Asia-Pacific Network for
Sustainable Forest Management
and Rehabilitation (APFNet)

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APFNet
Annual Report
2017

10
APFNet
2008 - 2018

About APFNet

Mission

The mission of APFNet is to help promote and improve 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 the 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 2017

21 active projects receiving a total of **USD10 million** in APFNet funding

Scholarship students + **29** = **103**

Trainees[1] of workshops and study tours = **827**

Strategic partnerships + **2** = **13**

[1] This figure includes short-term trainings and exchanges as part of APFNet's thematic training series, the Trainers in Forestry Network and APFNet-funded demonstration projects. APFNet Scholarship Program students are not included in the total.

As another year flies by, APFNet can proudly look back on a busy period filled with exciting new projects and initiatives.

By embracing opportunities, strengthening collaboration and responding directly to our member economies' needs, APFNet strives to advance sustainable forest management and rehabilitation in the region.

In 2017, our education and training programs continued to go from strength to strength. Not only did our thematic training series reach forestry officials from more economies than ever before, our regional education and research programs and mechanisms now cover Greater Central Asia, Southeast Asia and beyond.

As we grow as an organization, the value of a broad approach focused on investing in people – balancing livelihood improvement with conservation – becomes an increasingly central component of our work.

In this vein, our projects are vital in demonstrating best practices and techniques, bringing substantive improvements to forest quality, ecosystem functioning and local livelihoods.

APFNet's policy dialogue work is also going through an exciting period. In 2017, we expanded our scope to encompass transboundary wildlife conservation, as the loss of habitats is intrinsically linked to many aspects of sustainable forest management.

As forest authorities around the world are faced with an increasingly complex policy environment, our efforts aimed at strategic planning will help decision makers balance multiple priorities and forge a path that benefits forests and people in a holistic way.

In 2018, APFNet will celebrate its 10-year anniversary. I am incredibly proud to have taken up the position of Executive Director, and of the achievements we have made not only in 2017 but also over the last decade. Each year we continue to identify where we can most add value and I look forward to helping oversee our work as we endeavor to have an ever greater impact.

Finally, helping as many people as possible understand the far-reaching nature of sustainable forest management and how this can be translated into action wouldn't be possible without our donors, members, executing agencies, partners and experts, who are integral to ensuring the success of our activities. My sincere thanks to them all.

Lu De

Message from the Executive Director

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Pillar 1 >

Capacity Building

Capacity building is the first pillar that APFNet structures its activities around to fulfil its mission of promoting sustainable forest management and rehabilitation in the Asia-Pacific region. To respond to the evolving forestry capacity development demands of our members, APFNet continuously strengthens its activities under this pillar.

Our capacity building portfolio now encompasses two thematic training series, the APFNet Scholarship Program (ASP), the Asia-Pacific Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism (AP-FECM), the Trainers in Forestry (TIF) Network, and the Sino-ASEAN Network of Forestry Institutes (SANFRI).

▲
Participants taking part in trainings in Nepal (above) and Inner Mongolia, China (right) as part of APFNet's capacity building activities
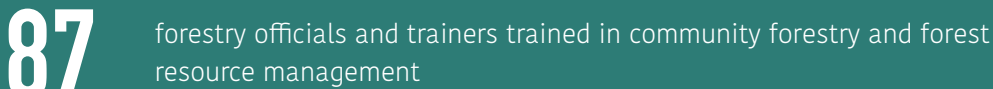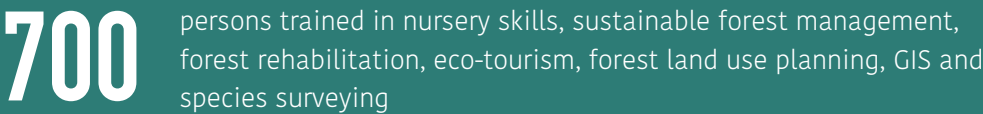
▶

APFNet capacity building by numbers |

● **Short-term training (Asia-Pacific thematic training; Greater Central Asia thematic training)**

40 forestry officials trained in forest rehabilitation, livelihood development and combating desertification

10 of these were women

30 were men

● **Short-term training and exchanges under the APFNet Trainers in Forestry Network**

87 forestry officials and trainers trained in community forestry and forest resource management

● **Short-term training under APFNet funded demonstration projects**

700 persons trained in nursery skills, sustainable forest management, forest rehabilitation, eco-tourism, forest land use planning, GIS and species surveying

● **Formal training (APFNet Scholarship Program)**

29 2017 intake: 29 MSc candidates

15 women

14 men

11 2017 graduates: 11 MSc

4 women

7 men

● **By 2017, 45 universities and colleges had joined the Asia-Pacific Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism**

As of October 2017, the five online courses on sustainable forest management, accessible for free online, recorded over **37,000** active users from **90+** economies worldwide

Regional training in forestry

APFNet thematic trainings

APFNet has conducted thematic trainings for forestry officials of its member economies since its launch in 2008. Today, these trainings are split according to the following geographic areas:

- Thematic trainings for the Asia-Pacific region

- Thematic trainings for the Greater Central Asia region

Number of forestry officials trained through thematic trainings in 2017
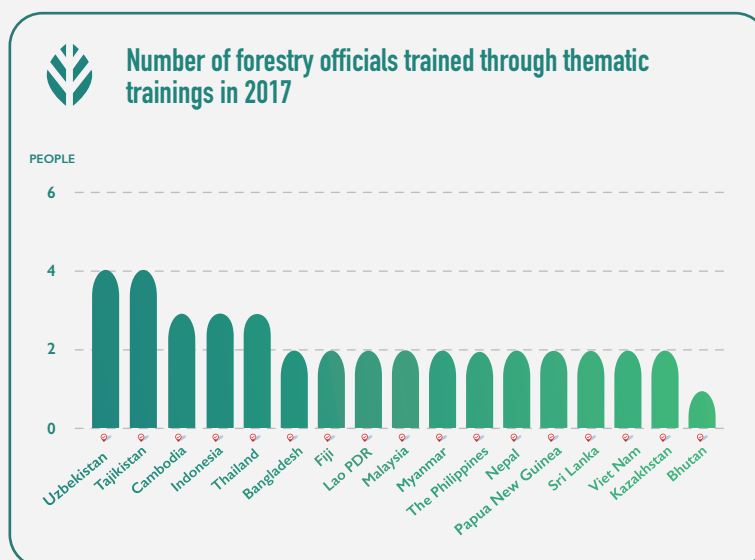
Trainers in Forestry Network

In addition to individual trainings, APFNet also strives to facilitate exchange and experience sharing among training institutes to strengthen forestry capacity development. The Trainers in Forestry (TIF) Network, initiated by APFNet in late 2014, aims to build the effectiveness and efficiency of forestry in-service training efforts in the Asia-Pacific region.

