

# Climate Change and Forests: What has been done and what more needs to be done?

Organized by: Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank

# Outline of Module

- A. Video: How Climate Change Affects Forests
- B. Impact of Climate Change on Forest Policies
- C. What Still Needs to be Done
- D. Case Study: USFS Roadmap / Scorecard
- E. Exercise: *Mini assessment - integrating climate change into National Forest Programs*

<https://vimeo.com/101133873>



People, Land Use and Forests in the ASEAN Region: Policy Challenges in the 21st Century  
Eighth Executive Forest Policy Course

22 March - 3 April 2015, Naypyidaw, Myanmar

# Regional Climatic Trends

- Overall temperature increasing - rising number of hot days and warm nights, and a decline in cooler weather
- Increased climatic and precipitation extremes – cyclones, droughts, heat waves
- Seasonal shifts in rainfall pattern
- Coastal areas predicted to experience sea level of 32 cm by 2050

# What does this mean for forests?

- Shifts in the life cycles, growth rates, and the distributions of plant species, and with permafrost degradation.
- Mangroves, salt marshes, and seagrass beds may decline unless they can move inland, while coastal freshwater swamps and marshes will be vulnerable to saltwater intrusion with rising sea levels
- Changes in animal distribution
- Increased incidence of fire, pests, and pathogens, invasive species, and landslides

# Examples of how Climate Change has impacted Forest Policies

- Most countries developing National Climate Change Strategies and Action Plans, REDD+ strategies, National Adaptation Programs of Actions.
- REDD+ policies have emphasized the need for improved conservation, land tenure and rights, stakeholder engagement and conflict management policies.
- Increased need for cross-sectoral planning and policy coherence to reach climate goals.
- Increased complexity in institutional roles and bureaucracy
- Growing emphasize on afforestation, reforestation, restoration and urban forestry

# What needs to be done

## **New policies or amended policies may be needed to:**

- Ensure policy coherence between national and sub-national strategies
- Establish new institutional bodies or revise mandate of existing institutions
- Ensure compliance coherence with international monitoring and measurements best practices, reporting, and verification requirements
- Design or revise new or existing incentives or penalties to influence land use to reach emission goals

# What needs to be done

## **New policies or amended policies may be needed to:**

- REDD+: Clarify land zoning, tenure and rights  
Put in place policies and mechanisms to allocate resources transparently and equitably to appropriate stakeholders/organizations, esp. in regards to new sources of financing
- Address gaps in research – vulnerability assessments
- Raise public awareness
- Retrain workforce



# Case Study: USFS response to Climate Change

2008: USFS Strategic Framework for Responding to Climate Change

2010: USDA Strategic Plan (2010-15)

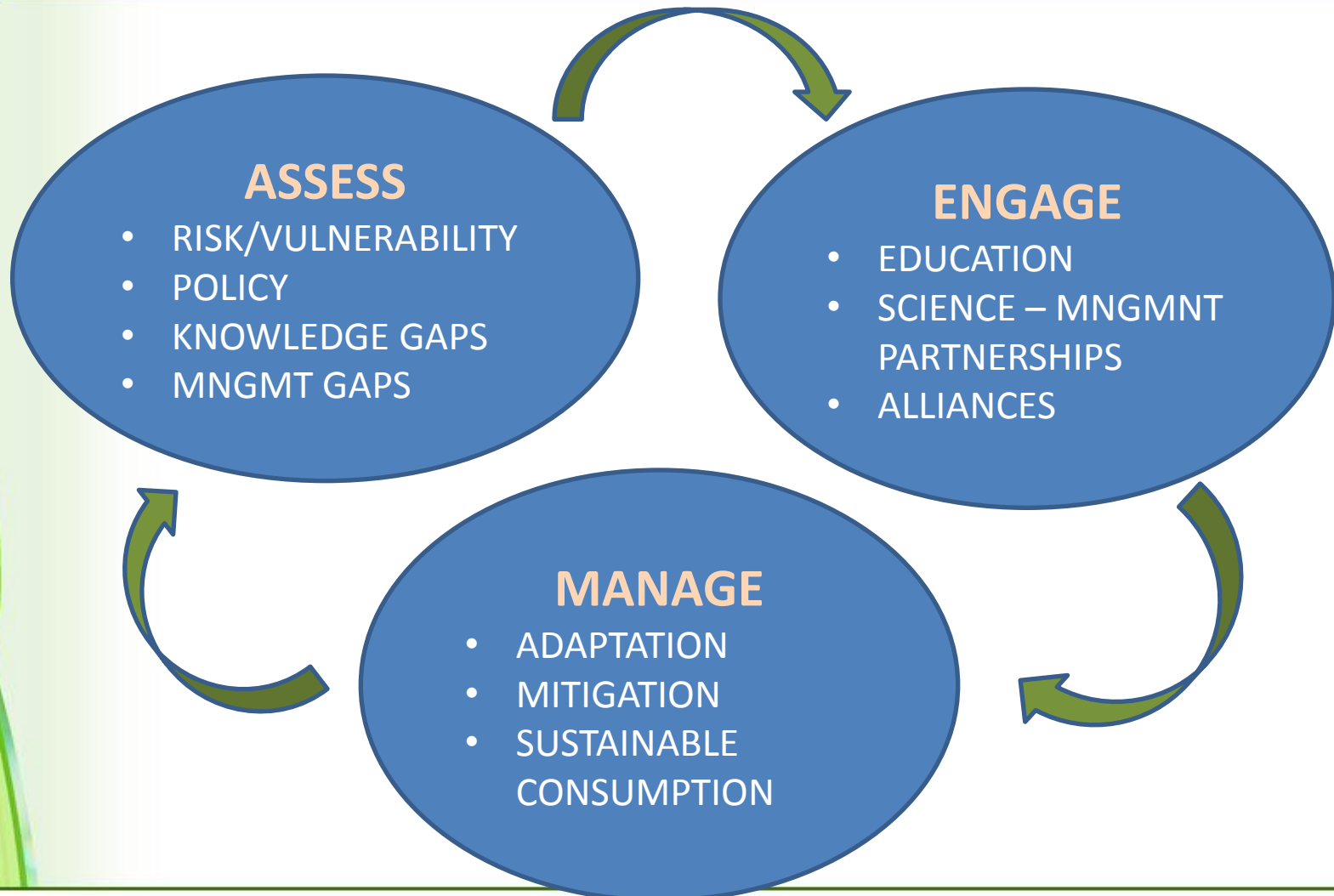
Strategic Goal: *Ensure our national forests and private working lands are conserved, restored, and made more resilient to climate change while ensuring our water resources.*

**2010-11: USFS National Roadmap for Responding to Climate Change and Performance Scorecard**

2013: White House National Climate Action Plan



# Case Study: USFS Roadmap for Responding to Climate Change





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# ACTIVITY: Mini assessment – integrating climate change into NFPs

## Six Elements of the NFP Framework

- Policies and Strategies
- Institutional Framework
- Legislation
- Information, Communication, and Research
- Capacity
- Financial Arrangements



## Four Stage Policy Process

- Identification and Analysis Phase
- Planning Phase
- Implementation Phase
- Monitoring and Evaluation Phase

# ACTIVITY:

## Mini assessment – integrating climate change into NFPs

- 1 ) Each table will be given one of the six specific NFP element to discuss.
- 2) Using the handout of recommended actions, think about your country's progress in respect to the specific NFP element.
- 3) Exchange experiences at your table
  - What action(s) are especially challenging? Why?
  - Type of initiatives your countries have undertaken in respect to the NFP element