



# **The First Pu'er Forum on Asia-Pacific Forests**

## ***Forum Report***

**24-26 October 2023**

**Pu'er, China**

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## **Executive Summary**

*The First Pu'er Forum on Asia-Pacific Forests was held from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at the APFNet Pu'er Base, Yunnan Province, China. The objectives of the Forum were to share forestry information and best practices on forest policy, planning, industry, technology, and education in the Asia-Pacific region and to promote regional cooperation and strengthen sustainable forest management in the region.*

*The Forum was organized by APFNet in collaboration with APFNet Coordination Center, National Forestry and Grassland Administration, the Forestry and Grassland Administration of Yunnan Province and the People's Government of Pu'er City. It was co-organized by the Southwest Forestry University, and the Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland and hosted by the Forestry and Grassland Administration of Simao District of Pu'er City. More than 150 government officials, experts, representatives from research institutions, academies, NGOs, and private sectors, representing 14 Asia-Pacific economies participated in the Forum.*

*The Forum also witnessed the official launch of the Global Network for Sustainable Forest Management (GFN) program, which was jointly initiated by China National Forestry and Grassland Administration and the APFNet Secretariat. The GFN aims to promote sustainable forest management, advance the Global Development Initiative, accelerate the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and build harmony between man and nature. The GFN program is open to all countries, including the Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative, and international and regional organizations.*

*Five bilateral cooperative agreements were also signed during the Forum. The Action Plan for Pu'er Forum on Asia-Pacific Forests (2024-2025) was also released.*

*The high-level segment of the Forum was conducted under the theme of "Sharing New Regional Forestry Development, Exploring New Regional Forestry Cooperation". It was addressed by vice-ministerial level senior government officials from seven economies, namely Cambodia, China, Fiji, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Nepal, as well as a representative entrepreneur. The technical sessions of the Forum were conducted under three themes, namely, "Share the new forestry development plan and explore the best path for forest restoration"; "Sharing of good practice cases on sustainable forest management and utilization"; and "Yunnan Day". Senior government officials representing member economies and experts of different institutes of Yunnan Province delivered presentations under respective themes. A side event as well as two field excursions were also conducted during the Forum.*

*The Forum revealed that Asia-Pacific economies have placed increasing importance on the role of forests in green and sustainable development, responding to climate change, and protecting biodiversity. They have updated their national policies, improved forest sector planning, strengthened legislations, and carrying out large-scale afforestation operations. However, there are several areas requiring further attention, including forest/land tenure reforms, financial supports, and capacity building to achieve the balance between conservation and development as well as to enhance forest's contribution to national economies.*

*The First Pu'er Forum on Asia-Pacific Forests laid a strong platform to strengthen regional cooperation and enhance collaboration among regional economies. It is strongly*

*recommended that the Forum to be further enriched and continued in the coming years to provide a significant contribution towards the achievement of the common goal of sustainably managed forest resources in the Asia-Pacific region.*

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

In the context of promoting green and low-carbon development pathway, sustainable forest management has been highly valued by the international community. The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has multiple forest-related goals, and the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use clearly highlighted the need of working together to end and reverse forest loss. At the same time, the global understanding on the multiple functions of forests is deepening, including climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, and livelihood improvement, etc.

The total forest area in the Asia-Pacific region amounts to approximately 18.5 percent of the global forest area (FAO, 2023). Forests in the region not only anchor vast reserves of biodiversity but are also key contributors to the livelihoods of many – including indigenous people, local communities, and smallholders – and to wider national economies. They yield a broad range of goods, including timber and NTFPs, and provide ecosystem services vital for the well-being of human societies and the planet at large.

Nevertheless, forests of Asia and the Pacific are confronted by multiple threats. Rapidly increasing populations and escalating demands for agricultural products are exerting pressure, leading to deforestation and forest degradation in many places. The demand for timber is growing rapidly and leading to a widening timber supply gap, thus adding further pressure on forest resources. In particular, the forestry industry of developing economies in the Asia-Pacific region is in a critical period of transformation and is striving to find a development path of synergy between protection and development.

In order to cope with this situation, almost all regional economies are constantly improving and adjusting forestry policies and development plans. Many economies in the region have specified restoration goals, including in their national forest policies and plans, Land Degradation Neutrality Targets, Nationally Determined Contributions, and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans. Similarly, they have accumulated experience and lessons in strengthening forest management, promoting forest restoration, and developing forestry industries. Therefore, it is crucial for the regional economies to learn from each other, strengthen regional networking, promote cooperation, and share sustainable forest management (SFM) experiences.

In view of addressing this present-day requirement, APFNet organized “Pu’er Forum on Asia-Pacific Forests” (hereinafter referred to as “Pu’er Forum”) to establish an exchange platform for forestry policy, planning, industry, technology, and education in the Asia-Pacific region.

### 1.2 Objectives

The objectives of the Pu’er Forum were to:

- 1) Share forestry information and best practices on forest policy, planning, industry, technology, and education in the Asia-Pacific region.

- 2) Promote regional cooperation and strengthen sustainable forest management in the region.

### 1.3 Time and venue

The Forum was held during 24 – 26 October 2023 at the APFNet Pu'er Base located in the Pu'er Botanical Garden, Camellia Road, Simao District, Pu'er City, Yunnan Province, China.

The opening ceremony and the morning session of 24<sup>th</sup> October were held at the Pu'er City Government Building located at the Administrative Centre of Simao District. All the other sessions were held at the big conference hall at the APFNet Pu'er Base.

### 1.4 Organizers

The Forum was organized by APFNet in collaboration with APFNet Coordination Center, China National Forestry and Grassland Administration, the Forestry and Grassland Administration of Yunnan Province, and the People's Government of Pu'er City. It was co-organized by the Southwest Forestry University, and the Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland. The Forum was hosted by the Forestry and Grassland Administration of Simao District, Pu'er City.

### 1.5 Participation

The Forum was participated by more than 150 government officials, experts, representatives from research institutions, academies, NGOs, and private sectors, representing 14 Asia-Pacific economies. Please see Annex 2 for the list of participants.

## 2. Inaugural session

### 2.1 Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony of the Pu'er Forum was held on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at the Pu'er City Government Building. It was attended by distinguished vice-ministerial level delegates from seven APFNet member economies (Cambodia, China, Fiji, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Nepal), high level representatives of the host organizations, as well as all invited workshop participants.

### 2.2 Opening remarks

Following distinguished invitees delivered opening remarks at the opening ceremony of the Forum.

#### ***I. Mr. Guo Dajin, Deputy Governor of People's Government of Yunnan Province***

In warmly welcoming the delegates on behalf of the Peoples Government of Yunnan Province, Mr. Guo Dajin emphasized president Xi Jinping's speech at the Belt and Road International Cooperation Summit, indicating its eight major missions and summarizing China's actions to support joint establishment of the Belt and Road Initiative.

He underscored that Yunnan would leverage its geographical proximity and cultural ties with South Asian and Southeast Asian economies to strengthen cooperation, promote dialogue, project collaboration, and people-to-people and cultural exchanges. Yunnan connects South Asia and Southeast Asia, with increasing trade volume as well. In the first half of this year,

the import and export volume between Yunnan and South Asian economies reached 57.1 billion yuan, a 2.8% increase compared to the previous year.

Mr. Guo further emphasised that China is ready to collaborate in agriculture, transportation, culture, tourism, and health through investment, technical cooperation, and exchange activities. Furthermore, he highlighted the commitment to speed up the construction of the Science and Technology Innovation Centre headquarters for South and Southeast Asia. Additionally, China will create platforms for discussions and to share knowledge on forest fire prevention, disease prevention and control, and industrial cooperation. He also ensured continuing the offer of provincial government scholarships to friendly neighbors.

Mr. Guo urged delegates of representing economies to join hands and to strengthen the cooperation in the region.

## ***II. Ms. Rokuska Atelaite Usa, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry of Fiji***

On behalf of government of Fiji, Ms. Rokuska Atelaite Usa expressed her gratitude for the continued support and assistance provided by the Government of China. As a representative of a small island developing nation, she welcomed the opportunity to establish and expand partnerships within the region and across the globe. She further stressed that it is through these partnerships that the regional economies can pursue mutual interests. She also highlighted the significant economic potential of Sandalwood as a vital part of Fiji's recovery from the economic challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Usa expressed her gratitude to the APFNet for its continuous support extended to member economies through capacity building, information sharing, regional policy dialogues, and financial support for pilot projects. These contributions have greatly improved the knowledge and experience of forestry professionals in sustainable forest management and rehabilitation, and eventually help achieve objectives of APFNet and the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF).

## ***III. Mr. Li Qingyuan, Municipal Party Secretary of Pu'er City***

Mr. Li Qingyuan welcomed all the invited delegates on behalf of the Government of the Pu'er. He complemented APFNet for its contribution to organize this event in Pu'er city. Further he appreciated the contribution of APFNet for the Asia-Pacific region and its greening mission.

## ***IV. Mr. Xu Jide, Deputy Director, Office of the National Greening Committee of China***

Mr. Xu Jide expressed his greetings to the First Pu'er Forum on Asia-Pacific Forests on behalf of the National Greening Committee of China. He highlighted the commitment of international community to support green, low-carbon, and sustainable development, while striving for carbon neutrality. He expects that the Forum will discuss forestry development, ecological restoration, and will create a strong foundation for Global Network for Sustainable Forest Management.

Mr. Xu highlighted President Xi Jinping's concept of "Fresh water and lush mountains are invaluable assets" emphasizing nature conservation. China has scientifically carried out large scale greening operations. China's forest coverage has increased from 12% in the early 80's to 24.02% at present, and the national forest stock volume has reached 19.493 billion cubic meters. The total forestry and grassland output value has reached to 28.58 trillion yuan.

At the opening ceremony of the just convened third Belt and Road International Summit Cooperation Forum, President Xi Jinping proposed the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, openness, greenness and integrity, high standards that benefit people's livelihood and sustainability to promote high-quality joint construction of the "Belt and Road Initiative" and promote green development. China is willing to continue to strengthen development strategy and planning exchanges with economies in the Asia-Pacific region and deepen practical cooperation in areas such as forest protection and restoration, climate change, biodiversity conservation, and forestry industry development.

#### ***V. Mr. Lu De, Executive Director of APFNet***

Announcing the Launch of the Global Network for Sustainable Forest Management (GFN) program, Mr. Lu De thanked the Chinese government and other partners for the invaluable support extended to accomplish APFNet mission. Coinciding with the 15th anniversary of the APFNet, this Forum reflects that achievement.

Mr. Lu De highlighted the immense challenges that global development face, such as climate change, ecosystem degradation, loss of biodiversity, natural disasters, food insecurity, and worsening poverty. These challenges pose significant threats to global sustainable development. To tackle these issues, the international community has been actively taking measures to promote the attainment of the United Nations' 2030 sustainable development goals.

In 2021, the Chinese government introduced global development initiatives with the aim of encouraging concrete actions and strengthening international cooperation. The objective of the initiatives is to achieve balanced and sustainable development and to foster a sense of shared destiny among all humankind. Forests, being key components of terrestrial ecosystems and serving as eco-shelters and the foundation for global sustainable development, are reservoirs, economic assets, food sources, and carbon banks. Ensuring sustainable forest management is crucial not only for the conservation of terrestrial ecosystems and human well-being, but also for sustainable social and economic development.