Responding to the needs of member economies, the TIF Network organized:

- A training on state-owned forest resource management: driving reform of state-owned forest management in northeastern China to build an "ecological civilization", from 25-29 June 2017 in Beijing, China;

- In follow-up to the training, an exchange to learn experiences regarding public forest management, from 2-10 July 2017 in British Columbia and Alberta, Canada; and

- A study tour on community forestry and its training in Nepal: develop capacity of trainers, from 11-15 October 2017 in Kathmandu and the Kayre District of Nepal.

Regional education and research
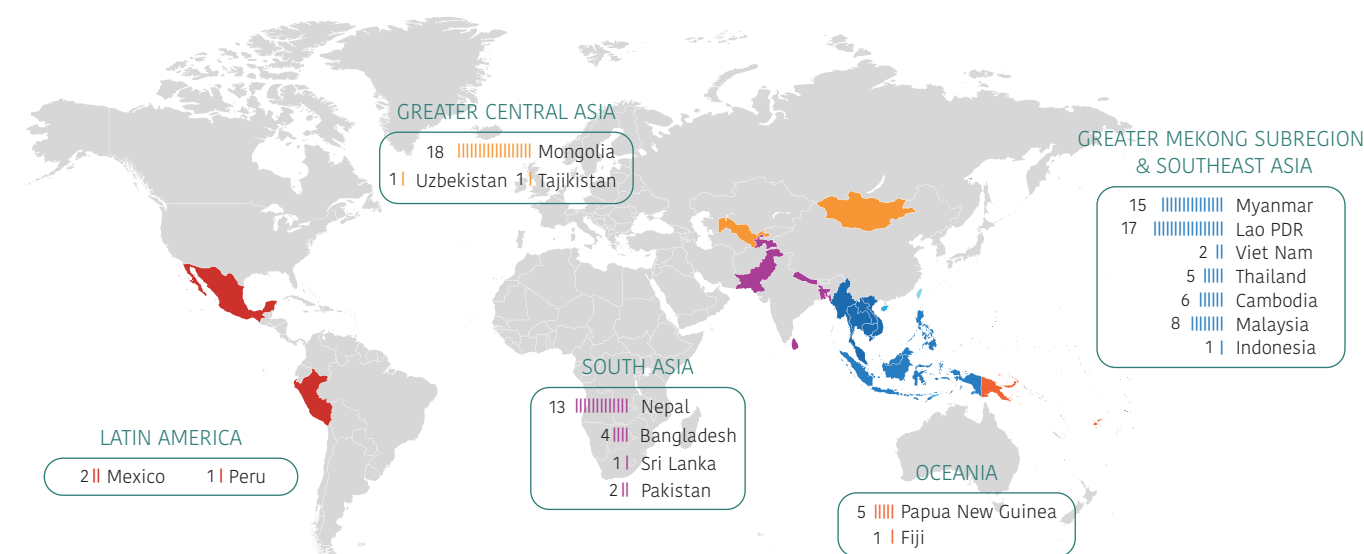
▲ Distribution and number of students enrolled in the APFNet Scholarship Program from 2010 to 2017

APFNet Scholarship Program

Launched in 2010, the APFNet Scholarship Program (ASP) aims to support capable forestry officials and/or researchers in the Asia-Pacific region to pursue higher academic degrees in the field of sustainable forest management and rehabilitation in universities and institutions in China and other potential universities in the region.

In 2017, the ASP expanded to include two new host universities in China: Inner Mongolia Agriculture University and Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University. The two new universities specifically target non-Chinese citizens from the Greater Central Asia region: Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan. The ASP now has four host universities offering two-year masters programs in forestry and related fields.

Asia–Pacific Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism

The Asia-Pacific Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism (AP-FECM) is an initiative proposed by APFNet in 2010 and launched in 2011 to facilitate collaboration among forestry universities and colleges in the region to contribute to the cultivation of the next generation of foresters.

As of the end of 2017, 45 universities had joined the mechanism, with 10 of them sitting on its Steering Committee. The University of British Columbia serves as the Executive Office of the mechanism to implement the decisions made by the Steering Committee.

Sino–ASEAN Network of Forestry Research Institutes

The Sino-ASEAN Network of Forestry Research Institutes (SANFRI) went through a consultation process in 2017, and will be officially launched in 2018. The network will focus on information exchange, capacity development and collaboration to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of forestry research in China and ASEAN economies.

Pillar 2 >

Demonstration Projects

The second pillar that APFNet utilizes to help its member economies sustainably manage their forests is demonstration projects.

These projects encompass a range of different areas and issues, but all cover at least one of APFNet's key priorities as outlined on the adjacent page.

The projects highlighted in this section provide an overview of some of APFNet's key areas of work in 2017. From climate-modeling to land use planning and community participation in forest management, APFNet works hard to balance forest rehabilitation with the livelihood needs of local people.

Dr. Brad Seely taking under-canopy ▶ photos for calibrating the FORECAST model under the Adaptation of Asia-Pacific Forests to Climate Change (Phase II) project

APFNet Key Priorities

SDG 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

SDG 15: LIFE ON LAND
Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

To contribute to the achievement of global goals and targets related to forests, in particular the forest-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs - i.e. SDG 6 and SDG 15), Global Objectives on Forests, Aichi targets and the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal, APFNet focuses on the following priorities that correspond to its objectives:

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.

Modeling the future of forests

Project title	Adaptation of Asia-Pacific Forests to Climate Change (Phase II)
Executing agency	University of British Columbia
Project duration	January 2016 to December 2018
APFNet grant	USD 499 200
Project area	China, Chinese Taipei, Malaysia, Lao PDR and Myanmar

Climate change continues to dominate headlines around the world, causing real impacts to communities, people's lives, and the places that they live. The impact of climate change on forests is hugely significant, and has already altered people's way of life, led to drought, and affected a whole host of health and other services provided by forest ecosystems.

Why is ClimateAP needed?

In order to be able to effectively tackle the impacts of climate change on forests, there must be a strong basis of knowledge and technology to create a scientific foundation that can inform policies related to sustainable development. Unfortunately this has been lacking, which is why APFNet launched the "Adaptation of Asia-Pacific Forests to Climate Change" research project, with the Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia, as the project executing agency, in 2011. Phase II of the project was launched in 2015, and is expected to be completed by the end of 2018.

As one of the most difficult aspects of understanding the climate change impact on forestry is a lack easily accessible and user-friendly data, the project set out to tackle this by developing tools for scientists and policy makers in the Asia-Pacific region.

