



Newsletter

July 2019

Greetings from the Secretariat!

As stated in our strategic plan, APFNet is working on improving its information gathering, synthesizing, and information sharing activities to help members in their decision-making process.

I'm delighted to introduce our newsletter, which included information about APFNet supported projects and recent activities to all of our stakeholders, members and partners as one of the tools to approach all of you.

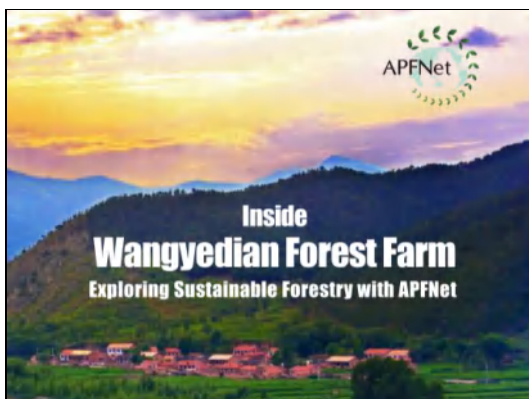
Lu De

Executive Director

APFNet Projects

APFNet has funded approximately USD 27 million in 43 projects for 21 economies since 2010. Projects represent a key pillar and cover many forestry-related themes. APFNet projects are classified into research projects, demonstration projects and capacity building projects. Research projects aim to contribute to scientific knowledge in areas relevant for member economies, such as carbon accounting or forest transition. Demonstration projects often involve testing novel policies, concepts and techniques on the ground, to pilot and improve silvicultural techniques. Capacity building projects support policy makers, local foresters, researchers and communities to improve their planning and implementation of forest rehabilitation and management efforts.

APFNet member economies or organizations.



Wangyedian Forest Farm, Inner Mongolia, China

APFNet has a long-standing engagement with Wangyedian Forest Farm. In fact, it's APFNet's oldest project in China. In 2011, APFNet launched the first phase of the project: "Construction of Multifunctional Forest Management Demonstration" in Wangyedian Forest Farm, demonstrating a multi-functional forest management approach and exploring how economic, social and environmental benefits can be balanced and enhanced in one forest farm at the same time. In its second phase, which started in 2016, the objectives were expanded to demonstrate multifunctional forest restoration on a wider range of sites than before, including clear-cut forests and also young and middle-aged natural secondary forests. It also aims to test close-to-nature management on mature forests, focusing especially on soil and water conservation and increasing the overall carbon storage capacity of the forests. In 2018, based on the concrete outcomes from previous projects, APFNet launched "Wangyedian Multi-functional Forest Experience Base Project" in Wangyedian Forest Farm.



Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation, Cambodia

Located right in the heart of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Cambodia, a small economy with only 4 million people, is home to diverse forests and a rich culture. However, due to a multitude of factors, including poverty, natural forest cover has been decreasing from 73% in the 1960s to 49.48% in 2014. Since 2011 APFNet, in cooperation with the Forest Administration of Cambodia, has been working on reversing this trend and offering alternate solutions through four different demonstration projects as of 2018.

In this new publication, these projects are introduced and show the reader different approaches to sustainable forest management, forest rehabilitation and livelihood improvement. APFNet has demonstrated different multi-functional forest restoration models, including restoration through the use of high-value and nitrogen-fixing tree species; sustainable forest management that included the establishment of community nurseries, using agro forestry and home gardens for improving livelihoods, and more.

Demonstration in Hilly and Low Mountain Area of Southern China, Anhui and Zhejiang Province

Hilly areas of southern China enjoy favorable humid and thermal conditions with great potential in productivity, while some areas have faced problems in terms of forest degradation and sustainable forest management. In 2017, APFNet launched a project *Demonstration on Sustainable Forest Management and Restoration in Hilly and Low Mountain Area of Southern China* in Anhui and Zhejiang Province, with aims to enhancing capacities in forest management and restoring the degraded forests from the perspectives of policies and technologies in the typical hilly areas of southern china.

