Presentation of the **APFORGEN SURVEY**

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Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources – Side event at the XXIII IUFRO WORLD CONGRESS

August 2010, Seoul, Korea

A survey was conducted in Feb 2010 with the national coordinators of the 14 APFORGEN countries – 9 countries including Secretariat of The Pacific Community (SPC) responded.
6 countries are members of the ITTO funded project (India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines & Thailand). SPC, China and Lao PDR – Non ITTO countries.

PURPOSE – Identify the strengthens and weaknesses of past activities and ideas for improvement.

OBJECTIVE OF THE SURVEY

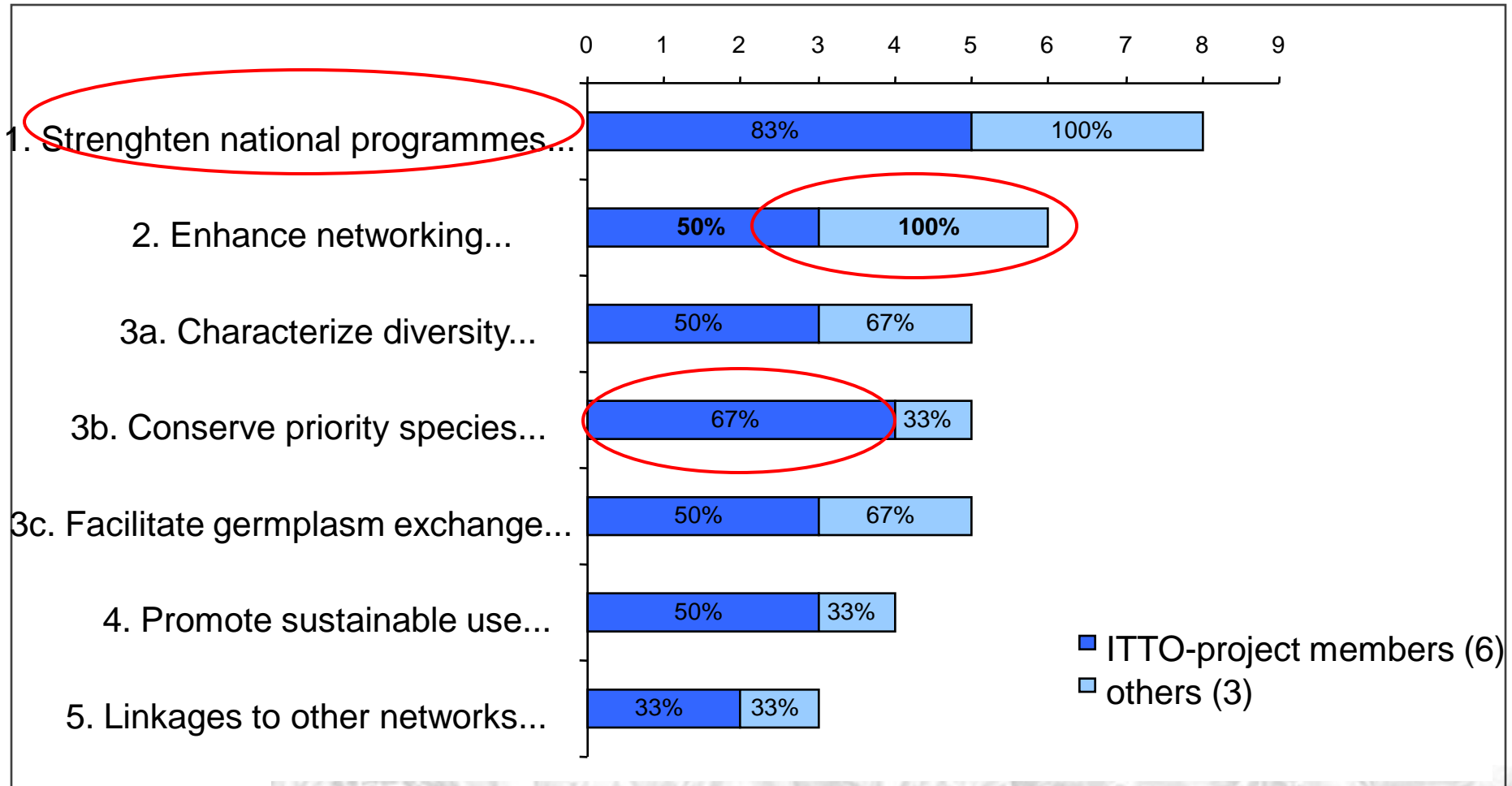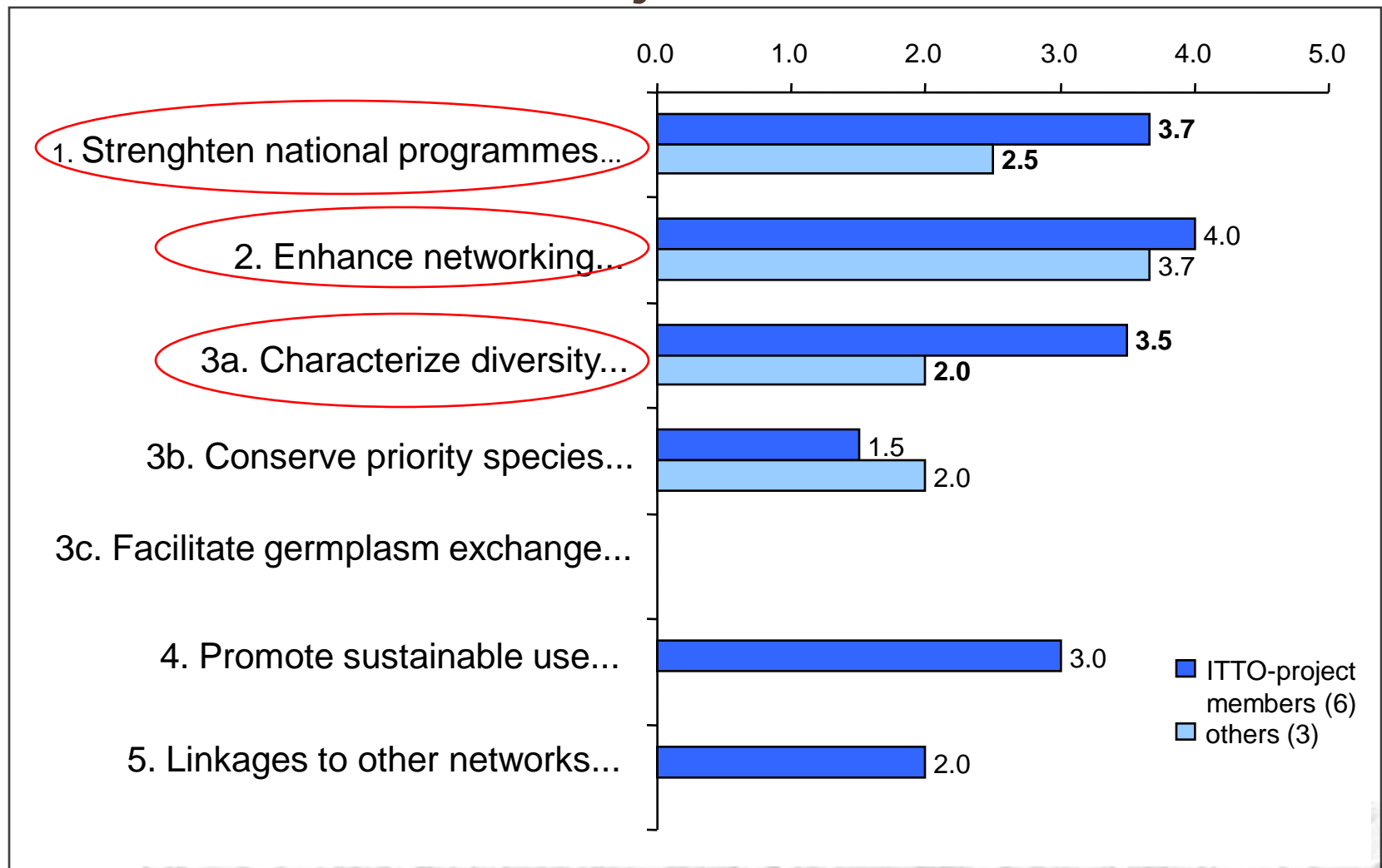| Compile experiences of the NCs about the network and to help plan future activities	→	Valuable ideas for the network as a whole on how to improve its structure and functioning for mutual benefits, ideas for research projects in the region

The Survey Analysis

(1) What are the most important objectives?

