Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation
亚太森林恢复与可持续管理组织

Agenda item 4 APFNet/Council&BoD/ENG/2019/02

Prepared by: APFNet Project Appraisal Panel
Purpose: Information

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Report for 2018 Project Concept Note Appraisal

Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation

2018 Project Concept Note Appraisal Report

APFNet Project Appraisal Panel

9 July 2018

Started from the beginning of June 2018, four consultants of APFNet Project Appraisal Panel (PAP) began to appraise 5 project concept notes (CNs) which are from Australia, Cambodia, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and Thailand. Including scoring the CN, comments and recommendations have been made in aspects of project's relevance to APFNet and targeted economy, overall project design, project feasibility and so forth.

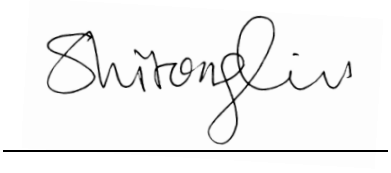
The full mark of each CN is 100 points, and scores of project CN are divided into three levels as following:

1. **Score 85 and above**: The CN highly conforms to the Appraisal Criteria, and is recommended for further development into a project proposal with no essential revision required. According to the results of appraisal, there is no CN scored higher than 85.
2. **Score 70-84**: The CN conforms to the Appraisal Criteria, and is recommended for further development into a project proposal with substantial revision required. In this round, there are only one project CN scored between70-84.
3. **Score 69 and below**: The CN is inconsistent with the Appraisal Criteria, and is not recommended for further development into a project proposal. Based on appraisal results, four CNs have been scored lower than 69.

This report has documented scores, comments and recommendations for all five CNs. Based on the scores, five CNs are arranged in descending order.

Annex: Appraisal Panelist and Assigned CN

Endorsed by:



Mr. Liu Shirong, Chair of the Project Appraisal Panel
Vice President,
Chinese Academy of Forestry

Scores of 2018 Project Concept Notes

Project Title	**Appraisal Result** (0-100)
1. Promoting the sustainable production of sandalwood in Pacific Island Economies, submitted by Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).	**75**
2. Restoration of the Degraded Forests for Improving Ecosystem Services in the Preah Chey Varaman, Norodom National Park in Cambodia, submitted by General Directorate of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection (GDANCP), Ministry of Environment, Cambodia.	**69**
3. Harnessing private sector investment for forest rehabilitation: integrating timber production and restoration, submitted by University of Melbourne, Australia.	**65**
4. Mapping, monitoring and restoration of mangrove forest for sustainable costal ecosystem management in Thailand, submitted by King Mongkuts University of Technology Thonburi, Bangkok, Thailand.	**65**
5. An assessment of governance quality and development of "verifiers" for governance indicators for scientific forest management regime in Nepal, submitted by University of Southern Queensland, Australia.	**55**

1. **Promoting the sustainable production of sandalwood in Pacific Island Economies, submitted by Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).**

Score: 75

Comments

This is a well elaborated project pre-proposal that can be recommended for the preparation of a full proposal.

The pre-proposal points at an important tree species that is being grown in various economies in Asia Pacific. The pre-proposal, however, provides little specific data on actual distribution and stocks, international trade and related supply chains. On the other hand, the pre-proposal does point to a number of key constraints that inhibit local producers taking up sandalwood rehabilitation.

The goals, and objectives do correspond well with the identified problems and constraints. Having said that, if the pre-proposal is to be developed into a full proposal it will be necessary to elaborate in much more detail on evidence of current production and demand, and cost and benefit analysis of producing sandalwood in the three economies where it is suggested in the pre-proposal. To some extent, the authors of the pre-proposal should try to develop a business plan that demonstrates that producing sandalwood is financially attractive, assuming that regulatory issues can adequately be addressed.

Lastly, it will also be useful to elaborate a little more of what are environmental benefits of an expanded sandalwood production. If the project were to be successful, what would be the benefits in terms of environmental regulatory functions.

Recommendation

The pre-proposal can be recommended for the preparation of a full proposal. However, the issues mentioned above should be carefully considered when a full proposal is being prepared.

2. Restoration of the Degraded Forests for Improving Ecosystem Services in the Preah Chey Varaman-Norodom National Park in Cambodia, submitted by General Directorate of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection (GDANCP), Ministry of Environment, Cambodia.

Score: 69

Comments

The concept note presents high relevance to AFPNet priorities and forestry development in its target economy. There is coherence between project objectives, expected outputs, and key activities. However, the project objectives are not clearly measurable. The project note fails to present whether relevant studies have been done and whether there have been similar efforts, therefore it is hard to prove the rationality of APFNet contribution to the project.

In addition, the budget structure does not meet APFNet requirements, and especially there is a much higher proportion of budget allocated to project staff cost.

Recommendations

The concept note is inconsistent with the Concept Note Appraisal Criteria, and is not recommended for further development into a project proposal.

3. Harnessing private sector investment for forest rehabilitation: integrating timber production and restoration, submitted by University of Melbourne, Australia.