January 11-14, 2019, an independent evaluation team visited Qingyang County in Anhui Province and Lin'an District in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province for a mid-term evaluation (MTE) to check the project performance. With document review and interviews followed by the field visit to the project sites, the project received positive feedback from the evaluation team.

Better Urban Forests and Forest Carbon Measurement, Thailand

Urban forestry has attracted considerable attention in recent years as a significant approach for addressing numbers of urban challenges, while carbon estimation of the forest ecosystem is an essential foundation for assessing the contribution of forests in mitigating climate change. In line with the forestry strategy of Thailand on addressing the aforementioned concerns, two projects were launched and funded by APFNet respectively in the year of 2013 and 2017, which are "Strengthening Urban Forestry Demonstration Site of Bang Kachao (Thailand) for Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Learning Center", and "To Demonstrate the Development and Application of Standing-Tree Carbon Equations to Improve the Accuracy of Forest-Cover Carbon Stock Estimates in Thailand".

During 1-5 April 2019, the Terminal Evaluation of the above two projects successfully concluded by an independent evaluation team aimed to assess project performance, outcomes and impacts stemming from the project implementation.



Community tree planting project, Papua New Guinea

Along with Papua New Guinea (PNG)'s increasing integration into the globalized world, population and the need to provide food have increased, leading to a steady reduction of tree cover in these settled areas. Given how steep the highlands are, landslides and erosion, together with an increase of degraded grasslands, barely able to provide ground for agricultural crops, have been normal sights now. It is high time to save this tropical paradise from its own downfall. In Jimbu Province, Yongomugl Subdistrict, right in the middle of the eastern highlands, a small NGO called the Voice of Yongs has been working for years to reverse this trend.

In 2017, this NGO teamed up with APFNet to expand their original idea and combat a problem they had been facing in the past far too often. The project goal is to create and promote a sustainable community supported reforestation project that contributes to socio-economic and environmental benefits to the people of Yongomugl Sub-District, Simbu Province, PNG.

APFNet promoted agroforestry projects at Fourth World Congress on Agroforestry

The Fourth World Congress on Agroforestry was held from 20-22 May 2019 in Montpellier, France, at which APFNet set up a booth to promote its projects relevant to agroforestry.

Echoing the Congress theme of "Agroforestry - Strengthening links between science, society and policy", APFNet collected and summarized 10 projects it has supported in Asia and the Pacific, to share practices and models adopted, and to demonstrate the ecological, economic and social benefits they've brought to communities.

[Find more about project](#)

ACTIVITIES



Kick-off workshop on "Improving Capacities towards Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Peat Swamp Forest Fires in Indonesia"

Aiming to help Indonesia to provide empirical data and calculation methodology, APFNet teamed up with the Forest Research and Development Center under the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia (FOERDIA), the University of Melbourne, Australia under the new project "Improving Capacities towards Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Peat Swamp Forest Fires in Indonesia". The project itself officially started in January and the kick-off workshop was held on 27 February 2019.

Representatives from the project partners, the Australian government, which contributed funds to the project, as well as international organizations, such as CIFOR, FAO and UNEP attended the 1-day meeting. Participants were greeted by welcome remarks from Dr. Kirsianti Linda Ginoga, the Director of

the Forest Research and Development Center. Afterwards, the Director General of FOERDIA, Agus Justianto, officially launched the project, in celebration of which Ms. Anna Finke, the responsible project manager from APFNet and Ms. Kate Snowball from the Australian Embassy, gave remarks of their own. Finally, Dr. Liubov Volkova, the leading researcher in this project from the University of Melbourne congratulated the everybody on the excellent preparation and smooth start of the project.



Trainers in Forestry (TIF) Network Study Tour on Community Forestry

Responding to the needs of TIF members and in collaboration with Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS), APFNet organized *Trainers in Forestry (TIF) Network* study tour on community forestry (CF) in Hanoi, Vietnam during 7-13th January 2019. With drawing 11 participants from Asia-Pacific region, this study tour provided on-site opportunity for participants to better understand the Community forestry effective models and practices in Vietnam in past decades. The indoor session was focusing on the legal framework and institution arrangement of Vietnam community forestry. Meanwhile, participants also shared in-service training policies and arrangements in their own economy.