(2) How have the objectives been achieved?

(3) What benefits have the NCs received?

(4) Reasons for not achieving objectives.

(5) Strengths of the Network.

(6) Weaknesses of the Network.

(7) How the network could be improved?

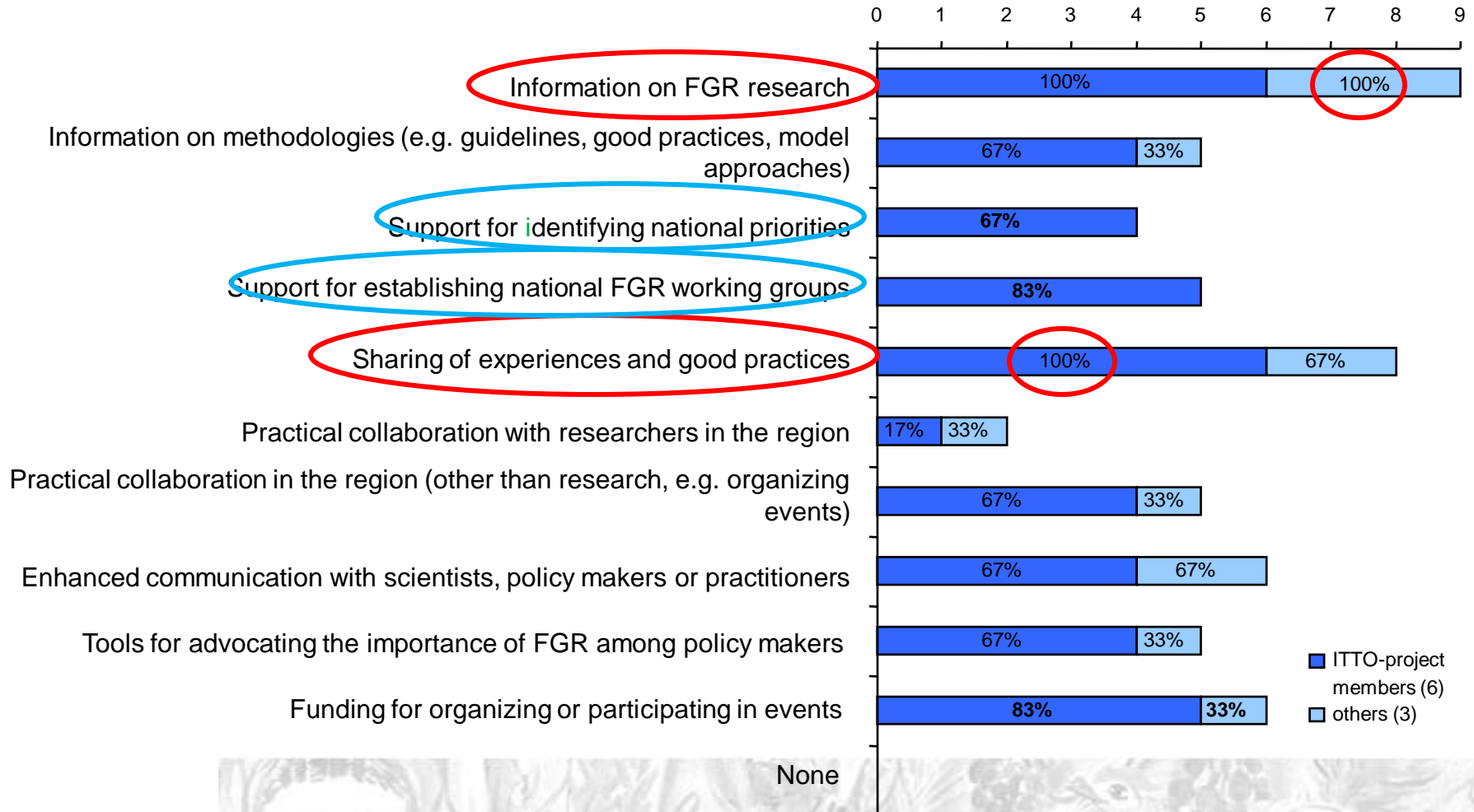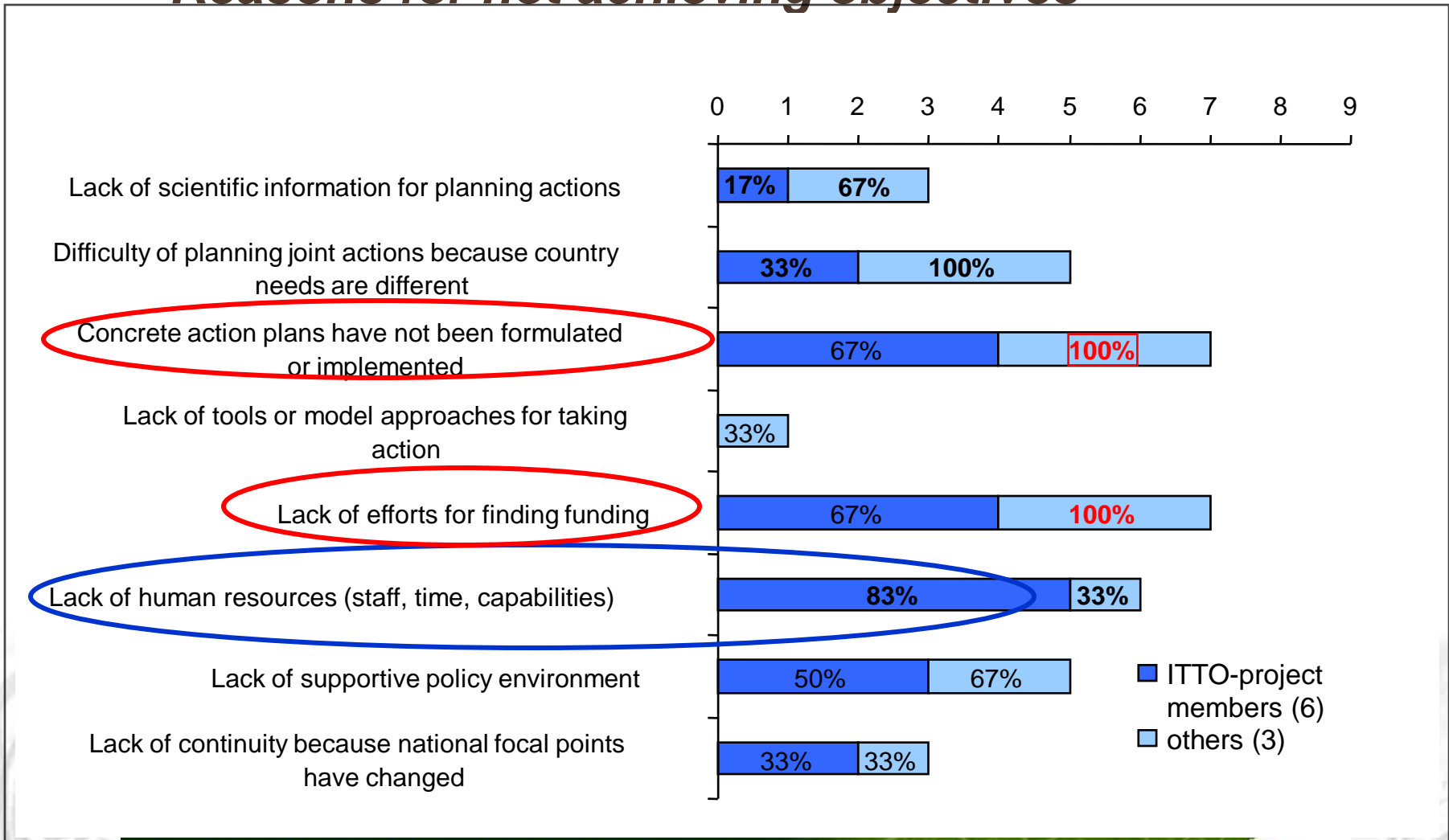(8) Recommendations.