### **2.3 Launching of the Global Network for Sustainable Forest Management (GFN) Program**

The opening ceremony also witnessed the official launch of the Global Network for Sustainable Forest Management (GFN) program.

Initiated by the Chinese Government and issued as one of the 32 deliverables of High-Level Dialogue on Global Development, held in June 2022 in China, GFN aims to promote sustainable forest management, advance the Global Development Initiative, accelerate the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and build harmony between man and nature.

APFNet is entrusted to operate GFN as a programme, which is open to all economies, especially members of the Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative and welcomes partnerships with international and regional organizations.





*Figure 1. Launching of the Global Network for Sustainable Forest Management (GFN) Program*

## 2.4 Signing of MOUs

The Forum also witnessed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between APFNet and the Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry of Fiji on promoting the sustainable development of the sandalwood industry in Fiji.

Simultaneously, another four cooperation agreements were also signed. They include MOUs between the Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland and the Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development of Cambodia; the Southwest Forestry University and the Kasetsart University of Thailand; the China National Forest Products Industry Association and the Lao National Wood Products Industry Association; and the Pu'er Municipal Government and the Nature Wood Group Limited.



*Figure 2. MoU signing during the Pu'er Forum*

## 2.5 Session 1: High level segment

The opening ceremony of the Forum was followed by a high-level segment under the theme of “Sharing new regional forestry development, exploring new regional forestry cooperation”. The event was addressed by vice-ministerial level senior government officials from seven economies, namely Cambodia, China, Fiji, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Nepal, as well as a representative entrepreneur.

The session was chaired by Mr Zhao Shucong, the President of the Chinese Society of Forestry. The keynote speakers discussed new policy changes, forestry development measures, as well as opportunities and challenges faced by the economies in the region. They also acknowledged the enhanced cooperation with APFNet and expressed their support for the Pu'er Forum. All the speakers emphasized the need for strengthening information exchange and practical cooperation through the Pu'er Forum platform to advance the sustainable management of forests in the region.

### ***I. Keynote speech by Mr. Guo Dajin, Deputy Governor of People's Government of Yunnan Province***

Mr Guo Dajin shared a brief overview of the status of biodiversity and forests in Yunnan. He highlighted the province's efforts and achievements in promoting the conservation of biodiversity and the development of a green economy. He also shared the policies, measures, and priorities for future work, including protecting nature reserves, conserving wildlife, promoting green and low-carbon development, and accelerating the modernization of forestry.

He emphasized the importance of Yunnan province highlighting its functions as an ecological gene bank with 19,300 species of plants and 2,242 species of native vertebrates. The only tropical rainforest on the Tropic of Cancer is located in Yunnan. The province's forest area covers 318 million mu (212,000 km<sup>2</sup>), the wetland area has a size of 9,108,500 mu (6,072 km<sup>2</sup>). Yunnan is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest area of land in China and the province is inhabited by 24 ethnic groups. In line with the President Xi Jinping's concept of ecological civilization, Yunnan province is committed to protect its biodiversity

and ecological resources. Stringent regulations have been introduced to protect the forests and wetlands.

Mr. Guo stressed the importance of a holistic approach to promote synergy in green development.

## ***II. Keynote Speech by Mr. Ung Sam Ath, Secretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia***

Mr Ung Sam Ath presented Cambodia's policies and initiatives towards achieving the Global Sustainable Development Goals and the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use. He highlighted the revision and implementation of the forest law, the national protected area law, related policies and regulations, and the goals for forestry enterprise development and timber production.

The Royal Government of Cambodia has reviewed and amended its current forestry law and it is expected to be enacted in the coming months. Among others, this updated forestry law gives priorities to promote regional forestry information exchange, share best practices in regional forestry development, and serve the realization of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use.

The Royal Government of Cambodia has been implementing the National Forest Program (NFP) 2010 – 2029. In order to promote sustainable forest management (SFM), the National Strategic Development Plan-NSDP (2024-2028) is also developed. The plan targets reforestation 50,000 ha, strengthening the development of community forestry to cover 0.5 million ha of forest land, and committing to restore degraded forest and promote public-private partnership forestry of 0.5 million ha, as well as to produce 2 million cubic meters of timber from forest plantations over the next 5 years.

## ***III. Keynote speech by Ms. Rokosuka Atelaite Usa, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry, Fiji***

Ms Rokosuka Atelaite Usa, presented the status of forestry in her country. She emphasized the crucial role of forests in national development and shared the outcomes and experiences of various initiatives such as revising and updating policies and laws, strengthening systematic planning for forestry development, and conducting better forest resource inventories. She also highlighted the progress of significant projects like the "15-year planting of 30 million trees plan" and the implementation of emission reduction plans in rural areas. Additionally, she discussed emission reduction purchase agreements and the establishment of forests as carbon stocks in recent years to address climate change.

Fiji has a landmass of 1.8 million hectares. About 61% of which or around 1.1 million hectares are covered by forests. Of these, 81.9% are taken up by natural forests, followed by pine at 7.1%, and mahogany and mangrove, respectively, at 6.6% and 4.1%. Forests have significantly contributed to the resilience of communities in the face of past natural disasters. At the same time, they have been harvested and used as a 'springboard' for economic development and have continued to make significant contributions to Fiji's economy in terms of foreign exchange earnings, industrial development, employment creation and rural infrastructure development. Fiji has also established commercial plantations, comprising of mostly fast-growing exotic species, as part of their long-term strategy to protect and conserve remaining natural forests.

In 2019 Fiji launched its "30 million trees planting in 15 years (30MT15Y) initiative" and is currently on its path to achieving its 15-year target in less than 5 years. So far, more than 18 million trees planted covering a total area of around 17,000 hectares. In 2021 Fiji formally entered into a landmark agreement with the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and expected to unlock up to 12.5 million USD in results-based payments for increasing carbon sequestration and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. Fiji will establish and designate areas of forests as carbon stocks capable of sequestering 2.5 million tons of carbon and other greenhouse gases and reduce emissions over the next 5-years.

***IV. Keynote speech by Mr. Sayakoummane Sousath, Director General of Department of Forestry, Laos***

Mr Sayakoummane Sousath, discussed several new forestry policy initiatives in Laos including revising the “National Forestry Strategy and Vision” and setting targets to reduce emissions by decreasing deforestation and forest degradation while increasing afforestation. He also emphasized the importance of promoting forest certification, multi-stakeholder regional forest restoration projects, and diversified financing mechanisms.

There are several policies and regulations on forestry in Laos. They include the 9th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2021-2025), the National Green Growth Strategy of Lao PDR to 2030, and the National Land Use Master Plan. Laos has recently updated its forestry strategy to 2035, with a vision for 2050. The main goal of the strategy is to manage and protect forest resources in order to prevent their destruction, and to rehabilitate, develop, and enrich degraded forests. Under the new strategy, forests are viewed as a source of carbon credit accumulation, as well as tourist attractions, and providers of raw materials for the wood processing industry.

To achieve the target of the Forestry Strategy to 2035, and to achieve the goals of key national policies, Laos plan to manage and allocate forestland to cover 70% of the total area of the country. This includes protecting existing forests, forest restoration, development, and modernization of wood and NTFP production and processing to add value and create jobs, strictly implementation of forest legislation and law enforcement to combat deforestation and forest degradation, target reduction in GHG emissions caused by deforestation of about 40 million (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) and attract domestic and foreign investment through international and regional integration.

***V. Keynote speech by Mr. Mohd Rahim bin Rani, Deputy Director General, Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia***

Mr Mohd Rahim bin Rani discussed Malaysia's policies and regulations related to forestry, biodiversity, and trade in endangered species. In Malaysia, forests are recognized as a national natural heritage. The law has been amended to reduce development pressure on the forest area, increase penalties and sanctions. He emphasized the country's commitment to achieve sustainable forest management, highlighted by the certification of 6.15 million hectares of forest land through the Malaysian Timber Certification System.

In 1992, Malaysia committed to maintain at least 50% of the country's land area under forests. Currently, 55.4% of land is covered by forest. World Resources Institute's Global Forest Watch and University of Maryland reported in their reports that Malaysia has reduced forest loss by 57 % in 2022.

Malaysia is also actively engaged in international and regional forestry cooperation mechanisms and has launched initiatives like the “Plant 100 million Trees Programme” and the “Degraded Forest Restoration Project” to meet its international commitments and contribute towards the global sustainable development goals.

***VI. Keynote speech by Mr. Hla Maung Thein, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Myanmar***

Mr. Hla Maung Thein highlighted Myanmar's efforts towards achieving the goal of "natural resources and environment for future generations" as outlined in their Sustainable Development Plan (2018-2030). He also stressed the leading role of the forestry sector in addressing climate change, promoting integrated watershed management, and developing green economic means such as ecotourism to achieve sustainable development and poverty reduction.

Myanmar's Forest coverage gradually decreases from 58% in 1990 to 43% in 2020 under the pressure of over exploitation of timber, illegal loggings, and trades of timber; higher dependence on forests for fuelwood; shifting cultivation; agricultural land expansion; and urbanization. In line with the Myanmar's National Forest Policy, National Forest Master Plan (2001-2002 to 2030-2031), Forestry Sector Comprehensive Development Plan (2011-2012 to 2030-2031), and District Forest Management Plans for 69 Districts have been developed. Myanmar has been implementing 10-year Myanmar Rehabilitation and Reforestation Programme from 2017-2018 to 2026-2027 with the support of National Budget. To conserve the mangroves, coral reef, and their related ecosystems, "Marine Spatial Planning (2016) and National Integrated Coastal 5 Management Programme (ICM) have been developed in Myanmar.

Myanmar's NDCs targeted to extend reserved forests and protected public forests up to 30 percent and protected areas up to 10 percent of the total land area of the country by 2030. So far, reserved forest and protected public forests represents 25.86 % and the protected area represents 6.44% of total land area of the country.

### ***VII. Keynote speech by Mr. Kharal Deepak Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Environment, Nepal***

Mr. Kharal Deepak Kumar discussed the country's laws and policies related to forests, environment, climate change, land use, agriculture, wetlands, protected areas, wildlife protection, and other fields. He also elaborated on Nepal's forestry investment situation, including public funds, donations from community natural resource management groups, multilateral and bilateral cooperation, regional cooperation mechanisms, and project support from international organizations. Additionally, he highlighted the areas where the private sector and research academic institutions are involved and their respective roles.

In Nepal forests are the second largest natural resource (after water), illegal harvesting, forest fires, uncontrolled grazing, settlements, invasive species are the main drivers for deforestation and forest degradation. Nepal government has taken several measures to tackle these drivers. National policies have been updated to ensure conservation and sustainable management of forests and biodiversity of the country.

In Nepal, living in a healthy environment is a constitutional right of citizens. Nepal expects to achieve net-zero by 2045, five years earlier than many other countries in the world.

### ***VIII. Keynote speech by Mr. She Xuebin, Board Chairman & CEO, Nature Home (China) Co., Ltd & Nature Wood Group Limited***

In his address, Mr She Xuebin analysed the opportunities and challenges faced by forestry from the industry perspective. He introduced the environmental protection, green and low-carbon business philosophy of Nature Home Group, and shared the efforts made by the enterprise in supporting afforestation, carbon neutrality, biodiversity conservation and other aspects. He also proposed specific measures to strengthen regional cooperation and suggestions for sustainable global forest management and forestry industry development.

