Fw: [Test] APFNet Newsletter 2022_1

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Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2022 at 03:28:04 PM GMT+8

Subject: [Test] APFNet Newsletter 2022_1

APFNet

NEWSLETTER

July 2022

IN THIS ISSUE

PROJECTS

APFNet contribution to forest germplasm resources protection in Cambodia

Forest germplasm resources are important natural resources that have been seriously threatened by the rapid economic development in Cambodia. The APFNet-funded project “Establishment of High-Value Tree Species Breeding Center in Cambodia” has served as a shelter for valuable forest genetic resources since 2020. During the second quarter of 2022, the project has completed basic structural constructions of three main construction activities which previously have completed their detailed design and gotten government approval, including High-Value Tree Breeding Center, 100 ha Forest Genetic Conservation Garden, and 20 ha Eco Forest Farm. The project has finished procuring the tissue culture laboratory equipment and greenhouse instruments for the future construction of the tissue-culture laboratory in the Breeding Center.

The project team has collected 46 species of valuable tree genetic resources from 7 provinces throughout Cambodia, including *Dalbergia oliveri, Afzelia xylocarpa, Dalbergia cochinchinensis, Sindora cochinchinensis,* etc. Best practices for designing valuable tree germplasm resources collection have been summarized in a technical manual “Collection and storage method of germplasm resources”. In the Eco Forest Farm, the project team has completed the land preparation of over 14ha. Up to date, 12 species of economic trees like durian, logan, coconut, etc. and 7 species of valuable trees including *Dalbergia cochinchinensis, Pterocarpus macrocarpusdad, Brarringtonia acutangula,* etc. have been planted.

With these efforts, APFNet project funding has not only made effective measures to support the conservation of existing valuable tree species in the project area but also served as ex-situ seedbanks for other endangered plant resources in Cambodia.

Protecting forest germplasm resources through establishing an arboretum in Myanmar




After more than two years of construction, the 25ha arboretum which aims to collect and conserve the forest germplasm has been established in the Forest Research Institute(FRI) in Yezin, Myanmar. The arboretum includes a 9ha native forest ecological conservation zone where key tree species with economic or ecological values were planted and well maintained, besides, 16ha thematic zones were also established, including 1) Bamboo Zone, 2) Ornamental Plant Zone, 3) Medicinal Garden Zone, 4) Rare & Endangered Tree Zone, 5) Economic Tree Zone, and 6) Precious Tree Zone. Related species were collected throughout Myanmar and planted in the thematic zones from 2020 to 2022.


In addition, the project also supported integrated watershed management at Paung Laung Reserved Forest in Shan State, especially in two target villages named Lein Li village and Chaungmange village. With technical support from FRI and local consultants, nearly 8,000 seedlings such as *Pterocarpus macrocarpus, Gmelina arborea, Pyinkado, Thamalan* and bamboo species were produced by the project nursery and distributed to the villagers during 2021-2022. Agroforestry demonstration sites were also established in the two target villages through mixed planting of bamboos, fruit trees and timber trees. In 2022, 1,148 bamboo clumps have been planted and 1,500 fruit trees such as *Parkia speciose, Artocarpus heterophyllus, and Citrus Limon, Mango* and 1,500 timber trees such as *Millettia pendula, Pterocarpus macrocarpus* with a spacing of 15 feet × 15 feet and crops such as elephant foot yum, turmeric, and pineapple were intercropped. In addition, about 1250 bamboo was planted along the boundary of demonstration plots.

WORKSHOPS AND NETWORKING

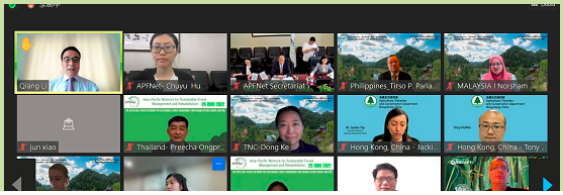
APFNet proposal adopted as an outcome of the High-Level Dialogue on Global Development

The High-Level Dialogue on Global Development, under the theme, “Foster a Global Development Partnership for the New Era to Jointly Implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, was held successfully on 24 June, and consensus was achieved on many issues. In response to the serious challenges facing global development, including ecosystem degradation, food insecurity, exacerbated poverty and uneven development, the Global Network for Sustainable Forest Management (GNSFM), proposed by the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet), was adopted as an early harvest project of the Dialogue and welcomed by participating leaders.

