

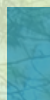


Newsletter

APRIL 2025

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APFNet Joins 2025 Earth Hour to Advocate for Global Ecological Conservation



AP-FECM Monthly Webinar



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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Two APFNet-sponsored projects launched



During the field visit to Youhua forest farm in Qingyang County and the Yaoxi forest farm in Miaoqian Town. Phot by Zhaohui, CAF

The Demonstration on Sustainable Forest Management and Restoration in Hilly and Low Mountain Areas of Southern China Project (Phase II)

On 21 January 2025, the initiation and the first project steering committee meeting of the project “Demonstration on Sustainable Forest Management and Restoration in Hilly and Low Mountain Areas of Southern China (Phase II)” was held in Qingyang County, Chizhou City, Anhui Province, China.



Project area. Photo by Ma Kun, APFNet

The Hainan Tropical Forest Restoration and Sustainable Management Project

On 17 February 2025, the “Hainan Tropical Forest Restoration and Sustainable Management Project” was initiated at the APFNet Center for International Exchange in Tropical Forestry in Ledong County, Hainan Province, China.

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Project updates: From Myanmar

APFNet-funded nature education centre officially opens in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

On 10 March 2025, the education centre inside the Forest Research Institute (FRI) 's arboretum (Nay Pyi Taw) was officially opened. As one of the project's key achievements, it aims to enhance public knowledge and awareness of natural resource conservation.



Nature education centre. Photo by FRI, Myanmar



Nature education centre launch ceremony.
Photo by FRI, Myanmar



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Advancing Sustainable Forest Management and Plant Conservation: Project Reaches Key Milestone

An independent evaluation of the APFNet-funded Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) – Myanmar project was conducted from **9-14 March 2025**. Based on field investigations and stakeholder interviews, the review highlighted the project's achievements over its five-year implementation. By engaging local communities, government agencies, and scientific researchers, the initiative has successfully promoted sustainable forestry practices, restored native tree species, and established long-term ecological monitoring mechanisms.



Project site at Leinli village. Photo by FRI, Myanmar



The full Evaluation report & success stories will be published



Project updates: from Cambodia

New Visitor Center Opens in Siem Reap to Advance Forest Conservation and Community Engagement

In a significant step towards strengthening forest conservation and public awareness, the Visitor Center of the Forest Genetic Resource Conservation Garden officially opened **on 14 March 2025** in Siem Reap, Cambodia.



Ribbon cutting during the visitor centre launch ceremony. Photo by IRD

The ceremony began with the Cambodian national anthem, followed by welcoming remarks from Mr Tea Kimsot and Dr Sokh Heng, who emphasized the centre's importance as a hub for education, research, and community involvement in forest conservation. Mr. Suon Sovan delivered the official opening remarks, highlighting the Visitor Center's role in promoting forest conservation, improving human well-being, fostering knowledge sharing, and increasing public understanding of forest genetic resource conservation. Dr Lu De, Executive Director of APFNet, also appreciated the long-lasting and deep cooperation with and strong support from the Cambodian counterparts to APFNet and the project.



Visitor centre building

Photo by IRD

The Visitor Center will serve as an educational platform for students, researchers, policymakers, and tourists, promoting greater awareness of Cambodia's forest genetic resource conservation efforts and encouraging public participation in environmental stewardship.

CONTINUE





The centre's opening marks a significant achievement of the 100-ha Forest Genetic Resource Conservation Garden, which features multi-functions of seed production, SFM practice demonstration, and tree and plant collection.

Conservation Garden sign. Photo by IRD



The centre is part of the ongoing project “Establishment of High-Value Tree Species Breeding Center in Cambodia”, sponsored by APFNet, implemented by the Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development (IRD), the Forestry Administration of Cambodia, and technically supported by Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland (YAFG), China. The ceremony was presided over by Mr. Suon Sovan, Director General of the Forestry Administration of Cambodia, and drew 50 participants, including government officials, local community members, international experts, and other project partners and stakeholders.

So far,

- most of the construction work has been completed;
- more than 20,000 seedlings of 19 high-value tree species have been planted in 19-ha;
- eight fruit tree types have been planted in 3-ha in the garden;

A key link in this conservation network is the High-Value Tree Species Breeding Center, one of the project's centrepieces in Phnom Penh. Valuable tree germplasm resources collected from across Cambodia are brought to the Breeding Center, where they undergo propagation and seedling development. These seedlings are transported and planted at the Siem Reap Forest Genetic Resource Conservation Garden. This coordinated system ensures that the Breeding Center is the primary breeding hub. At the same time, the Conservation Garden becomes a critical site for ex-situ conservation and the demonstration of reforestation efforts. Currently, around 65 out of 100 high-value germplasm resources have been collected.

Mr Suon Sovan addressed, **“The Forest Genetic Conservation Garden will contribute to the conservation and development of genetic resources and seed sources of the National Forest Programme (2010-2029) for all endangered plant species, both in situ and ex-situ conservation in Cambodia”.**

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APFNet Joins 2025 Earth Hour to Advocate for Global Ecological Conservation



On 22 March 2025, "Earth Hour 2025" in China was successfully held in Hengqin, Zhuhai. APFNet was invited to participate, sharing its insights on promoting regional forest restoration and sustainable management practices during a session themed "The Rewards of Green Hills and Clear Waters: Forest Ecosystem Services."



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AP-FECM Monthly Webinar



January Conservation of Threatened Plant Species in Vietnam



February Bioinnovation Accelerates Through a Cross-Disciplinary Framework



March Forestry Education in Australia – Engaging the Forest Sector





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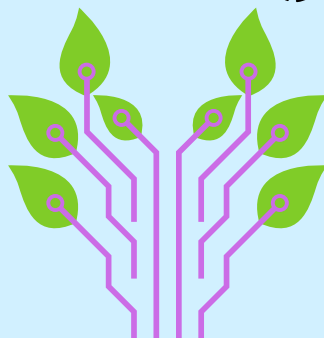
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