



БАЙГАЛЬ ОРЧИН, НОГООН ХӨГЖИЛ,
АЯЛАЛ ЖУУЛЧЛАЛЫН ЯАМ



Summary Report on the 2nd Regional Workshop on Strategic Forestry Cooperation in Greater Central Asia

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 15-17 July 2015



Sponsored by:

Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)
and
Ministry of Environment and Green Development and Tourism of Mongolia (MEGDTM)
and
Mongolian nature and Environment consortium(MNEC)

Cover photograph: Participants of the APFNet sponsored 2nd Regional Workshop on Strategic Forestry Cooperation in the Greater Central Asia, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 15-17 July 2015. The copyright of the photograph is reserved by APFNet Secretariat.

The Report contains the proceedings from the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)'s second Regional Workshop on Strategic Forestry Cooperation in Central Asia, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia held on 15-17 July 2015. APFNet, Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism of Mongolia (MEGDT) and the Mongolian Nature and Environment Consortium (MNEC) have jointly organized the workshop. The report has been developed based on presentations, discussions and comments delivered during the Workshop.

List of Acronyms

APFNet	Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
FMM	Forestry Ministerial Meeting
GCA	Greater Central Asia
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GE	Green Economy
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IFI	International Financial Institution
MEGDT	Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism of Mongolia
MNEC	Mongolian Nature and Environment Consortium
NGO	Non-Government Organization
SFA	State Forestry Administration of China
SFM	Sustainable forestry management
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WB	World Bank
WSFC	Regional Workshop on Strategic Forestry Cooperation in Greater Central Asia

TABLE OF CONTENT

Background	1
Rationale	2
Workshop venue and participants	2
Objectives of workshop	2
Outputs of Workshop	3
Overview of current status, developing trends and constraints of forestry management in Greater Central Asia	3
➤ Current status of forestry management in Greater Central Asia	4
➤ Constraints and developing trend of forestry management in Greater Central Asia	7
FOREST MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE AND FORESTRY COOPERATION OPPORTUNITIES	8
➤ Forest Fire Management in Greater Central Asia	8
➤ Combating Desertification in Greater Central Asia	11
Sand industry development and improvement of rural livelihood	14
Action plans on implementation of the activities proposed within the Strategic Framework for Regional Cooperation in GCA Region	17
➤ The Forestry Ministerial Meeting in Greater Central Asia (FMM)	17
➤ The Workshop on Forestry Strategic Cooperation in Greater Central Asia Region (WSFC)	18
➤ Project on ‘Demonstration on Vegetation Rehabilitation and Forest Resources Management and Utilization in Greater Central Asia’	19
➤ Program on Capacity Building for the Greater Central Asia Region on Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystem	19
Annex I. Workshop Agenda	21
Annex II. List of Participants	26
Annex III Concept Paper on Meeting Mechanism of Ministers Responsible for Forestry in Greater Central Asia Region	29
Приложение III	31
Концептуальный документ по механизму заседаний министров, ответственных за лесное хозяйство в регионе Большой Центральной Азии	31
Annex IV. Concept paper on Workshop on Forestry Strategic Cooperation in Greater Central Asia Region	35
Приложение IV	37
Концептуальный документ по проведению семинара по стратегическому сотрудничеству в области лесного хозяйства в регионе Большой Центральной Азии	37
Annex V. Concept Paper on Demonstration on Vegetation Rehabilitation and Forest Resources Management and utilization in Greater Central Asia	40
Приложение V.	42
Концептуальный документ по демонстрации восстановления вегетационного покрова, управления и использования лесных ресурсов в Большой Центральной Азии	42
Annex VI. Concept Paper Capacity Building Program for the Greater Central Asia Region on Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystem	45
Приложение VI.	48
Концептуальный документ по Программе наращивания потенциала по устойчивому управлению лесными экосистемами в регионе Большой Центральной Азии	48

Background

The global economies have increased the pace of shifting towards sustainable development. This process is a combination of economic and social development focusing on sustainable and efficient use of natural resources, and it's called as "green growth" or "transition to green economy path". Green Economy (GE) is an economy that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities according to United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) definition. Forestry and Sustainable Forestry Management (SFM) might be one of the tools that are enabling transition to such a path. Forests and trees, when managed effectively, can provide a sustainable source of energy and materials whilst improving livelihoods of population living in rural areas and creating jobs in a socially and environmentally responsible ways, and that are often benefitting the marginalized rural people. As the potential for SFM is unlocked, it can deliver a full range of interrelated and sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits. Moreover, it is perfectly in line with the green economy principles. To unlock this potential, it is necessary to establish a conducive policy and legal environment to make sustainable forestry more attractive for rural people and private sector through creating more jobs and improving livelihoods. However, more efforts are to be undertaken to increase forestry profile and potential as a source of renewable material and energy that is equally or even better performing in terms of carbon credentials comparing to other renewable sources of energy. It is obvious that forestry can provide the key environmental services, enhance water and soil quality, combat desertification, preserve biodiversity and contribute to climate change mitigation activities. Implementation of those tasks will contribute to the achievement of UN Millennium Development Goals globally but to sustainable development at national level.

The Greater Central Asia (GCA) region in a broader sense includes Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and the north-western China. In 1843, Mr. Alexander von Humboldt, a geographer who first distinguished the GCA as a particular region, which is characterized by sharply continental climate, increasing desertification processes, vegetation degradation and deforestation. Those challenges are aggravated by shortage of qualified professionals, financing and involvement of stakeholders into implementation of forest related activities, inefficient capacity of implementation of forestry policy, as well as poor cooperation between the national forestry sectors in the region. As a consequence, the current forestry development is marginalized from the overall national development planning. All economies of GCA region are signatories to the Rio Conventions as well as they participate in the relevant UN-based activities, which consider forests as a key biome for mitigation of climate change and conservation of biodiversity. Economies of GCA region implement many SFM programmes funded by various international organizations such as World Bank (WB), Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other UN institutions and funds. However, there are still many gaps or

barriers that prevent releasing the full potential of SFM. At the same time, those gaps can be covered and barriers can be overcome through joining efforts of the GCA region economies.

Under this scenario, China proposed to initiate ‘one belt one road’ programme and construct economic corridor amongst China, Mongolia and Russia with a vision to improve the livelihood of related economies in the GCA region.

Rationale

Based on the above mentioned issues, APFNet, Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism of Mongolia (MEGDT) and Mongolian Nature and Environment Consortium (MNEC) have organized the second Regional Workshop on Strategic Forestry Cooperation in Greater Central Asia to exchange information and experiences on current status, developing trends and constraints for forest management and to summarize the best practices on preventing forest fires, combating desertification, developing sand industry and improving rural livelihoods in GCA region. Another important task of the Workshop is to discuss Action Plans on implementation of activities proposed within the Strategic Framework for Forestry Cooperation in the GCA. The Workshop Agenda is presented in Annex I.

Workshop venue and participants

The workshop was held at the Ulaanbaatar Hotel, Mongolia. It was attended by 44 participants, including officials and experts from forestry authorities of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and China, as well as invited speakers from international organization and Non-government Organization (NGOs) in this region.

Turkmenistan did not nominate any participant to attend the workshop due to time confliction of important domestic forestry events. List of participants is given in Annex II.

Objectives of workshop

- discuss current status, developing trends and constraints of forestry management;
- exchange information and experiences on forest fire prevention, combating desertification and sand industry development and rural livelihood improvement;
- discuss action plans of the activities proposed in Strategic Framework for Regional Cooperation, namely capacity building, demonstration projects, Ministerial Meeting

Responsible for Forestry in Greater Central Asia and Regional Workshop on Strategic Forestry Cooperation in Greater Central Asia.

Outputs of Workshop

A number of outputs are delivered during the Workshop:

- Kazakhstan proposed to host the first regional Forestry Ministerial Meeting in GCA region, during the Workshop. Kyrgyz proposed to host the third Workshop on Forestry Strategic Cooperation in Greater Central Asia Region (WSFC). The funding of events will be jointly provided by APFNet and the host-economy;
- The action plans for ministerial meeting, workshop on forestry strategic cooperation, demonstration project on vegetation rehabilitation and forest resources management and utilization, as well as capacity building program are approved;
- It's agreed that APFNet's national contact person or focal points shall be appointed to strengthen coordination of joint efforts and timely exchange of forestry information;
- To familiarize with approaches on combat desertification and land degradation, a study tour for forestry experts from China to Uzbekistan to be arranged. (A study tour to Turkmenistan planned after the First Regional WSFC was obliged to be cancelled- due to weather conditions).
- All participants are informed of the current status, developing trends and constraints of forestry management as well as best practices on forest fire prevention, combating desertification, sand industry development and rural livelihood improvement in GCA region.

Overview of current status, developing trends and constraints of forestry management in Greater Central Asia

The economies in GCA region are closely connected and interacted from social, economic, ecological and cultural aspects due to similar geographic, climatic and socio economic conditions. Most economies and areas in this region have low forest cover, and the overall environmental condition of extreme aridity and water scarcity are unfavourable to tree growth. Consequently, the direct economic contribution of forest and forest resources is very limited for most of the involved economies and areas.

With the rapid economic growth of this region, the economies in this region have realized the importance of effective conservation and utilization of natural resources and incorporated

ecological construction into national programme of social and economic development, have on-going programmes that supports forest and forestry, and make increasing efforts to address critical issues such as land degradation, desertification, water scarcity and loss of biodiversity. Additionally, regional development organizations and financing institutes have made joint effort to play an increasingly important role in expediting the transition to sustainable management and utilization of natural resources through provision of technical and financial support. It could be speculated that GCA region would take on a different look in the next decades.

➤ **Current status of forestry management in Greater Central Asia**

Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and north-west part of China (herein mainly refers to Shaanxi Province, Gansu Province, Qinghai Province, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in the north west of China) in the GCA Region cover a total area of 4,163,116,900 with a population of around 164,800,000 people.

According to FAO classification, majority of economies and areas in this Region have deficient forest coverage and general conditions of environment are not favorable for tree growth. GCA Region totally accounts for around 1.8 % of global forest coverage. The forestry and population of economies in this region are given in Table 1 below. It shall be noted that in former Soviet Union economies the outdated classification of lands is still applied, which usually leads to overestimation of the declared area of forest covered lands.

Table 1: Forest and population of economies in this region

Economy	Land area (ha)	Population 2008		Per Capita GDP 2008 (US\$)	Forest			
		Density (/km ²)	Rural (% of the total)		% of land area	Total growing stock in forest (million m ³)	Public ownership (%)	Forest revenue (US\$)
Kyrgyzstan	19180000	28	64	2193	5	45	100	100500 0
Tajikistan	13996000	49	74	1907	3	5	88	147600 0

Uzbekistan	42540000	64	63	658	8	26	100	684600 0
Kazakhstan	269970000	6	42	11323	1	364	100	n.a.
Turkmenistan	46993000	11	51	6625	9	15	100	n.a.
Mongolia	156650000	2	43	3557	7	1426	100	658000
China*	942530000	143	57	5971	22	14684	68	311065 000

Note: the data derives from the FAO's Global Forest Resource Assessment (2010), and the data concerning China mainly refers to that of north-west part of China rather than China as a whole.

Forest in the GCA region, as a natural habitat for indigenous plant and animal species, is scattered in small patches due to inefficient forest management. GCA region is a hotspot for biodiversity conservation on a global scale. Species from Central and Northern Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa mingle here with endemism that can be found nowhere else. There are 68 kinds of wood species, 266 kinds of shrubs, 433 kinds of dwarf shrubs, dwarf semi-shrubs and semi-herbage, 2,598 kinds of perennial and 849 kinds of therophyte grasses in Kazakhstan. There are 268 kinds of trees and shrubs, 89 kinds of sclerophyllous (dead standing) xerophilous forests, 57 kinds of small-leaved forests, 45 kinds of deciduous forests in Tajikistan in addition to 13 species of invertebrates, 49 kinds of fish, 2 kinds of amphibians, 44 species of reptiles, 346 species of birds, and 84 species of mammals. In this scenario, the sustainable forest management in the GCA region will definitely boost the biodiversity conservation.