Score: 65

Comments

The proposed project put forward an important question: how to achieve the multiple and desirable outcomes for smallholders and poverty alleviation, industry development and the environment amelioration by considering a full range of ecosystem services? However, the CN did not provide an elaboration of concrete scientific framework or strategy to address the question in an integrated way, which brings all together ecological, economic and social benefits for the targeted localities with the complex landscape components in association with multiple stakeholders in cohesion.

The CN emphasized to develop new approaches for integrated restoration across relevant land tenures in the different economies, new types of business models to facilitate investment in restoration, analysis of potential economic, social and environmental outcomes of different restoration approaches and appropriate policies to support larger scale restoration, but actually we hardly to see the specific approach or innovated way to solve this complex problem. Such weakness makes the project help little in justifying the so-called "new investment models that meet the needs of different partners and that consider a range of economic and environmental values…" to be developed by the project. Moreover, the CN did not provide a logical and clear roadmap to achieve such an ambitious goal of coordinated synergies of both economic benefits and environmental values, which varies according to different economic, social, political and cultural contexts.

Obviously the CN simplifies the complex interaction among a wide range of components and stakeholders. Additionally, it is almost impossible to achieve such ambitious goal within the proposed project implementation timeframe of two years.

Also, the effects of models, once really developed by the project, should be monitored and evaluated. But most of the budget is allocated to human costs (staff, consulting, travelling, etc), no costs for monitoring and evaluation were estimated.

Recommendation

1. Provide a clear description of new approaches for integrated restoration across relevant land tenures in the different economies, new types of business models to facilitate investment in restoration, analysis of potential economic, social and environmental

outcomes of different restoration approaches and appropriate policies to support larger scale restoration.

2. Identify the gaps and prioritize the key issues shaping the complex context of land use pattern and ecosystem services, based on historical experiences and on-going practices. At the same time, a roadmap or critical milestone should be developed in order to monitor and assess the project progress with the concrete indicators;

3. A appropriate consideration of short- term benefits during the initial stage of the project implementation or project completion and the long-term objective of landscape restoration sustainability should be addressed, and the trade-offs among some of the ecosystem services generated from the landscape restoration should be soundly managed at multiple spatial and temporal scales;

4. Improve the logics of the CN for implementing various project activities necessary for achieving the success of the project.

4. Mapping, monitoring and restoration of mangrove forest for sustainable costal ecosystem management in Thailand, submitted by King Mongkuts University of Technology Thonburi, Bangkok, Thailand.

Score: 65

Comments

The project concept note focuses on increasing long-term sustainability of current and future rehabilitation efforts of mangrove ecosystem in Thailand. However, there is not much innovation in the conception of the project note. The project objectives are not very measurable and thus it is hard to evaluate whether they will be achieved or not. There is a lack of coherence between project objectives, expected outputs, and key activities. The strategies and approaches are neither elaborate nor clear. In addition, the concept note fails to present how it will achieve the objective of improving economy of community members.

Recommendations

The concept note is inconsistent with the Concept Note Appraisal Criteria, and is not recommended for further development into a project proposal.

5. An assessment of governance quality and development of "verifiers" for governance indicators for scientific forest management regime in Nepal, submitted by University of Southern Queensland, Australia.

Score: 55

Comments

- Relevance

The expected outcome of the proposed project cannot be directly related or justifiable in achieving APFNet objectives. They are also not inconsistence with the APFNet's mission. However, evidence has been provided that project is contributing to forestry related legislation and regulations.

Total Points: 10

- Overall Project Design and Feasibility
  - Problem and situation has not clearly defined and quantified. Therefore, it's difficult to understand problem properly.
  - Goal and Objectives are not well defined and not meeting the requirements of APFNet.
  - Target beneficiaries are not clear.

Total Points: 45

Recommendation

It was observed that the concept note is inconsistent with the concept note appraisal criteria, and is not recommended for further development into a project proposal.

Annex

Appraisal Panelist and Assigned CN

Reviewer	Task/ Assigned CN
Mr. LIU Shirong liusr@caf.ac.cn; liusr9311@163.com	• Responsible for the overall coordination; • Harnessing private sector investment for forest rehabilitation: integrating timber production and restoration, submitted by University of Melbourne, Australia.
Mr. Anura SATHURUSINGHE anura.sathurusinghe@gmail.com	• An assessment of governance quality and development of "verifiers" for governance indicators for scientific forest management regime in Nepal, submitted by University of Southern Queensland, Australia.
Mr. WANG Xiaoping wangxp@bfdic.com	• Mapping, monitoring and restoration of mangrove forest for sustainable costal ecosystem management in Thailand, submitted by King Mongkuts University of Technology Thonburi, Bangkok, Thailand. • Restoration of the Degraded Forests for Improving Ecosystem Services in the Preah Chey Varaman, Norodom National Park in Cambodia, submitted by General Directorate of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection (GDANCP), Ministry of Environment, Cambodia.
Mr. Wilhelmus de JONG dejongwil@gmail.com	• Promoting the sustainable production of sandalwood in Pacific Island Economies, submitted by Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).