Progress report 2014
Work plan and
annual budget 2015

APFNet/Council/ENG/2015/04

Contents

Progress report 2014

I.   Institutional development and planning

Background

For the transitional period, APFNet has been operating with the following governance structure:

- · Interim Steering Committee
- · Focal Points as a working mechanism
- · Project Appraisal Panel
- · Executive Director
- · Secretariat

As of 2010, APFNet Focal Points have operated effectively as a working mechanism which played an important role in facilitating communication and in implementing APFNet activities. They have been meeting once a year to review annual progress reports and make recommendations on the proposed annual work plan. This mechanism also serves as a platform to enhance coordination and cooperation between APFNet and its members.

The Interim Steering Committee was established in 2011 as an advisory body on major issues related to APFNet's development such as its Strategic Plan, policies and procedures, Operational Framework and annual work plan. It consists of 11 members: Australia, China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, the United States of America, Viet Nam, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Tropical Timber Organization and the Nature Conservancy.

In line with the long-term arrangement envisaged in APFNet's Strategic Plan (2011-2015) and Operational Framework, the governance structure of APFNet will be formalised with the establishment of a Board of Directors and a Council. The Board will serve as a decision-making body and the Council will assume the function and advisory responsibilities of the Interim Steering Committee and Focal Points. Efforts in 2014 focused on setting up the Board and Council.

APFNet also started a review of its first Strategic Plan as it prepares to draft the next one to cover the period 2016-2020.

Work progress 2014

1. Sixteen candidates were nominated in response to a call for nominations for the first Board of Directors by the January, 2014 deadline.
2. Co-organization of the Fourth Meeting of the APFNet Interim Steering Committee and the Fifth Annual Meeting of the APFNet Focal Points, *Chiang Mai, Thailand, 6-8 May*, in collaboration with the Royal Forest Department of

Thailand.

- The Fourth Meeting of the APFNet Interim Steering Committee approved the Draft Plan of Establishing the Selecting Committee for the Initial Board and developed the document into the Terms of Reference of the Selection Committee; the Selection Committee was then established and met after the meeting of the Interim Steering Committee to select Board members among the candidates; 12 Board members with staggered terms were selected and recommended by the Selection Committee to the host economy.
- The Fifth Annual Meeting of the APFNet Focal Points approved the Draft Plan of Establishing the Council of APFNet (finalised in August) and also revised the Work Plan of 2014.

3. Appointment of the Directors

The Selection Committee, via the Secretariat, forwarded the recommendation letter and other required documents to China, the host economy, who processed and issued the appointment letters to the prospective Board members.

4. Preparation of documents for the first meeting of the Board

Preparation of a series of documents for the Board's review at the first meeting began:

- Election of the Chair of the Initial Board of Directors;
- Rules of Procedure of the Board of Directors of APFNet;
- Framework of Staff Regulations and Financial Regulations;
- Strategic Plan 2016-2020 draft framework;
- APFNet   governance structure;
- Progress report 2014 and annual work plan 2015

5. Launch the establishment of the APFNet Council, *Dec, 2014*

According to the Plan of Establishing the Council, which was reviewed and finalized in August, APFNet member economies and organizations were sent a request to appoint their Council representative as a first step toward the formal establishment, and first meeting of the Council.

6. Preparation of APFNet Strategic Plan 2016-2020

In July, APFNet launched the process of preparing its second Strategic Plan, 2016-2020, with first task being a review of the current Strategic Plan, followed by beginning work on the draft of the strategic plan.

II.   Partnerships

Partnerships are indispensable tools and bridges for APFNet to add value to and leverage resources available for joint program activities, and enable APFNet to

expand its engagement in regional and international forest processes and programs.

Current partners (with MoU signed) include:

International organizations	
Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI)	12 June 2012 – 12 June 2017 (can be automatically renewed)
Forest and Farm Facility (FAO/FFF)	26 Oct 2012 – 25 Oct 2017 (can be automatically renewed)
International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)	16 May 2011-31 December 2015
RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests	21 Apr 2010 – 20 Apr 2015
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	To be signed (signed on 8 April 2015 in Beijing)
Research institute	
Chinese Academy of Forestry	21 Dec 2013 – 20 Dec 2018 (can be automatically renewed)
Government	
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of Peru	15 Aug 2013 – 14 Aug 2018 (can be automatically renewed)

Work progress 2014

1. Co-organization of the Regional Workshop on Forest Products Statistics, *Kunming, China, 17-19 Sep*
   As a follow-on to the Workshop on Forest Products Statistics in China in 2013 and to further promote the partnership with ITTO, APFNet co-organized this event in collaboration with ITTO and FAO in Kunming, China. Attended by 12 officials from the forest department and Customs department of the six economies in the Greater-Mekong Subregion, the workshop sought to learn existing challenges, strengthen data collection on forest products production, improve data collection systems and reduce discrepancies between trade statistics reported by participating economies.