Most of forests in the economies of this region are mainly of protective importance, and play a significant role in combating desertification, erosion and land degradation. Forests also have a substantial impact on other sectors of national economy, including agriculture, livestock, and water resource conservation as well as life and welfare of local people living nearby the forests. However due to the limited forest resources available in this region and importance of their non-timber benefits, and in particular their protective and environmental functions, commercial utilization of timber resources is not applicable in most economies in this region. Timber production is varying in the range of 25,000-50,000 m³ per year (except for China, which produced 81,750,000 m³ of timber in 2012, and in some extent for Kazakhstan where forestry legislation particularly permits the timber production. The major part of wood demand is covered through import. At the same time, a potential for growing wood and wood products is available in forestry sector. Forest sector only contribute little to domestic GDP. For example, share of

forestry in Kyrgyzstan in GDP is only 0.07% and even in Kazakhstan it is less than 0.1% of GDP.

Three major forests types in this region are mountainous forest, desert or semi-desert forest, riverbank or tugai forests. Forests are mainly composed of woody shrub (such as saxaul), fruit trees, nut bearing trees, coniferous forests, deciduous forests and etc. For example, around 50% of Kazakhstan forest is made of saxaul woodlands.

There are different causes for various forests categories. ***Taking the mountainous forest for example***, the majority of population in the GCA Region inhabits rural areas, and forest resources therefore play an important role in meeting everyday needs of local people. In many cases, energy needs of rural people for cooking and heating their dwellings are partially or fully covered through use of forest timber resources. Forests are of great importance for majority of rural population living nearby forests in this Region. The key resources used include timber products such as firewood and construction wood, and non-timber products are nuts, fruits, berries, mushrooms as well as co-products of beekeeping, hunting, eco-tourism, herbs, forest agricultural products and etc. Irresponsible use of mountainous forests caused the reduction of forest areas, barring the mountain slopes, increasing on-land streams and reducing the water spring flows. ***A deeper insight on the causes of the forest degradation in the GCA region might be gained through comparative analysis on the degradation of desert or semi-desert forest.*** Most economies of the GCA region have nomadic traditions, and trees are scattered among the extensive rangelands and pasture lands. Nomadic communities, which have their own and use the rangeland, have set up management system that prevents overuse of forest resources. However the subsequent government overtake has undermined such community management, rangelands have thus become the free access resources with no one to take the responsibilities to manage them. The rangeland is deteriorating at an alarming rate under the increased pressure for fodder and fuelwood. Although pastoralists are becoming increasingly dependent on the purchased feed, mainly on the imported barley and fodder grown under the irrigated conditions, the increase in the livestock numbers has led to the continued degradation of the rangelands. ***Apart from this, it should be noted that tugai forests, that grow in humid soil along the riversides and mountain foothills, are also negatively impacted by climate change and anthropogenic behaviour***, such as illegal logging for firewood. In particular, the drying of Aral Sea substantively contributes to continuous progress in desertification in this region and accelerates the degradation of tugai forests.

Being aware of the problems that the forests in this region confront of, currently most economies of this region have established and implemented the forest policy, legislation and development planning to enhance the protection of forest and utilization of forest resources. For example, Turkmenistan has adopted National Forestry Development Programme in 2012 to turn the country into a blossoming garden, to create favorable living conditions for its people, and to improve the protection, use and restoration of forest. Mongolian has enacted the National Forest Programme, National Green Wall Programme and National Action Programme for combating desertification to alleviate the forest loss, desertification and sand storm caused by climate change and improper anthropogenic activities. Kyrgyz implemented Forestry Development Concept 2025 and National Forest Programme to ensure the sustainable forest management and encourage the involvement of local communities into forest activities. Tajikistan implemented National Forest Programme with an emphasis on forest protection, restoration and sustainable utilization.

➤ **Constraints and developing trend of forestry management in Greater Central Asia**

Forest sector in this Region face several challenges such as deficiency of forest resources, land and forest degradation, illegal felling, pasture overgrazing, shortage of water resources as well as weak institutional capacity resulted from shortage of human and financial resources.

Forests of economies in this region primarily perform water protecting, protective, sanitary and hygienic and recreation functions rather than production functions. With the transition to market economy, the priority of forest development is shifted to multipurpose forest utilization. In particular, a key priority is given to reproduction of forest ecosystem as the most important element of environment protection, which ensures abundance and diversity of natural landscapes, water resources, fauna and increases of economic outputs. All those are achieved through Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) but its implementation is hampered by a number of factors such as insufficient funding and technical support, inadequate institutional framework and forestry legislation, shortage of qualified professionals and forestry scientists, low level of regional and international cooperation, etc.

However, the root causes of those barriers are lack of relevant forestry policy and its inefficient implementation by the economies in this region that results in instable forest management processes, since the governments are key stakeholders in forestry for all economies in this

Region. It is obvious that development, adoption and implementation of effective and efficient forestry policy is a long-lasting and time and labor consuming process requiring involvement and inclusion of maximal number of forestry stakeholders.

Despite of the above listed problems and constraints, positive changes and progressive shifts aimed at overcoming the existing barriers impeding sustainable forest management processes have taken place in all economies of this Region. Currently Turkmenistan government provides the citizens free natural gas, which contributes to the restoration of Juniper forest national wide and the deletion of this precious tree species from the Turkmenistan's Red Book (Endangered species) in 2011. Mongolian governments are implementing a "programme to divert the water resources from Sukhbaatar in the North to Zamyn uud in the South of Mongolia" and a "Millennium Road Programme running accross five economic zones from east to west and from Alatan Prague in the North to Zamyn uud in the South" together with the "National Green Wall Programme" to boost forest management at various dimension, by strengthening water resource supply and infrastructure constructure. Additionally, the Uzbekistan governments calls for planting medical plants in the forest land to make full use of forest resources to improve the livelihood of local communities.

FOREST MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE AND FORESTRY COOPERATION OPPORTUNITIES

➤ Forest Fire Management in Greater Central Asia

Forest fires significantly affect forests in the GCA Region from social, economic and environmental aspects. Forest fires in large areas lead to forest degradation and related landscape change - the so-called "steppization", transformation of forests into steppes after wildfires. Forest fires also can negatively impact on habitat of wildlife and biodiversity as well as local livelihood. For instance, due to forest fires there were over 2,000 livestock burned in Khentii province, Mongolia forest in 2013. Forest fires occurred every 9-22 years during the period from 1559 to 1960 in Mongolia, however, since 1960 forest fires occur with an average frequency of 3.2 years. It's evident that forest fires became more frequent for the last decades. Forest fires also put a great challenge for forest management in Kazakhstan. From 2001 to 2005, there were a total of 4,586 cases of forest fires broken out in Kazakhstan with a burned area of 228,300 hectares, causing a loss of about 176,000,000 tenge. Especially the biodiversity significantly decreases, and the conifers are replaced by deciduous trees and shrubs as a result of forest fires in the east part of Kazakhstan.

Some of economies in this Region have developed a comprehensive legal framework for forest fires management. In case of Mongolia, besides environment-related laws, such as the Law on Forest (2012) and the Law on Disaster Protection (2003) which set out forest and steppe fires management in general, there is a set of forest fires-specific legislation aimed at regulating all aspects of forest and steppe fires management and prevention, including the Law on Fire Safety (1999) and the State Policy on Forest (2015). The regulatory base also includes procedures of determining loss from forest and steppe fires, prevention measures, procedures of forest thinning and maintenance, and procedures of forest farming, as well as lists of necessary tools of forest and steppe fires prevention and combating on provincial level and a list of approaches on citizens' involvement in fire suppression activities.

Enhanced human capacity and innovative technology help forest fires management, as shown in WB/GEF Project "Conservation of forests and increasing the forest cover in the Republic of Kazakhstan", an optical sensor system 'FIRE WATCH' was piloted for early detection of forest fires. In the fire-dangerous period in 2013, with the help of optical sensors, there were recorded 40 cases of fire. The range of early fire detection equipment is guaranteed within 15 km. Depending on topology of terrain the equipment can detect smoke at a distance of 65 km, while a human eye can see at a maximum distance of 3-5 km. Early fire detection system detects fires earlier and with much higher precision than an observer on fire watchtower. The device can work in any weather and in the automatic mode.

It should be noted that in terms of forest fire management and prevention, awareness raising activity plays a crucial role. In this regard, in 2010, the Committee for Forestry and Hunting of Kazakhstan approved a symbol of forest protection "Badger-Kaisar" to communicate the idea of environmental education and respect for nature. Mongolia in cooperation with neighboring economies also exerted a great effort in awareness rising and involving stakeholders into forest fire management. A number of capacity building activities were conducted such as seminars, workshops and training to involve various stakeholders into demonstrating and testing different approaches for fighting and preventing forest fires. For instance, a method of prescribed fire (to reduce fuel material in the forest and thus reduce potential fire energy) has been successfully practiced. Another example is arranging of a firebreak (30-40 m wide and 170 km long) along the border of Mongolia and Russia.

As forest fires do not respect borders, the regional cooperation in this sphere is an important key to success in fire suppression. In this context, there have been already established ties among economies in the region, and joint activities are carried out to prevent and combat forest fires. For instance, Mongolia has signed agreements with neighboring economies for joint actions against forest and steppe fires, which includes Mongolia-Russia cooperation agreement on prevention and management of industrial accidents and natural disasters (1995), an agreement between Mongolian and Chinese Governments to cooperate on combating forest and steppe fires in border areas (1999) and an agreement between Mongolian and Russian Governments to protect from Forest fire (2014). Within this context, the first International Conference on Fire Management was convened in Ulaanbaatarin 2008, and advice on fire management was proposed during the Conference. Another achievement in regional cooperation is joint development and production of information and awareness-raising materials. For example, a new product for GCA Region is a dictionary of definitions as an important tool for further cooperation.

In spite of the progress that has been made with respect to forest fire prevention in some economies of the region, there is still a need for significant improvement. In general, efficient and comprehensive database, good legal and institutional base, public involvement and well-organized monitoring and evaluation system are the key factors for better forest fire prevention and management. Specific challenges to be addressed and opportunities for further work can be sum up as followings:

- Creating and improving economic and legal regulatory environments to combat fires;
- Establishing regional and local funds for forest and steppe fires prevention, estimating and compensating loss from fires;
- Creating enabling environment for various types of partnerships to support fire prevention management structures;
- Adopting international standards of forest fire prevention and management and developing national standards;
- Developing and introducing incentive methods for involvement of parties (officials, business, general public, etc.);
- Strengthening technical and human capacity of forestry units, enhancing legal and social protection of forestry workers;
- Introducing and applying innovative technologies (including a remote sensing system).

➤ **Combating Desertification in Greater Central Asia**

Desertification is defined by the UNCCD as land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities. Desertification leads to declining land productivity, worsening living environment and intensifying natural disasters. Desertification makes the dry land ecosystem more vulnerable, threatens biodiversity, and affects regional development as well. Desertification is the result of a long-term process of interaction of climatic variations and human activities.

