

**The Third Meeting of
Ministers Responsible for Forestry in
Greater Central Asia**



Meeting Report

**Chifeng, China
11 - 14 November 2023**

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1. Overview

1.1 Background

Greater Central Asia region in a widest sense includes Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and north-western China, which are close geographic neighbors that share a similar topography and natural conditions.

This region is ecologically sensitive and facing common challenges, such as severe land desertification, deforestation and predicted increased frequency of droughts and sinking of groundwater levels, which are all threaten the stability of forest ecosystems of this region. These changes foreshadow problems, not only for the forests themselves, but also for the multitude of ecological services provided by forests to society. In particular, forest degradation is of special concern for all economies in this region due to illegal logging, illicit poaching, overgrazing, irrational use of water resources, forest fire and diseases, etc.

To cope with the challenges, APFNet has been actively collaborating with partners in the GCA region since 2014. As an organization mandated to promote sustainable forest management, APFNet initiated the first forestry ministerial-level dialogue platform entitled “Greater Central Asia Forestry Cooperation Mechanism (GCA FCM)”, which aims to gather high-level forestry policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and representatives from NGOs and private sectors in the region, to share forestry information and best practices, exchange issues that all economies in the region are concerned with, expand networking and promote practical bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the region. Under the mechanism, APFNet organizes biennial GCA Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry (MMRF) and the Regional Workshop on Strategic Forestry Cooperation in GCA region during the recess.

To date, three high-level ministerial meetings and five strategic forestry cooperation workshops were held, and effective cooperation were conducted through demonstration projects, capacity building, information sharing and policy dialogues. Besides, seven training courses were successfully held and 49 officials conducted field investigation in China and exchanged experiences.

Based on the consensus reached during the Second Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry in Greater Central Asia, Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan 15-17 August 2018, the Third Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry in Greater Central Asia was planned to be held in China in 2023.

1.2 Date, venue and organizers

The Third Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry in Greater Central Asia was held from 11 to 14 September 2023 in Chifeng, China. It was hosted by National Forestry and Grassland Administration of China (NFGA) and Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet), and organized by Forestry and Grassland Bureau of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Chifeng Municipal People's Government, and co-organized by Forestry and Grassland Administration of Chifeng Municipality, People's Government of Harqin Banner.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the meeting are to:

- Update the enacted national forest policies, regulations, forestry development planning and desertification control in the region;
- Share forestry cooperation priorities and explore how to further promote bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the region;
- Review the achievements of the Greater Central Asia Forestry Cooperation Mechanism (GCA FCM) since its establishment, and to discuss and adopt *The Action Plan for Greater Central Asia Forestry Cooperation Mechanism (2023-2025)*;
- Update the contact person and focal point of the GCA FCM, and enhance networking among GCA economies, embassies, related NGOs, institutions and private sectors.

1.4 General programme

Around the theme of “Strengthening Forestry Cooperation and Promoting Regional Development”, the meeting includes pre-meeting of senior experts, high-level segment and field site visit. At the high-level segment, three sessions were conducted, including Forest restoration policies and strategies sharing, priorities and approaches to strengthen multilateral and bilateral cooperation in the future, and Discussion and Adoption of the *Action Plan for Greater Central Asia Forestry Cooperation Mechanism (2023-2025)*.

1.5 Participation

Over 70 high-level forestry policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and representatives from NGOs and private sectors in the region attended the meeting, see the participant list in Annex 2.

2. Summary of the Pre-Meeting of Senior Experts

On 11 September, the Pre-meeting of senior experts was held, which aims to discuss about *The Action Plan for Greater Central Asia Forestry Cooperation Mechanism (2023-2025)*.

Dr. Lu De, the Executive Director of APFNet chaired and opened the meeting. He welcomed all participants and introduced the background information about the two-year action plan. As Dr Lu said, to further strengthen practical cooperation, in 2020, APFNet, with all relevant economies of the mechanism, formulated a ten-year (2020-2030) action plan for the Greater Central Asia Forestry Cooperation Mechanism. Within this context, it is suggested to propose the 2023-2025 action plan at the Third Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry in Greater Central Asia.

Most experts gave suggestions on the part of the “key priorities”, and this part was finally agreed in the area of vegetation restoration, sand-based industry development, transboundary cooperation, conservation and utilization of forest/grasslands genetic resources, capacity building, scientific research cooperation and exchange, and

livelihood improvement of the communities. In addition to the word ‘forestry’ in each action, Xiao Wangxin, Deputy Director General, APFNet Coordination Center representing China strengthened to add ‘grassland’ in each priority.

The implementation strategies include regional policy dialogues and exchanges, capacity building, research and demonstration projects, communication and information sharing.

Under the implementation strategies and key cooperative priorities, the action plans were made, which then submitted to the high-level dialogue for further discussion and final adoption.

3. Summary of the High-level Dialogue

On 12 September, the high-level dialogue of The Third Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry in Greater Central Asia was held. The vice-ministerial and high-level officials as well senior experts from China, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan in charge of forestry developments shared the forest policies, plans, achievements, challenges and priorities in each economy.

