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Newsletter

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Highlights

APFNet Participates in the 6th APEC Ministerial Meeting on Forestry



APFNet participated in the 6th APEC Ministerial Meeting on Forestry, held on 27–28 July in Shenzhen, China. The meeting brought together representatives from APEC economies and international organizations to discuss forest conservation, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable forest management. APFNet Executive Director Dr. Wang Chunfeng highlighted the importance of regional cooperation platforms in translating policy dialogue into practical restoration projects and tangible ecological benefits.

APFNet Promotes Regional and Global Forestry Cooperation at UNCCD COP17



APFNet and its partners organized two side events during UNCCD COP17 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on 24 and 26 August. The first event, jointly organized with Mongolia's National Forest Agency, focused on accelerating forest restoration and combating desertification in Greater Central Asia. The second, held at the China Pavilion, explored the development of the Global Forest Network for Sustainable Forest Management. Both events highlighted practical restoration experiences and opportunities to strengthen regional and global cooperation.

Highlights

APFNet and International Mangrove Center Sign Cooperation Agreement

APFNet and the International Mangrove Center (IMC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 28 July in Shenzhen, China, to strengthen cooperation on mangrove conservation and restoration. The agreement provides a framework for collaboration in policy dialogue, demonstration projects, capacity building, information sharing, and partnership development. The partnership aims to support sustainable mangrove management and enhance the ecological and socioeconomic benefits of mangrove ecosystems.



APFNet and IUFRO Renew Partnership for Forest Science and Cooperation



On 17 September 2026, APFNet and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) renewed their Memorandum of Understanding in Beijing. Signed by APFNet Executive Director Dr. Wang Chunfeng and IUFRO President Prof. Daniela Kleinschmit, the agreement outlines cooperation in capacity development, field demonstration, regional policy dialogue, and knowledge management. An accompanying Indicative Activity Plan provides a framework to translate shared priorities into practical collaboration across forest science, policy, and practice.

Trainings

APFNet Organizes Training on Vegetation Rehabilitation in Greater Central Asia



From 4 to 10 August, APFNet and its partners organized an international training workshop on vegetation rehabilitation and sustainable development in arid regions of Greater Central Asia in Inner Mongolia, China. Bringing together forestry experts from China and Mongolia, the workshop combined technical presentations with field visits to demonstrate practical approaches to desertification control, ecological restoration, and sustainable forest management. The activity strengthened technical exchange under the Greater Central Asia Forestry Cooperation Mechanism (GCA-FCM).

APFNet and TNC Organize Training on Climate-Resilient Forest Management



APFNet and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) jointly organized a training workshop on sustainable forest management and restoration in the context of climate change, opening on 30 July in Kunming, China. The program brought together forestry officials and researchers from Asia and Africa to exchange knowledge on climate risk assessment, forest restoration, innovative financing, and monitoring systems. The workshop marked APFNet's first training activity under the Global Forest Network framework focused specifically on climate change and sustainable forest management.

Events

APFNet Highlights Sustainable Timber Supply Chains at GLSTF 2026

APFNet participated in the Global Legal and Sustainable Timber Forum (GLSTF 2026), held on 22–23 September in Macao SAR, China, bringing together representatives from 49 economies.



Speaking at a high-level panel, APFNet Executive Director Dr. Wang Chunfeng emphasized the importance of integrated innovation across the entire timber supply chain, from sustainable forest management and production to processing, consumption, and recycling. He also highlighted the role of sustainably managed forests and wood products in carbon sequestration, storage, and substitution, calling for stronger international cooperation to build resilient and sustainable timber industries.

APFNet Supports Young Researcher at International Conference



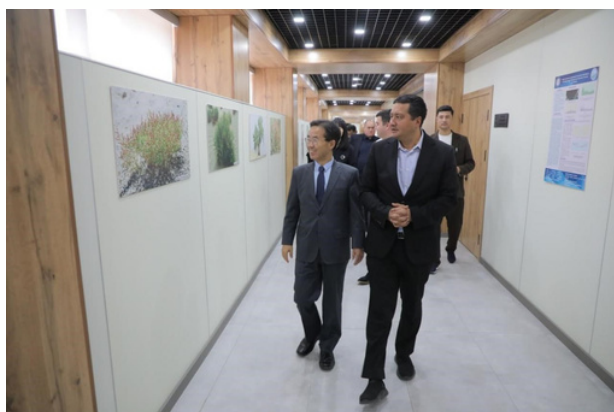
The selection process for the 2026-2027 APFNet Visiting Scholar Program has been completed, and APFNet supported Ms. Thi Bee Kin of Malaysia, a member of the SANFRI Young Scholar Team, to attend the International Conference on Mycorrhiza (ICOM 2026), held on 12–17 July in Cairns, Australia. She presented preliminary findings from an APFNet-funded study on ectomycorrhizal fungi associated with planted Eucalyptus hybrid trees in Malaysia. Her participation strengthened scientific exchange and networking in mycorrhizal biodiversity and sustainable forest management. The preliminary list of selected candidates has been finalized. The program expects to accept eight visiting scholars, who will conduct 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.

