



APFNet Annual Report 2015

Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation

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About APFNet

Vision

To expand forest cover and improve forest ecosystem quality in Asia and the Pacific to promote the multiple functions of forests, help mitigate and adapt to climate change, and meet the changing socioeconomic and environmental needs of the region.

Mission

To help promote and improve sustainable forest management and rehabilitation.

Objectives

APFNet aims to:

- a. Contribute to the achievement of the aspirational goal of increasing forest cover in the region by at least 20 million hectares of all types of forests by 2020.
- b. Help enhance forest carbon stocks and improve forest quality and productivity by promoting the rehabilitation of existing but degraded forests and the reforestation and afforestation of suitable cleared lands in the region.
- c. Help reduce forest loss and degradation and their associated emissions of greenhouse gases by strengthening sustainable forest management and enhancing biodiversity conservation.
- d. Help increase the socioeconomic benefits of forests in the region.

APFNet's activities are built on four pillars:

- Policy dialogue
- Capacity building
- Demonstration projects
- Information sharing

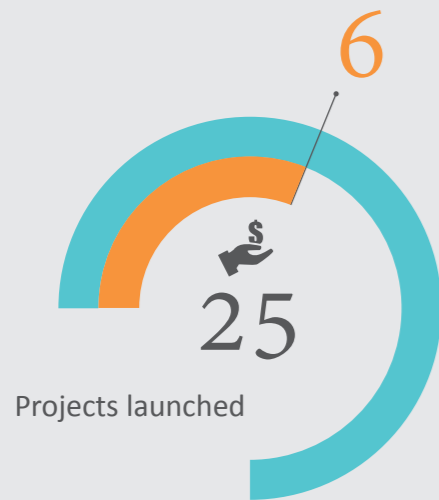
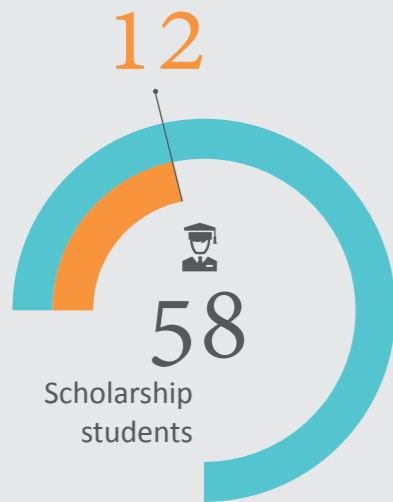
We strive to forge collaborations and partnerships to achieve our objectives. APFNet has 31 members, including 26 member economies and five international organizations in the Asia-Pacific region.

Contents

Facts	01
From the Executive Director	02
Board of Directors	03
Evaluating the region's progress towards the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal	05
Providing a dialogue platform for sustainable forestry policies	09
Valuing the multiple functions of forests.....	11
Empowering women in community forestry enterprise development	17
Innovating regional forestry education.....	19
Activities	21
Publications	27
Financial information	29
Acronyms.....	31

Facts

● Total
● New in 2015



From the Executive Director



APFNet was created eight years ago under the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and in many ways, the organization can still be seen as seedling in terms of institutional development.

The year 2015 saw the first leaves sprout from this seedling as APFNet took a big step in its internationalization, with the first meeting of both the Board of Directors in Beijing and Council in Nay Pyi Taw. With members in these two bodies from most Asia-Pacific economies, experts and international organizations, I am more confident than ever that this diversity of views will bring significant strategic value to the development of APFNet and establishment of good operational standards.

2015 also marks the year that the international community adopted the Post-2015 Development Agenda or Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition to ending poverty and hunger, making cities more sustainable, combating climate change and protecting ecosystems, SDG No.15 calls for the protection, restoration and promotion of sustainable land use and sustainable forest management. Specifically, part of this goal is to “promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally” by 2020.

This is opportune timing considering the ongoing efforts among APEC economies to achieve the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal, which aims to increase forest cover in the region by at least 20 million hectares (ha) by 2020. We conducted an interim assessment with the

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on the progress towards the goal, and based on the 77 percent overall achievement to-date, we can maintain confidence that the goal will be achieved.

In 2015, APFNet continued to facilitate ministerial policy dialogue among APEC economies to strengthen regional cooperation. APFNet also helped Greater Central Asian economies develop a regional forestry training program to combat cross-border forestry issues such as desertification and forest fire management. In community forests in Cambodia, we helped local communities undertake sustainable forest management and rehabilitation to diversify forest production and sustain livelihoods. This project created benchmarks in community forestry practices and became a case study for other community forests in Cambodia.

APFNet is continuing to support multifunctional forest management in Inner Mongolia and the empowerment of women in community forests in Nepal. We are also working with leading universities in the Asia-Pacific region to innovate forestry education methods and increase the availability of forestry learning opportunities in the region.

We are delighted that APFNet was able to make so much progress in 2015, for which we thank our donors, members, executing agencies, partners and experts for their valuable contributions. We will continue to support Asia-Pacific economies in efforts to improve sustainable forest management, rehabilitation and governance, with the view to help make the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals a reality.

Qu Guilin

Board of Directors

On 8 April 2015, APFNet established its Board of Directors as the decision-making body to generally oversee the operation of APFNet and make decisions on major issues.



