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Regional and Sub-Regional Inputs to UNFF10

Regional/ Sub-regional Organization Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation:

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The size of the report of the Secretary General will be a maximum of 8,500 words (approximately 16 pages). In view of this, the Forum Secretariat suggests no more than five pages of written input. We would be most grateful if you could send your inputs to **unff@un.org**, fax: 917-367-3186) by **30 September 2012**. In light of time constraints and financial limitations, you are kindly asked to provide your input in English.

Section I: Progress towards the implementation of the forest instrument in the context of the overall theme of UNFF10 on “Forests and Economic Development”

A. Progress towards implementation of the forest instrument

1. Briefly describe actions (e.g. regulatory, financial/economic and informational/educational) taken by your organization to foster political commitment for sustainable forest management (SFM).

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/ or lessons learned.

As a regional organization committed to promoting sustainable forest management in Asia and the Pacific, APFNet is well aware of the role of strong political commitment as a top down approach in effectively uplifting the forestry profile and thus facilitating forestry development. In view of that, APFNet has always valued regional high-level cooperation mechanism and endeavoured to involve in related activities. During 2011, APFNet had the honour to be the key organizer and sponsor of two important events, i.e. First APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry in September and the ASEM Symposium on Sustainable Forest Management to Address Climate Change in June.

With the theme of *enhanced regional cooperation for green growth and sustainable forestry development*, the First APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry is the first ever ministerial event in forestry under APEC, and had gathered ministers responsible for forestry from 21 APEC economies, as well as heads of international organizations, and CEOs from the private sector. President Hu Jintao addressed the opening ceremony and reiterated China’s continuous support for the developing members of APEC through APFNet. Ministers adopted the Beijing Statement on Forests and Forestry, which indicates various ways of further cooperation and APFNet’s potential in forming synergy among multiple stakeholders.

In organizing the ASEM Symposium on Sustainable Forest Management to Address Climate Change in June, APFNet had the honour to be the key organizer and sponsor of two important events, i.e. First APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry in September and the ASEM Symposium on Sustainable Forest Management to Address Climate Change in June.

ground. And to follow up those strong political commitments, an equally strong enforcement is in much need.

2. Briefly describe efforts taken at the regional level to foster economically, socially and environmentally sound measures that act as incentives for the sustainable management of forests.

Demonstration projects are one of the four pillars of APFNet in fulfilling its mission. A dozen of projects have been ongoing and are involving local communities, forestry authorities and other stakeholders to jointly promote sustainable management of forests. Take the Pilot Project of Multifunctional Forests for example. The project is mainly funded by APFNet was launched in August, 2011 to build a demonstration site for multifunction forestry under close-natural management, motivate the local community through community co-management and protection of non-timber forest products. The assisted natural regeneration has been applied in rehabilitating the local forests and has proved as a cost-effective approach; and the benefit of non-timber forest products have also been reaped to increase the income of communities nearby the forest farm. The local environment and local communities' income have been improved at the same time, which further promote the sustainable management of forests.

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/ or lessons learned.

The project site was chosen in Inner Mongolia, and monoculture had been prevalent for a long time. It has only been recent that close natural management is applied. Technical knowledge and support is still lacking and the scale up of the project effects and outcomes wait to be explored.

3. Briefly describe actions taken to enhance regional cooperation to promote international trade in forest products from sustainably managed forests harvested.

Promoting trade of sustainably harvested forest products is an important aspect of sustainable forest management. There are different stakeholders in the international trade of forest products, e.g. government, the private sector and civil society, who share a common interest in managing forests in an economically viable, environmentally sustainable, and socially responsible manner. The impetus to SFM is being driven increasingly by the timber consumers, whose demand is wood that is harvested legally and in accordance with environmental standards. Aware of this, APFNet, together with TNC/RAFT, held a Training Workshop on Methods, Tools and Skills for Promoting Legal and Sustainable Forest Management and Trade in the Asia-Pacific Region in 2009. The workshop brought together key government, industry and civil society stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region to identify the key challenges they face and solutions in fulfil

As a relatively new organization, APFNet needs to on one hand raise its profile and on the other hand raise public awareness on the role of forests and SFM when dealing with enterprises. A better publicity and promoting scheme is much needed for APFNet.

6. Please provide additional information specific to your region/subregion on the implementation of the forest instrument and the impact made by the forest instrument on enhancing forest-based economic development.

Not applicable.

B. Progress towards GOFs

1. Please describe actions taken by your organization and/or by other public and private organizations (e.g., government, NGOs, private sector, etc.) in your region/subregion to help achieve the following :

GOF1, "Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation"

In 2011, APFNet launched the project entitled *Multi-Functional Forest Restoration and Management of Degraded Forest Areas*, which was developed and implemented by the Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development (IRD). This project is aimed to enhance the capacity of Forestry Administration of the Royal government of Cambodia in managing and restoring biodiversity. The proposed project has two specific objectives as follows:

1. To restore a degraded forest of protected forest in Koh Kong province for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation of a protected forest.
2. To enhance the restoration of a community forest in Siem Reap province for production of timber and NTFPs as a means to improve livelihoods of local community.

The project will be able to fund a community nursery in each pilot site, develop models of forest restoration plans in each pilot site, publish and disseminate knowledge and experience on multi-functional forest restoration.

Now the nursery has been set up and operating to provide local communities with seedlings of precious tree species; the local people also get to know the high economic value of those tree species and are assisted by the Forestry Administration staff to rehabilitate the local forests.

With a sum of US\$ 386,570 support under APFNet's grant, the project will improve the local biodiversity and community forests in terms of increased tree density and diversity of forest products and thus improving livelihoods of local communities.

GOF2, "Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people"

Launched in 2010, the APFNet-Nepal project "Demonstration of Sustainable Forest Management with community participation in Nepal" is targeted at creating green job opportunities, increasing income of local communities and shape National Forest Policy and

Strategic Planning through instrumental approaches including establishing community-based cooperatives and enterprises, reinforcing sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation. The project was implemented by Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal (FECOFUN) with total fund of the project is US\$ 577,159, among which APFNet grant is US\$ 500,479.

Through the project, a list of sustainable forestry enterprises have been identified and

developing world to reverse the decline in ODA for SFM and also mobilize more financing resources for SFM.

1. Please provide examples of how your region or sub-region is engaged in facilitating cooperation in sustainable forest management? These may include North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

Forestry development in the Asia-Pacific region is quite uneven and requires joint effort from different parties. Among APFNet projects and activities, several has seen participation of universities in the US, Canada, Ja

Australia www.daff.gov.au

Brunei Darussalam

Canada <http://www.sfmcanada.org>

China <http://www.forestry.gov.cn>

Hong Kong, China

Indonesia

Malaysia

Mexico www.conafor.gob.mx