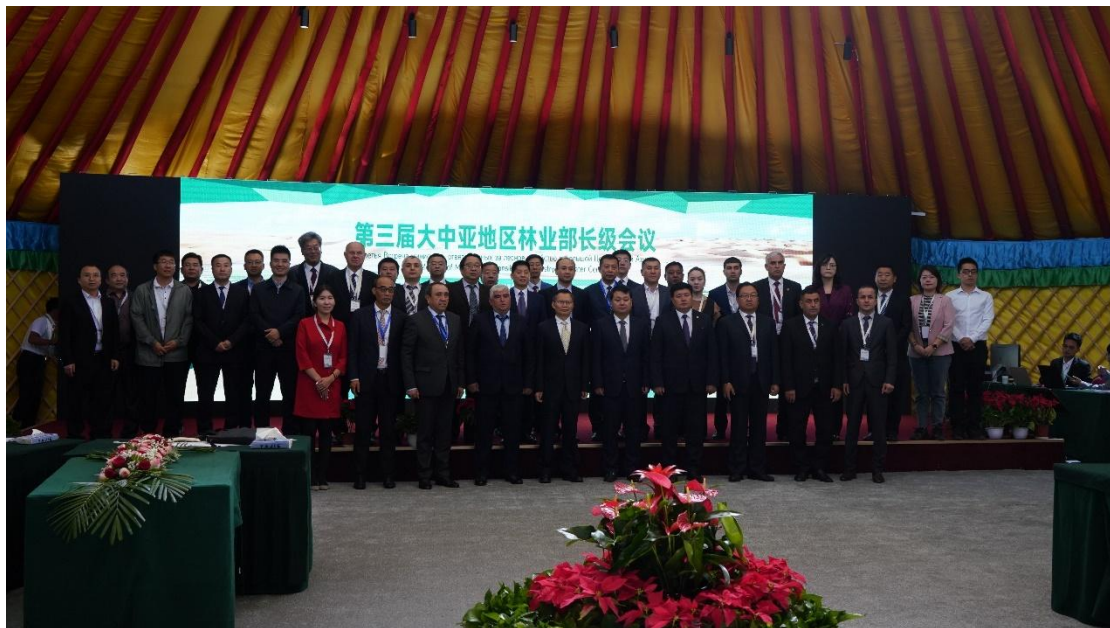


Figure 1 Group photo of the representatives

3.1 Welcome and opening remarks

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Lu De, the Executive Director of APFNet. He welcomed all participants, and expressed gratitude for the participation of all member economies, as well as the great support from all organizers to APFNet and the meeting. Mr. Tang Fanglin, Vice Administrator of National Forestry and Grassland Administration of China and Mr. Wu Xiangliang, Deputy Secretary General, The People's Government of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region gave opening remarks. Mr. Tang, representing the host organization of the meeting, National Forestry and Grassland Administration of China, welcomed all participants as and he speak highly of APFNet contribution to the region.

3.2 Session one: Newly Updated Forest Restoration Policies and Strategies



Figure 2 the meeting was held on 11 September,2023 in Chifeng, Inner Mongolia.

3.2.1 China

Mr. Tang Fanglin, Vice Administrator of National Forestry and Grassland Administration of China and **Mr. Pan Bin**, Deputy Director General, Department of Combating Desertification Forestry and Grassland Administration of China, representing China shared China's actions and astonishing achievements in the National Land Greening Initiative and desertification prevention and control.



Figure 3 Beijing-Tianjin sand control project in Shanxi Province.

Experiences include (1) strong political willingness and alignment in actions, and the actions include strictly protect the plants on the deseified land, establish comprehensive desertification control demonstration area, establish national desert parks, and proper development. And for the demonstration area of desertification control, several big projects have been conducted, such as the Three-North Shelter Forest Program, Beijing-Tianjin sand control project, etc.(2) Systemized laws and regulations, China not only has the *Law of the People's Republic of China on Desert Prevention and Transformation*, *National Plan on Desert Prevention and Transformation (2021-2030)*, Forest chief scheme, joining Rio Conventions, issuing *Belt and Road initiative on cooperative joint action to combat desertification*; (3) direct responsible agencies at various levels under the strict laws and regulations; (4) resources invested in ecosystems are ensured; (5) programs must be able to incent participants and contribute to poverty reduction and livelihood improvements.

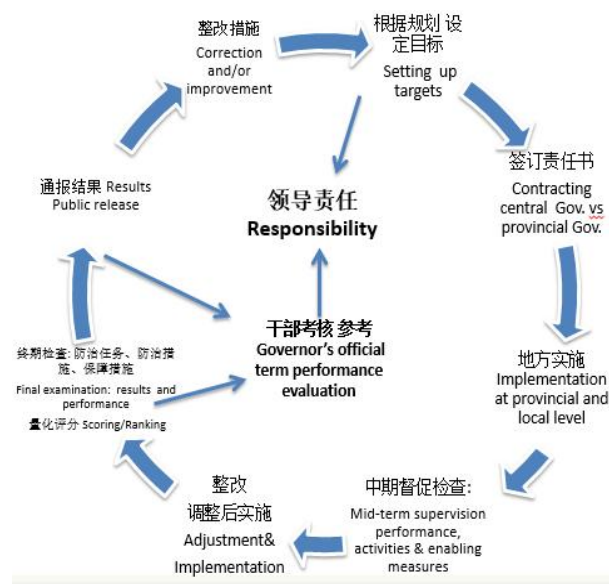


Figure 4 Provisional monitoring system

3.2.2 Kyrgyz

Mr. Musaev Almaz, Director General, The Forest Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic representing Kyrgyzstan shared policy and strategy for the conservation and expansion of forests in the context of climate change in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Regarding the dynamics of forested area of the Kyrgyz Republic, during the period from 1930 to 1966, the forested area decreased by 574,200 hectares or 2.91% due to clear cuttings. From 1966 to 2020, as a result of the cessation of clear cuttings, natural regeneration and the transfer of forest crops to forested areas, the forest cover of the republic increased by 3.37%. According to the results of the 2022 forest resources investigation, the country's forest cover was 6.28%.