ClimateAP is a tool that facilitates easy access to historical and future climate data for any location in the entire Asia-Pacific region for climate change studies and applications. Its web-based version is embedded in Google Maps, allowing users to obtain climate data in just a few clicks. It also provides a web platform to visualize climate, species and forest ecotype distributions. These features help a range of policy makers and stakeholders see how the changing climate will impact different species and ecosystems at large and local scales.

A unique feature of ClimateAP is that it can provide climate data for specific locations (i.e. scale-free) rather than for averages over an area as provided by other climate models. The time-series function and the refinement of future projection data are key improvements in the second phase of the project. The new version (ver2.0) enables users to generate monthly time-series climate data for historical (1901-2016) or future years (2011-2100) in a single run. The time-series climate data can help to model how the changing climate affects specific species of trees and forest ecosystems on an annual basis, reflecting annual variability and extremes.
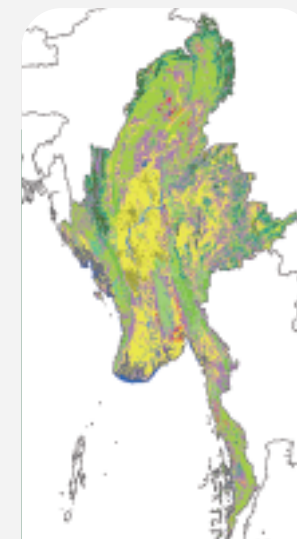
— Dr. Guangyu Wang
Director, Asia Forest Research Centre/Associate Professor at Faculty of Forest, University of British Columbia
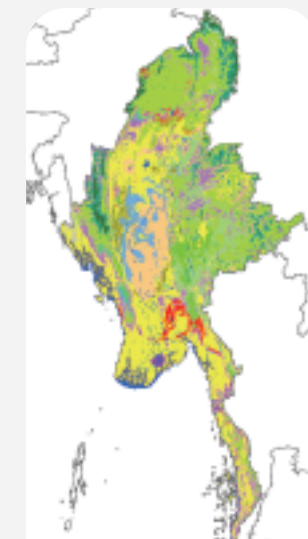
ClimateAP in action: Myanmar case study

The changing climate is affecting forest ecosystems across the world, including in the Asia-Pacific region. In Myanmar, the ClimateAP-driven climate niche model shows spatial distributions of temperature and forest ecosystem types and can predict dramatic changes under a future climate change scenario (2050s). For example, grassland is predicted to expand in Myanmar under a changing climate.
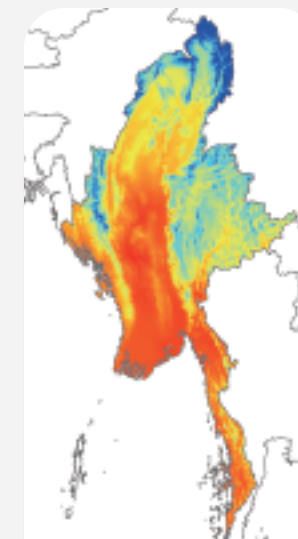
Mean annual temperature in Myanmar (current) | **Original forest ecosystem types in Myanmar (current)** | **Change in vegetation type in 2050s**

ClimateAP has been used by the FORECAST model to predict the effect of climate change on Myanmar's teak plantations.

The initial results of simulation suggest that the productivity of teak plantations would increase slightly in 2050 and 2080 due to increasing precipitation in the region.

How is this information useful for policy makers?

The outcomes from these models and tools provide opportunities for filling data gaps required for addressing policy to formulate climate-smart alternative ecosystem-based adaptive forest management strategies and actions. For instance, the climate niche model can help policy makers develop assisted migration of forest tree species to avoid maladaptation and develop genetic conservation strategies under climate change on a large scale. In addition, the outcomes of the FORECAST model can help decision makers and managers to evaluate alternative adaptation solutions to address climate change effects on teak plantations at a local scale.

Rehabilitating forests in a biodiversity hotspot

Project title	Community Tree Planting Project in Papua New Guinea
Executing agency	Voice of Yongos
Implementation agencies	Papua New Guinea Forest Authority Simbu office; Papua New Guinea Eco-Forestry Forum; Simbu Farmers Marketing Ltd
Project duration	July 2017 to June 2019
APFNet grant	USD 183 811
Project site / area	Yongomugl Sub-District
Location	Simbu Province, Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea (PNG) is the second largest island in the world. In the 1970s, its natural forests covered 72% of its total land mass, and with a diverse range of species, PNG is still considered to be of similar biological and conservation importance as the Amazon and Congo Basin.

However, according to FAO's 2010 Global Forest Resources Assessment, forest cover has declined steadily. From 1972 – 2002, nearly one quarter of PNG's rainforests were degraded or destroyed[1].

Facing this serious situation, the PNG Government put in place a master plan to plant 800,000 hectares of trees by 2050, with the help of local landowners and groups in village communities.

Yongomugl sub-district in Simbu Province faces similar challenges as the rest of PNG. Human activities have led to widespread depletion of lowland natural forest resources, yet, so far, reforestation activities to restore the lost forests have been lacking.

In line with PNG's reforestation and afforestation strategies, and aiming to involve communities through participatory forest management, APFNet launched a two-year community afforestation project in the Yongomugl sub-district in July 2017.

[1]www.news.mongabay.com/2009/02/24-of-papua-new-guineas-rainforest-destroyed-or-degraded-by-logging-in-30-years/

Seedling propagation and enrichment planting

Ambitious afforestation efforts require sufficient seed source and the support of seedling nurseries.

Four nurseries have been established with a carrying capacity of 320,000 seedlings that within two years will grow locally-preferred, native and high-value timber species. These seedlings will be disseminated to communities for enrichment planting in 180 hectares of highly degraded land. Furthermore, the nurseries can then act as the backbone of future afforestation activities carried out by other stakeholders.

The guiding principle behind enrichment planting is to create secondary forest where mixed-species grow to restore biodiversity, enhance soil fertility and provide a steady supply of timber. In order to balance livelihood needs with forest restoration, agroforestry models will also be used. Seedlings will be interplanted with fruit trees such as banana, orange, guava and other crops like taro and cassava, for self-consumption and for sale at local markets.

Raising stakeholder awareness on forest protection

Environmental awareness raising and capacity building to increase skills related to the management of nurseries, forest tending and agroforestry management will also be conducted for more than 2000 students, teachers in 75 schools, 60 community leaders and village court officials, and residents across 15 villages.

