



State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry under
the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic
Государственное агентство охраны окружающей среды и
лесному хозяйству при Правительстве Кыргызской Республики



The Second Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry in Greater Central Asia

Meeting Report

Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan

16 - 17 August 2018

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Overview

The Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet) is a non-profit international organization dedicated to advancing sustainable forest management and rehabilitation in the Asia-Pacific region. APFNet organizes the Greater Central Asia (GCA) Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry (MMRF) to gather senior forestry officials and NGOs to discuss forestry development issues, share good practices and identify potential collaborative actions that address domestic and transboundary forestry issues, while aligning with existing international and regional efforts.

The Second GCA MMRF was held on 16 and 17 August 2018 in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan. It focused on two region-wide themes: 1) enhancing transboundary cooperation to conserve biodiversity and forest ecosystems and 2) combating desertification. Forty-one participants including high-level government officials from China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan attended the meeting.

Through a series of keynote speeches, high-level dialogues and experience-sharing presentations, during this MMRF GCA economies identified a number of shared environmental, social and political challenges. Participants also discussed how to translate these challenges into regional collaboration.

The high-level participants agreed that the GCA MMRF is a useful platform to tackle regional forestry challenges and collaborate, and to focus future actions on biodiversity conservation and combating desertification in the context of climate change. Specifically, the following was agreed:

- On the GCA MMRF – to systematize the MMRF mechanism to be held once every two years, create a working group to facilitate and implement actions identified in this and future MMRF sessions and designate a contact person from each economy to implement agreements and activities.

- On the theme of biodiversity conservation – to create eco-corridors and conduct research and monitoring on the movement of wildlife (especially across political borders) and establish a regional center for knowledge and information sharing on biodiversity, research and wildlife management experience.
- On the theme of combating desertification – to examine forest inventory across economies and develop green belts, coupled with a regional database to share relevant data on forest and forest genetic resources, and to develop nurseries to aid in reforestation and afforestation.
- On both themes – to conduct training, capacity building and technology sharing associated to the themes.



The Second Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry in Greater Central Asia was held in Kyrgyzstan on August 16 2018



Heads of delegations

Meeting background

1. Background and Rationale

The economies in Greater Central Asia (GCA) are close geographic neighbors that share a similar topography and natural conditions. It is vital that economies cooperate closely to ensure sustainable economic and social development, and for this reason the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet) is driven to implement activities in this region.

APFNet is an international non-profit organization established in 2008 to promote sustainable forest management. It does so through the implementation of demonstration projects, capacity building, communication and information sharing, and regional policy dialogues focused on strategic issues in forestry development. In the GCA region, APFNet has been active since 2014.

APFNet organizes the GCA Meetings of Ministers Responsible for Forestry (MMRFs) to gather senior forestry officials and NGOs to discuss forestry development issues, share good practices and identify potential collaborative actions that address domestic and transboundary forestry issues, while aligning with existing international and regional efforts.

The Second GCA MMRF was held on 16 and 17 August 2018 in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan. Forty-one participants including high-level government officials from China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan attended the meeting.

2. Meeting Objectives

The objectives of the meeting were as follows:

- To discuss two emerging issues in the GCA region that can be feasibly addressed through collaboration, i.e.: 1) Enhancing transboundary cooperation to conserve biodiversity and forest ecosystems, and 2) Combating desertification.
- To understand the challenges faced by economies in biodiversity and forest ecosystem conservation and areas that require priority protection.
- To share success stories in transboundary cooperation and combating desertification.
- To share ideas and proposals on the future development of the GCA MMRF mechanism (such as the meeting themes, frequency and venues, etc.).

Summary of Meeting Sessions

The Second Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry in Greater Central Asia was jointly organized by the State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic (SAEPF) and APFNet. The Institute for Regional Development, a local NGO, was responsible for organizing the meeting on-the-ground. More than 40 ministerial leaders in forestry and high-level forestry officials from China, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Mongolia attended the meeting.

1. Welcome and opening remarks

In his welcome speech, Mairambek Kalybaev, Deputy Head of the Department of Agroindustry and Ecology of the Government Office of the Kyrgyz Republic, reminded participants of the importance of forests for fighting climate change and biodiversity loss, as indicated in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), UN Strategic Plan on Forests and agreements made during the 21st Conference of Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). These efforts are important as the Kyrgyz Republic consists of one of the most important ecological regions on the planet, and he expressed his hopes that cooperation in the GCA region will contribute to these global efforts as well as the UN Strategic Plan for 2017 to 2030.