Forests receive more and more attention from the global community. The carbon trading market is gaining momentum and the demand for forest products is rising. However, the global economic crisis has threatened timber trade.

Promoting healthy homes is the business philosophy of Nature Home Group. They only use FSC certified products and make sure that the forest growth is higher than the cutting rate. For every tree cut, they plant ten more trees and so far, have planted more than 20 million trees.

## ***IX. Wrap up***

In concluding the session, Mr Zhao Shucong reiterated the fundamental role of forests for human survival and development, stressing their sustainable management and use is one of the main issues that every country and society must address well. Such efforts require in-depth exchanges, mutual learning and concrete cooperation among governments, enterprises, academic and scientific research institutions, and NGOs.

He suggested that the Pu'er Forum to be held every two years, and accordingly to hold the next forum in 2025.

## **3. Forum outcomes/Main topics**

After an inspirational opening ceremony and a high-level segment, the Forum convened for technical sessions in the afternoon of 24<sup>th</sup>. Accordingly, three technical sessions were conducted in consecutive afternoons of 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023. All three sessions were facilitated by Mr. Wasantha Dissanayake, Board member of APFNet.

### **3.1 Session 2: Share the new forestry development plan and explore the best path for restoration**

This session was designed to provide an opportunity for the participating economies to present their latest developments of forest sector plans and to share their experiences in exploring best paths for forest restoration. Altogether, 10 presentations were lined up for the session.

#### **3.1.1 Cambodia: Mainstreaming Forest Restoration in the Forest Development Plan**

***- Mr. Lim Bunna, Deputy Director of the Forestry Administration of Cambodia***

Mr. Lim Bunna highlighted Cambodia forest policy, laws, and regulations as well as the strategic plan for forest restoration. Cambodia forest cover was decreased from 59.82% in 1993 to 46.97% in 2018. To cope with that problem, forest restoration has been considered as a priority in the forestry sector as well as in the Pentagonal Strategy of the government. Based on the strategy, yearly plans are being prepared targeting forest restoration of about 5,000 hectares and producing 5 million seedlings for distribution.

The Forestry Administration (FA) has targeted to promote forest restoration in degraded forests, state vacant lands (public area), revoked ELCs, and some designated areas which are prone to erosion, soil degradation, flood, drought etc., through the cooperation with private sectors, development partners, as well as the community. The FA has several restoration pilot projects which have successfully been implemented in community forestry areas where the members are trained and built the capacity to support forest restoration activities.

The major challenges faced by Cambodia are budget constraints, encroachments by local people as well as lack of experts, particularly in tree disease control and plant breeding.

#### **3.1.2 China: The 14<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan for Protection and Development in the Forest and Grassland Sector of China (2021-2025)**

***- Ms Guo Wei, Deputy Director, Foreign economy division, Department of Planning and finance, Government of China***



In her presentation, Ms Guo Wei highlighted the achievements of the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year plan period of China. Accordingly, forest coverage has reached 23.04 percent while the comprehensive vegetation cover of grasslands are 56.1 percent. The effectiveness of land greening has been remarkable, with the forest area and stockpile maintaining a "double growth" for 30 consecutive years. Key projects implemented were Tianbao, retiring farmland, the Three Norths, and the Beijing-Tianjin Sand Source Control. There are 98 new forest cities at present.

The protection system has been improved, the pilot project of the national park system has been completed, and the integration and optimization of nature reserves has been steadily promoted. The populations of more than 300 kinds of endangered wild animals and plants have been steadily increasing. Commercial logging in natural forests has been completely halted. The Forest Law and the Wildlife Protection Law were amended.

The forestry and grassland industry are growing steadily, with a total output value of more than 8 trillion yuan. Ecological poverty alleviation has achieved remarkable results, with ecological compensation, land greening, ecological industries and other initiatives driving more than 20 million poor people out of poverty and increasing their incomes.

Ms. Guo also highlighted the anticipated goals for the 14<sup>th</sup> 5-Year Plan. They include 100,300,000 mu (approx. 66,867 km<sup>2</sup>) afforestation/planted forests, 12,700,000 mu (approx. 8,467 km<sup>2</sup>) afforestation through aerial seedling, 87,000,000 mu (58,000 km<sup>2</sup>) closed forestry management, 70,000,000 mu (approx. 46,667 km<sup>2</sup>) degraded forest restoration, 60,700,000 mu (approx. 40,467 km<sup>2</sup>) planted grassland and 169,300,000 mu (approx. 112,867 km<sup>2</sup>) grassland improvements.

### **3.1.3 Fiji: Mainstreaming forest restoration in forestry development plan in response to Glasgow Leaders' Declaration through SFM**

**- Mr. George Ratu Vuki, Acting Executive Director (Operations and Services), Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry, Fiji**

Mr. George Ratu Vuki provided an overview of the structure of Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry as well as Fiji's forestry and climate related national policies, legislations, and national plans.

Referring to the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration for which Fiji also a party, Mr. Vuki elaborated the forestry development plan of Fiji. The key activities of the plan include; The review of Forest Act to strengthen commitments on conservation and sustainable forest management; implementation of agroforestry and climate smart agriculture (ERP) to reduce vulnerability, build resilience and improve rural livelihoods; strengthen contributions towards protected area for biodiversity conservation in collaborations with resource owners and rural communities; setting targets on the number of seedlings planted and trees to be restored as part of Fiji's commitments towards 30M15Y initiatives through "Reforestation of Degraded Forest program"; development of National Standards for Timber Processing System to strengthen the commitment to sustainable forest management and sustainable trading; engagement and providing support to resource owners and communities through "Utilization of Waste Wood", "Forest Subsidy Program" and community incentives from reforestation program; conduct forestry related trainings to rural communities and interested parties and stakeholders; and continues to establish and collaborate with other partners and various stakeholders in forest restorations at domestic and international arena.

Mr. Vuki also highlighted existing international collaborations, as well as partnerships in forestry including the MOUs signed with China and Indonesia in 2015 and 2018 respectively.

#### 3.1.4 Laos: Sustainable Forest Management Project in Northern part of Lao PDR

**- Mr. Sombanpheng Phavanar, Acting Director of Village Forestry Management Division, Department of Forestry, Laos**

Mr. Sombanpheng Phavanar presented a APFNet funded demonstration project implemented in the northern part of Lao PDR during the period from 2014 – 2022.

The objectives of the project were:

- Exploring and demonstrating effective approaches on forest restoration and forest management, which can help to generate sustainable flow of benefit to closely related stakeholders,
- Strengthening capacity on forest law enforcement, promoting transboundary cooperation on biodiversity conservation
- Sharing the information and knowledge of best practices on forest restoration and rehabilitation.

The total budget of the project was USD 3,563,433.00 and the APFNet assured Grant was USD 2,982,573.00. It was implemented in three villages in three districts.

The major achievements of the project were; development of forest management plans for the three pilot villages; demonstrate forest restoration and rehabilitation at selected plots covering 174ha as enrichment plating; planting NTFP species in 73.99 ha; improving the forest monitoring system through joint patrolling; establishment of forest fire monitoring system; improving capacity of forest officials and communities; as well as documentation and dissemination of project experiences (1 website, 2 newsletters, 1 brochure, 1 video, and 1 best practice documents).

#### 3.1.5 Malaysia: Forest Restoration in Malaysia

**- Muhammad Amirul bin Hamlad, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change, Malaysia**

Mr. Hamlad's presentation consisted of an overview of forest resources in Malaysia, legislations, policies and national commitments, national initiatives on forest restoration, and key challenges and opportunities.

As per the constitution of Malaysia, forestry is under the jurisdiction of the state government. Therefore, each state has the power and freedom to enact laws and manage forestry policies in their respective states.

Forest cover of Malaysia in 2020 is 18.045 million ha (54.58% of the total land area), of which 6.15 million ha have been classified as certified forests. "Greening Malaysia 100 million Tree Planting Campaign" launched in 2021 aims to increase awareness of all sectors of the society on trees and forests. "Forest Restoration, Reclamation and Rehabilitation Program" in peninsular Malaysia (3RSM) aims to restore 1,046 ha of degraded forests in East Malaysia. Under the nationwide coastal tree planting campaign launched in 2005, over 7.2



million seedlings of mangrove and other coastal species have been planted encompassing more than 3,200 hectares of coastal area.

Heart of Borneo, a voluntary transboundary cooperation between Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia aimed at conserving and managing 20 million ha of contiguous tropical forests in the island of Borneo. The CFS Masterplan was developed in 2010 and reviewed in 2022 to re-establish, maintain and restore forest connectivity within the CFS area. 28,565 hectares of state lands have been gazetted to protected forests and wildlife sanctuaries.

### 3.1.6 Myanmar: Strengthening Sustainable Forest Management in Myanmar

***Mr. Thein Saung, Assistant Director, Forest Department, Myanmar***

Mr. Thein Saung presented a comprehensive overview of Myanmar's country profile, policies, laws and strategies and plans, and provided recommendations for regional cooperation.

Forest cover of Myanmar has reduced from 57.97% in 1990 to 42.19% of the total land area of Myanmar at present. Myanmar has been managing forest resources on a sustainable basis under the Myanmar Selection System introduced in 1856. Logging is done within the limit of Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) through reduced impact logging principles while paying attention to the environmental conservation. Logging ban has been enforced for one year across the country in 2016, and Bago-Yoma for 10 years. Logging ban for the whole country continued in 2021, 2022.

Under the Myanmar Reforestation and Rehabilitation program (MRRP), it is planned to increase forest area by 6.19% of the country with the involvement of the government, private sector as well as communities. It is targeted to build the capacity of 32,120 local people and forestry officials and to create job opportunities for 250,000 people. Under the community forestry program, it is anticipated to establish 920,000 ha of community forests by 2030.

### 3.1.7 Nepal: New forestry development plan and best path for forest restoration

***- Mr. Gayanendra Kumar Mishra, Under Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Environment, Nepal***

After a brief introduction to the country profile and overview of the forestry sector of Nepal, Mr. Gayanendra Kumar Mishra described the Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) National Action Plan of Nepal.

As per the periodic assessment reports, forest cover of Nepal has increased from 39.6% of the total land area of the country in 1994 to 44.74% at present. Currently 2,278,980 ha of forests in Nepal are managed by 22,645 Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) under the community forestry program. It has benefited 3,108,944 households.

Under the FLR National Action Plan, it is estimated to restore 285,289 ha of degraded forests at the cost of 652,089,143 USD. The action plan is comprised of seven strategies and 28 priority actions. Nepal intends to source financing for the implementation of action plan through public and private sector (CSR) financing, development cooperations and international non-governmental organizations, as well as through several innovative financing mechanisms. The program is anticipated to provide a range of benefits including enhanced

flow of forest ecosystem services, carbon sequestration and its trade potential, raw material for forest-based industries as well as numerous socio-economic benefits.

### 3.1.8 Philippines: Forestry Development Visions and Plans of the Philippines

**- Ms. Margaret Calderon, Professor, University of the Philippines, Los Banos, Philippines**

Ms Margaret Calderon made the presentation on behalf of Forester Carmina Canua of the Forest Management Bureau, Philippines. The presentation consisted of current status of the Philippine forests, directions and priority thrusts, Philippine Development Plan as well as other initiatives and partnerships.

