



# NEWSLETTER

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## THE FIRST PU'ER FORUM ON ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTS

Recap of the event





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The First Pu'er Forum on Asia-Pacific Forests was opened on 24 October 2023 at APFNet Pu'er Forest Sustainable Management Demonstration and Training Base in Yunnan, China

## A GATHERING OF MINDS:

This was a gathering that transcended borders, bringing together 150 representatives from the governments of 14 Asia-Pacific countries, research institutions, academies, NGOs, and the private sector. The forum unfolded over three days, featuring a captivating blend of a high-level segment and technical sessions. This carefully curated program not only fortified regional networking but also catalyzed on-the-ground forestry exchange and cooperation. The overarching goal is to actively contribute to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals through closer regional cooperation on SFM.

## A GLOBAL INITIATIVE TAKES FLIGHT:

The inaugural ceremony marked a pivotal moment with the formal launch of the Global Network for Sustainable Forest Management (GFN). With APFNet at the helm, GFN stands as a pioneering programme, open to all nations eager to partake in collaborative endeavours for sustainable forest management.

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## HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

Under the theme of “Sharing new regional forestry development, exploring new regional forestry cooperation”, the segment was addressed by vice-ministerial level senior government officials from seven economies, namely Cambodia, China, Fiji, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Nepal, as well as a representative entrepreneur.


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### Technical Session:

Sharing New Forestry Planning and Exploring the Best Pathways for Forest Restoration



This session provided opportunities for the senior government representatives to share their new forestry development plans as well as to highlight their experience on exploring best paths for restoration.



1. **Cambodia:** Mainstreaming Forest Restoration in the Forest Development Plan
2. **China:** The 14th Five-Year Plan for Protection and Development in the Forest and Grassland Sector of China (2021-2025)
3. **Fiji:** Mainstreaming forest restoration in forestry development plan in response to Glasgow Leaders' Declaration through SFM
4. **Laos:** Sustainable Forest Management Project in Northern part of Lao PDR
5. **Malaysia:** Forest Restoration in Malaysia
6. **Myanmar:** Strengthening Sustainable Forest Management in Myanmar
7. **Nepal:** New forestry development plan and best path for forest restoration.
8. **Philippines:** Forestry Development Visions and Plans of the Philippines
9. **Sri Lanka:** New forestry development plan and best path for forest restoration in Sri Lanka
10. **Thailand:** Community Forest Management in Thailand

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1. **Cambodia:** Sustainable Forest Management and Forest Utilization in Cambodia
2. **China:** Experience and Achievements of Urban Forests in Beijing
3. **China:** China's practices and experiences in Sustainable Forest Management
4. **Fiji:** Best practice sharing on sustainable forest management and forest utilization in Fiji
5. **Indonesia:** Conservation of threatened plants in Indonesia
6. **Laos:** Rattan and bamboo value chain in Bolikhamxay province, Laos
7. **Malaysia:** Silvicultural tree selection system: Option for sustainable forest management and utilization
8. **Myanmar:** Sustainable management of community forests for climate change mitigation and adaptation
9. **Thailand:** "Rehabilitate Forest, Generate Income Project"
10. **Viet Nam:** Vietnam Forest Certification Scheme (VFCS) – A solution to promote SFM and wood traceability in Vietnam: From policy to practice

### Technical Session:

#### Sharing Good Practices on Sustainable Forest Management and Utilization

Participants presented a variety of experiences and good practices implemented in their respective countries and discussed issues, limitations and constraints required to be addressed in scaling up those good practices. Although it would not be possible to replicate the same practices uniformly in other countries due to their unique social, political, and environmental characteristics, they provide great opportunities to explore the potential of planning and designing some innovative approaches to deal with contemporary issues and problems in the forestry sector.

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**YUNNAN DAY:**

The session clearly indicated that Yunnan has a wealth of knowledge and experience to share in the region. The province is blessed with several technical, research, and academic institutions and experienced subject matter experts, making it a centre of excellence to conduct scientific forestry research, innovate novel technologies, and implement best practices for the advancement of sustainable forest management.



Asia-Pacific region can benefit immensely from those innovations and best practices through sharing experiences and enhancing regional cooperation.



1. The Close-to-nature Forest Management in Yunnan Province, China
2. Innovation and Application of Forest Germplasm Resources
3. Accelerate the development of a natural protected area system in Yunnan Province with national parks as the main body
4. Sharing Practice on Conservation and Comprehensive Utilization of Simao Pine Resources
5. Strengthen joint prevention and control of harmful organisms to build a solid ecological security barrier between China and Laos
6. Forest and health

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## JOURNEY TO EXPLORE THE JINGMAI MOUNTAIN



Jingmai Mountain, situated in southwestern China, is famous for its well-preserved ancient tea forests and the traditional understorey tea cultivation methods that originated in the 10th century. Recognizing its cultural importance, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee designated Jingmai Mountain as China's 57th World Heritage site in September 2023.