Due to its location and geographic features, the GCARegion is highly affected to desertification. The region's vast areas are occupied by big deserts and semi-deserts, as well as drylands and high mountains. Its climate is characterized as arid and semi-arid with extreme weather conditions in mountainous areas. These natural factors together accelerate desertification and land degradation processes. Besides that, there are a number of anthropogenic factors leading to the desertification processes in the region, such as forest cutting, irrational land use and irrigation, overgrazing, farming, mining, construction, etc. Irrational cropping and ineffective irrigation systems and water use practices severely affect lands by exhausting the soil and turning croplands salty. Due to these kinds of unwise use practices, once the Aral Sea, one of the largest inland lakes in the world has desiccated, severe ecological disaster will be caused in the Region. Moderate to extreme wind and water erosion problems occur in all economies of thisRegion, especially in Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Cutting of forests in mountainous areas is very dangerous. In this regards, high altitude mountainous economies of thisRegion such as Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are especially vulnerable to desertification processes due to predominance of instable soils on steep slopes and dry weather conditions. Another human activity casing the desertification is overgrazing, which removes the vegetation cover that protects from erosion. Overgrazing widely observed in Mongolia and other economies of the region where increasing livestock and unsustainable animal densities due to internal migration often exceed productivity and degrade natural resources.

Desertification and drought are observed in all economies of GCARegion. In Kazakhstan desertification affected more than 66% of territory, in Mongolia desertification and land degradation have affected about 77%of territory, and in China 79% of the dry land territory. Besides this, more than 90% of agricultural lands of Kyrgyzstan counted as degraded or affected to desertification, about 70% of Turkmenistan's land has become desert, while salinized areas account for 50% of Uzbekistan's landmass.

In China desertification has affected 2,620,000 km², which makes 79% of the dry lands or 27% of the total land territory, where 400,000,000 people are affected. There are four kinds of practices of irrational land use leading to desertification processes in China, including over-clearing of land for cropping (25,4%), overgrazing (28%), over logging and firewood collection (31%), and excessive water consumption (8,3%). To address the issue there is an institutional base on combating desertification in China, which includes the National Committee for Implementation of the UNCCD, the National Bureau to Combat Desertification on national level with provincial coordination groups, and forestry departments on provincial levels. Chinese legal and policy frameworks are grouped into four directions: public payment for ecological improvement, regulating land and natural resources use, incentives for all stakeholders' participation and strengthening government's responsibility. China has set targets in combating desertification to treat 10,000,000 ha of desertified lands by 2015, to treat 50% of reclaimable desertified lands by 2020, and to take under control the reclaimable desertified lands by 2050. In this context, a number of projects have been implementing on national, regional and local levels. One of the two key programs in combating desertification is Three North program (The Green Great Wall), which commenced in 1979 and covers a total project area of 4.35 million km², accounting for 45.4% of the total land territory. The project includes activities on afforestation and reforestation, forest management to improve vegetation cover and mitigate wind and sand harm. The second major program is Beijing and Tianjin Sandstorm Source Control program covers more than 700, 000 km² territory, includes joint action of five ministries on conservation, rehabilitation, water use improvement, rangeland management, ecological resettlement to improve vegetation quality, coverage to rebuild and improve ecological capacity of wind breaking and sand fixation, and water conservation. Due to these enormous efforts, the positive progress has been achieved in China. For instance, desertification expansion trend has been stopped. Vegetation cover has been increased. Intensity and amount of soil erosion has reduced and productivity of agriculture and forestry has been increased. China has declared a high political commitment towards developing the ecological civilization, which opens new opportunities to address the desertification issues among economies in the Silk Road economic zone.

In Mongolia desertification and land degradation have affected about 77% of its territory, mainly caused by drought and growing aridity, wind erosion, increase of livestock density in some places and centralization. Desertification combating activities in Mongolia started in 1980s by

undertaking initiatives against sand encroachment in Gobi region, then in 1990s there established the first windbreak forests. In 2000s, there initiated the National Green Belts program and international projects, and research and experimental centers were established. Also, in this period of time, the Law “On combating desertification and soil conservation” was adopted and a monitoring system was established. Currently, a host of measures have been implemented in order to combat desertification in Mongolia, such as promotion of sustainable land management practices, increasing investment in afforestation programs, development of effective technologies to increase efficacy of afforestation, and establishment of a drought early warning system.

In Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan desertification is caused mainly by water resources exploitation for crop production and unsustainable use of desert and semi-desert resources along with other unwise land use practices and natural factors. These economies share the Aral Sea, which has been disastrously drying out past several decades. In response to adverse environmental problems, including desertification, Kazakhstan has begun its transition to a "Green Economy" (GE). GE is the economy with low greenhouse gas emissions, effectively used resources and conducive to the public good. As steps towards to GE, the Government of Kazakhstan has adopted a multilateral, cross-sectoral Partnership Program “Green Bridge” to provide a stable long-term basis for green investment, low-carbon development and climate change adaptation and promoting “green” business and “green” technologies. Kazakhstan also has made a number of changes to the legislative acts in the field of sustainable land management. A number of donor supported programs have been implemented, such as “Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management” (CACILM), “Syr-Darya River Correction and Preservation of Northern Aral Sea” project, “Management of Dry Lands” project, “Forest Conservation and Reforestation of Areas in Kazakhstan” project and “Sustainable Rangeland Management” project. Additionally Kazakhstan conducted research on combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought, and the environmental, economic and social impacts of desertification. It’s emphasized that there is a need for regional cooperation to solve environmental problems through capacity building, increasing investment, applying innovative and consolidating trust on the cross-border issues.

In Uzbekistan temperate desertification is typical for riverside habitats, where biological productivity of dominant tree species has been decreasing due to water scarcity and human activities. High level of desertification is observed in Bukhara, Navoi, Khorezm regions and in the Karakalpak Republic of Uzbekistan. Irrational use of desert pastures has led to decreasing of

productivity of vegetation, decreasing of its ability to natural regeneration, and loss of biodiversity. Vegetation cover becomes poor due to high level of soil salinization caused by shrinking of the Aral Sea. Sand and saline mass from dried part of the Aral Sea are transferred with wind to settlements and aggravate environmental and socio-economic conditions there. The Main Forestry Department of Uzbekistan works towards preventing ecosystem degradation and achieves sustainability of ecosystems in Karakalpak degraded areas and Kyzylkum desert in Uzbekistan by increasing habitat of biodiversity and ensuring health and socio-economic benefits for the population. Based on research results, there were established plantations of saksaul, saltwort, other halophytes and sand plant species for restoration of degraded lands and sand binding.

Mountainous ecosystems of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan with semi-arid climatic conditions are the most vulnerable to desertification. Kyrgyzstan has been implementing projects to address the increasing desertification in the south of the republic. For example, the Project “Sustainable management of mountainous forests and land resources under climate change conditions in the Kyrgyz Republic” plans to restore about 8 thousand ha of degraded forest areas by planting seedlings and establishing 26,000 ha of plantations of fast-growing tree species. The project aims to introduce innovative practices in restoration and sustainable management of forest and agricultural lands. In this regard, united data storage space on forest planting is created and a monitoring system of forest plantations through satellite images is introduced. In Tajikistan about 2,000 ha of land are restored annually to address the issues of desertification, and additional 300 ha of saksaul seedlings are planned annually.

Sand industry development and improvement of rural livelihood

Even though forests in the GCA Region cover relatively small areas, they play an important role in the livelihoods of local communities living in or nearby the forests. For most economies in this Region a majority of rural population living nearby the forests is in direct or indirect dependence from the forest products. Local communities use forests for many purposes, including for collecting fruits, nuts, berries, mushrooms, food, medicinal herbs and plants, beekeeping, collecting fire-wood and grazing livestock. These forest products are important for local livelihoods as for subsistence or as source of major or supplemental household income. The role of forests in improving livelihoods of vulnerable households such as women-led or poor households is crucial. In this regard, some economies of this region have been promoting forest

management approaches, which combine activities on forest protection and management with efforts on improving local livelihoods.

Kyrgyzstan's forests, especially walnut-fruit forests play a significant role in rural communities' livelihoods. Walnut-fruit forests are located in the southern part of the country and occupy 630,000 ha. These forests are the biggest preserved relict forests in the world and a valuable gene pool of many plants and are one of the centers of origin for cultivated fruit plants. There are 255,816 households with 1,200,000 people living within or near walnut-fruit forests in the south, which occupy the lower mountain slopes. These forests comprise mostly naturally grown walnut (*Juglans regia*), wild-apples (*Malus kirghisorum*, *Malus sieversii*, *Malus niedzwedkiana*), plums (*Prunus* species), and other fruit-bearing tree species and managed by leskhoz (local forestry authorities). There are two types of forest use practiced in walnut forests: short-term (seasonal) lease and community-based forest management (CBFM), which is a form of leasing forest plots (up to 5 ha) to households in exchange to implementing forestry works. These existing forest management models have disadvantages, such as lack of accountability and transparency in leasing procedures. Walnut-fruit forest products are major income source for local communities' livelihoods. However, local communities collect forest products, mostly forest walnuts and other fruits, and sell them to local traders and exporters without adding value. Despite of big potential, processing industry for a quality walnut product is underdeveloped. Organic, wild-grown walnut is sent out of the country as raw material to the second economies, and then after value-adding it's re-exported to the final consumers. Thus, all value added opportunities of walnut are exported to other economies, whereas the identity of Kyrgyz walnut gets lost. The adequate certification and marketing of walnuts as organic, ecologically clean, mountain product qualified for export is urgently needed to benefit from walnuts' marketing potential in full volume.

In Uzbekistan fruit trees and bushes play a significant role in maintaining rural livelihoods, also they can serve as an important mean for afforestation and melioration. Sea buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides* L.) is a multivitamin small-fruit crop, can be widely used in pharmaceuticals and food industry. It has a great ecological plasticity regarding the unfavorable factors. However, despite the range of positive attributes, the sea buckthorn has not yet found its proper usage in Uzbekistan, due to lack of promotion as a promising small-fruit crop, shortage of planting material and absence of a commercial cultivation technology. Currently Uzbekistan agronomists work on various methods of reproduction, including own-rooted vegetation and

seed reproduction. It is recommended factory-farm enterprises for growing sea buckthorn be arranged in streamside forests.

In Kazakhstan conservation and sustainable use of agro-biodiversity is an important area for developing "a green economy". Agro-biodiversity (ABD) is of global importance to humanity and society, embracing socio-cultural, economic and environmental benefits. Significant conservation objects are forest-forming species of Asian wild apple (*Malus sieversii*) and ordinary apricot (*Armeniaca vulgaris*), and accompanying ABD species. ABD is mainly represented by wild relatives of food crops and domestic animals. However, at present, the gene pool is almost never used and is not protected. Primary threats to ABD are changing environmental conditions, unsustainable agricultural practices, expansion of agriculture within the boundaries of natural habitats, and lack of legal framework in the field of genetic resources (wild ABD species and age-old local varieties and breeds). Current status of globally important species of ABD in Kazakhstan is critical. For example, the remaining area of natural gene pool of the Asian wild apple is only 400 hectares. Forest ecosystems are the main natural storehouses of ABD. However, often this land is withdrawn for various economic needs of administrative territories. Priorities for ABD conservation include:

- Inventory of native agro-biodiversity: all existing varieties and agricultural breeds, including ancient and indigenous;
- Identification and assessment of status and genetic diversity of domestic agricultural crops, breeds of animals and birds, ABD native;
- Improved legal framework for conservation of genetic resources of plants and animals, breeds and varieties;
- Implementation of program for conservation and breeding of domestic breeds and varieties, as well as preservation and restoration of natural environment of ABD in situ;
- Conservation of genetic resources ex-situ of all agricultural breeds.

In 2015, Kazakhstan acceded to Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization. The Protocol seeks to protect the developing economies from infringement of their interests by the developed economies that exploit their genetic resources. The preservation of ABD is a prerequisite for transition to a "green economy" in Kazakhstan. To realize transition to GE is impossible without sustainable use of biodiversity resources.

