Government of Nepal
Department of Forests

United Nations
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Nepal Forest Fire Management Chapter (NFMC)

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REPORT

Regional Pan-Asia / Pacific Consultation on Building Advanced National and Regional Capacities in Integrated Fire Management based on Participatory Involvement of Local Communities

20-22 November 2012
Lalitpur, Nepal

Contents

Summary

The Regional Pan-Asia / Pacific consultation “Building Advanced National and Regional Capacities in Integrated Fire Management based on Participatory Involvement of Local Communities” was held under the auspices of the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MFSC), Government of Nepal, the Korean Forest Research Institute (KFRI) and the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) representing the UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network. The consultation was funded by the Korean Forest Research Institute (KFRI) through an administrative agreement and supported by the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI). Additional support was provided by the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) and the facilitation support by the UNISDR-Regional South Asia Wildland Fire Network and the Nepal Forest Fire Management Chapter (NFMC). The consultation was hosted by Nepal and successfully held in Lalitpur, Nepal, 20-22 November 2012.

The main objectives of the meeting were:

- To share knowledge and experiences of good practices in Community-based Fire Management (CBFiM) among countries of the Asia-Pacific region and outside of Asia
- To discuss global, regional as well as national level issues and concerns of wildland fire paradigms and management of wildland fire involving local communities
- To develop the concept of a regional activity in community-based fire management in the Asia-Pacific region
- To develop a draft concept of building a pilot activity in Nepal and at regional level to promote CBFiM approaches by establishing a Regional Fire Management Resource Center for monitoring, capacity building and advisory services in fire management.

Seventy-two participants from 10 countries (Bhutan, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, People’s Republic of China, Republic of Korea and Thailand) attended and contributed to the meeting. Additionally input papers were received from the Russian Federation and Indonesia.

The participants of the consultative meeting assessed that within the four regions of Asia that are belonging to the UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network and the Pan-Asia Wildland Fire Network, forest fires and other vegetation fires are increasingly impacting the environment and societies. The Northeast Asian Region, which includes the Korean Peninsula, the Far East of the Russian Federation, Japan and China, is experiencing increasing occurrence of forest fires with negative consequences on sustainability of ecosystems, biodiversity and forest productivity. The Central Asian Region, which includes Mongolia, Northern China, the Russian Federation (Siberia), and the Central Asian States (Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan), is affected by continental dryness, widespread illegal logging and increasing wildfires, which are threatening sustainable forest management and regularly resulting in regional smoke pollution. The Southeast Asian region, covering the members states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), is faced by impacts of excessive fire application in land-use change, notably in rain forest and peat biomes, as well as wildfires in seasonally dry forests. The South Asian region, which is including countries of mainland South Asia not members of ASEAN, is faced with increasing pressure of forest fires, particularly in mountainous terrain, with severe consequences of secondary disasters such as landslides, erosion and floods. Many countries within the four regions of Asia are partners in economic and cultural activities. Some of them are sharing common forest fire problems, including transboundary fires and smoke pollution.

Participants of the consultative meeting discussed and agreed upon the following recommendations to the governments of countries in the Asia-Pacific Region:

- To develop / strengthen the institutional and financial base for fire management;

- To formulate / review legal and policy frameworks;

- To emphasize community based fire management, institutional and technological capacity development at all levels;

- To establish Regional Fire Management Resource Centers in South Asia, South-East Asia, North-East Asia and Central Asia for monitoring, capacity building and advisory services in fire management;

- To develop / enhance transboundary cooperation among the countries of Asia for information and technology sharing, training, preparedness and response during wildfire emergencies;

- To encourage countries inside the Asia Pacific region and at international level to develop bilateral, multi-lateral projects and programmes aimed at enhancing fire management capabilities;

- To consider implementation of the recommendations of previous regional and international meetings / conferences / summits;

- To support and participate in the 6th International Wildland Fire Conference in South Korea in 2015;

Regional Pan-Asia / Pacific Consultation on Building Advanced National and Regional Capacities in Integrated Fire Management based on Participatory Involvement of Local Communities

1. Introduction

Community-Based Fire Management (CBFiM) is a type of land and forest management in which a locally resident community (with or without the collaboration of other stakeholders) has substantial involvement in deciding the objectives and practices involved in preventing, controlling or utilising fires.