▲ Awareness-raising activities at a local school in the Adelbert Mountains

Cleaning Beijing's water by greening Miyun's mountains

Project title	Rehabilitation and Management of Degraded Forests in Beijing's Miyun Reservoir Watershed
Executing agency	Beijing Forestry Society
Project duration	July 2015 to June 2018
APFNet grant	USD 491 100
Project area	Miyun, Beijing, China

A mega-city and its water crisis

Beijing, China's capital, is a mega-city in the truest sense: it has managed to draw millions of people and is still rapidly expanding. This is an astonishing feat, especially considering that Beijing is one of the most water-scarce cities in the world, with per capita availability of water at only 1/30 of the world's average. Water, in this sense, is one of the most valuable resources and efforts are needed to enhance water source protection for the city.

What if this could be achieved by relying mainly on the natural capabilities of forests in Beijing to improve watershed conservation and improve water quality? This was the idea behind the APFNet supported project "Rehabilitation and Management of Degraded Forests in Miyun Watershed, Beijing", which is being implemented by the Beijing Forestry Society. The project aims to enhance the ecological functions of forests in the Miyun watershed which feeds into the Miyun reservoir, Beijing's main reservoir for providing surface drinking water for the city.

Millions of people in Beijing rely on the Miyun watershed for their water supply

How does this project work?

Due to historic deforestation, forests were replaced by barren mountains or low-functioning shrublands some 70 years ago. In the areas that were afforested through national reforestation programs, monocultures have taken hold. The lack of diverse structures and high density have hindered their ability to protect the water source.

APFNet, in cooperation with Beijing Forestry Society, set out to restore these areas to a more natural state. A key tool in achieving this change was thinning according to close-to-nature forest management standards. By thinning out competitor trees, the forest's water use decreases, while also ensuring that in the long term other species have space to grow, slowly converting it into a more natural mixed forest. The thinned wood will be sold, providing income for local communities, or be left in the field to improve forest biodiversity, as the coarse woody debris can provide shelter and nutrition for birds and animals. The mixture of species, partially enhanced through enrichment planting in gaps where few other species grow as a result of limited natural seed sources, will ensure more effective and sustainable water source protection as diverse forests will be less susceptible to pest attacks.

Close-to-nature forest management

Close-to-nature forest management originated in Germany and is based on the central tenet of managing a forest by working with nature instead of against it. It respects natural constraints and manages them in accordance with the existing ecology to achieve high-quality forest stands. The results are structurally diverse forests with multiple functions in a much better position to deliver forest ecosystem services, including watershed conservation.

Protecting the ecological functioning of the Prek Thnot watershed

Project title	Landscape Approach to Sustainable Management of Forests in Prek Thnot Watershed
Executing agency	The Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development
Project duration	March 2015 to February 2017 (extended to May 2019)
APFNet grant	USD 499 215
Project site/area	Prek Thnot Watershed
Location	Kampong Speu Province, Cambodia

Overview of the Prek Thnot watershed

The Prek Thnot watershed spans three provinces in Cambodia, and is at high risk of impairment due to human activity. It covers a total land area of 666,764 hectares, 77.8% of which is located in Kampong Speu Province, and partly or entirely encompasses 65 communes and six districts.

Most of the watershed's intact forest cover is located in the northwest, although a few patches of forests can still be found downstream in the southeastern part, which mostly consists of highly urbanized residential areas. Rice production that depends on water from the tributaries of Prek Thnot is also located here.

In 2010, 45% of the watershed area was covered by forest land, followed by agricultural land at 31.8% and shrub land at 14.6%. However, without a watershed management plan, forest area is on a trajectory to severely decrease.

The Prek Thnot watershed plays a key role in sustaining the livelihoods of not only the people in the area, but also of many unique species. Unless action is taken, however, the unsustainable use of the Prek Thnot watershed, coupled with ever-expanding development, will exceed its threshold carrying capacity. This unsustainable use is defined by inappropriate land use practices, which have caused negative environmental consequences such as soil erosion, the depletion of soil nutrients, the sedimentation of reservoirs, and the flooding of low lying downstream areas, ultimately impacting a large number of people's lives.

This project therefore set out to assess the bio-physical and socio-economic conditions of the watershed. Based on the resulting water characterization report, a land allocation map was developed and will be followed by a watershed management plan, which together will help counter these challenges by defining land tenure and giving practitioners tools to balance the socio-economic development of the watershed with its environmental conservation.

Project outputs

A watershed characterization report: including a characterization of the bio-physical and socioeconomic conditions, an analysis of the risks due to the state of existing land use and a subsequent risk reduction plan. The report has been used as background information for the subsequent land allocation planning process during consultations with stakeholders, as well as to inform the watershed management plan development.

A land allocation map: produced using the "Linear and Goal Programme tool", which has been widely used to optimize land use and natural resource management planning. Data collection, a number of consultations and a provincial forum drawing on the views of 87 stakeholders as well as various GIS tools helped to form the basis of the allocation model map. The map provides various land use model options in the watershed, while also helping to meet societal goals that are in alignment with key government goals on food security and poverty allocation.

A Watershed Management Plan: which will be developed in 2018.
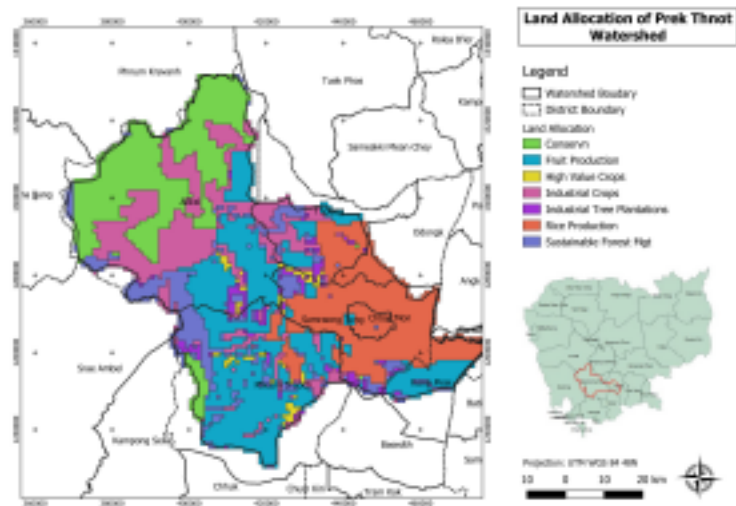
▲ Overall land allocation model map of the Prek Thnot watershed

Working with communities to increase income and monitor water and soil erosion

▲ Communities collecting data for soil and water monitoring

Three agroforestry plots were established on farmers' land in Krang Deivay and Trapeang Chor commune, Kampong Speu Province. High-value timber species such as *Dalbergia cochinchinensis* and *Diterocarpus alatus* were interplanted with annual agricultural crops and perennial fruit tree species.

The purpose of these models is to improve the productivity of the farmland in order to provide more income for farmers while at the same time collecting empirical data on soil erosion from the sites.

