



Asia-Pacific Network for  
Sustainable Forest Management  
and Rehabilitation

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# APFNet

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## ANNUAL REPORT · 2016



# APFNet Strategy 2016–2020

The Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet) is an international organization dedicated to advancing sustainable forest management and rehabilitation in the Asia-Pacific region. APFNet was formally launched in 2008 under the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and entered its ninth year of operations in 2017.

## • Mission •

APFNet is committed to helping the economies and people of the Asia-Pacific region by promoting and improving sustainable forest management and rehabilitation.

## • Objectives •

APFNet's actions aim to:

- Contribute to the achievement of APEC's aspirational goal of increasing forest cover by at least 20 million hectares of all types of forests by 2020;
- Help to enhance forest carbon stocks and improve forest quality and productivity by promoting rehabilitation of existing but degraded forests, and reforestation and afforestation of suitable cleared lands in the region;
- Help to reduce forest loss and degradation and the associated greenhouse gas emissions by strengthening sustainable forest management and enhancing biodiversity conservation; and
- Help to increase the socio-economic benefits of forests in the region.

## • Values •

APFNet implements all work in accordance with the following core values:

- Respect for differences
- Action-oriented
- Creative and innovative thinking

## • Principles •

APFNet's actions are governed by a set of core principles that ensure that its activities are open to the scrutiny and participation of and guidance from all key stakeholders, that they foster cooperation and avoid duplication, and that they are targeted to the specific needs of each beneficiary:

- Openness and Participation
- Complementarity
- Beneficiary Focused

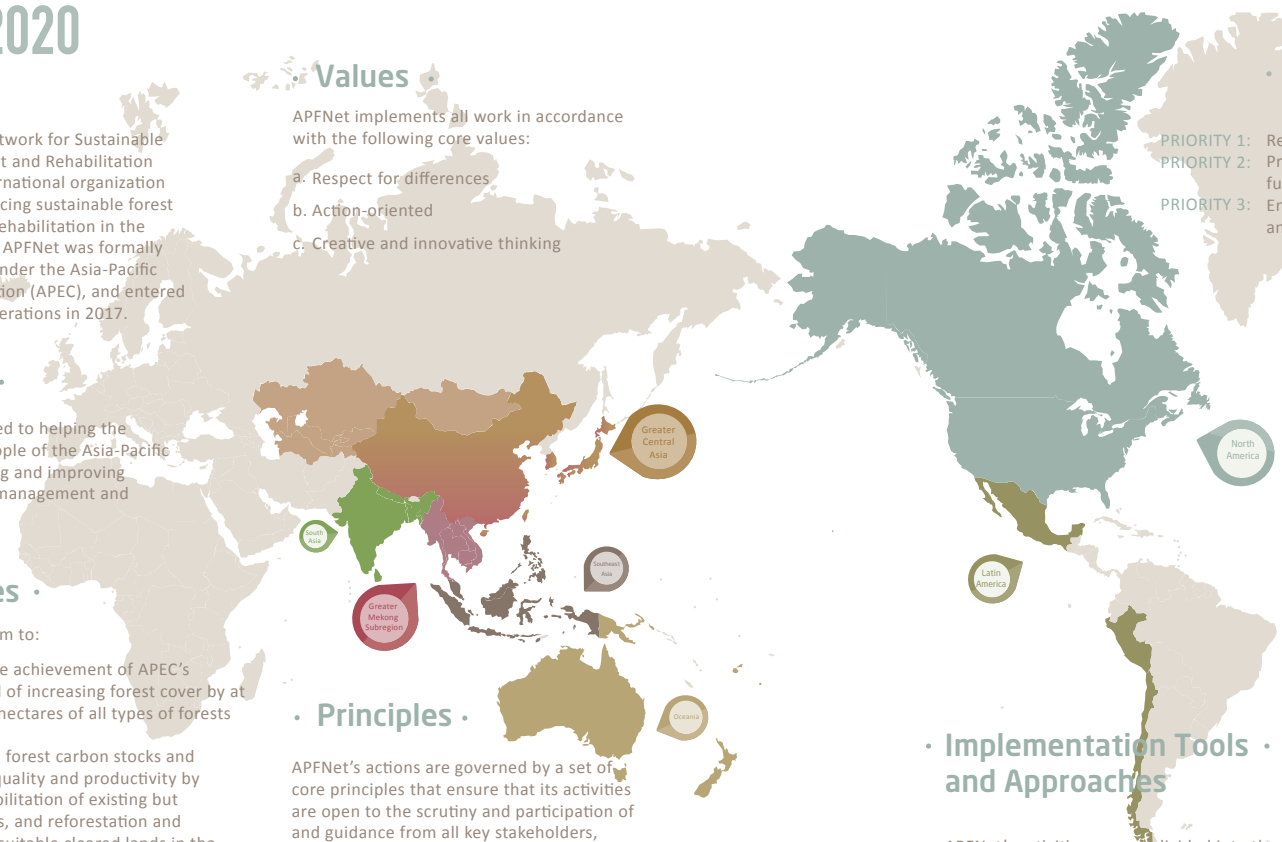
## • Priorities •

- PRIORITY 1: Rehabilitating degraded forests and increasing forest cover.  
 PRIORITY 2: Promoting sustainable forest management to enhance ecological functions and ecosystem security of forests.  
 PRIORITY 3: Enhancing forests' contribution to socio-economic development and to improvement of local livelihoods.

## • Implementation Tools and Approaches •

APFNet's activities are subdivided into the following four interlinked key pillars:

- Capacity Building
- Demonstration Projects
- Supporting Regional Policy Dialogues
- Communication and Information Sharing



## APFNet in 2016



15  
active projects receiving  
US\$  
2.25 million  
in APFNet funding in 2016



Scholarship  
students  
+ 17  
= 74



Trainees of training  
workshops and  
study tours  
+ 68  
= 351



Strategic  
partnerships  
+ 2  
= 11

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## Message from the Executive Director



2016 - What a year it's been!