FOREST COVERAGE OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC 6.28% (1,253,815.3 ha)

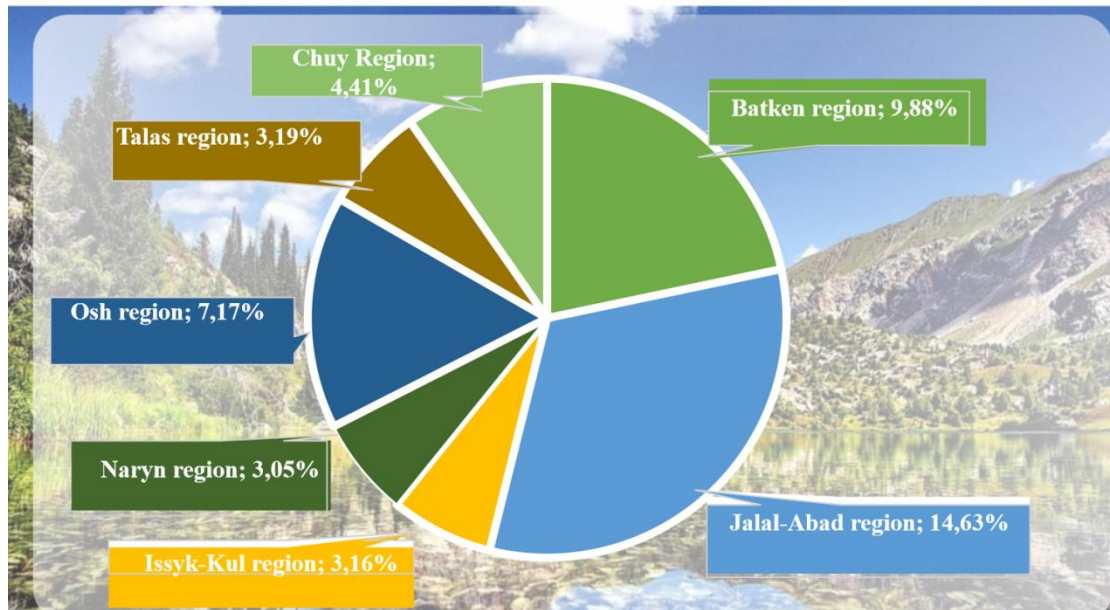


Figure 5 Forest coverage of the Kyrgyz Republic

4 priorities for forestry developments are to (1) increase forests' contribution to national GDP to 1%, (2) reducing the poverty level of the rural population in forest areas by 10%, (3) increase forest cover by 10%, and (4) reform forestry with advanced techniques. To restore forest ecosystems, great efforts have been made on nursery establishment, seedling production, as well as forest plantation sites, which would also contribute to the national long-term goals related to climate change mitigation and emission reduction.

3.2.3 Mongolia

Ms. Sainbuyan Zoljargal representing Mr. Oyunsanaa Byambasuren, Director General, National Forest Agency of Mongolia introduced Mongolia's efforts in reforestation since 1970s, with a 200,000-ha area afforested, 535,000-ha degraded area reforested, and 1.2 million ha degraded forests naturally regenerated. While gaps remain in policies, planning, resources, personnel capacity, and so on, the Government has set Vision-2050, the Mongolia's long-term development plan, to boost green development and ecosystem restoration. The "Billion Trees" national movement is an excellent example of encouraging and incentivizing individuals and enterprises to contribute to increasing forest cover, decreasing severely decertified areas, and responding to climate change.

3.2.4 Tajikistan

Mr. Sharipov Davlatoli, Deputy of the Director, The Forestry Agency under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan representing Tajikistan shared *National policy and plans for the development of forestry in the Republic of Tajikistan*.

It mainly focused on 1) forestry legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan; 2) management scheme of the central office of the forestry agency; 3) forestry development program for 2022-2026 and 4) priority objectives for the development of the forest sector of the Republic of Tajikistan.

