



NEW FORESTRY PUBLICATIONS FROM FAO

Creation and History of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation's Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC)

Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission: The First Fifty Years • RAP
Publication: 2000/02 • Jörg Balsiger • 2000 • Bangkok, FAO-
RAP • 87 pages • ISBN 974-7946-01-7



International level discussion and cooperation is an essential complement to the efforts of individual countries to develop appropriate forest policies, institutions and practices. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) supports a number of regional statutory bodies that are specifically designed to provide neutral fora for such discussion in the field of forestry. Created in 1949, the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) meets every two years to review progress, discuss problems of mutual concern and set new agendas. Balancing technical and policy issues, the objectives of the APFC are to: a) provide advice on forest policy formulation; b) review and coordinate implementation of regional forest policy; c) exchange information on suitable practices and solutions for technical problems; and d) develop appropriate recommendations, for member governments and FAO, on forestry-related issues

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the APFC, this publication reviews the evolution of this region's largest intergovernmental body on forest-related issues, which has grown from 12 to 29 member countries since its inaugural session in Bangkok in 1950. After brief discussions on the origin of APFC and its inaugural session, the author summarizes the Commission's activities throughout three time periods (1950s-1960s, 1970s-1980s, and 1990s). Each of these chapters outline policies, statistics, research and forecasts for forestry as well as some major practices and important topics, such as silviculture, community forestry, protected areas and women in forestry, for each time period. The final chapter deals with the constraints and future outlook for forestry in the Asia-Pacific region.

On this, the 50th anniversary of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission it is quite valuable to investigate the creation and history of the principal body governing forestry affairs in this region. Reviewing the evolution of the APFC and its influence on forestry policies and practices provides evidence of the Commission's strong, positive effect on forestry thinking, practices and development and provides similar expectations for the future of this sector. This publication not only reflects the development of APFC's and FAO's forest-related activities, but more broadly the unfolding of international forestry thinking and practice, and international forestry development assistance.

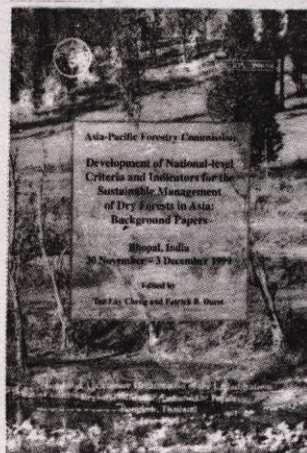
To purchase this publication or to obtain a review copy (journal editors only), please contact:
Publications and Information Coordinator, Forestry Department
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy
Tel: +39-0657054778; FAX: +39-0657052151; e-mail: Forestry-information@fao.org; Internet: <http://www.fao.org/forestry>



NEW FORESTRY PUBLICATIONS FROM FAO

The Development of National-level Criteria and Indicators for the Sustainable Management of Dry Forests in Asia

Development of National-level Criteria and Indicators for the Sustainable Management of Dry Forests in Asia: Background Papers (ISBN 974-7946-06-8; 97 pages) and Workshop Report (ISBN 974-7946-04-1; 20 pages) • RAP Publications: 2000/07 • T.L. Cheng and P.B. Durst • 2000 • Bangkok, FAO-RAP



Measuring success in the quest for sustainable forest management is a critical issue. Criteria and indicators are tools used to assess and monitor sustainable forest management. Criteria incorporate socio-economic, environmental, cultural and spiritual aspects, as well as the productive, protective and social roles of forests. Indicators are measured and monitored to determine the temporal effects of management interventions as defined by each criterion. The ultimate objective of these tools is to improve forest management as a contribution toward achieving sustainable development.

These publications share the background documents and conclusions of a workshop held in Bhopal, India from November 30 – December 3, 1999 on the development of national-level criteria and indicators for the sustainable management of dry Asian forests. The background papers provide interesting qualitative and quantitative information related to the topic of the workshop. The first article clearly defines the concept and potential value of criteria and indicators as sustainable management tools and also discusses FAO's objectives in their implementation. Successive papers provide examples of the activities and experiences of other organizations and countries during the development and application of such tools. A final summary of these experiences allows for easy identification of the successes and/or weaknesses for a particular criterion or indicator.

The workshop report outlines the objectives and expected outputs of the session which included a review of existing criteria and indicators for dry forests and the exchange of information and experience in their application. Brief summaries of the inaugural and overview/background sessions are provided. The results are organized into three sections: 1) review of country initiatives and activities in the development and implementation of these tools; 2) the resulting 'reference' set of eight national-level criteria and 49 indicators; and 3) a follow-up plan of action for further development and implementation. The final section summarizes the conclusions and recommendations of the delegates, which includes recognition of the importance of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management and recommendations for their incorporation into forestry curricula and national forestry planning and projects. The need for more research, testing and regional-level training on this topic was noted. The further refinement of the reference set of criteria and indicators to accommodate differences in ecological, economic and socio-cultural conditions was also strongly suggested.