Last year we described APFNet's development akin to the sprouting of leaves on a small seedling. Well this year, we continued to grow taller and reached greater heights with the official establishment of the APFNet Strategic Plan for 2016 to 2020.

The official release of the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan marked a significant step forward in APFNet's development. It was a near two-year effort from the APFNet team that builds upon our work to-date, drawing on important lessons learned since our launch in 2008. Extensive feedback was collected from our many project executing agencies, stakeholders and experts to shape and refine the plan.

The Strategic Plan provides a framework for APFNet's activities under three priority areas: 1) rehabilitating degraded forests and increasing forest cover, 2) promoting sustainable forest management to enhance the ecological functions and ecosystem security of forests, and 3) enhancing the contribution of forests to socio-economic development and the improvement of local livelihoods. We chose these areas because we believe that supporting forest ecosystems and local socio-economic development are some of the most important ways to achieve sustainable forest management and rehabilitation in the region.

Besides the new Strategic Plan, this year we also intensified efforts in promoting high level forestry commitment in the Greater Central Asia region. The APFNet-organized *First Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry in Greater Central Asia* was the first of its kind, and we are proud to be able to engage forestry ministers in collaborating on common issues and laying the groundwork for subsequent cooperation. In 2016, we also continued to make great strides in

our work focusing on protecting and prioritizing the ecological functions of forests in Asia and the Pacific. Our project in northern Lao PDR demonstrates how valuable technology can be in safeguarding forests and promoting cross-border sustainable forest management. Cooperation is therefore key to addressing such issues and this is also why we prioritize projects that involve collaboration among multiple economies.

Helping meet the changing socio-economic and environmental needs of the region has always been a central aspect of APFNet's work. In 2016 we placed emphasis on improving local livelihoods by promoting ecotourism in Thailand and by empowering women and marginalized households through forestry entrepreneurship in Nepal. Education is a vital component of this work, which is also reflected in the development of a range of new programs and initiatives including the Trainers in Forestry Network, the Early Career Academics Program and the Asia-Pacific Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism.

APFNet is continuously developing. Our operating procedures and practices were formalized this year with the adoption of new regulations by the Board, and in 2017 we will work closely with local communities, project partners and other organizations to make sure that we continue to contribute where we are needed most. We extend our gratitude to our donors, members, executing agencies, partners and experts, without whom we would not be able to have such a positive and wide-ranging impact across Asia and the Pacific.

I hope you enjoy reading about our activities this year as much as we enjoyed implementing them!

Qu Guilin



# Promoting Government Commitment To Forest Restoration In Greater Central Asia



Ministers responsible for forestry in Greater Central Asia gathered for the first time in Astana, the capital city of Kazakhstan from 30 to 31 May, 2016 at the APFNet organized *First Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry in Greater Central Asia*. The meeting aimed to strengthen the commitment of governments in the region to forestry and promote joint forestry development. The meeting resulted in adoption of the “Astana Declaration”.

The Declaration recognizes the important contribution of sustainable development and management of forests to social, economic and environmental development in the region. It also emphasizes the need for closer regional cooperation in the conservation, protection and reproduction of forests, and the mitigation of negative impacts of climate change, desertification and land degradation.

The Declaration agrees that all signatories will work together to increase forest cover in the region and will strengthen their cooperation through a range of activities. The following priorities were identified during the plenary discussion:

- Preventing and reducing cross-border forest fires and forest pests and diseases
- Combating forest land degradation and desertification
- Promoting development of a regional forest monitoring system
- Promoting biological methods for forest protection
- Promoting development of sustainable forest plantations in desert areas
- Conservation and utilization of forest genetic resources
- Promoting development of methodologies for assessing the value of forest ecosystem services
- Promoting capacity building and training of forestry specialists



Ministers took part in a tree-planting ceremony as part of the meeting.

## APFNet Thematic Training Program

The Thematic Training Program enables forestry policy makers and practitioners to update their knowledge and cultivate their strategic thinking in different thematic areas consistent with APFNet’s strategic priorities.

### *Training course on degraded land rehabilitation for senior officials, 20-30 July*

Five officials from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were invited to the training. The training was centered on strategic planning and policy development, focusing on combating desertification and best practices in vegetation rehabilitation of seriously degraded land. The experiences and achievements covered in the training provided participants with an understanding of the methodologies and options that are available to them in their respective economies.

# Fostering Forestry Investment In Asia And The Pacific Region

At Asia-Pacific Forestry Week in Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga, Philippines, held from 22 to 26 February 2016, APFNet took the lead to facilitate *Stream 5: Our Green Future - Green Investment and Growing Our Natural Assets*. Perspectives and experiences on forestry investment opportunities, barriers and solutions were exchanged.

With the rise of the Asia and the Pacific region as a hotspot for forest product demand, investors have become increasingly interested in forest market opportunities that are not only profitable but also socially and environmentally responsible. However, challenges remain for policymakers to establish reliable legal systems and stable investment environments to sustain investments in the forestry sector.

An *Interactive Workshop on Mobilizing Investments in Asia-Pacific Forests* was organized to better understand forestry investments and share case studies on overcoming forestry investment challenges.

The diversity of views, experiences and recommendations from the stream culminated in one stream recommendation: "Facilitating cross-sectoral dialogue and partnerships among policymakers, financiers and other stakeholders in the public and private sectors, with a view to creating an enabling policy environment for green investments in forests and other natural assets in the Asia-Pacific region."

APFNet also proposed potential initial actions such as conducting a cross-sectoral multi-stakeholder workshop to build knowledge and relationships on green investment, and supporting governments to seek enabling investments from mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility.