Events

APFNet Advances Forestry Cooperation with Uzbekistan

An APFNet delegation led by Executive Director Dr. Wang Chunfeng visited Uzbekistan on 8–12 September to advance preparations for the Fifth Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry in Greater Central Asia. Discussions with Uzbek officials focused on sustainable forest management, dryland restoration, desertification control, and potential demonstration projects. The visit resulted in preliminary agreements on meeting preparations and future cooperation, laying the groundwork for strengthened regional collaboration.



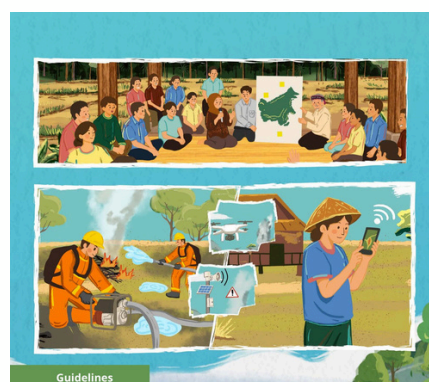
Project update

Community-Based Fire Management Initiative Advances into Second Year

The APFNet-supported project Strengthening Integrated Fire Management through Community-Based Approach in Southeast Asia, implemented by RECOFTC, completed many of its first-year activities and prepared its second-year work plan. Key outputs include community-based fire management guidelines, an e-learning course, and a smallholder controlled burning manual. Upcoming activities include training, multilingual knowledge products, field pilots in Thailand and Lao PDR, and the Asia-Pacific Fire Dialogue in 2027.

“Guidelines on community-based fire management in tropical forest landscapes” was launched at COF028.

Scan here to download and read



Guidelines on community-based fire management in tropical forest landscapes



Evaluation

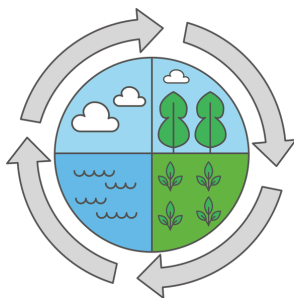
SANFRI Evaluation Highlights Achievements in Regional Research Cooperation

APFNet completed an independent ex-post evaluation of the Sino-ASEAN Network of Forestry Research Institutes (SANFRI), covering 2018–2025.

The evaluation recognized SANFRI's contributions to regional forestry research through 24 visiting scholar placements, eight collaborative research projects, and four Early Career Academics Forums.

It recommended strengthening multi-economy research, science-policy linkages, alumni engagement, and strategic partnerships to support the network's long-term development.

Regional Forest Observations Project Achieves Key Objectives



The terminal evaluation of APFNet's Regional Forest Observations for Sustainable Forest Management project confirmed that its major objectives and outputs were largely achieved. Implemented by the Chinese Academy of Forestry in the GMS+ region, the project developed forest cover and change maps, LiDAR-based carbon mapping products, and a regional forest observation mechanism. Its findings contributed to forestry planning and policy discussions in several participating economies, demonstrating the value of advanced forest monitoring technologies.

The project produced a

- 30m-resolution 2017 forest cover map;
- forest change and driving-force analyses for 2005–2017;
- stand-level inventory maps; LiDAR-based carbon maps; and
- a regional forest observation mechanism.

It collected more than 20,000 ground-reference and validation points and demonstrated LiDAR-based inventory over 22,000 km², with 12.29 million sub-compartments and 97.5% species-identification accuracy in Guangxi. The project's findings informed Guangxi's 14th Five-Year Plan for Forestry, Thailand's LT-LEDS, Viet Nam's REDD+ discussions, and Malaysia's oil palm expansion policy. The evaluation recommends continued investment in high-resolution data sharing, emerging Earth observation integration, capacity building, and stronger communication between implementing and executing agencies.

Education

APFNet Scholarship Students Graduate from Southwest Forestry University

On 25 June, six students from Cambodia, Fiji, and Lao PDR became the first APFNet Scholarship Program graduates from Southwest Forestry University in China. Having completed their two-year master's studies, the graduates are expected to apply their knowledge and skills to forestry development in their home economies. The milestone reflects APFNet's continued commitment to developing young forestry professionals and strengthening regional cooperation in forestry education.



APFNet Scholarship Program Welcomes 2026 Students



The APFNet Scholarship Program welcomed 15 new students in 2026 to pursue postgraduate studies at Nanjing Forestry University, Southwest Forestry University, and Zhejiang Agriculture & Forestry University. Among them, six students from Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, and the Philippines began their studies at Nanjing Forestry University in September. The program continues to support the development of forestry professionals and strengthen regional cooperation in forestry education.

International Summer Camp Promotes Environmental Awareness and Friendship

APFNet supported Chinese children's participation in an international summer camp at the Nairamdal International Children's Center in Mongolia in August. Organized in cooperation with the Embassy of Mongolia in China and Mongolia's General Authority for Child and Family Development and Protection, the program brought Chinese and Mongolian children together for environmental education, cultural exchange, and outdoor activities. Joint tree planting was a highlight, encouraging environmental awareness and friendship among young participants.



Upcoming

3-6 November 2026 in Beijing, China

Global Network for Sustainable Forest Management
(GFN) Second Advisory Group Meeting

2-8 November 2026 in Yunnan, China

Field training for Community-based Tea
producer/Cultivator in GMS 2026

10-16 November 2026 in Yunnan, China

3rd Undergraduates Summer Camp for GMS

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and opportunities to collaborate.**

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info@apfnet.cn