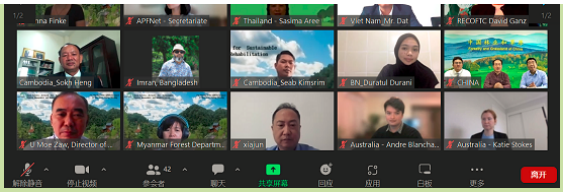
GNSFM will be hosted by APFNet and open worldwide. With a focus on sustainable forest management, GNSFM will promote in-depth exchange on experiences, policies, forestry development concepts, personnel training and technologies through demonstration projects, policy dialogues, capacity building and information sharing. Through such actions, GNSFM will enhance the various functions and benefits of forest-based terrestrial ecosystems, improve global ecological and food security, generate employment opportunities, alleviate poverty in forested areas, advance a global green recovery, contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and build harmony between human and nature.

The Sixth meeting of the APFNet Council Held Online

The Sixth Meeting of the APFNet Council was conducted online successfully on 25 May 2022. About 40 representatives from 19 member economies and organizations, one observer and the Secretariat attended the meeting. Dr Preecha Ongprasert, the outgoing Chair of the APFNet Council, hosted the meeting and expressed his appreciation to members for their support over the last six years. Dr Lu De, the APFNet Executive Director, briefed members on the implementation of the Secretariat’s work in 2021 as well as APFNet’s work plan and budget for 2022. Based on Dr Lu’s highlights, members were invited to comment on the progress of the APFNet-funded projects. The meeting completed all the planned agenda with decisions adopted as follows:



a) Five nominees from Cambodia, China, Canada, Malaysia, and Nepal were selected as new Board Directors of APFNet; b) The Council reviewed Reports of APFNet’s work in 2021 and adopted APFNet's proposed work plan in 2022;



c)The Council approved Chile's membership application; d) Two officers of the APFNet Council were elected. Dr Sokh Heng, Director of the Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development in Cambodia will serve as the new Chair, and Mr Tirso Parian Jr., Director of Forest Management Bureau in the Philippines will take the position of the new Vice-Chair of the Council; and e) The Seventh Council Meeting will be hosted by the Philippines in 2023 if the rules concerning COVID will allow an in-person meeting.

APFNet Membership Enlarged to 27 Economies with the Entrance of Chile

Chile was approved by the six meetings of the APFNet Council as a new member of APFNet on 25 May 2022.

The APFNet Secretariat received a membership application from the National Forestry Corporation (CONAF), a service of the Ministry of Agriculture of Chile

in May 2019. In Chile's application, it stated that "Our decision is based on our mission to contribute to the sustainable use, conservation and protection of natural forests, planted forest, etc. Which is in congruence with the vision and mission of APFNet". The consideration of the application was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In April 2022, CONAF confirmed Chile's continued interest in joining APFNet as a member economy.

With Chile's membership approved, APFNet membership comprises 27 economies and five international organizations in the Asia-Pacific region.

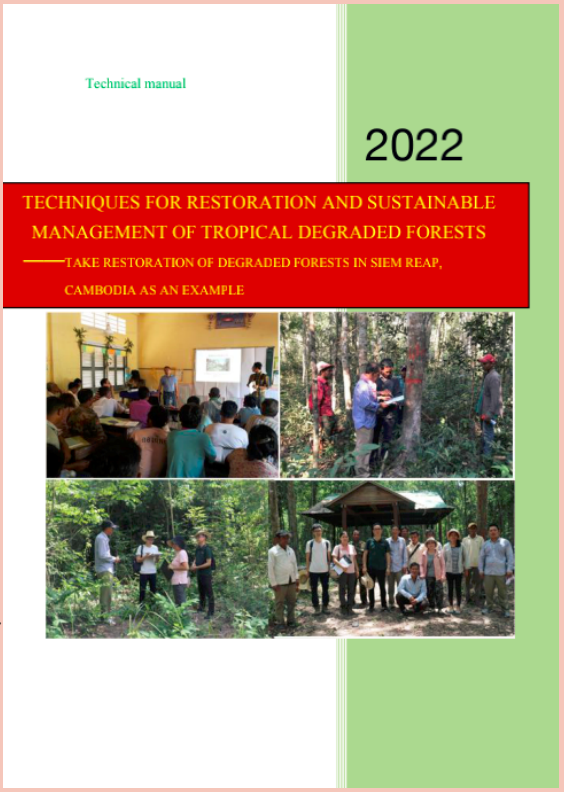
Cambodia nitrogen fixation project conducting an online international seminar

Due to years of forest logging to reclaim land and excessive deforestation, forest cover in Cambodia continues to decline and forest resources are of inferior quality.