To purchase this publication or to obtain a review copy (journal editors only), please contact:

Publications and Information Coordinator, Forestry Department

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy

Tel: +39-0657054778; FAX: +39-0657052151; e-mail: Forestry-information@fao.org; Internet: <http://www.fao.org/forestry>



NEW FORESTRY PUBLICATIONS FROM FAO

Report on the Eighteenth Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission

**Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission – Eighteenth Session:
Noosaville, Queensland, Australia, 15-19 May, 2000 • RAP
Publication: 2000/11 • 2000 • Bangkok, FAO-RAP • 31 pages**



The Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) is the region's largest intergovernmental body on forest-related issues. The APFC meets every two years to discuss and analyze forestry issues, to promote economically efficient and environmentally sound technologies and to encourage the implementation of policies in accordance with changing forestry trends. The 18th session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC), held from May 15-19, 2000 in Noosaville, Queensland, Australia, was attended by delegates from 25 of the 29 member countries and representatives of eight international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

The publication provides a brief overview of this session. It begins with a summary of the Commission's recommendations with respect to various topics including the state of forestry in the region and the regular and field programmes of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Some of the major recommendations are that: i) member countries should increase their efforts in forest fire management; ii) FAO should increase its support for national forest programme implementation and the transfer of technology; and iii) member countries and FAO should involve the private sector and continue to seek political support for implementing national codes of practice for forest harvesting.

The introduction highlights the opening speeches by Mr. M. Hosny El-Lakany, the Assistant Director-General and Head of the Forestry Department of FAO, and The Honourable Wilson Tuckey, Australian Minister for Forestry and Conservation. Reviews of the state of forestry in the region, FAO regular and field programmes, the activities of the APFC *ad hoc* working group on sustainable forest management, a follow-up to the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) and an in-session seminar on certification and forest product labeling are included. The key issues of the Kyoto Protocol pertaining to forestry, plans for the International Year of Mountains 2002 and preliminary findings of the Forest Resources Assessment 2000 are discussed. The agenda and information on the session's participants, documents and seminars are provided in the form of appendices.

This publication provides valuable information on the most current activities, strategies and programmes of the APFC, particularly with regards to sustainable forest management, as well as the various challenges facing forestry in the region. The information and topical discussions presented are universal in scope and are thus applicable to regions other than Asia-Pacific.

To purchase this publication or to obtain a review copy (journal editors only), please contact:

Publications and Information Coordinator, Forestry Department

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy

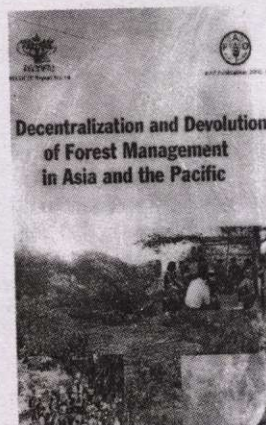
Tel: +39-0657054778; FAX: +39-0657052151; e-mail: Forestry-information@fao.org; Internet: <http://www.fao.org/forestry>



NEW FORESTRY PUBLICATIONS FROM FAO

Decentralization and Devolution of Forest Management in Asia and the Pacific

Decentralization and Devolution of Forest Management in Asia and the Pacific • RECOFTC Report No. 18 • RAP Publication 2000/1 • T. Enters, P.B. Durst and M. Victor (eds) • 2000 • Bangkok, FAO-RAP • 235 pages • ISBN 974-7946-02-5



Governments throughout Asia and the Pacific region are decentralizing authority and responsibility for resource management, as part of efforts towards achievement of sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation goals. The trend to decentralize is being driven by a range of factors, including efforts to reduce central bureaucracies and cut budgets, a history of less-than-successful government forest management programs, increased economic liberalization and market orientation, and growing commitment to more equitable forest management. Throughout the region, innovative legislation and policies are increasing the power of local governments and communities in managing forest resources.

This publication is based upon papers presented at the International Seminar on Decentralization and Devolution of Forest Management in Asia and the Pacific held November 30 - December 4, 1998 in Davao City, the Philippines. The seminar's main objectives were to review decentralization and devolution experiences in forest management, discuss emerging issues associated with different approaches to forest management, identify and analyze constraints and opportunities, examine gaps between policy and implementation and explore the expansion of successful pilot efforts.

The papers are organized into five main sections. The first deals with the key issues and emerging trends of decentralization and devolution in forest management and includes a conceptual overview, discussion of principles and dilemmas, and pluralism and empowerment. The second section discusses the similarity of objectives of forest management and the diverse approaches used to achieve them in various countries or regions such as New Zealand, China, Lao PDR, Vietnam, and West Africa. Institutional adaptation and dealing with change is the topic of the third section which provides specific examples from Indonesia, Thailand and other Southeast Asian countries. The fourth chapter explores the role of community-based enterprises and monitoring as well as the relationship between people and protected areas in a discussion on decentralization and devolution in forest conservation. The final chapter discusses the process of decentralization and presents the Philippine experience as a case study.

This publication will assist those in charge of devising and carrying out forest management policies to better understand the key issues and challenges that underlie effective implementation of decentralized forest management.

To purchase this publication or to obtain a review copy (journal editors only), please contact:

Publications and Information Coordinator, Forestry Department
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy
Tel: +39-0657054778; FAX: +39-0657052151; e-mail: Forestry-information@fao.org; Internet: <http://www.fao.org/forestry>