



Newsletter

February 2020

Welcome to the APFNet Newsletter and a Happy New Year!!!
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PROJECTS



Supporting MYANMAR to Conserve Forest Germplasm Resources

On August 7, 2019, APFNet, in collaboration with Forest Research Institute (FRI) of Forest Department of Myanmar, launched the project “Integrated Forest Ecosystem Management Planning and Demonstration Project in Greater Mekong Sub-region Project (Myanmar)”. The project aims to conserve forest germplasm resources, rehabilitate forest ecosystem services and multiply social benefits by increasing forest productivity. It is expected that this project will contribute to the economy’s needs to conserve forest genetic resources as well as be a showcase integrated watershed management in Myanmar. [To continue...](#)



Combining Mangrove Restoration with Sustainable Aquaculture

Haung Gyi Tan village, Ayeyarwady Delta is the area in which in January 2018 APFNet, together with The University of Queensland and the Watershed Division of the Forest Department of Myanmar, started a 3-year project aiming to not only improve local livelihoods, but also restore the valuable mangrove forests in Amar Sub-township. Half-way through the project it is time to take stock. Thus, a mid-year review team, headed by evaluator Jim Enright (from the Mangrove Action Project) and supported by APFNet staff and the project team, set out to visit the project sites in October 2019. [To continue...](#)



Better Management of Prek Thnot Watershed in CAMBODIA



Supporting better watershed management in INDONESIA



Started in July 2015, the APFNet project “Landscape Approach to Sustainable Management of Forests in Prek Thnot Watersheds” was designed to build capacity and raise awareness for the concept of integrated watershed planning for national and local stakeholders through scientific assessments, analysis and participatory land use planning at the landscape level, as well as to improve community livelihoods by promoting agroforestry and establishing community-based enterprises. The project is carried out by the Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development (IRD), with a four-year project duration.

On 3-6 November 2019, during the completion stage of the project implementation, a Terminal Evaluation (TE) of the project was carried out on the ground by an independent evaluation consultant, aiming to assess project performance, outcomes and impacts stemming from the project. The evaluation team visited the field plots and met with different stakeholders ranging from provincial to community level. [More on](#)

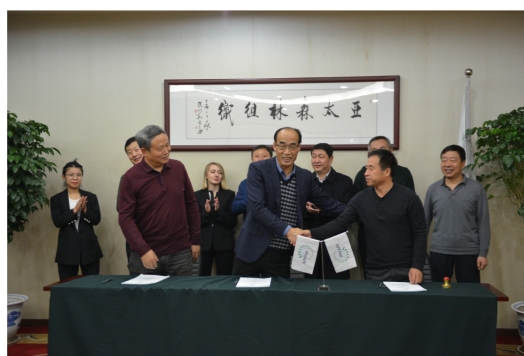


In 2017, APFNet in collaboration with the Watershed Management Technology Center (WMTTC) under the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia, developed a project supporting participatory management of the Naruan micro-catchment based on community participation and a wide involvement of different stakeholders, while adhering to the principles of soil and water conservation, thus improving ecosystem services at large.

During 18-22 November 2019, APFNet conducted a terminal evaluation through visiting the field sites and holding workshops with the project executing agency. Initial findings show that the project has achieved remarkable results and should further monitor long-term impacts to demonstrate best practices. Aiming to increase stakeholders' commitment to participate in better management of the micro-catchment, the project gathered representatives of farmers, community leaders, officials from provincial and central government, and NGOs to discuss and formulate a participatory management plan of the Naruan micro-catchment. [More on](#)



APFNet's contribution on fighting desertification in Horqin Sandy Land, NORTHERN CHINA



Best practice demonstration for Greater Central Asia

On 27th December 2019, a project

Restoration and Management and Utilization of Forest Resources in Greater Central Asia (Chifeng sites)” was held on November 11-13, 2019. The project site, located in the famous Horqin Sandy Land, Inner Mongolia, experience extremely dry weather, desertification and low vegetation coverage which have led to poor livelihoods, the decline of species diversity, and sandy storms in the past decades.

To promote forest restoration, combat desertification, and improve ecological and economic benefits in the region, APFNet has supported the project since 2017, with strategies including summarizing the typical models for desertification prevention and control in Chifeng and providing theoretical basis and practical cases for the Greater Central Asia.

agreement signing ceremony was held at the APFNet secretariat in Beijing, China. Mr. HAN Ming (Director of Chifeng Forestry and Grasslands Bureau), Mr. CHEN Mingchuan (Director of Sanyijing Forest Farm), and Dr. LU De (Executive Director of APFNet) attended the event and signed the three-party project agreement, which marks another milestone in the cooperation between APFNet and the two project partners.

