



NEWSLETTER

May 2022

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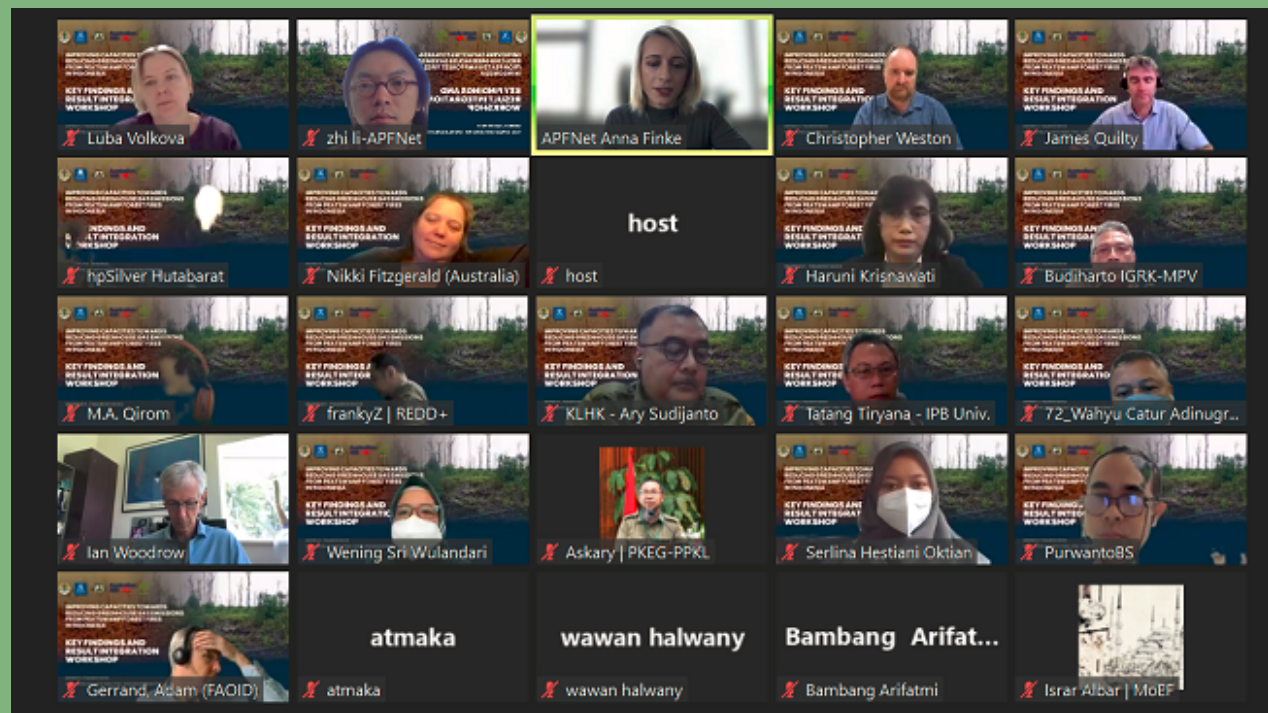
Indonesia improving official emissions reporting - Thanks to the APFNet project



With each year passing, climate change mitigation becomes a more pressing issue for economies worldwide. As one of the top emitters with vast natural resources, this mainly applies to Indonesia. Yet, as opposed to the emission sources from

developed economies, Indonesia's GHG emissions do not primarily result from industrial activity but rather derive from the land-use sector. In particular, the degradation and burning of peatlands contribute nearly 50% of the emissions from the land-use sector. Yet until recently, the calculations these emissions were based on remained highly uncertain, preventing the Indonesian government from reporting emissions from peat fires to the UNFCCC under its international commitments to combat climate change.