AP-FECM won the “Global Competition on Best Practices in Forest Education – Top 2”

On March 21st (International Day of Forests), the International Union of Forest Research Organization (IUFRO) announced that the Asia Pacific Forest Education Coordination Mechanism (AP-FECM) won the “Global Competition on Best Practices in Forest Education – Top 2”. AP-FECM has been recognized for its outstanding work on the “*Innovative Sustainable Forest Management Education in the Asia-Pacific Region*” program in the category of tertiary education.



Strategic Plan 2016-2020 highlights sound progress and remaining objectives

In 2016, APFNet launched its Strategic Plan (SP) 2016-2020 focuses on addressing its aspirations to contribute the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the common vision on promoting sustainable forest management (SFM) and rehabilitation in the Asia-Pacific region by 2020. The plan identifies the priorities, geographic focus and implementation tools of achieving the goals within five years. A mid-term review on the implementation of APFNet's 2nd SP was conducted in 2018. With authorization from the Board, the review was carried out by the Secretariat through document review, outputs, analysis and internal discussions against the set objectives and indicators.

internal mid-term review are being presented to the Fifth Board and Council meetings of APFNet in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on March 20-22, 2019. For full report on specific implementation progress and achievements summarized against the Strategic Plan 2016-2020, please visit our website.

Strategic Plan 2016-2020



APFNet shares study of Fragmentation of Forest Governance in the Asia-Pacific Region

Governance is key to contribute to sustainable forest management for its role in high-level planning and executing nationally and internationally, however the governance of forest sectors is fragmented in many economies in the Asia-Pacific region. As APFNet develops materials targeted to different groups in society, including high-level political bodies to keep them informed, motivated and supportive of what APFNet stands for and of its projects undertaken, APFNet team shared a recent study of "Fragmentation of Forest Governance in the Asia-Pacific Region – Expert Perceptions from China, Malaysia, Indonesia,

[Find more about UN Forum on Forest](#)

Helping create sustainable landscapes for the well-being of all – APFNet at the APFW 2019 –

The fourth Asia-Pacific Forest Week, themed “Forests for Peace and Well-being” was held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, on 18–21 June. APFNet organized Stream 1 in collaboration with the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) and the Pacific Community (SPC) titled “Restoring our forests and landscapes” – a theme strongly aligned with one of APFNet’s key priorities. Eighteen plenary and partner events were jointly shaped with 21 partner organizations, joined by around 500 participants.





At the plenary session co-organized by APFNet, AfoCO and SPC, panellists agreed that there is an unprecedented opportunity to massively upscale FLR in light of the huge surge of interest accompanying the upcoming UN Decade on Ecological Restoration, increased awareness of the importance of FLR, the knowledge that has accumulated on how to implement FLR on the ground, and emerging funding streams. An event jointly organized by the University of Melbourne and APFNet, “Engaging the private sector in forest restoration”, brought together the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and researchers to explore approaches for overcoming policy and financial challenges and incentivizing private-sector investment. Speakers pointed out that the private sector is an underexploited – and often underappreciated – resource for helping finance and implement FLR.

[Find more information about APFW 2019](#)

MEETINGS



Delegates from Pakistan visited APFNet Secretariat

A delegates of Pakistan led by Mr. Hammad Shamimi, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Climate

introduction on APFNet's establishment, mission and highlighted some on-going works. He noted the importance of this meeting to discuss ways of building bridge for future cooperation between APFNet and Ministry of Climate Change of Pakistan. Mr. Hammad Shamimi appreciated APFNet's achievement in promoting sustainable forest management in Asia-Pacific region and showed strong willingness to learn from successful experiences and get involved in activities through becoming APFNet observer as the very first step.