The CBFiM approach is based on the principles of including local communities in the proper application of land-use fires (managed beneficial fires for controlling weeds, reducing the impact of pests and diseases, generating income from non-timber forest products, creating forage and hunting, etc.), wildfire prevention, and in preparedness and suppression of wildfires. CBFiM approaches can play a significant role in fire management, especially in those parts of the world where human-based ignitions are the primary source of wildfires that affect livelihood, health and security of people. The activities and knowledge communities generally practiced are primarily those associated with prevention. They include planning and supervision of activities, joint action for prescribed fire and fire monitoring and response, applying sanctions, and providing support to individuals to enhance their fire management tasks. Communities can be an important, perhaps pivotal, component in large-scale fire suppression, but should not be expected to shoulder the entire burden.

Faced with increasing fire occurrence and decreasing public budgets, government departments, local organizations, and forest users must consider a range of fire management options and experiences from around the world. Increasingly the solutions to the fire problems and the persistence of them year after year is suggesting that the reaction to fires to date in many countries needs to be reviewed. An active role of communities as proactive actors in fire management – in particular those which recognize the responsibility of civil society to plan and perform fire management activities -- may avoid pitfalls and mistakes of the past. These approaches are seen as more effective, less costly, and more sustainable over the long term.

At present, some countries of the Asia-Pacific region, particularly in the developing countries, are initiating CBFiM approaches to wildland fire management.

This is happening at a time when many countries of the Asia-Pacific region are noting an increase of forest fires and other vegetation fires. The increasing occurrence of extreme dry spells and heat waves currently observed, as well as climate modeling-based predictions (general circulation models), suggest that extreme weather periods favoring the recurrence of more frequent and larger wildfires and higher associated damages will aggravate in the coming years and decades in the Asia-Pacific region.

Wildfires if not well managed might pose not only immediate risk to the sustainability of forest and non-forest ecosystems, threat to biodiversity and the recreational, scenic, environmental and cultural value of forests. Populations of the surrounding areas may become seriously affected by injuries, death, and losses in properties. Post-fire secondary disasters such as landslides, mudflows or floods are additional threats to human populations, especially in the mountain terrains of the Asia-Pacific region.

The majority of wildfires are started by human activities, notably in the context of agricultural and pastoral land use. In the regions of the Asia-Pacific region several expert consultations have been held within the UNISDR Regional Wildland Fire Networks of South Asia, Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia and Central Asia on the future need of forest fire management. Key stakeholders directly and indirectly responsible in forest and land management, fire protection and emergency response, as well as representatives of local communities and civil society organizations, with support by international experts, were involved in these consultations. Altogether the problem of forest fires in the region are complex and should not be addressed on a sectoral level. In order to overcome the limited capacity in fire management there is a need to strengthen human and technical resources of agencies and local communities that deal with fire prevention and response. In addition, transboundary cooperation in fire management is needed to share the best appropriate knowledge in advanced approaches in fire management.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the consultation include:

- To bring together fire scientists, practitioners / managers, and policy makers to discuss global, regional as well as national level issues and concerns of wildland fire paradigms and management of wildland fire involving local communities as a key national approach in developing sustainable capacities in fire management
- To share knowledge and experiences of good practices in CBFiM among countries of the Asia-Pacific region and outside of Asia
- To elaborate the differences, opportunities and challenges of the role of communities in fire management throughout the region, especially under the light of changing socio-economic conditions, e.g.:
  - increase of the rural exodus in some countries, resulting in abandonment of land cultivation (agriculture, pastoralism), weakening of the young work force
  - reversed trends, e.g. ex-urban migration in some countries, e.g. in those regions where overpopulated urban areas do not offer sufficient resources for the livelihood of migrants
  - role of traditional and changing nomadic communities and fire management
  - role of modern “nomadic” communities: tourism
- To develop the concept of a regional activity in community-based fire management in the Asia-Pacific region
- To develop a draft concept of building a pilot activity in Nepal and at regional level to promote CBFiM approaches by establishing a Regional Fire Management Center for monitoring, capacity building and advisory services in fire management.

