



JULY 2026

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APFNet Launches Fourth Strategic Plan (2026–2030)



APFNet Strategic Plan 2026–2030

APFNet officially released its Fourth Strategic Plan (SP4) for 2026–2030, setting an ambitious roadmap to advance forest landscape restoration and sustainable management, strengthen climate response, biodiversity conservation and livelihood development, and deepen regional cooperation across the Asia-Pacific. "SP4 marks a fundamental shift from output tracking to outcome measurement," said Dr. WANG Chunfeng, Executive Director of APFNet. "We are embedding sustainability and inclusion into every aspect of our work". Built around six strategic goals, SP4 introduces a comprehensive Results Framework with measurable 2030 targets, and explicitly aligns with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The strategy is reinforced by five cross-cutting enablers, namely Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL), Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), Innovation and Digital Transformation, Sustainability and Exit Planning, and Financial Resilience and Resource Mobilization, ensuring that every initiative is measurable, inclusive, innovative, sustainable, and adequately resourced. The full SP4 document is available at www.apfnet.cn/SP4.

First Call for Projects under the SP4 launches



Following a three-year pause due to the global pandemic, APFNet is pleased to resume its Call for Projects, marking the first call under its SP4. The call features an enhanced focus on climate action, biodiversity conservation, and inclusive livelihood development. Projects must align with one or more of APFNet's strategic pillars:

- Field Demonstration
- Capacity Building
- Policy Dialogue
- Information Sharing

The call was open to APFNet member economies, observer economies, and partners, and it was just closed on 5 July 2026. Those who are shortlisted will submit the full proposals by 30 September 2026.

Highlights

23 June 2026

APFNet and TNC Deepen Collaboration with New Strategic Partnership Agreement



Dr. Wang Chunfeng, Executive Director of the APFNet, and Will McGoldrick, Regional Managing Director for The Nature Conservancy's Asia Pacific division, signed a Memorandum of Understanding, marking a new chapter in their strategic partnership. Under the MoU, the two organizations will draw on their respective resources and strengths to work together on sustainable forest management, landscape restoration, nature-based solutions, and climate mitigation.

Also, focus of cooperation areas include strengthening regional capacity-building and technical exchanges, supporting government agencies, practitioners, and local communities in meeting global climate goals and regional forestry targets. Joint research, demonstration projects, policy dialogues, knowledge sharing, and coordinated participation in regional and international events will form the core of their future collaboration.

APFNet Advances Project Evaluations to Strengthen evidence-based Management

APFNet is currently undertaking three project evaluations to assess performance, capture lessons learned, and inform future programming. All three evaluations are ongoing. Findings and recommendations from these evaluations will be shared upon completion to strengthen evidence-based decision-making and enhance the effectiveness of APFNet's future interventions.

1. The first is the Completion Evaluation of the Project **"Regional Forest Observations for Sustainable Forest Management (RFO) – 2018P1-CAF"**. This evaluation adopts a combined approach: (i) a project results review and validation meeting, and (ii) a traditional evaluation report prepared by a lead consultant.

2. The second is an ex-post evaluation of the **Sino-ASEAN Network of Forestry Research Institutes (SANFRI)**, covering the period 2018–2025. This marks the first outcome-oriented evaluation of a policy dialogue mechanism under APFNet, reflecting the organization's growing emphasis on measuring long-term institutional and policy impact.

3. The third is the Mid-term Evaluation of the **Demonstration Project of Vegetation Restoration and Management and Utilization of Forest Resources in Greater Central Asia (Phase III) – Chifeng Site [2024P1-INM]**. Designed to support a results-oriented and constructive assessment, the evaluation focuses on project achievements, challenges, and opportunities for improvement.

23-25 April 2026

Tenth Meetings of the APFNet Council and Board of Directors convened in Hangzhou, China

The Tenth Meetings of the APFNet Council and Board of Directors were held in Hangzhou, China, from 23-25 April 2026. The meetings were hosted by the APFNet Secretariat.



Representatives from 17 member economies and organizations attended the Council Meeting on 23 April. Dr. Sokh Heng (Cambodia), Chair of the Council, chaired the meeting. Ms. Ei Ei Swe Hlaing was elected as the new Vice-chair of the Council for the term 2026-2029. The Council reviewed APFNet's progress in 2025 and its work plan and budget for 2026, endorsed three new Board members for the term 2027-2030, and accepted Cambodia's proposal to host the Eleventh APFNet Board and Council Meetings in 2027.



At the APFNet Board of Directors meeting on 25 April, the Board formally appointed the three new Board members endorsed by the Council and reviewed key institutional and strategic matters to guide APFNet's future development.

Events

APFNet was at the regional meetings

From **May 18 to 20, 2026**, the Regional Coordination and Technical Support Meeting for the Integrated Forestry Project in Southeast Asia and the Pacific (supported by the Global Environment Facility, GEF), alongside the Inaugural Southeast Asia and the Pacific (SEAP) Primary Forest Annual Conference, was successfully held in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR. Dr. Wang Chunfeng, the Executive Director of the APFNet, attended the event.



On **26 May 2026**, APFNet led a plenary session titled "From Demonstration to Transformation: Scaling Community Forestry Solutions for Biodiversity and Livelihoods in the Asia-Pacific" during the regional conference "Community Forests for a Biodiverse Future."