## APFNet Thematic Training Program

*Workshop on Forest Rehabilitation and Management in Kunming, China from 5 to 18 July*

This training engaged approximately 20 participants from the region to enhance their knowledge and skills in implementing forest rehabilitation programs. It provided a comprehensive coverage of the state of forest rehabilitation in the Asia and the Pacific region, and covered core aspects of designing rehabilitation programs including the drivers of forest degradation, policy and institutions, governance, ecology, landscape approaches, social dimensions, climate change issues and forest economics.



*Distinguishing between rehabilitation approaches according to local needs was emphasized at the workshop.*



*Participants visited local rehabilitation sites to witness experiences in China.*

# Planned Projects For 2017

The APFNet call for proposals was launched in February 2016. A total of 31 project concept notes (22 regular projects and nine small projects)<sup>1</sup>, were collected from 13 economies, covering the priority fields of the rehabilitation of degraded forest land, community forestry and rural development, biodiversity conservation, climate change and forestry education. Through a thorough review by the Project Appraisal Panel, eight projects were selected as potential projects to receive funding from APFNet in 2017. Planned projects for 2017 are detailed in the table below.

Project Name	Executing Agency	Project Type	Target economy(ies)
Community Tree Planting Project	Voice of Yongos	Demonstration project	Papua New Guinea
Enhancing ecosystem services from rehabilitated forests, using the Policy Learning Protocol and the Pathway Influence Framework	Kyoto University	Policy development project	P.R. China; Laos PDR
Phase II of Innovative Sustainable Forest Management Education in the Asia-Pacific Region	Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia	Capacity building project	Asia-Pacific region
Enrichment of Pine Plantations in Sri Lanka with native species	Forest Department, Sri Lanka	Forest Department, Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka

Project Name	Executing Agency	Project Type	Target economy(ies)
Integrated planning and practices for mangrove management associated with agriculture and aquaculture in Myanmar	The University Queensland	Demonstration and pilot project	Myanmar
Reconstruction and sustainable management of degraded forest based on the combination of inter-planting nitrogen fixation rare tree species and thinning	Institute of Forest Ecology, Environment and Protection, Chinese Academy of Forestry	Demonstration project	Cambodia
Demonstration on Sustainable Forest Management and Restoration in Hilly Areas of Southern China	Research Institute of Forestry, Chinese Academy of Forestry	Demonstration project	Anhui Province and Zhejiang Province, China
Development Participatory Management of Micro Catchment at The Bengawan Solo Upper Watershed	Watershed Management Technology Center	Demonstration project	Wonogiri and Karanganyar Districts, Central Java Province, Indonesia

1. Regular projects - concept notes and proposals that request a grant of more than US\$ 100 000. Small projects - concept notes and proposals that request a grant of less than US\$ 100 000.



# Reducing the risk of forest fires

Lao PDR is strongly dependent on forestry, with forests providing the economic base for rural communities. Lao PDR lost approximately 1.6 million hectares of tree cover from 2001-2014. One of the main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Laos is natural and human-induced fires.

## Sustainable Forest Management in the Northern Provinces of Lao PDR

The project built two forest fire monitoring towers, one in the Xishuangbanna National Natural Reserve in China and the other in the Nam Ha National Protected Area of Lao PDR. The towers can be left unattended to monitor in real-time throughout the day. The system's precision turntable – the “forest eye” - can cover a radius of 15 km within 30 minutes and has a target positioning accuracy within 100 meters.

The system is the first of its kind in Laos and has great potential to significantly improve forest fire monitoring and prevention, securing strong buy-in from the local government as a result.

Forest land use planning at the district and village levels in northern Lao PDR has been initiated, with forest restoration and rehabilitation under way. Personnel exchange and consultation have also taken place to help address the issues of trans-boundary biodiversity conservation along the border areas between China and Lao PDR.

Launched in 2014

### Objectives

1. To explore, test and demonstrate effective approaches on forest restoration, forest management and response mechanisms to generate a sustainable flow of benefits to closely related stakeholders;
2. To strengthen forest law enforcement and promote cooperation on trans-boundary biodiversity conservation; and
3. To share information and knowledge of best practices on forest restoration and rehabilitation.

### Expected outcomes

1. Forest land use plans at district and village levels;
2. Demonstration of best practices and approaches for forest restoration and rehabilitation;
3. Improvement of forest inspection systems;
4. Enhanced cooperation on trans-boundary biodiversity conservation; and
5. Improved capacity of forest staff and communities.



Forest fire monitoring tower



Forest eye



# Exploring watershed management approaches

Miyun Reservoir is situated in Miyun District, a mountainous area in northeast Beijing, and is the largest of its kind in north China. The reservoir is the primary source of drinking water for Beijing's residents, providing more than 60% of the capital's surface drinking water. Available water per capita in Beijing is 150 cubic meters, much lower than the internationally acknowledged water scarcity line of 1,000 cubic meters per capita. Ensuring the long-term sustainable management of the Miyun Reservoir Watershed is therefore a high priority for the local government.

## Rehabilitation and Management of Degraded Forests in Miyun Reservoir Watershed, Beijing

After one and a half years, the project has successfully transformed the 148.93 ha monoculture forest. Thinning and interplanting native species in the even-aged monoculture plantations of the project site have improved the forest's hydrological capabilities, and purified drinking water while increasing soil water retention capacity.

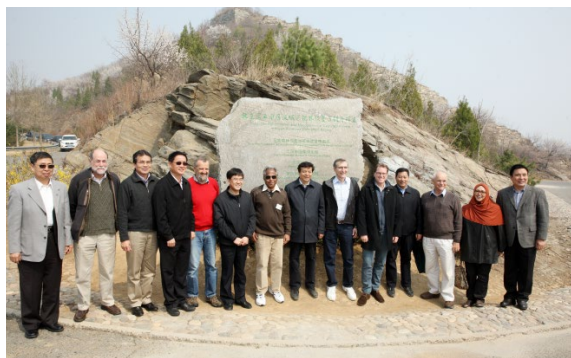
The project's ecotourism activities built an 8 km footpath and conducted training sessions on forest therapy, presentations on farming culture, and outdoor activities such as camping, BBQs and trekking. The low-carbon ecotourism plan is improving local livelihoods while meeting the increasing desire of urban residents for accessible outdoor recreation. In the future, capacity building activities on ecotourism will take place and a marketing plan will be developed.



