



Purpose: Information

Fourth Meeting of the APFNet Council

25 March 2018 Beijing, China

Implementation of APFNet's Work Plan 2017

The APFNet Secretariat prepared this document to outline the implementation of its Work Plan (AWP) 2017 which was reviewed by Council (Decision C. 03/02) and approved, in principle, by the Board of Directors (Decision B.03/04). Activities were fine-tuned to take into account comments from the Council and Board to “strengthen linkage among APFNet’s 4 pillars” and “continue its [Council’s] efforts to reach out to partners” (Decision C. 03/03).

The reader should note that some activities contained in the partnership and outreach section were not listed in the proposed AWP 2017. In addition, work and results of project development, implementation and management (IV. Projects in the attached table) are detailed in separate documents, namely:

- Appraisal of APFNet Concept Notes and Formulation of Project Proposals 2017
[APFNet/Council/ENG/2018/05]
- APFNet Project Implementation of 2017[APFNet/Council/ENG/2018/06]

Most activities are completed and expected results were achieved. However, some delays were incurred in renovating the website and developing social media tools. Also worthy of mention are changes to the Early Career Academics Program (ECAP) which was reshaped and renamed Sino-ASEAN Network of Forestry Research Institutes (SANFRI), to be launched in 2018.

Implementation of APFNet's Work Plan 2017

No.	Activity	Status	Results/outcomes
1. Institutional development			
1.1	Consultation and decision making	Completed	The third meetings of Council and Board of Directors took place 23-26 March in Sri Lanka: (1) APFNet activities in 2016 were reported, monitored and assessed; (2) Decisions, recommendations and suggestions were made to direct APFNet's work in 2017; (3) Communication with members and partners was enhanced; (4) Routine organizational work such as renewal of Board members was done, in line with Rules of Procedures.
1.2	Selection and appointment of next Executive Director (ED)	Completed	The Board established a panel to review nominations and, in April, selected Dr. Lu De as the next ED. He took office on 19 September.
1.3	Regional expansion of APFNet office(s)	Completed	Findings of a feasibility study on expansion of APFNet offices were reported to the Board which decided not to establish any more at this time. Instead, it hoped APFNet would enhance its presence through partners outside Asia. As part of this process, a MoU was signed with the University of British Columbia (UBC) in September.
II. Partnership and outreach events			
2.1	Collaboration with FAO RAP on a regional workshop on natural regeneration	Completed	The workshop was held 19-21 June in Guangxi, China, with the following outcomes: (1) Awareness raised among policymakers and practitioners on the potential of natural regeneration to help to achieve forest restoration goals; (2) Experiences shared in using natural regeneration as a tool for forest restoration; (3) Key issues related to restoring forestlands through natural regeneration discussed; (4) Barriers, gaps and opportunities for mainstreaming the application of natural regeneration identified; (5) Recommendations made on the way forward to promote the use of natural regeneration in regional and national restoration initiatives.

No.	Activity	Status	Results/outcomes
2.2	Study tours for embassy staff in Beijing	Completed	Diplomats and forestry officials from 5 embassies visited APFNet project sites and training base in Inner Mongolia, China, in September.
2.3	Partnership with ITTO (not listed in the proposed AWP 2017)	Completed	The current MoU was renewed in September for another 5 years and APFNet attended the 53rd Session of the ITTC.
2.4	Partnership with IUFRO (not listed in the proposed AWP 2017)	Completed	APFNet joined a review panel in support of IUFRO development and attended IUFRO's 125th Anniversary Congress in September to explore opportunities for collaboration.
2.5	Partnership with RECOFTC (not listed in the proposed AWP 2017)	Completed	<p>The following activities were undertaken as part of the MoU:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. APFNet took part in the development of and financially supported RECOFTC's workshop entitled <i>Realizing Forest Landscape Restoration Goals in ASEAN Member States</i> (4-7 December in Kunming, China) where participants <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Identified environments conducive to successful FLR, with emphasis on multi-stakeholder engagement, sound policy and legislative frameworks, secure rights and tenure arrangements, and approaches to engage the private sector; (2) Witnessed FLR techniques used in China; and (3) Developed steps to create enabling environments for FLR in their respective economies. 2. RECOFTC and APFNet held a joint networking event during the 24th APFC Session in October, Sri Lanka to celebrate APFNet's upcoming 10 year and RECOFTC's 30 year anniversary.
2.6	Partnership with CIFOR (not listed in the proposed AWP 2017)	Completed	A MoU was signed in May to explore cooperation in areas of shared interests.

