PROJECT
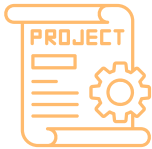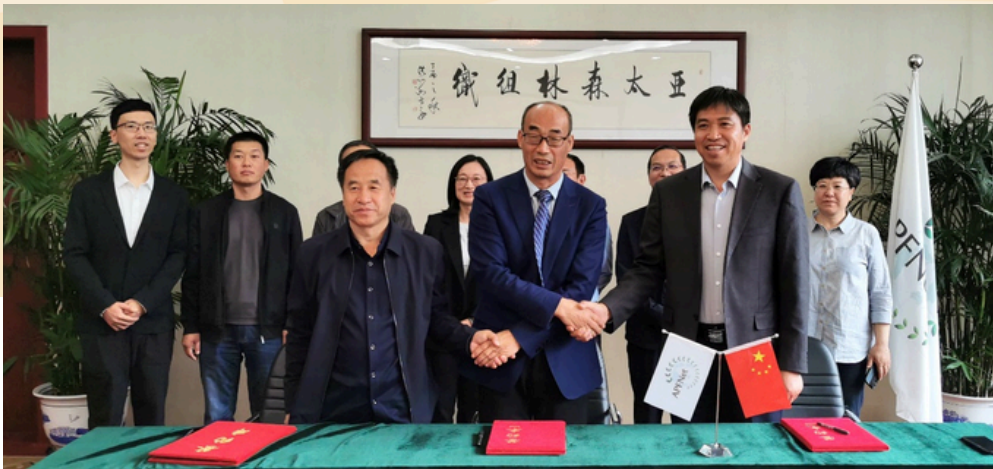
Continue fighting the "yellow dragon" in the Greater Central Asia

Signing ceremony at the APFNet Secretariat

On April 19, 2024, the agreement for the "Demonstration of vegetation restoration and management and utilization of forest resources in the Greater Central Asia (Phase III)" was signed in Beijing. APFNet and the Sanyijing Forest Farm in Aohan Banner have entered the third phase of cooperation on comprehensive desertification control through demonstration projects. The APFNet will further support the Forest Farm for land restoration, business model development and educational base establishment in the next five years.

Mixed plantation of Mongolian pine (*Pinus sylvestris var. mongolica*) and *Populus alba var.pyramidalis* was established during the first phase of the project.

Learn more about the project Phase I here.

The multicultural plantation of Mongolian pine (*Pinus sylvestris var. mongolica*) and Siberian apricot (*Prunus sibiricsa*) was established during the second phase of the project.

Learn more about the project Phase II here.

The Eighth Meetings of the APFNet Council and Board of Directors convened in Phuket, Thailand

The Eighth Meetings of the APFNet Council and Board of Directors were held in Phuket, Thailand from 15-17 May 2024. The meetings were hosted by the Royal Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand in a hybrid format.

Group photo. Council members

17 member economies and organizations attended the Council Meeting on 15 May. Mr Nishatha Edirisinghe from Sri Lanka was elected as the new Vice-chair to support the Council work. The Council heard the Secretariat's report of APFNet's work for 2023 and work plan for 2024, agreed on the amendment of APFNet Operational Framework, and endorsed the renewal of the Project Appraisal Panel for the term 2024-2026.

At the APFNet Board of Directors meeting on 17 May, the Board membership for Ms Margaret M. Calderon and Ms Novia Widyaningtyas was extended to 2027, and Mr Di Donghui, China, was introduced as a new Board member appointed by the host economy of APFNet.

The Board approved

- the proposed APFNet work plan and budget for 2024;
- amendment of Article 3.3 (a) of APFNet Operational Framework to "Contribute to the achievement of regional and global forest-related goals and those of its member economies" to guide APFNet's further development of internationalization and lead the development of forestry management regionally;
- renewal of APFNet Project Appraisal Panel 2024–2026;
- the Procedures for Selection and Appointment of APFNet Executive Director.

Board meeting discussion

Sino-ASEAN Network of Forest Research Institutes (SANFRI)

1. Visiting Scholar Program

Under financial support from APFNet, in the second quarter of 2024, the Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland (YAFG) received two visiting scholars from Thailand for 3-month technical training.

In addition, YAFG recruited visiting scholars for 2024-2025 and selected 8 young scientists from Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. The funding awardees will be announced in July, and are expected to start their visiting program in September.

On 23 May, a hybrid seminar was held among SANFRI visiting scholars, SANFRI young scholars and other junior researchers currently housed by YAFG. Thai researchers shared their research findings on wood production and tree species breeding techniques, followed by a Q&A session and discussion.

2. Small Research Grant Program

To promote regional forestry scientific research cooperation and better serve the restoration of forest ecosystems in the Asia-Pacific region, SANFRI launched a new 2024-2025 round of Small Research Grants and received five project proposals. Upon the technical review and selection, winner proposals for funding support will be announced soon.