   The ED of APFNet met with Mr Emmanuel Ze Meka, Executive Director of ITTO shortly after the opening session, and briefly discussed future cooperation, including setting-up a joint booth at the UNFCCC COP 20 conference.

2. Joint booth at the United Nations Climate Change Conference, *Lima, Peru, 1-12 Dec*
   Following up the meeting with the ED of ITTO, APFNet set up a joint booth with

ITTO and its local partner AIDER (Association for Integrated Research and Development) in the Voices for Climate exhibition during the COP20 of UNFCCC. This was an opportunity to showcase APFNet's efforts at addressing climate change and to increase its publicity at this international event.

3. MoU with FAO
   Building on existing collaboration and recognizing potential synergies in partnering, both sides agreed a MoU could facilitate cooperation in areas of common interest. Collaboration areas include technical cooperation in five thematic areas, and implementation tools include capacity building, information distribution and joint activities. The MoU has been negotiated and is moving through signing procedures.

4. Partnership with CIFOR
   Recognising CIFOR's strength in forestry research, APFNet met with experts from CIFOR to discuss future cooperation. Both sides agreed to explore joint activities and possible collaboration in related areas in 2015.

III.   Policy dialogues

APFNet has regularly worked with international / regional organizations to bring together policy makers and practitioners to discuss common issues and identify solutions.

Work progress 2014

1. Forestry cooperation in Greater Central Asia Economies *Beijing, China, 24-26 September*
   An APFNet Regional Workshop on Strategic Forestry Cooperation in Central Asia and Mongolia exchanged information and experiences on forest management, vegetation restoration, trans-boundary biodiversity conservation and sand-binding plants utilization. The workshop also explored the potential regional cooperation opportunities in forestry sector.

2. The Workshop on Mainstreaming Degraded Forest Restoration into Forestry Strategic Plans, *Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 17-19 December*
   The Workshop is one of the activities proposed by APFNet in 2013 under the Platform for Regional Dialogue on Forestry Strategic Planning. During the meeting, participants exchanged experiences and efforts on restoration of degraded forest and forestry strategic plans at both individual economy and in international initiatives. Recognizing the importance and challenges of restoring degraded forests, participants resolved to strengthen collaboration through the Platform for Regional Dialogue on Forestry Strategic Planning.

IV.   Projects and programs

Background

As globalization and regional integration accelerates, a regional perspective, instead of country-level analysis and implementation, is increasingly valuable as an approach to sustainable forest management. APFNet works with foresters through developing and financing projects to improve management of forest resources in the Asia-Pacific region, in order to make advances in balancing and addressing conflicts between economic development and environmental protection.

APFNet pilot projects identify and promote best practices of ecosystem-based approaches and forest landscape restoration. By the end of 2014, APFNet, working collaboratively with research/education institutes, government agencies and regional/international organizations, has granted about 12 million US dollars to 20 projects (see the Annex) in Asia and the Pacific. Nine of the projects are regional in scope, covering issues of forest resource monitoring, trans-boundary ecological security, forestry education, forestry policy analysis, forest restoration, and capacity building on forest management.

Project impacts
-    Drew high level attention to forest issues and forestry in the region;
-    Enhanced partnerships and networks for wider dispersal of knowledge and capacity building activities;
-    Demonstrated good forest management practices and identified promising models for livelihood improvement.
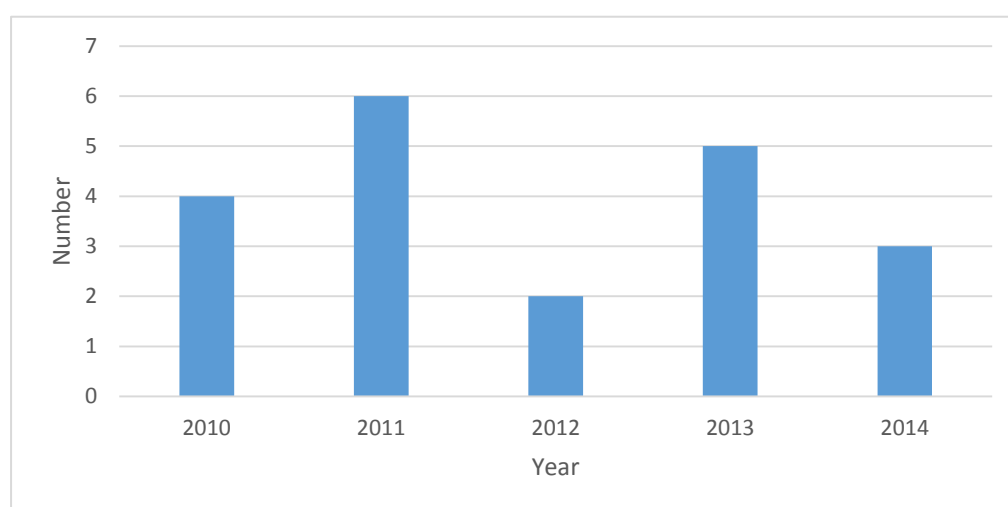