Seedlings are planted as part of the transformation of the watershed.



Green trail built as part of the project's ecotourism activities.



### Objectives

1. To improve the water conservation capacity of the forests in three sites of the project by applying a close-to-nature management approach;
2. To reduce water pollution caused by fertilizer application in the selected orchards;
3. To improve the livelihood of the selected local community by promoting the development of forest recreation;
4. To enhance the capacity of relevant stakeholders in forest management in an environment-friendly manner; and
5. To produce best practice models for a better long-term forest management in the watershed.

### Launched in 2015

### Expected outputs

1. The water conservation capacity of the forests in demonstration sites is improved;
2. Best management models can be produced to contribute to finding solutions to the conflict between forest protection for water conservation and rural development;
3. The livelihood of the local community is improved by promoting eco-tourism; and the
4. Capacity of relevant stakeholders in managing forest and eco-tourism is improved.



# Strengthening forest management planning capacity

Forests and trees play a significant economic, social and environmental role in the lives of Pacific Islanders. The major challenge in this region is to ensure the sustainable management of scarce and diminishing forests. Many of the forest resources on Pacific Islands such as Fiji, Tonga and Niue have been depleted through agricultural clearing and unsustainable harvesting. This requires urgent attention in the form of better standards and practices and effective enforcement to minimize negative impacts to forests and the surrounding environment.

Launched in 2015

## Objectives

1. To enhance the capacity for sustainable forest management in Fiji, Tonga and Niue.

## Expected outputs

1. National forest management plans for Tonga and Niue;
2. Strategies and mechanisms for implementing forest management plans, including codes of forest practices in Tonga, Fiji and Niue; and
3. Mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the forest management plans and codes of forest practices in Tonga, Fiji and Niue.



## Capacity Building towards Effective Implementation of Sustainable Forest Management Practices in Fiji, Tonga and Niue

Under the project, the national forest management plan for Tonga has been drafted through a consultation workshop held in September 2016, and is currently being approved. The forest management plan for Niue has been approved by its Cabinet and is scheduled for printing. Workshops and training programmes for forest management plans and codes of forest practices in the three economies will be conducted in the next stage of the project.

*"We live off the forests; they sustain us with food and our culture, we have been concentrating on timber but we need to ensure that the birds and coconut crabs and other biodiversity are sustained into the future."*

— the Hon. Billy Talagi, Niue Minister for Forests, at the national workshop for the Capacity building towards effective implementation of sustainable forest management practices in Fiji, Tonga and Niue project.

## Asia-Pacific Forestry Planning Network (FPN)

APFNet, extensively consulting with member economies, developed the concept of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Planning Network (FPN), which aims to strengthen economy-level forestry planning processes in the region. These developments were based on the outcomes of two forestry strategic planning workshops in New Zealand in November 2013 and Cambodia in December 2014.

# Improving the social benefits of forests

At just over 7 percent of its territory, Mongolia has relatively low forest cover and is facing environmental problems such as drought, forest and watershed degradation, desertification and air pollution. The city of Ulaanbaatar has low forest cover and a very sensitive ecosystem. In 2009, the City Governor of Ulaanbaatar made a resolution to develop the National Garden Park in Ulaanbaatar City, aiming to preserve the watershed area and provide a natural green area for citizens.



## Construction of a mini botanic park in the National Park of Mongolia

The mini 8.4 ha botanic park was built within the National Garden Park in Ulaanbaatar and was officially opened to the public on 27 October 2016.



*"This project will definitely assist Mongolia in improving the forest landscape of Ulaanbaatar city and raising public awareness of ecological conservation in Mongolia."*

— Ms. D. Ouyngkhorol, Minister of Minister of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, during the garden park's opening ceremony.

Launched in 2016

### Objectives

1. To develop a mini botanic park of 8.4 ha within the National Garden Park in Ulaanbaatar, which would provide a pleasant and comfortable environment for rest and entertainment of citizens of Ulaanbaatar.

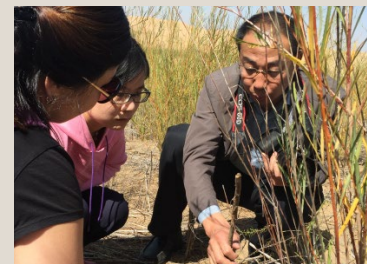
### Expected outputs

1. Construction of the 8.4 ha project site;
2. Capacity building for the staff of the National Park; and
3. Publicity of the project to key stakeholders.

## APFNet Thematic Training Program

### Training course on combating desertification and utilization of sand resources, 20-29 September

Six technical forestry officials from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan attended the training. Livelihood benefits resulting from combating desertification with drought resilient tree and plant species were demonstrated. Participants expressed that the skills and techniques being used could be applied in their home economies.



Drought resilient tree species such as sea buckthorn have the potential to help economies in Greater Central Asia combat desertification.



# Eco-tourism development

Bang Kachao is an island located in Samut Prakarn province, which is approximately 10 km from Bangkok city centre and bordered by 15 km of the Chao Phraya River. The unique ecosystem in Bang Kachao makes it one of the largest and richest areas of biodiversity in this lowland area.

## Strengthening Urban Forestry Demonstration Site of Bang Kachao for the Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Learning Center



Eco-tourism is a major component of Bang Kachao's conservation activities.



Bang Kachao is referred to as Bangkok's "green lung" due to the escape it provides from the surrounding urban environs.

Since the start of the project, Bang Kachao has seen a tenfold increase in the number of visitors, with people of all ages coming to visit the area to relax, learn about the environment and taste authentic Thai dishes prepared by the local women's group. The area is also used as a site for the corporate social responsibility activities of many organizations, and has become famous at both the national and international levels.

