

Decisions, Recommendations and Discussions

Second Meeting of the APFNet Council

10-11 May, 2016 Siem Reap, Cambodia

Decision C.02/01 *The Council requested the Chair to provide the comments noted as follows to the Board of Directors, for its consideration, when it meets on 12 May.*

Members expressed their continued support for activities contained in the document, including APFNet's scholarship program and projects it is co-funding with partners. Support was also given to more frequent communication with Council members and to increasing the multi-cultural aspect of the Secretariat through secondments and internships from other Asia-Pacific economies. The importance of passing on experiences and learning from such arrangements was noted. Collaboration on issues of mutual interest and concern was seen as a key element, not only to avoid duplication, but to build on the comparative advantages of each partner. It was also mentioned that APFNet's strong ties to APEC presents a unique opportunity to access leaders and keep forestry on the political agenda. In this regard, it was suggested that a concerted effort be made to link the outcomes of major events, such as the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission's Forestry Week, with meetings of APEC ministers responsible for forests. The Secretariat was also asked to take geographic distribution into account to a greater extent when selecting projects for funding.

Decision C.02/02 *The Council requested the Chair to provide the comments noted as follows to the Board of Directors, for its consideration, when it meets on 12 May.*

- The importance of improving the skills and knowledge of the grassroots was stressed, given that practitioners on the ground are the ones who implement policies and get things done.
- The strategy is more focused than the first one. Thus, it has the potential to be an effective communications tool and ways to use it as such should be explored.
- Text should be added on how to sell forestry to policy-makers, on the fundamental role of forests in sustainable development and on how to raise the profile of forestry in international fora. However, caution was urged not to include too much information in the strategy but flesh out the details in work plans instead.
- The urgency to finalize the document was recognized, given that 2016 is nearly half over.
- A cross-sectoral approach to dealing with issues that impact on forests is key to achieving desired results and APFNet should do what it can to foster such collaboration.
- Ways must be found to avoid duplication, for example, by consulting organizations that historically fund projects before approving new ones and, in this regard, APFNet should devise a mechanism to put practical steps in place.

- It was further suggested that the institutional framework be retained as a priority and that priorities 2&3 be combined, perhaps under the heading of Promoting sustainable forest management to enhance the ecological functions of forests and their resiliency.
- The matrix could be reworked to more directly link the implementation tools listed to the individual priorities of the organization.
- Drafting the final report on APEC's aspirational goal should be added as a key activity.

Decision C.02/03 *The Council supported the proposal to examine the need for and the feasibility of establishing a network which focuses on forestry strategic planning in the Asia-Pacific and looks forward to the Secretariat following up with members on the list of experts it should contact for this purpose.*

Decision C.02/04 *The Council endorsed the list of nominees, as presented, and agreed to have the Chair bring it forward to the Board of Directors for its approval at its meeting on 12 May.*

Decision C.02/05 *The Council accepted Sri Lanka's kind invitation and looks forward to having the date confirmed in due course.*