Zhao Shucong

Chair, APFNet Board of Directors



Grahame Applegate

Forestry and Natural Resource Management Specialist



Chea Sam Ang

Deputy Director General, Forestry Administration, Cambodia



Rex Cruz

Professor and Director of Environmental Forestry Programme, University of the Philippines Los Baños



Pralong Dumrongthai

Deputy Director General, Royal Forest Department, Thailand



Patrick Durst

Senior Forestry Officer for Asia and Pacific, FAO



Jack Hurd

Deputy Managing Director, the Nature Conservancy-Asia-Pacific Region



Ganesh Raj Joshi

Adjunct Professor, Agriculture and Forestry University, Nepal



Li Qiang

Market/Systems Analyst, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)



Stephen Midgley

Managing Director, Salwood Asia Pacific Pty Ltd



Sadanandan Nambiar Ao

Hon Fellow-CSIRO Forest Science, Canberra, Australia



Wan Hasmah Wan Mohd

Consultant, SRMJ Agrobases Sdn.Bhd. Malaysia



Zhang Yansong

(Ex-officio member, Host Economy Representative) Deputy Director General, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance, P.R. China



Qu Guilin

(Ex-officio member, Secretary of the Board) Executive Director, APFNet

Evaluating the region's progress towards the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal

The Sydney Declaration on Climate Change, Energy Security and Clean Development was adopted at the 15th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in 2007. The declaration set an aspirational goal to increase forest cover in the APEC region by at least 20 million ha by 2020. The year 2015 marks the mid-point of the goal timeline; thus, APFNet conducted an assessment of the region's progress towards the goal, in collaboration with FAO.

The assessment indicated overall improvement in the quality of forest management practices among most APEC economies. One major trend is the decline of forest ownership and management responsibilities from governments towards the private sector, communities and households.

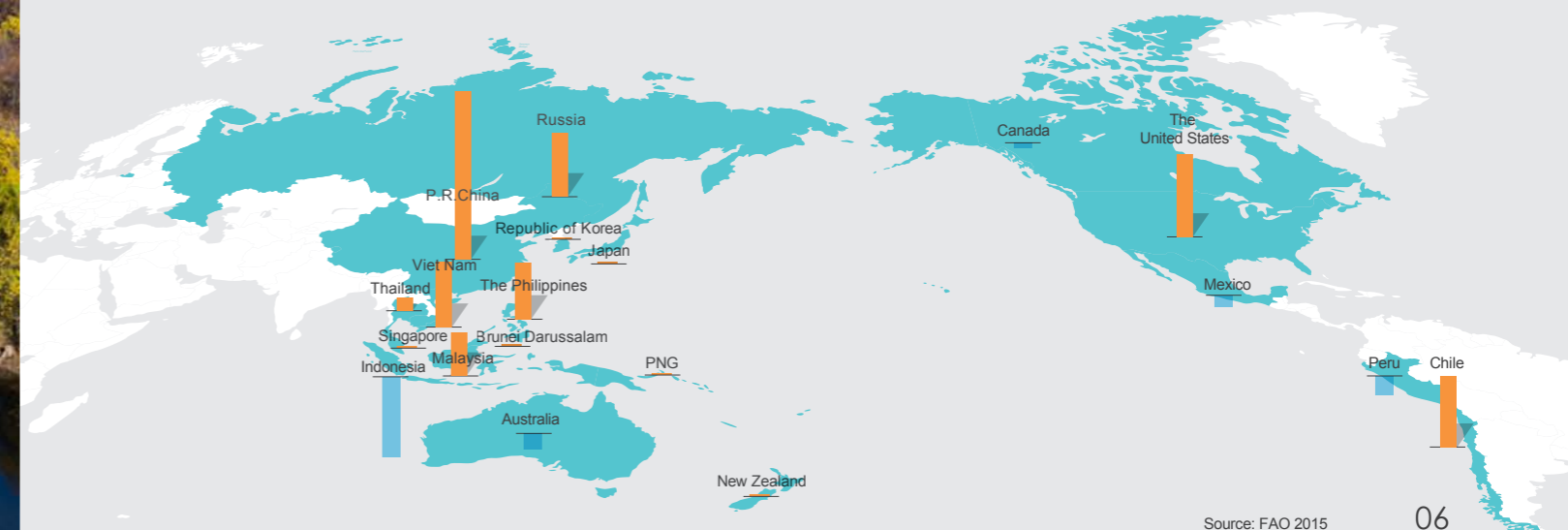
According to the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2015, forest areas in the APEC region have increased by 15.4 million ha in the period 2007 to 2015, to a total of 2.19 billion ha. The most optimistic estimate to-date indicates that APEC economies have achieved 77 percent of the goal's 20 million ha. In the period from the declaration of the goal in 2007 to the progress assessment in 2015, forest areas have increased in 11 of 21 APEC economies, with the largest increases achieved in P.R. China (12.3 million ha), the United States (3.8 million ha) and Russia (3.6 million ha).

The most optimistic estimate to-date indicates that APEC economies have achieved 77 percent of the goal's 20 million hectares.

APEC Economies

15.4 million ha

Forest area increase
Forest area decline



Source: FAO 2015

However, forest areas have also declined in nine economies, with the greatest losses in Indonesia (5.5 million ha), Peru (1.3 million ha) and Australia (1.1 million ha). In the period 2007 to 2020, primary forests in the APEC region are expected to decline by 1.4 million ha, and other naturally regenerated forests are also expected to decrease by 4 million ha.

Nonetheless, most economies have increased their per ha forest growing stock and total growth stocks in the period 2007 to 2015. Planted forests are also expected to increase in the APEC region by 31.3 million ha between 2007 and 2020.