Action plans on implementation of the activities proposed within the Strategic Framework for Regional Cooperation in GCA Region

In order to substantiate the forestry cooperation in the GCA region, taking into account of the national forestry programmes and priorities of each economies in this region, APFNet Secretariat proposed the concrete action plans within the Strategic Framework for Cooperation in the GCA region, which was agreed upon by all the participant economies, organizations and entities during the first Regional Workshop on Strategic Forestry Cooperation in Greater Central Asia (WSFC) in 2014. These action plans elaborate the activities that APFNet Secretariat will carry out on a regular basis in terms of senior level policy dialogue, workshop and seminars, demonstration project and capacity building programme. This workshop is deemed a milestone for APFNet's development in GCA Region, which will definitely expedite its bonding with regional economies and organizations. All the participants of the Workshop reach consensus on the proposed action plans and exhibited great enthusiasm in involving in the implementation of these activities. It's agreed during the Workshop that Kazakhstan will host the first regional Forestry Ministerial Meeting (FMM), and Kyrgyz will host the third Workshop on Forestry Strategic Cooperation in Greater Central Asia Region (WSFC). APFNet, regional economies, interested organizations and entities will provide necessary financial and logistical support to these activities. Additionally APFNet Secretariat will function as a coordination body for forestry cooperation in the GCA region on a voluntary basis. The vision of Strategic Framework for Cooperation in the GCA region will further elaborated with the development of forest sectors in this region.

➤ The Forestry Ministerial Meeting in Greater Central Asia (FMM)

There is an increasing awareness about social, economic and environmental functions of forests all over the world. It results in an increase of actions aimed at expanding protective and productive role of forests. Often, those actions are far from being adequate to the level of civil society demand and national forestry policies do not always reflect changes occurred in forestry as well as in other sectors of the economy. It is even more important that relevant regional problems are not always taken into consideration from a holistic point of view. In this regard, this Workshop is a logical continuation of the first Regional Workshop on Strategic Forestry Cooperation in Greater Central Asia (WSFC) held in

November 2014, at which the ways on establishing and strengthening regional cooperation in forestry have been outlined for the economies in GCA Region. Environmental commonalities of those economies justify importance of such cooperation but at the same time, its potential is not yet fully unlocked and utilized. Regional cooperation is particularly important for critical forest issues in this region, such as combating forest fires, pests and diseases, and co-management of trans-boundary protected areas.

It is obvious that level of regional cooperation will highly depend on political will in addressing the forestry issues in the economies of GCA Region. In this regard, following the decisions made during the first WSFC, the Concept Paper on development of a meeting mechanism of ministers responsible for forestry in the economies of GCA Region (See Annex III in English and Russian) has been considered and discussed during this Workshop.

The goals of Meeting Mechanism of Ministers Responsible for Forestry in Greater Central Asia Region (FMM) is consolidating and promoting the political promises of regional forestry development, strengthening forestry position and function in the regional development and promoting concrete forestry cooperation in the region.

Any of the participating economies can host this high level meeting while APFNet Secretariat coordinates the required activities. Kazakhstan proposed to host the first regional Forestry Ministerial Meeting in GCA Region during the Workshop. It is expected that funding of the event will be jointly provided by APFNet and the host-economy.

➤ **The Workshop on Forestry Strategic Cooperation in Greater Central Asia Region (WSFC)**

In this region, governments, communities, private sector, farmers and NGOs have been implementing enormous significant profound activities to promote sustainable forest management. However, substantial gaps between forestry development and national economy development exist due to insufficient funding, lack of comprehensive and targeted research and development, shortage of the most recent and updated information and modern technologies as well as inefficient regional cooperation. To cover those gaps, APFNet proposed to organize the workshop on a regular basis, and the Concept Paper on the workshop is enclosed in Annex IV in

English and Russia. The goal of the Workshop is to provide a platform for sharing most up-to-date forestry information and technologies as well as best management practices in GCA Region.

Any of the participating economies can host the Workshop, while APFNet Secretariat coordinates the required activities. Kyrgyz proposed to host the third Workshop on Forestry Strategic Cooperation in Greater Central Asia Region (WSFC) during the workshop. It is expected that funding of the event will be provided jointly by APFNet and the host-economy.

➤ **Project on ‘Demonstration on Vegetation Rehabilitation and Forest Resources Management and Utilization in Greater Central Asia’**

A project ‘Demonstration on Vegetation Rehabilitation and Forest Resources Management and Utilization in Greater Central Asia’ was proposed and discussed during the Workshop in order to provide references for forestry development in GCA Region through demonstrating best practices of vegetation rehabilitation and forest resources management and utilization, so as to enhance the ecological, economic, social and cultural functions of the forest ecosystem in the region. The concept paper of this project is attached in Annex V in English and Russian.

It is expected that forestry authorities, academic institutes, international and regional organizations and NGOs participate in the project design and implementation. APFNet Secretariat will be responsible for overall coordination.

➤ **Program on Capacity Building for the Greater Central Asia Region on Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystem**

Strengthening forestry capacity has a direct impact on efficiency and quality of its forest management, and consequently contributes to social and economic development of the society. In this scenario, APFNet has proposed to initiate capacity building Program on Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystem to provide context-based and need-tailored activities and programs across the Greater Central Asia, to help improve capacities of targeted beneficiaries towards sustainable management of ecosystems of forests, pastures and grasslands, and drylands, to add values to regional balanced socio-development and economic growth. Please See Annex VI for concept paper for Capacity Building Program in English and Russian. Training Workshop on combat desertification will be launched in September 2015, in the province of Inner Mongolia, China.

APFNet will provide funding support to these activities and other kinds of assistance and support are highly welcomed and appreciated.

Annex I. Workshop Agenda

**Agenda for the 2nd Second Regional Workshop on
Strategic Forestry Cooperation in Greater Central Asia,
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 15-17 July, 2015**

Day One (July 15)		Host
OPENING CEREMONY		
8:00-8:20	Opening remarks by representatives of State Forestry Administration of China(SFA),the Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism of Mongolia(MEGDTM),Mongolian Nature and Environment Consortium (MNEC) andAPFNet	Mr. M. Khurelsukh, Vice Minister of Environment, Green development and tourism of Mongolia Mr.Peng YOU DONG, Vice Administrator, Forestry Administration of China(SFA) Mr. Lu De, Assisted Executive Director, Asia Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)
8:20-8:30	Group photo	
8:30-9:00	Coffee Break&Picture show on Mongolia's achievement in terms of forest fire and forest pest diseases management, desertification control, community-based forestmanagement, forest resource monitoring and etc.	Technical supported by MNECandspeakers
9:00-9:30	Agenda and purpose introduction	Coordinator
SESSION 1. CURRENT STATUS, DEVELOPING TRENDS AND CONSTRAINTS OF FORESTRY MANAGEMENT IN MONGOLIA, CENTRAL ASIAN ECONOMIES AND CHINA		
9:30-9:55	Keynote speech on Current status, developing trends and constraints of forestry management in Mongolia	Dr.Banzragch,Director of forest policy and coordination department of Ministry of environment and green development and tourism
9:55-10:20	Keynote speech on Current status, developing trends and constraints of forestry	Mr.ZakhadullaevAbduvokhid,Chief expert for monitoring international projects of the Main

	management in Uzbekistan	Department of Forestry of Uzbekistan
10:20-10:45	Keynote speech on Current status, developing trends and constraints of forestry management in Kyrgyzstan	Mr. Beisheev Bakytbek, Director of Hunting Game Management Department, the State Agency of Environment Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic
10:45-11:05	Keynote speech on Current status, developing trends and constraints of forestry management in Kazakhstan	Mr. Arkadiy Rodionov, Expert of Institute of Ecology and Sustainable Development, Kazakhstan
11:05-11:25	Keynote speech on Current status, developing trends and constraints of forestry management in Tajikistan	Mr. Ibragimov Firuz, Tajikistan
11:25-11:50	Keynote speech on Current status, developing trends and constraints of forestry management in China	Mr. Lu Qi, Director of Institute of Desertification Studies, Chinese Academy of Forestry
11:15-11:45	Q&A	
11:45-11:55	Summary	
11:55-13:30	Lunch	
SESSION 2. FOREST MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE AND FORESTRY COOPERATION OPPORTUNITIES		
Topic 1. Forest fire prevention		
14:00-14:20	Presentation on Forest Fire Management in Mongolia	Mr. Chuluunbaatar, Chief officer of forest policy and coordination department of Ministry of environment and green development and tourism
14:20-14:40	Cooperation on forest fire management in Central Asia	Dr. Oyunsanaa, Head, Regional Central Asia Fire Management Resource Center (RCAFMRC)
14:40-15:00	The experience of forest management on prevention and maintenance of forest fire, Kazakhstan	Mr. Turumbayev S.T., Lead expert Committee on forest resource and wildlife of the Ministry of Agriculture of Republic of Kazakhstan
15:00-15:30	Coffee break	

Topic 2. Combating desertification		
15:30-15:50	Combating Desertification in China — Policy, Technology & Strategies	Mr. Lu Qi, Director of Institute of Desertification Studies, Chinese Academy of Forestry
15:50-16:10	Actions for combating desertification in the Kyrgyz Republic	Ms. Surappaeva Venera, State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic
16:10-16:30	Combating desertification by forest meliorating approaches in Uzbekistan	Mr. Berdiev Erkin, Executive Director of projects of Republican Research and Production Center of Decorative Horticulture and Forestry of Uzbekistan
16:30-16:50	Desertification and Land degradation in Mongolia and the role of forestry	Mr. N. Mandakh, Institute of Geography and Geoecology, Academy of Sciences of Mongolia
16:50-17:10	Green economy as a tool for combating desertification in Kazakhstan and Central Asia	Dr. Karibayeva Kuralay, Director of Institute of Ecology and Sustainable of Kazakhstan
17:10-17:20	Summary	Coordinator
18:00	Welcome reception	
Day Two (July 16)		Host
SESSION 2. FOREST MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE AND FORESTRY COOPERATION OPPORTUNITIES (CONTINUED)		
Topic 3. Sand industry development and rural livelihood improvement		
9:00-9:25	Activities of forest group users in Mongolia	Mr. Enkhtaivan, MEGDT, Mongolia
9:25-9:50	Walnut Forests for Rural Livelihood Improvement in Kyrgyzstan	Ms. Zholdosova Umut, Rural Development Fund, Kyrgyzstan
9:50-10:15	Sea buckthorn cultivation in Uzbekistan	Mr. Berdiev Erkin, Republican Research and Production Center of Decorative Horticulture and Forestry of Uzbekistan
10:15-10:50	Conservation and sustainable utilization of natural flora agro biodiversity in Kazakhstan	Dr. Karibayeva Kuralay, Director of Institute of Ecology and Sustainable of Kazakhstan
10:50-11:20	Coffee break	

11:20-12:15	Discussions	
12:15-14:00	Lunch	
SESSION 3. ACTION PLANS OF THE ACTIVITIES PROPOSED IN STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION		
14:00-14:10	Introduction of the Strategic Framework for Regional Cooperation among Central Asia economies, Mongolia and China, which was developed during the 1 st workshop	APFNet Secretariat
14:10-14:40	Plenary discussion on the action plan of capacity building activities in Greater Central Asia through APFNet	Coordinator
14:40-15:10	Coffee break	
15:10-15:40	Plenary discussion on the action plan of initiating demonstration projects in Greater Central Asia through APFNet	Coordinator
15:40-16:10	Plenary discussion on the action plan of convening the Ministerial Meeting Responsible for Forestry in Greater Central Asia through APFNet	Coordinator
16:10-16:40	Plenary discussion on the action plan of convening the Regional Workshop on Strategic Forestry Cooperation in Greater Central Asia through APFNet	Coordinator
16:40-16:50	Reaching consensus on the time and place for convening the 1 st Ministerial Meeting and the 3rd Regional Workshop	Coordinator
16:50-17:20	Closing	Coordinator
Day Three (July 17)		
TREE PLANTING ACTIVITY IN NATIONAL GARDEN PARK		

