



Degraded Forest Rehabilitation and Sustainable Forest Management in the Asia-Pacific Region

Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation

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Foreword

In order to address widespread forest degradation, the international community has made several significant commitments, including the Bonn Challenge to restore 150 million hectares and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) 2020 Goal to boost forest cover by 20 million hectares by 2020. These commitments help contribute to mitigating levels of forest degradation across the globe.

However, the scale of the problem requires more action, especially given the increasing demand for food, fuel and fibre, and the need to strengthen a range of ecosystem services including maintenance and improvement of watersheds, improvement of carbon sequestration and storage, and protection of biological diversity.

Recognizing these concerns, APFNet organized the Workshop on Degraded Forest Rehabilitation and Sustainable Forest Management from 1 to 12 July 2014 in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China. The workshop gathered together 15 forestry practitioners involved in degraded forest rehabilitation from 12 developing economies in Asia and the Pacific, to share experiences and best practices.

To better disseminate the output of the workshop and share more information about forest rehabilitation effort in individual economies, Degraded Forest Rehabilitation and Sustainable Forest Management in the Asia-Pacific Region,

a compilation of the participants' reports, assesses the current state of forest degradation and rehabilitation efforts in each economy, and identifies future actions, in particular by drawing upon successes and failures in adopting ecosystem approaches for rehabilitation.

Some of the reports examine policy, planning and management aspects of the rehabilitation efforts in their economy, while others introduce experiences from projects and case studies. A number of the reports also give suggestions on how to improve on past rehabilitation efforts, which readers can adapt to their economies' specific contexts. We believe that they are immensely valuable in providing a reference point for degraded forest rehabilitation in the Asia-Pacific region.

We take this opportunity to express our appreciation and gratitude to the participants of the workshop who submitted their reports, and also to Dr. C.T.S. Nair and Professor Shen Lixin for compiling and editing the reports. We thank them all for their hard work and extensive contributions in making the compilation a success.



APFNet Executive Director

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An Overview of Rehabilitation of Degraded Forest Lands in Asia

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Dr. C.T.S. Nair¹, Prof. Shen Lixin² and Pan Yao³ ■

Abstract

Deforestation and forest degradation remain major problems for most of the Asian economies and notwithstanding the ongoing efforts to counter them, the problems remain very critical. In the context of climate change mitigation and adaptation, rehabilitation of degraded forest lands has become a priority for most economies. The APFNet Workshop on Degraded Forest Rehabilitation and Sustainable Forest Management organized during 1 to 12 July 2014 in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China provided a unique opportunity to share forest rehabilitation experience from several economies in Asia. This paper provides an overview of the key findings from the papers presented during the Workshop, highlighting the nature and scale of the degradation problem, the causes of degradation, the impacts thereof, the ongoing efforts to rehabilitate degraded forest lands and the important lessons learnt.

Introduction

Degradation of forest ecosystems remains a major problem in almost all economies and this is particularly severe in the more densely populated tropics. The Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration estimates that there are some 2 billion ha of land that needs restoration globally (https://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/forest/fp_our_work/fp_our_work_thematic/fp_our_work_11r/approach_to_forest_landscape_restoration/).

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