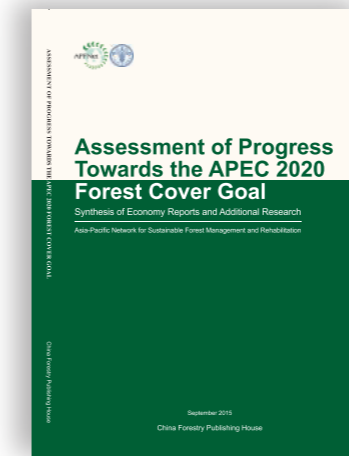
How did APEC economies achieve forest expansion from 2007 to 2015?

APEC economies implemented diverse measures to promote forest expansion, including:

- Development of new legislation, policies and action plans;
- Implementation of government and voluntary planting programs;
- Enhanced conservation and protection programs;
- Measures to promote forest regeneration, reduce deforestation and regulate forest harvesting;
- Development of forest-related climate change programs;
- Provision of direct incentives for forestation and improved forest management;
- Strengthening of forest tenure provisions;
- Improvement in forest law enforcement and governance arrangements; and
- Participation in global and regional processes that support sustainable forest management.

Moving forward, the assessment noted certain risks and barriers to achieving the goal, including the potential for catastrophic loss of forest as a result of extreme climatic and weather events, wildfires, pests and diseases. Major policy shortfalls or changes may also compromise the achievement of the goal. However, given the progress achieved to date, APEC economies should maintain a reasonable degree of confidence that the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal will be achieved.

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◀ For more information on the *Assessment of Progress Towards the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal*, visit www.apfnet.cn for the full report or scan the QR code.

“We recognize the important role of forests in supporting our communities, conserving biodiversity, and mitigating and adapting to climate change. We reaffirm our commitment to the aspirational goal in the Sydney Declaration of increasing forest cover in the region by at least 20 million hectares of all types of forests by 2020”

— the 23rd APEC Economic Leaders’ Declaration statement in Manila, 19 November 2015



Providing a dialogue platform for sustainable forestry policies

Third APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry

From 27 to 29 October 2015, ministers and senior officials from 18 APEC economies and various international organizations gathered at the Third APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry (MMRF) in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (PNG). This high level meeting focused on *Building inclusive economies, building a better world by building sustainable and resilient communities through sustainable forest management*.

Hosted by the PNG APEC Authority and PNG Forest Authority, the third MMRF follows the second MMRF in Peru in 2013 (which adopted the *Cusco Declaration*) and the first MMRF in China in 2011 (which adopted the *Beijing Declaration*).

The third MMRF adopted the Eda Statement, which means “Our Statement” in the local language in PNG. The statement aspires to strengthen cooperation among APEC economies to tackle key forestry issues including policy development, illegal logging and trade, and cross-sectoral coordination.

“The Eda Statement recognizes the role of forests in the livelihoods of forest-dependent people and climate change

mitigation and adaptation,” said PNG Prime Minister Honorable Peter O’Neil, who called for enhanced forestry collaboration among APEC economies as a means to address cross-cutting issues.

Key agreements made during the meeting include: strengthening information sharing and policy exchange, combating illegal logging and promoting legal trade through the APEC Expert Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade, boosting forestry research and education, and providing further support to the private sector in sustainable forest management efforts.

“As the only high level dialogue mechanism on forest issues in the region, the MMRF meetings have added significant value to APEC economies, and continue to play an important role in advancing sustainable forest management in the Asia-Pacific region.” APFNet Executive Director Mr Qu Guilin said. “As an initiative derived from APEC and as the co-sponsor of the MMRF mechanism, APFNet stands ready to transfer APEC commitments into concrete actions.”

Second Regional Workshop on Strategic Forestry Cooperation in Greater Central Asia

To deepen forestry cooperation in a practical and tangible way and meet forest management needs in the Greater Central Asian region, government officials met at the Second Regional Workshop on Strategic Forestry Cooperation in Greater Central Asia from 15 to 17 July 2015 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

During the three-day workshop, 50 forestry officials and experts from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, China, and international and regional non-governmental organizations exchanged information on regional trends and challenges in forest management. Participants also shared their experiences on forest fire prevention, combating desertification, sand industry development and rural livelihood improvement.

The meeting laid out a concrete regional action plan for strategic forestry cooperation, which consists of a regional demonstration project and forestry training program on sustainable forest management, forest fire prevention and desertification. The creation of platforms similar to the APEC MMRF was also identified as a promising approach to advance cooperation. Kyrgyzstan committed to organize the First Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry in Greater Central Asia in 2016, and host the third regional workshop in 2017.

The workshop was co-organized by the Ministry of Environment and Green Development and Tourism of Mongolia, the Mongolian Nature and Environment Consortium and APFNet. This meeting mechanism is one of APFNet’s keystone programs for promoting concrete forestry cooperation among economies in Greater Central Asia.



In Kazakhstan, forestry cooperation is key to green economy development

In Greater Central Asia, desertification is a major forestry challenge, and Kazakhstan is no exception. Desertification is mainly caused by the exploitation of water resources for crop production, extraction of desert resources and unsustainable land use. In response, the Kazakh Government launched Green Bridge, a multilateral, cross-sectoral partnership program that provides stable green investments to promote forestry businesses and technologies. Regional cooperation to build capacity, foster investment and build trust on cross-border issues are essential components of this development process.

Valuing the multiple functions of forests

Multifunctional forest management in Inner Mongolia

Despite massive reforestation efforts in China, many man-made forests continue to face sustainability challenges and declining production. In the remote province of Inner Mongolia, China, maximizing forest benefits and returns is particularly important given that many rural people are not able to migrate to cities to earn a living. This project is working with rural communities to undertake multifunctional forest management and production to secure livelihoods.