8:30-9:00	Depart from hotel to National garden park
9:00-9:05	Coordinator briefly introduces the participants and main activities for tree planting
9:05-9:10	Opening remarks by Mr. Khurelsukh, vice minister of MEGDT, Mongolia
9:10-9:15	Opening remarks by Mr. Peng Youdong, Vice Administrator of State Forestry Administration of China
9:15-9:20	Opening remarks by Mr. Lu De, Assistant Executive Director of APFNet
9:20-9:25	Opening remarks by Mr. Badarch Mendbayar, Director of MNEC
9:25-10:05	Tree planting
10:05-10:30	Unveil of the signing board and group photo
10:30-11:20	Departure from national garden park to tree planting site, Green Asia project
11:20-12:10	Introduction of planting site, Green Asia
12:10-12:40	Departure to Tsonchinbold Chingis Statue
12:40-13:20	Visit the Tsonchinbold Chingis Statue, take photos
13:20-13:50	Departure to TEREJ
13:50-14:30	Visit the depredated forest and soil in TERELJ area
14:30-16:30	Lunch at Turtle Rock, tourist campus
16:30-17:30	Departure to Ulaanbaatar

Annex II. List of Participants

No.	Name	Title and Organization
Kazakhstan		
1	Karibayeva Kuralay	Director of Institute of Ecology and Sustainable Development, Kazakhstan
2	Rodionov Arkadiy	Expert of Institute of Ecology and Sustainable Development, Kazakhstan
3	Turumbayev Sergey	Chief Specialist of the Committee on the Forestry and Hunting of the MoA of Kazakhstan
Tajikistan		
4	Ibrohimov Firuz	Nominated presenter by the Forestry Agency under the Government of Tajikistan
Uzbekistan		
5	Zakhadullaev Abduvokhid	Chief expert for monitoring international projects of the Main Department of Forestry of Uzbekistan
6	Berdiev Erkin	Executive Director of projects of Republican Scientific-Production Center of Decorative Horticulture and Forestry of Uzbekistan
7	Begmatov Nuriddin	Director of Dalverzin state hunting forestry of Uzbekistan
Kyrgyzstan		
8	Beisheev Bakytbek	Director of Hunting Game Management Department, the State Agency of Environment Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic
9	Surappaeva Venera	Chief of the Forest Monitoring Division, the State Agency of Environment Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic
10	Omorbekov Azamat	Rural Development Fund
Mongolia		
14	M. Khurelsukh	Vice Minister of Ministry of environment and green development and tourism
15	Ts. Banzragch	Director of forest policy and coordination department of Ministry of environment and green development and tourism
16	B. Eruult	Director of foreign affairs division of Ministry of environment and green development and tourism
17	G.Munkh- erdem	Director of land and water management department of Ministry of environment and green development and tourism
18	D. Enkhjargal	Officer of forest policy and coordination department of Ministry of environment and green development and tourism
19	Z.Tsogt	Officer of World Garden Mongolia (NGO)

20	S. Gantulga	Director of forest research center of forest policy and coordination department of Ministry of environment and green development and tourism
21	J. Tsogtbaatar	Chief of forest sector of geographic Institute of Mongolian Academy of sciences
22	B. Ouynsanaa	Head of Regional Central Asia Fire Management Resource Center(RCAFMRC)
23	Kh.Maitsetseg	Chief Officer of International Cooperation Division of Ministry
24	Badarch Mendbayar	Director of Mongolian Nature and Environment Consortium (MNEC)
25	J.Shurentsetseg	Officer of Mongolian Nature and Environment Consortium (MNEC)
26	G.Ankhtuya	Officer of Mongolian Nature and Environment Consortium (MNEC)
27	M.Munkhtuya	Officer of Mongolian Nature and Environment Consortium (MNEC)
28	N. Mandakh	Scientist of the Institute Geography of Academy of Sciences of Mongolia
29	A.Khaulenbek	Scientist of the Institute Geography of Academy of Sciences of Mongolia
30	Ts. Chuluunbaatar	Chief Officer of Forest Policy and Coordination Department of Ministry of environment and green development and tourism
31	N.Enkhtaivan	Senior specialist of Forest Policy and Coordination Department of Ministry of environment and green development and tourism
32	Ye. Arionzoc	Director of ERISC
33	B.Youdaaap	Officer of Ministry of environment and green development and tourism
34	U.Dgrx Uamfed	Officer of Ministry of environment and green development and tourism
35	Ariunzul Yangiv	Director of Environmental Research, Information and Study Center(on behalf onAPFNet-funded project in Mongolia)
UNDP		
36	Yerlan Zhumabayev	UNDP
China		
37	Peng Youdong	Deputy Director of State Forestry Administration of China(SFA)

38	Xu Qing	Deputy Director General of State Forestry Administration of China(SFA)
39	Lu Qi	Director of Institute of Desertification Studies, Chinese Academy of Forestry
Invited International Consultants		
40	Zholdoshova Umut	Rural Development Fund
41	Inogamov Said	Free Lancer
APFNet		
42	Lu De	Assisted Executive Director, Asia Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)
43	Kong Zhe	Acting Director of Asia Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)
44	Zhang Yang	Asia Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)
45	Long Chao	Asia Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)

Annex III Concept Paper on Meeting Mechanism of Ministers Responsible for Forestry in Greater Central Asia Region

I. Background

Greater Central Asia region in the widest sense includes Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and north-western China, which is acting as social, economic, cultural and ideological connection among Central and Northern Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa. This is a region endowed with rich and diverse natural resources, such as oil, gas, minerals, water, plants, animals as well as land resources. In this region, forests and grasslands are considered as vital resources, which provide forage, food, fuel, medicinal plants, recreation areas and other important environmental services to the people in this region.

However, as the population growth, industry and agricultural expansion, the economies in Greater Central Asia region have experienced serious land degradation and deforestation. Meanwhile, lacking of forestry statistic information, weak forestry law enforcement and limited financial support for forest rehabilitation further aggravated deforestation and land degradation in the region.

Greater Central Asian economies share similar geographic, climatic and socio-economic conditions. The economies in this region have made endeavour toward sustainable forest management by actively participating into international forestry cooperation and conferences, so as to get support on forestry development.

Therefore it is necessary to establish a meeting mechanism for Ministers responsible for forestry to meet regularly, through which the regional high level forestry officials could discuss the current forestry concerns and future developing trends in this region as well as examine forestry plan toward sustainable forestry development.

II. Goals and topics

The goals of Meeting Mechanism of Ministers Responsible for Forestry in Greater Central Asia Region is consolidating and promoting the political promises of regional forestry development, strengthening forestry position and function in the regional development and promoting concrete forestry cooperation in the region.

The major topics of the Meeting Mechanism include:

- 1) **Integrated land use planning of the region**, which will consider forestry, animal husbandry and agriculture development as a whole, so as to realize the integrated development of forestry sector together with other relevant sectors.
- 2) **Adapting adjustments of current forestry policies and regulations**, which will comprehensively take into account the current international cooperative situation and requirements of national forestry development.
- 3) **Sharing and promoting best practices of regional forest resources management and utilization**, including demonstration on forest fire prevention, pest control, biodiversity protection, forest resources assessment and watershed ecological comprehensive management.
- 4) **Strengthening communication of up-to-date forestry information and capacity building of forestry decision makers and practitioners.**

5) Exploring forestry financing channels, mainly including Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank(AIIB), World Bank and Asian Development Bank(ADB).

6) Others, including regional forestry development and cooperation, as well as international forest issues.

III. Expected outputs

- **Output 1:** *Draft plan of integrated land uses in Greater Central Asia Region*
- **Output 2:** *Key regional forestry cooperative fields, regions and draft activity plan in Greater Central Asia Region*
- **Output 3:** *Capacity building proposals of forestry decision makers in Greater Central Asia Region*
- **Output 4:** *Best practices summary of regional forestry development in Greater Central Asia Region*
- **Output 5:** *Forestry financing analysis in Greater Central Asia Region*
- **Output 6:** *Other consensus and reports*

IV. Implementation arrangement

Initiated by APFNet, the ministerial meetings will be held every two years. Each economy in *Greater Central Asia Region*(i.e. Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and China) would voluntarily take turns to hold the meeting. APFNet will take the responsibility of daily coordination and management of this mechanism.

V. Technical support

1) Policy think tank

The policy think tank consist of regional forestry policy makers, researchers and NGO delegates, who will provide technical support to the formulating meeting outcomes and make sure multi-stakeholders could take part into the meeting.

2) Financing consultation Group

The financing consultation group consists of representatives of regional financial institutions, including Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank(AIIB), World Bank and Asian Development Bank(ADB)and other international organization representatives, which includes German international Cooperative Agency (GIZ) ,Food and Agricultural Organization of United States(FAO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) ,who is expected to provide financing consultation services for each meeting outcome and make sure the capitals' sustainability.

VI. Participates

Ministers or vice ministers of China, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and other forestry policy makers、regional forestry experts, regional financing institution delegates are expected to participate in the meetings. Besides, the meeting also opens to other economies that concerned about the forestry development in Greater Central Asian Region.

VII. Meeting funds

The meeting is expected to be funded by the host economy and APFNet. Other financial supports from regional financing institutions and forestry related international organizationsare highly welcomed.

Приложение III

Концептуальный документ по механизму заседаний министров, ответственных за лесное хозяйство в регионе Большой Центральной Азии

I. Введение

Регион Большой Центральной Азии, в широком смысле, включаетв себя Казахстан, Таджикистан, Узбекистан, Туркменистан, Кыргызстан, Монголию и северо-западный Китай и, с точки зрения социальных, экономических, культурных и идеологических аспектов, обеспечивает связь с Центральной и Северной Европой, Центральной Азией, Средним Востоком и Северной Африкой. Данный регион наделён богатыми и разнообразными природными ресурсами, такими как нефть, природный газ, минералы, водные ресурсы, растения и животный мир, а также обширными земельными ресурсами. Леса и луга данного региона, рассматриваются в качестве жизненно важных ресурсов, обеспечивающие местное население пищей и кормом, топливом, лекарственными растениями, зонами отдыха и прочими экологическими услугами.

Однако, вследствие увеличения численности населения, расширения промышленной и сельскохозяйственной деятельности, экономики региона Большой Центральной Азии подвержены существенным процессам деградации земель и обезлесения. В то же время, недостаток статистических данных по лесному хозяйству, слабый контроль за исполнением соответствующего законодательства и ограниченная финансовая поддержка по восстановлению лесов, ещё больше усугубляют процессы обезлесения и деградации земель в данном регионе.

Экономикам Большой Центральной Азии характерны схожие географические, климатические и социально-экономические условия. Экономики данного региона стремятся к устойчивому управлению лесами посредством активного участия в международном сотрудничестве и встречах по вопросам лесного хозяйства для получения содействия его развития.

В связи с этим, необходимо разработать механизм регулярных заседаний министров, руководящих лесным хозяйством, посредством которого работники высшего звена лесных секторов смогут обсуждать текущие проблемы, вопросы и будущие направления развития лесного хозяйства в данном регионе, а также оценивать национальные планы по устойчивому развитию лесного хозяйства.

II. Цели и задачи

Целью механизма регулярных заседаний министров лесного хозяйства региона Большой Центральной Азии является консолидация и стимулирование процессов

регионального развития лесного хозяйства, укреплению статуса и функций лесного сектора в сфере регионального развития, а также стимулирование кооперации в лесном хозяйстве данного региона.