III. Supporting regional policy dialogues

No.	Activity	Status	Results/outcomes
3.1	Asia-Pacific Forestry Planning Network (FPN)	Completed	<p>1. Forestry strategic plans were collected from FPN members;</p> <p>2. A baseline review was conducted and gaps/needs for forestry strategic planning in the region were assessed;</p> <p>3. Results were widely shared and recommendations discussed at a workshop during the 24th APFC Session in October, Sri Lanka.</p>
3.2	Third workshop in Great Central Asia (GCA) on strategic cooperation	Completed	<p>APFNet continued to support dialogues among GCA members for pragmatic action and cooperation in forestry through a workshop, held 28-30 June, in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan. Outcomes include:</p> <p>(1) Information and experiences were exchanged on best practices in forest management and combating desertification across the region;</p> <p>(2) Needs and gaps were identified and recommendations were developed for potential support to forestry in the region;</p> <p>(3) Possible actions and approaches to implement the Astana Statement were identified and discussed.</p>
3.3	Cooperation on transboundary wildlife conservation in GMS Region	Completed	<p>APFNet organized a GMS workshop on transboundary wildlife protection in December where national policy authorities exchanged information and explored opportunities to enhance regional collaboration on the topic.</p>
3.4	4 th APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry (MMRF4) (not listed in the proposed AWP 2017)	Completed	<p>APFNet attended this 4th meeting in Seoul, Korea, 30 October – 1 November where Mr. Zhao Shucong spoke on the important role that the APEC ministers play, emphasizing APFNet’s continued commitment to help address issues.</p> <p>Mr. Lu De delivered a keynote speech in Session 1 on progress to achieve the APEC 2020 goal of increasing forest cover in the region. He also participated in a panel discussion on forest-based job creation.</p>

IV. Projects

Proposal formulation and project implementation are reported in separate documents.

V. Capacity building

No.	Activity	Status	Results/outcomes
5.1	APFNet scholarship program(ASP)	Completed	<p>1. 29 young forestry officials from APFNet member economies were admitted into masters programs;</p> <p>2. 11 students enrolled in 2015 graduated with Master degrees;</p> <p>3. Surveys and assessments to support and improve the ASP were conducted on curricula design, quality of teaching, and facilities/living conditions at Beijing Forestry University and Nanjing Forestry University.</p> <p>4. A network of ASP's alumni was set up to keep them informed via APFNet newsletters and publications.</p>
5.2	Thematic training	Largely completed	<p>1. A workshop for senior GCA officials on combating desertification and on sustainable management of dryland ecosystems for livelihood improvement was canceled due to unforeseen circumstances.</p> <p>2. A workshop on combating desertification and on sustainable dryland management was conducted 20-29 September in Hohhot and Ordos, Inner Mongolia, China. The capacity of forestry officials, local foresters and forestry researchers from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan was enhanced through field visits to learn about successful models and practices. Training manuals were improved and a booklet was released.</p> <p>3. 30 foresters received training in July and November under the regular themes of <i>Forest Rehabilitation and Management</i> and <i>Forestry and Rural Livelihood Development</i>.</p> <p>Outcomes included:</p> <p>(1) Analysis of drivers, current issues/challenges and future scenarios related to the 2 themes;</p> <p>(2) Enhancement of knowledge and skills in formulating and implementing forest rehabilitation and livelihood development programmes and projects;</p> <p>(3) Wide dissemination of workshop proceedings as a means to share information.</p>