China now ranks among the top economies in terms of total forest cover area, given its large-scale reforestation and afforestation programs over the past three decades. Despite these efforts however, many man-made forests continue to face sustainability challenges such as low biomass quality and declining production volume.

Such is the case in the Wangyedian Experimental Forestry Center in Inner Mongolia. While the forest farm has played an important role in providing timber and non-timber forest products to support China's economic development, government authorities have recognized the need to introduce new management practices that value community participation and utilize multiple forest

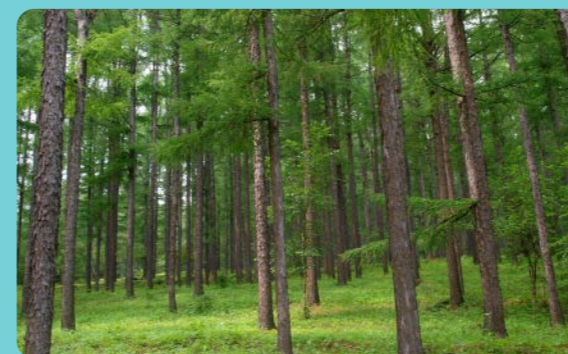
functions, to ensure the sustainable production and health of the forest.

From 2011 to 2015, APFNet implemented the project: *Pilot Project of Multifunctional Forests*, where 467 ha of forests were selected to practice close-to-nature forestry transformation. The project also established 200 ha of demonstration sites for Chinese pine (*Pinus tabulaeformis*), 367 ha of Larch plantations (*Larix principis-rupprechtii*) and 100 ha of secondary forests. Seventy-two permanent plots were developed using various age groups, slope positions and treatments for long-term monitoring.

Intermediate cuttings of *Larix principis-rupprechtii*.



In the beginning of the project, intense resource competition and low biomass growth were major issues in Wangyedian plantations, due to the close proximity of stands.



After two years of implementing sustainable management methods such as selective cutting and enrichment planting, the quality of stand biomass quality and foliage has significantly improved.

“This management approach is designed to resist significant forest degradation by pests, diseases and climate change.” Forest Management Expert Dr Lei Xiangdong said. “It is also appropriate for serving multiple purposes including soil stability, catchment protection, and creating aesthetically attractive forests for recreation and ecotourism.”

In October 2015, APFNet launched a second phase of the project to continue supporting multifunctional forest management activities. The second phase will advance existing pilot activities to further demonstrate how to integrate community engagement with multifunctional forestry, and establish the APFNet Multifunctional Forest Experiment and Training Center to serve as an outreach and educational platform to share good practices and lessons learned with the Asia-Pacific region.

The project also formed the Wangyedian Forest Work Team, where up to 100 workers have been trained to work in silvicultural management. Income diversification activities have also created alternative income sources for local farmers, including seedling production, wild mushroom collection and animal farming. “Creating employment opportunities for local people who are not able to migrate out of Inner Mongolia is extremely important, given that earnings sent from urban migrants are a major source of income for China's rural poor,” said Senior Forestry Expert and Independent Project Evaluator Mr Rodney Stevens.

Pilot Project of Multifunctional Forests

Objectives

- To demonstrate community co-management in multifunctional forestry;
- Form protection and collection measures for non-timber forest products;
- Promote sustainable forest management and build capacity in the forest farm; and
- Provide annual trainings to 200 technical personnel and 400 forest farmers.

Outputs

- New management systems: the *Forest Inventory Management System, Office Administration System and Financial Management System*;
- Integration of close-to-nature management in 467 ha of forests;
- Cultivation plan for non-timber forest product (e.g. edible fungi); and
- Construction initiated for the Multifunctional Forestry Training Center.

Completed in 2015

Restoring degraded forests and livelihoods through community forestry in Cambodia

The Cambodian Government's decision to place natural forest management under local communities was a huge step in strengthening bottom-up stakeholder engagement. However, insufficient knowledge, resources and training among rural people meant that many were left without the support needed to self manage. In this project, APFNet trained and worked with two community forests to establish forest rehabilitation, and produce timber and non-timber forest products for local livelihood. The project has become a model case study in Cambodia.

In 2012, the Forestry Administration of Cambodia officially approved a nationwide community forestry management plan, where approximately 400 000 ha of natural forests were placed under the management of local communities dependent on forests for their livelihood.

This plan was a major step in increasing the rights of communities to play a role in forest management. However, long-term forest degradation in Cambodia posed a significant barrier for communities to manage and expand their source of livelihood. This was exacerbated by the fragmentation and isolation of communities from climax forests, resulting in inefficient seed dispersal.

An additional challenge is the lack of rehabilitation in community forests, which could have restored the capacity

of degraded forest land to deliver forest products and services. However, rehabilitation often requires a natural regeneration process which is slow and requires the integration of select naturally occurring species.

Thus when the community forestry management plan was released, the majority of forests that were transferred to local people were severely degraded to begin with.

To address these issues, APFNet carried out a three-year project on multifunctional forest restoration and degraded forest management in the community forests of O Soam in Siem Reap and Tbneng Lech in the Kampong Thom province. The project focused on fostering the growth of timber and non-timber forest products as a means to strengthen local livelihoods.



Communities were the largest beneficiaries. By 2014, 479 community forestry groups were established in 21 provinces covering a total area of 409 239 ha. Among these, 309 groups were operating under written Community Forestry Agreements with the Forestry Administration and 364 groups received initial approvals while pending official community forest recognition. The Tbneng Lech Community Forest belonged to the latter. It was not until this project which helped the community develop its management plan, that it received legally-recognized tenure rights in the form of a 30-year Community Forestry Agreement with government authorities.