AP-FECM Monthly Webinar Series

ONLINE WEBINAR

The Executive Office of the AP-FECM, the current host, the University of British Columbia has been organizing a series of webinars since January 2024 to engage more regional stakeholders in advancing innovation in forestry education and keeping the communication regular.

January	Teaching about old-growth forests in a Faculty of Forestry: preservation or harvest?	▶ WATCH NOW
February	Climate resilient reforestation program to manage endangered tree species and conserve the watershed of river Halda in Bangladesh: a success story	▶ WATCH NOW
March	National initiatives underway across the university sector to support the education in the plantation forest industry	▶ WATCH NOW
April	[2023-PP-CN-2] Building Up a Policy Learning Platform to Nurture Sustainable Forest Management and RNavigating the Evolving Landscape of Global Forestry: AP-FECM's Role in Sustainable Forestry Innovation and Education for the APEC Economieshabilitation in the Asia-Pacific Region Towards 2030	▶ WATCH NOW
May	Smart Forestry and its Education——New Directions in Modern Forestry Development	▶ WATCH NOW
June	Current Status and Sustainable Management of Plantations in China	▶ WATCH NOW

Scan here for full schedule

Initiated by APFNet, the Asia-Pacific Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism (AP-FECM), formerly known as the Forestry College Deans Meeting Mechanism in the Asia-Pacific Region, was proposed at the First Forestry College Deans Meeting in 2010 and formally established at the second meeting in 2011. As a regional forestry education cooperation and exchange platform, its purpose is to promote the development of forestry education in the Asia-Pacific region by strengthening cooperation and carrying out collaborative activities for promoting forest restoration and sustainable forest management in the Asia-Pacific region.

Improving capacities of communities for sustainable forest management in Myanmar

APFNet's demonstration projects integrate opportunities for capacity development, targeting policymakers, researchers and local communities. Since 2011, APFNet has provided training for over 9500+ participants through projects on a wide range of topics, such as community forest management, agroforestry, close-to-nature forestry, forest fire prevention and control, geographic information systems, mangrove management and ecotourism.

In the Paung Laung Township in Myanmar, the local communities' capacities for sustainable forest management have been greatly enhanced on diversified topics through the APFNet-funded project "Integrated Forest Ecosystem Management Planning and Demonstration Project in Greater Mekong Sub-region (Myanmar site)".

The project has focused on building capacity to produce value-added products from broom grass and bamboo shoots, which are the main NTFPs of the Pong Luang River Basin by monitoring demonstration plots and evaluating economic and social benefits with the participation of communities, youth (undergraduates) and women's groups and so on.

9 training courses have been conducted as follows:

No.	Date	Topic	Trainees	Number
1	May 2021	BAMBOO CULM MANAGEMENT, SYSTEMATIC BAMBOO CUTTING AND SILVICULTURAL SYSTEM OF BAMBOO TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE BAMBOO FOREST	Local villagers	25
2	June 2021	THREE-DIMENSION MAPPING AND MAP COMPOSITION WITH QGIS SOFTWARE	Young researchers	20
3	June 2021	AGROFORESTRY IN WATERSHED AREA	Local villagers	60
4	June 2021	TREE SEED TECHNOLOGY AND NURSERY PRACTICES	Local villagers	20
5	October 2022	TREE SEEDLING RAISING, PLANTING, AGROFORESTRY, ORGANIC FARMING, MAINTENANCE OF FRUIT ORCHARDS AND TREE PLANTATION, FRUIT PROCESSING AND MARKETING.	Local villagers	20
6	October 2022	TURMERIC (LOCAL PRODUCTS) VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTION	Local villagers	20

Project Impact

Training course No.1

Training course No.4

Training course No.8

Training course No.6

No.	Date	Topic	Trainees	Number
7	December 2023	WATERSHED CONSERVATION	Local leaders	25
8	January 2024	MAKING BAMBOO GRASS BROOM	Local villagers	30
9	February 2024	BAMBOO SILVICULTURE, PRODUCTION OF PICKLED BAMBOO SHOOTS, BAMBOO SHOOTS, DRIED BAMBOO SHOOTS AND MARKET LINKAGE	Young researchers and local communities	25

Scan here for more information about the project

The project executing agency, Forest Research Institute will have another five training courses planned on turmeric value-added products production, bamboo silviculture production, maintenance of agroforestry demonstration plots for sustainable development, etc. by the early next year.

APFNet Annual Report 2023
Special edition for 15th anniversary

The APFNet Annual Report shares the numbers behind achievements in the last 15 years, stories and achievements of actions in 2023, and ways to move forward.

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APFNET ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

The Official Newsletter of the APFNet Alumni Network

Fayzmamad Davlatbekov (on the left), NWAFU student, 2019 class, and his team in a planting campaign

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