



Newsletter

October 2020

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Building the APFNet Sustainable Forest Management Training Center for more effective communication in the Greater Mekong Subregion



The Lancang–Mekong River is one of the world's largest rivers and the watershed area covers Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Wangzhangshan Forest Farm, Pu'er prefecture in southern China, upstream of the Lancang–Mekong River, is of great importance for water conservation, erosion, landslide control and so forth. To promote the integrated management of forest ecosystems in the watershed, improve the economic, social and ecological functions of the

forest ecosystem, and facilitate the construction of an ecological civilization in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), APFNet has been supporting the “Integrated Forest Ecosystem Management Planning and Demonstration Project in the Greater Mekong Subregion (Pu'er Project Site, P.R. China)”

To further enhance the outputs of the Pu'er project and enhance communication among partners in the GMS, a platform for communication and a base for training programmes that can meet the current capacity development requirements in the Asia-Pacific region, are needed. Wangzhanshan Forest Farm, considering its geographic advantages and room for demonstration sites, is an ideal partner for such an endeavour. As such, the establishment of the "APFNet Training Base" for sustainable forest management (SFM) was put on APFNet's agenda.

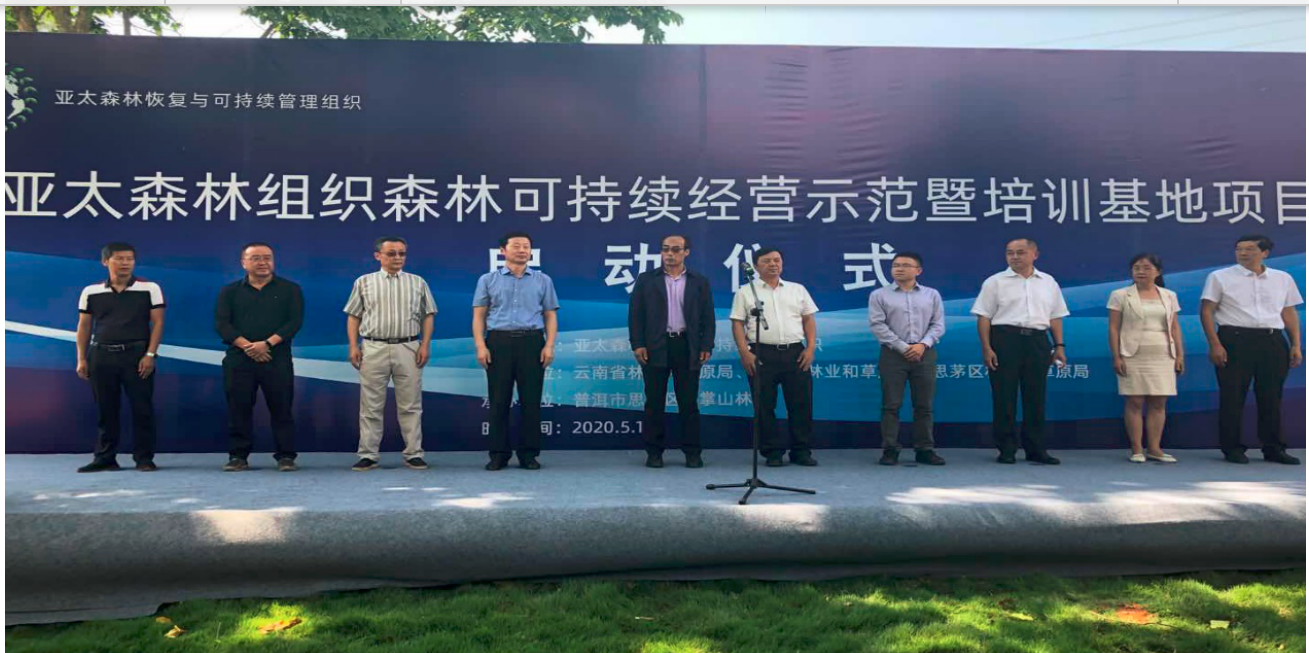
The project aims to build a multifunctional Training Base, which will combine training, communication, publication and dissemination, forest experience, and the demonstration of best SFM practices. The training base is expected to provide a platform for information sharing and policy dialogue among international forestry officers, which will promote SFM in the region.

On 14 January 2020, the project agreement signing ceremony was held at the APFNet Kunming Center in China. Mr Cai Maowei, the Deputy Director of Pu'er Forestry and Grassland Bureau, Mr Chen Wenjie, the Director of Wanzhangshan Forest Farm and Dr Lu De, the Executive Director of APFNet signed a three-party project agreement, which will establish a second APFNet Training Centre in addition to the first one located in Wangyedian Forest Farm, located in Inner Mongolia, China, under a different project.

[For more](#)

Demonstration of sustainable forest management through the official launching of the APFNet Training Base Project

The official launching ceremony of the "Demonstration of Sustainable Forest Management and Establishment of APFNet Training Base Project" was held in Wanzhangshan Forest Farm, Pu'er City, Yunnan Province on 15 May 2020. More than 60 representatives from APFNet, the Yunnan Forestry and Grassland Administration, the local Pu'er and Simao governments, as well as the Pu'er and Simao Forestry and Grassland Bureau attended the event.