To establish a new methodology to increase the accuracy of peatland emissions, starting from 2019, APFNet teamed up with the Forest Research and Development Center (which has subsequently been reformed and renamed the Center for Standardisation of Sustainable Forest Management Instruments) under the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MOEF) of Indonesia, as well as the University of Melbourne of Australia for the project "Improving capacities towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions from peat swamp forest fires in Indonesia". The project's goal was to include more factors, such as fire frequency, fuel loads, and combustion factors for above-ground carbon and peat, in a new methodology that considers how different fuels contribute to the overall emissions resulting from peatland fires. Two years later, during the online completion workshop held on 7 March 2022, the partners were happy to report that this new methodology was developed and applied to national reporting.



The project finds that in the traditional calculation of peatland emissions, pyrogenic carbon has mainly been ignored but is an essential contributor to peat fire emissions. Even more importantly, the project team determined new combustion factors (CFs) for the different components of the peat landscape and compared them to the standard elements given by the IPCC. In this context, the combustion factors of peat (from 10 cm to 50 cm depth) can be 30-60% lower than the defaulted CF provided by the IPCC guideline, meaning that emissions resulting from peat itself may be two to four times lower than the values calculated by the IPCC default CF. The study findings were already used in the 2nd Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL) report submitted to UNFCCC in January 2022. The next step will be to re-calculate the emissions from peat fire of older statistics for the following reporting to maintain consistency between reports by using the same calculation method.

As Professor Ian Woodrow from the University of Melbourne remarked, "The project is a global significance; the result is outstanding. It will improve understanding of global carbon pools".

The project team at Aohanqi, Inner Mongolia - updating monitoring plan and establishing a summary report

The project "Demonstration Project of Vegetation Restoration and Management and Utilization of Forest Resources in Greater Central Asia phase II (Chifeng sites) [2019P4-INM]" and its added activities have continued to demonstrate models of sandy land restoration in the Greater Central Asia.

During the first quarter of 2022, the project team maintained existing demonstration plots through watering, weeding, and

applying pesticides. Sugar maple will be grafted with a golden-leaved variation, and yellowhorn will be grafted with a red-flower variation at two stands. Additionally, the project team has proactively responded to the recommendations raised during the mid-term evaluation in September 2021. When the evaluation team visited the site Sanyijing Forest Farm in September 2021, they suggested improving the monitoring by collecting more extensive and consistent data and further strengthening the project summary. To enhance the monitoring, the project team has contracted an expert Dr Wang Shusen from Inner Mongolia Agricultural University, to renew the existing monitoring plan and conduct the monitoring. Besides existing measurements on vegetative data, more ecological values, especially regarding water availability and soil content, will be included in the following inventory in 2022. This monitoring plan was designed with a long-term objective to replicate such monitoring more than two times in the following decades. And the ultimate goal is to evaluate the sustainability of the demonstrative models by analyzing indicators such as water availability, forest health, biodiversity, and cost of maintenance.



Dr Wang is also contracted to work on a project summary report, synthesizing successful examples of forest restoration models at our sites in Inner Mongolia and emphasizing their demonstrative value across Greater Central Asia. By publicizing this summary report, foresters and policymakers from the Greater Central Asia region will benefit from such knowledge exchange of restoration experiences and apply models applicable to their sites.

WORKSHOPS AND NETWORKING

Strengthen Info-sharing of policies and actions on forest restoration and SFM in the Asia-Pacific Region

On 20 January 2022, APFNet **will host** the Pu'er workshop on Forest Restoration and Sustainable Forest Management in Response to International Commitments on Climate Change to call for its members to react to the recent world leaders' endorsements. A total of 73 from seventeen members of the Asia-Pacific region attended the event, including FAO, RECOFTC and TNC and 14 regional economies.



During the opening ceremony, Mr Lu De, Executive Director of APFNet, delivered an opening remark and underpinned that the priorities of APFNet Strategic Plan 2021-2025 are much accorded with the Glasgow Leader's Declaration on Forest and Land Use and the 2021 APEC Ministerial Meeting. He also emphasized on APFNet will continue to help support regional member economies by promoting and improving forest restoration and

sustainable forest management.