Sokh Heng
Project Director

“From a socio-economic point of view, this project has motivated communities to see themselves as key players in their forests, and take ownership of restoring and adapting forests and forest resources according to their needs. This project has created income generation opportunities, and it is also expected that some of the forest restoration practices, such as patrolling of the community forest and forest fire prevention, will be implemented by the community itself even if there is no follow-up from the donor to renew financial support.”

“What we have learned from the project is that ensuring the participation of local communities and local forestry administration is key to the success of forest restoration and community forest management. We observed that local communities are strongly willing to learn all aspects of forest restoration because they have a common goal, to reverse their forests back to healthier conditions before they were degraded.”

So Thea, Project Coordinator



The project piloted, monitored and improved a variety of approaches and models, such as assisted natural regeneration, enrichment planting and social-fencing. Community members were taught how to produce seedlings, rehabilitate forests using thinning and enrichment planting, and monitor forest growth. By the end of the project in April 2015, a total of 50 ha of degraded forests were restored using high-value timber, rattan, bamboo and fruit species.

The two community forests became a model for community forest restoration. Tbeng Lech hosted

a number of study visits with participants from other community forests in Cambodia, researchers from Japan and other university students. In 2014, a case study on community forestry was published based on the experiences of O Soam in the Cambodia Development Review, a leading publication of a local policy research institute.

A project evaluation survey found that communities experienced an increase in income from collecting non-timber forest products grown as a result of the project. Today, community forestry is recognized in Cambodia for its ability to offer a sustainable and viable approach to protect, manage and utilize forest natural resources.

Multifunctional Forest Restoration and Management of Degraded Forest Areas in Cambodia

Completed in 2015

Objectives

- To restore community forests in Siem Reap and Kampong Thom;
- Improve the livelihood of local communities by increasing the production of timber and non-timber forest products; and
- Disseminate experiences and policy recommendations from the project.

Outputs

- Two community nurseries built in the Tbeng Lech and O Soam community forests;
- Over 20 000 seedlings produced (to sustain sales and boost self-reliance);
- Fifty-two ha of restored forestland using high-value timber species (e.g. *Dipterocarpus alatus* and *Dalbergia cochinenisis*) and priority species (e.g. rattan, bamboo and fruit trees);
- Increased capacity in restoration techniques and awareness;
- Pilot study on assisted natural regeneration; and
- Policy study and technical report on forest restoration in Cambodia.



Empowering women in community forestry enterprise development

While Nepal is one of the oldest and most successful cases of effective community forestry, certain vulnerable groups, such as women, remain in need of support to play active roles and receive their fair share of benefits from community forests. In this project, APFNet is working to empower women in community forests to develop mini-enterprises, practice alternative energy usage and demonstrate good models to engage other marginalized households in community forestry.

Community forestry in Nepal can be traced back to the late 1970s, and has become one of the most successful models of participatory resource management and degraded forest restoration. However, abject poverty among marginalized households that are directly dependent on forests remains a major challenge. In community forestry practices in particular, the role of women is often limited to subsistence-based responsibilities while men are much more involved in commercial forestry activities. As such, women have less access to forest resources and benefits as well as limited involvement in the decision-making processes of their forest communities.

In 2013, APFNet launched the project: *Supporting Community Based Sustainable Forest Management and Economic*

Empowerment of Women in the Central Region of Nepal, which aims to generate livelihood opportunities for women through women-led forestry enterprises, to ultimately improve the mobilization of forest-dependent women in sustainable forest management. The Ashmita Nepal, Community Resource Management Centre and Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resources Management Association are key partners in this project.

In the first year of the project, six months of training were given to 50 community forest members (42 women and eight men) on wood handicrafts. The trainings laid a solid foundation to establish small-scale woodcraft enterprises.

Supporting Community Based Sustainable Forest Management and Economic Empowerment of Women in Central Region of Nepal

In progress. Launched in 2014

Objectives

- To build livelihood through sustainable forest management;
- Empower women and marginalized households through forestry entrepreneurship;
- Build decision-making capacity in community forest financial management, benefit-sharing and forest planning; and
- Promote alternative energies to reduce carbon emissions and pressures on forest resources.

Expected outputs

- Biogas devices, solar panels and efficiency-improved cook stoves installed in households;
- Mini-enterprise business models (on ecotourism, handicrafts and other forest products); and
- Publications, media releases and other knowledge sharing products.



The project team also initiated a value chain assessment to analyze the business opportunities and constraints of producing woodcrafts, as well as target markets and marketing strategies. The analysis will support the development of business plans and streamline existing business. Furthermore, the project will help establish a cooperative and sales center in Makwanpur district in 2016, to provide a platform for distributing products to market. Exhibitions and fairs will also be organized to promote the products.

This project will also build two other community forest-based mini-enterprises in the Kathmandu and Sarlahi districts and a community managed green park for ecotourism.



Trainings on wood handicraft for local communities.

Innovative Sustainable Forest Management Education in the Asia-Pacific Region

Activities completed

Objectives

- To provide a framework for developing a core curriculum on sustainable forest management for regional adaptation;
- Facilitate the exchange of ideas and experiences on educating a new generation of regional foresters;
- Facilitate collaborations on forestry education between developed and less developed economies; and
- Promote reforms in forestry education in the region.