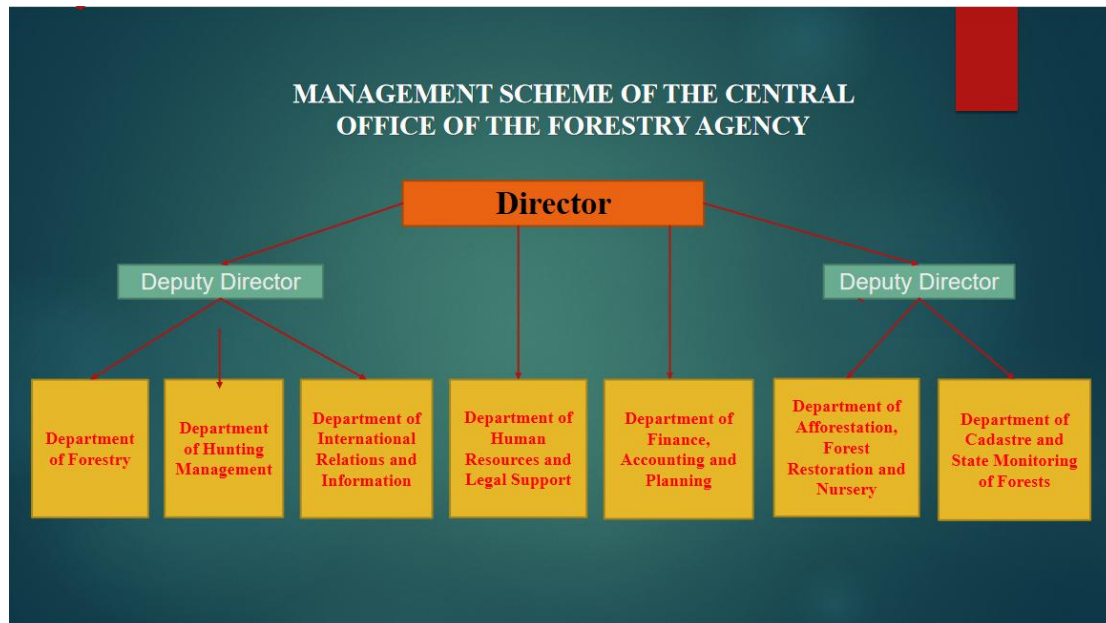


Figure 6 Management Scheme of the Central Office of the Forestry Agency in Tajikistan

3.2.5 Turkmenistan

Mr. Nury Atamuradov, National Institute of Deserts, Flora and Fauna, Turkmenistan shared *forest* resources of Turkmenistan: degradation and restoration and ways of cooperation in greater Central Asia, which focused on 1) forest resources of Turkmenistan; 2) legislative framework for forest restoration; 3) national forest program of Turkmenistan (2021-2025) and 4) priority areas of regional cooperation.

80% of Turkmenistan's land is desert. 80% of the territory of Turkmenistan is occupied by one of the largest deserts in the world - the Karakum Desert. The National Forest Plan 2021-2025 has set goals for creating an environmentally friendly environment, reforestation and biodiversity conservation, sustainable forest management, conducting research, strengthening legislative frameworks, and international cooperation. Major actions include forest park establishment, protective forest belt formation, landscape improvement of the national tourist area "Avaza", seed harvesting, seedling production, rare plant cultivation, reforestation in areas affected by the Aral Sea, documentation normalization, and forest inventory and monitoring. Delightful progress has been achieved with measurable and visible evidence.

3.2.6 Uzbekistan

Mr. Bakirov Nizomidin, Director, Agency of Forestry of the Republic of Uzbekistan emphasized its commitment to responding to the Bonn Challenge, by restoring 500,000-ha forested land. To fight desertification, actions have been taken to increase the area of afforestation and survival rates, and progress seems promising.

Cooperation with communities and NGOs has created programs of forest restoration and business development, which provide jobs and contribute to sustainable economic development.

3.2.7 Inner Mongolia

Inner Mongolia is one of the provinces that damaged seriously by concentrated desertification and sandification. Most of the Region is located in arid and semi-arid areas, with an average annual precipitation decreasing from 500 millimeters to 50 millimeters from east to west.

Mr. Wang Zhaosheng, Director-General, Forestry and Grassland Administration of Inner Mongolia shared the practical experience and achievements in ecological protection and restoration, and forest sustainable development in Inner Mongolia. He mainly presented four aspects, including Basic ecological conditions, achievements, challenges and measures.

The key challenges for the region is that the areas of desertification and sandification land are 59.31 million hectares and 39.82 million hectares, accounting for 50.14 percent and 33.66 percent of the region's land area, it is great difficult in consolidating achievements of ecological protection and restoration, the improvement of forest management benefits. And to make desertification control legalized, the Autonomous Region has successively enacted and implemented a series of local regulations, such as Measures for the Implementation of the National Defense Sand Control Law of the People's Republic of China, Measures for the Implementation of the Water and Soil Conservation Law of the People's Republic of China, etc.

And the region has been actively explored and popularize drought resistant afforestation technologies and water-saving products, energetically implement sand control by photovoltaic products, forming an agricultural and photovoltaic complementary model, namely, power generation on the board and planting under the board, which not only fixes sand effectively but also creates economic value. The region also summarized famous models as Kubuqi mode, Dengkou Model and Maowusu Experience.

Mr. Ma Xiaojun, Deputy Director General of Forestry and Grassland, People's Government of Chifeng Municipality shared experience in decade-long efforts in ecological restoration. The city has made great achievements on desertification control the cover rate of forest and grassland reaches to 64.18%, which is about 20% higher than the average level of Inner Mongolia. The forestry industry outputs reach to 10.46 billion RBM in 2023. The key model in the city is desertification control through road construction. It also broadened the financial input channels and engage more farmers in the process.

