



APFNet Newsletter

APFNet Newsletter issue

2

Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation

APFNet activities
during April
–September, 2009



APFNet development



International activities
and policy dialogue



Capacity building



Upcoming events

Contents:

APFNet development

International activities and policy dialogue

- UNFF8
- AFP8

Capacity building

- Training workshops
- Scholarship programme
- Joint capacity programme
with TNC/RAFT

Upcoming events

- WFC2009 and interna-
tional exhibition
- Training Workshop on
Sustainable Forest
Resource Management
- Supporting Country-Led
Initiative(CLI) China 2009
- Establishment of the
APFNet Steering Committee
- APFNet pilot projects in
2010

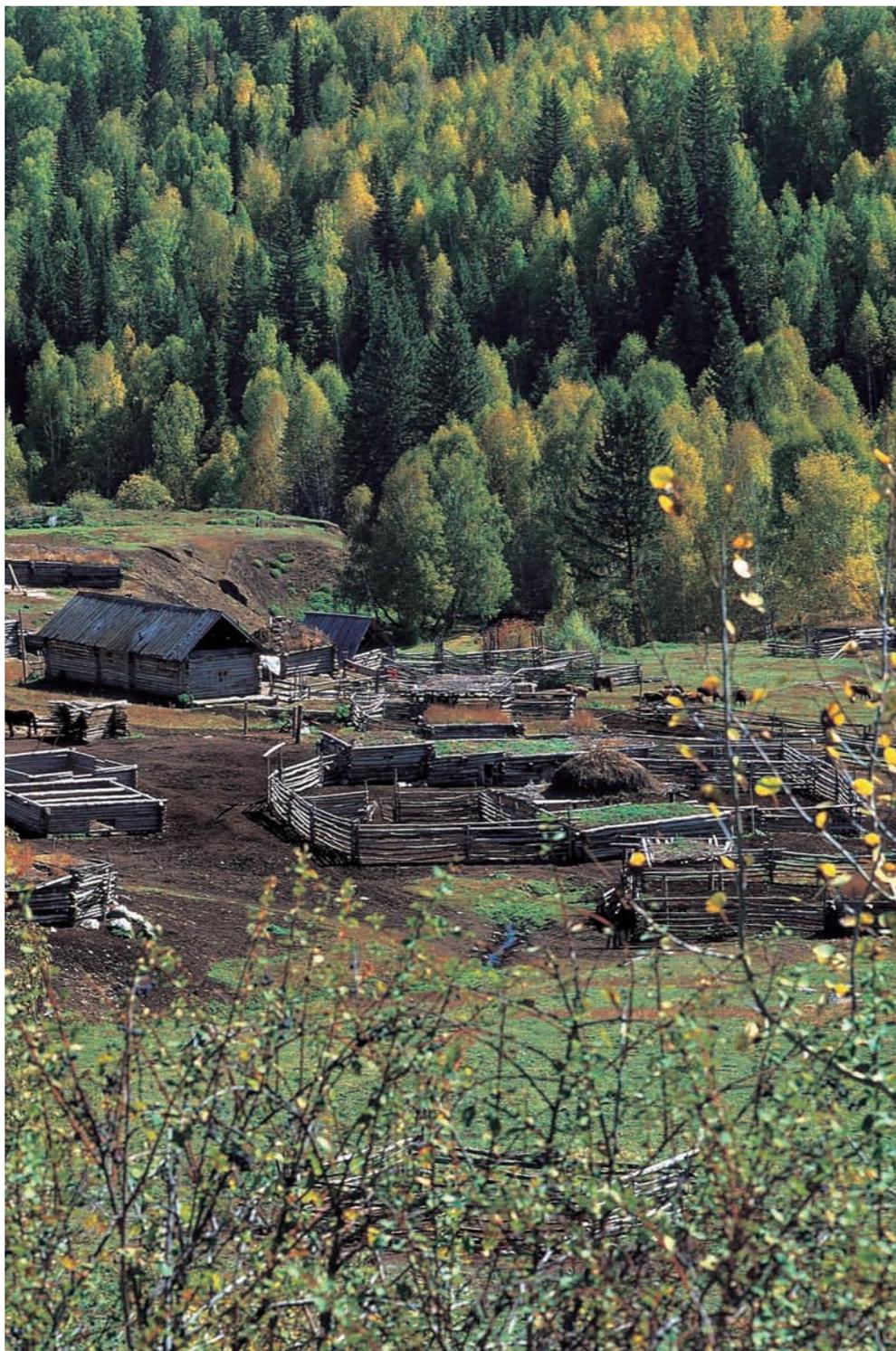
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APFNet development