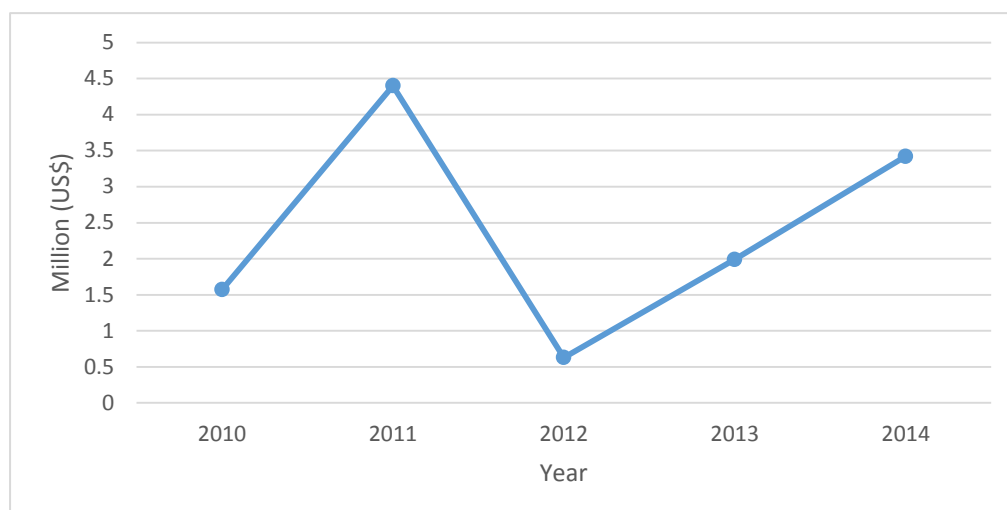Figure 1 Number of Projects funded 2010-2014

Figure 2 Funding amount of projects 2010-2014

Work Progress in 2014

1. Application and approval in 2014

   In the year 2014, three new demonstration projects were officially approved. The fields cover forest-based small business development, watershed management at the landscape level, and forest policy enforcement.

   From February to April, 2014, APFNet opened its annual Call for 2015 Project Proposals. Twenty-five project concept notes were submitted from a wide range of economies, institutes and organizations within the Asia-Pacific region. After appraisal, six projects were selected for 2015 APFNet funding.

Number of projects requesting funding	25
Value of requested funds	$11,735,820
Number of projects approved for funding, pending project agreements	6
Value of funds for approved projects	$3,443,972
Percentage of project selected	24%

Table 1 General information on APFNet Call for Project Proposals 2015

2. Strengthening of project coordination and supervision

   In an effort to further improve the quality of APFNet-funded projects and enhance timely implementation, the APFNet Secretariat has increased its involvement in project development and its supervision of implementation. An APFNet Manual for Project Identification, Implementation and Management (PIIM) and standardized reporting/disbursement procedures have been utilized among project partners to raise efficiency of communication and project implementation. Additional international and local experts were invited to assist with project

design and execution. Monitoring and evaluation has been strengthened, to ensure that projects adapt effectively to changing situations and that programs remain focused on achieving expected outcomes.

3. Project updates

In 2014, 14 projects were in their life cycles. Of those 14, two had finished and been closed, while an additional five had been completed and were in the process of final close out. Of the remaining projects, one had been extended with additional activities, one had resumed implementation following temporary suspension, and five recent projects were in the implementation, or agreement negotiation phase.

-   Adaptation of Asia-Pacific Forests to Climate Change

The three-year project aims to generate new knowledge and technology to increase the resilience of forests and forest-dependent communities in the Asia-Pacific, particularly in relation to tackling changing climate, deforestation and forest degradation for a vast array of ecosystems. In 2014, the project developed the Climate Change Models, which aim to provide reference on developing adaptive strategies that will facilitate an increase in the resilience of forests and forest-dependent communities in the Asia-Pacific region to climate change.