(9) List of suggested thematic work areas.

What benefits have the NCs received?

Benefit	ITTO-project members (6)	others (3)
Information on FGR research	100%	100%
Information on methodologies (e.g. guidelines, good practices, model approaches)	67%	33%
Support for identifying national priorities	67%	
Support for establishing national FGR working groups	83%	
Sharing of experiences and good practices	100%	67%
Practical collaboration with researchers in the region	17%	33%
Practical collaboration in the region (other than research, e.g. organizing events)	67%	33%
Enhanced communication with scientists, policy makers or practitioners	67%	67%
Tools for advocating the importance of FGR among policy makers	67%	33%
Funding for organizing or participating in events	83%	33%
None		

Reasons for not achieving objectives

STRENGTHENS

Good structure and practices

- ❑ *Country focal point officially nominated*
- ❑ *Country status reports*
- ❑ *Own website - www.apforgen.org*
- ❑ *Annual meetings*

Other strengths identified

- ❑ *Regional network involves countries rich with tropical FGR*
- ❑ *Regional network of FGR research activities*
- ❑ *Collaboration of scientist in the region*
- ❑ *Sharing technical expertise from other organization*

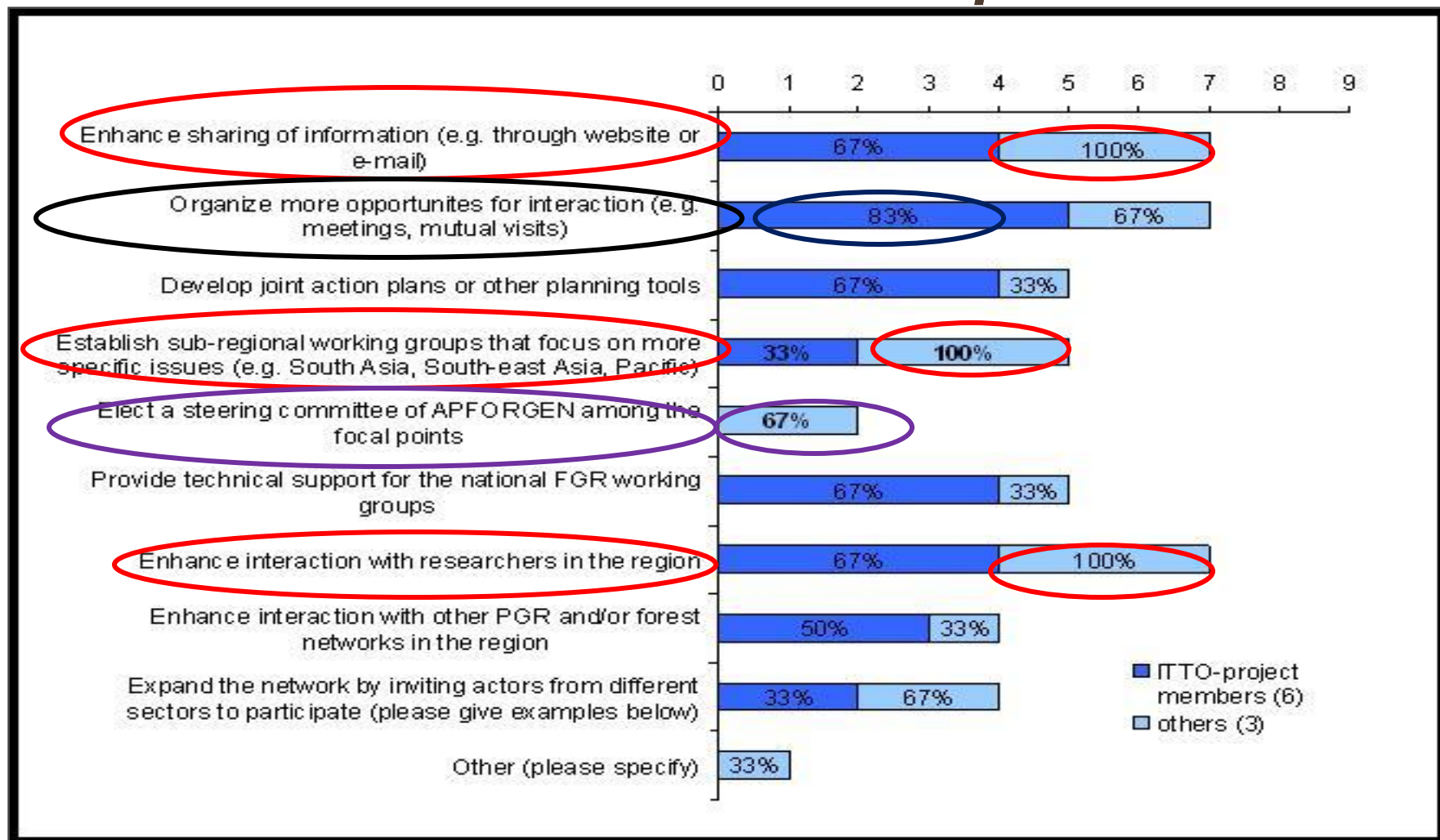*90% respondents indicated that APFORGEN has increased the awareness of FGR in their countries*