Forest cover of Philippines has continuously decreased during the period from 1934 to 1987. However, since 1987, the trend changed due to the major reforestation and greening programs undertaken. Approximately 200,000 ha was increased during the period from 2015 – 2020.

All plans of government agencies are anchored on the Philippine Development Plan, which is a plan for deep economic and social transformation to reinvigorate job creation and accelerate poverty reduction. Chapter 15 of the Philippine Development Plan aims to accelerate climate action and strengthen disaster resilience. The plan has a target to increase forest cover from its baseline of 24.53% in 2023 to 25.23% in 2028, or an increase of about 210,000 ha over the 5-year period. The Philippine Forestry Sector is also guided by the Philippine Master Plan for Climate Resilient Forestry Development. The country also has its National Forest Landscape Restoration Plan.

As of 2022, 2.22 million hectares of tree plantations have been established, 1.858 billion seedlings were planted, and 6.14 million jobs have been generated, under the “Expanded National Greening Program”.

### 3.1.9 Sri Lanka: New forestry development plan and best path for forest restoration in Sri Lanka

**- Mr. Nishantha Edirisinghe, Additional Conservator General of Forests, Forest Department, Sri Lanka**

Mr. Nishantha Edirisinghe provided a brief overview of the forestry sector in Sri Lanka and elaborated the process of updating Sri Lanka’s Forestry Sector Master Plan. Under the updated master plan, forest cover of the country will be increased up to 32%, 18,000 ha of highly degraded forest areas including mangroves will be restored, growing stock of 200,000 ha of understocked degraded forests will be improved, and the growing stock 50,000 ha of industrial forest plantations will be improved by changing species composition and better management.

Mr. Edirisinghe also shared some experience in forest restoration practices in terrestrial and mangrove ecosystems of Sri Lanka. Different techniques used to restore favorable environment conditions to enhance natural regeneration of mangroves were also elaborated.

In the second part of his presentation, Mr. Edirisinghe elaborated the forest landscape restoration planning exercise carried out in a pilot area. The process involves identification of land use types, community livelihood practices, discussion with stakeholders and direct field

observations to identify issues and problems, and to find appropriate solutions through a participatory consultative process. The draft plan will then be institutionalized by presenting it to the regional agricultural committee for approval.

### 3.1.10 Thailand: Community Forest Management in Thailand

**- Ms. Sasima Aree, Plan and policy analyst officer, Royal Forest Department, Thailand**

Ms. Sasima Aree provided a comprehensive overview on the ongoing community forestry management program of Thailand.

Thailand Community Forestry Act was enacted in 2019 to provide the rights to the communities for conservation, maintenance, and utilization of forest resources in a sustainable manner. At present 11,985 Community Forests have been established covering an area of 1,051,200 ha. It is anticipated to increase up to 15,000 CFs covering 1.6 million ha by 2027.

Ms. Aree also elaborated the administrative structure of the CF program, management planning and implementation process, products and revenues generated, benefit sharing mechanism, as well as monitoring and evaluation process, using examples of several CF programs implemented in different provinces of Thailand. As per the statistics collected by the community forestry division of the Royal Forest Department, a total of 5,118,794 households have benefited from the program so far. Total revenue generated was 138.5 million USD and the carbon sequestration value was 41-million-ton carbon dioxide equivalent.

### 3.1.11 Conclusion

This session provided opportunities for the senior government representatives to share their new forestry development plans as well as to highlight their experience on exploring best paths for restoration.

It was noted that many economies in the region have recently updated their national policies, strategies as well as legislations to address the current challenges of forestry sector. Many economies have specified restoration goals, in line with international commitments such as Nationally Determined Contributions, net-zero targets, Land Degradation Neutrality Targets, as well as National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans.

Although the Asia-Pacific region does not yet have a flagship regional restoration initiative at the scale of several other regions, a variety of multi-country initiatives exist in the region with focused targets.

It has been estimated that 500 million hectares of deforested and heavily degraded lands available in the Asia and the Pacific. Despite a growing commitment to restoration, implementation in the region still remains below levels required to meet many national and international targets.

### 3.2 Session 3: Sharing good practice cases on sustainable forest management and utilization

In this session, opportunities were given to present and share the experiences and good practice cases in sustainable forest management and utilization. Ten deliberations from nine economies were presented during the session followed by a discussion.

#### 3.2.1 Cambodia: Sustainable Forest Management Implementation in Cambodia

**- Mr. Phalla Thuch, Deputy Director, Department of Forest Industry and International Cooperation, Forestry Administration, Cambodia**

Mr. Phalla Thuch explained various national strategies implemented in Cambodia for Sustainable Forest Management including, Pentagonal Strategy-Phase I, National Strategic Development Plan (2024-2028), Cambodia Sustainable Development Goals Framework (2016-2030), and National Forestry Programs (2010-2029).

Approximately 500,571 ha of lands in Cambodia are allocated under the Forest extension and rehabilitation station (FERS). 81,802 ha of the total FERS are managed under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP), in which exotic fast growing tree species are managed for commercial purposes. Under the Community Forestry Program, 645 numbers of Community Forests have been established covering 522,808 ha. 106 Community Forest Management Plans are recognized by the Forestry Administration covering 72,621 ha.

Cambodia also implementing EU-FLEGT program. Accordingly, a roadmap workplan of FLEGT have been prepared by the Forestry Administration and approved for implementation in 2019.

#### 3.2.2 China: Experience and Achievements of Urban Forests in Beijing

**- Dr. Wang Xiaoping, Beijing Municipal Bureau of Forestry and Parks, China**

Dr. Wang Xiaoping elaborated the significant achievements in increasing urban forests and green areas in Beijing metropolitan area during the past decade.

As per the Beijing City Master Plan (2016-2035), it is expected to maintain not less than 45% of forest cover and establish more than 1200 km municipal greenways. The per capita park and green area are expected to be increased up to 17 m<sup>2</sup>. Currently the forest cover is 44.6%, and the per capita park and green space is 16.89 m<sup>2</sup>. Under two rounds of afforestation programs undertaken through large scale projects during 2012 – 2022, more than 147,000 ha new forests in urban areas have been established. Accordingly, per capita green space of Beijing was increased from 5.1 m<sup>2</sup> in 1980 to 16.6 m<sup>2</sup> in 2021.

Public participation in establishment of urban forests have been obtained through Beijing Carbon Sequestration Fund, Greening Fund, and other forms. About 15,000 to 22,500 RMB per ha is paid to local farmers each year for the lands that have been transferred for planting trees. 108 new types of collective forest farms have been established, providing employment opportunities for 13,000 farmers involved in afforestation and forest management with a monthly salary of 3,200 to 4,500 RMB. It has been estimated that around 400 million visits are being made to forest farms each year. Parks, forests, and green areas provide citizens with a variety of recreational opportunities, such as nature education, forest therapy, etc.

### 3.2.3 China: China's practices and experiences in Sustainable Forest Management

**- Mr. Wang Xuejun, Director of Forest Management Division, Department of Forest Resources Management, China**

Ms. Wang Xuejun presented several examples of sustainable forest management practices implemented in China during the last thirty years. She elaborated how China improved the quality and quantity of SFM practices during that period, such as the case of plantation forest management technical system in Saihanba National Forest Park in Chengde, forest management planning system in Jiangxi Province, close-to-nature forest management in Mulan Weichang, etc.

SFM is a path to make China more beautiful, and to implement President Xi Jinping's concept of "Green mountains and lush waters are invaluable assets" in achieving ecological civilization.

There are not many lands available for reforestation in China. Therefore, in order to increase carbon storage, the emphasis is on increasing the quality. Pruning and cutting on right time is important for timber quality as well as to increase the growth rate. In addition, China has to make sure that the country is less dependent on timber import. Currently China imports 1/3 of its timber requirement. Therefore, it is important to diversify the species. More and more pilot projects are important as they could serve as demonstrations for other countries as well.

### 3.2.4 Fiji: Best practice sharing on sustainable forest management and forest utilization in Fiji

**- Mr. Nakasava Maleli Belo, Director of Forestry Operation (Northern), Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry, Fiji**

In this presentation Mr. Nakasawa elaborated Fiji's legal framework, Bilateral agreements with China and Indonesia, priorities of current coalition government, and several sustainable forest management best practices implemented in Fiji.

Fiji's National Development Plan comprises of three policies and nine strategies. Government priorities include enhancing reforestation, securing international finances, effective participation of resource owners through supply chain system, commitment to value adding and downstream processing, review of pine and mahogany industries, promote export industries with value addition, encourage and facilitate private sector participation, introduce necessary legislations to minimize risk of burning and misuse of forest resources, as well as develop land use policies to conserve forests and other land based natural resources.

Fiji has enacted the Forest Bill to support the national forest policy and national REDD+ policy. In order to enhance the SFM framework and implementation, Fiji Code of Practice in wood processing facilities was introduced in 2023. Plantation policy and reforestation guidelines were drafted. Permanent forest estate was established and the national forest monitoring system was developed. Capacity of government staff have been enhanced through local and overseas trainings. Community training on SFM were also carried out. Agroforestry was integrated in forestry and agricultural practices. Operation management of parks and reserves were upgraded. Community Based Forest Wardens were trained. Under the forest financing best practices, lease rentals and royalties were paid to Itaukei Trust Land Trust Board (administrator of 91% of the native land). Incentives were provided through logging and reforestation and the Conservation Leases were also issued.

### 3.2.5 Indonesia: Conservation of threatened plants in Indonesia

**- Mr. Andes Hamuraby Rozak, Head of Research Centre for Plant Conservation, Botanic Gardens and Forestry National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), Indonesia**

Mr. Rozak's presentation was focussed on ex-situ conservation of threatened plant species in Indonesia, covering statistics on threatened plant species, present collection available in botanic gardens in Indonesia and the future directions.

A total of 4,705 plant species have been assessed in Indonesia so far. Among them 1070 species (22.7%) are threatened. Those threatened species are distributed across all main islands. Only 117 plants species are protected under the national law (out of which 34 species are threatened).

There are 49 botanic gardens in Indonesia. Among them, 5 are managed by the Botanic Gardens and Forestry Network Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) and 3 are managed by universities. The balance 41 botanic gardens are under the management of local government authorities. So far 275 species out of the 1070 threatened species (25.7%) are being collected and preserved in the botanic gardens.

As per future directions, integration of living collections of data of all botanic gardens; increase the number of botanic gardens in the eastern part of Indonesia; species-targeted surveys and expeditions; as well as reintroduction or reinforcement programs have been earmarked.

### 3.2.6 Laos: Rattan and bamboo value chain in Bolikhamxay province, Laos

**- Mr. Chanh Samone Phongudome, Deputy Director General, National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute, Laos**

Mr. Chanh Samone Phongudome presented a case study conducted on rattan and bamboo value chain in Bolikhamxay province covering current marketing of rattan and bamboo in Bolikhamxay province, as well as the opportunities and lessons learned for the development of the rattan and bamboo industry in the province.