The project has also achieved success in conserving rare species of local flora and fauna, providing seedlings for visitors to plant within the community, encouraging younger generations to form youth groups to ensure that conservation is continued in future generations, and establishing a forum for members of all the local communities within Bang Kachao to discuss conservation in the area.

### Objectives

1. Establishing a demonstration and learning site for interested groups and visitors;
2. Developing and promoting biodiversity conservation through linking the number of visitors and the income flow of the local people; and
3. Maximizing the potential of the area as an ecotourism attraction by improving the habitat for dependent flora and fauna species.

### Expected outputs

1. An exhibition and interpretative center on eco-tourism and agroforestry established;
2. Livelihoods of local people improved through eco-tourism development; and
3. Project information available for public outreach.

Launched in 2012

## APFNet Thematic Training Program

### Workshop on Forestry and Rural Livelihood Development in Negombo, Sri Lanka from 1 to 14 November

This workshop engaged approximately 20 economy representatives to share experience on rural livelihood development, and strengthen their understanding of the linkages between forests and livelihood. It covered core elements of livelihood development including rural policies, institutions, governance, technologies, economics (e.g. PES), small-scale enterprises, land use systems, and the inclusion of indigenous communities and traditional knowledge.



Participants experienced a case of rural forestry firsthand at the Nuala Belyakanda Sinhagama Community.



Extensive sharing between economies was a core part of the workshop.



## Empowering women in community forestry

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

Community forestry plays an important role in Nepal's forestry and socio-economic development. After 20 years of development, Nepal's community forest area totals 1.65 million hectares, accounting for about 35% of the national forest area. The development of community forestry still faces low levels of forest management, unsustainable use of forest resources, unbalanced forest management and unequal distribution of income. These challenges hinder the long-term and stable development of community forestry in Nepal.

To-date, the project has developed three women-led enterprises: an ecotourism development in Kathmandu, advanced wooden handicrafts in Makwanpur District and aromatic herb production in Sarlahi District. Trainings were conducted to enable local women to produce marketable and handicraft products, which were exhibited during the World Wood Day campaign in Kathmandu. The project also established a marketing committee and sales center for promoting aromatic herbal products.



Handicraft skills trainings help local women produce products that they can later sell.

Launched in 2014

#### **Objectives**

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

#### **Expected outputs**

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





## APFNet Scholarship Program

### New Enrollments, Graduates And Partner Universities

In 2016, APFNet enrolled 17 new students from Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Peru, Papua New Guinea and Thailand in Beijing Forestry University (7 students) and Nanjing Forestry University (10 students). The programs that students enrolled in include Forestry Economics and Management, Forestry, Environmental Engineering and Forestry Engineering. Sixteen students that were enrolled in 2014 also graduated with their respective Master's degrees in July.

Since its initiation in 2010, APFNet has provided full scholarship support to over 70 students from 14 economies in the region to obtain two-year Masters degrees in forestry-related fields.

Besides fostering the next generation of foresters from APFNet member economies, the Scholarship Program has also enabled host universities to boost their international visibility and promote their internationalization through exchanges. The regular intake of foreign students since the initiation of the program has allowed the two host universities to improve their teaching methods, and align with the knowledge gaps of member economies.

In addition, this year two new host universities have signed onto the APFNet Scholarship Program: the Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University and Inner Mongolia Agriculture University. The new host universities will provide targeted programs on relevant issues in the Greater Central Asian region, such as vegetation recovery, desertification and soil erosion. The programs will target Greater Central Asian economies including Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan, based on a comprehensive feasibility study at a later stage.

## Early Career Academics Program

*Cultivating young forestry researchers*

APFNet is currently honing the design of its Early Career Academics Program (ECAP), which will support early career academics across the Asia-Pacific to bridge the gap between the level of support that young forestry researchers need and what is currently available.

Forest research is a key contributor to the development and management of forest resources, yet is often viewed as being low priority due to resource constraints and a lack of funds. This is particularly the case for early career academics, who often face difficulty in career advancement due to a competitive research environment and limited funding availability.

A consultation meeting on the design of ECAP was held at the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) Regional Congress for Asia and Oceania in Beijing, China on 25 October 2016.

*During the facilitated discussion on the program's design, participants emphasized a number of key points, including:*

- The importance of further refining eligibility criteria for applicants;
- The benefits of combining both short- and longer-term trainings and fellowships;
- The proven effectiveness of mentoring; and
- The need to incentivize researchers to stay in their home economies.



*The ECAP consultation meeting collected regional feedback on how the new program can address the needs of young academics.*

Several institutions expressed interest in becoming involved in ECAP, including IUFRO, the Center for International Forestry research (CIFOR) and the Yunnan Academy of Forestry.

ECAP consists of three main and interconnected components: a research grant, a fellowship and a forestry science forum. These components will be further refined and developed in 2017.

# Asia-Pacific Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism

*Advancing international cooperation in forestry education*

In 2016, the Asia-Pacific Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism (AP-FECM) has grown stronger with 10 Steering Committee members, 58 mechanism members and over 20 experts.

The Mechanism is helping to bridge the education gap in the Asia Pacific region by strengthening the forestry educational network, encouraging experience sharing, promoting student mobility, and developing SFM capacity through cooperation.

This year, the Faculty of Forestry of the University of British Columbia began to serve as the Chair of the Steering Committee, which involves hosting the new Executive Office for the next four-year term.

Major achievements of the AP-FECM in 2016 include:

- Formation of multiple Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and student mobility agreements - with the University of British Columbia (Canada), Bogor Agriculture University (Indonesia), the Vietnam National University of Forestry and National Ilan University (Chinese Taipei).
- Hosting the ECAP's Supporting early career researchers, improving forestry research capacity pre-congress event at the IUFRO World Congress in Beijing in October.
- Initiation of an expert study to identify educational trends and challenges - experts from regional forestry universities and research organizations are working together to identify development trends and recommend solutions to address forestry education challenges. The results of this study will be issued in the Annual Report on Forestry Education in Asia and the Pacific in 2017.