Sheripov Eldiir, Deputy Director of SAEPF, emphasized that Kyrgyzstan has a high concentration of diverse and unique forests such as walnut-fruit forests in the regions of Jalal-Abad and Osh. Over the last decades, the role of forests has expanded from being a natural resource to ensuring environmental stability and climate stabilization. As such, forest policy must be informed by new knowledge, approaches and methods guided from the top-down. He stressed that the development of protection areas and joint research are important in this regard.

Zhao Shucong, Chair of the APFNet Board of Directors congratulated all participants on opening the meeting and thanked the Department of Environmental Protection and Forestry of Kyrgyzstan for their organization of the MMRF. He highlighted the outcomes of the past MMRF including a series of training courses, grants, dialogues and seminars launched by APFNet for the GCA region to promote regional cooperation in forestry. He added that in the future, APFNet will strive to link its work plan with the forestry development plans in Central Asia, build a platform for cooperation and provide support in every possible way.

2. Session one: Enhancing transboundary cooperation to conserve biodiversity and forest ecosystems

In his keynote speech, Almaz Musaev, Director of the Department of Specially Protected Natural Territories and Conservation of Biodiversity of SAEPP, described a number of efforts on biodiversity conservation and protected area development. In particular, the conservation of the snow leopard is prioritized in the Kyrgyz Republic. Such efforts include active steps to improve national legislation, increasing penalties on wildlife hunting, revising the law on protected areas and introducing local bans on the use of certain wildlife. Given the importance of the snow leopard, Kyrgyzstan proposed that transboundary conservation of the snow leopard and its ecosystems be prioritized across its borders with neighboring economies.

2.1 High-level dialogue

The high-level dialogue was facilitated by Dinara Rakhmanova, Deputy FAO Representative in the Kyrgyz Republic. Karibaeva Kurulay, Director of the Institute of Ecology and Sustainable Development (IESD) Kazakhstan, reminded participants of the outcome of the first MMRF in creating cross-border collaboration to protect biodiversity and forest ecosystems.



Minister round-table discussion on conservation of biodiversity and forest ecosystem, facilitated by Ms. Dinara Rakhmanova.

Peng Youdong, Vice Administrator of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA) of China introduced the economy's recent institutional reforms, namely the reorganization of the former State Forestry Administration (SFA) to combine the oversight of both forests and national parks – i.e. the NFGA. The NFGA is now responsible for three areas: 1) protection and management of the four ecosystems of forests, grasslands, wetlands and deserts, 2) terrestrial wildlife protection and 3) management of various types of protected areas such as national parks, nature reserves, scenic spots, geological parks and natural heritage sites.

China's proposed goal is to develop national parks as the main approach to nature protection. Currently, NFGA is responsible for piloting ten national parks across the economy, including Sanjiangyuan National Park (over 120,000 square kilometers) and Qilian Mountain National Park (over 50,000 square kilometers), both of which are areas where snow leopards are found. In the future, China is very willing to actively cooperate with economies in the GCA region on environmental protection, combating illegal wildlife trade, capacity building and conducting collaborative research.

Oyunsanaa Byambasuren, Director of the Forest Policy and Coordination Department of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia, discussed the need to involve local people in tackling the conflict between habitat preservation for snow leopards and agricultural development for cattle breeders and pasture users. Separately, positive experiences in fighting fires using an early warning system were shared in border areas between China and Russia.

Nabizoda Naim, Deputy Director of the Forestry Agency under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, raised the interest of increasing the number of forest plantations and improving legislation to stop deforestation. She stressed the importance of increasing the involvement of women in forest policy. Furthermore, she stressed that the drying of the Aral Sea is a serious problem not only in Turkmenistan but also for the entire region. The role of forest restoration was emphasized for combating desertification and climate change. The involvement of economies in relation to international conventions was also highlighted to advance transboundary cooperation.

Hodzhimurat Talipov, Head of the Reforestation Department of the State Forestry Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, shared the economy's experience on the restoration of forest cover in desert territories, cultivation and export of medicinal plants and the approved road map to combat desertification.

Almaz Musaev touched on border issues as the main problem, since wildlife does not follow political boundaries. As such, he suggested opening up ecological corridors on border sites and creating transboundary reserves of protected areas, while studying migration routes and the diseases carried by wild animals.