Mr. WU Hailong, DG, Dept. of International Organizations and Conferences, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China (left)

Mr. QU Guilin, DG, Dept. of International Cooperation, State Forestry Administration of China (middle)

Mr. Harvey Lee, Acting Director, Office of ENRC, US Department of State (right)



Mr. Sun Tao, Program Director, APEC Secretariat (left),

Mr. Patrick Durst, Senior Forestry Officer, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (middle),

Mr. David Cassells, Senior Advisor on Forest and Climate Change, TNC



Participants in discussion during the Symposium

Since the launch of the APFNet, consultation among the three founding members (China, Australia and US) continues on the future development of the APFNet. Several rounds of discussions on APFNet Secretariat, membership expansion and relation with APEC are held in line with the APFNet Framework Document.

Concept papers on APFNet development

Since April, China, Australia and the US engaged in negotiation on future development of the APFNet. DVC meetings were held to identify how APFNet Secretariat works to support activities organized and undertaken, strategy of expanding APFNet membership as well as type of relationship to APEC. Concept papers on these three key issues had been drafted, based on which initial consensus will be reached later with broader discussion among other interested partners.

International Symposium on APFNet Development

On 28-29 August, 2009, an International Symposium on APFNet Development was held in Jiujiang, China. The 2-day Symposium brought together around 40 representatives from eight APEC member economies, international organizations, NGOs, as well as officials from Chinese government agencies and academia. The Symposium cited the recent progress of APFNet, presented the early-stage strategic planning for its future development, and initiated Informal and constructive discussions regarding the modalities of APFNet, the relationship to APEC, functions and roles of the Secretariat and APFNet activities as well as its priority areas. Comments and views contributed to shaping follow-up APFNet activities and paving the way for APFNet future development.

A summary of the Symposium will be released soon and posted on APFNet website.

International activities and policy dialogue

UNFF 8th Session

The Eighth Session of United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF8) was held at the UN headquarters in New York from April 20 to May 1, 2009. Over 600 participants from UN member states, International and regional organizations as well as NGOs participated in the event and APFNet was invited to attend this important forum on global forest development.

The theme of UNFF8 was “forest in a changing environment”, with extensive and in-depth discussions carried out on topics surrounding the theme and “means of implementation for sustainable forest management”. On the agenda item of regional and sub-regional input during the plenary session, APFNet introduced the missions, objectives, recent activities and follow-up work plan of APFNet and drew great attention among participants. In the conference margin, an informal discussion was held among China, Australia and US on future development of APFNet, including the membership expansion, the functions and role of APFNet secretariat and the relationship of APFNet to APEC.

AFP 8th Meeting

The 8th meeting of the Asia Forest Partnership (AFP) & AFP Dialogue was held in Bali, Indonesia from 27-29 May, 2009. Nearly 300 participants from government agencies, including Japan, Switzerland, Indonesia and so forth, international and regional organizations as well as NGOs attended the meeting. APFNet was invited to the event.

The theme of this dialogue was “REDD and combating illegal logging”. Extensive and in-depth discussions were carried out on topics covering “Actions to tackle illegal logging and associated trade: implications for REDD”, “REDD and forest governance”, “Community: REDD, illegal logging and forest-dependent communities” and “Economic and international implications”.

During the meeting, the APFNet introduced the missions, objectives, especially works underway and future plans of APFNet, and answered questions, drawing a great attention among participants. In the conference margin, APFNet held discussions with FAO and TNC respectively on upcoming cooperative activities, an informal meeting with AFP on future cooperation was also held.



