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## Launched New Regional Fire Management Mechanism

**KANCHANABURI, Thailand 23 May 2025**

The Southeast Asia Fire Dialogue, a pivotal four-day event co-sponsored by the APFNet, RECOFTC and Tropenbos International, concluded in Kanchanaburi, Thailand. The dialogue, held from May 20-23, brought together a wide array of stakeholders to address the escalating challenges of wildfires in the region and culminated in the landmark launch of the Southeast Asia Fire Management Mechanism (SEA-FiMM).



Signed an agreement to officially launch the Southeast Asia Fire Management Mechanism (SEA-FiMM) (Photo/RECOFTC)



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# Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been recognized at the UNFF20



New York, USA

5-9 May 2025



UNFF20 Session



During the side event

APFNet organized a side event titled “Contributions to Sustainable Forest Management and the Sustainable Development Goals through Demonstration Projects, Regional initiatives and collaborations.” together with the Royal Forest Department of Thailand on 9 May 2025, during the 20th session of the UN Forum on Forests took place from 5 May to 9, 2025, at the UN Headquarters in New York, USA.



Side event participants



**CONTRIBUTIONS TO SFM AND SDGS  
THROUGH DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS**

**REGIONAL INITIATIVES & COLLABORATIONS**

Best practices and experience sharing



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## The Ninth Meeting of the APFNet Council and Board of Directors was held in Nha Trang, Viet Nam



**Nha Trang, Viet Nam**

**23-25 April 2025**



Group photo. Council members

The Ninth Meeting of the APFNet Council and Board of Directors took place in Nha Trang, Vietnam, from 23 to 25 April 2025. The events were held in a hybrid format and hosted by the Vietnam Forestry Administration, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam.

The Council meeting brought together 22 representatives from 13 member economies and partner organizations. At the Council Meeting, Dr. Sokh Heng was re-elected as the Chair of the Council till the year 2028.



Board meeting discussion

At the Board Meeting on 25 April, Dr. Guan Zhiou, Minister of Natural Resources of China and Chair of the APFNet Board of Directors, delivered the opening speech via video. Four Board members' membership approved to be extended to 2028.

The Board of Directors reviewed and reaffirmed the APFNet Rules of Procedures of the Board of Directors; approved the proposed APFNet workplan and budget for 2025; reviewed and discussed the assessment of the APFNet Strategic Plan 2021-2025 and the outline for APFNet Strategic Plan 2026-2030; approved the APFNet Executive Director Selection Committee's decision to complete the selection process before the end of May 2025.

## APFNet and SCO Strengthen Ties for Regional Ecological Cooperation

**Beijing, China**

**8 April 2025**



During the meeting at SCO

In a significant step toward advancing regional sustainability, APFNet Executive Director Mr. Lu De met with SCO Deputy Secretary-General Mr. Janesh Kain at the SCO Secretariat. The discussions focused on deepening collaboration in ecological security, preventing desertification, and promoting green development initiatives across member states.

Both organizations emphasized the urgency of climate action and agreed to explore joint programs in capacity building, knowledge sharing, and demonstration projects. This dialogue marks a pivotal moment in fostering a shared ecological future for the Asia-Pacific region.

## APFNet and Mongolian Embassy Forge New Collaboration Pathways

**Beijing, China**

**3 April 2025**

The Executive Director of the APFNet had a productive bilateral meeting with Mr. G.Bumtsend, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Mongolia on 3 April 2025. The discussions focused on enhancing cooperation in policy dialogue, capacity building, on-the-ground demonstration projects, and youth exchange programs to advance sustainable forest management in the region.



Commemorative gift exchange during the bilateral meeting

Both parties reached a series of collaborative agreements, underscoring shared commitments to strengthening regional forestry policy coordination, developing joint training initiatives for forestry professionals, implementing pilot restoration projects in Mongolia's arid ecosystems, and fostering youth engagement through knowledge-sharing platforms. This dialogue builds on APFNet's longstanding partnership with Mongolia, aligning with Mongolia's national priorities for ecological security.



## Mid-Term Evaluation of Cambodia's "High Value Tree Species Breeding Centre" Project Supports Effective Implementation

Cambodia

March 2025

A mid-term evaluation of the APFNet-funded project "Establishment of High Value Tree Species Breeding Centre" was conducted in March 2025. The evaluation employed a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, including a thorough desk review of project documents and data, field visits to project sites, and interviews and discussions with key stakeholders.

The evaluators found that the project is progressing well after four years of implementation, with approximately 48% of the expected outputs delivered, despite funding delays and disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The project remains on track to achieve its intended outcomes by the end of its implementation period.