Zhao Shucong agreed with the delegates that wild animals do not live according to national borders but according to their natural environment. In this sense, the protection of wildlife also reflects the protection of forests. As a regional international organization, APFNet proposed four recommendations for biodiversity conservation:

1) coordination of policies; 2) coordination of disaster prevention; 3) exchange of protection experience and research results; and 4) coordination of resource surveys and monitoring. In addition, he expressed APFNet's willingness to participate and support economies in multilateral and bilateral cooperation in addition to the MMRF platform.

2.2 Economy presentations

Following the high-level dialogue, three presentations were given by representatives of Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Tajikistan. Karibaeva Kurulay (Kazakhstan) shared the situation on forest cover in their economy, as well as events held within the framework of intergovernmental agreements on cross-border cooperation of Kazakhstan with the Russian Federation, Central Asian economies (Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan), and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Oyunsanaa Byambasuren (Mongolia) highlighted the issue of forest and steppe fires in the central, northern and northeastern parts of Mongolia. At the time of the MMRF, there is a proposal to expand protected areas up to 30% of the economy's total land area by 2025. A focus on wetland bird species is also important given the prominence of wetlands in the northeast. Furthermore, both the Mongolian antelope and gazelle are under threat due to fires sweeping over their habitat. For example, fires in 2008 and 2015 destroyed 55000 km² of forests. Cross-border collaboration to prevent and manage forest fires was emphasized as a necessity.

Nabizoda Naim (Tajikistan) added a number of issues for regional cooperation, including the implementation of joint programs and projects in the field of forestry and biodiversity conservation, the development of a unified methodology for the inventory of forest resources for GCA economies and the establishment of a regional center for the conservation of forest genetic resources in the region.

Throughout the discussions, the snow leopard was raised as a common issue and opportunity for transboundary cooperation on biodiversity conservation. In

Kyrgyzstan, an interest in studying the migration of wild animals echoes the points raised by China, where a proposal was made to create eco-corridors in transboundary territories as one of the ways to include cross-border cooperation projects in future activities.

3. Session two: Combating desertification

Bakyt Yrsaliev, Deputy Director of the Department of Development of Forest Ecosystems of SAEPF, delivered a keynote presentation on the reforestation of drylands and development of low-productivity land in the Kyrgyz Republic. He highlighted the creation of fruit plantations from 2009 to 2018 in the arid areas of Balykchy forest in the Issyk-Kul oblast covering more than 5 km². On the border with Uzbekistan in Batken, there are areas of low-productivity dry land, where the planting of black saxaul has been carried out on an area of more than 3 km².



Reporting on and discussing the issue of combating desertification

3.1 High-level dialogue

During a high-level dialogue on this theme, Karibaeva Kurulay (Kazakhstan) noted that since forests in Kazakhstan can contribute to climate regulation and watershed protection, the protection and expansion of forest resources is the leading priority in the economy. For example, measures are being taken to plant and sow the saxaul in the project on phytolithography in the Kyzyl-Orda and Jambul regions.

Peng Youdong (China) pointed out that the economy has eight recognized deserts and four “sandy areas”¹ with a total area of more than 2.6 million square kilometers, directly affecting the production and life of more than 400 million people. From the end of the 1970’s, China has begun carrying out large-scale sand control work, mainly in the form of:

- 1) Promulgating the Law of the People's Republic of China on Sand Control, which clearly stipulates that the forestry department is responsible for the prevention and control of desertification;
- 2) Initiating desertification control projects at the national level, such as the Three-North Shelterbelt Project (in which the year 2018 is the 40th anniversary of project initiation and sand control results have been remarkable); and
- 3) Combining desertification prevention with poverty prevention, livelihood building and living standard improvement.

It is suggested that in the future, when economies in the region cooperate with each other, it would be better to first exchange experiences, then focus on strengthening the monitoring of desertification and establishing databases. It is also necessary to pay attention to key areas, such as the Caspian Sea, the Aral Sea and other desertification and salinization hotspots, which are similar to many places in China. It was recommended that economies carry out demonstration projects in areas and places

¹ A sandy area refers to desert-like land that is formed by both natural and human activities. It is differentiated from deserts in that deserts are formed by natural processes and tend to be found in dry and arid areas, whereas a sandy area may be found in semi-arid and semi-humid regions.

where consensus is reached. Once success is reached, efforts can be scaled up for the benefit of local people.