A total of 10 farmers have been trained on agroforestry and hydrology, in particular on soil and water conservation on agricultural land.

Improving livelihoods through community participation

Project title	Community-Based Sustainable Forest Management of Sungai Medihit Watershed, Sarawak, Malaysia
Executing agency	Sarawak Forest Department, Malaysia
Project duration	June 2015 to May 2018
APFNet grant	USD 460 000
Project site	Sungai Medihit Watershed
Location	UluLimbang Division, Sarawak, Malaysia

For many generations, the Kelabits of Long Napir and the Penans of Kampung Bahagia have lived side by side.

Historically, the Kelabits have lived in traditional longhouses. They were subsistence farmers, cultivating rice in hill paddies. However, making a living was tough, given the limited size of land from forest clearing that was available to farmers, and the work was hard. Yields were often low and farmers were frequently faced with a shortfall at the end of each year.

The Penans have had a nomadic way of life for many generations. They roamed the wild forests in search of food and wild fruits. They faced no restrictions in their life, living in simple huts. However, in the 1970s the Penans nomadic lifestyle came to an end, when they were resettled by the government into a modern village at Kampung Bahagia. Today, the Penans are subsistence farmers like their Kelabit neighbours.

As government policy is focused on including ethnic minorities in the State's mainstream development, it has provided basic facilities such as schools, clinics and projects to help improve the livelihoods of communities such as the Kelabits and Penans.

While government-led efforts laid the groundwork, significant gaps and areas for livelihood improvement remain. The APFNet project "Community-based Sustainable Forest Management of Sungai Medihit Watershed, Sarawak, Malaysia" was therefore launched in July 2015.

Involving communities by adopting a participatory approach

The project aims to promote sustainable forest management in the area, enhance community capacity, demonstrate innovative operational models, as well as establish and operate new governance mechanisms for local sustainable development.

A key aspect of the project is its emphasis on community involvement. Local Penan and Kelabit people are the target communities of the project, making them its most important focus. By deeply involving them in the project's activities, the capacity of the local community for managing the forest resources of the Sungai Medihit watershed is greatly improved, bringing about long-term sustainable livelihood improvements.

Developing the participatory community forest management mechanism

The Co-Management Committee is a partnership arrangement in which local communities, government officers and other stakeholders share collective responsibility and authority for decision making over the management of forest resources. The composition of the committee is as follows:

- ○ A total of 15 people sit on the committee.
- ○ Each community (Penan and Kelabit) elects five candidates at a triennial general meeting.
- ○ In addition to the elected candidates, the committee is composed of two members representing timber operators, one representative from each executing agency and one from the Agriculture and District Office.

Education and training of participating households in sustainable forest management covers a wide range of areas including running a homestay, ecotourism, vegetable production, chicken rearing and health improvement.

Ms Nomi Jawa, a local Penan businesswoman, is involved in making handicrafts.

" The construction of the 1.5 km road connecting Kampung Bahagia to Long Napir has greatly assisted us here. I now have the opportunity to market my handicrafts in Limbang and even up to Brunei. "

Madam Noh Megih of Kampung Bahagia participates in vegetable farming activities.

" This project has given me the opportunity to learn how to grow vegetables. Before, we just depended on what wild vegetables we could find in the nearby forest. "

Mr and Mrs Ajang Gabar of Kampung Long Napir participate in the project's homestay program.

" We have already received a few groups of visitors to stay with us here in Long Napir and we are expecting more to come and stay, especially tourists and government officials. "

▲ Plantation of critically endangered *Magnolia sinica* in Wanzhangshan Forest Farm, Yunnan Province, China

▲ Communities preparing sites for agroforestry models in Cambodia

◀ ▶ Wooden handicraft training in Nepal

▲ Establishment of agroforestry plots
▼ in Prek Thnot watershed

SUPPORTING SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

PLANTING AGRO-FORESTRY AND HIGH-VALUE TIMBER SPECIES

Improving Livelihoods and Enhancing Social Benefits

▲ Community members trained as tour guides in Bang Kachao, Bangkok, Thailand

▲ Seedlings distributed to communities in Shan State, Myanmar

PROVIDING INCOME FROM LABOR

PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT OF ECO-TOURISM

ENCOURAGING GREEN ENERGY USE

▲ Solar panels installed in Limbang, Malaysia

▲ Energy efficient cookstoves distributed to farmers in Shan State, Myanmar
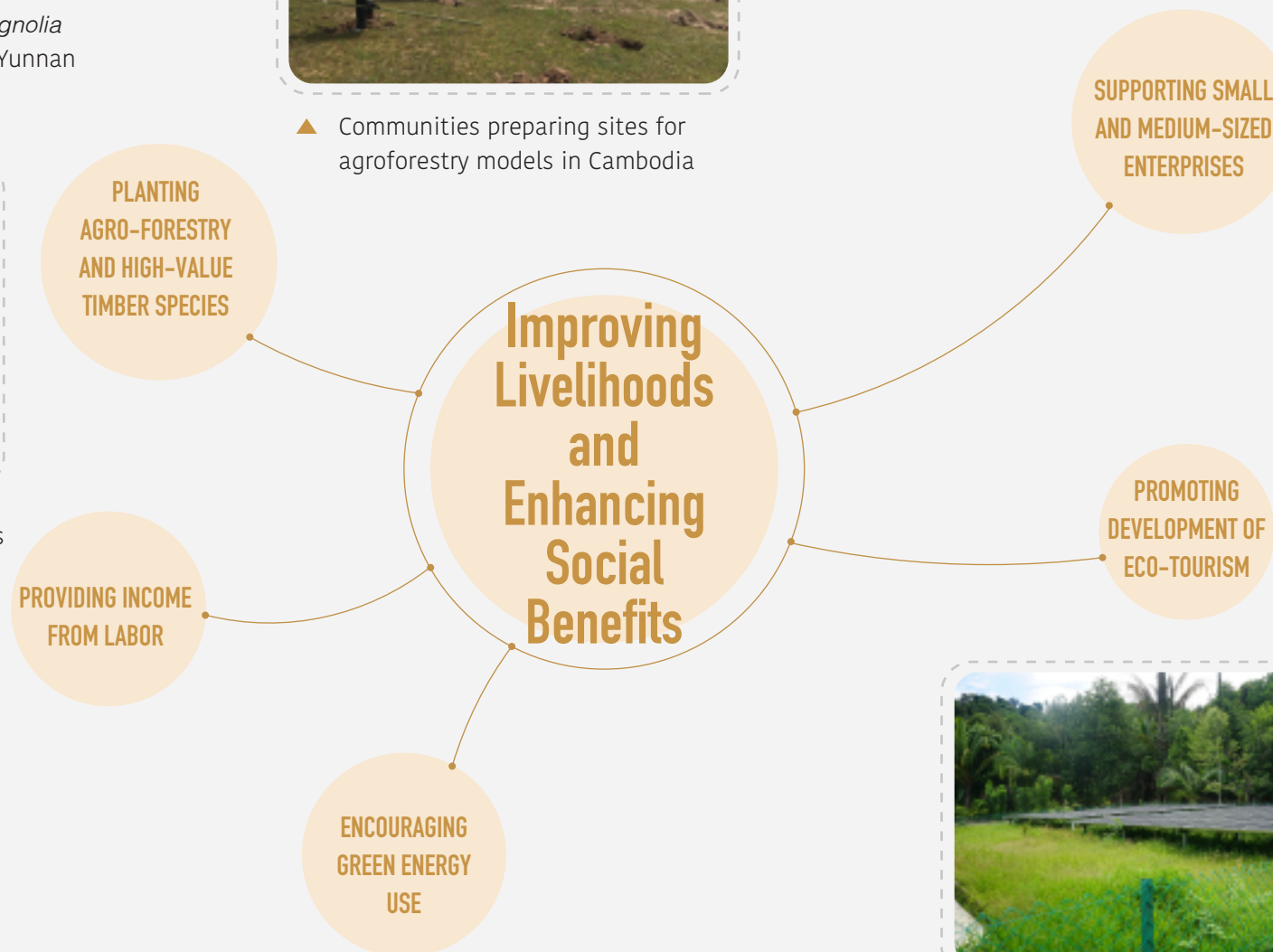
Pillar 3 >