Phase II will demonstrate more mixed forest models to improve forest quality compared to phase I. The implementation area of project phase II is 230 ha, which includes the establishment of 72.34 ha of a semi-arid demonstration forest restoration. In addition, monitoring and regular forest management, such as weeding, pruning, and watering, will be conducted on both project phase I and II sites.

[To continue...](#)



Launch of a New APFNet Project in VIETNAM

In Tram Chim National Park, a Sarus Crane, on Thursday, September 12, 2019, key representatives of the National Park Management, researchers from the Forestry Inventory and Planning Institute (FIPI) of Vietnam and the Forest Resources and Environment Center, the head of the Dong Thap Forest Protection Department and Dr. Lu De, the Executive Director of APFNet officially signed the agreement of the project “Integrated Forest Ecosystem Management Planning & Demonstration Project (IFEMPDP) in the Greater Mekong Subregion (Tram Chim Project Site)”. [More on](#)





Symposium on Forest Cooperation in Asia-Pacific Region was held to reduce fragmentation and strengthen regional collaboration

Co-organized by APFNet, the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO RAP), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA) of China, the Symposium on Forest Cooperation in Asia-Pacific Region was held during July 22-24, 2019, Chifeng, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, China. It aimed to: 1) Update the current status of regional cooperation to support the promotion of forest rehabilitation and sustainable forest management; 2) Exchange information, share experiences and foster closer cooperation among economies in the region; 3) Form synergies in support of achieving the Sydney Aspirational Goal and Goals related to forests for the 2030 SDGs.

In total 180 participants attend the Symposium, including senior officials from APFNet member economies and international organizations, representatives from the APFNet Council, APFNet initiatives, and international experts, APFNet project partners etc.



Launching of APFNet Alumni Network

APFNet is making a great stride this year by bringing closer ties and communication among alumni and current students through the launching of APFNet Alumni Network. The mechanism for the creation of Alumni



Young talents joined together at the First Early Career Academics Forum

Aiming to build a platform for young forestry scholars from China and ASEAN economies to share experience and enhance mutual learning, the First Early Career

Network was formally introduced during the Asia-Pacific Forestry Youth Forum held on December 8-11, 2019 in Beijing Forestry University which was attended by APFNet alumni and students.

With an increasing number of scholarship students every year, APFNet Alumni Network was launched to help bring alumni together through establishment of a self-governing platform, which aims to further enhance knowledge and experience sharing, and also strengthen contacts and coordination between APFNet alumni across the Asia-Pacific region to promote regional forestry development and collaboration.

Academics Forum under Sino-ASEAN Network of Forestry Research Institutes (SANFRI) was jointly organized by Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland (YAFG) and APFNet from 29 October to 1 November 2019 in Pu'er City, Yunnan Province of China.

Taking the forum as the first step, SANFRI hopes to cultivate a team of young forestry scholars with excellent scientific research ability to make continuous contributions to forest restoration and sustainable forest management and to raise the voice of developing economies within the international community.

Promoting legal timber trade through the green supply chains

The International Forum “Together Towards Global Green Supply Chains” was held by CTWPPDA, CINFT-NFGA, ITTO and ATIBT on 22-23 October in Shanghai, China. The forum aimed to promote the advancement of legal and sustainable supply chains which will incentivize good production practices, contribute to responsible purchasing practices while also leading to additional benefits of poverty alleviation, creation of employment, economic growth, income generation etc. whilst complementing climate change mitigation.

APFNet’s Assistant Executive Director, Dr Zhang Zhongtian joined the panel for the session “Contribution of Wood Industry Sector to Climate Impact and Sustainable Development”. “The forest industry is a key player of deforestation and degradation in tropical forests. Therefore, they have responsibility in combating climate change and improving the livelihoods of the poor who are dependent on the tropical forests,” said Dr Zhang. He also emphasized that the Chinese companies can play an important role in changing the practice to make positive changes to the industry and protect the remaining tropical forests. Dr Zhang also introduced the progress of APFNet activities in promoting reforestation and forest rehabilitation to combat climate change.