Oyunsanaa Byambasuren (Mongolia) shared successes and failures of the National Program to Combat Desertification in Mongolia over its ten-year history. While the program has been successful in site selection for plantation forest development (30 km² of plantations have been established), it was also acknowledged that such an area remains small compared to the area of the Gobi Desert and surrounding regions. Yellow sandstorms blowing from neighboring regions also affect air quality and industries, and as such cooperation to build green belts to fight the challenges arising from desertification is needed.

Nabizoda Naim (Tajikistan) explained that of the 20000 km² of total forest area in the economy, 4220 km² are comprised of forest plantations such as juniper, pistachio and hazel plantations. Forest cover has increased by 0.3% over the past 70 years, and reforestation plans of 700 km² are planned up to 2034. Tajikistan's experience has shown that the right selection of forest, tree, artisanal approaches and sowing materials can deliver successful results in forest management.

Shirin Karryeva, Project Manager for Biodiversity Conservation of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds of Great Britain (RSPB) (and representative of Turkmenistan) noted the impact of global warming on water resource depletion, biodiversity loss and pasture land degradation in the GCA region. To combat this, work is underway in Turkmenistan to reduce pasture land degradation through reforestation, nursery development and the planting of drought and salt-tolerant breeds. The development of saxaul plantations has also achieved a full survival rate in Turkmenistan.

Hodzhimurat Talipov (Uzbekistan) noted that combating desertification is relevant for Uzbekistan as well. The experience of afforestation in the drained territory of the Aral

Sea was shared, which covers an area of 6000 km², though it was also acknowledged that 25000 km² of land remain in need of afforestation. Activities are also being carried out to combat wind erosion and the sinking of sands, and to plant trees and seedlings throughout the city and monitor them. He proposed close cooperation with Kazakhstan, where it is necessary to draw up a single scheme of afforestation, carry out an inventory of forest resources and other activities.

Zhao Shucong noted that desertification is a common problem faced by all mankind. The original intention of APFNet was to promote forest growth in the Asia-Pacific region. Since APFNet promoted and established the forestry cooperation mechanism in Greater Central Asia, desertification control is also a key area of work. For example, in terms of capacity building, forestry workers from the economies of the Greater Central Asia region are invited to go to China to participate in international training courses, exchange practices, learn successful experiences and enroll graduate students in desertification management programs.

The idea of establishing a regional center for training and researching methods to combat desertification and preserve forest ecosystems was proposed. Shirin Karryeva (Turkmenistan) added that the economy has a national institute for desert flora which holds regular training seminars with world-class experts.

The high-level dialogue identified that close political attention is important to tackle desertification in the GCA region, and the MMRF platform is one method of gathering and streamlining multi-lateral cooperation in this regard. To tackle the above desertification issues, it was also agreed that future activities can include creating a regional database to share information and data, expanding green belts in the region and developing training courses to build knowledge on combating desertification. Such activities can be supported by APFNet and should consider economy-specific challenges such as sandstorms in Mongolia, the need for tree-planting in Tajikistan and climate change adaptation in Turkmenistan.

3.2 Economy presentations

Zhang Deping, Deputy Director of the National Bureau to Combat Desertification of China gave an introduction to the prevention and control of desertification in China. China's desertification-affected lands having reached 2.6 million square kilometers and accounting for about 27% of the economy's total land area. Desertification is not only an ecological issue but also an economic and social one, as it is related to people's livelihood. Over the years, China has gathered the following experiences in desertification control: 1)Combining the support of government with the participation of local people; 2)Leveraging on successful experiences and breakthroughs to develop large scale projects to advance desertification control across the economy; 3)Combining efforts to improve China's ecology in parallel with efforts to improve livelihood, including the development of desert industries to increase the economic wellbeing of local people; 4)Prioritizing science and technology in establishing a senior advisory group composed of academicians and experts, who provide decision-making advice and guidance; 5)Combining artificial management with natural restoration; and 6)Combining efforts to strengthen regulatory enforcement with public education.

Shirin Karryeva (Turkmenistan) presented on successes achieved in their economy's national forest program, which includes the alleviation of desertification. Unlike other economies, forests in Turkmenistan are actually not exploited for firewood given the abundance of natural gas.

Hodzhimurat Talipov (Uzbekistan) shared their economy's efforts on combatting desertification, including policy changes and measures to promote forest development and create protective plantations in desert zones. Proposals to improve the fight against desertification include the development of long-term and comprehensive strategies and joint forest management models, experience exchanges on combating desertification at the national and local levels, and capacity building through training and technology transfer.