The study has revealed that there is no specific supporting policy in Lao PDR to promote the development of rattan and bamboo sector at either national or local levels. Traders are facing many difficulties particularly in relation to the high tax and fees, high transportation cost for export, limited skilful handicraft workers, and low entrepreneur capacity. These drawbacks have resulted in making local rattan and bamboo business not being able to meet the existing demand of export market. However, there are many opportunities exist for this industry in the province, mainly due to its high rattan quality, high export market demand, low local transportation cost and high accessibility to capital and handicraft production materials.

Lao PDR was the first country to receive FSC certificate for Bamboo and rattan produced in Bolikhamxay province. It provides another good opportunity for Lao rattan and bamboo products to access to the international markets.



### 3.2.7 Malaysia: Silvicultural tree selection system: Option for sustainable forest management and utilization

**- Ms. Nur Hajar Binti Zamah Shari, Program Head/Senior Research Officer, Forest Research Institute, Malaysia**

In this presentation Ms. Nur Hajar Binti Zamah Shari elaborated an alternative management system called “Silvicultural tree selection system” to the current practice of “Selective management system” that is being practiced in Malaysia since 1978.

As per the proposed new system, selection of trees to be felled will be based on their location which is determined using a Geographic Information System (GIS) platform. All individual trees with a diameter of more than 30 cm are eligible for harvesting. The selection of trees for harvesting and the remaining stand is done uniformly based on species, size, high economic value, and the distribution of individual tree position. A maximum threshold for harvesting would be determined to ensure that sufficient residuals are retained for the next crop and the regenerative capacity of the stand is not compromised. The tree location map generated using GIS would assist in determining trees to be felled. Fruit trees and trees found in slopes >80% will be protected.

It is expected that this system will ensure better growth, better genetic conservation, and more seed bearers. With 100% information on tree attributes and locations, foresters are able to make better decisions and monitoring after felling.

### 3.2.8 Myanmar: Sustainable management of community forests for climate change mitigation and adaptation

**- Ms. Ei Ei Swe Hlaing, Assistant Director, Forest Research Institute, Forest Department, Myanmar**

Ms. Ei Ei Swe Hlaing provided an overview of community forestry development in Myanmar highlighting the history and current status taking example of some good practice cases.

Community forests in Myanmar can be established on privately owned lands, village forest plantations established by the Forest Department, and forestlands traditionally and customarily managed by the local communities. The tenure for CF is 30 years and is renewable. The CF is managed by a community forest user group (CFUG). Each CFUG forms a management committee consisting of a chairman, a secretary, a treasurer and two members. The CFUG is regulated by the internal rules and regulations formulated by users' consensus. CFUGs must consider gender equity when forming its management committee. A community-forest based enterprise can be established to harvest and sell timber and NTFPs, food and value-added forest products in local or international markets.

Currently there are 7,402 CFUGs managing 418,418 ha of community forests in Myanmar.

Recommendations for future plans of community forestry program of Myanmar includes, piloting a carbon credit case from community forests, and documenting at least one best practices of community forestry for one district. In order to create enabling environment for livelihood and enterprise development, it was recommended to encourage civil society engagement while strengthening coordination among concerned departments for technical and material support. In addition, the Community Forestry Working Unit at the State and

Regional Level and District Level to be strengthened while online platform to be applied to enhance communication.

### 3.2.9 Thailand: “Rehabilitate Forest, Generate Income Project”

**- Ms. Siriporn Preecha, General Administration Officer, Royal Forest Department, Thailand**

Ms. Siriporn Preecha presented a good practice case on “Rehabilitate Forest, Generate Income Project” initiated in 2013 in Nan and Na Haeo districts of in the Northeast Thailand and later expanded to cover Chiang Mai, Tak, and Mae Hong Son regions.

The target areas of the project are National Reserved Forests that were subjected to deforestation and cultivation before 2002. The program is adopted to allow communities already settled in the forest area to stay without damaging the environment and engage them in managing land to produce agricultural crops and forest trees. Some parts of the forest are designated as shared usable spaces, in which villagers are allowed to exploit forest resources as long as they comply with laws prohibiting them from cutting down certain types of trees. As of 2018, a total of 3,768 families have joined the program and 71,786 ha of forest land have been included under the program.

An evaluation carried out in ten randomly selected villages have revealed that agroforestry has brought socio-economic improvement of farmers by generating employment, increasing family income, enhancing the crop diversity, and reducing dependency on natural forests.

### 3.2.10 Vietnam: Vietnam Forest certification scheme (VFCS) – A solution to promote SFM and wood traceability in Vietnam: from policy to practice

**- Mr. Nguyen Hoang Tiep, Vice Director, Vietnam Forest Certification Office, Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences, Vietnam**

Mr. Nguyen Hoang Tiep provided a comprehensive overview on the Vietnam Forest Certification Scheme (VFCS) established in 2018.

As per the Vietnam forestry development policies, 100% of wood-based materials for domestic market and for export are to be sourced from legal and sustainable forest management (SFM) certified sources by 2030. Furthermore, at least 500,000 ha of forests are to be SFM certified by 2025, and to be further increased to 1 million ha by 2030. All organizations managing forest areas should apply SFM practices and the export revenue of wood and wood-based products is to be increased to 23-25 Billion USD by 2030.

VFCS has become the 50<sup>th</sup> member endorsed by PFFC. Vietnam Forest Certification Office (VFCO) is a legal entity taking full responsibilities for operation of VFCS and PEFC in Vietnam. VFCO will focus on commercial plantations and improve productivity using advanced germplasm and silvicultural measures. It will mobilize fundings to support smallholders for group SFM certification and will promote sustainable forest management and certification (SFM, CoC/DDS), woodchip, wood pellet, furniture and packaging linking to EUDR. It will also explore forest-based carbon certification for financial generation as well as for NDC compliance.



### 3.2.11 Conclusion

One of the major objectives of organizing the Pu'er Forum was to create a platform in which the regional countries can share their sustainable forest management experiences and good practices to learn from each other. This session was exactly focused on that objective.

During the session, member economies presented variety of experiences and good practices implemented in their respective economies and also discussed issues, limitations and constraints required to be addressed in scaling up those good practices. Although it would not be possible to replicate same practices uniformly in other economies due to their unique social, political, as well as environmental characteristics, they provide great opportunities to explore potentials of planning and designing some innovative approaches to deal with contemporary issues and problems in forestry sector.

### 3.3 Session 4: Yunnan Day

This session was designed to provide an opportunity for the senior forestry practitioners and experts of the Yunnan province, China to present and share their recent experiences, findings, and best practices in sustainable forest management.

Six presentations from the experts of different academic and forest management institutes of Yunnan Province were lined up for the session.

#### 3.3.1 The Close-to-nature Forest Management in Yunnan Province, China

**- Mr. Wang Weibin, President of Southwest Forestry University of China**

Dr. Wang Weibin's presentation was focused on close-to-nature forest management practices in Yunnan Province, China. On behalf of Dr. Wang, the presentation was delivered by Mr. Ou Guanglong.

In ancient times, forests were managed in China for worship and protection. During the commercialization of the timber industry in the 17th century, there was a crisis in timber resources. Later, during the late Qing Dynasty, the focus shifted to forest cultivation and utilization, which led to operational and ecological problems due to the emphasis on pure coniferous forests. In 1898, the concept of Close-to-nature Forest Management (CFM) was first proposed by Gayer. From the late Qing Dynasty to the Republic of China, CFM was promoted and widely practiced. Since the establishment of the People's Republic of China, forest management has progressed through three stages: (1) wood production and stabilization, (2) balancing wood production and ecological construction, and (3) focusing on ecological construction.

President Xi Jinping emphasized the importance of a holistic approach for protecting and restoring the natural environment. Yunnan is home to six major watersheds. The forest cover rate in Yunnan is 55.25% of China's total, with 24.88% being state-owned forests and 75.12% being collectively owned. Plantations cover 28.09% of the forests, while natural forests cover 71.91%. There is a high proportion of young and middle-aged forests in Yunnan, indicating significant potential for improving forest quality through Close-to-nature Forest Management practices. The comprehensive forest management plan for Yunnan includes controlling rocky desertification in the east, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of tropical forests in the south, forest protection and biodiversity conservation in the west, increasing forest cover and quality in the northeast, and improving forest quality in Central Yunnan.

The guiding principle of CFM is to restore and manage forests based on ecological principles and objectives, aiming for a multi-functional forest. The technology involved includes promoting multi-layered and mixed uneven-aged forests, implementing Close-to-nature Forest Management, selective cutting and utilization, and target tree management. The concept revolves around achieving harmony between nature and humanity and adhering to the principles of natural laws.

The basic principles of CFM include valuing the potential of the site and respecting nature, selecting suitable tree species based on site conditions, establishing mixed, multi-layered, and uneven-aged forests, and practicing individual tree care and selective logging for wood harvesting. Key technologies related to CFM include forest management and operational design surveys, habitat mapping and forest management planning, individual tree management for target trees, modification techniques for plantations, and monitoring and evaluation of forest dynamics.

Several CFM models have been developed specifically for the main forest types in Yunnan, forming more than 10 sets of forest management models. It was highlighted that, compared to traditional general thinning which applies to all retained trees regardless of their importance, target tree management focuses on enhancing the ecological functions of natural secondary forests.

### 3.3.2 Innovation and Application of Forest Germplasm Resources

#### **- Ms. Zhong Mingchuan, President of Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland**

The presentation of Ms. Zhong Mingchuan was focused on the innovation and application of forest germplasm resources. On behalf of Professor Ms. Zhong Mingchuan, Mr. Guo Yongqing, Vice president of the Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland delivered this presentation.

Mr. Guo Yongqing explained the significance of seeds in terms of genetic characteristics and their strategic importance. He emphasized the value of good habitats for animals and its importance for ecological balance. China's diverse landforms, particularly in Yunnan, boasts the richest and most varied vegetation types in the country. The forest ecosystem in Yunnan plays a vital role, accounting for 50.2% of the region's plants, including pine forests and other types.

According to the International Seed Federation (ISF), there are currently 74 million germplasm resources and 1750 gene banks worldwide. The United States has the largest National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS), while China ranks second, with over 520,000 crop germplasm resources, of which 76% are locally sourced.

Over the past 64 years, Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland (YAFG) has conducted research on breeding characteristics of forests and grasses, such as timber forests, economic forests, spice forests, medicinal resource forests, ornamental tree species, and rare orchid species, tailored to the needs of the economy and Yunnan. They have achieved significant scientific and technological advancements in germplasm resource collection and evaluation, breeding group establishment, new variety creation, efficient breeding of high-quality seeds, and biotechnology breeding. These achievements have laid a strong foundation for the sustainable development of forests and the high-quality growth of the forest industry in Yunnan province.

There are various techniques for the collection and preservation of forest germplasm resources, including forest germplasm resource banks, collection bases for high-quality tree species, in-situ conservation, ex-situ conservation, near-situ conservation, in-vitro preservation, and gene pools.

In conclusion, the presentation highlighted the existing gaps in Yunnan's innovation of forest germplasm resources, such as the incomplete implementation of the forest germplasm resource census, technological backwardness in creating new germplasm resources, and the lengthy forest breeding cycle. In future, Yunnan aims to establish a germplasm resource collection garden, strengthen the identification of germplasm resources, and promote international exchanges and cooperation.

