

Community Forestry Champions Network 2016

Forest Landscape Restoration:
Experience-sharing between ASEAN
Member States and the People's
Republic of China

Workshop information

Dates: 18 - 21 July 2016

Location: Guizhou Province, People's
Republic of China (with field visits in
different locations)

The Community Forestry (CF) Champions Network was established in 2012 as an approach to contribute to the promotion and implementation of CF in the ASEAN region and beyond. It functions as a platform for learning and exchanging experiences among senior officials in the forestry sector.

In line with the objective of continuing learning and exchange of experience about CF, RECOFTC - The Center for People and Forests – in collaboration with the State Academy of Forestry Administration (STAFSA) of the People's Republic of China, is organizing the fourth CF Champions Network event in July 2016. The subject for this year's event is "Forest Landscape Restoration" (FLR). China has been chosen as the location for the event in light of its significant efforts in forest restoration. The four-day event is composed of workshop activities, integrated with field visits in different locations in Guizhou province.

The choice of topic of this year's CF Champions Network event is particularly relevant with numerous national and regional initiatives to restore degraded land and forests. There is significant concern that these reforestation and restoration initiatives hold great risks for those living in and around the areas targeted for restoration or reforestation. Thus the event will focus on Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR), which aims to balance the ecological aims of these initiatives with social and economic aims, including the rights and needs of local communities.



Objectives

At the end of the workshop, participants are expected to have:

- enhanced knowledge about FLR, its balance between conservation and production issues, with particular emphasis on rights and needs of local communities;
- shared experiences on FLR across the Asia-Pacific region;
- developed action plans for applying the lessons learned from the CF Champions Network across the Asia-Pacific region, particularly Southeast Asia.

Participants

The CF Champions Network event will facilitate the sharing and learning about FLR among representatives from ASEAN Member States and China:

- Senior officials from the ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN)
- Senior officials from PRC's State Forest Administration
- Representatives from regional institutions working in FLR and CF/Collective Forest Tenure Reform (CFTR)

The workshop is also open for a limited number of participants from relevant sectors and projects or programs who are interested in sharing their experience on FLR and/or seeing the opportunities in working with FLR issues.

For more information, please contact:

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Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) attempts to bring a balance between conservation and production issues by first paying attention to the causes of forest loss and degradation, engaging stakeholders in removing conflict over land-use planning and sharing of benefits, and negotiating trade-offs that are acceptable to all, including biodiversity conservation and a range of other benefits. (FAO/RECOFTC. 2016. *Forest landscape restoration in Asia-Pacific Forests*, by Appanah, S. (ed.). Bangkok, Thailand)

China has a wide variety of forests, including alpine, temperate and tropical types. In the past, forests underwent heavy exploitation resulting to severe environmental problems. Starting in 2000, a series of key initiatives, including reform of tenure policies, began to reverse forest loss. Expansion of plantations, mainly monoculture of exotic species was attributed to the local communities. With these developments, the research community finds FLR approaches as the next appropriate steps in Chinese forestry development.