As planned, the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forest and Land Use, regional progress in forestry for the APEC 2020 goal, and the APFNet Strategic Plan 2021-2025 were introduced to provide a general overview of highlights in global and regional forestry dynamics. Then, the representatives from eight member economies kindly contributed to their efforts in response to restoring forest ecosystems and mitigating and adapting to climate change through an introduction to ongoing and planned forest-related actions and policies at the economic level. At the end of the workshop, an active and open discussion has interacted among all members, and they agreed on the significance of collaboration and information-sharing for the region.

Improving economies' forest governance ability in the Asia-Pacific region respond to the post COP26

The 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) of the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2021 was held in Glasgow, United Kingdom, from 31 October - to 13 November 2021. UNFCCC COP 26 attracted eyes globally and capped a notable year for climate change and forestry.

Paying more attention to the relevant events in the region, staff at the APFNet Secretariat participated in a workshop on "Key Outcomes for the Land Use Sector after COP26 (Glasgow): An Asia-Pacific Perspective", which was virtually held 1-3 March 2022 by RECOFTC, FAO, the ASEAN Climate Resilience Network, the ASEAN Secretariat, and UN-REDD. This virtual meeting brought 70 participants and many experienced negotiators and leading thinkers from the region to discuss and reflect upon critical issues raised during COP 26 in Glasgow.

APFNet Executive Director Dr Lu De was invited to attend the workshop as one of the panellists. In the meeting, he briefly reviewed the primary outcomes of the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal assessment report, which APFNet and FAO implemented. In addition, he informed participants about APFNet's latest workshop on "Forest Restoration and Sustainable Forest Management in Response to International Commitments on Climate Change", which was held in February 2022. He highlighted that APFNet Secretariat would keep following the critical progress and outcomes from the forestry sector regarding post COP 26.

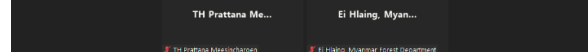
During the discussion session on how Asia-Pacific economies positioned themselves within COP 26 concerning agriculture and forestry, Dr Lu De mentioned that some of the economies in the region have already initiated domestic forestry policies and plans to address forestry issues. For example, Sustainable Development Goals Framework 2016-2030 and National Forestry Program 2010-2029 in Cambodia; Rehabilitation and Reforestation Program (2017-2027) and Natural Habitats Programme 2019-2029 in Myanmar; and China's National 14th Five-year Plan for Protection and Development in the Forest and Grassland Sector. These actions are active adaptation and contribute to achieving the Paris Agreement and Glasgow Pact goals. He suggested that UNFCCC could play a more critical role in financial support and technology transfer for balancing the current forestry management and land-use gaps among developed and developing economies. His comments were echoed by other experts and panellists, especially on improving economies' forest governance ability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Enhanced collaboration among the SANFRI member institutes



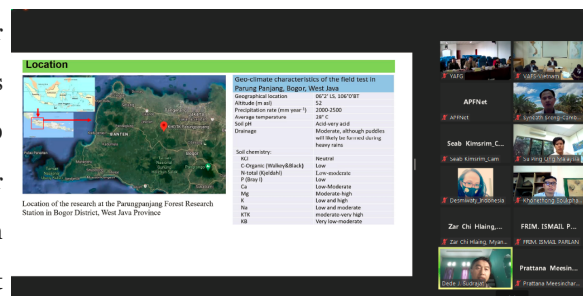
On 13 January 2022, the Third Steering Committee Meetings of SANFRI and the Second Early Career Forum were successfully concluded by joint efforts among APFNet, Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland of China and Vietnamese Academics of Forest Sciences. Representatives from eight SANFRI member institutes and 24 young

scholars attended the events.