Основная тематика механизма заседаний:

- 1)
Планирование интегрированного землепользования, которое учитывает лесное хозяйство, развитие животноводства и сельского хозяйства в целом для того, чтобы обеспечить интегрированное развитие лесного сектора совместно с другими соответствующими секторами.
- 2) **Адаптация изменений и дополнений, вносимых в текущую политику развития и нормативные акты, касающиеся лесного хозяйства**, которые будут в полной мере учитывать текущую ситуацию в области международного сотрудничества и требования к национальному развитию лесного хозяйства.
- 3)
Обмен стимулами передовой практики управления и использования региональных лесных ресурсов, включая демонстрацию методов предотвращения лесных пожаров, контроль за лесными вредителями, сохранение биоразнообразия, оценку лесных ресурсов и всеобъемлющее экологическое управление водоразделами.
- 4) **Повышение качества связи и регулярного обмена информацией, а также наращивание потенциала руководящих работников и специалистов-практиков лесного хозяйства.**
- 5) **Изучение и поиск каналов финансирования лесного хозяйства**, в основном Азиатским Банком инфраструктурных инвестиций (АБИИ), Всемирным Банком (ВБ) и Азиатским Банком (АБР).
- 6) **Прочее**, включая региональное развитие и сотрудничество в лесном хозяйстве, а также вопросы международного лесного хозяйства.

III. Ожидаемые результаты

- **Результат 1:** Проект плана интегрированного использования земельных ресурсов в регионе Большой Центральной Азии
- **Результат 2:** Основные аспекты регионального сотрудничества в лесном хозяйстве в регионе Большой Центральной Азии
- **Результат 3:** Наращивание потенциала разработчиков предложений для руководящих работников лесного хозяйства в регионе Большой Центральной Азии
- **Результат 4:** Обобщённая информация о лучших практиках регионального развития лесного хозяйства в регионе Большой Центральной Азии

- **Результат 5:** Анализ финансирования лесного хозяйства в регионе Большой Центральной Азии
- **Результат 6:** Прочие общие вопросы и соответствующие отчёты

IV. Организация проведения данного мероприятия

Инициированные Азиатско-тихоокеанской сетью по устойчивому управлению и восстановлению лесов (APFNet) заседания министров (руководителей) лесного хозяйства будут проводиться каждые два года. Каждая из экономик региона Большой Центральной Азии (т.е. Казахстан, Таджикистан, Узбекистан, Туркменистан, Кыргызстан, Монголия и Китай) может на добровольной основе организовать проведение такого заседания. APFNet будет осуществлять повседневную координацию и управление данным механизмом.

V. Техническая поддержка

1) Группа специалистов по вопросам политики в области лесного хозяйства

Группа специалистов по вопросам политики в области лесного хозяйства включает в себя руководящих работников, определяющих политику развития лесного хозяйства данного региона, исследователей и учёных, представителей НПО, которые будут обеспечивать техническую поддержку, требуемую для формулирования результатов таких заседаний, а также будут обеспечивать участие многосторонних заинтересованных сторон в таких заседаниях.

2) Консультативная группа по вопросам финансирования

Консультативная группа по вопросам финансирования включает в себя представителей региональных финансовых институтов, таких как Азиатский Банк инфраструктурных инвестиций (АБИИ), Всемирный Банк (ВБ) и Азиатский Банк (АБР), а также представителей других международных организаций, таких как Агентство по международному сотрудничеству Германии (GIZ), Продовольственная и Сельскохозяйственная Организация ООН (ФАО), Программа Развития Организации Объединённых Наций (ПРООН), которые, как ожидается, предоставят консультационные услуги по вопросам финансирования по каждому из результатов заседания и обеспечат устойчивость капиталовложений.

VI. Участники

Ожидается, что в заседаниях будут принимать участие министры или заместители министров из Китая, Монголии, Казахстана, Кыргызстана, Таджикистана, Туркменистана и Узбекистана и другие руководящие работники лесного хозяйства, региональные специалисты лесного сектора, представители региональных финансовых институтов. Кроме того, участие в таких заседаниях открыто для представителей других экономик,

которых беспокоят вопросы развития лесного хозяйства региона Большой Центральной Азии.

VII. Финансирование заседаний

Ожидается, что заседание будет финансироваться совместно принимающей экономикой и APFNet. Любая другая финансовая поддержка со стороны региональных финансовых институтов и соответствующих международных организаций, занимающихся вопросами лесного хозяйства будет приветствоваться.

Annex IV. Concept paper on Workshop on Forestry Strategic Cooperation in Greater Central Asia Region

I. Background

Greater Central Asia region in the widest sense includes Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and north-western China, which is acting as social, economic, cultural and ideological connection among Central and Northern Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa. This is a region endowed with rich and diverse natural resources, such as oil, gas, minerals, water, plants, animals as well as land resources. In this region, forests and grasslands are considered as vital resources, which provide forage, food, fuel, medicinal plants, recreation areas and other important environmental services to the people in this region.

Most of the economies in Greater Central Asia Region are in their critical period of economy transformation and administration function transition. Although attentions have been paid to forestry sustainable development, due to lack of financial support, research strength, most up-to-date forestry information and technologies as well as international forestry cooperation experience, there is still a lag between forestry development and economic development in this region. Therefore, APFNet proposes to initiate the Workshop on Forestry Strategic Cooperation in Greater Central Asia Region, discussing the regional forestry development issues and the latest forestry information and technologies as well as sharing best forestry management practices. The 1st workshop held in August 2014 has been highly acknowledged by the participants. Based on the consensus reached in the 1st workshop, APFNet proposes to develop this workshop into a regular meeting mechanism to provide a platform for sharing forestry information and technologies as well as best management practices.

II. Goals and topics

The goal of Workshop Mechanism on Forestry Strategic Cooperation in Greater Central Asia Region is to provide a platform for sharing most up-to-date forestry information and technologies as well as best management practices in Greater Central Asia Region.

The major topics of the Workshop Mechanism include:

- (1) Establishing regular regional information sharing mechanism on forestry policies and plans, so as to provide important references for the regional and international forestry cooperation.
- (2) Discussing main regional forestry concerns and seeking for best practices, which including but not limited to regional integrated watershed management, desertification control, forest fire prevention, pest controls, diversity protection and agricultural-forestry-animal husbandry development.
- (3) Through capacity building and training, upgrading forestry officials' abilities on making and implementing forestry policies and management plans, as well as improving forestry technicians' ability on forest resources inventory. Meanwhile, strengthening communication and sharing on forestry management experience and technologies among the regions.
- (4) Assisting in establishing an alliance of small and media-sized enterprises that are conducting forest resources and secondary forest resources processing and utilization. The alliance aims to strengthening planting of fruit trees, medical plants

and Psammophytes and sharing forestry industry information and technologies.

- (5) Others, including regional forestry development and cooperation as well as international forest issues.

III. Expected outputs

- *Output1*: Establishing regular notice mechanism of forestry policies, plans and information in Greater Central Asia Region.
- *Output2*: Key forestry issues analysis in Greater Central Asia Region.
- *Output3*: Analysis and suggestions on administrative and research capacity building in Greater Central Asia Region.
- *Output4*: Analysis on establishing small and media-sized enterprises alliance of forest and secondary forest resource processing and utilization.
- *Output5*: Other workshop outputs

IV. Implementation arrangement

Initiated by APFNet, the workshop will be organized every two years alternating with Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry in Greater Central Asia Region. Each economy in *Greater Central Asia Region* (i.e. Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and China) would voluntarily take turns to hold the workshop. APFNet will take the responsibility of daily coordination and management of this mechanism.

V. Participates

Forestry experts and officials from China, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan are expected to participate in the meetings. Besides, the meeting also opens to other economies that concerned about the forestry development in Greater Central Asian Region.

VI. Funds

The workshop is expected to be funded by the host economy and APFNet. Other financial supports from regional financing institutions and forestry related international organizations are highly welcomed.

Приложение IV.

Концептуальный документ по проведению семинара по стратегическому сотрудничеству в области лесного хозяйства в регионе Большой Центральной Азии

I. Введение

Регион Большой Центральной Азии, в широком смысле, включает в себя Казахстан, Таджикистан, Узбекистан, Туркменистан, Кыргызстан, Монголию и северо-западный Китай и, с точки зрения социальных, экономических, культурных и идеологических аспектов, обеспечивает связь с Центральной и Северной Европой, Центральной Азией, Средним Востоком и Северной Африкой. Данный регион наделён богатыми и разнообразными природными ресурсами, такими как нефть, природный газ, минералы, водные ресурсы, растения и животный мир, а также обширными земельными ресурсами. Леса и луга данного региона, рассматриваются в качестве жизненно важных ресурсов, обеспечивающие местное население пищей и кормом, топливом, лекарственными растениями, зонами отдыха и прочими экологическими услугами.

Большинство экономик региона Большой Центральной Азии находятся в важном периоде экономической трансформации и изменения своих административных функций. Несмотря на то, что вопросам устойчивого развития лесного хозяйства уделялось внимание, из-за нехватки финансовых средств, отсутствия соответствующих исследований и последней информации о лесных секторах и потребностей в лесохозяйственных технологиях, а также опыте международного сотрудничества в области лесного хозяйства, в данном регионе все ещё наблюдается отставание между развитием лесного хозяйства и экономическим развитием. В связи с этим, Азиатско-тихоокеанская сеть по устойчивому управлению и восстановлению лесов (APFNet) предлагает провести семинар по стратегическому сотрудничеству в лесном хозяйстве региона Большой Центральной Азии с тем, чтобы обсудить вопросы регионального развития лесного сектора, получить самую последнюю информацию и ознакомиться с технологиями в области лесного хозяйства, а также обменяться лучшими практиками по его управлению. Первый семинар, проведённый в августе 2014 г., получил высокую оценку со стороны его участников. На основании консенсуса, достигнутого на первом семинаре, APFNet было предложено трансформировать данный семинар в механизм регулярных заседаний, предназначенных для создания платформы по обмену информацией и технологиями в области лесного хозяйства, а также лучшими практиками по его управлению.

II. Цели и задачи

Целью семинара по механизму стратегического сотрудничества в лесном хозяйстве региона Большой Центральной Азии является создание платформы для обмена последней информацией и технологиями в области лесного хозяйства, а также лучшими практиками по его управлению в регионе Большой Центральной Азии.

Основные вопросы, рассматриваемые на семинаре:

- (6) Создание механизма для регулярного обмена информацией по вопросам политики и планов в области лесного хозяйства для получения соответствующих данных относительно регионального и международного сотрудничества в области лесного хозяйства.
- (7) Обсуждение основных региональных проблем, касающихся лесного хозяйства, и поиска лучших практик, которые включают в себя, но не ограничиваются только этим, региональное интегрированное управление водными ресурсами, контроль за процессами опустынивания, предотвращение лесных пожаров, борьба с лесными вредителями и сохранение биоразнообразия, а также развитие сельскохозяйственного, лесного и животноводческого секторов.
- (8) Повышение, посредством наращивания потенциала и соответствующего обучения, квалификации и знаний работников лесного хозяйства по разработке и реализации политики развития лесного хозяйства и планов его управления, а также совершенствование навыков технических работников в области инвентаризации лесных ресурсов. Помимо этого, улучшение связи и обмен опытом по вопросам управления лесным хозяйством и соответствующими технологиями в данном регионе.
- (9) Оказание содействия при организации ассоциации малых и средних предприятий, занимающихся лесными ресурсами, их вторичной переработкой и использованием. Деятельность подобной ассоциации направлена на увеличение посадок плодовых деревьев, лекарственных растений и самшитов (растений, растущих на песках), а также обмена информацией и технологиями в области лесной промышленности.
- (10) Прочее, включающее региональное развитие лесного хозяйства и вопросы международного уровня, касающиеся лесного хозяйства.

III. Ожидаемые результаты

- *Результат 1:* Создание механизма регулярного уведомления о политике и планах, а также обмену информацией в области лесного хозяйства региона Большой Центральной Азии.
- *Результат 2:* Анализ основных вопросов развития лесного хозяйства в регионе Большой Центральной Азии.