Policy Dialogue

S ound policies and strong and continued political commitment are vital for sustainable forest management and effective rehabilitation of forests. APFNet leverages its unique position in the Asia-Pacific region to support regional policy dialogues, its third key pillar, to help forge common understanding and foster the sharing of information and best-practices.
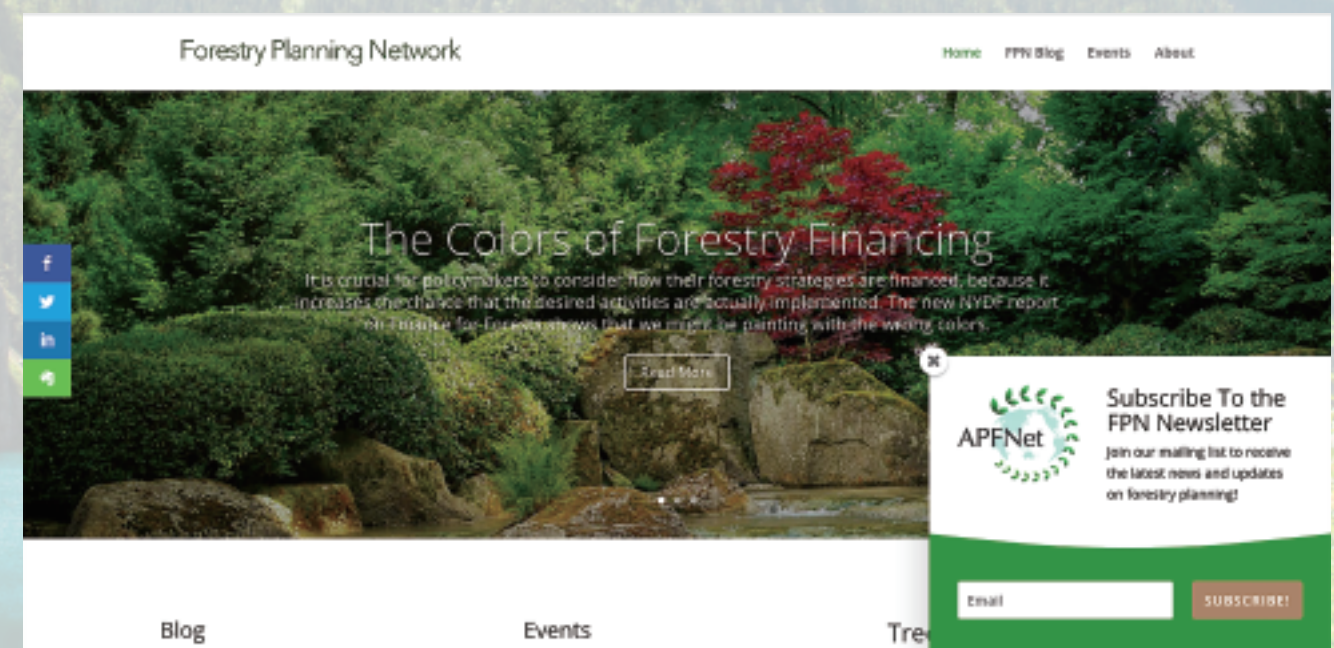
Forestry Planning Network (FPN)

What is it? 🍃

In a world increasingly dominated by globalization and other forces, forestry strategic planning has become more complex than ever. The Asia-Pacific Forestry Planning Network (FPN) aims to strengthen economy-level forestry planning processes in Asia-Pacific economies, through building a vibrant network of strategic planners and policymakers who share experience and knowledge, assess emerging opportunities and challenges that impact forests and forestry, and provide mutual support in strengthening institutional and individual capacity in forestry strategic planning.

What happened in 2017? 🍃

In 2017 the FPN set out understand the strengths & weaknesses and gaps & needs of six member economies in order to determine future program activities. As a result, the FPN will focus on three broad areas to support its members:
 (1) Monitoring & Evaluation of National Forest Plans (NFPs), (2) International forest policy processes, and (3) Communication strategies of NFPs.

▲ The FPN website contains blog posts, information about the network and upcoming events. Read more at: www.forestryplanning.net

APFNet Transboundary Wildlife Conservation Initiative

What is it?

The Greater Mekong Subregion is a biodiversity hotspot, one of the last regions where iconic wildlife like pangolin, the Asian elephant and tigers can be found. Internationally, wildlife has received plenty of attention, yet, protection on the ground is often compromised by many factors, with the threat of illegal poaching and wildlife trade being as dangerous as the gradual reduction and fragmentation of habitat.

The most effective tool to conserve wildlife, especially in transboundary areas, is increased cooperation between different economies. The APFNet Transboundary Wildlife Conservation Initiative (@Wild) aims to provide regional policy makers with opportunities to coordinate their wildlife protection efforts and increase structured information sharing on a cross-departmental and cross-boundary level.

What happened in 2017?

In December 2017, a consultation meeting on @Wild was held in Bangkok, Thailand, for participants to share their background knowledge and new ideas to help APFNet create a framework. The new initiative will help ensure the effective protection of endangered species, no matter where they roam.

Greater Central Asia Forestry Cooperation Mechanism

What is it?