Conclusions and recommendations

1. Conclusions

This meeting reviewed the positive efforts of economies in the region to take action on protecting regional forests and restoring vegetation in desertified regions since the First Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry in Greater Central Asia. In-depth exchanges were conducted on the regional forestry development situation and experiences in biodiversity management, environmental protection and policies to combat desertification. It was agreed that efforts should continue to strengthen policy communication and coordination, expand inter-departmental exchanges and cooperation in the areas of ecological protection, desertification prevention and restoration of arid areas. Furthermore, strengthening coordination and cooperation between economies on forest-related multilateral affairs, ecological security and forestry development promotion was identified as a priority.

With the cooperation and efforts of all parties involved in the conference, the following agreements and results were achieved:

- 1) The meeting focused on cooperation and was efficient and pragmatic. On the basis of the ten major areas of regional cooperation as defined in the Astana Declaration, the meeting gathered consensus, defined priorities, and identified breakthroughs and focus areas for cooperation. The parties agreed to pool their resources to promote biodiversity and ecological environmental protection, vegetation restoration in arid areas and combat desertification as key areas of future cooperation.
- 2) The mechanism of MMRF in GCA has been consolidated and developed. At the meeting, the parties affirmed the important role of MMRF in strengthening policy dialogue and regional cooperation. They reiterated that they will continue to support and participate in the mechanism's activities and put forward practical recommendations for the next activity of the mechanism. In addition, China proposed to host the third GCA MMRF.

- 3) The cooperation center initiative was supported by all parties. APFNet has actively engaged with relevant economies to explore the establishment of a GCA cooperation center, which will function as a hub for scientific research, technology transfer and project demonstration to address ecological fragility and desertification in the GCA region. It will focus on the restoration of forest vegetation and control of desertification in arid regions.

2. Recommendations

The high-level participants agreed that the GCA MMRF is a useful platform to tackle the above challenges and collaborate, and to focus future actions on biodiversity conservation and combating desertification in the context of climate change. Specifically, the following was agreed:

- On the GCA MMRF – to systematize the MMRF mechanism to be held once every two years, create a working group to facilitate and implement actions identified in this and future MMRF sessions and designate a contact person from each economy to implement agreements and activities.
- On the theme of biodiversity conservation – to create eco-corridors and conduct research and monitoring on the movement of wildlife (especially across political borders) and establish a regional center for knowledge and information sharing on biodiversity, research and wildlife management experience.
- On the theme of combating desertification – to examine forest inventory across economies and develop green belts, coupled with a regional database to share relevant data on forest and forest genetic resources, and to develop nurseries to aid in reforestation and afforestation.
- On both themes – to conduct training, capacity building and technology sharing associated to the themes.



Chair of APFNet Board of Directors Mr. Zhao Shucong and Director of the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic Mr. Rustamov exchanged gifts



Field trip to Issyk-Kul forest area in Grigorievskoe and Semenovskoe Gorges

List of Abbreviations

NFGA	National Forestry and Grassland Administration of China
SAEPF	State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic
APFNet	Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation
GCA	Greater Central Asia
MMRF	Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IRD	Institute for Regional Development
UN	United Nations
UN SDGs	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
COP	Conference of Parties
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
IESD	Institute of Ecology and Sustainable Development
ASP	APFNet Scholarship Program
GIZ	German International Development Agency
JFM	Joint forest management
REDD+	United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
TEV	Total Economic Value
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
CNY	Chinese Yuan
EUR	Euro
USD	United States Dollars
ha	Hectare

Dialogue Session Question Guide

The Second Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry
in Greater Central Asia
16 August 2018, Issyk-Kul

After the keynote speech, the heads of the delegation will be invited to participate in roundtable discussions to share opinions, policies, and experiences on **Enhancing transboundary cooperation to conserve biodiversity and forest ecosystems** and **combating desertification** to promote further cooperation in the future. The participants are kindly requested to share their views on the points below.

Topic 1. Enhancing transboundary cooperation to conserve biodiversity and forest ecosystems

All ministries and agencies attending this meeting share the responsibility to conserve biodiversity and forest ecosystems. Different protected area management systems have been developed in the Greater Central Asia region, in your opinion.