3.3 Session Two: Priorities and Approaches to Strengthen Forestry Cooperation

In this session, there are two topics, including “Priorities to strengthen the multilateral and bilateral forestry cooperation” and “Suggested approaches to strengthen the multilateral and bilateral forestry cooperation in the future”.

According to the economies' presentation and exchanges, the key cooperative priorities for the economies mainly include: (1) *the Kyrgyz Republic* focuses on social benefits improvement, forest restoration, SFM capacities improvement, environmental protection; (2) *Turkmenistan* gives priorities to seven areas: afforestation and reforestation techniques improvement and joint scientific research, further improvement of forestry legalization, sustainable management mechanism improvement, implementation of joint projects and programs, conducting a forest inventory and creating a unified information database on the state of forests, growing high-quality planting material, especially with a closed root system and 7) creation of a data bank of the gene pool of the main forest-forming species in the region. (3) *Uzbekistan* hopes to strengthen cooperation on forest and industry development, protection and restoration of Animal husbandry, ranching and arable land, as well as ecotourism development; (4) *Mongolia* prefers cooperation on forest rehabilitation, forest fire and pest control; (5) *Tajikistan* are willing to cooperate in improving the management system and strengthening the structures of the forest sector, protecting and increasing forests by promoting cash trees, participatory forest management, and ecotourism, etc., promoting seedling production and nursery establishment, enhancing management, budgeting and monitoring, capacity building, and technology reforms.

4. Field site visit

4.1 SFM Field Site Visit for the Head of Each Delegation around Meiling Valley

On 11 September, a field site visit was carried out for heads of delegations around Meiling Valley. High-level officials paid visit to three sites, including Larch seed wood dual-use forest, Wangyedian Understory Edible Fungi Cultivation Base, and Large-diameter larch timber cultivation demonstration area.

4.2 Desertification control field site visit

On 12 September, all participants paid visit to desertification control field sites in Chifeng city, including Horqin Sandy Land Comprehensive Management Project Area; Wubai Road Sand Comprehensive Management Project Area; and Tuha Line Sand Comprehensive Management Project.

5. Conclusions and ways forward

5.1 Conclusion

Following the China-Central Asia Summit that held in Xi'an China in mid-May this year, the Third Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry in Greater Central Asia was organized, which has won high attention and made great accomplishments. It was agreed that the GCA MMRF is a useful platform to gather high-level forestry policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and representatives from NGOs and private sectors in the region, to share forestry information and best practices, exchange issues that all economies in the region are concerned with, expand networking and promote practical bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the region.

With the cooperation and efforts of all parties involved in the meeting, the following achievements and consensus were made:

(1) Regional forestry information was shared and exchanged

Around the theme of “Strengthening Forestry Cooperation and Promoting Regional Development”, representatives shared their latest developments in laws and policies, priorities, actions, accomplishments, challenges and gaps, as well as fields where regional exchanges and cooperations are urgently needed.

- On the theme of “Newly updated forest restoration policies and strategies”, the latest forestry legislation, actions, accomplishments, challenges and best practices on desertification control and cooperation priorities in the GCA region were shared and exchanged.
- On the theme of priorities to strengthen forestry cooperation: the common key priorities for future cooperation that all member economies mentioned include forest restoration, protection and ecological conservation, improvement of sustainable forest management capacities and afforestation techniques, as well as scientific research.

(2) Regional forestry communication and networking is strengthened

The meeting gathered high-level forestry officials and senior experts in the region, which is also the first on-site meeting since 2018. During the process of meeting organization, APFNet can't reach some focal points and contact person that designated at the last meeting.

(3) Practical regional cooperation is enhanced

At the meeting, *Action Plan for Greater Central Asia Forestry Cooperation Mechanism (2023-2025)* was adopted, in which, the cooperation priorities, approaches and actions were identified and agreed.

The short-term cooperative priorities were identified as vegetation restoration in arid and semi-arid areas, sand-based industry development in the areas affected by desertification, transboundary cooperation on forest/ grasslands fire prevention and control, conservation and utilization of forest/grasslands genetic resources, promoting capacity building of forestry/grasslands professionals, promoting forestry/grassland scientific research cooperation and exchange.

The approaches include regional policy dialogues and exchanges, capacity building, research and demonstration projects, as well as communication and information sharing.

The actions include organizing 1 high-level regional meeting, initiating 1 high-level global sustainable forest management cooperation network, jointly organizing 1 training workshop, sponsoring scholarship to forestry professionals (including master's degree and doctor degree) in the region, as well as conducting 3 projects on Greater Central Asia Forest Rehabilitation Research Center, forest/grassland fire prevention and control, and best practice pilots on sustainable forest and grassland management.

(4) The GCA MMRF mechanism is further consolidated and developed

Through contact person updating and a two-year action plan adoption, the mechanism is further strengthened. At the meeting, the parties affirmed the important role of MMRF in strengthening policy dialogue and regional cooperation. It was agreed that efforts should continue to strengthen policy communication and coordination, expand inter-departmental exchanges and cooperation. In addition, Mongolia proposed to host the fourth GCA MMRF.