-   Forest Cover and Carbon Mapping in the Greater Mekong Subregion and Malaysia

The project, initiated in 2011, supports relevant institutes/agencies to estimate forest coverage and above-ground carbon stock in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) and Malaysia to contribute to biodiversity conservation within the region and globally and to APFNet's monitoring of progress towards the APEC 2020 forest cover (and associated carbon stocks) objectives. The key outcomes of 2014 are the Carbon Map Databases, which is expected to help steer the direction of future efforts to improve the synergy between sustainable forest management (SFM) and relevant environmental visions. The tool also demonstrated the potential to be more productive in the longer term.

-   Sustainable forest management project in northern Lao PRR

This project, designed to translate the Asia and Europe (ASEM) forestry proposal into reality, was launched in April. Key to its initial success was close coordination on design and initial implementation among APFNet, the Lao Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and other stakeholders.

To guarantee effective coordination at the national, provincial and district (project site) levels in Lao PDR, a joint project steering committee was established to

supervise the process. A chief technical advisor and expert team also was in place for project planning and implementation. Main project components were further developed into concrete activities, such as land use planning, community-based restoration and rehabilitation of degraded forests, forest law enforcement, and trans-boundary biodiversity conservation. It is anticipated that these project activities will help reverse the trend of deforestation and forest degradation, promote sustainable management of forest ecosystems and sustainable development of local communities in northern Lao PDR, and contribute to the achievement of Lao's National Growth and Poverty Eradication Plan and Forest Strategy 2020.

- Comparative Analyses of Transitions to Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation

The project has produced valuable research results which identified underlying drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and also showed the encouraging improvement of forest rehabilitation and SFM in China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines and Viet Nam. The project also analysed those drivers in their broader socioeconomic context and summarized common trends of forest cover change in the Asia-pacific region.

4. Sydney Goal Assessment

To mobilize APEC economies to promote regional forest resources information sharing and work together to identify the efforts made towards achieving the APEC 2020 forest cover objective, the program "Assessment of the Progress towards the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Objective" was agreed upon by APEC Senior Officials at their first meeting (SOM1) in Ningbo, China in February 2014. APEC Senior Officials approved the program "Assessment of the Progress toward the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Objectives" at their first meeting (SOM 1) in Ningbo, China in February 2014 in order to mobilize APEC economies to promote forest resources information sharing and to work together to identify the efforts that have been made toward achieving the 2020 objective. This initiative was subsequently included as one of the actions in the APEC Tasking Statement for 2015.

V.   Capacity Building

Background

Thematic workshops were initiated in 2009 under APFNet's pillar of Capacity Building and aim to improve the capability of regional policymakers and practitioners through sharing knowledge and practical experiences of sustainable forest management.

Two hundred forestry officials from 18 economies in the Asia-Pacific region have benefitted from APFNet's training workshops since 2009. This fulfils the goals established in the APFNet strategic plan 2011-2015: i.e. a minimum of 150 regional forestry officials and practitioners with enhanced knowledge and skills from APFNet's training courses. Questionnaires were distributed at the end of each workshop to assess the level of communication and understanding among participants and to obtain their feedback and suggestions on the organization and design of activities.

Launched in 2010, the APFNet Scholarship Program (ASP) under the Capacity Building pillar aims to support the new generation of foresters of developing economies in the Asia-Pacific region to pursue higher education at the postgraduate level. The ASP offers a two-year Master's program in three majors: Forest Economics and Management, Forestry, and Forest Engineering and Environmental Science. Students were selected according to APFNet application procedures through the Focal Points Mechanism.

By now, a total of 46 students have been admitted into the program, and 24 have graduated. Most of the graduates work in various specialist positions in governmental agencies, international organizations and research institutions. Several of them are pursuing the PhD degree in, for example the United Kingdom, Japan and China. ASP has not only provided opportunities for foresters in the Asia-Pacific region to pursue advanced studies, but also enhanced students' understanding of the experiences and achievements of forestry development of China.

Work progress 2014

1. Thematic training workshops

   APFNet's thematic workshops on Degraded Forest Rehabilitation and Sustainable Forest Management (under theme of Forest Resource Management) and Forest Biodiversity Conservation and Improvement of Rural Livelihoods (Under the theme of Forestry and Rural Development) were held in July and November 2014 in Kunming, China. Thirty regional forestry officials and practitioners working in the two topic fields were invited to the workshops. Each ten-day workshop features lectures through which participants understood the current state of rehabilitation of degraded forests and forest biodiversity conservation in the Asia-Pacific region. The participants were also provided with opportunities to share their experiences on rehabilitation and forest biodiversity conservation in their own economies, particularly drawing upon successes and failures of those approaches to guide the development of future policies.