- What is the greatest challenge your economy is facing in terms of biodiversity and forest ecosystem conservation? In the years what would be the priority or focus of your economy's conservation work?
- In terms of transboundary cooperation, especially concerning the conservation of biodiversity and forest ecosystems, are there any successful examples of international cooperation, which can serve as a guide for the future cooperation in this region?
- How can we collaborate for a better conservation of biodiversity and forest ecosystems in this region?

Topic 2. Combating desertification

Combating desertification is a challenge for all economies in this region. In your opinion:

- What is the one of the key lessons learned so far in combating desertification?
- Please share with us some successful models or cases of combating desertification or techniques for vegetation restoration in arid, as well as semi-arid areas.
- Is there any existing cooperation that we already have in this region? To move forward, what could we do as next steps?
- Any suggestions for the convening of the Meetings for the Ministers Responsible for Forestry? (Theme, frequency, venue, etc)

The discussion of each topic will last approximately 1 hour, every participant is kindly requested to answer each question within 5 minutes.

Agenda

The Second Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry

in Greater Central Asia

16-17 August 2018, Issyk-Kul

Day 1: 16 August, Thursday

Time	Session/Topic	Presenter/Facilitator
08:30 - 09:00 (30 MINS)	Registration	
Opening session 09:00-10:00 (60 MINS)		
09:00 - 09:10 (10 MINS)	Congratulatory speech	Mr. Mairambek Kalybaev (Deputy Head of the Department of agro-industry and ecology of the Government Office of the Kyrgyz Republic) Facilitator: Mr. Eldiar Sheripov (Deputy Director of SAEPF)
09:10 - 09:30 (20 MINS)	Opening remarks	Mr. Abdykalyk Rustamov (Director of SAEPF) Mr. Zhao Shucong (Chair, APFNet Board of Directors)
09:30 - 10:00 (30 MINS)	Group photo and coffee break	
Session 1: Enhancing transboundary cooperation to conserve biodiversity and forest ecosystems 10:00-11:50 (110 MINS)		
10:00 - 10:20 (20 MINS)	Keynote presentation: Conservation of biodiversity and development of a network of specially protected natural areas in the Kyrgyz Republic	Mr. Almaz Musaev (Director of the Department of Specially Protected Natural Territories and Conservation of Biodiversity of SAEPF)
10:20 - 11:20 (60 MINS)	High-level dialogue	Facilitator: Ms. Dinara Rakhmanova (Deputy FAO Representative in the Kyrgyz Republic)
11:20 - 11:50	Economy Presentations:	10 minutes per economy

Annex III

(30 MINS)	1) Kazakhstan 2) Mongolia 3) Tajikistan	
Lunch 11:50 - 13:30		
Session 2: Combating desertification 13:30-15:50 (140 MINS)		
13:30 - 13:50 (20 MINS)	Keynote presentation: Reforestation of drylands and development of low-productive land in the Kyrgyz Republic	Mr. Bakyt Yrsaliev (Deputy Director of the Department of Development of Forest Ecosystems of SAEPF)
13:50 - 14:50 (60 MINS)	High-level dialogue	Facilitator: Ms. Dinara Rakhmanova (Deputy FAO Representative in the Kyrgyz Republic)
14:50 - 15:30 (40 MINS)	Economy presentations: 1) Kyrgyzstan 2) China 3) Turkmenistan 4) Uzbekistan	10 minutes per economy
15:30 - 15:50 (20 MINS)	Coffee break	
Closing session 15:50 - 17:00 (70 MINS)		
15:50 - 16:00 (10 MINS)	Wrap-up	Facilitator: Ms. Dinara Rakhmanova
16:00 - 16:40 (40 MINS)	Identification of way forward, priorities and follow up activities	<i>Facilitator will provide a brief summary of key messages from main sessions, each delegation will be given 5 minutes to make recommendations.</i>
16:40 - 17:00 (20 MINS)	Closing remarks	Mr. Lu De (Executive Director of APFNet) Mr. Abdykalyk Rustamov (Director of SAEPF)
Dinner reception: 17:30-19:00 (90 MINS)		

Day 2: 17 August, Friday

09:00 - 17:00	Field Trip	Depart at 9 am from the hotel
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The Second Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry in Greater Central Asia