- *Результат3:* Проведение анализа и подготовка предложений по наращиванию административного и исследовательского потенциала в регионе Большой Центральной Азии.
- *Результат4:* Анализ процесса организации ассоциации малых и средних предприятий по использованию лесных ресурсов и их вторичной переработке.
- *Результат5:* Прочие результаты работы семинара

IV. Организация проведения данного мероприятия

Данный семинар, проведение которого инициировано APFNet, будет проводиться каждые два года, чередуясь с заседаниями министров (руководителей) лесного хозяйства соответствующей экономики региона Большой Центральной Азии. Каждая из экономик региона *Большой Центральной Азии* (т.е. Казахстан, Таджикистан, Узбекистан, Туркменистан, Кыргызстан, Монголия и Китай) может на добровольной основе организовать проведение такого семинара. APFNet будет осуществлять повседневную координацию и управление данным механизмом.

V. Участники

Ожидается, что в данных семинарах будут принимать участие специалисты и руководящие работники лесного хозяйства из Китая, Монголии, Казахстана, Таджикистана, Узбекистана, Туркменистана и Кыргызстана. Кроме того, участие в таких семинарах также открыто для представителей других экономик, которых озабочены вопросами развития лесного хозяйства региона Большой Центральной Азии.

VI. Финансирование семинаров

Ожидается, что проведение данного семинара будет финансироваться совместно принимающей экономикой и APFNet. Любая другая финансовая поддержка со стороны региональных финансовых институтов и соответствующих международных организаций, занимающихся вопросами лесного хозяйства будет приветствоваться.

Annex V. Concept Paper on Demonstration on Vegetation Rehabilitation and Forest Resources Management and utilization in Greater Central Asia

I. Background

Greater Central Asia region in the widest sense includes Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and north-western China, as social, economic, cultural and ideological connections among Central and Northern Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa. Endowed with various plant, abundant natural resources and animal species, Greater Central Asia region is one of the biodiversity hotspots in the world.

However, as the population growth, industry and agricultural expansion and livestock husbandry development, Greater Central Asia region has experienced serious vegetation degradation and deforestation. The governments in this region have been paying high attention to the ecological protection and have made great endeavours to promote sustainable forest management. But due to insufficient financial and technical supports, relatively poor executive ability in implementing forest policies and lacking of communication and cooperation mechanism among the economies, the current forestry development is always marginalized from the overall national development plan. As a result, it is urgent to make integrated planning and management of forest ecosystem for the Greater Central Asia Region through joint efforts.

To this end, Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet) proposes to launch a project “Demonstration on Vegetation Rehabilitation and Forest Resources Management and utilization in Greater Central Asia”, as an opportunity for deepening the cooperation both in environmental protection and economic development and promoting integrated forest ecosystem management to enhance the ecological, economic, social and cultural functions of the forest ecosystem in Greater Central Asia region.

II. Goal

The goal of the project is provide references for forestry development in Greater Central Asia region through demonstrating best practices of vegetation rehabilitation and forest resources management and utilization, so as to enhance the ecological, economic, social and cultural functions of the forest ecosystem in the region.

III. Expected outputs

- **Output1:** Experience and best practices of rehabilitation of degraded lands in Greater Central Asia Region
- **Output2:** Field demonstration sites of forest resources management and utilization in Greater Central Asia Region.
- **Output3:** Best practices of forest resources management and utilization in Greater Central Asia Region.

IV. Main activities

- **Activity 1:** Developing work plan of vegetation rehabilitation for the field sites selected by each economy in Greater Central Asia Region.
- **Activity 2:** Conducting rehabilitation activities at the field sites
- **Activity 3:** Developing work plan for community based forest resources management and utilization demonstration activities
- **Activity 4:** Field demonstration on community based integrated management of forest resource in Greater Central Asia Region, including

- a) Desertification control and degraded forest and grass land rehabilitation
 - b) Economic forest planting and forest products processing and trade
 - c) Psammophytes planting and sand industry development
- **Activity 5:** Capacity building of forestry authorities and institutes on integrated forest resources management, such as trainings and site visits.

V. Implementation Arrangements

The project is initiated by APFNet and is expected to be jointly implemented by Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and north-western provinces of China through coordination of APFNet. Forestry authority in each economy is expected to lead the implementation of the project activities.

VI. Expected duration and funding

The project is intended for 5 years. APFNet will grant US\$ 2,000,000 for the project, while financial and in-kind supports from other economies and international organizations are appreciated and welcome as well.

Приложение V.

Концептуальный документ по демонстрации восстановления вегетационного покрова, управления и использования лесных ресурсов в Большой Центральной Азии

VII. Введение

Регион Большой Центральной Азии, в широком смысле, включаетв себя Казахстан, Таджикистан, Узбекистан, Туркменистан, Кыргызстан, Монголию и северо-западный Китай и, с точки зрения социальных, экономических, культурных и идеологических аспектов, обеспечивает связь с Центральной и Северной Европой, Центральной Азией, Средним Востоком и Северной Африкой. Регион Большой Центральной Азии, наделённый разнообразными растениями, значительными природными ресурсами и животным миром является одним из регионов нашей планеты, в котором наблюдаются самые критические проблемы сохранения биоразнообразия.

При этом, вследствие роста численности населения, расширения промышленной и сельскохозяйственной деятельности, экономики региона Большой Центральной Азии подвержены существенным процессам деградации вегетационного покрова и обезлесения. Правительства экономик данного региона уделяют большое внимание вопросам охраны природы и прилагают очень существенные усилия, направленные на стимулирование процессов устойчивого управления лесами. Однако, из-за недостаточной финансовой и технической поддержки, относительно слабого исполнительного потенциала реализации политики развития лесного хозяйства и отсутствия механизма связи и кооперации между экономиками данного региона, вопросы текущего развития лесного хозяйства постоянно являются не приоритетными в национальных планах развития. Вследствие этого, имеет место срочная потребность в применении интегрированного планирования и управления лесными экосистемами в регионе Большой Центральной Азии, что достигается посредством осуществления совместных действий.

В связи с вышесказанным, для повышения уровня кооперации как по защите окружающей среды и экономическому развитию, так и для стимулирования процессов интегрированного управления лесными экосистемами, что улучшает экологические, экономические, социальные и культурные функции лесных экосистем в регионе Большой Центральной Азии, Азиатско-тихоокеанская сеть по устойчивому управлению и восстановлению лесов (APFNet) предлагает запустить проект «Демонстрация восстановления вегетационного покрова, управление и использование лесных ресурсов в регионе Большой Центральной Азии».

VIII. Цель проекта

Целью данного проекта является предоставление соответствующих данных относительно развития лесного хозяйства в регионе Большой Центральной Азии посредством демонстрации лучших практик по восстановлению вегетационного покрова, управлению и использованию лесных ресурсов для того, чтобы улучшить экологические, экономические, социальные и культурные функции лесных экосистем в данном регионе.

IX. Ожидаемые результаты

- **Результат 1:** Опыти лучшие практики в области восстановления деградированных земель в регионе Большой Центральной Азии.
- **Результат 2:** Полевые демонстрационные участки по управлению и использованию лесных ресурсов в регионе Большой Центральной Азии.
- **Результат 3:** Лучшие практики по управлению и использованию лесных ресурсов в регионе Большой Центральной Азии.

X. Основные мероприятия

- **Мероприятие 1:** Разработка плана работ по восстановлению вегетационного покрова на полевых участках, выбранных каждой экономикой региона Большой Центральной Азии.
- **Мероприятие 2:** Проведение восстановительных работ на данных полевых участках.
- **Мероприятие 3:** Разработка плана работ демонстрационных мероприятий, касающихся общинного управления и использования лесных ресурсов.
- **Мероприятие 4:** Демонстрация, в полевых условиях, методов общинного интегрированного управления лесными ресурсами в регионе Большой Центральной Азии, включая:
 - d) Контроль за процессами опустынивания и восстановления деградированных лесных и лугопастбищных земель
 - e) Экономическое планирование лесного хозяйства, а также переработка и торговля лесной продукцией
 - f) Посадки псаммофитов и развитие песчаной промышленности
- **Мероприятие 5:** Наращивание потенциала административных и организационных структур лесного хозяйства по интегрированному управлению лесными ресурсами посредством проведения обучения и тренингов, а также посещения демонстрационных участков.

XI. Организация реализации данного проекта

Проект инициирован APFNet, и ожидается, что он будет реализован совместно Казахстаном, Таджикистаном, Узбекистаном, Туркменистаном, Кыргызстаном, Монголией и северо-западными провинциями Китая посредством координации его деятельности APFNet. Ожидается, что администрация лесного хозяйства каждой экономики будут руководить реализацией проектных мероприятий.

XII. Планируемая продолжительность проекта и его финансирование

Реализация данного проекта планируется на период в 5 лет. APFNet выделит грант на его реализацию в размере 20000000 долл. США, тем не менее, любая другая финансовая поддержка и содействие в натуральном виде со стороны других экономик, а также соответствующих международных организаций будет приветствоваться.

Annex VI. Concept Paper Capacity Building Program for the Greater Central Asia Region on Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystem

1. Background

In the ever changing context, forestry in the Greater Central Asia Region has been confronted with a myriad of interconnected challenges, including consistently underestimated contribution from forest management, adverse impacts of arid and semi-arid weather, increasing vulnerability to climate change, growing pressure of burgeoning population, and prominent demand of sustainable development of this specific region.

As unanimously agreed at the “First Regional Workshop on Strategic Forestry Cooperation in Central Asia” held in September 2014, one of the keys to addressing these challenges lies in stronger capacity of the forestry authorities and practitioners with immediate and appropriate actions. In this regard, APFNet reconfirmed its commitments in Great Central Asia through initiating a Capacity Building Program for the Greater Central Asia Region on Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystem, which is expected as a crucial implementation tool in long term, and a core component of the Greater Central Asia Forestry Cooperation Mechanism.

2. Objectives

For longer term, APFNet intends to enhance regional network and pool resources, to provide context-based and need-tailored activities and programs across the Greater Central Asia, to help improve capacities of targeted beneficiaries towards sustainable management of ecosystems of forests, pastures and grasslands, and drylands, to add values to regional balanced socio-development and economic growth.

Specific objectives may include:

- Improvement of the management capacity of policy makers and government officials in terms of assessing, planning, enforcement and monitoring;
- Enrichment of professional education of foresters at all levels;
- Information Sharing and network establishing among the stakeholders across the region with similar scenarios for good practices and edgy information;
- Public Awareness Raising through the promotion of the activities and summarization of the successful models and best practices, e.g. integrated treatment of desertification;
- Preparation of the talent pool on forestry sectors across the region;
- Profile raising and capacities of Universities and other education providers in the region.

3. Targeted Beneficiaries

The Capacity Building Program would engage the regional foresters/practitioners from

- Forest agencies and sectors relevant to land planning and use,
- Academia and scientific entities
- Industry and business

4. Scope and Strategies

The program is expected to cover but not limited to desertification control, sand industry development, grassland ecosystem conservation, forest tenure reform, biodiversity conservation, insect prevention and control, forest fire prevention, livelihood improvement through forestry development, etc.

APFNet will lead in:

- Need assessments for scientific and systematic programming in the long run;
- Work plan development with consultations among stakeholders for the capacity building activities;
- Resources pooling in the region and further afield, from government agencies and private sectors, regional organizations as well as international organizations;
- Expertise support and experience sharing through a Technical Support Group;
- Identify the diverse formats of activities to feed in the regional needs as well as tailored activities for specific economies or themes as required and discussed by the stakeholders, including regional training, workshop for specific economy, etc;
- Motivation and coordination of stakeholders, monitoring and reporting.

Partner engagements are welcomed too:

- Focal points as and constant communication channels and consultation;
- Technical resources to for relevant consultation and assistance.