2. APFNet Scholarship Program

   Beijing Forestry University (BFU) and Nanjing Forestry University (NFU) are the

host universities for ASP currently. The eight ASP students who enrolled in 2012 fulfilled their two-year master's degrees at BFU and graduated in July 2014. Seventeen students from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, and Pakistan were admitted to the ASP in September 2014.

3. Workshop on Forestry Human Resources Development in the Asia-Pacific Region, *Bogor, Indonesia, 25-27 Nov*

   Cooperating with the Forestry Extension and Human Resources Development Agency of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia, APFNet co-organized the workshop in Bogor, Indonesia. It gathered 45 representatives from 16 developing economies and RECOFTC to review the status quo and discuss the challenges of forestry human resource development and, in particular, on-the-job training in the region. The participants agreed to establish a Dialogue on Forestry Human Resources Development in the region in order to strengthen networking among forestry training and capacity building institutions and explore possible cooperation in the region.

VI.   Information sharing

Realising the importance of winning support from its current and potential donors, APFNet increased its effort to publicize itself in its host economy in 2014. Meanwhile, APFNet also took advantages of opportunities at international conferences to showcase its activities and efforts to a wider audience.

Work progress 2014

1. Strengthened project promotion and dissemination

   Strengthening the promotion of APFNet and increasing the level of project dissemination among donors of APFNet were of high priority in 2014. This was achieved in the regular release of feature stories on projects (in Chinese) including the "Demonstration of Sustainable Upland Agroforestry Systems in Chinese Taipei", "Sustainable Forest Rehabilitation and Management for the Conservation of Trans-boundary Ecological Security in MMSEA" and "Forest Cover and Carbon Mapping in the GMS".

   Furthermore, feature stories on the progress of the Multifunctional Forests pilot project and the regional workshop on strategic forestry cooperation in Greater Central Asia were reported in Green Times, a major forestry news platform in China. An English edition of the APFNet newsletter was also released, featuring stories on key projects including the APFNet Scholarship Program, Thematic Training Workshops and two climate change projects. The newsletter also provided updates on the progress and results of other projects as well as notes on

upcoming activities.

2. Participation in external conferences and events
    To boost APFNet's presence in the international forestry community and to foster future partnerships, APFNet participated in three international conferences this year: the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) World Congress in Salt Lake City, USA; the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Parks Congress in Sydney, Australia; and the United Nations Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties (UNCCC COP20) in Lima, Peru. Exhibitions were set up to present our capacity building and demonstration projects as well as distribute various publications completed over the year.

    In addition, two exhibitions were set up in the China State Forestry Administration (SFA) building. One focused on the development of APFNet over the past five years, while the other was displayed during an international cooperation meeting hosted by the SFA. Finally, an exhibition was set up during the APEC Senior Officials' Meeting in November in Beijing, China.

3. APFNet partnered with China's Experimental Center for Tropical Forestry (ECTF) to compile and publish eight case studies on successful Close-to-Nature forestry management methods, with the objective of regional and international dissemination. This was the first time that APFNet took on the leading role to coordinate a publication partnership. The report is currently in the final stages of revision and will be published in the first half of 2015.

4. APFNet 2013 Annual Report
    The annual report showcased APFNet's work during 2013. The report is available in English.

VII.   Administration and operation

As a young organization, APFNet is still adjusting and completing its administrative and operational procedures to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the work within Secretariat as well as its communication with stakeholders.

Work progress 2014

1. Improvement to internal working procedures
    APFNet began development of the Communications Guideline (CG), which is intended to strengthen communications between project executing agencies (EAs) and the APFNet secretariat. The CG establishes a working procedure for gathering ongoing project updates, creates quality standards for the submission of

photos from EAs, and lays out schedules for regular publishing of updates on the APFNet website and transmission to AFPNet members and focal points. A series of training workshops on project communication is also under planning and development.

2. APFNet has been developing its Intranet Platform which aims to streamline internal procedures and support decision-making. The platform will automate office administration, communications and project management. The system is currently in the last stages of development and is expected to launch in the near future.

VIII. Financial information for the year 2014

APFNet total revenues in 2014 was CNY 27,854,943.93, approximately 4.45 million US$ (1 US$= 6.1190 CNY on Dec 31, 2014) as shown in table 2. The total expenditures in 2014 were CNY 20,454,897.39, approximately 3.34 million US$.

According to the category breakdown shown in Table 3, 73.73% of expenditures in 2014 were devoted to the activities of pilot projects, capacity building, policy dialogues and communication and information sharing. Around 26.27% of expenditures were allocated to administrative costs (including staff, equipment, vehicle, office rent, and office operations.)