Outputs

- Six online courses on sustainable forest management, titled:
 - *Sustainable forestry management in a changing world;*
 - *Governance, public relationship and community development;*
 - *International dialogue on forestry issues;*
 - *Restoration of degraded forest ecosystems and forest plantation development;*
 - *Sustainable use of forest goods and services; and*
 - *Forest resource management and protection.*
- An online learning platform to host the six courses; and
- An expert panel to discuss innovative forestry education at the XIV World Forestry Congress.

Innovating regional forestry education

International education collaboration can fill the gap for universities that lack technical and equipment resources. However, most existing collaborative programs are limited to English speaking economies, are general in nature, and face language, cultural and resource limitation barriers. Web-based courses are a cost-effective alternative that offers wide access and requires relatively low funding in the long term. In this project, five universities in the Asia-Pacific region worked together to create an in-depth online forestry education program.

To improve the capacity of sustainable forest management in the Asia-Pacific region and to facilitate knowledge exchange to educate new generations of foresters, in 2013 APFNet initiated the project: *Innovative Sustainable Forest Management Education in the Asia-Pacific Region*. The project was delivered in collaboration with Beijing Forestry University, the University of British Columbia, University of Melbourne, University Putra Malaysia, and University of the Philippines Los Banõs.

The objective of the project was to foster innovation in forestry education methods through web-based learning and experience sharing.



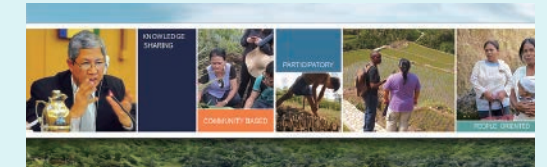
Link to the online courses:
<http://apfecm.forestry.ubc.ca/sfm-online-courses/>

To-date, it has developed six core forestry online courses which can be readily adapted by any education institution in APFNet member economies.

Offered for free, the courses provide in-depth knowledge on forestry issues. “We want to make education more widely available to people who want to make a difference in forestry,” said Dr Christopher Weston, lead coordinator of the course on *Restoration of Degraded Forest Ecosystems and Forest Plantation* at the University of Melbourne.

“This project offers advanced forestry education that has not yet been developed on other online course platforms,” said Dr John Innes, dean of the Faculty of Forestry in the University of British Columbia. Dr Innes led the course on *Sustainable Forestry Management in a Changing World*. At this stage, all completed courses are undergoing internal evaluations, and modifications on technical content will be made before final release. Copies of the course package will be hosted by the University of British Columbia (<http://apfecm.forestry.ubc.ca/sfm-online-courses/>).

This project is an important program under the Asia-Pacific Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism (AP-FECM), a network of forestry institutions and educators with the shared vision to improve and expand forestry education outreach in the Asia-Pacific region. The mechanism was established in 2011.



Activities

17

March

Phnom Penh
Cambodia

Launch of the project: *Landscape Approach to Sustainable Forest Management in the Prek Thnot Watersheds*

In collaboration with the Forest and Wildlife Research Institute of the Cambodian Forestry Administration, this three-year project aims to build capacity and awareness on integrated watershed planning for central and local stakeholders. It will conduct scientific assessments, analysis and participatory land use planning at the landscape level, and improve community livelihood by promoting agroforestry and establishing community-based enterprises.

23

March

Miri, Sarawak
Malaysia

Launch of the project: *Community-Based Sustainable Forest Management of Sungai Medihit Watershed, Sarawak*

In collaboration with ITTO and the Forest Department of Sarawak, this project aims to promote sustainable forest management in the area, enhance community capacity, demonstrate innovative operational models and establish and operate new governance mechanisms for local sustainable development.

8-9

April

Beijing
China

Establishment of the APFNet Board of Directors and first meeting

This meeting marks the milestone for APFNet's internationalization. During the meeting, the APFNet Board established its rules and operational procedures, and made suggestions on various operational guidance documents such as the draft administrative and financial regulations, work plans for 2015 and draft strategy paper for 2016 to 2020.

Former Minister of the State Forestry Administration Mr Zhao Shucong was elected as the Chair of the Board.

8

April

Beijing
China

Signing for a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between APFNet and FAO

The new APFNet-FAO agreement provides a framework for cooperation with the overall goal of developing sustainable forest management capacity in the region. It will be facilitated through technical cooperation, trainings, information exchange and policy development and implementation, with a focus on promoting sustainable forest management and poverty reduction.

9

April

Beijing
China

Launch of the project: *Rehabilitation and Management of Degraded Forests in Beijing's Miyun Reservoir Watershed*

While Beijing has significantly upscaled its integration of international good practices and technology in urban water management, these developments have not been able to match the rapid growth in urban population and resulting pressure on water supply. This project aims to address the long-standing water supply challenges in the capital by tackling forest degradation and enhancing the strategic use of forest resources in source-water protection areas in the Miyun Reservoir Watershed.

APFNet Fund donation ceremony

The event officially kick-started the APFNet Fund program, a new financing mechanism to support various programs and policy development activities in APFNet, and identify opportunities for integrating corporate social responsibility in sustainable forest management efforts in the region. Donors included CITIC Securities Company Limited, the People's Insurance Company (Group) of China Limited and CHIMELONG Company Limited.

27-29

April

Nay Pyi Taw
Myanmar

Establishment of the APFNet Council and first meeting

The establishment of the APFNet Council was a major step in APFNet's path to internationalization. It was an integral part of the organization's long-term plan, as envisaged in the APFNet Strategic Plan 2011-2015 and Operational Framework.

Thailand and Papua New Guinea were elected as the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council, respectively.