### 3.3.3 Accelerate the development of a natural protected area system in Yunnan Province with national parks as the main body

**- Mr. Hua Chaolang, Vice President of Yunnan Forestry Planning Institute**

Mr. Hua Chaolang highlighted the present approach followed by China in order to strengthen biodiversity conservation.

China is accelerating the creation of a natural reserve system with national parks as the main body. The effort is focused on gradually bringing the areas with the most important natural ecosystems, the most unique natural landscapes, the most essence of natural heritages, and the most abundant biodiversity into the national park system.

In June 2019, the General Office of the Communist Party of China and the State Council issued the "Guiding opinions on establishing a nature reserve system with National Parks as the main body", which is an important decision and deployment to deeply implement the spirit of the 19<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the Communist Party of China. It is the fundamental adherence and guidance for establishing a nature reserve system with national parks as the main system, marking a new stage of comprehensive deepening reform for China's nature reserves, it has a landmark significance in the development history of natural conservation in China.

Yunnan is among the 3 main biodiversity hotspots, and it is the most biologically diverse province in China. Biodiversity of Yunnan is unique. There are also abandoned land area available. Biodiversity and cultural diversity are both interdependent in Yunnan.

### 3.3.4 Sharing Practice on Conservation and Comprehensive Utilization of Simao Pine Resources

**- Mr. Yang Lihua, Director of Pu'er Institute of Forestry and Grassland**

Mr. Yang Lihua made a comprehensive presentation on conservation and utilization of Simao Pine, the most distinctive and versatile local tree species in Pu'er.

*Pinus kesiya* var. *langbianensis* is a geographical variety of *Caesia* pine, naturally distributed in the tropical and subtropical mountainous areas south of Ailao Mountain in Yunnan. It is concentrated at an altitude of 1000-1700 m and is also distributed in eastern India, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, and other regions. Simao pine is an important local tree species for both

wood and resin production in Yunnan Province, with a distribution area of 1.497 million ha (including 1.278 million ha in Pu'er City and about 130 million m<sup>3</sup> of standing wood).

Simao Pine wood is a high-quality raw material for plywood, fiberboard, density board, particle board, etc., and wood fibers are the main raw material for producing pulp and paper. Resin can be processed into rosin, turpentine oil, etc. Pine pollen is an excellent health product while pine cones can be used to make activated carbon. Pine needles can be used as a feed additive.

In 1992, the first clonal seed orchard of Simao pine in China was established, covering an area of 497 acres. Now there are five clonal seed orchards for timber use, one clonal seed orchard for fat use, four collection and preservation areas for germplasm resources, amounting to a total area of 5000 acres.

The main pests on the ground include Yunnan pine caterpillar, Simao pine caterpillar, short haired cutting bark beetle, Yunnan pine bark beetle, and micro red stem borer. Adult insects can be lured and killed by lighting, and cocoons can be manually removed. Pest infested branches can be promptly removed and burned. Insecticides such as fenvalerate can be used to control pine caterpillars. Metformin salts can be used to control bark beetles and fipronil emulsifiable concentrate can be used to kill the micro red stem borers. Predatory natural enemies such as red eyed bees, hunting bugs, mantis, parasitic wasps, and birds can be used for biological control.

National Forestry Grassland Simao Pine Engineering Technology Research Center focuses on breeding, targeted cultivation, sustainable management, and processing and utilization of forest products such as wood, pine resin, and understory of Simao pine. The research and development team consisting of more than 30 scientists undertakes scientific research and has already published more than 30 scientific papers and 5 monographs. The center has discovered 6 improved varieties, formulated 5 standards, as well as several patents.

### 3.3.5 Strengthen joint prevention and control of harmful organisms to build a solid ecological security barrier between China and Laos

#### ***- Mr. Zhou Zhihong, Director of Pu'er Forestry and Grassland Pest Control and Quarantine Center***

Mr. Zhou Zhihong discussed the importance of strengthening joint efforts to prevent and control pests and emphasized the need to establish a solid ecological safety barrier between China and Laos.

He highlighted the unique geographical location of Pu'er, along with its abundant forest resources, making the task of preventing and controlling forest grass pests in Pu'er City challenging. One specific focus was on the prevention and control of the yellow ridged bamboo locust, a major pest in southern bamboo producing areas of China that causes significant damage to variety of crops including banana, bamboo, corn, and rice.

Mr. Zhou explained the successful experience of disaster prevention and control through strengthened foreign cooperation and exchange, as well as the implementation of joint prevention and control mechanisms with neighboring countries. He also discussed the Pu'er model of forest and grass pest prevention and control techniques.

The yellow ridged bamboo locust is known for its migrating, swarming, and gluttonous habits, and is historically considered to be one of the three major natural disasters, alongside floods and droughts. Its destructive impact occurs from May to October. In order to prevent and control of this pest, specific measures have been taken, including the establishment of a task force, the implementation of a pest protection control plan, and joint efforts between Pu'er City and Laos.

Cooperation between China and Laos has been instrumental in this regard and yielded remarkable results. A joint prevention and control conference has been proposed. It is required to establish clear Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) for prevention and control. Material assistance and technical training will be provided for prevention and treatment, with ongoing monitoring and evaluation. The focus is on source control, and the dissemination of information through social media and official channels.

### 3.3.6 Forest and health

#### **- Mr. Xu Li, Chairman of the Zhonglin State Holdings**

The focus of Mr. Xu Li's presentation was on the connection between forests and human well-being. He also addressed the impact of forests on urban environments and human health, particularly the heat island effect, a characteristic of cities that increases urban temperatures, reduces urban comfort, and affects the health of urban residents.

The Forest Resources Assessment of 2020 reveals that forests currently cover 30.8% of the world's land area, totaling 4.06 billion hectares, or roughly 0.52 hectares per person. The majority, 54%, of the world's forests are located in five countries namely Russia, Brazil, Canada, the United States, and China. Forests offer various benefits such as medicinal properties and the production of bio-based products, which contribute to economic growth. However, global forest coverage has been declining, making it crucial to explore and protect the value of forests. Over the past 30 years, the proportion of forests in the total land area has decreased from 32.5% to 30.8%, resulting in a loss of approximately 178 million hectares of global forest area.

China's forestry industry has an annual output value close to 1.5 trillion USD. In Yunnan Province alone, the output value of forestry exceeds 50 billion USD.

Mr. Li highlighted the significance of forests in Chinese medicine, emphasizing the importance of microorganisms and natural medicinal species for Chinese medicines. Referring to the natural pharmaceutical industry, he highlighted that approximately 66.3% of natural medicines in China are derived from forests. He also emphasized the importance of establishing a high-quality medicinal bank to preserve biodiversity. Under the arable land protection policy, promoting the increase of secondary forests and returning medicinal herbs to the forest, as well as protecting natural forests and valuable wild medicinal materials and seedlings, are vital for scientific research.

### 3.3.7 Conclusion

The session clearly indicated that Yunnan has a wealth of knowledge and experience to share among other economies in the region. The province is blessed with several technical, research, and academic institutions and experienced subject matter experts, making it a centre of excellence to conduct scientific forestry research, innovate novel technologies, and

implement best practices for the advancement of sustainable forest management. Asia-Pacific economies can benefit immensely from those innovations and best practices through sharing experiences and enhancing regional cooperation.

#### **4. Summary of the Forum Achievements**

The First Pu'er Forum on Asia-Pacific Forests was successfully held in Pu'er City, Yunnan Province, China, from 24-26 October 2023. It has substantially achieved the perceived objectives of sharing forestry information and best practices on forest policy, planning, industry, technology, and education in the Asia-Pacific region. It also laid a significant foundation to enhance regional cooperation and to strengthen sustainable forest management efforts in the region.

The Forum also witnessed the official launch of the Global Network for Sustainable Forest Management (GFN) Program initiated by the Chinese Government. GFN aims to promote sustainable forest management, advance the Global Development Initiative, accelerate the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and build harmony between man and nature.

In addition, five Memorandum of Understandings (MOU) signed during the Forum. They included MOUs between APFNet and the Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry of Fiji; Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland and the Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development of Cambodia; the Southwest Forestry University and the Kasetsart University of Thailand; the China National Forest Products Industry Association and the Lao National Wood Products Industry Association; and the Pu'er Municipal Government and the Nature Wood Group Limited.

Based on the deliberations and discussions during the Forum, a Pu'er Forum Action Plan for the period of 2024 – 2025 has been formulated to further promote practical cooperation in the region. The plan anticipates achieving following outcomes:

1. Signatories will actively promote the implementation of the cooperation agreements signed during the Forum, and make substantial progress.
2. Stakeholders will collaborate to design and prepare for the second Pu'er Forum to be held in October 2025.
3. Launching the project of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Technology Training Centre for Pacific Island Countries (APFTTCPIC), already included in the first batch of projects in the Global Development Initiative (GDI) project pool, in Fiji in 2024.
4. Supporting young forestry scholar exchanges from China and ASEAN countries through APFNet Center for SANFRI Young Scholar Exchange, which was jointly established by APFNet and Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland SANFRI.
5. Supporting the “Summer Camp for Greater Mekong Sub-Region Forestry Undergraduates Program” and “GMS Forest Restoration Demonstration Project” under the Presidents' Forum of Forestry University/Institute in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS).
6. With the advantages of the tea industry in Pu'er City, launching international training in the tea business for South Asian and Southeast Asian tea farmers twice a year.



7. Establishing a scholarship program jointly by APFNet and Anhui Gujing Distillery Company Ltd., aiming at supporting Cambodian and Laotian foresters to pursue postgraduate degrees in forestry universities in China.

## 5. Side Events

A side event organized by the China National Forest Products Association (CNFPPIA) was held at the Forum venue on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023. It was attended by several senior level delegates representing CNFPPIA, WWF and GIZ officials, researchers, industry sector experts, as well as representatives of several leading private sector industry organizations.

The event consisted of three parts. Three presentations were delivered during the first part of the session chaired by Ms. Zhang Liyan, Director of International Cooperation Department, China National Forest Products Industry Association. The presentations were focused on following themes:

- i. Development of Chinese forestry industry and construction of sustainable timber supply chain – by Mr. Zhou Hongsheng, President of China National Forest Products Industry Association
- ii. Global sustainable development and timber supply chain – by Mr. Steven McQueen, Senior Advisor of WWF Norway
- iii. Experience sharing from China-Laos joint construction of sustainable timber supply chain – by Mr. Soulignamat Thongsavanh, President of Lao National Wood Products Industry Association (LNWPPIA).

After the presentations, a dialogue session was held with invited senior industry sector representatives. Director of InFIT China Office, Mr. Cai Chuanhai, Board Chairman of Guangxi Guilin Huahai Household Products Co. Ltd., Mr. Zhe Jianwen, Manager of Simao District State Forest Farm, and Mr. Wang Diangang, Board Chairman of Pioneer Home, participated as panel members. The session was facilitated by Mr. Chen Yong, Deputy Director, CINFT-NFGA.

The event was concluded with a ceremony of issuing forest certifications. It was facilitated by Ms. Li Yeqing, Head of Beijing Regional Program of WWF.

## 6. Field Site Visits

Three field excursions have been organized for the Forum participants to provide them with a hands-on experience of tea and forest sector highlights of Pu'er.