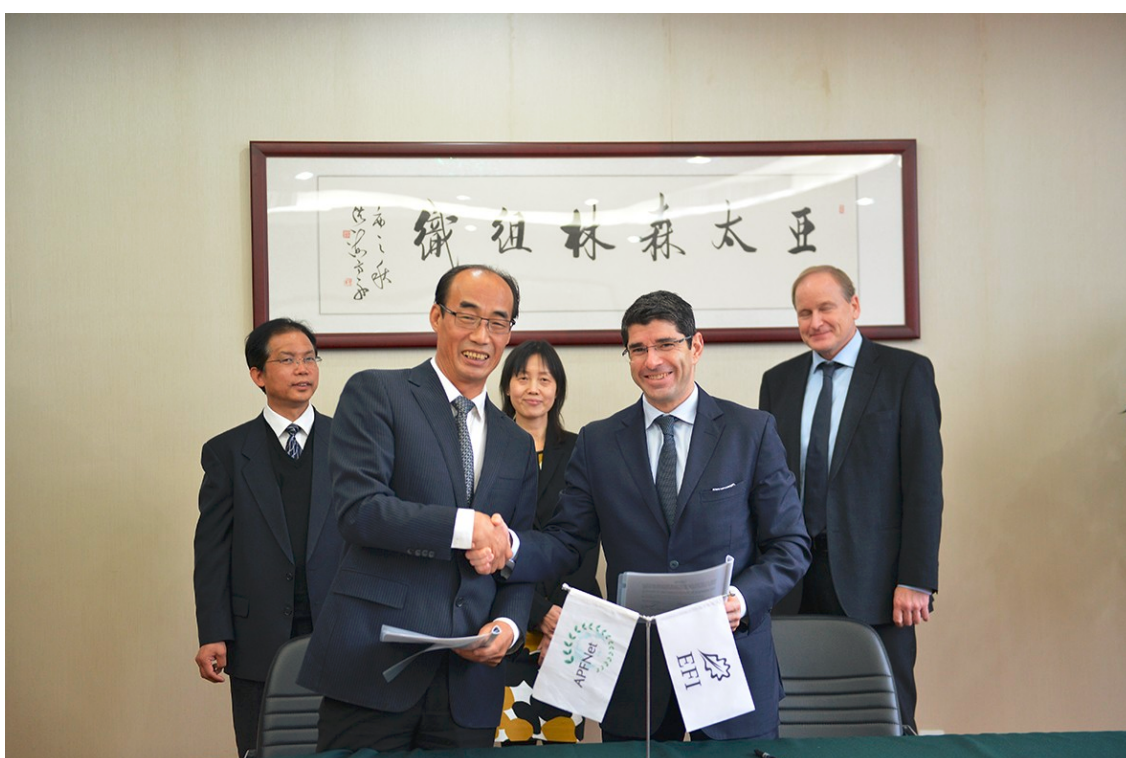
MEETINGS



APFNet's "Multi-functional Experiment and Training Base" has been designated as an on-site learning base by National Forestry and Grassland Administration, China

On 20 September, 2019, National Academy of Forestry and Grassland (NAFG) of China, the Government of Kalaqin Qi, Inner Mongolia and APFNet have signed a tripartite agreement to jointly facilitate the development of APFNet's "Multi-functional Experiment and Training Base". NAFG designated the Experiment and Training Base as one of their on-site learning bases.

Trainings and workshops will be hosted at the training base to showcase the successful experiences of APFNet's "Multi-functional Experiment and Training Base" in the management of multi-functional forestry, including sustainable management of the forest, Eco-tourism, forest therapy, sustainable use of non-wood forest products and community forestry.



APFNet and the European Forest Institute (EFI) have agreed to increase their collaboration on sustainable forest management and rehabilitation through policy research, human resource development, information exchange and joint projects. APFNet Executive Director Dr Lu De and EFI Director Dr Marc Palahí signed the Memorandum of Understanding on 15 November 2019 at APFNet office in Beijing, China.



The Second Steering Committee Meeting of SANFRI successfully concluded

Jointly organized by Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland (YAFG) and APFNet, the Second Steering Committee (SC) Meeting of Sino-ASEAN Network of Forestry Research Institutes (SANFRI) successfully concluded on 28 October, 2019 in Pu'er City, Yunnan Province of China. Representatives from 8 SANFRI member institutes* attended the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the progress of SANFRI activities during 2018-2019 and planned for the next two years. The implementation guidelines for two key actions under SANFRI, namely APFNet Conference Attendance Support and APFNet Small Research Grant were adopted by the Steering Committee and will be formally launched in 2020.

In the meeting, a consensus was reached on the extension of the term of the current Chair - YAFG for two years until 2021 to keep the continuation of SANFRI activities. Vietnamese Academy of Forestry Sciences (VAFS) was elected as the Vice-chair for 2020-2021.

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