List of Participants

No.	Name	Position	Organization
China			
1	Mr. Peng Youdong	Vice Administrator	National Forestry and Grassland Administration
2	Mr. Hao Yujun	Director General	Department of Science and Technology, NFGA
3	Mr. Wang Chunfeng	Deputy General	Department of International Cooperation, NFGA
4	Mr. Zhang Deping	Deputy Director	National Bureau to Combat Desertification, NFGA
5	Mr. Chen Lie	Assistant to the Vice Administrator	National Forestry and Grassland Administration
6	Mr. Yuan Yihao	Program Officer	National Forestry and Grassland Administration
Kazakhstan			
7	Mr. Ainabekov Marlen Sansyzbaevich	Deputy Chairman	Forestry and Wildlife Committee under Ministry of Agriculture of Republic of Kazakhstan
8	Ms. Kuralay Karibayeva	Director	Institute of Ecology & Sustainable Development(IESD)
Kyrgyzstan			
9	Mr. Abdykalyk Rustamov	Director	State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic (SAEPF)
10	Mr. Eldiia Sheripov	Deputy Director	State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic (SAEPF)
11	Mr. Almaz Zheenaliev	Head of the Department of agro-industry and ecology	Government Office of the Kyrgyz Republic
12	Mr. Baktybek Yrsaliev	Deputy Director of the	State Agency on Environment

Annex IV

		Department of development of forest ecosystems of SAEPF	Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic (SAEPF)
13	Mr. Almaz Musaev	Director of the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Specially Protected Natural Territories	State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic (SAEPF)
14	Ms. Baglan Salykmambetova	Head of the Department of International Cooperation	State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic (SAEPF)
15	Ms. Bermet Omurova	Leading specialist of the Department of International Cooperation	State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic (SAEPF)
16	Ms. Aizada Barieva	Head of the Department of Ecological Strategy and Policy	State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic (SAEPF)
17	Mr. Sabyr Chukumbaev	Director of the State enterprise “Kyrgyz forest and hunting management”	State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic (SAEPF)
18	Ms. Dinara Rakhmanova	Facilitator	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in the Kyrgyz Republic
19	Ms. Cholpon Alibakieva	Facilitator	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in the Kyrgyz Republic
Mongolia			
20	Mr. Tsengel Tsegmid	State Secretary	Ministry of Environment and Tourism
21	Mr. Oyunsanaa Byambasuren	Director of Forest policy and coordination department	Ministry of Environment and Tourism
22	Mr. Baatarbileg Nachin	Consultant to the Minister of Environment and Tourism	Ministry of Environment and Tourism
Tajikistan			
23	Mr. Nabizoda Naim	Deputy Director	Forestry Agency under Government
24	Mr. Nazarov Azizbek	Head of International Relations and Information	Forestry Agency under Government

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		Sector	
25	Mr. Saidzoda Madibron	Deputy Head, State Forestry and Hunting Inspection	Forestry Agency under Government
Turkmenistan			
26	Mr. Saryhanov Shamammet	Head of Forestry	State Committee of Turkmenistan for Environmental Protection and Land Resources
27	Ms. Shirin Karryeva	Project Manager for Biodiversity Conservation	RSPB - Royal Society for the Protection of Birds of Great Britain
Uzbekistan			
28	Mr. Hodzhimurat Talipov	Head of Reforestation Department	State Forestry Committee
29	Mr. Mamatkarimov Alijon	Director of Center for Growing and Processing Medicinal Herbs "Shifobakhsh"»	State Forestry Committee
30	Mr. Hadjaev Mansurhadja	Head of Forestry Department of Fergana region.	State Forestry Committee
APFNet			
31	Mr. Zhao Shucong	Chair. APFNet Board of Directors	Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)
32	Mr. Lu De	Executive Director APFNet	Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)
33	Mr. Zhai Hongbo	Director of Project Planning Division APFNet	Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)
34	Ms. Liu Wei	Director of Communication and Outreach Division APFNet	Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)
35	Ms. Wang Jiayi	Staff of Communication and Outreach Division APFNet	Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)
36	Ms. Liu Qianqian	Staff of Communication and Outreach Division APFNet	Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)
IRD			

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37	Mr. Erlan Karypbai Uulu	Director	Institute for Regional Development (IRD)
38	Mr. Azamat Omorbekov	Project coordinator	Institute for Regional Development (IRD)
39	Ms. Baktygul Nartaeva	Financial Manager	Institute for Regional Development (IRD)
40	Ms. Myskal Duiyshenalieva	Assistant	Institute for Regional Development (IRD)
41	Mr. Kerimaliev Tynystan	Assistant	Institute for Regional Development (IRD)