Evaluation experts also checked the key Achievements of the project.

Identified several challenges that the project team had faced

To ensure successful project completion and maximize long-term impact, the evaluation experts recommended several points to the project team.

**The evaluation report provides valuable insights to guide the successful completion of the project.**

**REPORT**





## Review of APFNet's Third Strategic Plan Offers Insights for the Next Phase of Strategic Planning

**February 2025**

As the APFNet Strategic Plan 2021–2025 (SP3) approaches its conclusion, the development of the Fourth Strategic Plan (2026–2030) (SP4) is well underway. This new plan will need to align with emerging international forest-related goals and commitments, including China's Carbon Peak target, the Bonn Challenge, the New York Declaration on Forests, and the Paris Agreement, all of which are expected to open up new opportunities for regional cooperation by 2030. In this context, feedback on the implementation of SP3 from key partners is critical to ensure the scientific, relevant, and proactive design of SP4.

To support this, the APFNet Secretariat launched a comprehensive review of SP3 in February 2025, led by a team of independent experts. The review assessed the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability of SP3 implementation, while drawing key lessons and providing strategic recommendations to inform the development of SP4.

The review concluded that SP3 represented a significant milestone in APFNet's institutional growth. Despite external challenges, the organization made tangible progress across all four strategic pillars, transforming into a more responsive and knowledge-driven platform for promoting sustainable forest management across the Asia-Pacific region.

**To build on these achievements and guide the formulation of SP4, the review recommended the following actions:**

- Maintain the four-pillar structure, while promoting greater integration across Capacity Building, Demonstration Projects, Policy Dialogue, and Communication to foster synergy and shared learning.
- Strengthen regional networks and alumni engagement, institutionalize platforms such as AP-FECM and SANFRI, and improve follow-up mechanisms after training.
- Expand digital learning offerings by establishing a centralized knowledge hub featuring micro-certifications and multilingual, interactive content.
- Institutionalize the Pu'er Forum and GFN, broaden participation in regional dialogues, and improve mechanisms for tracking policy-related outcomes.
- Elevate communication as a strategic function, embedding it from the project design phase and aligning efforts with SP4's vision and target audiences.
- Enhance monitoring, evaluation, and post-project follow-up to assess outcomes and their long-term impact better.
- Diversify funding sources and co-financing mechanisms by engaging new partners and encouraging innovative forms of contribution.
- Develop a stakeholder engagement strategy that outlines structured pathways for the involvement of civil society, Indigenous Peoples, the private sector, and youth.





## AP-FECM Monthly Webinar

- |          |                                                                                              |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January  | Conservation of Threatened Plant Species in Vietnam                                          |
| February | Bioinnovation Accelerates Through a Cross-Disciplinary Framework                             |
| March    | Forestry Education in Australia – Engaging the Forest Sector                                 |
| April    | Forest Therapy: Healing Power from Forests — Origin, Theories, Challenges, and Opportunities |
| May      | Forestry Education and Professional Practice in Chile                                        |
| June     | The Application of Virtual Simulation and Large Model in Forestry Education in China         |

Visit  
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information.



**JOIN OUR  
MONTHLY  
WEBINAR**

*Forest Therapy: Healing Power from Forests — Origin, Theories, Challenges, and Opportunities*

**Guangyu Wang, PhD**  
Associate Dean, Faculty of Forestry, UBC  
Director and Professor  
UBC Multidisciplinary Institute of Nature Therapy


📅 22 April 2025.  
07:00-08:00 PM Vancouver  
🕒 23 April 2025,  
10:00-11:00AM Beijing

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**JOIN OUR  
MONTHLY  
WEBINAR**

*Forestry Education and Professional Practice in Chile*

**Pro**



📅 8 May  
07:00-08:00 PM Vancouver  
🕒 9 May  
10:00-11:00AM Beijing

**Register Now**

**JOIN OUR  
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WEBINAR**

*The Application of Virtual Simulation and Large Model in Forestry Education in China*



📅 26 June 2025.  
06:00-07:00 PM Vancouver  
🕒 27 June 2025,  
09:00-10:00AM Beijing

**Scan here to join**



Beijing Forestry University





## INFORMATION SHARING

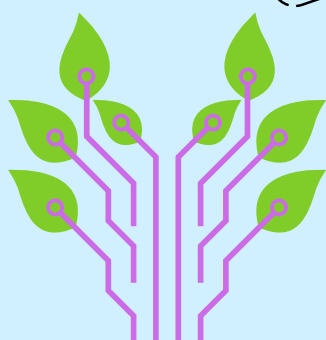
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