"The mechanism provides a priceless networking and resource sharing opportunity for members and professionals, all which help to build capacity in the Asia Pacific region"

– Dr Bui The Doi, Vice President of Vietnam National University of Forestry.

## APFNet-developed SFM online courses win Canadian award of excellence

The Sustainable Forest Management Online Courses developed by an APFNet-funded project in 2015 received the Canadian National Award for "Excellence and Innovation in the Integration of Technology in Educational Practices/Collaboration". The course has secured the interest of over 1000 individuals including students, faculty members and professionals from the Asia-Pacific region.

Professor Juan Pulhin from the University of the Philippines Los Baños indicated that faculty members involved in teaching greatly benefited from the online courses, which could be used as additional and different learning resources for their students. This type of blended learning introduced through the AP-FECM opens up opportunities for universities to innovate and be more responsive to the changing learning environment in forestry.

## APFNet forms the Trainers in Forestry Network

In December 2016, APFNet established the "Trainers in Forestry (TIF) Network", which further specifies trainers and skill builders in the region as the target groups of the Network. The consultation workshop was organized in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Participants agreed on the design and relevance of the TIF Network at the workshop. The workshop also identified key priorities and actions for the next couple of years.

To address gaps in capacity that restrict forest managers from tackling emerging issues in forestry development, such as forest tenure reform, forest landscape restoration and forest and climate change, APFNet began gathering regional policymakers to discuss forestry human resources development in 2014, which eventually transformed into the TIF Network.



# Institutional Development

APFNet reached a number of governance milestones in 2016. These include the formulation and adoption of a series of plans, programs and policies to further improve the daily operations of APFNet, as well as the efficiency, transparency and accountability of the organization.

## Implementation of the decisions made at the Second Board Meeting

The second annual meetings of the APFNet Council and Board of Directors were successfully convened from 10 to 12 May 2016 in Siam Reap, Cambodia. Key decisions were made to:

1. Adopt the APFNet strategic Plan 2016-2020, which directs APFNet's scope of work and priority areas in the Asia and Pacific; and
2. Approve the APFNet Operations Manual, APFNet Salary and Subsidy Scheme and APFNet Accounting Policies and Travel Standards.

## Update to the Board and Council Memberships

The 2016 composition of the APFNet Board of Directors was updated as follows:

1. Replacement of Mr. ZHANG Yansong by Mr. FAN Kejun in representing China, the host economy of APFNet; and
2. Extension of another three years for Dr. Chea Sam Ang, Mr. Li Qiang, Mr. Pralong Dumrongthai and Mdm. Wan Hasmah Wan Mohd to April 2018.

In the APFNet Council, the following economies updated their representatives:

1. Canada: to be represented by Mr. Robert Jones, Director, Trade and International Affairs, Natural Resources Canada - Canadian Forest Service.
2. China: to be represented by Ms. ZHANG Hongyan, Director General, Department of International Cooperation, State Forestry Administration.
3. Indonesia: to be represented by Dr. Ir. Bambang Soepijanto, Director General, Extension and Human Resources Development Agency, Ministry of Environment and Forestry.
4. Mongolia: to be represented by Mrs. TUNGALAG Majigg, Director General of Forestry Policy and Coordination Department, Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism of Mongolia.

## Membership development

The regular communication and engagement of APFNet members in 2016 was mainly done through the Council. Economy visits were arranged in Laos, Cambodia and Sri Lanka to strengthen cooperation and explore new areas of collaboration.

## Initiation of recruitment for the Executive Director position

The selection of the next APFNet Executive Director was initiated in 2016 in preparation for the completion of the current Executive Director's term in September 2017.

## Partnerships development

This year, APFNet and IUFRO forged an MoU to explore collaborative programs and activities. To-date, APFNet has signed eight MoUs with various international organizations to promote sustainable forest management and forest restoration in the region.

Notable collaborative events in 2016 include:

1. With the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO): Asia-Pacific Forestry Week in February in the Philippines;
2. With IUFRO:
  - a. the "Supporting early career researchers, improving forestry research capacity" workshop during the IUFRO Regional Congress for Asia and Oceania in October in Beijing; and
  - b. the "Science-Policy Interactions: Making Science Work for Forest Landscape Restoration" training workshop for APFNet Scholarship students also in October in Beijing; and
3. With RECOFTC (The Center for People and Forests): the TIF training workshop in December in Malaysia.

# Activities

## 22-26 February *APFNet at the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week*

APFNet was one of the stream leaders of the 2016 Asia-Pacific Forestry Week: *Stream 5 Our Green Future: Green Investment and Growing Our Natural Assets*. Stream 5 gathered over 100 experts to discuss the most pressing issues in forestry green investment and natural asset management.



## 24 February *Mobilizing investments in Asia-Pacific forests: interactive workshop*

APFNet organized an interactive workshop to build forestry investment literacy, discuss how to overcome investment challenges in the sector, and provide a platform for cross-sectoral stakeholder discussion.

## 24 February *4th Asia-Pacific Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism Conference*

The fourth conference of the Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism focused on challenges in sharing forestry education resources and the potential of mutual course recognition as a solution for promoting regional education standards.



## April *Launch of the project Carbon Sink Forests Plantation and Rehabilitation*

The project, funded by the People's Insurance Company of China Foundation, aims to support and promote sustainable forest management and rehabilitation through various related activities including developing plantations, growing saplings, and sound management and protection of forests.

## 10-12 May *Second Meeting of the APFNet Council & Board of Directors*

The Second Meeting of the APFNet Council and Board of Directors were held in Siem Reap, Cambodia and was hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Cambodia.