3. Conveners, auspices, sponsorship and partners

Conveners:

- Government of Nepal / Department of Forests (DoF)
- UNISDR-Regional South Asia Wildland Fire Network (RSAWFN)
- Nepal Forest Fire Management Chapter (NFMC)
- Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)

Sponsorship:

- Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI)
- Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI)
- Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)

Partners:

- The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)

4. Target Audience / Participants

Fire scientists, managers, professionals, policy makers, international institutions and representatives of civil society (local actors, NGOs) have been invited to contribute to the meeting (see the list of participants in **Annex 3 – not provided in this internet version**).

5. Outcomes of the Consultative Meeting

Three and half days have been allocated for following thematic and open sessions:

- Sharing regional and international experiences in CBFiM
- Field visit to local forests and communities, as well as exchange of experiences between communities
- Elaboration of contents of a draft project proposal in building a pilot activity in Nepal and at regional level to promote CBFiM approaches by establishing a Regional Fire Management Center
- Integration of National and Regional Needs for Informed, Capacitated and Coordinated Fire Management
- Pan-Asia Wildland Fire Network Meeting (invited participants)

The opening session had been graced by Dr. Krishna Chandra Paudel, the Secretary and the closing session by Mr. Yadu Bansh Jha, the honorable Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation (MFSC), Government of Nepal as chief guests.

The detail programme and the agenda is included in the 'Conference Booklet' in **Annex 5** (separate Annex) which is an essential part of this report.

The participants of the consultative meeting presented a 'state-of art' on CBFiM experiences in respective areas in the first day. Summary of impressions from all the sessions is given in **Annex 1.A**.

5.1 Presentations

The power point presentations are posted (in pdf format) in the website of the UNISDR-Regional South Asia Wildland Fire Network within the web portal of the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks/South_Asia/Meetings_activities/Southasia-Panasia_Consultation_ppt.html

5.2 Extended Summaries

The extended summaries of the papers presented in the meeting are included in the 'Conference Booklet' in **Annex 5**.

5.3 Special Papers

Special papers delivered / provided by the key persons are included in the 'Conference Booklet' in **Annex 5**.

5.4 Field Visit

Experience sharing on fire incident and Community-based Fire Management (CBFiM) at the field in Bajhghari Community Forest User Group in Kabhre District was held in 21 November 2012. The model fire fighting volunteer group developed in Sundar Community Forest User Group in Hetauda demonstrated CBFiM activities in their area

The 'Summary of Impression of study tour' is also included in **Annex 1.B**.

5.5 Resolution of the Meeting

In the closing of the consultative meeting Mr. Sundar P. Sharma declared the resolution agreed by the participants of the "Regional Pan-Asia / Pacific Consultation on Building Advanced National and Regional Capacities in Integrated Fire Management based on Participatory Involvement of Local Communities". The full text of the resolution is given in **Annex 2**.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Summary of Impressions from all the Sessions and the Field Visit
Annex 2: Resolutions Agreed by the Participants
Annex 3: List of Participants
Annex 4: Photo Gallery
Annex 5: Conference Booklet (**separate file**)

ANNEX 1.A

Summary of Impressions from all Sessions

The participants of the consultative meeting expressed their concerns about the increasing vulnerability to the consequences of wildfires at global level primarily caused by human activities, but also influenced by climate change, notably on:

- Destabilization of ecosystems and water regimes
- Change of the composition and functioning of the global atmosphere
- Threats to human health and security
- Loss of property and livelihood

Since the majority of wildfires are human-caused and thus can be prevented, the susceptibility of ecosystems, landscapes and communities to become affected by uncontrolled fire can be mitigated and resilience be enhanced by proper management, the participants emphasized the need to