Update

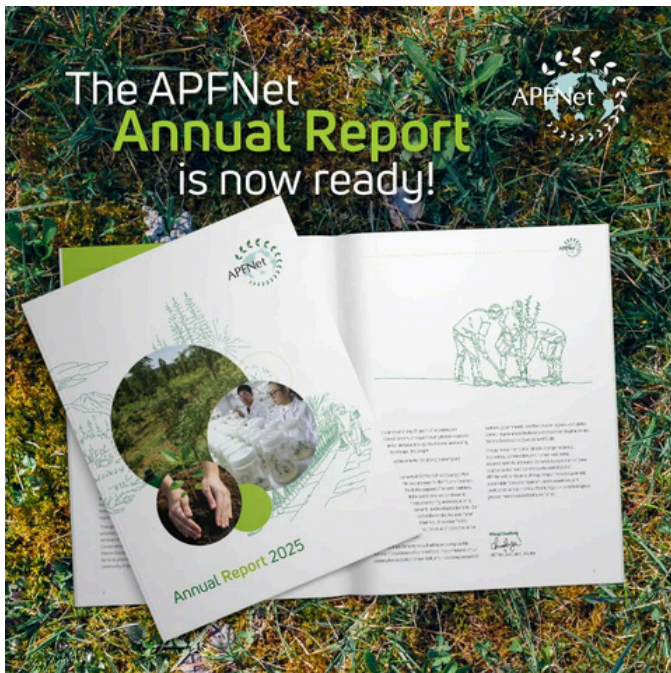
Progress on the SANFRI Visiting Scholar Program and Small Research Grant Program



The selection process for the 2026-2027 APFNet Visiting Scholar Program has been completed, and a preliminary list of selected candidates has been finalized. A total of eight visiting scholars are expected to be accepted under the program and will undertake research exchanges and collaborative activities at the Yunnan Academy of Forestry and Grassland, with follow-up arrangements currently underway.

Meanwhile, the application period for the 2026 APFNet Small Research Grant Program has concluded, with 10 project proposals received. The evaluation process has now commenced, and selected proposals are expected to receive funding.

Knowledge Products

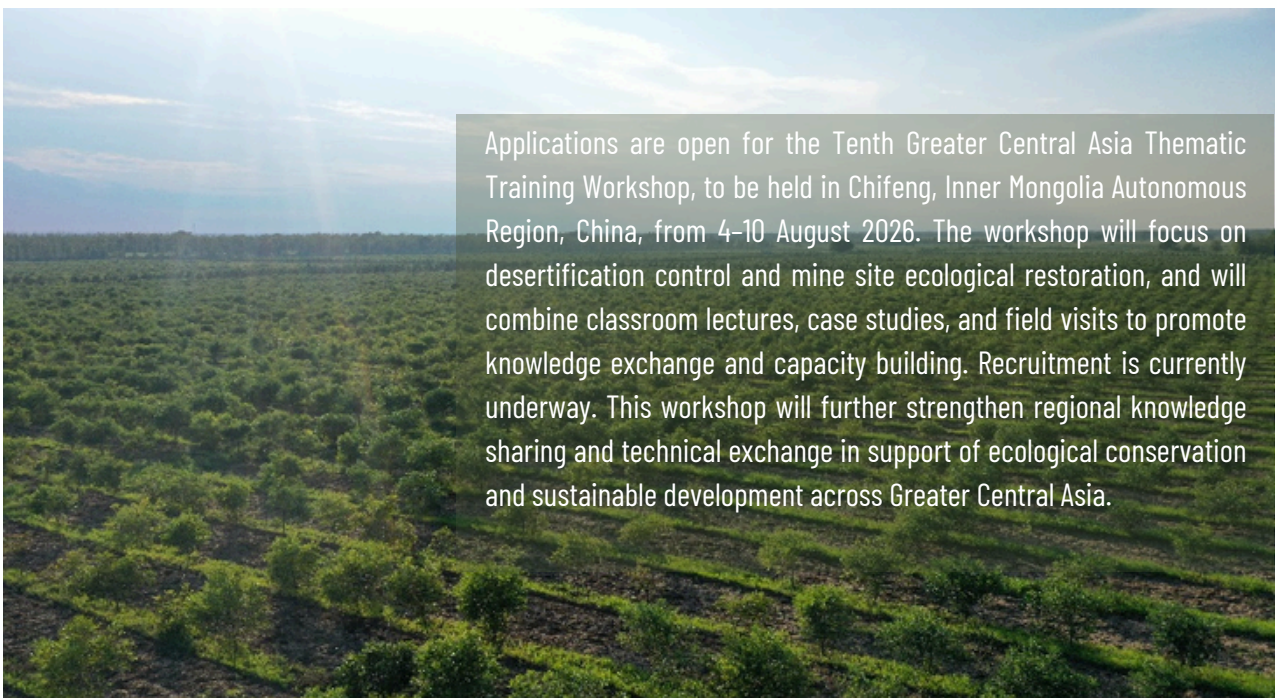


Annual Report 2025 was released

In the report, APFNet outlines the 2026–2027 work plan for SANFRI. It details the mechanism's progress in advancing its core programs—including the Visiting Scholar Program and Small Research Grants—and reaffirms member institutes' commitment to strengthening regional institutional cooperation and sustainable forest management.

Announcements

Applications Open for the Tenth Greater Central Asia Thematic Training Workshop



Applications are open for the Tenth Greater Central Asia Thematic Training Workshop, to be held in Chifeng, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, China, from 4–10 August 2026. The workshop will focus on desertification control and mine site ecological restoration, and will combine classroom lectures, case studies, and field visits to promote knowledge exchange and capacity building. Recruitment is currently underway. This workshop will further strengthen regional knowledge sharing and technical exchange in support of ecological conservation and sustainable development across Greater Central Asia.

Upcoming

APEC Ministerial Meeting on Forestry, July 2026, Shenzhen, China

UNCCD COP17, 17-28 August 2026, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

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and opportunities to collaborate.**

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