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## **Fifth Meeting of the APFNet Council**

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### **APFNet Project Implementation 2018**

Most projects are on track and effectively implemented according to their individual goals, objectives and expected outputs. Nevertheless, some concerns were noted.

#### **1. 5 new projects launched**

With the full support from project stakeholders, 5 project agreements were signed and these projects have entered implementation phase, covering fields of forest restoration, mangrove restoration, forest resource monitoring and online course development. Communications with the executing partners have indicated that these projects have well commenced with sufficient managerial, financial and technical preparations.

The 5 projects are:

- [Regional forest observation for sustainable forest management \[ID: 2018P2-CAF\]](#)
- [Integrated planning and practices for mangrove management associated with agriculture and aquaculture in Myanmar \[ID: 2018P1-MYR\]](#)
- [Innovative sustainable forest management education in the Asia-Pacific region \[ID: 2018P3-UBC\]](#)
- [Wangyedian multi-functional forest experimental base project \[ID: 2018P4-INM\]](#)
- [Reconstruction and sustainable management of a degraded forest based on the combination of inter-planting nitrogen fixation rare tree species and thinning \[ID: 2018P4-CAF\]](#)

Click web links to know more about projects.

#### **2. 3 projects completed with expected outcomes achieved**

- [Community-based sustainable forest management of the Sungai Medihit Watershed Sarawak, Malaysia \[ID: 2013P- MAS\]](#) was completed in October. The project targeted two indigenous communities in the Sungai Medihit Watershed to promote sustainable forest management and to establish an effective community-based forest co-management mechanism. The communities have been able to co-manage forest resources and their livelihoods have been greatly improved through alternative agricultural, husbandry, aquaculture practices and handicraft-making.

- [Rehabilitation and Management of degraded forests in Beijing's Miyun Reservoir watershed](#) [ID: 2013P5-MYN] was completed in October. The project explored integrated approaches to conserve forests around the Miyun Reservoir and to improve water quality. Project activities include close-to-nature management of 280 ha forests of Chinese Pine (*Pinus tabuliformis*) and Oriental Thuja (*Platycladus orientalis*), sustainable orchard management, enrichment planting, forest eco-tourism, forest therapy and education. A policy brief was submitted to the Beijing Association for Science and Technology to recommend policy reformulation in support of longer-term forest management plans, forest-ecotourism development and other sustainable land uses in the reservoir area.
- [Supporting Community-based Sustainable Forest Management and Economic Empowerment of Women in Central Region of Nepal](#) [ID: 2013P4-NPL] was completed in December. Community-based forest management and livelihood improvement, being two major project components, have been well combined and demonstrated. Women have been socially and economically empowered by operating women-led small forestry enterprises on aromatic herbs, wooden handicrafts and eco-tourism, being considered as a model in the area.

### 3. 15 on-going projects<sup>1</sup> running well with annual project targets accomplished.

Major progress achieved is categorized by following thematic fields

- **Forest Restoration**: APFNet continues to align its work to contribute to existing international, regional and national processes to advance forest restoration, so that forests can regain their health and are able to provide ecosystem services while also benefitting local livelihoods. A multitude of approaches of forest landscape restoration, agroforestry, assisted natural regeneration and enrichment planting have been applied in 12 demonstration projects in Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal and Papua New Guinea. Livelihood alternatives like agroforestry, small and medium sized enterprises, the utilization of NTFPs, forest eco-tourism as model cases, have been locally demonstrated.
- **Watershed Planning and Management**: Integrated watershed management was supported with 4 projects. A participatory watershed management plan was developed for the Solo Upper Watershed, Indonesia and the Prek Thnot Watershed, Cambodia. Participatory micro-planning and mangrove restoration were practiced in the Irrawaddy river delta, Myanmar. The other two watersheds mentioned are Miyun Reservoir and the Sungai Medihit watershed in 3(a).
- **Sustainable Forest Planning & Management**: Sustainable forest management plans have been developed at different management levels and time spans, ranging from community-level forest management plans to national forest management plans to plans considering time horizons between 15 and 200 years. A variety of forest management approaches, such as close-to-nature forest management, multi-functional forestry and integrated fire management have been demonstrated in different projects.