APFORGEN

Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme

Weakness

- ❑ *Continuity– NCs changes often in some countries.*
- ❑ *Heterogeneity - NCs have different backgrounds (forest genetics to forest management), different agencies (government agencies to research institutions).*
- ❑ *Capacity Building – lack of it? , Insufficient training opportunities?*
- ❑ *Perceiving the network mainly as a source for external support.*
- ❑ *Lack of structure involving the network members.*

How could the network be improved?

RECOMMENDATIONS

❑ *CLARIFYING THE ROLE OF THE NETWORK MEMBERS?*

➢ *NCs of ITTO project members countries interested in concrete, discrete activities eg meetings rather than long term activities ie working groups or steering committee. Future work depends on the active participation of all members*

❑ *STRUCTURES AND ACTIVITIES TO INCREASE INVOLVEMENT AND COMMITMENT ?*

➢ *Joint action plans and subregional working groups*

❑ *DEVELOP ACTION PLANS FOR EACH OBJECTIVES?*

➢ *To enable regular review and updating.*

❑ *DEVELOP RESEARCH COLLABORATION?*

➢ *Research oriented work a good basis for future collaboration with members countries.*

RECOMMENDATIONS – cont/…

- ❑ *REVIEW OF OBJECTIVES AND WHY?*
- ➢ *To facilitate the revitalization the network and basis for defining future actions.*
- ❑ *ENHANCE NETWORKING AND COMMUNICATION?*
- ➢ *Ways of disseminating information widely to strengthen national programmes.*
- ❑ *WHY THE NEED TO RECOGNIZED THE DIVERSED BACKGROUND OF MEMBERS?*
- ➢ *It may actually be the strengthen of the network.*
- ❑ *ENHANCING INTERACTION WITH POLICY MAKERS?*
- ➢ *Expertise and guidance on implications to policy formulation.*

SUGGESTED THEMATIC WORK AREAS

❑*Climate change – understanding vulnerability to climate change - most popular topic*

❑*Analysis of status and threat of FGR–national strategy , identify needs for information or methodological development.*

❑*Rehabilitation of degraded forest lands &old mining areas – develop guidelines -An opportunity to collaborate with ICRAF and CIFOR.*

❑*Facilitation of Germplasm Exchange – identification of ABS issues specific to FGR, develop pilot ABS agreement or recommendations.*

❑*Facilitating countries in selecting priority species – develop guidelines and approaches for prioritization (whom to involve? What kind of information needed?)*

THANK YOU