During the ceremony, Dr Lu De, the Executive Director of APFNet, explained that the goal of the APFNet Training Base is to build an information and communication platform for forestry officers across the Asia-Pacific region to exchange knowledge on sustainable forest management (SFM). Successful SFM models and best practices will be demonstrated through this platform, which will further promote the co-development of SFM across APFNet member economies, protect the natural environment and create beautiful landscapes. Mr Xu Zhijiang, the Division Head of the International Cooperation Office of the Yunnan Forest and Grassland Administration, stated that this project will empower Yunnan Province to build a cooperation centre for South Asia and Southeast Asia. The Deputy Mayor of Pu'er, Li Rong emphasized that the local government will make sure that all parties are consulted to ensure smooth implementation of the project and to complete all construction activities on time and promote SFM in Pu'er through implementation of this project.

The project is funded by APFNet, supervised by the Yunnan Forestry and Grassland Administration, the Pu'er and Simao Forestry and Grassland Bureau, and implemented by Wanzhangshan Forest Farm. This project has a duration of three years and is based on the successful implementation of a previous APFNet project – “Integrated Forest Ecosystem Management Planning and Demonstration Project in the Greater Mekong Subregion (Pu'er Project Site, P.R. China)”. After completion of this project, the main achievements will be the demonstration of successful experiences and best practices of forest management in subtropical and tropical regions through a centralized base, and the overall promotion of SFM in the Asia-Pacific region.

For more



Fighting the bamboo locust plague in Southern China and beyond

The bamboo locust (*Ceracris kiangsu*) is a common leaf-eating insect distributed in tropical rainforests. It was not regarded as a significant economic problem previously because it only occurred in small populations, despite consuming the economically important bamboo forests. However, in 2020 the *C. kiangsu* population dramatically increased in Lao PDR and crossed the border to Yunnan Province plundering or destroying a total of 8,000 hectares of local bamboo forests and crops. In order to help relevant APFNet member economies better understand the habits of this pest and implement timely control measures, the Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland, current Chair of the APFNet mechanism “Sino–ASEAN Network of Forestry Research Institutes” (SANFRI), compiled a set of Q&A, questions that were answered by its experts and provided a thorough introduction about the locust. In the Q&A, answers, such as the possible reason for the outbreak, what the locusts eat and reproduction habits are given setting out six effective ways to control the locust.

To find out full Q&A about the recent bamboo locust plague [click here](#).



Sharing project management experiences among international organizations

Many organizations in the region are implementing demonstration projects, and there is much to be learned from each other. Therefore, in a novel initiative, APFNet's Project Management Division held a workshop designed to share experiences in project management.

The Workshop on Sharing Project Management Experiences Amongst Regional and International Organizations Working in Asia-Pacific was held on 10–12 August 2020 at the APFNet Forest Experience Base in Wangyedian, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, China. It brought together representatives of the China offices of the following international organizations working in forestry, the environment and sustainable development: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; the Global Environment Facility; Global Environmental Institute; GIZ; the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan; the International Union for Conservation of Nature; The Nature Conservancy; the United Nations Development Programme; and the World Wide Fund for Nature. Representatives of the Chinese Academy of Forestry and the Forestry and Grassland Administration of Chifeng, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, also attended the workshop.

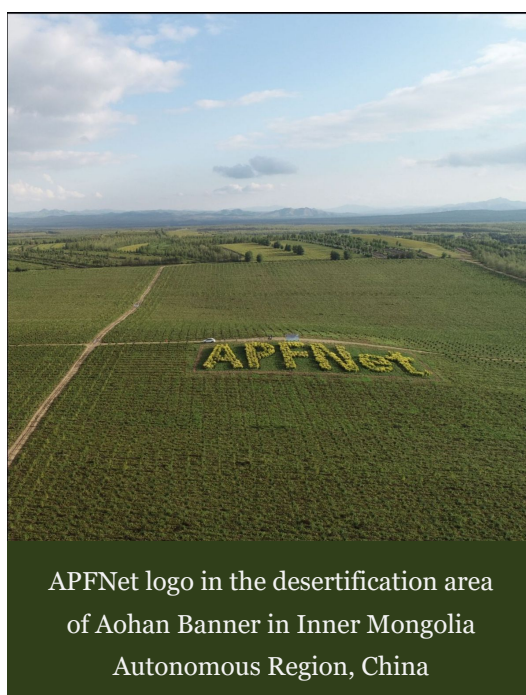
Workshop participants shared the experiences of their organizations in forest-related projects and initiatives and their approaches to the management of project scope, finance, risk, communication, change and stakeholder collaboration.

[For more](#)



2020: APFNet restores and rehabilitates 230 ha in Horqin Sandy Land

Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, APFNet continues to fight the impacts of dust storms or the 'yellow dragon' in Horqin Sandy Land, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, China. Through one of its projects in Sanyijing Forest Farm, APFNet has restored over 80 ha in the desertified grassland area and has rehabilitated about 40 ha of sandy land since January 2020. APFNet will continue to sustainably manage about 110 ha of demonstration forests established in Phase I of the project until the end of the year.

[For more](#)

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