Plenary Session of UNFF 8



Chinese delegation in discussion



Dr. Wang Xuehong in Q&A Session on behalf of APFNet



APFNet delegates with the newly-elected AFP chair, Mr. Zhang Zhongtian (left)

Capacity building



As one of the four APFNet functions, capacity building programme has been strengthened with short-term and long-term plans, with an aim to enhance the capacity in sustainable forest management and rehabilitation in the Asia and Pacific region. On this basis, an effective long-term training mode will be further explored and improved.

Training workshops

Training workshop on Methods, Tools and Skills for Promoting Legal and Sustainable Forest Management and Trade in the Asia-Pacific Region

During August 31-September 6, 2009, the Training workshop on Methods, Tools and Skills for Promoting Legal and Sustainable Forest Management and Trade in the Asia-Pacific Region was organized by APFNet, with great support from TNC/RAFT. The elaborately-designed curriculum attracted around 20 managers and practitioners from government, international organizations and private sector as well as academia in the region to share cutting-edge information, best practices and lessons learned in terms of tools and skills that promote sustainable forest management.

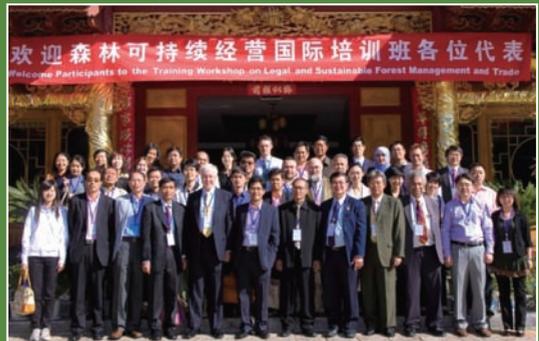
The workshop drew primarily on professional expertise from FAO, RECOFTC and other organizations within the Asia-Pacific region, and used a mix of methods including thematic reports, case studies, in-class discussions and field trips to cover topic issues regarding SFM and legal trade on forest products, including social corporate responsibility (CSR), high conservation value forests, community forestry development and conflict management, FLEG process and so forth. It provided a platform to share information and experience to promote SFM and legal trade on forest products in the region.

Participants all agreed that the training workshop is successful in integrating sessions design and regional needs on SFM and associated trade, and in facilitating formulation of practical suggestions and possible solutions based on country perspective. Meanwhile, the feedback from participants and resource people on the training workshop will support future APFNet activities on enhancing regional capacity building to promote SFM.

APFNet is now collaborating with RAFT on a 3-year program, which sees capacity building as a focus field, and this training workshop is the start of the series of this cooperative initiative.



Mr. LU De, addressing the opening ceremony of the workshop



Group photo



A participant's presentation



Working group discussion



Group photo



Lecture session



In-class discussion



Field trip to communities



Mr. David Cassells, Senior Advisor on Forest and Climate Change, TNC (left) in discussion with Mr. Qu Guilin Director General, APFNet Secretariat on future cooperation

Within mountainous countries in the Asia-Pacific region, a mutual-dependence has been developed between community and forests. Forests provide resources and the main source of income for the rural communities. Hence, striking a balance between forest management and rural development is key to sustainable rural development. Main topics covered by the Workshop include forest policy on rural development, collective forest land tenure reform, conflict management in community, gender participatory development and so forth. The Workshop generated in-depth discussions and exchanges through lectures, working groups, country reports and field trip to forest communities across Yunnan Province. Participants agreed that the Workshop provides a very good opportunity for sharing inspirational views and ideas that will help with their future work, and that the Workshop achieves its goals.

The Workshop proves to be a good start for the middle to long-term training program, which is being considered by the APFNet. It provides a sound basis for further improvement of the training program and a better understanding of the regional needs, which will promote future regional cooperation within the APFNet framework and sustainable forest development.

Scholarship Programme

One driver that hinders capacity strengthened in forest management at both regional and global level is the lack of expertise and techniques transferred. To address this concern, the APFNet plans to establish a scholarship program that will take advantage of higher education resources in China to enhance capacity building in SFM in the region.

Through the incentive mechanism, eligible applicants are provided with opportunities to study in higher education institutions in China, through which experiences on and lessons learned from forestry development in China could be transferred across the region to promote SFM.