To restore and rehabilitate the forest ecosystem, conserve biodiversity, and prevent soil erosion in Cambodia, APFNet teamed up with the Experimental Center of Tropical Forestry, China Academy of Forestry Science (ECTF), and the Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development of Forestry Administration of Cambodia (IRD) to conduct the project "Reconstruction and sustainable management of degraded forest based on the combination of inter-planting nitrogen fixation rare tree species

and thinning". Choosing Bos Thom village, Khna Por commune, Sorth Nikum district of Siem Reap province as a demonstration site, the project aims to conduct forest resource restoration practices and improve the ability of sustainable forest management through the establishment of demonstration forests and technical training.

On June 8th, 2022, the project team organized the online meeting "China-Cambodia International Seminar on Tropical Forest Restoration and Reconstruction" in Chinese and Khmer interpretation with 46 experts and young scholars participating, including the Experimental Center of Tropical Forestry, China Academy of Forestry Science (ECTF), Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development of Forestry Administration of Cambodia (IRD), Research Institute of Tropical Forestry of the Chinese Academy of Forestry (RITF), Guangxi Academy of Science and APFNet. Throughout the online meeting, four main topics: the project progress and achievements, afforestation and forest restoration, tropical forest protection and restoration, and multifunctional near-natural forest management were reported. The meeting explored the effective ways of tropical degraded forest restoration and the potential of sustainable forest management in coping with climate change, learned from the international methods, concepts and relevant experiences of effective restoration of degraded forest land and to better promote the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) forestry cooperation and regional economic development. During the meeting, participants had an in-depth exchange and discussion on degraded forest restoration and the transformation of forest management strategies in climate change adaptation.



Besides, the project has developed a technical manual "Techniques for restoration and sustainable management of tropical degraded forests: Take restoration of degraded forests in Siem Reap, Cambodia as an example". The technical manual will be published after the project is completed.

INFORMATION SHARING

A survey was conducted for improving the APFNet Alumni Network Management

The creation of the APFNet Alumni Network has been a helpful avenue to connect among its alumni and students in the Asia-Pacific region. At the start of 2022, a survey was conducted to gather insights and suggestions from our alumni to improve the quality of the newsletter. In terms of the level of interest in the Alumni Newsletter, about 63.6% have high interest, while 40.9% responded with a medium interest. Only 4.5% have a low interest. On the importance of information sharing through the newsletter, about 63.6% responded that the newsletter plays an important role to disseminate information. There is still a great space for the network to upscale its content to engage more alumni.

In terms of layout, 45.5% said that they are very satisfied with the newsletter layout. However, 27.3% responded that they are somewhat satisfied. Around 45% of the alumni expressed the need to focus more on research content for future issues, and information related to alumni's work experiences and updates on international events came second. Furthermore, all the alumni have expressed that the newsletter has provided relevant information on the needs of the members.

However, participants of the survey have pointed out the need of an event where alumni and students can physically interact and discuss important matters for the network's growth rather than doing it virtually. In this way, alumni will have the motivation to actively participate and contribute to a more active and inclusive alumni network. Here are some more suggestions gathered in the survey to improve the newsletter:

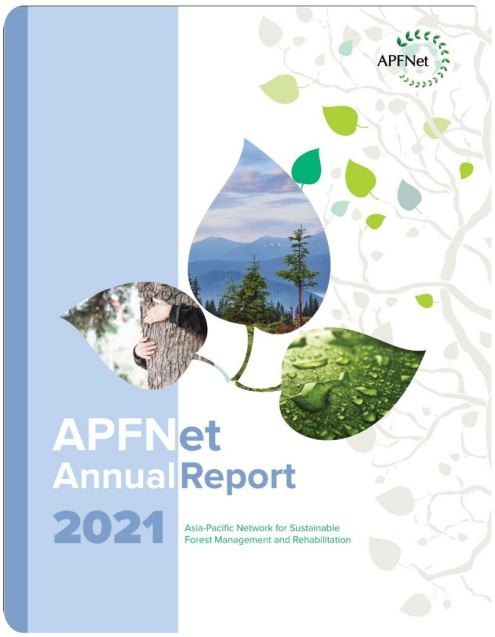
Emphasize international forest issues, especially climate change, timber, etc.

Inclusion of special events such as Biodiversity Day, World Environment Day, World Soil Day, and World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought.

Stories on how to survive studying in China and details on ASP to encourage more ASP Applicants

Information on research funding for alumni and students

Research findings or expert views dealing with forest management in each economy.

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