

<http://www.fao.org/asiapacific/events/detail-events/en/c/1554/>

Expert review meeting

Third Asia-Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study (APFSOS III)

Kuala Lumpur, 7-8 March

Background

The demand of society on forests has continuously changed. Initially, forests were mainly seen as resources for timber. Overtime, the role of forests has expanded as our society expects various economic, social and environmental products and services from the forests. Forests now are seen as a component of broader landscapes. The interconnectedness of forests to other sectors has become much more understood. Also, there is a better appreciation of the environmental and cultural role of forests. Looking into the future, it is very important for governments, organizations, private sector and other stakeholders to understand the roles of forests and forestry in the next decades. This will help them in designing their interventions, investments and strategic planning.

In the past, in collaboration with governments and partners, FAO has undertaken regional and global outlook studies to assess how the future is likely to unfold and to identify challenges and opportunities that are likely to emerge. FAO completed the first Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study (APFSOS I) in 1998 and APFSOS II in 2010. Governments appreciated the results of the studies as they used them for strategic planning at national and sub-national levels. Policy dialogues involving key stakeholders such as private sector, international organizations, donors, youth, etc. on issues such as investment, partnership and priorities in the forestry sector were also informed by the results of these studies. Additionally, various organizations have used the studies for research and capacity building.

While the broad trends outlined in APFSOS II are still valid, there is a need to discuss and provide an overview of the probable paths of forestry development to the year 2030 and beyond. APFSOS III will consider the implications of new international frameworks and agreements, new technologies, the role of youth in the future, the changing pace of globalization, the importance of environmental services and conservation, etc. All of these factors could possibly take forestry along a trajectory different from what was visualized earlier.

An Advisory Committee for APFSOS III consisting of 40 leading experts and representatives of key institutions has been established to provide strategic advice and support for undertaking the APFSOS III. They have met twice in April and November 2019.

Now the drafting of APFSOS III is at the final stage. Before the Advisory Committee Meeting in April 2019, a small expert review meeting will be conducted to review the latest draft of APFSOS III.

Objective of the expert review meeting

While the drafting team have accommodated most of the comments and suggestion from the Advisory Committee, it is important to get more comments from experts who have not been involved in the study. The idea is not to totally change the content of the draft but rather to ensure the report is relevant and interesting for wider audience. The main objectives of the expert review meeting are:

1. To review the draft of APFSOS III and gather comments and suggestion on how the draft can be strengthen and improve its readability
2. To help shape the key messages and recommendations