- Prioritize measures to prevent of unwanted wildfires – such as education, awareness-raising and capacity-building
- Capacitate land users and authorities in the safe use of fire (controlled / prescribed fire) where ecologically sound and needed

Furthermore, the participants stressed the need to enhance capacities at local to national and regional level to

- Focus on community-based, participatory forest and fire management solutions because
  - People are the main source of fire incidences
  - Rural populations are mainly affected by wildfires
  - Communities recognize their responsibility to protect their lands and assets against destruction by wildfire
- Emphasize community involvement in fire management with the sustenance of principles, e.g. as regulated by law and practice by Community Forest User Groups (CFUG) in Nepal. The socio-economic needs of rural dwellers and forest fringe communities must be taken into account when designing and implementing fire management programmes.
- Explore capacity building / training methods in the use of simple, basic and – if applicable – traditional methods of fire and forest management which are easy to be understood and practiced by rural populations.
- Provide technical assistance in the provision of adequate basic equipment and other resources to enable local communities to practice fire prevention and wildfire defense
- Explore how advanced technologies, e.g. remote sensing, GIS and Information Communication Technologies can be tapped into community-based fire management mechanisms for timely, precise and reliable early warning, detection, monitoring and response of wildland fires.
- Ensure that land tenure systems and policies be clear and beneficial to local communities engaged in participatory fire management
- Develop incentive and reward schemes to communities involved in community-based fire management
- Develop national fire management policies and appropriate legal frameworks addressing the reasons for burning practices, causes of wildfires, and impacts on society and environment
- Strengthen the institutional and operational capacities in fire management at national level
- Establish interagency coordination and support mechanisms, including participation of stakeholder groups of civil society.
- Enhance and support international cooperation in fire management to facilitate exchange of experiences through bilateral and multilateral agreements, including agreements on mutual assistance during wildland fire emergencies.

The participants of the consultative meeting expressed appreciation for the opportunity to share experience and views, and formulated a set of recommendations to be submitted to the government of the host country and the countries of the Asia-Pacific Region, as well as to international organizations active in the field of scientific and technical cooperation.

ANNEX 1.B

Summary of Impressions of the Study Tour to Banjhghari Community Forest User Group: Field Demonstration and Discussion of Principles in Community-based Fire Management

During the consultation a one-day field visit of Banjhghari Community Forest was organized on 21 November 2012. The Banjhghari Community Forest (CF) lies in Bhakunde 7 of Kanpur Village Development Committee in Kabhre District. Banjhghari CF covers an area of 96.5 hectares of planted conifer forests (*Pinus roxburghii* and *Pinus patula*) on the south-west aspect of a middle mountain in Mahabharat range, which was severely burned by a wildfire in 2011 (fore more details on the location: see 'Conference Booklet' in **Annex 5**).

The main objective of the visit was to expose the participants to 'community forestry management regime' and the state of the art in 'community-based fire management' in Nepal with emphasis to

- Visit the burned forest in which no specific fire management measures had been taken before the fire
- Listen to the experience of the members of the Community Forest User Group (CFUG) how the fire was controlled with limited technical knowledge and resources
- Listen to the expectations of the villagers to receive technical advice and training for the self defense of their forests, village and fields, and to reduce the threats of wildfires to people
- To demonstrate how a Model Fire Management Volunteer Group, which had been set up in a different region of the country, could assist and capacitate the users of the Banjhghari Community Forest to protect their forest against wildfires.