APFNet has been actively collaborating with partners from across Greater Central Asia (GCA) since 2014 to help address issues affecting forestry in the region. This is done under the framework of the Greater Central Asia Forestry Cooperation Mechanism (GCA-FCM), which involves gathering senior forestry officials and NGOs to discuss forestry development issues in GCA, share best practices and identify potential collaborative actions that address domestic and transboundary forestry issues, while aligning them with existing international/regional efforts.

What happened in 2017?

In 2017, APFNet organized the 3rd Regional Workshop on Strategic Forestry Cooperation in the Greater Central Asia Region, in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan, from 28 to 30 June. The workshop set out to revisit the Strategic Cooperation Framework, look at how the Astana Statement could be translated into concrete actions and share experiences and best-practices. Economies highlighted the need for increased emphasis on: capacity building, combating desertification, evaluation of forest ecosystem services, transboundary forest fire prevention and development of a database of forestry information.

APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry

What is it?

The APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry (MMRF) is a high-level policy dialogue that was proposed at the 18th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting. The MMRF aims to foster greater cooperation in tackling regional forestry issues including increasing forest cover, combating illegal logging and mitigating against climate change. APFNet co-organized the first three MMRFs and actively participated in the recent MMRF4.

What happened in 2017?

In 2017, the MMRF4 was held in Seoul, the Republic of Korea from 30 October to 1 November. APFNet sent a delegation headed by its Chair Mr. Zhao Shucong, with Executive Director Mr. Lu De giving a keynote speech on progress towards the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal and participating in a number of panel discussions. The meeting resulted in delegates adopting the "Seoul Statement", available at:
www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Sectoral-Ministerial-Meetings/Forestry/2017_forestry

Pillar 4 >

Communication and Information Sharing

Communication and information sharing is an integral aspect of APFNet's work, and forms the basis of its fourth key pillar. This pillar is cross-cutting, informing activities under the other three pillars, in addition to being a fundamental part of each of our priority areas. APFNet's outreach and partnership activities are included under this pillar, which includes activities aimed at building knowledge and sharing experiences in the region, in addition to communications materials such as newsletters and publications.

APFNet Newsletter

APFNet produces regular newsletters with updates on its projects and activities. Newsletters are sent out to our mailing list, and will be linked directly to our new website going forward.

APFNet Annual Report 2016

In 2016, APFNet continued to help meet the changing socio-economic and environmental needs of its member economies, improving local livelihoods and building capacity through a range of initiatives. Our commitment to Greater Central Asia was reaffirmed as we intensified efforts directed at promoting high-level forestry commitment and collaboration in the region. Importantly, 2016 marked the first year of APFNet's 2016-2020 Strategic Plan, which provides a framework for APFNet's activities.

Forest transition in Asia–Pacific economies

The APFNet Forest transition in Asia-Pacific economies summary paper analyzes the causal factors of forest decline and forest recovery in nine Asia-Pacific economies. The report, based on local studies carried out as part of an APFNet-APAFRI project, summarizes forest transition in the target economies.

Partnership activities

Realizing Forest Landscape Restoration Goals in ASEAN Member States

What is it? 🌿

Forest landscape restoration (FLR) is "the ongoing process of regaining ecological functionality and enhancing human well-being across deforested or degraded forest landscapes"[1]. FLR is a highly challenging, complex task, and needs to meet the requirements of a diverse range of stakeholders, have strong political backing, adequate financing and sufficient capacity for its successful implementation.

What happened in 2017?

APFNet partnered with RECOFTC – the Center for People and Forests and China's State Academy of Forestry Administration to hold a workshop on "Realizing Forest Landscape Restoration Goals in ASEAN Member States" in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China from 4 to 7 December 2017. The workshop focused on the key components required for successful forest landscape restoration: policy, tenure, financing and governance. For more information, see: www.recoftc.wordpress.com/2018/02/02/making-forest-landscape-restoration-a-reality/.

▲ The "Realizing Forest Landscape Restoration Goals in ASEAN Member States" workshop included a visit to see forest restoration at the Kunyang phosphorite mine in Yunnan Province, China

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[1] www.iucn.org/theme/forests/our-work/forest-landscape-restoration

Regional Workshop on Natural Regeneration

What is it? 🌿

Natural regeneration differs from more traditional methods of forest restoration as it involves natural successional processes instead of techniques such as the establishment of large-scale monoculture plantations. It can also be an economical way of meeting global and national targets while at the same time conserving biodiversity and enhancing ecosystem services.

What happened in 2017? 🌿

The Regional Workshop on Natural Regeneration, co-organized by FAO and APFNet in Nanning, Guangxi Province, China from 19 to 21 June 2017, set out to examine how to strengthen institutional support and provide incentives for local communities to encourage the uptake of natural regeneration.

Financial information

APFNet's 2017 financial performance remained steady, with total revenues at USD 8 799 003.70 and expenditure at USD 7 944 692.60 (USD 1 = CNY 6.7283, according to the average exchange rate issued by the Bank of China for 2017).

BALANCE SHEET

Currency: USD

ASSESTS	2017	2016*
CURRENT ASSESTS		
Monetary Funds	4 674 754.46	3 595 672.98
Accounts Receivable	22 959.29	66 002.10
Accounts Prepayment	39 601.39	186 410.26
Prepaid Expenses	126 718.30	107 505.82
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	4 864 033.43	3 955 591.16
Fixed Assets:		
Fixed Assets	129 590.51	73 039.43
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	49 387.63	29 313.64
Fixed Assets – Net Value	80 202.88	43 725.78
Cultural Assets	1 263.32	1 237.62
Total Fixed Assets	81 466.20	44 963.40
Long-term prepayments	7 254.43	
TOTAL ASSETS	4 952 754.06	4 000 554.56

| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	2017	2016*
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	16 704.24	3 324.35
Tax Payable	14 604.11	12 824.00
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	31 308.35	16 148.35
TOTAL LIABILITIES	31 308.35	16 148.35
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted Net Assets	1 779 925.44	1 562 499.33
Restricted Net Assets	3 141 520.27	2 421 906.88
Total Net Assets	4 921 445.71	3 984 406.21
TOTAL LIABILITES AND NET ASSETS	4 952 754.06	4 000 554.56

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Business activity statement

Currency: USD

ITEMS	2017	2016*
1. INCOME		
Donation Income	3 184 017.46	1 600 000.00
Government Subsidy Income	5 426 333.55	5 232 791.81
Sales Revenue	178 657.73	–
Other Income (interest)	9 994.96	6 548.60
TOTAL INCOME	8 799 003.70	6 839 340.41
2. EXPENSES		
(1) Activity Costs	7 357 903.80	4 568 682.29
Employee Expenses	786 236.71	314 302.00
General Expenses	6 387 006.46	3 874 958.10
Accumulated Depreciation	–	–
Previous Project	–	379 422.19
Off-budget expenditure	184 660.63	–
(2) Management Expenses	582 268.20	379 422.19
Employee Expenses	223 728.69	112 167.43
General Expenses	342 489.14	681 268.74
Accumulated Depreciation	16 050.37	14 052.34
(3) Financing Expenses	4 520.60	-4 874.11
TOTAL EXPENSES	7 944 692.60	5 371 296.69
3. Restricted Net Assets Transferred To Unrestricted Net Assets	–	–
4. Net Assets Changes Increase/(Decrease)	854 311.10	1 468 043.73

*Please note that figures for 2016 here differ from those stated in the 2016 Annual Report as the average exchange rate of USD 6.8680 for 2016 has been used here, in contrast to the December 2016 exchange rate of USD 6.9370 used in that report.