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<sup>1</sup> 15 on-going projects, excluding the newly started and completed projects in 2018, see attached list

- ***Forests and Climate Change:*** APFNet continues to partner with UBC and 12 other universities/institutions to improve climate models, ecological models and niche models produced in the Phase I project. Climate niches of ten tree species in Malaysia, Chinese Taipei, Myanmar and China were predicted under different climate change scenarios. Furthermore, a policy brief is in preparation on how these major species will adapt to climate change. Research on improved accuracy of measuring the carbon bound in forests have started to generate results, such as the carbon mapping in the GMS, improvement of carbon equations in Thailand, and carbon accounting of forests in Anhui and Zhejiang Provinces, China.
- ***Forests and Community:*** The philosophy that community development and livelihood improvement should be considered together in forest management has been embodied in all related projects. Communities have been enabled to participate in decision-making process, forest management and the development of sustainable livelihood options.
- ***Policy research and capacity building:*** APFNet values the development and reformation of policies, institutional arrangements and governance approaches that favor SFM and forest rehabilitation. In 2018, a series of publications was produced to provide a general overview of the forestry in Greater Central Asia. New sandalwood regulations in Fiji and Tonga, developed with APFNet funding, have come effective in protection of smallholder sandalwood growers. Additionally, to facilitate wider knowledge transfer, the outlines of eight online courses have been finalized. A network of world-renowned universities have been established and these courses will be ready by the end of 2019.

#### **4. 3 projects delayed for agreement signing**

- *Enrichment of Pine Plantations in Sri Lanka with Native Species* [ID: 2018P6-SRI]
- *Enhancing Ecosystem Services from Rehabilitated forests, Using the Policy Learning Protocol and the Path Way of Influence Framework.*
- *Integrated Forest Ecosystem Management Planning and Demonstration Project in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (Myanmar site)* [ID: 2018P5-MYR]

#### **5. Project communication, publicity and dissemination strengthened**

In the light of the *APFNet Communication Guidelines*, the *Project Communication Strategy* (hereinafter referred to as Strategy) was developed to guide executing agencies, implementing agencies and other partners. Communication has been taken into account when planning and implementing annual work under each project.

Three project brochures (see links) were produced, [i.e. APFNet-funded projects which introduces APFNet projects funded in the past decade](#), [Inside Wangyedian Forest Farm-Exploring Sustainable Forestry with APFNet](#) and [Supporting Sustainable Forest Management and Forest Rehabilitation in Cambodia](#). Networking and face-to-face communications among project partners have been enabled by such events as the Workshop on Forest Fire Management and Monitoring (Siem Reap, Cambodia), to enhance mutual learning and training. APFNet

project officers and project representatives attended a series of regional and international workshops and conferences to share project stories.

**6. Secretariat's observations**

- Internal approval procedures, inefficient communications among project stakeholders, and project changes in subsistence have caused delay in some project start-up and extensions of implementation or closure;
  
- To ensure a project's sustainability, post-project support should be secured to observe long-term changes/impacts, and to facilitate communication of important project deliverables that are produced when or even after a project is closed.
  
- More efforts would be needed to raise awareness and enhance capacity of project partners as communicators to ensure effective information exchange and wide dissemination of good practices and lessons learned.

## List of on-going APFNet projects

1. [Demonstration on Integrated Planning and Management of Forest Ecosystem in Greater Mekong Sub-region – Lao PDR project site](#) [ID: 2017P7-GMS-LAO]
2. [Development Participatory Management of Micro Catchment at the Bengawan Solo Upper Watershed](#) [ID: 2017P6-INA]
3. [Community tree planting project in Papua New Guinea](#) [ID: 2017P3-PNG]
4. [Integrated Forest Ecosystem Management Planning and Demonstration Project in Greater Mekong Sub-region \(Cambodia\)](#) [ID: 2017P2-CAM]
5. [Construction of a mini botanic park of 8.4 ha within the National Garden Park of Mongolia](#)  
[Mini botanic garden project](#)[ID: 2016P4-MN]
6. [Demonstration of vegetation restoration and management and utilization of forest resources in the Greater Central Asia \(Chifeng site\)](#)[ID: 2016P3-INM]
7. [Demonstration on Sustainable Forest Management and Restoration in Hilly and Low Mountain Area of Southern China](#)[ID: 2016P2-CAF]
8. [Integrated Forest Ecosystem Management Planning and Demonstration Project in Greater Mekong Sub-region \(Pu'er Project Site\)](#)[ID: 2016P1-GMS-PE]
9. [Construction of Multifunction Forest Management Demonstration Sites - Phase II](#)[ID: 2015P8-INM(II)]
10. [Adaptation of Asia-Pacific Forestry to Climate Change – Phase II](#)[ID: 2015P7-UBC(II)]
11. [To Demonstrate the Development and Application of Standing-Tree Carbon Equations to Improve the Accuracy of Forest-Cover Carbon Stock Estimates in Thailand](#)[ID: 2015P6-THA]
12. [Capacity building towards effective implementation of SFM practices in Fiji, Tonga and Niue](#)[ID: 2015P3-SPC]
13. [Landscape approach to Sustainable management of forests in Prek Thnot Watersheds](#)[ID: 2015P1-KHM]
14. [Sustainable Forest Management in Northern Provinces of Lao PDR](#)[ID: 2014P1-ASEM]
15. [Strengthening Urban Forestry Demonstration Site of Bang Kachao \(Thailand\) for Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Learning Center](#)[ID: 2012P1/2-THA]