The lively discussion among the Banjhghari CFUG members, the Model Fire Management Volunteer Group from Sundar CF, Hetauda, and the international participants revealed that

- Banjhghari CFUG is managing their forest properly but they lack technical capacity and knowledge to protect their forest from uncontrolled fires.
- Participants were impressed with the demonstration of Model Fire Management Volunteer Group from Sundar CF, Hetauda. Particularly, international participants were very impressed to see their strong determination to protect their forests and their ability to transfer knowledge to other communities.
- There was a general consensus that every community forest user group of Nepal should have a 'Fire Management Volunteer Group' like in Sundar CF in Hetauda.
- The Banjhghari CFUG members are motivated to develop community-based fire management capabilities like in Sundar CF in Hetauda.
- Since forest fire fighting in mountain terrain is a serious and dangerous job (globally most fatalities during firefight occur on steep slopes or canyons) the training in personal fire safety of CFUG volunteers shall receive highest priority.
- Awareness raising and advising on principles in fire prevention at local community level should be the prime concern.

The participants felt honored and thankful to the local community people of Banjhghari when they received wonderful traditional greetings from them and their enthusiasm to brief the management of their forest. The local community showed their eagerness to protect their forest from fire, although at moment they are still lacking knowledge and experience in fighting wildfires.

ANNEX 2

Regional Pan-Asia / Pacific Consultation on Building Advanced National and Regional Capacities in Integrated Fire Management based on Participatory Involvement of Local Communities

20-22 November 2012, Lalitpur, Nepal

Resolution
Agreed by the Participants

Within the four regions of Asia that are belonging to the UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network and the Pan-Asia Wildland Fire Network, forest fires and other vegetation fires are increasingly impacting the environment and societies. The Northeast Asian Region, which includes the Korean Peninsula, the Far East of the Russian Federation, Japan and China, is experiencing increasing occurrence of forest fires with negative consequences on sustainability of ecosystems, biodiversity and forest productivity. The Central Asian Region, which includes Mongolia, Northern China, the Russian Federation (Siberia), and the Central Asian States (Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan), is affected by continental dryness, widespread illegal logging and increasing wildfires, which are threatening sustainable forest management and regularly resulting in regional smoke pollution. The Southeast Asian region, covering the members states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), is faced by impacts of excessive fire application in land-use change, notably in rain forest and peat biomes, as well as wildfires in seasonally dry forests. The South Asian region, which is including countries of mainland South Asia not members of ASEAN, is faced with increasing pressure of forest fires, particularly in mountainous terrain, with severe consequences of secondary disasters such as landslides, erosion and floods. Many countries within the four regions of Asia are partners in economic and cultural activities. Some of them are sharing common forest fire problems, including transboundary fires and smoke pollution.

The Regional Pan-Asia / Pacific consultation “Building Advanced National and Regional Capacities in Integrated Fire Management based on Participatory Involvement of Local Communities” was held under the auspices of the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MFSC), Government of Nepal, the Korean Forest Research Institute (KFRI) and the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) representing the UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network. The consultation was funded by the Korean Forest Research Institute (KFRI) through an administrative agreement and supported by the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI). Additional support was provided by the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) and the facilitation support by the UNISDR-Regional South Asia Wildland Fire Network and the Nepal Forest Fire Management Chapter (NFMC). The consultation was hosted by Nepal and successfully held in Lalitpur, Nepal, 20-22 November 2012. Seventy-two participants from 10 countries (Bhutan, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, People’s Republic of China, Republic of Korea and Thailand) attended and contributed to the meeting. Additionally input papers were received from the Russian Federation and Indonesia.

The participants of the Consultative Meeting:

Assessing the national / regional fire situation:

> Ecosystems throughout the Asian region are undergoing changes in wildland fire regimes. These changes are primarily induced by humans and aggravated by climate extremes. In equatorial Asia the use of fire in converting native primary or secondary vegetation is highest in the region. Main current burning activities are related to conversion of peatlands to plantations, notably biofuel plantations, clearing agriculture land and slash-and-burn agriculture. Wildfires spreading from land-use fires are favored by dry spells or extended droughts during El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) events. Increasing severity and frequency of ENSO events are a consequence of global climate change.
>
> South and Southeast Asia: In the seasonal forests of mainland of the regions, regular seasonal smoke pollution caused by wildland fires are aggravated by industrial pollution and other burning activities such as trash burning. The so-called Asian Brown Cloud or the seasonal smoke pollution in Northern Thailand and southern range of Hindu Kush Himalayan region are a consequence of multiple sources of fire. In the mountain regions of the Himalayas in the South Asia, wildfires are increasingly affecting the high mountain ecosystems. In Nepal in the past four years an unprecedented number and impacts of wildfires resulted in severe environmental, economic and human losses. Wildfires and fire smoke pollution are crossing national borders. Regional warming linked to climate change is predicted to alter the snow and ice regimes in high-altitude ecosystems. Rapidly melting glaciers will not only impact the drinking water supply of around one billion people but also affecting regional vegetation dryness and fire regimes.
>
> Central and Northeast Asia: Wildfire-generated smoke pollution at local level but also in remote locations due to long-range transport is also regularly observed in the regions, with negative consequences on human health and security. The accumulating effects of land-use change, widespread non-sustainable forest use including illegal logging, regional climate change and wildfires are resulting in an expansion of grassland / steppe ecosystems at the expense of forest cover. In the Far East of Russia, mixed forest ecosystems are becoming increasingly vulnerable to fire as a consequence of regional climate, careless fire use and reduced institutional capacities to manage fires.

Aiming at enhancing regional existing capability in fire management, including monitoring, early warning and impact assessment, and facilitate international cooperation in wildland fire management;

Recalling to the Recommendations of the 4th International Wildland Fire Conference in Seville, Spain in 2007, Conclusions and Recommendations of the "Pan-Asia Forest Fire Consultation for the UNISDR Regional Wildland Fire Networks of Northeast Asia, Central Asia, Southeast Asia (ASEAN), and South Asia in Busan, South Korea in 2009" and Conclusions and Recommendations of Regional Session III (Asia Cluster): The Pan-Asia Wildland Fire Network – Northeast, Southeast, Central and South Asia of the 5th International Wildland Fire Conference in Sun City, South Africa in 2011

Recognizing the values of forests as providers of economic, social, and ecological benefits and environmental services to humankind;

Recognizing the region has diversified ecosystems and forest types resulting from wide range of landforms and climate consequently having diverse fire regimes and vulnerabilities;

Recognizing the importance of information sharing, technology transfer with collaborative efforts for transboundary haze pollution reduction, establishing upstream-downstream linkage within the greater Hindu Kush - Himalaya region for reducing disaster risk caused by wildfires;

Recognizing that not all fires are destructive and that fire management is an essential part in sustainable forest management;

Being concerned about the carbon stored in forest biomass decreased in Asia in the last decades. Forests, a vital carbon sink, are decreasing and degrading mainly due to wildfires which are reducing carbon storage capacities of some forests. Wise use of fire as an integrated measure of sustainable forest management, can stabilize or increase the carbon sequestration potential;

Recognizing the high expectations of the common-pool resources providing forest products including non-wood forest products, maintain biological diversity, adapt climate change, conserve watersheds, provide recreation facilities, improve air quality and help alleviate poverty through livelihood support to rural population;

Recognizing the wise use of fire giving due recognition of social and cultural values of use of fire in reducing the incidence and impact of wildfires by improved prediction, prevention, monitoring, rapid response to emergencies and restoration following fires; using planned fire for wildfire hazard and fuel reduction, silvicultural purposes and habitat management; increase capacity of local communities with resistance and resilience to the wildfire;

Supporting the objectives of work / terms of references of the UN-ISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group / Global Wildland Fire Network and Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC);

Expressing the intent to prevail over current gaps, problems and low capability in wildland fire management in prevention, preparedness, suppression, response and relief, rescue, and recovery and rehabilitation measures, integration of socio-cultural, economic, environmental considerations and institutions in developing policies and practices related to wildland fire, consistent information and statistics about fires, their causes and their effects, integration of fire as a component of land use and forest management, integrated community-based approaches to fire management, capability in the appropriate use of fire, capability in the safe and efficient use of resources for fire suppression, capability in remote sensing and use of satellite-derived information for wildland fire management, development and use of community-base fire hazard mapping, and measures to cope with fire emergencies;