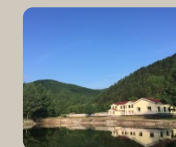
## 30-31 May *First Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry in Greater Central Asia*

The Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry in Greater Central Asia is the only platform for dialogue and exchange on forestry in the region. This initial meeting marked the first time that forestry ministers in Greater Central Asia have gathered to discuss experiences and know-how.



## June *Opening of APFNet Multi-functional Forest Experiment and Training Center in Wangyedian Forest Farm*

The APFNet Multi-functional Forestry Experiment and Training Center is the primary output of the "Inner Mongolia Multifunctional Forest project" in Wangyedian Forest Farm.



## 21-24 June *Training workshop builds capacity on implementation of reforms to state-run forest areas in China's northeast*

The State Council of China issued the Reform Plan and Guidelines for State-run Forest Farms in February 2015, with a commercial ban on harvesting in state-run natural forests in Northeast China and Inner Mongolia coming into effect in April 2015. The State Forestry Administration's Human Resource Department and Resource Management Department and APFNet held a training workshop to help deepen reforms in key state-run forest areas and build capacity of local forest bureau directors.

## 24&30 June *Graduation of 16 master's students from the APFNet Scholarship Program in Nanjing and Beijing*

The 16 students who graduated from the APFNet Scholarship Program this year came from Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea.



## 20-30 July *Study visit for senior forestry officials of Greater Central Asia*

APFNet invited officials from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan to visit a number of sites in Inner Mongolia, China, that demonstrate well-developed models and best practices in combating desertification, obtaining income from processing plants that grow in sandy areas, and ecotourism in areas of mixed coniferous broad leaved forest.





5-18  
July

#### *Workshop on Forest Rehabilitation and Management*

This workshop identified key factors for promoting forest rehabilitation in the region, including strong top-down policy interventions; a governance system that provides support/incentives/disincentives; the need to correct counterproductive policies in other sectors; empowerment through tenure reform; and the importance of paying attention to the social dimensions of restoration and rehabilitation.



13  
September

#### *Workshop on the development status and trends of small community-based forestry enterprises in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS)*

The workshop invited representatives of governments and enterprises from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand to discuss how to improve local enterprises' use of technology and equipment for wood processing.



20-29  
September

#### *Workshop on combating desertification and utilization of sand resources*

As a continuation of the thematic training workshop on combating desertification, this second workshop shifted the focus to related industrial development. The workshop was designed for policy makers, planners and researchers, and dealt specifically with combating desertification, sustainable management of dryland ecosystems and utilization of sand resources in the Greater Central Asia region.

21-23  
October

#### *Making science work for forest landscape restoration*

A three-day training workshop was organized for APFNet scholarship students of Beijing Forestry University and Nanjing Forestry University on how scientific knowledge can be transformed into practical information for policy-making.



25  
October

#### *Early Career Academics Program (ECAP) consultation meeting*

APFNet organized the "Supporting early career researchers, improving forestry research capacity" parallel session to the IUFRO Regional Congress. ECAP intends to improve the research capacity of early career forestry researchers in the Asia-Pacific region through three components, namely an Early Career Research Grant, an Early Career Forestry Researchers Fellowship and Forestry Science Forum.



27  
October

#### *Opening of botanic garden in Mongolian National Garden Park*

An 8.4 ha mini botanic garden park was opened inside the National Garden Park in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. This is APFNet's first demonstration project in the Greater Central Asia region, and marks the beginning of efforts to increase forest area, improve the quality of forest ecosystems and support sustainable development in Greater Central Asia.



1-14  
November

#### *Workshop on Forestry and Rural Livelihood Development*

Participants shared their knowledge and experiences on forestry management, paying particular attention to rural livelihood development. The workshop was hosted by the Forest Department, Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment, Government of Sri Lanka.

15  
November

#### *Launch of the project Demonstration on Sustainable Forest Management and Restoration in Hilly and Low Mountains Area of Southern China*

This project aims to improve forest ecosystem productivity and forest carbon storage by restoring forests, developing a carbon accounting methodology for the hilly areas of Southern China, and capacity building activities.



1-3  
December

#### *Asia-Pacific Trainers in Forestry (TIF) workshop*

The workshop gathered participants from across Asia-Pacific to further co-develop the TIF Network, a regional program launched by APFNet in 2014 (previously called the "Forestry Human Resource Development Dialogue"). The TIF Network aims to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of forestry training efforts in the Asia-Pacific region through information exchange, capacity building and collaboration. Participants identified main potential areas for future activities, including trainings on project management for senior officers, methods of assessing training needs, study tours and staff exchanges, and training on specific technical areas.



13  
December

#### *Launch of the project To Demonstrate the Development and Application of Staring-Tree Carbon Equations to Improve the Accuracy of Forest-Cover Carbon Stock Estimates in Thailand*

The project's goal is to provide accurate information on national forest carbon stocks to support informed sustainable forest management policy decision-making and balanced public debate on the benefits of forests in climate change mitigation in Thailand.

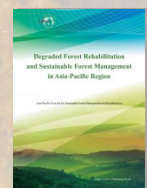




# Publications

## *APFNet Strategic Plan 2016-2020*

The APFNet Strategic Plan 2016-2020 sets out the organization's principles, priorities and activities under APFNet's four core activity pillars: capacity building, project implementation, policy dialogues and information sharing. It also outlines seven sub-regions where APFNet will direct its focus and plan its interventions: the GMS; Southeast Asia (except GMS); South Asia, Greater Central Asia; Pacific Islands; North America and Latin America.



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

Deforestation and forest degradation remain major problems for the majority of economies in the Asia-Pacific region. In the context of climate change mitigation and adaptation, rehabilitation of degraded forest lands has become a priority for most economies. This book highlights the nature and scale of the degradation problem, the causes of degradation, impacts, ongoing efforts to rehabilitate degraded forest lands and important lessons learnt.

