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Seminar on
AFFORESTATION IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

in conjunction with the 24th session of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on
Forest Technology, Management and Training

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Management Objectives of Afforestation and Reforestation in Papua New Guinea

Basic paper by Mr. Don Bakat

Summary

While Papua New Guinea has a large amount of natural forests with tropical timber species, a significant portion of the country is covered by grassland. Papua New Guinea has recently developed a National Reforestation Policy and a National Reforestation Programme. In the programme, vacant grassland has been identified for forest plantations, forest extensions and other forms of tree planting.

Due to the land tenure system in Papua New Guinea, the emphasis is placed on using the vacant grassland for the development of forest plantations. Plantation development and other forms of tree planting through afforestation have multiple management objectives. Commerciality is the important factor for afforestation. The natural forest resources are depleting at a faster rate due to land pressure from increasing population, mining activities, large-scale agriculture projects, wildfire and other influences that are beyond the control of any forester. Objectives relating to ecological management and environmental stability, the protection of water catchments and the conservation of flora and fauna are another consideration. Papua New Guinea is part of the global village, and the objectives of carbon sink and trading are also part of the programme.

The concept of afforestation under sustainable forest management can be addressed effectively, particularly when a project or a programme is carefully considered and planned to address a number of management issues and objectives.

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