Table 2 Financial statement in 2014

1US$=6.1190 CNY / (as of 31 Dec 2014)

	Item	Amount (CNY)	Amount (US$)
A	APFNet account balance, end 2013	10,135,223.10	1,656,352.85
B	Program budget, 2014	27,041,010.00	4,419,187.78
	Donation	763,483.17	124,772.54
	Interest	50,450.76	8,244.94
	Total revenue	27,854,943.93	4,552,205.25
C	Total expenditure	20,454,897.39	1,656,352.85
D	Balance, end of 2014	17,535,269.64	2,865,708.39

Table 3 Expenditures by categories in 2014

1US$=6.1190 CNY / (as of 31 Dec 2014)

No	Categories	Expenditures (CNY)	Expenditures (US$)	Percentage
1	Training workshops	802,235.12	131,105.59	3.92%
2	Scholarship programs	2,159,400.00	352,900.80	10.56%
3	Meetings	694,723.86	113,535.52	3.40%

4	Domestic travel	450,356.60	73,599.71	2.20%
5	International travel	1,526,705.32	249,502.42	7.46%
6	Pilot projects	6,543,846.91	1,069,430.77	31.99%
7	Communication & information sharing	1,861,046.40	304,142.25	9.10%
8	Consultants	1,043,819.23	170,586.57	5.10%
9	Personnel costs	1,686,656.45	275,642.50	8.25%
10	Office rent	2,953,400.00	482,660.57	14.44%
11	Property management costs	341,822.16	55,862.42	1.67%
12	Depreciation of fixed assets	28,654.11	4,682.81	0.14%
13	Vehicle and operation	138,475.00	22,630.33	0.68%
14	Hospitality	55,468.32	9,064.93	0.27%
15	Office operation	168,287.91	27,502.52	0.82%
16	Total	20,454,897.39	3,342,849.71	100.00%

Work plan and annual budget 2015

I.   Institutional Development

Consistent with the long-term arrangements in the Strategic Plan 2011-2015, the permanent governance bodies, i.e. the Board and Council, will be launched in 2015 to formalize APFNet's operation. In the first half of the year, the establishment and the first meetings of the two bodies will be convened to review key documents and administrative rules related to APFNet's development.

Board

1. Finish appointment of the Directors
    Projected output: List of Board of Directors
2. Prepare the documents of the Board
    Projected output:
    a)   Work report 2014 and work plan 2015 of APFNet;
    b)   Draft framework of the strategic plan 2016-2020 of APFNet;
    c)   Procedures for the Development of APFNet Membership;
    d)   Framework Document of the Staff Regulations;
    e)   Framework Document of the Financial Regulations.
3. Convene the First Meeting of the APFNet Board
    As the decision-making body of APFNet, the Board will first review and adopt their rules of procedure, make suggestions for the strategic planning for the next five years and review or further amend major administrative rules of APFNet bodies under the new governance structure. The First Meeting of the APFNet Board is scheduled in early April.

Council

1. Collect appointments of the Council representatives and contact person(s)
    Projected output: List of Council members
2. Prepare the documents of the Council
    Projected output:
    a)   Rules of Procedure of the Council;
    b)   Terms of Reference of the Project Appraisal Panel;
    c)   Decisions of the Board at its first meeting.
3. Convene the First Meeting of the APFNet Council
    Members were asked to appoint Council representatives by 10 February. To formally establish the Council, the first meeting of APFNet Council is scheduled in late April, which will discuss and give recommendations to APFNet following the meeting agenda and according to the responsibilities of the Council.

II.   Membership

In light of the establishment of the Board and Council, the transitional Procedures for the Development of APFNet Membership also needs to be updated, revised and applied to the processing of new membership applications.

III.   Partnerships

APFNet will continue to work with its partners to craft joint efforts to promote sustainable forest management in the region. It is necessary to develop a plan to review current partnerships, find possible collaboration on activities/research and seek partners with shared interests. APFNet will also consult with those partners whose MoU's will expire within the year about possible renewal and extension of the partnership.

IV.   Policy Dialogues

Valuing the effective role of policy dialogues in elevating forestry's profile and promoting sustainable forest management, APFNet will continue to leverage the APEC platform to gather forestry ministers, and remain involved in other platforms such as ASEM and GMS to foster political commitment to forestry.

1. Organize the Third APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry

    In line with the Cusco Statement to further promote forestry cooperation among APEC economies and to encourage progress towards leader's statements with respect to sustainable forests, as the initiator and sponsor of the APEC forestry ministerial meetings, APFNet expects to bring forestry ministers of the APEC economies together for a third meeting to discuss major forestry policy issues and carry forward momentum of the previous two meetings to uplift forestry's profile and advance sustainable forestry development in the APEC region.