5.2 Ways forward

The high-level participants agreed that the GCA MMRF is a useful platform for sharing and exchanging information, issues and cooperation. It is recommended that:

- (1) To systematize the MMRF mechanism by
 - updating the contact person and focal points from each economy, and if there are further changes, the economy should update with APFNet.
 - Creating a periodical information sharing mechanism with the focal points and contact person
- (2) To promote the implementation of the *Action Plan for Greater Central Asia Forestry Cooperation Mechanism (2023-2025)*.
- (3) To jointly design and prepare the fourth GCA MMRF.

6. Annex

- Programme
- Participants list
- Field site introduction

6.1 Programme

Day 1: 11 September, Monday

Time	Agenda
5am	Arrival at Beijing (representatives from other economies)
06:30 - 11:30	Drive to APFNet Multi-functional forest experience base, Wangyedian forest farm, Chifeng city
11:30 - 12:00	Check in
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch buffet (Venue: 1 st floor of the Service Center)
Field Site Visit for the Head of Each Delegation	
15:00 - 17:00	SFM site visit around Meiling Valley
Pre-Meeting of Senior Experts <i>Meeting Room: Mongolian Yurt</i>	
14:30 - 16:50	Discussion about the <i>Action Plan for Greater Central Asia Forestry Cooperation Mechanism (2023-2025)</i>
16:50 - 17:00	Wrap up
High-level Informal Meeting	
18:00 - 18:30	Informal meeting of the Head of each delegation (Venue: Multi-functional room)
18:30 - 19:30	Welcome Dinner (Venue: Dinning Hall)

Day 2: 12 September, Tuesday

Opening Session <i>Meeting Room: Mongolian Yurt</i>	
07:30 - 08:20	Breakfast Buffet (Venue: 1 st floor of the Service Center)
08:30 - 08:40	Opening Remarks delivered by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. Tang Fanglin, Vice Administrator, National Forestry and Grassland Administration of China - Mr. Wu Xiangliang, Deputy Secretary General, The People's Government of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region
Session One:	

Newly Updated Forest Restoration Policies and Strategies	
08:40 - 10:00	<p>Keynote Speech (20min/each) delivered by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Mr. Pan Bin, Deputy Director General, Department of Combating Desertification Forestry and Grassland Administration of China</i> - <i>Mr. Musaevalmaz, Director General, The Forest Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic</i> - <i>Mr. Oyunsanaa Byambasuren, Director General, National Forest Agency of Mongolia</i> - <i>Mr. Sharipov Davlatali, Deputy of the Director, The Forestry Agency under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan</i>
10:00 - 10:30	Group Photo/Coffee Break
10:30 - 11:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Mr. Saryhanov Shamammet, Head, Forestry Administration, Forestry Administration of the Ministry of Environment Protection of Turkmenistan</i> - <i>Mr. Bakirov Nizomidin, Director, Agency of Forestry of the Republic of Uzbekistan</i> - <i>Mr. Wang Zhaosheng, Director-General, Forestry and Grassland Administration of Inner Mongolia</i> - <i>Mr. Fu Shouli, Deputy Mayor, People's Government of Chifeng Municipality</i>
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch buffet (Venue: 1 st floor of the Service Center)
Session Two: Priorities and Approaches to Strengthen Forestry Cooperation	
14:30 -16:30	<p>Discussion:</p> <p>Topic 1: Priorities to strengthen the multilateral and bilateral forestry cooperation</p> <p>Topic 2: Suggested approaches to strengthen the multilateral and bilateral forestry cooperation in the future</p>
16:30 -17:00	Coffee Break
17:00 -17:10	Discussion and adoption of the <i>Action Plan for Greater Central Asia Forestry Cooperation Mechanism (2023-2025)</i>
17:10 -17:20	Discussion about the venue of the Fourth Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry in Greater Central Asia

17:25 -17:30	Closing
18:00 - 19:00	Dinner buffet (Venue: 1 st floor of the Service Center)

Day 3: 13 September, Wednesday

07:00 - 08:00	Breakfast buffet (Venue: 1 st floor of the Service Center)
08:00 - 10:30	Drive to Wengniute Banner
10:30 - 11:30	Visit the Museum of Wengniute Banner
11:40 - 12:40	Lunch
12:40 - 13:50	Drive to desertification control field site
13:50 - 14:30	Site visit and tree planting
14:30 - 15:30	Desertification control site visit
15:30 - 18:00	Drive back to Wangyedian Multi-functional forest experience base
18:00 -19:00	Dinner buffet (Venue: 1 st floor of the Service Center)

Day 4: 14 September, Thursday

08:00 - 08:40	Breakfast buffet (Venue: 1 st floor of the Service Center)
09:00 - 11:00	Drive to field site along the way to Beijing
11:00 - 12:00	Lunch
12:00 - 14:00	Field site visit
14:00 - 16:00	Drive back to Beijing
16:00 - 17:00	Check in the hotel in Beijing
17:00 - 18:30	Dinner