5. Core Components

With the expectation of refining and regularizing the activities under the Capacity Building Program, APFNet proposes to underpin the follow activities as the core components at this stage:

- annual training workshop (since 2015) with the themes responding to needs of region/specific economy;
- study tour every two-year (since 2016);
- fellowship program, including visiting scholar program every 2-year (from 2017), and other possible ways;
- scholarship program, 3-year long postgraduate scholarship awards every 3 year (first batch starts in 2016);

More core components could be identified further.

6. Activities in 2015 and 2016

To follow the consensus made as the outcome of the 1st Workshop last September, “*Consolidated Report on Regional Workshop on Strategic Forestry Cooperation in Central Asia*”, a Training Workshop on Combating Desertification and Sustainable Management of Drylands Ecosystem towards Regional Livelihoods Improvement is scheduled September 2015 in the Inner Mongolia of China as the precursory step of the regional process. (Please find the details as the Announcement of the 2015 Training Workshop).

APFNet proposes following activities in 2016:

- A study tour to China, director general level to southwest China for grassland ecosystem

conservation, trans boundary biodiversity conservation, sustainable forestry management, and improvement of local livelihoods through forestry;

- A 2-week training workshop on grassland ecosystem conservation and livelihood improvement, the indoor session and field study included;
- Scholarship program to award qualified candidates from the region undertake 3-year postgraduate study in the field of Desertification Treatment and Conservation of Water and Soil in prominent Universities in China, e.g. Inner Mongolia Agriculture University, Beijing Forestry University, etc, 1-year Chinese learning and 2 year course program covered.

7. Funding Mechanism

APFNet will be the main sponsor for the initial work at this preliminary stage, including 2015-2017, and welcomes the support and cooperation from other authorities, international/regional organizations, financing institutes and private sectors.

8. Potential Partners

State Forestry Administration of China (SFA), Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF), Ministry of agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kazakh Research Institute of Forestry and Agro-forestry, Forestry Agency of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources Republic of Uzbekistan, Ministry of Environment and Green Development and Tourism of Mongolia (MEGDTM), the State Agency of Environment Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic, Forestry Administration of Turkmenistan; Forestry Department of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region Government, Forestry Department of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Forestry Department of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, the Three North Shelterbelt Project Construction Bureau;FAO, GIZ, Mongolian Nature and Environment Consortium (MNEC), Sand Industry Association of China, International Seabuckthorn Association;Beijing Forestry University, Inner Mongolia Agriculture University, University of Central Asia.

Приложение VI.

Концептуальный документ по Программе наращивания потенциала по устойчивому управлению лесными экосистемами в регионе Большой Центральной Азии

9. Введение

В любом меняющемся контексте, лесное хозяйство в регионе Большой Центральной Азии сталкивалось с бесчисленными взаимосвязанными вызовами и проблемами, включая постоянную недооцениваемую значимость процессов управления лесным хозяйством, неблагоприятные воздействия засушливых и полусушливых погодных условий, возрастающую уязвимость к изменению климата, растущую нагрузку со стороны увеличивающейся численности населения, а также необходимость достижения устойчивого развития в этом специфическом регионе.

По единогласному мнению, озвученному на «Первом региональном семинаре по стратегическому сотрудничеству в лесном хозяйстве в Центральной Азии», состоявшемся в сентябре 2014 г., одним из основных решений, касающихся указанных вызовов и проблем, является более укрепленный потенциал администраций и работников лесного сектора по осуществлению немедленных и соответствующих мер и действий. В этой связи, Азиатско-тихоокеанская сеть по устойчивому управлению и восстановлению лесов (APFNet), посредством инициирования Программы по наращиванию потенциала по устойчивому управлению лесными экосистемами в регионе Большой Центральной Азии, вновь подтверждает свои обязательства относительно данного региона. Ожидается, что данная Программа станет ключевым исполнительным инструментом, используемым в долгосрочной перспективе, а также основным компонентом механизма кооперации лесного хозяйства в Большой Центральной Азии.

10. Цели Программы

В долгосрочной перспективе APFNet намерена усовершенствовать региональную сеть, решая вопросы объединения ресурсов для того, чтобы осуществлять мероприятия и программы, соответствующего контекста и отвечающие потребностям Большой Центральной Азии. Такие мероприятия и программы направлены на укрепление потенциала целевых заинтересованных сторон и бенефициаров для достижения устойчивого управления лесными экосистемами, пастбищными и лугопастбищными угодьями, а также засушливыми землями, что поможет внести дополнительный значимый вклад в сбалансированное региональное социальное развитие и экономический рост.

Конкретные задачи могут представлять собой:

- Повышение управленческого потенциала руководящих работников государственных управленцев по выполнению оценки, планирования, обеспечению соответствия принятым решениям и проведению соответствующего мониторинга;
- Обогащение профессионального образования работников лесного хозяйства всех уровней;
- Обмен информацией и создание сети среди всех заинтересованных сторон по всему региону, при использовании аналогичных сценариев по применению хорошо зарекомендовавшей себя практики и самой последней информации;
- Повышение осведомлённости общества посредством информирования реализуемых мероприятий и обобщения успешных моделей и лучших практик, например комплексного подхода к борьбе с опустыниванием;
- Подготовка базы данных относительно наиболее талантливых специалистов лесного хозяйства по всему региону;
- Усиление профильности и потенциала университетов и прочих образовательных учреждений в данном регионе.

11. Целевые бенефициары

Программа по наращиванию потенциала будет предназначена для работников и специалистов-практиков лесного хозяйства из данного региона, представляющих:

- Организации лесного хозяйства и структуры, занимающиеся планированием и использованием земельных ресурсов,
- Академические и научные институты и организации;
- Промышленность и бизнес

12. Сфера деятельности и стратегия реализации программы

Ожидается, что данная программа будет охватывать, но не будет ограничиваться, вопросы контроля процессов опустынивания, развития песчаной промышленности, сохранения лугопастбищных экосистем, реформирования прав лесовладения, сохранения биоразнообразия, профилактики и контроля за лесными вредителями, предотвращения лесных пожаров, повышения уровня жизни населения посредством развития лесного хозяйства и т.д.

APFNet будет осуществлять руководство следующими мероприятиями:

- Оценка потребностей для научного и систематического программирования на долгосрочной основе;
- Разработка, на основе консультаций с заинтересованными сторонами, плана мероприятий, направленных на наращивание потенциала таких сторон;
- Создание базы данных относительно специалистов лесного хозяйства в регионе, а в дальнейшем и за его пределами, представляющих государственные организации и ведомства и частный сектор, региональные и международные организации;
- Обеспечение поддержки и обмен опытом посредством Группы технической поддержки;

- Определение различных форматов деятельности, направленной на удовлетворение региональных потребностей, а также целевых мероприятий, разработанных для отдельных экономик или отдельных тематических направлений, которые необходимы и должны обсуждаться заинтересованными сторонами, включая проведение региональных тренингов, семинаров для отдельных экономик и т.д.;
- Мотивация и координация деятельности заинтересованных сторон, проведение мониторинга и подготовка отчетности.

Приветствуется также участие нижеперечисленных партнеров:

- Контактные и уполномоченные лица, в качестве постоянных каналов связи и для проведения соответствующих консультаций;
- Технические специалисты для проведения соответствующих консультаций и оказания содействия.

13. Основные компоненты программы

В целях уточнения и упорядочения деятельности мероприятий, проводимых в рамках Программы по наращиванию потенциала, APFNet предлагает оказать поддержку при реализации нижеследующих мероприятий, которые на данной стадии являются основными компонентами деятельности:

- Ежегодные семинары-тренинги (начиная с 2015 г.), тематика которых будет соответствовать потребностям региона/отдельной экономики данного региона;
- Ознакомительные поездки, которые будут проводиться каждые два года (начиная с 2016 г.);
- Стипендиальная программа, включающая участие в научных программах каждые два года (начиная с 2017 г.) и иные возможности;
- Стипендиальная программа для бакалавров, на период до 3-х лет обучения (первый набор в 2016 г.).

Другие компоненты программы могут быть определены в дальнейшем.

14. Мероприятия, запланированные на 2015 и 2016 г.г.

На основании консенсуса, достигнутого в ходе работы первого семинара *«Консолидированный отчет о региональной семинаре по стратегическому партнерству в лесном хозяйстве в Центральной Азии»*, состоявшегося в сентябре прошлого года, качестве первоначального шага в процессе развития регионального сотрудничества, планируется проведение семинара-тренинга по борьбе с опустыниванием и устойчивому управлению экосистемами засушливых земель в целях повышения жизненного уровня населения данного региона (сентябрь 2015 г., Внутренняя Монголия, Китай). Более подробная информация приведена в объявлении о проведении данного семинара-тренинга.

В 2016 г. APFNet предлагает провести следующие мероприятия:

- Ознакомительная поездка руководителей высшего звена в Китай для ознакомления с деятельностью по сохранению лугопастбищных экосистем, трансграничному сохранению биоразнообразия, устойчивым управлением лесами и повышением уровня жизни населения посредством развития лесного хозяйства на юго-западе

- Китай;
- 2-хнедельныйсеминар-тренингповопросамсохранениялугопастбищныхэкосистемиповышения жизненного уровня населения, включающийаудиторные занятия иполевые поездки;
- Стипендиальная 3-хлетняяпрограммадля квалифицированныхкандидатовизданногорегионадляпрограммыобучения, специализирующаяся на методах борьбысопустыниванием,сохранениемвлагиипочвы, отбор на конкурсной основе. ОбучениеизвестныхуниверситетахКитая, напримервСельскохозяйственномУниверситетеВнутреннейМонголии, ПекинскомУниверситетелесногохозяйства, ит.д., по данной программепредусматриваетсягодичноеобучениекитайскомуязыку, а затем 2-хлетнийобразовательныйкурс.

15. Механизм финансирования программы

APFNetбудетявляться основнымспонсоромначальногоэтапареализацииданнойпрограммы, т.е. напериод 2015-2017 гг.,при этомбудутприветствоватьсялюбые другие виды поддержки и сотрудничества со стороны государственных структур, международных/региональных организаций, финансовых институтов и частного сектора.

16. Потенциальные партнёры

ГосударственнаяадминистрациялесногохозяйстваКитая (SFA),
КитайскаяАкадемиялесногохозяйства(CAF),
МинистерствосельскогохозяйстваРеспубликиКазахстан,
Казахскийисследовательскийинститутлесногохозяйстваиагролесоводства,
ЛесноеАгентствоПравительстваРеспубликиТаджикистан,
МинистерствосельскогоиоводногохозяйстваРеспубликиУзбекистан,
Министерствоокружающейсреды,зелёногоразвитияи туризма Монголии (MEGDTM),
Государственное агентство по охране природы и лесному хозяйству Кыргызской Республики, Управление лесного хозяйства Туркменистана; Управление лесного хозяйства Правительства автономной области Внутренней Монголии, Управление лесного хозяйства Хинжيانга (Xinjiang) Уйгурского автономного округа, Управление лесного хозяйства автономного округа Нингхиа Хуи (NingxiaHui), Конструкторско-строительное бюро «ThreeNorthShelterbelt»; Агентство по международному сотрудничеству Германии (GIZ),Продовольственная и Сельскохозяйственная Организация ООН (ФАО), Монгольский Консорциум охраны природы и окружающей среды (MNEC), Ассоциация песчаной промышленности Китая, Международная Ассоциация «Seabuckthron»; ПекинскийУниверситетлесногохозяйства,
СельскохозяйственныйУниверситетВнутреннейМонголии, Университет Центральной Азии.

17. Контактная информация

Госпожа Жанг Янг (Zhang Yang), Программный сотрудник отдела управления проектами Секретариата APFNet (Program Officer of Project Management Division, APFNet Secretariat)

Тел: 86-10-66007866, внут. 8022

Факс: 86-10-84216958

e-mail: zhang_yang@apfnet.cn

Адрес: 6th Floor, Baoneng Center, 12 Futong Dongdajie, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100102, P.R. China