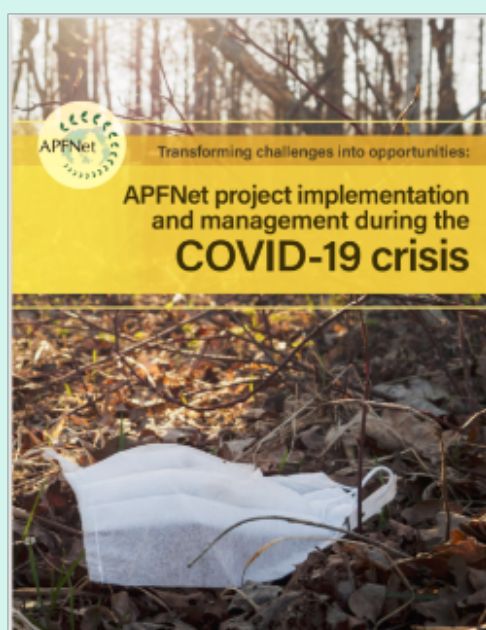


The Committee meeting updated the progress of SANFRI activities during 2020-2021, elected a new Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee, and adopted the work plan for 2022-2023 through active discussion and upon agreement among all members. Worthly mentioned, the Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS) as a new Chair and the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) as a new Vice-Chair expressed their willingness to raise the bar and dedicate themselves SANFRI activities during the duty period under support from APFNet. Furthermore, the Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland of China has been elected as the coordination office to serve as a linkage between member institutes and APFNet, mainly assisting with the rotating presidency to carry on their performance if needed.

The afternoon Early Career Academics Forum was designed for young forestry researchers to promote a mutual learning process through several presentations focusing on three project outputs of 2020 APFNet Small Grant Research and the introduction of member institutes. Almost participants appreciated the Forum providing such an opportunity for research idea incubation and capacity improvement through information-sharing.



Transforming challenges into opportunities: APFNet project implementation and management during the COVID-19 crisis



The summary report for the online workshop 'COVID-19 Pandemic Impacts in Forestry in the Asia-Pacific Region' organized by APFNet on 17 November 2021 is now available online. The workshop aimed to effectively increase APFNet project partners' ability to conduct projects during the pandemic. Throughout the seminar, regional and sub-regional partners improved their networking and communication and minimized the adverse effects of COVID-19 on APFNet projects. Based on project management experiences shared by project partners, PMD designed a brochure this year to summarize the key ideas and tools to effectively respond to the challenges of project implementation imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

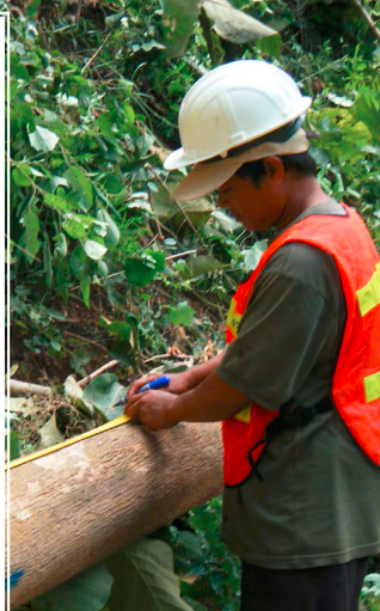
The COVID-19 pandemic is still far from over, and it is unclear when everyday life will resume. This means that international APFNet projects will continue to be faced with different difficulties under the pandemic. The report outlined how APFNet and its partners can minimize adverse effects and ensure that most projects achieve their goals. Once the pandemic is over, those affected projects and their teams can emerge more substantial and resilient. With this, challenges were transformed into opportunities, and constraints were transformed into incentives to think outside the box for sustainable forest management.

What is "Green recovery"?

Green recovery = environmental, economic and social reforms designed to combat threats, promote economic recovery + sustainable, equitable, resilient and climate-friendly change.

Three phases:

- Short term - create jobs and alleviate most severe impacts.
- Medium term - support economic growth, encourage participation and "greener" performance.
- Long-run - transition toward more equitable, sustainable and environmentally-friendly practices.



APFNet participated in the 29th Session of the APFC

Invited by FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, two staff in Capacity Building Division, APFNet Secretariat, participated in the 29th Session of the APFC, Mongolia (virtual meeting), on 22-25 February 2022. The theme of the 29th Session is "Forests and green recovery in Asia and the Pacific". APFNet obtained several new updates regarding the meeting's theme—"Green recovery" (photo 1), and identified other strategic priorities, opportunities, and meeting announcements during the four-day conference.