A feasibility study has been conducted with an aim to launch the Programme in 2010.

Joint capacity building program with TNC/RAFT

A three-year cooperative program between the APFNet and TNC/RAFT is now in progress, focusing on regional capacity building in SFM. After the training workshop on methods and tools for SFM and trade was successfully held in September 2009, several possibilities for future cooperation are being explored, including:

- organization of a series of training courses during the next 3 years with the theme of promoting SFM and trade,
- establishment of post-course "help-desk" component strategies to ensure follow-up activities and future development
- development of up-to-date curriculum in forestry institutions and universities in China to benefit young generation based on Learning Networks

Training workshop on Forestry and Sustainable Rural Development

The training workshop on forestry and sustainable rural development, sponsored by APFNet and organized by Southwest Forestry University of China, was held in Kunming, China during September 1-20, 2009, with an aim to enhance regional capacity of balancing ecological protection and economic development in community, and promote forestry and rural development in a sustainable way. The workshop invited 15 technical officers and resource managers involved in forestry, rural development and poverty alleviation in the region.

Upcoming events

APFNet Participating in WFC2009 and international exhibition

XIII World Forestry Congress will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina during October 18-23, 2009, attracting around 5000 participants from government agencies, international organizations, academia, private sectors and civil society to exchange views and experiences and to formulate recommendations to be implemented at the national, regional and global levels. The Congress also provides an opportunity to present an overview of the state of forests and forestry in order to discern trends, adapt policies and raise awareness among decision and policy makers, the public and other stakeholders.

As a new regional initiative, APFNet will participate in this important international event and WFC 2009 Exhibition with APFNet booth stand established. The Congress



provides a good opportunity for more and in-depth information sharing between the APFNet and interested partners. Future cooperation activities will also be discussed during the occasion.

Training workshop on Sustainable Forest Resource Management

The Workshop, to be held during 20th November – 11th December 2009, Kunming, China, is expected to bring together about 15 experienced forest policy makers and resource managers in the Asia-Pacific region to share information and views on sustainable forest resource management and related issues. The training programme will cover practices and experiences regarding forest resource management in China, and various topics surrounding forest management, including leisure forests, NTFPs, bamboo issues, natural reserves and national parks, and other topics like Forest Certification and the FLEG process.

Participants for this workshop are expected to contribute views from different perspectives to initiating new and innovative ideas for resources management in the region. Meanwhile, feedback from participants of the workshop will help to shape and improve long-term training program under the APFNet to enhance capacity building in the Asia-Pacific region.

Country-Led Initiative(CLI) China 2009

Country-Led Initiative was developed in support of the United Nation Forests Forum. China will be the organizer of the CLI meeting to be held 17-20 November, 2009 in Guilin, Guangxi. APFNet will provide financial and technical support to the meeting.

CLI-China will attract about 200 participants from UN member states, regional and international organizations and major groups to share experiences and lessons learned in the use of national forest programmes (NFPs) to achieve sustainable forest management and as a means to implement the Non-legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (NLBI). Conclusions and recommendations arising from the meeting will provide the basis of a summary report that will be submitted to United Nations Forum on Forests to be included as documentation to facilitate and inform discussions at UNFF9 Session.

APFNet also intends to organize a side event to introduce the new initiative to gain broader interest and wider participation.

Establishment of the APFNet Steering Committee

APFNet plans to establish a steering committee in 2010, through which further discussions on the future development of APFNet will be carried out. Discussions could include modalities for operation, financial arrangements and membership development. The steering committee could be expanded beyond representatives from China, US, Australia to other potential partners.

APFNet pilot projects in 2010

APFNet aims to undertake pilot projects and other measures to contribute to narrowing the gaps among economies and achieving the aspirational goal of increasing forest cover in the APEC region by at least 20 million hectares of all types of forests by 2020. Through the implementation of pilot projects, local forest management capacity will be strengthened, and information and techniques will be transferred, which will benefit local communities. These pilot projects will also provide a basis for better-targeted future APFNet activities.

A number of project proposals are now under review and the launch of APFNet pilot projects will commence in 2010.