### *1. The Cultural Landscape of Old Tea Forests of the Jingmai Mountain*

The vice-ministerial level officials were taken to visit the Cultural Landscape of Old Tea Forests of the Jingmai Mountain in Pu'er. The site gained World Heritage status at the 45th Session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in 2023. It became China's 57th entry in the World Heritage list.

This cultural landscape was developed over a thousand years by the Blang and Dai peoples following practices that began in the 10th century. The property is a tea production area comprised of traditional villages within old tea groves surrounded by forests and tea plantations. The traditional understory cultivation of old tea trees is a method that responds to the specific conditions of the mountain's ecosystem and subtropical monsoon climate,

combined with a governance system maintained by the local Indigenous communities. Traditional ceremonies and festivities relate to the Tea Ancestor belief that spirits live in the tea plantations and in the local fauna and flora, a belief that is at the core of this cultural tradition.



*Figure 3. Field site visit in Jingmai Mountain*

## ***II. China Tea Expo Garden***

Participants of the Forum were taken to visit China Tea Expo Garden on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

The objective of the field trip was to provide them with knowledge on the evolution of Pu'er tea development, tea planting, processing, preparing, and tasting, as well as introducing the culture and history of Pu'er tea.

The China Tea Expo Garden is located in the Yingpan mountain, about 29 kilometres away from the Simao district. It is situated at the elevation of about 1,700 meters above mean sea level (MSL) and covers an area of 9300 ha. It is the first new eco-tourism park in China integrating the scientific research of tea, environmental protection, eco-agriculture, garden art as well as sightseeing experience. The areas visited during the field trip included Tea House, tea processing experience hall, tea picking experience area, Tea Ancestor's Hall, Pu'er tea tasting garden, etc.





Figure 4. Field site visit at China Tea Expo Garden

### **III. Puwen Forest Farm**

The field trip to Puwen forest farm was conducted on 26 October 2023.

The forest farm was located in the Tropical Forestry Research Institute of Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland, Puwen town of Jinghong City. The objective of the visit was to explore the tropical tree arboretum of the Tropical Forestry Research Institute and the demonstration zone for high-efficiency cultivation techniques of tropical precious tree species.

The areas visited included the tropical tree arboretum consisting of a collection of tropical tree species such as *Podocarpus nerilifolius*, *Parashorea chinensis*, *Mesua ferrea*, *Dacrycarpus imbricatus*, and the demonstration zone for efficient cultivation of tropical precious tree species in mountainous areas such as *Dalbergia odorifera*, *Dalbergia nigra*, *Dalbergia odorota*, and *Dalbergia rosewood*, where high-efficiency cultivation techniques were presented.





*Figure 5. Field site visit at Puwen Forest Farm*

## **7. Conclusions and recommendations**

During the First Pu'er Forum on Asia-Pacific Forests, participants actively discussed and exchanged information on new forestry development plans of their respective economies and shared their experiences on best paths for forest restoration as well as good practice cases on sustainable forest management and utilization.

From the presentations and discussions, it is evident that countries have placed increasing importance on the role of forests in green and sustainable development, responding to climate change, and protecting biodiversity. They have updated their policies, improved forest sector planning, strengthened legislations, and carrying out large-scale afforestation operations. They shared several good practices on variety of aspects of sustainable forest management.

The Forum participants further expressed that there are several areas requiring further attention, including forest/land tenure reforms, financial supports, and capacity building to achieve the balance between conservation and development as well as to enhance forest's contribution to national economies.

The First Pu'er Forum laid a strong platform to strengthen regional cooperation and enhance collaboration among regional economies. It is strongly recommended that the Forum to be further enriched and continued in the coming years to provide a significant contribution towards the achievement of the common goal of sustainably managed forest resources in the Asia-Pacific region.

## Annexes

I. Forum Agenda

II. List of participants

## The First Pu'er Forum on Asia-Pacific Forests

### Agenda

24 - 26 October 2023      Pu'er city, Yunnan Province, China

#### *Day 1 - 24 October 2023 (Tuesday)*

Time	Agenda	Facilitator
07:00 - 08:00	Breakfast	
08:25 - 08:45	Drive to the Pu 'er City Government Building	
Opening Ceremony (09:00 - 09:35)		
09:00 - 09:05	Speech by Mr. Guo Dajin, Deputy Governor of People's Government of Yunnan Province	Mr. Wan Yong, Director General of Forestry and Grassland Administration of Yunnan Province
09:05 – 09:10	Speech by Ms. Rokosuka Atelaite Usa, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry of Fiji	
09:10 - 09:15	Speech by Mr. Li Qingyuan, Secretary of the CPC Pu'er Municipal Committee, Pu'er Municipal Government	
09:15 - 09:25	Speech by Mr. Xu Jide, Deputy Director, Office of the National Greening Committee of China	
09:25 - 09:30	Speech by Mr. Lu De, Executive Director of APFNet	
09:30 - 09:35	Launching ceremony of the <i>Global Network for Sustainable Forest Management</i>	
Coffee Break (09:35 - 09:50) <i>(MoU Signing)</i>		
Session One: High-level Segment (09:50 - 12:10) Sharing Forestry Development and Exploring New Regional Cooperation		
09:50 - 10:05	Keynote Speech by Mr. Guo Dajin, Deputy Governor of People's Government of Yunnan Province, <b>China</b>	Mr. Zhao Shucong, President of the Chinese Society of Forestry
10:05 - 10:20	Keynote Speech by Mr. Ung Sam Ath, Secretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, <b>Cambodia</b>	
10:20 - 10:35	Keynote Speech by Ms. Rokosuka Atelaite Usa, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries & Forestry, <b>Fiji</b>	
10:35 - 10:50	Keynote Speech by Mr. Sayakoummane Sousath, Director General of Department of Forestry, <b>Laos</b>	

10:50 - 11:05	Keynote Speech by Mr. Mohd Rahim bin Rani, Deputy Director General, Forestry Department Peninsular <b>Malaysia</b>	
11:05 - 11:20	Keynote Speech by Mr. Hla Maung Thein, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, <b>Myanmar</b>	
11:20 - 11:35	Keynote Speech by Mr. Kharal Deepak Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Environment, <b>Nepal</b>	
11:35 - 11:50	Keynote Speech by Ms. Herath Chandra, Secretary, Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation, <b>Sri Lanka</b>	
11:50 - 12:05	Keynote Speech by Mr. She Xuebin, Board Chairman & CEO, Nature Home (China) Co., Ltd & Nature Wood Group Limited	
12:05 - 12:10	Wrap-up of Session One	
12:10 - 12:30	Drive Back to APFNet Pu'er Base	
Welcome Lunch hosted by Pu'er Municipal Government (12:30 - 13:30)		
Session 2: Share the New Forestry Development Plan and Explore the Best Path for Forest Restoration (14:30 -18:00)		
14:30 - 14:45	Presentation by Mr. Lim Bunna, Deputy Director of Department, Forestry Administration, <b>Cambodia</b>	Mr. Dissanayake Wasantha, APFNet Board Member
14:45 - 15:00	Presentation by Ms. Guo Wei, Deputy Director, Foreign Economy Division, Department of Planning and Finance, <b>China</b>	
15:00 - 15:15	Presentation by Mr. George Ratu Vuki, Acting Executive Director Operations and Services, Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry, <b>Fiji</b>	
15:15 - 15:30	Presentation by Mr. Sombanpheng Phavanar, Acting Director for Village Forestry Management Division, Department of Forestry, <b>Laos</b>	
15:30 - 15:45	Presentation by Mr. Muhammad Amirul bin Hamlad, Assistant Secretary, Ministry Of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change, <b>Malaysia</b>	
Coffee Break (15:45 - 16:05)		
16:05 - 16:20	Presentation by Mr. Thein Saung, Assistant Director, Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, <b>Myanmar</b>	Mr. Dissanayake Wasantha, APFNet Board Member
16:20 - 16:35	Presentation by Mr. Mishra Gyanendra Kumar, Under Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Environment, <b>Nepal</b>	
16:35 - 16:50	Presentation by Ms. Calderon Margaret, Professor, University of the Philippines Los Banos, <b>Philippines</b>	
16:50 - 17:05	Presentation by Mr. Edirisinghe Nishantha, Additional Conservator General of Forests, Department of Forest Conservation, <b>Sri Lanka</b>	

17:05 - 17:20	Presentation by Ms. Aree Sasima, Plan and Policy Analyst Officer, Royal Forest Department, <b>Thailand</b>	
17:20 - 17:50	Questions & Discussions	
17:50 - 18:00	Wrap up	
<b>Dinner (18:30 - 20:00)</b>		

## ***Day 2 - 25 October 2023 (Wednesday)***

Time	Agenda	Facilitator
09:00 - 09:45	Drive to China Tea Expo Garden	Pu'er Government
09:45 - 11:00	Field Trip at China Tea Expo Garden	
11:00 - 12:00	Drive Back to APFNet Pu'er Base	
Lunch (12:00 - 13:00)		
Session 3: Sharing of Good Practice Cases on Sustainable Forest Management and Utilization (14:00 - 17:15)		
14:00 - 14:15	Presentation by Mr. Thuch Phalla, Deputy Director, Department of Forest Industry and International Cooperation, Forestry Administration, <b>Cambodia</b>	Mr. Dissanayake Wasantha, APFNet Board Member
14:15 - 14:30	Presentation by Dr. Wang Xiaoping, Beijing Municipal Bureau of Forestry and Parks, <b>China</b>	
14:30 - 14:45	Presentation by Mr. Wang Xuejun, Director of Forest Management Division, Department of Forest Resources Management, <b>China</b>	
14:45 - 15:00	Presentation by Mr. Nakasava Maleli Belo, Director of Forestry Operation Northern, Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry, <b>Fiji</b>	
15:00 - 15:15	Presentation by Mr. Andes Hamuraby Rozak, Head of Research Center for Plant Conservation, Botanic Gardens and Forestry, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), <b>Indonesia</b>	
Coffee Break (15:15 - 15:35)		
15:35 - 15:50	Presentation by Mr. Phong Oudome Chanh Samone, Deputy Director General , National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute, <b>Laos</b>	Mr. Dissanayake Wasantha, APFNet Board Member
15:50 - 16:05	Presentation by Ms. Nur Hajar binti Zamah Shari, Program Head/Senior Research Officer, Forest Research Institute <b>Malaysia</b>	
16:05 - 16:20	Presentation by Ms. Ei Ei Swe Hlaing, Assistant Director, Forest Research Insitute, Forest Department, <b>Myanmar</b>	
16:20 - 16:35	Presentation by Ms. Preecha Siriporn, General Administration Officer, Royal Forest Department,	



	<b>Thailand</b>	
16:35 - 16:50	Presentation by Mr. Nguyen Hoang Tiep, Vice Director, Vietnam Forest Certification Office, Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences, <b>Vietnam</b>	
16:50 - 17:05	Questions & Discussions	
17:05 - 17:15	Wrap up	
<b>Dinner (18:00 - 19:30)</b>		