APFNet has signed MOU and maintained a closed collaboration with FAO since 2012. Considering the impacts on forests and the forest sector due to the COVID-19 pandemic (photo 2), APFNet could enhance its the programs and activities in line with the outcomes and recommendations of the APFC-29 in collaboration with its member economies, partner organizations, and relevant stakeholders, including increasing efforts to enhance, redesign and implement policies and actions to upscale forests and landscape restoration and reduce deforestation and forest degradation; strengthen the capacity of governments of relevant stakeholders as regards the sustainable management **use** of forest biodiversity; halting deforestation and land degradation, and promoting sustainable agriculture and forest management.

COVID-19 Pandemic - Impacts on forests and forest sector

- Many forestry operations suffered adverse impacts from lockdowns and border closures.
- Disruptions to transport impacted supply chains, increased production costs and detrimental to global trade in forest products. **↓ 8% in 2020.**
- Increases in illegal activities.
- Some positive effects: strong prices for many wood products, shortened supply chains and reduced carbon footprints.
- Community forests have provided a safety for rural communities.



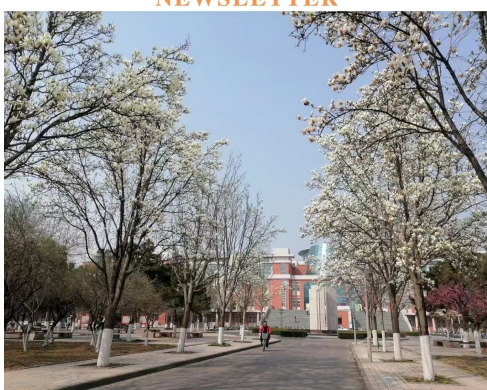
INFORMATION SHARING

Issue 1

2022

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE APFNet ALUMNI NETWORK

**APFNet ALUMNI
NEWSLETTER**



APFNet alumni Newsletter remains active throughout the COVID pandemic

The 8th issue of APFNet Alumni Network Newsletter was produced in March.

As this issue starts in 2022, we set up a section of Happy Spring Messages to allow our alumni to express their best wishes for the network and their peers during this new spring season. The main five topics were covered: 1) Happy Spring Messages; 2) Enhance the role of forestry at COP26; 3) Alumni Spotlight of a lecturer at the National University of Laos; 4) Research achievements that two of our alumni from Laos and

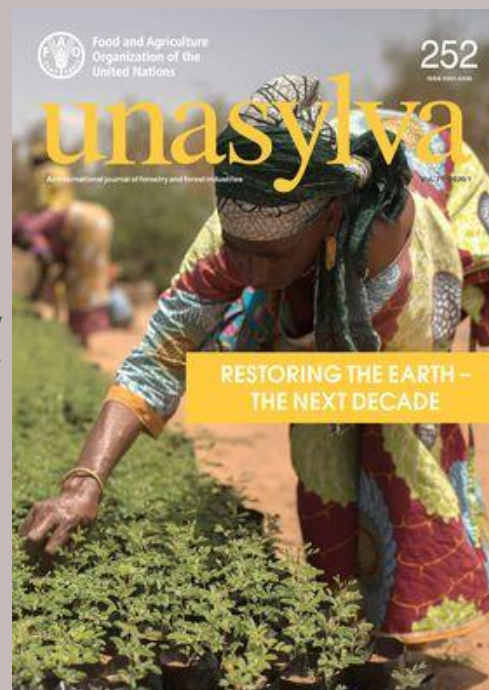
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Nepal have made; and 5) APFNet alumni winning awards at International Academic Forum on Green, Low Carbon, and Sustainable Development.

“Restoring the Earth: the next decade” Unasylva 252 Chinese version launched

APFNet/FAO/UNEP organized webinar in 29 March 2022, highlighted key topics of the publication relevant to China while emphasizing the vibrancy of restoration efforts at global level and offering a better understanding of challenges and opportunities showcased.



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