2017 Total Activity Expenses
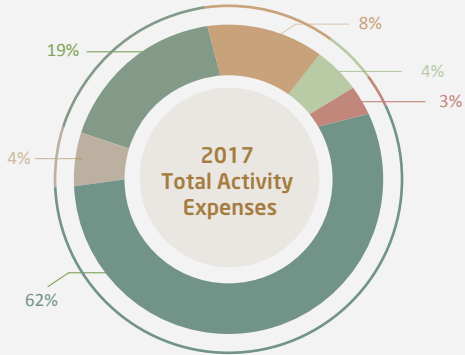
- Demonstration Projects 62%
- Capacity Building 19%
- Regional Policy Dialogue 3%
- Information Sharing 8%
- APFNet Fund 4%
- Partership & Networking 4%

2017 Demonstration Project Expenses
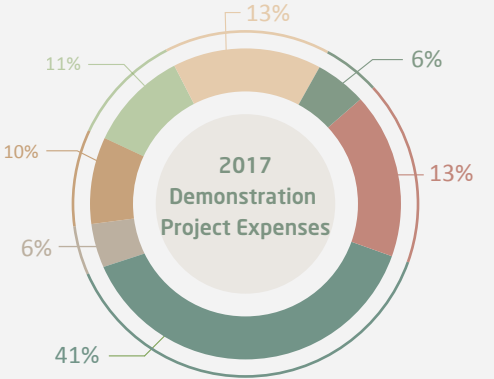
- Demonstration on Integrated Planning and Management of Forest Ecosystems in Greater Mekong Subregion 41%
- Demonstration of Vegetation Restoration, Management and Utilization of Forest Resources in Greater Central Asia 13%
- Adaptation of Asia-Pacific Forests to Climate Change (Phase II) 6%
- Construction of Multifunction Forest Management Demonstration Sites (Phase II) 13%
- Rehabilitation and Management of Degraded Forests in Beijing's Miyun Reservoir Watershed 11%
- Sustainable Forest Management in Northern Provinces of Lao PDR 10%
- Landscape Approach to Sustainable Forest Management of Forests in Prek Thnot Watershed 6%

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Partner organizations

We extend our warmest thanks to all partner organizations who help make APFNet's activities possible. In addition to those detailed here, we thank the many forest departments and ministries of each and every economy that we work with for their continued support, and also the huge number of institutions and organizations not listed below who provide valuable input to our activities.

Regional and International Organizations

- Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI)
- Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations - Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO RAP)
- Forest Farm Facility (FFF)
- International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)
- International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)
- Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
- The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
- The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC)
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)

Civil Society Organizations and NGOs

- All-China Women's Federation (ACWF), P.R. China
- Ashmita Nepal
- Beijing Forestry Society (BFS), P.R. China
- Community Resource Management Center (CRMC), Nepal
- Federation of Community Forest Users (FECOFUN), Nepal
- Foundation for People and Community Development, PNG
- Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resource Management Association (HIMAWANTI), Nepal
- Mongolian Nature and Environment Consortium, Mongolia
- Nepal Foresters Association, Nepal
- Voice of Yongos, PNG

APFNet Fund

- CHIMELONG Company Limited
- China Paper Corporation
- Green Forestry and Ecological Environment Protection Association (GFEEP) of Chaoyang City, Liaoning Province
- Ningxia Desert Greening and Sand Industry Development Foundation
- People's Insurance Company of China (PICC) Foundation

Research Institutes and Universities

- Chinese Academy of Forestry, P.R. China
- Faculty of Forestry of National University, Lao PDR
- Forest Inventory & Planning Institute, Viet Nam
- Forest Research Institute Malaysia
- Guangxi Forest Inventory & Planning Institute, P.R. China
- Guangxi University, P.R. China
- Kasetsart University, Thailand
- Kyoto University, Japan
- Myanmar Forest Research Institute
- Seoul National University, Republic of Korea
- Southwest Forestry University, P.R. China
- Taiwan Forestry Research Institute, Chinese Taipei
- The University of Queensland, Australia
- United Nations University, Japan
- University of Florida, United States
- University of Melbourne, Australia
- University of the Philippines Los Banos, the Philippines
- University Putra Malaysia, Malaysia

Asia–Pacific Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism (AP–FECM) Partners

- University of British Columbia, Canada

APFNet Scholarship Program (ASP) Partners

- Beijing Forestry University, P.R. China
- Inner Mongolia Agriculture University, P.R. China
- Nanjing Forestry University, P.R. China
- Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University, P.R. China

Sino–ASEAN Network of Forestry Research Institutes (SANFRI) Partners

- Yunnan Academy of Forestry, P.R. China

APFNet Thematic Training Partners

- Inner Mongolian Forestry Academy of China, P.R. China
- Inner Mongolian Forestry Department of China, P.R. China
- Southwest Forestry University, P.R. China

Abbreviations and acronyms

APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
APFNet	Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation
AP-FECM	Asia-Pacific Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASP	APFNet Scholarship Program
CNY	Chinese Yuan
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FLR	Forest Landscape Restoration
FPN	Forestry Planning Network
FRA	(FAO) Global Forest Resources Assessment
GCA	Greater Central Asia
GCA-FCM	Greater Central Asia Forestry Cooperation Mechanism
GIS	Geographic Information System
GMS	Greater Mekong Subregion
ha	hectare(s)
km	kilometre
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
MMRF	Ministers Responsible for Forestry
NFP	National Forest Plan
PNG	Papua New Guinea
P.R. China	People's Republic of China
SANFRI	Sino-ASEAN Network of Forestry Research Institutes
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
TIF	Trainers in Forestry
UBC	University of British Columbia
USD	United States Dollar(s)
@Wild	APFNet Transboundary Wildlife Conservation Initiative