15

June

Nadi
Fiji

Launch of the project: *Capacity Building towards Effective Implementation of Sustainable Forest Management Practices in Fiji, Tonga and Niue*

In collaboration with the Pacific Community, this three-year project seeks to enhance the capacity of forest officers, owners and users to sustainably manage forest lands in Fiji, Tonga and Niue. The project will implement effective strategies and mechanisms for sustainable forest management, and develop national forest management plans and codes for harvesting practices.

7-11

September

Durban
South Africa

APFNet at the XIV World Forestry Congress



During the World Forestry Congress, APFNet held three side events:

- Innovating forestry education and training: effective learning in the new era
- Integrative approaches to improve sustainable forest management under climate change
- Forest change and transition in the Asia-Pacific region – exploring the past, present and future

7

July

Beijing
China

Graduation of APFNet scholarship students from Beijing Forestry University (Master's in Forest Economics and Management)



2-13

July

Kunming
China

Workshop on *Enhancing Forest Governance for Asia and the Pacific in the Context of Timber Legality Verification*

Organized by the APFNet-Kunming Training Center, this workshop provided a platform for participants to share expertise in timber legality and experience in combating illegal logging and trade, and explore future opportunities for cooperation.

9

September

Durban
South Africa

Steering Committee Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Forestry College Deans Meeting Mechanism (FCDMM)

During this meeting, the FCDMM Steering Committee gathered to discuss the future development of the mechanism, and elected the University of British Columbia, Beijing Forestry University and University Putra Malaysia to be the respective Chair and Co-Chairs, each with a four-year term. To better reflect the extensiveness of activities covered under the mechanism, it was also decided during this meeting that the mechanism be officially renamed as the Asia-Pacific Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism (AP-FECM).

15-17

July

Ulaanbaatar
Mongolia

Second Regional Workshop on *Strategic Forestry Cooperation in Greater Central Asia*



26

July

Beijing
China

Renewal of the APFNet-RECOFTC MoU

27

August

Stockholm
Sweden

MoU signed between APFNet and Svensk Skogs Certifiering AB (SSC Forestry)

13/17

September

Nanjing / Beijing
China

Enrolment of APFNet Scholarship students

Twelve graduate students enrolled in Nanjing Forestry University and Beijing Forestry University to pursue Master's degrees in Forestry, Forestry Engineering, Environmental Engineering and Forest Economics and Management.

20-29
September

Inner Mongolia
China

Training workshop on Combating Desertification and Sustainable Management of Dryland Ecosystems towards Livelihoods Improvement

As the first concrete step after recent agreements among Greater Central Asian economies to cooperate on building sustainable forestry capacity, this training focused on providing a comprehensive overview of the technical challenges and approaches to desertification and livelihood improvement in the region.



12-14

October
Beijing
China

APFNet Communications Training for Secretariat Staff

In partnership with RECOFTC, this communications training was held for APFNet secretariat staff to improve daily communications with project executing agencies as well as strengthen the quality of project communication, visibility and dissemination. The training focused on building knowledge and skills on developing effective communication strategies, applying communication tools and collecting feedback to finalize the APFNet Communication Guide.



17

October
Chifeng
China

Launch of the Construction of Multifunctional Forest Management Demonstration Sites project, second phase

27-29

October
Port Moresby
Papua
New Guinea

Third Meeting of the APEC Ministers Responsible for Forestry

25-31

October
Beijing / Lin'an,
China

Seminar on Forestry Human Resource Development in the Asia-Pacific Region

This seminar explored possible methods to enhance regional cooperation and identified priorities in boosting human resource capacity in sustainable forest management. It followed the Workshop on Forestry Human Resource Development in the Asia-Pacific Region in Bogor, Indonesia in 2014.

1-13

November

Chiang Mai
Thailand

Workshop on Biodiversity Conservation Challenges in the Asia-Pacific: the Trans-Boundary and Livelihood Dimensions

Hosted by the Royal Forest Department of Thailand and organized by the APFNet-Kunming Training Center, this workshop reviewed ongoing global and national efforts to conserve biodiversity and policy, legal and institutional frameworks to strengthen synergies between biodiversity conservation and rural livelihood improvement. It also assessed existing management mechanisms in trans-boundary conservation, challenges in combating illegal trade in animals and plants, and how management mechanisms can be further improved via cross-border cooperation.

9-13

November

Bangkok
Thailand

APFNet Communications Training for Project Executing Agencies

In partnership with RECOFTC, this communications training was held for external project executing agencies to strengthen the quality of communication, visibility and dissemination activities in APFNet-funded projects. The training focused on building knowledge and skills on developing communication strategies, applying communication tools and collecting feedback to finalize the APFNet Communication Guide.

27

November

Beijing
China

Workshop on Engaging Women in Sustainable Forest Management: Policies and Practices

As the first international event held in China focusing on women in forest management, the workshop brought together forestry officials, forestry experts and gender experts from the Asia-Pacific region to: discuss how current national forest policies and laws involve women, identify key opportunities and challenges in mainstreaming gender issues into forest policies, and exchange best practices to involve women in sustainable forest management projects and activities.

APFNet and the International Department of the All-China Women's Federation signed an MoU during the workshop, to boost cooperation on advancing women's empowerment and participation in the forest sector.



Publications

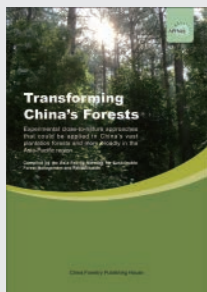
The Fate of Asia-Pacific Forests



Forest ecosystems have the ability to mitigate or accelerate climate change, depending on whether they are managed to function as a carbon sink or a carbon source. Effective forest management can help mitigate the impacts of climate change, by adapting forest ecosystems to work for us rather than against us.