Expressing interest in partnering and assisting in human resources development, institutional development, developing facilities and improving research, technology development and fire monitoring;

Expressing gratitude to the Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI), Government of South Korea, and the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) for the support of the consultation;

Being Aware that in most countries of the region, the problems associated with excessive application of fire in land use and the humanitarian and security consequences of fires and fire emissions are not yet solved

Recognizing the increasing interest and proactive actions in participatory and community-based approaches in fire management in most of the countries of the Asia-Pacific region;

Participants of the consultative meeting discussed and agreed upon the following recommendations to the governments of countries in the Asia-Pacific Region:

- To develop / strengthen the institutional and financial base for fire management;
- To formulate / review legal and policy frameworks;
- To emphasize community based fire management, institutional and technological capacity development at all levels;
- To establish Regional Fire Management Resource Centers in South Asia, South-East Asia, North-East Asia and Central Asia for monitoring, capacity building and advisory services in fire management;

- To develop / enhance transboundary cooperation among the countries of Asia for information and technology sharing, training, preparedness and response during wildfire emergencies;

- To encourage countries inside the Asia Pacific region and at international level to develop bilateral, multi-lateral projects and programmes aimed at enhancing fire management capabilities;

- To consider implementation of the recommendations of previous regional and international meetings / conferences / summits;

- To support and participate in the 6th International Wildland Fire Conference in South Korea in 2015;

The participants of the consultative meeting thanked the organizers and hosts of the meeting for bringing together the fire community responsible for wildland fire science and management. The participants thanked South Korea to host the 6th International Wildland Fire Conference in 2015 and encouraged countries of the Asia-Pacific Region to attend the conference.

ANNEX 3

List of Participants

Not provided in this internet version

ANNEX 4: Photo Gallery

Group photo of the participants

Inaugural address, The Secretary, MFSC, Dr. Krishna Chandra Paudel

Opening remarks by the Director General, Department of Forests, Mr. Braj Kishor Yadav

Opening remarks by Prof. Dr. Johann G. Goldammer, GFMC

Opening remarks by Dr. Koo Kyosang, KFRI

Mr. Sundar P. Sharma, DWIDP

Dr. SIM Heok-Choh, APAFRI

Prof. Dr. Bambang Hero Saharjo, Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia

Mr. Siri Akaakara, National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department, Thailand

Dr. Oyunsanaa Byambasuren, GFMC

Dr. Lee Byungdoo, KFRI

Mr. Ram Badhur Mongar, Department of forest and Park Service, Bhutan

Dr. Xiaorui Tian, Chinese Academy of Forestry, China

Mr. David Asare, Forestry Commission, Ghana

Meeting

Meeting

Field visit to the Demonstration plot

Meeting

Demonstration plot

Field discussion

Traditional welcoming ceremony by local CFUG, Banjhghari Community Forest

Traditional welcoming ceremony by local CFUG, Banjhghari Community Forest

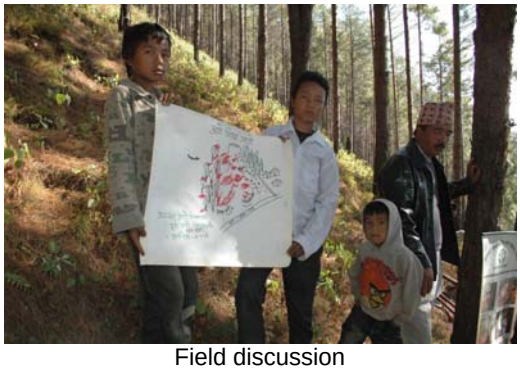
View of the Banjhghari Community Forest

Closing Ceremony

Young firefighter

Young firefighters

Local community members are demonstrating their experience on fire management



Field discussion

Field discussion

Field discussion

Honorable Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation Mr. Yadu Bansh Jha

Two local community members

Field discussion

Closing Statement by Honorable Minister, MFSC, Mr. Yadubansh Jha

Cultural event

Group photo of the international participants

Group photo after the field visit