Day 5: 15 September, Friday

Departure

6.2 Participants list

No	Name	Title/Organization
National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA), China		
1	Tang Fanglin	Deputy Administrator, NFGA, China
2	Hu Yuanhui	Director General, APFNet Coordination Center
3	Xu Qiangxing	Deputy Director General, Department of International Cooperation
4	Yan Jian	Deputy Director General, Department of Ecology Conservation and Restoration
5	Pan Bing	Deputy Director General, Department of Combating Desertification
6	Xiao Wangxin	Deputy Director General, APFNet Coordination Center
7	Zhao Huan	Secretary of Deputy Administrator
8	He Yuke	Officer, Department of International Cooperation
9	Liu Yong	Director, Department of Combating Desertification
10	Yuan Mei	Deputy Director, Liaison and Information Division, APFNet Coordination Center
11	Huang Kebiao	Deputy Director, Project Management Division, APFNet Coordination Center
12	Zhu Jinlei	Associate Researcher, Research Institute of Ecology and Nature Conservation, Chinese Academy of Forestry
13	Huang Shan	Journalist, China Green Times
14	Hu Chuyu	Officer, Liaison and Information Division, APFNet Coordination Center
15	Wei Ningxian	Officer, Administration Division, APFNet Coordination Center
APFNet		
16	Lu De	Executive Director
17	Chen Lu	Director of Finance and Administration Division
18	Wang Qian	General Secretary, Hainan Nature Foundation

19	Xin Shuyu	Director, Policy Dialogue Division
20	Lu Qian	Director, Project Management Division & Communication Division
21	Wang Jiayi	Officer, Policy Dialogue Division
22	Liu Wenzhe	Officer, Project Management Division
23	Mei Xuerong	Officer, Project Planning Division
24	Zhuo Yufang	Officer, Administrative Division
Kyrgyz		
25	Musaev Almaz	Director, The Forest Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic
26	Borkoshov Talantbek	Director, Osh Forestry
27	Kozhombardieva Zhyldyz	Chief Specialist, The Forest Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic
Mongolia		
28	Byambasuren Oyunsanaa	Director General, National Forest Agency of Mongolia
29	Batsuren Munkhbolor	Director, Information and Technology Division of National Forest Agency of Mongolia
Tajikistan		
30	Sharipov Davlatali	Deputy of the Director, The Forestry Agency under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
31	Amirshozoda Tohirkhon	Director, State Forestry Institution of the Kulyab Region of the Forestry Agency under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
32	Yorahmadov Vohidjon	Leading Specialist, the Finance, Accounting and Planning Department, The Forestry Agency under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
Turkmenistan		
33	Atamyradov Nury	Head of Department, National Institute of Deserts, Flora and Fauna, Ministry of Environment Protection of Turkmenistan

34	Shalyeyev Vepa	Main Specialist, Forestry enterprise, Ak bugday district, Ahal region, Turkmenistan
Uzbekistan		
35	Bakirov Nizomidin	Director, Agency of Forestry
36	Umarov Sobirjon	Chief specialist, Ministry of Ecology, Environment Protection and Climate Changes
37	Noviskiy Zinoviy	Head of Lab, Scientific Research Institute of Forestry
People's Government of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region		
38	Wu Xiangliang	Vice Secretary
Forestry and Grassland Bureau of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region		
39	Wang Zhaosheng	Director-General
40	Lou Bojun	Deputy director
41	Chi Xiaoxu	Office director
42	Sui Jianpeng	Deputy director, Planning and Finance Department
43	Ao Dong	Director, Publicity office
People's Government of Chifeng Municipality		
44	Luan Tianmeng	Mayor
45	Fu Shouli	Deputy Mayor
Forestry Science and Research Institute of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region		
46	Qin Fucang	President
47	Hu Yongning	Deputy Director (Senior Engineer), Science and Research Department
48	Hai Long	Director, Institute of Genetics and Breeding
49	Yuan Limin	Director, Laboratory for Conservation and Cultivation of Sandland Biological Resources of NFGA
50	Zhang Fenghe	Assistant Researcher, APFNet Arid Land Vegetation Restoration Training Center (based in the Institute)
Forestry and Grassland Bureau of Chifeng Municipality		
51	Yang Lei	Director

52	Ma Xiaojun	Deputy Director
53	Meng Qingxiang	Head, Planning and Finance Section Sector
54	Tan Jingran	Publicity Officer, Office
55	Liu Zongyou	Publicity Officer, Office
56	Zhang Ruijun	Deputy chief
57	Lu Zhaoxia	Head, Forestry Industry and Foreign Cooperation Sector
58	Cao Yu	Deputy head, Forestry Industry and Foreign Cooperation Sector
59	Lv Lihua	Officer, Industry and Foreign Cooperation Sector
Forestry Science and Research Institute of Chifeng Municipality		
60	Li Xianyu	Director
61	Yu Haijiao	Deputy Director
Harqin County		
62	Fang Rui	Secretary of the Committee
63	Zhao Yanhong	Head
64	Biqigetü	Deputy Head
65	Wubo	Director General, The Forestry and Grassland Bureau of Harqin County
66	Li Wenshu	Head, Wangyedian Experiment Forest Farm
Aohan County		
67	Yu Tianzi	Deputy Director
68	Suo Mingli	Head, Foreign Cooperation Office
69	Chen Mingchuan	Head, Sanyijing Forest Farm in Aohan County
70	Yu Xingnan	Deputy head, Sanyijing Forest Farm in Aohan County
Northwest A&F University		
71	Li Qiang	Professor, Deputy director of Deputy Director of the International Cooperation and Exchange Division
72	Liu Guangzhe	Associate professor, Director of Agricultural

		Standardization Research Institute
73	Zhang Tabin	Associate researcher, Deputy director, Science and research Department of the Institute of Soil and Water Conservation

6.3 Field site introduction

The larch seed wood dual-purpose forest: The area is 30 hectares, the forest age is about 50 years, the canopy density is 0.6, the average diameter at breast height is 38cm, the maximum diameter at breast height is 51cm, and the average tree height is 20 meters. Main management measures for the forests includes intensive thinning, cultivating large-diameter timber, renewed and utilized.