    Projected output:

    a) Third APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry convened;

    b) Forestry minister's declaration

V.   Platforms for information exchange

Promoting forestry cooperation in Greater Central Asia Economies

1. Organize study tours by the APFNet secretariat to Central Asia economies to learn about the experiences and lessons learned in aspects of vegetation restoration in arid and semi-arid areas, combating desertification, sand industry development and so forth and to explore potential cooperation opportunities between Central Asia economies and APFNet.

    Projected output: Study report presenting potential cooperation opportunities in forestry sectors.

2. Building on the achievements of the previous workshop, the Second Regional

Workshop on Strategic Forestry Cooperation in Greater Central Asia will be organized in September 2015 in Mongolia in collaboration with Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism of Mongolia.

Projected output:

a) Consensus reached during the first workshop will be promoted, including establishing Technical Group of Greater Central Asia, establishing Central Asia Forestry Ministerial Meeting Mechanism, strengthening the mechanism of Regional Workshops on Strategic Forestry Cooperation in Central Asia;

b) Potential cooperation opportunities identified during the study tours will be shaped into concrete proposals.

VI.   Projects and programs

From February to April, 2014, APFNet opened its annual Call for 2015 Project Proposals. Twenty-five project concept notes were submitted from a wide range of economies, institutes and organizations within the Asia-Pacific region. After appraisal, six projects were selected for 2015 APFNet funding.

Number of projects requesting funding	25
Value of requested funds	$11,735,820
Number of projects approved for funding, pending project agreements	6
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Percentage of project selected	24%

Table 1 General information on APFNet Call for Project Proposals 2015

APFNet will continue to work with the executing agencies to ensure the successful implementation of current projects. A workshop is planned to enhance networking, experience sharing and project guidance among project partners. The project management procedures, esp. financial aspects and project outreach/media promotion will also be improved.

Proposal improvement of the selected 2015 APFNet projects

1. Provide comments and suggestions on improving the project proposals to the proponents for their revision.

    Projected output: Revised project proposals

2. Review the revised proposals, arrange pre-study visit according to the quality of the revision and assist in further revising the proposals

    Projected output: Finalised project proposals

Sydney Goal assessment

The APFNet Secretariat will formally initiate the Program on "Assessment of the Progress towards the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Objective" by:

1. Distributing the concept paper and report outline to all APEC economies.
2. Cooperating with FAO/RAP, send statistical data on forest area to each APEC economy respectively for their report preparation.
3. Collecting economies' reports by the end of May 2015 and synthesize the reports into an integrated one with assistance from relevant experts.
4. Sending back the integrated report to each economy for authorization and final submission to the APEC Secretariat in October 2015.

Strategic Plan 2016-2020

1. Draft the Framework of the APFNet Strategic Plan 2016-2020 with the assistance of the chief consultant for the Board's review. Based on the Board's recommendations and suggestions, the draft of the Strategic Plan will be developed.
2. Organize a consultation meeting for reviewing and improving the draft of the Strategic Plan.
3. Send the improved draft to the Council for comments and recommendations
4. Finalize the draft following the comments and suggestions from the Council
5. Submit the finalized strategic plan to the Board for approval
6. Release the APFNet Strategic Plan 2016-2020 by End 2015 or early 2016

VII. Capacity Building

1. Improving the Dialogue on Forestry Human Resource Development in the Asia-Pacific region
   Conducting separate case studies on human resource development in the forest sector of economies in the Asia-Pacific region and summarizing relevant experiences for strengthening the institutional capacity of forestry agencies.
   Projected output: Case studies on human resource development in the forest sector

2. Organize a side event on the forestry online course development project at the 14th World Forestry Congress; hold a discussion among the Steering Committee colleges on the institutional arrangements and next steps for the Forestry College Deans Meeting Mechanism in the Asia Pacific Region (FCDMM-APR)
   Projected output: Promote the progress of the online course development project and identify the next steps on the FCDMM-APR

3. Organize the Fourth Forestry College Deans Meeting in the Asia-Pacific Region
   Projected output:
   a) Fourth Forestry College Deans Meeting in the Asia-Pacific Region convened

and the forestry online course development project completed with the six forestry online courses launched;

b) Summary report of the Fourth Forestry College Deans Meeting in the Asia-Pacific Region.

4. Organize thematic training workshops in early July and in November.
   Projected output:
   a) Two thematic training workshops convened;
   b) One report from each workshop.