APFNet Council and Board of Directors have its fifth meeting held in Mongolia

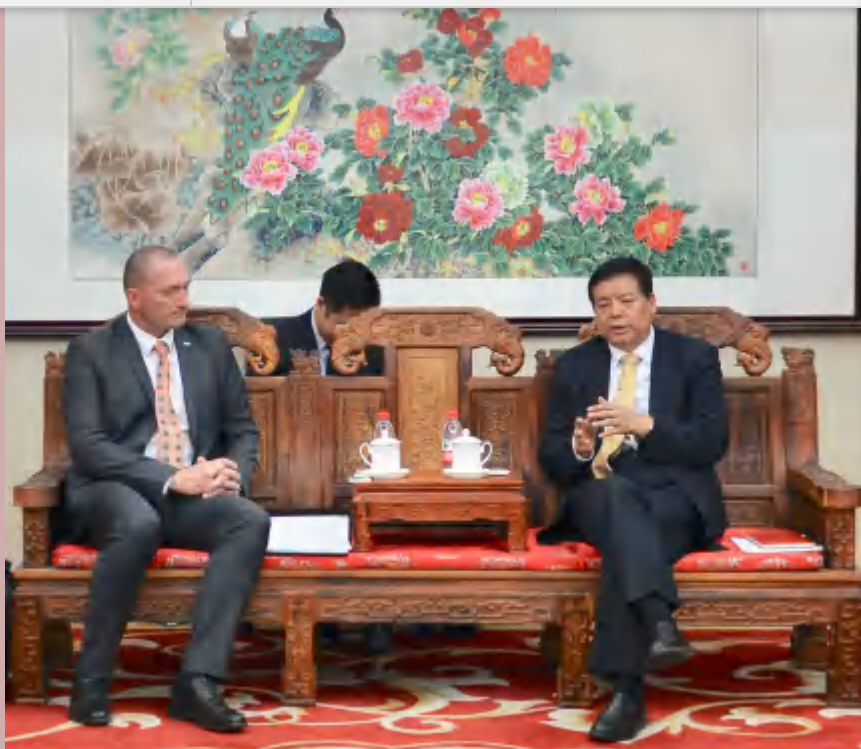
The Fifth Meetings of the APFNet Council and Board of Directors were held from 18-23 March 2019, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia hosted by APFNet, Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia, and National University of Mongolia.

Representatives from 18 APFNet member economies attended the Council meeting. Dr. Lu De, the Executive Director of APFNet secretariat, presented on the APFNet 2018 work report. The Council reviewed 2018 Project Concept Note Appraisal Report, Midterm Implementation Review Report of the APFNet Strategic Plan 2016-2020, and APFNet 2019 Work Plan and discussed the membership application from Ecuador.



The Council meeting decided to recommend representatives to join the Advisory Group of APFNet Ten-year Review, to better guide the review. The Council agreed unanimously to hold 2020 Council and the Board meeting in the Philippines.

On the Meeting of Board of Directors, 11 Directors listened to the 2018 Evaluation Report of APFNet Executive Director, discussed APFNet 2018 work and 2019 work plan, Board composition, and approved APFNet 2019 Work Plan and Budget and APFNet 10-Year Review Plan. The meeting decided that in 2020, two seats of Board Directors will be open to the member economies. Besides, the Board's efficiency and effectiveness would be significantly enhanced if it had representation from women and younger forest practitioners.



Mr. Zhao Shucong Met with Dr. Jozse Podgorsek, the State Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of the Republic of Slovenia

Mr. Zhao Shucong, the Chair of the APFNet Board of Directors, met with Dr. Jozse Podgorsek, the State Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of the Republic of Slovenia on 14 May 2019 at APFNet Secretariat in Beijing.

Mr. Zhao Shucong welcomed Dr. Jozse Podgorsek and gave a brief introduction on the establishment, development achievements and key activities of APFNet. Dr. Jozse Podgorsek expressed his gratitude to APFNet for its supports to the Meeting on Sustainable Management and Use of Forests in Policy and Practice organized in under the framework of Asia-Europe Meeting in 2015 in Slovenia, and showed willingness to have more cooperation with APFNet in the future.

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