Ancient tea trees in Jingmai Mountain

Following the Pu'er Forum indoor sessions, high-level delegates from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Fiji, Malaysia, Nepal, and Sri Lanka visited the Dapingzhang Ancient Tea Forest and the Jingmai Mountain Heritage Exhibition Center. At the Dapingzhang Ancient Tea Forest, they observed tea trees reaching heights of 2 to 5 meters and learned about traditional understorey tea cultivation methods. These tea trees coexist with lower herbal plants and taller arbour trees, forming a diverse and robust forest ecosystem. Meanwhile, at the Jingmai Mountain Heritage Exhibition Center, delegates were guided through the history of tea tree cultivation in Pu'er and learned about the advanced modern technologies used in managing tea forests and the surrounding landscapes.



"Visiting Jingmai Mountain was a truly remarkable experience. Exploring the birthplace of tea and witnessing the traditional tea production practices that have stood the test of time was fascinating and inspiring. The efforts to preserve and document their cultural legacy are commendable, and it is inspiring to see the seamless integration of tradition and modernity in their tea production practices. The visit to Jingmai Mountain has reinforced my belief in the importance of sustainable practices and the preservation of cultural heritage." Dr Kumar, a delegate from Nepal said.



Delegates with locals - Bulang and Dai people

Delegates also visited the Jingmai ancient villages named Nuogang and Wengji to observe the tea production and experience a lifestyle integrated with the nature of the Bulang and Dai people, who have been dedicated for centuries to tea cultivation and production.



Participants visited the China Tea Expo Garden, where multi-services of scientific research on tea, environmental protection, ecological farming, gardening and recreation are integrated and demonstrated, and the Tropical Arboretum of Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grasslands to learn about the collection and domestication of tropical forest germplasm resources, selection and breeding of forest species and so on.

## A PROMISING CLOSURE:

As the forum reached its conclusion on October 26, it did so with great anticipation and purpose. The event culminated with the unveiling of The Action Plan for Pu'er Forum on Asia-Pacific Forests (2024-2025), a strategic roadmap designed to guide future initiatives and set the course for sustainable forestry practices in the Asia-Pacific region.

-  Signatories will actively promote the implementation of the cooperation agreements signed during the Forum.
-  Stakeholders will collaborate and prepare for the second Pu'er Forum in October 2025.
-  The project the Asia-Pacific Forestry Technology Training Center for Pacific Island Countries, which has been listed in the Global Development Initiative project pool, will be launched in Fiji in 2024.
-  Young forestry Scholars exchanges from China and ASEAN members will be supported through the APFNet-initiated SANFRI mechanism.
-  "Summer Camp for Greater Mekong Sub-region Forestry Undergraduates Program" and "GMS Forest Restoration Demonstration Project" under the Presidents' Forum of Forestry University/Institute in the GMS will be supported.
-  International training courses will be organized for South Asian and Southeast Asian tea farmers.
-  A scholarship program will be established jointly by APFNet and Anhui Gujing Distillery Company Ltd. to support Cambodian and Laotian foresters to pursue postgraduate degrees in forestry universities in China.

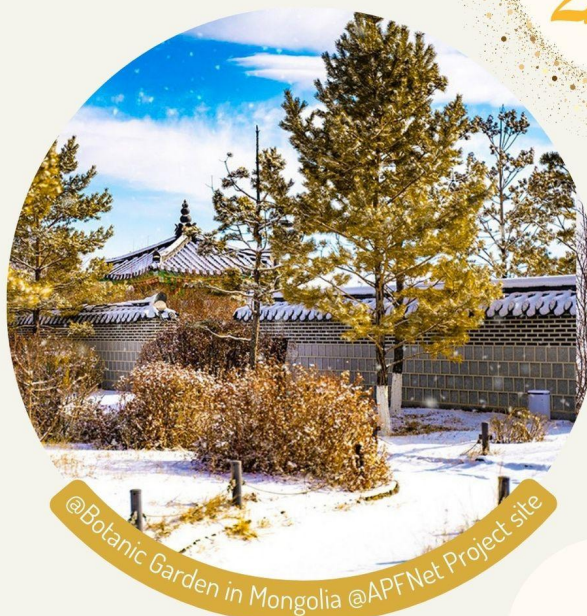


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# HOLIDAY GREETINGS!

We appreciate your support throughout the past year and look forward to working with you in the New Year.



@Botanic Garden in Mongolia @APFNet Project site



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