### ***Day 3 - 26 October 2023 (Thursday)***

Time	Agenda	Facilitator
08:30 - 11:00	Field Trip to Puwen Forest Farm	Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland
11:00 - 12:20	Drive Back to APFNet Pu’er Base	
Lunch (12:30 - 13:30)		
Yunnan Day (14:00 - 16:00)		
14:00 - 14:20	Presentation by Mr. Wang Weibin, President of Southwest Forestry University of China	Mr. Dissanayake Wasantha, APFNet Board Member
14:20 - 14:40	Presentation by Ms. Zhong Mingchuan, President of Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland	
14:40 - 15:00	Presentation by Mr. Hua Chaolang, Vice president of Yunnan Forestry Planning Institute	
15:00 - 15:20	Presentation by Mr. Yang Lihua, Director of Pu'er Institute of Forestry and Grassland	
15:20 - 15:40	Presentation by Mr. Zhou Zhihong, Director of Pu'er Forestry and Grassland Pest Control and Quarantine Center	
15:40 - 16:00	Presentation by Mr. Xu Li, Chairman of Zhonglin State Holdings	
Coffee Break (16:00 - 16:20)		
CNFPPIA Session Theme: Sustainable Timber Supply Chain (16:20 - 17:50)		
16:20 - 16:35	Development of Chinese Forestry Industry and Construction of Sustainable Timber Supply Chain, Zhou Hongsheng, President of China National Forest Products Industry Association	Ms. Zhang Liyan, Director of International Cooperation Department, China National Forest Products Industry Association
16:35 - 16:50	Global Sustainable Development and Timber Supply Chain, Steven McQueen, Senior Advisor of WWF Norway	
16:50 - 17:05	Experience Sharing from China-Laos Joint Construction of Sustainable Timber Supply Chain, Mr. Soulinamat Thongsavanh, President of LNWPIA	
17:05 - 17:40	InFIT (Director of InFIT China Office), CAI Chuanhai, Board Chairman of Guangxi Guilin Huahai Household	Dialogue Session: Mr. Chen Yong, Deputy Director,

	Products Co., Ltd., ZHE Jianwen, Manager of Simao District State Forest Farm, WANG Diangang, Board Chairman of Pioneer Home	CINFT-NFGA
17:40 - 17:55	Pu'er Forest Certification Issuing Ceremony	Ms. Li Yeqing, Head of Beijing Regional Program, WWF
17:55 - 18:00	Closing	Mr. Dissanayake Wasantha, APFNet Board Member
<b>Dinner (18:30 - 19:30)</b>		



Annex II - List of Participants

<b>The First Pu'er Forum on Asia-Pacific Forests</b> <b>List of Participants</b>			
<b>No.</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>China</b>			
1	Ministry of Finance	Mr. Lu Shijie	Officer, Department of Policy and Regulation
2	China International Development Cooperation Agency	Ms. Chu Xueling	Director, Associate Professor, Data management division, Global Development Promotion Center
3	National Forestry and Grassland Administration	Mr. Xu Jide	Deputy Director, Office of the National Greening Committee
4		Mr. Hu Yuanhui	Director General, APFNet Coordination Center
5		Mr. Xu Qiangxing	Deputy Director General, Department of International Cooperation
6		Mr. Wu Manyuan	Director, Forest Resources Supervision Office in Yunnan Province
7		Mr. Zhou Hongbin	Director, Southwest Survey and Planning Institute
8		Ms. Liu Jianjie	Deputy Director General, Department of Planning and Finance
9		Mr. Miao Hong	Deputy Director General, Communication Center
10		Ms. Sun Hongyan	Deputy Director General, National Park (Natural Protected Area) Development Center
11		Mr. Zhai Hongbo	Deputy Director General, APFNet Coordination Center
12		Mr. He Jinxing	Director, Division of International Affairs, Department of International Cooperation
13		Mr. Yu Yue	Deputy Director, Division of Bilateral Cooperation 2, Department of International Cooperation
14		Ms. Wang Xiaoyuan	Director, News and Press

			Division, Communication Center
15		Mr. Wang Xuejun	Director, Forest Management Division, Department of Forest Resources Management
16		Ms. Guo Wei	Deputy Director, Foreign Economy Division, Department of Planning and Finance
17		Mr. Xu Xiaowei	Deputy Director, Administration Division, Department of Forestry Resource Management
18	Chinese Society of Forestry	Mr. Zhao Shucong	President
19	Beijing Municipal Bureau of Forestry and Parks	Mr. Wang Xiaoping	Deputy Director, Doctor
20	Chinese Academy of Forestry	Mr. Jiang Chunqian	Director, International Farm Forestry Training Centre
21		Mr. Xu Daping	Director, Research Institute of Tropical Forestry
22		Mr. Chen Renli	Director, Experimental Station of Research Institute of Tropical Forestry
23	People's Government of Yunnan Province	Mr. Guo Dajin	Deputy Governor
24	General Office of People's Government of Yunnan Province	Mr. Shi Ziyang	Deputy Director General
25	Foreign Affairs Office of Yunnan Province	Mr. Yang Shaocheng	Deputy Director General
26	Forestry and Grassland Administration of Yunnan Province	Mr. Wan Yong	Director General
27	Southwest Forestry University of China	Mr. Wang Weibin	President
28		Ms. He Xiahong	Vice President
29	Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland	Ms. Zhong Mingchuan	President
30	Yunnan Forestry Institute for Survey and Planning	Mr. Hua Chaolang	Deputy Director
31	Forestry and Grassland Bureau of Kunming City	Mr. Li Yi	Deputy director
32	Forestry and Grassland Bureau of Zhaotong City	Ms. Chen Jin	Deputy director
33	Forestry and Grassland Bureau of Qujing City	Mr. Lin Zuxian	Deputy Director
34	Forestry and Grassland	Mr. Liu Shaohong	Deputy Director

	Bureau of Yuxi City		
35	Forestry and Grassland Bureau of Baoshan City	Mr. Li Zhengbo	Level III Division Rank Official
36	Forestry and Grassland Bureau of Chuxiong Prefecture	Mr. Yang Guorong	Director, Zixishan NR at Provincial Level, Chuxiong Prefecture
37	Forestry and Grassland Bureau of Honghe Prefecture	Mr. Yang Yunhong	Director
38	Forestry and Grassland Bureau of Wenshan Prefecture	Mr. Tang Haibo	Director
39	Forestry and Grassland Bureau of Xishuangbanna Prefecture	Mr. Zhu Hongjin	Director
40	Forestry and Grassland Bureau of Dali Prefecture	Mr. Tu Guoxin	Deputy director, Institute of Forestry Science, Dali Prefecture
41	Forestry and Grassland Bureau of Dehong Prefecture	Mr. Yang Qiang	Deputy director
42	Forestry and Grassland Bureau of Lijiang City	Mr. Peng Jingliang	Deputy director
43	Forestry and Grassland Bureau of Nuijiang Prefecture	Mr. Liu Futai	Level II Division Rank Official
44	Forestry and Grassland Bureau of Diqing Prefecture	Ms. Shu Yongchun	Director, Habaxueshan NR, Diqing Prefecture
45	Forestry and Grassland Bureau of Lincang City	Mr. Yang Guoqing	Director
46	Pu'er Municipal Government	Mr. Li Qingyuan	Secretary of the CPC Pu'er Municipal Committee
47		Mr. Wang Gang	Deputy Secretary of the CPC Pu'er Municipal Committee , Mayor
48		Mr. Wang Hongbin	Secretary of the Party Group and Director of the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of Pu'er Municipality
49		Mr. Lu Ping	Secretary of the Party Group and Chairman of the Pu'er Municipal Political Consultative Committee
50		Mr. Hu Xuankun	Secretary of Simao District Committee

51		Mr. Xu Hongbin	Deputy Mayor of Pu'er Municipality
52		Mr. Qi Hai	Secretary of the Party Group and Director of the Forestry and Grassland Bureau
53		Mr. Wu Yongjian	District Chief of Simao District People's Government
54		Mr. Yang Lihua	Director of the Institute of Forestry and Grassland Sciences
55		Mr. Zhou Zhihong	Director of the Center for Forest and Grassland Pest Control and Quarantine
56	Hebei Province	Mr. An Changming	Secretary of the Party Committee of CPC of Saihanba Forest Farm
57	Nature Home (China) Co., Ltd &Nature Wood Group Limited	Mr. She Xuebin	Board Chairman & CEO
58		Ms. Yuan Shunyi	Vice President
Cambodia			
59	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Mr. Ung Sam Ath	Secretary of State
60		Mr. Khorn Saret	Deputy Secretary General
61		Mr. Lim Bunna	Deputy Director of Department, Forestry Administration
62		Mr. Thuch Phalla	Deputy Director, Department of Forest Industry and International Cooperation, Forestry Administration
63		Mr. Sokh Heng	Director, Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development, Forestry Administration
64		Mr. Sreng Syneath	Chief of Forest Development and Botanical Research Center, Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development, Forestry Administration
65	Royal University of Agriculture	Mr. Heng Chamroeun	Vice Dean, Faculty of Forestry
Fiji			
66	Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry	Ms. Rokosuka Atelaite Usa	Permanent Secretary
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70		Mr. Nakasava Maleli Belo	Director, Forestry Operation Northern
71		Mr. Naikatini Alivereti Neisava	Director of Research and Development
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74		Mr. Agung Budi Supangat	Researcher, Research Center for Ecology and Ethnobiology
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75	Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan	Ms. Fareena Arshad	Political Counselor
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77		Mr. Southavilay Boundeth	Deputy Director General, Department of Planning and Cooperation
78		Mr. Sombanpheng Phavanar	Acting Director of Forest Village and NTFPs Management Division, Department of Forestry
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80		Mr. Thammavong Banxa	Director, Forestry Research Center, National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute
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83		Mr. Sengsouvan Soulichay	Deputy Director-General
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87		Mr. Nor Lokman bin Muhamad Nor	Forest Conservator, Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia
88		Mr. Mohd Rosli bin Haron	Director, Research Planning Division, Forest Research Institute Malaysia
89		Ms. Nur Hajar binti Zamah Shari	Senior Research Officer, Forest Research Institute Malaysia
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92		Mr. Moe Zaw	Director, Forest Research Institute, Forest Department
93		Mr. Lin Htin	Deputy Director, Forest Department
94		Ms. Ei Ei Swe Hlaing	Assistant Director, Forest Research Institute, Forest Department
95		Mr. Thein Saung	Assistant Director, Forest Department
96	University of Forestry and Environmental Science	Mr. Khin Maung Zaw	Deputy Head, Administration Department
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98		Mr. Wagle Shiva Kumar	Joint Secretary
99		Mr. Mishra Gyanendra Kumar	Under Secretary
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104		Mr. Edirisinghe Nishantha	Additional Conservator General of Forests, Department of Forest Conservation
105		Mr. Senaratne Gamaralalage Priyantha Bandula	Conservator of Forests, Department of Forest Conservation
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113		Mr. Nguyen Hoang Tiep	Vice Director, Vietnam Forest Certification Office
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117		Mr. Ho Tien Dat	Deputy Chief of Forest Use and Development Division of Forestry Inspection Branch

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120		Mr. Ha Luong Hong	Director of Forestry Inspection Branch
121		Mr. Nguyen Quy Trung	Deputy Director of General Office
122		Mr. Hoang Minh Thang	Deputy Director of Animal and Aquatic Epidemic Disease Management Division of Animal Husbandry, Veterinary and Fisheries Branch
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125	APFNet Board of Directors	Mr. Dissanayake Wasantha	Board Member
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127		Mr. Zhang Zhongtian	Expert
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