No.	Activity	Status	Results/outcomes
5.3	Trainers in Forestry (TIF)Network	Completed	1. A TIF working group was set up in March, communication enhanced, and information regularly shared on forestry related HRD
		Completed	2. A report entitled <i>An Overview of In-service Training Arrangements of Public Forestry Agencies in the Asia-Pacific Region</i> was drafted, based on submissions from 11 economies.
		Completed	3. A study tour on community forestry was organized 10-16 October in Nepal to share training modules and methodologies and to identify the challenges facing training, including lack of technical support, limited participation of target groups and absence of components on production and marketing.
		Completed	4. A workshop on reforms of the Daxing'anling State-owned forest areas was held 25-29 June in China for 60 local officials from the Forest Management Bureau to enhance their capacity to respond to institutional and forest management reforms. (not listed in the proposed AWP 2017)
		Completed	5. As follow up to the training noted above, a symposium was held 3-10 July in Canada entitled <i>State-owned forest resources management: lessons learnt from China and Canada</i> . Strategies and approaches to managing state-run forests in Canada were shared to provide more policy options for Chinese counterparts as part of efforts to deepen reforms on key state-run forests. (not listed in the proposed AWP 2017)
		Completed	Objectives, strategies and potential partners were identified for the fourth TIF workshop to be held in March 2018 in China to discuss and update TIP strategy.

No.	Activity	Status	Results/outcomes
5.4	Asia-Pacific Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism (AP-FECM)	Completed	<p>1. A session on forest education and a meeting of the AP-FECM Steering Committee were organized during IUFRO's 125th Anniversary Congress in September in Germany;</p> <p>2. SFM online courses attracted more than 3,300 users and 37,000 views were recorded from more than 90 economies (47% of economies worldwide);</p> <p>3. More than 190 universities and 124,000 students from 15 economies participated in a survey on forestry education and a draft entitled <i>Growing Higher Forest Education in a Changing World</i> was released;</p> <p>4. Regional collaboration on student mobility, faculty exchanges and mutual course recognition was strengthened through partnerships and short term academic programs. More than 90 students took part in exchange programs during the summer of 2017.</p>
5.5	Early Career Academics Program (ECAP) [Renamed Sino-ASEAN Network of Forestry Research Institutes (SANFRI)]	Revised and completed	<p>The original plan for ECAP was to provide a forum for young forestry researchers. Building on this notion, SANFRI offers more possibilities to support regional academic and research institutes.</p> <p>At a side event during the 24th APFC session in October in Sri Lanka, representatives of forestry research institutes in Southeast Asia agreed to help to establish the network.</p>
VI. Communication and information sharing			
No.	Activity	Status	Results/outcomes
6.1	Enhancement of APFNet media tools	In progress	<p>1. Renovations to APFNet's website are almost complete, with new style, structure and more uploads. Changes reflect the adjustments made to APFNet programs and initiatives and will be accessible to the public in March 2018.</p> <p>2. Various popular social media tools were considered and WeChat was chosen to supplement current news feeds and updates. Development is behind schedule but will be done in 2018.</p>
6.2	Platform for sharing information on policies	In progress	APFNet members submitted basic forestry data as well as their forestry strategies and policies. This information eventually will be available and updated on the website.

No.	Activity	Status	Results/outcomes
6.3	Sharing of APFNet project outcomes and research findings	Completed	1. A report entitled <i>Forest Transition in Asia-Pacific Economies: past Experiences and Future Options</i> was published.
			2. Six reports of <i>Forest Development and Best Management Practices in the Greater Central Asia</i> were published.
			3. Findings from FPN reports were shared.
6.4	Policy research	In progress	Research on <i>Fragmentation of Forest Governance in the Asia-Pacific Region</i> with a view to provide an up-to-date analysis on the issue in target economies and make recommendations to policy makers.
VII. Programs and activities supported from APFNet Fund			
No.	Activity	Status	Results/outcomes
7.1	Support to community based enterprises in GMS region	In progress	To better utilize wood and NTFPs to improve livelihoods, APFNet purchased three processing machines which were transported to Loppori Forestry Plantation Cooperative in Thailand in November. Assembly was completed and training and operation will occur next year.
7.2	Forest plantation supported by PICC Foundation	Completed	Regular tending has taken place in the plantation established in 2016 for CO ₂ fixation and farmland protection.
7.3	Public awareness of the importance of forests (Not listed in the proposed AWP 2017)	Completed	With a small amount of money, this project increased awareness of the importance of forests among primary school students in Chaoyang, Liaoning Province, China. A series of events was organized to spread the message that forests matter to people and should be protected. Activities included lectures and competitions on knowledge of forests, tree species identification, art performances, and essay contest on forests.