## *APFNet annual report 2015*

The year 2015 saw APFNet take a big step forward in its internationalization efforts with the official establishment of its Board of Directors and Council. These bodies will be important in guiding and bringing an increasingly diverse perspective to APFNet's future development and activities. In addition, 2015 also marked the mid-point of the timeline for the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal, with APFNet conducting an interim assessment with the FAO on progress made so far.



## *APFNet Communication Guide*

The APFNet Communication Guide provides general guidance and good practices for communication, visibility and dissemination activities for all projects, programs and mechanisms. The purpose of the guide is to assist APFNet project and program managers to develop and implement effective communication strategies, and share knowledge and lessons learned with target audiences.

# Financial information

APFNet's 2016 financial performance remained steady, with total revenues at US\$ 6 771 311.80 and expenditure at US\$ 5 317 870.21 (US\$ 1 = CN¥ 6.9370, according to the exchange rate issued by the People's Bank of China on 31 December, 2016).

## BALANCE SHEET

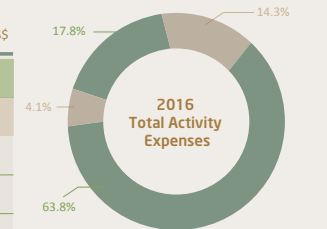
Currency: US\$

ASSETS	2016	2015
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Monetary Funds	3 559 908.04	2 496 446.10
Accounts Receivable	65 345.60	
Accounts Prepayment	184 556.10	
Prepaid Expenses	106 436.50	
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>3 916 246.24</b>	<b>2 496 446.10</b>
<b>Fixed Assets:</b>		
Fixed Assets	72 312.93	56 937.84
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	29 022.07	15 109.51
Fixed Assets - Net Value	43 290.86	41 828.33
Cultural Assets	1 225.31	
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>44 516.17</b>	<b>41 828.33</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>3 960 762.42</b>	<b>2 538 274.43</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>		
Accounts Payable	3 291.32	
Tax Payable	12 696.44	46 941.36
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>15 987.76</b>	<b>46 941.36</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>15 987.76</b>	<b>46 941.36</b>
<b>Net Assets:</b>		
Unrestricted Net Assets	1 546 957.67	2 376 009.44
Restricted Net Assets	2 397 816.98	115 323.63
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>3 944 774.66</b>	<b>2 491 333.07</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>3 960 762.42</b>	<b>2 538 274.43</b>

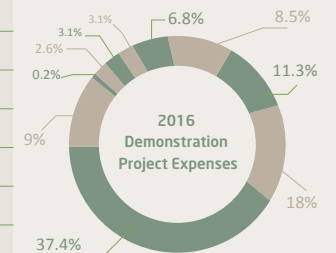
# BUSINESS ACTIVITY STATEMENT

Currency: US\$

ITEMS	2016	2015
<b>1. INCOME</b>		
Donation Income	1 584 085.34	526 255.37
Government Subsidy Income	5 180 743.00	3 597 017.40
Other Income	6 483.46	7 649.25
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>6 771 311.80</b>	<b>4 130 922.02</b>
<b>2. EXPENSES</b>		
<b>(1) Activity Costs</b>	<b>4 523 239.16</b>	<b>3 151 698.17</b>
Employee Expenses	311 175.75	
General Expenses	3 836 415.20	3 142 545.79
Accumulated Depreciation		9 152.38
Previous Project	375 648.21	
<b>(2) Management Expenses</b>	<b>799 456.69</b>	<b>1 021 251.79</b>
Employee Expenses	111 051.73	281 318.78
General Expenses	674 492.39	739 933.01
Accumulated Depreciation	13 912.56	
<b>(3) Financing Expenses</b>	<b>-4 825.63</b>	<b>-4 281.43</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>5 317 870.21</b>	<b>4 168 668.53</b>
<b>3. Restricted Net Assets Transferred To Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	-	-
<b>4. Net Assets Changes Increase/(Decrease)</b>	<b>1 453 441.59</b>	<b>-37 746.52</b>



- Demonstration Projects 63.8%
- Capacity Building 14.3%
- Policy Dialogue 17.8%
- Information Sharing 4.1%



- National Park 37.4%
- Forest Rehabilitation 18%
- Climate Change 11.3%
- Community Alleviation 8.5%
- Watershed Management 6.8%
- Sustainable Forest Management 3.1%
- Biodiversity Protection 3.1%
- Forest Resources Monitoring 2.6%
- Ecological System Planning Project 0.2%
- Project Planning And Monitoring 9%

# Abbreviations and acronyms

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APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
AP-FECM	Asia-Pacific Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism
APFNet	Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation
CN¥	Chinese yuan
ECAP	Early Career Academics Program
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GMS	Greater Mekong Sub-region
ha	hectare(s)
IUFRO	International Union of Forest Research Organizations
km	kilometre
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
P.R. China	People's Republic of China
RECOFTC	The Center for People and Forests
TIF	Trainers in Forestry
US\$	United States dollar(s)

# Photo Credits

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Cover	Wangyedian Forest Farm
P4 P23	Wang Guo Qin/APFNet
P5 P6	Liu Wei/APFNet
P6 P18 P20 P32	APFNet Kunming Training Center
P12	Project team of Sustainable Forest Management in the Northern Provinces of Lao PDR
P13 P14	Project team of Rehabilitation and Management of Degraded Forests in Miyun Reservoir Watershed, Beijing
P16	Project team of Capacity Building towards Effective Implementation of Sustainable Forest Management Practices in Fiji, Tonga and Niue
P17	Project team of Construction of a mini botanic park in the National Park of Mongolia
P19	Project team of Strengthening Urban Forestry Demonstration Site of Bang Kachao for the Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Learning Center
P22	Project team of Supporting Community Based Sustainable Forest Management and Economic Empowerment of Women in the Central Region of Nepal
P24 P26 P31	Chen Lin/APFNet
P29	Luo Xi/APFNet
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