This publication provides an overview of climate change impacts on five critical tree species, namely Chinese fir, Chinese pine, Masson pine, Douglas fir and Blue Gum. It explains how the species will react as global temperatures continue to rise and how they should be managed to adapt and eventually mitigate climate change.

Transforming China's Forests



The Experimental Center of Tropical Forestry embarked on an experimental program to test close-to-nature forestry, with the aim of developing sustainable approaches to the management of China's subtropical forest plantations. The results of this program are now starting to materialize. This report examines eight case studies of close-to-nature approaches, which can potentially transform declining monocultural plantations into resilient, multi-storied and semi-natural forests. Such forests would produce commodity timber in the short term and large-diameter, ultra-high-value native timber in the longer term, thereby providing employment for local people and form the basis of value-added industries.

APFNet Annual Report 2014



2014 saw APFNet make progress and transition as the international community began to negotiate new arrangements on climate and forests. Following the institutional development roadmap set in 2013, we made the necessary preparations to transform our interim governance structure into a permanent one. The Interim Steering Committee and Focal Points served their turn and prepared to merge into the APFNet Council, the advisory body of APFNet. This report summarizes APFNet's progress and achievements in 2014.

Degraded Forest Rehabilitation and Sustainable Forest Management in the Asia-Pacific Region



The APFNet Workshop on *Degraded Forest Rehabilitation and Sustainable Forest Management* was held from 1 to 12 July 2014 in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China. It provided a unique opportunity to share forest rehabilitation experience from several economies in the Asia-Pacific region. This paper summarizes the key findings from papers presented at the workshop, highlighting the nature and scale of the degradation problem, the causes of degradation, the impacts thereof, the ongoing efforts to rehabilitate degraded forest lands and the key lessons learned.

Scan the QR code for full reports



Financial information

APFNet's total revenues in 2015 were **CNY 28 656 206.03**, approximately **US\$4.41 million**

(US\$1= CNY 6.4936, according to the exchange rate issued by the People's Bank of China on 31 December, 2015).

The total expenditures in 2015 were **CNY 28 918 053.61**, approximately **US\$4.45 million**.

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2015 AND 2014

Report currency: US\$

ASSETS	2015	2014
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	2 666 909.97	2 700 392.64
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Fixed assets(net)	44 684.48	28 535.97
TOTAL ASSETS	2 711 594.45	2 728 928.61
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES		
Taxes payable	50 146.64	27 156.85
TOTAL LIABILITIES	50 146.64	27 156.85
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted net assets	2 661 447.81	2 701 771.76
Restricted net assets	-	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS	2 661 447.81	2 701 771.76
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	2 711 594.45	2 728 928.61

FINANCIAL STATEMENT BY ITEM AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2015 AND 2014

Report currency: US\$

ITEMS	2015			2014
	Non-restricted	Restricted	Total	Total
A. REVENUES				
Grant revenues	562 189.47	-	562 189.47	117 574.72
Complementary programs	3 842 631.16	-	3 842 631.16	4 164 255.57
Investment	-	-	-	-
Other revenues	8 171.56	-	8 171.56	7 769.31
TOTAL REVENUE	4 412 992.18	-	4 412 992.18	4 289 599.59
B. EXPENDITURES				
1. Program related expenditures	3 366 904.37	-	3 366 904.37	2 306 419.37
Personnel costs	-	-	-	195 110.58
Program activities	3 357 127.04	-	3 357 127.04	2 106 896.12
Depreciation of fixed assets	9 777.33	-	9 777.33	4 412.67
Taxes	-	-	-	-
2. Management expenses	1 090 985.54	-	1 090 985.54	843 589.47
Personnel costs	300 527.97	-	300 527.97	62 505.61
Daily expenses	790 457.57	-	790 457.57	781 083.86
Depreciation of fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Taxes	-	-	-	-
3. Fund raising costs	-4 573.78	-	-4 573.78	-
4. Other costs	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	4 453 316.13	-	4 453 316.13	3 150 008.84
C. Restricted net assets into non-restricted net assets	-	-	-	-
D. Changes in net assets (if it is to reduce the amount of net assets, with "-" for loss)	-40 323.95	-	-40 323.95	1 139 590.76

Acronyms

APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
AP-FECM	Asia-Pacific Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism
APFNet	Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation
CNY	Chinese yuan
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCDMM	Forestry College Deans Meeting Mechanism in the Asia-Pacific Region
FRA	Global Forest Resources Assessment
ha	hectare(s)
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
MMRF	APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry
MoU	memorandum of understanding
PNG	Papua New Guinea
P.R. China	People's Republic of China
RECOFTC	The Center for People and Forests
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SSC Forestry	Svensk Skogs Certifiering AB
US\$	United States dollar(s)

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P2 , P3, P4, P23	Wang Guoqin/APFNet
P7, P11, P12	Wangyedian Forest Farm
P9	PNG Forest Authority
P10, P23	Kong Zhe/APFNet
P14, P15	Project team of <i>Multi-function forest restoration and management of degraded forest areas in Cambodia</i>
P15, P25	Luo Xi/APFNet
P16	Tian Jianfu
P17, P18	Project team of <i>Supporting community based sustainable forest management and economic empowerment of women in central region of Nepal</i>
P22	Forest Research Institute, Myanmar
P24	Liu Shirong
P25	Forest Department of the Government of Inner Mongolia
P26	All-China Women's Federation

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