Wangyedian Understory Edible Fungi Cultivation Base. In 2022, the understory edible fungi cultivation industry in Meilin area was vigorously developed through forestry field trials, large household demonstrations, township promotion, and full company services, and achieve good results. In 2023, 667 hectares of forest fungus planting bases, mainly underforest red matsutake, will be built across the county, with the output value of underforest edible fungi reaching 200 million yuan.



Figure 7 Field site visit at the Wangyedian Understory Edible Fungi Cultivation Base

Large-diameter larch timber cultivation demonstration area. The average diameter at breast height of forest trees is 32cm, and the maximum diameter at breast height is 48cm. The average tree height is 28m, and the storage volume per hectare exceeds 300m³. The main methods include site selection with deep-soil shady or semi-shady slopes, gentle slopes, and high groundwater levels, tree species selection, determine target tree, tending and thinning.



Figure 8 Field site visit at the Large-diameter larch timber cultivation demonstration area

Horqin Sandy Land Comprehensive Management Project Area. Chifeng City is a key area for desertification prevention and control nationwide and in Inner Mongolia. There are two major sandy lands, Horqin and Hunshandake, distributed from west to east. The total desertified land area is 1,774,600 hectares, accounting for 20.4% of the land area. For a long time, Chifeng City has always attached great importance to desertification prevention and control. From the 1950s to the present, the pace of desertification control has never stopped. The mobile sandy land in the treatment area gradually transformed into semi-fixed sandy land and fixed sandy land, and the forest and grass vegetation coverage reached more than 65%, achieving a historic transformation from "sand entering and people retreating" to "green advancing and sand receding".

Wubai Road Sand Comprehensive Management Project Area. Wubai Road is a sand-crossing road that runs east to west through the hinterland of the Horqin Sandy Land in Wengniute Banner. It starts from National Highway 304 in Wudan Town in the west and ends in Baiyintao Haisumu in the east. The total investment is 127 million yuan and the total length is 91 kilometers. Construction started in April 2021 and was completed and opened to traffic at the end of November of that year. The Wubai Road Sand Land Comprehensive Management Project plans to invest a total of 140 million yuan and implement sand land management of 19,200 hectares. The project will be implemented in three years, starting in March 2022, and is expected to be completed in November 2024. In order to ensure the effectiveness of construction, five measures are mainly taken to promote comprehensive management of sandy land. (1) The first is scientific planning from a high starting point. A professional team was organized to carry out systematic planning for the eastern sandy land of the entire flag,

and the plan was steadily advanced from near to distant on an annual basis. (2) The second is to start early to seize the farming season. Firmly grasp the key points of afforestation design and seedling preparation to ensure that afforestation and desertification control tasks are completed with high quality according to time nodes. (3) The third is to strictly require quality and efficiency improvement. Pay attention to key aspects such as planning and design, seedling quality, and land preparation and planting to effectively improve the quality and survival rate of afforestation. (4) The fourth is to clarify responsibilities and strictly supervise and manage. Implement the method in which the comrades of the Banner Forest and Grassland Bureau are mainly responsible for contracting the project and the technical personnel contract the plot, and the responsibilities are implemented at all levels to ensure the orderly advancement of project construction standards. (5) The fifth is to establish a mechanism for linking interests of the masses. Let farmers and herdsmen fully participate in the project construction, and give priority to hiring herdsmen in desert areas. So far, 300 people have been recruited to work as seasonal workers, with each person increasing their income by more than 6,000-9,000 yuan and wage income of 18,000-27,000 yuan.



Figure 9 Tree planting by the participants from all delegations

Tuha Line Sand Comprehensive Management Project. In 2010, the Tuha Line was completed, with a total length of 32 kilometers. The sandy land comprehensive management project was implemented in November 2009, with a completed construction area of 14,500 hectares. In accordance with the principle of highlighting "economic benefits, scale effect, quality management, and science and technology promotion", the project focuses on building four core areas: (1) The first is the sandy plant belt construction area along both sides of the road, with a construction area of 1333 hectares, and 43 sandy plant belts, mainly composed of shrubs, are planted. (2) The second is the aerial seeding ground treatment technology application area on Shahuan Road in the south. The construction area is 133 hectares, with 7 main tree

species planted. Mechanical sand barriers, biological sand barriers, and chemical methods are used to treat the ground. (3) The third is the Shahuan Road mixed forest management model area in the north, with a construction area of 67 hectares. The fourth is the Eremangha Ecological Economic Circle, with a construction area of 33 hectares.



Figure 10 Field site introduction by local representatives