam, as a side event of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week (21st – 26th April 2008). The main objective of the one day event, focussing on national forest programmes (nfps), was to bring together all national focal points of the Facility partner countries in the Asia and the Pacific Region to share experiences on nfps and to discuss the role of the Facility in these processes. 25 participants from the Region attended the workshop, among which 11 were the Facility National Focal Points in partner countries.

A number of presentations were made by experts from IUFRO, GTZ and the Facility staff providing background information on nfps and guidance on these processes. The Facility principals and procedures for implementing activities under the Facility partnership at the country level were also explained. Through a facilitated debate, issues were clarified, information exchanged, lessons learned and recommendations formulated to the Facility Management. The Facility Focal Points from China, Indonesia, Mongolia, Pakistan, and the Philippines made presentations about their Nfp process and the role of the Facility therein. The major outputs and impacts of the Facility support are summarized as follows:

China:

- Public participation is promoted through application of testing tools/approaches;
- Information flow and sharing between global experiences and national practice in enhanced, through establishment of a website on China Sustainable Forestry Management;
- The results of various studies on land tenure contributed greatly to improve institutional and tenurial arrangements in the stake-owned and collective forest areas of China.

Indonesia:

- Community Based Forestry Management (CBFM) is developed in several regions;
- Indonesia Forestry Long Term Development Plan 2006-2025; Indonesia Forestry Mid Term Development Plan 2005-2009; Master Plan Forest and Land Rehabilitation are developed;
- Forestry management becomes more transparent;
- Vision, mission, policy, plan, and program of forestry development for SFM at national and sub national levels are more harmonized and supported by stakeholders.

Mongolia:

- National capacity on the sustainable use of forest resources for income generation and rural development has been strengthened;
- The institutional set-up of the forest administration is reviewed for improvement;
- Awareness on the possibility to form natural resources user groups is increased.

Pakistan:

- Strategy for the Establishment of Public Private Partnership in the Forest Sector of Pakistan Developing is established;
- National Vision 2025 for Forest Biodiversity Conservation – A Strategy for Action is developed;
- A forum for forest policy analysis, formulation and monitoring its implementation has been establishment;
- Awareness on forestry issues and the development of a communication strategy on forestry and related issues is increased.

Philippines:

- Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) Strategic Plan and Regional Plan are developed by multistakeholders, with wider sense of ownership;
- Enhanced participation of all stakeholders, particularly NGOs, as the Government's partners in undertaking the whole planning process and also sharing their financial resources in key activities
- CBFM contributes to attain the goals and objectives of the Forestry Sector Master Plan, which identifies CBFM as a cross cutting concern, and to achieve the goals of the MDG.

The key recommendations from the partner countries to the Facility regarding priorities and areas for future actions and improvement include the following:

- Establish networks among partner countries, while enhancing cooperation with national and international partners, stakeholders and donors;
- Strengthen capacity building of human resources through training;
- Clarify the procedure for continued the Facility support;
- Promote participation of NGOs in both decision making and policy implementation process of forest related matters
- Need to collect base line data for evaluating the achievements of the Nfp process and to continue the monitoring and evaluation during the whole process.