5. To achieve the objective in the Strategic Plan 2011-2015 -- a minimum of 60 scholarships provided -- the APFNet Scholarship Program will support another 15-20 students from the developing economies in the region to study for a Master's degree. APFNet and the two host universities will provide expanded opportunities for field study and practice of forestry to the scholarship students.
   Project output: 15-20 students sponsored by the ASP and admitted to the host universities

VIII. Information sharing

1. In 2015, APFNet will continue to provide support for dissemination and outreach to ongoing projects and other institutional activities. APFNet will also consider ways to build strategic partnerships with external organizations and expand APFNet's communication network. To-date, this includes event organization and participation in the 14th World Forestry Congress in Durban, South Africa.

2. APFNet will also further explore channels of dissemination that would expand the reach of our technical publications, such as publishers of academic journals and international forestry publications.

3. Prepare the APFNet annual report 2014 (English)

IX.   Annual budget

In 2015, around CNY 51,143,919.64, equivalent to US$ 8.36 million, (the exchange rate is 6.1190 on Dec 31, 2014) will be available to support all kinds of activities of APFNet. Table 4 shows the funding sources for 2015 and Table 5 shows how the budget of 2015 is allocated among different categories.

Table 2 Budget of 2015

1US$=6.1190 CNY / (as of 31 Dec 2014)

A	Fund Sources	Amount (CNY)	Amount (US$)

	APFNet balance of 2014	17,535,269.64	2,865,708.39
	Program budget in 2015	31,772,950.00	5,192,506.95
	APFNet core funds in 2015	1,835,700.00	300,000.00
	Total	51,143,919.64	8,358,215.34

Table 3 Budget by category of 2015

1US$=6.1190 CNY / (as of 31 Dec 2014)

No	Categories	Budget (CNY)	Budget (US$)	Percentage
1	Training workshops	2,620,000	428,175	5.12%
2	Scholarship	2,150,000	351,365	4.20%
3	Pilot projects and management	25,209,342	4,119,847	49.29%
4	Meetings	3,876,010	633,438	7.58%
5	Survey and studies	1,440,000	235,333	2.82%
6	Communication and Information sharing	1,273,500	208,122	2.49%
7	Consultants	1,765,900	288,593	3.45%
8	Travel	1,380,000	225,527	2.70%
9	Staff	3,544,040	579,186	6.93%
10	Office renting and management fee	3,459,200	565,321	6.76%
11	Office operation	1,510,000	246,772	2.95%
12	Contingencies	2,915,927	476,537	5.70%
	Total	**51,143,919**	8,358,215	100.00%

Annex: project factsheet

No	Project ID	Project Title	Executing Agency (EA)	Duration (month)	Total Budget(US$)	APFNet Grants(US$)	Percentage	Status
1	2010P1/4-NPL	Demonstration of Sustainable Forest Management with Community Participation in Nepal	Federation of Community Forest Users, Nepal (FECOFUN)	24	577,159	500,479	86.7%	Completed
2	2010P2/4-VNM	Demonstration of Capacity Building of Forest Restoration & Sustainable Forest Management in Vietnam	Phu Tho Sub-department of Forestry, Vietnam	24	624,750	499,750	80%	Extended
3	2010P3/4-FAO	Making forestry work for the poor: Adapting forest policies to poverty alleviation strategies in Asia Pacific	FAO regional office for Asia and the Pacific	12	340,000	340,000	100%	Completed
4	2010P4/4-CAF	Establishment of the database of the forest resources in Asia-Pacific region	Research Institute of Forestry of Chinese Academy of Forestry(RIF)	36	234920	234920	100%	Completed
5	2011P1/6-CTN	Demonstration of Sustainable Upland Agroforestry Systems in Chinese Taipei	Taiwan Forestry Research Institute, Chinese Taipei	24	537,000	400,000	74.5%	Completed
6	2011P1/6-CTN	Forest Cover and Carbon Mapping in the Greater Mekong Subregion and Malaysia	Institute of Forest Resources Information Techniques(IFRIT), Chinese Academy of Forestry(CAF)	24	1,266,900	1,028,800	81.2%	On going
7	2011P3/6-INM	Pilot Project of Multifunctional Forests	WYD Forest Farm	36	1,500,615	1,176,000	78.4%	On going
8	2011P4	Multi-Functional Forest Restoration	The Institute of Forest and	36	441,830	386,570	87.5%	On going

	/6-KHM	and Management of Degraded Forest Areas in Cambodia	Wildlife Research and Development(IRD)					
9	2011P5/6-UBC	Adaptation of Asia-Pacific Forests to Climate Change	University of British Columbia	36	2,211,700	1,139,200	51.5%	On going
10	2011P6/6-APAFRI	Comparative Analyses of Transitions to Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation	Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI)	24	317,500	268,000	84.4%	Completed
11	2012P1/2-THA	Strengthening Urban Forestry Demonstration Site of Bang Kachao (Thailand) for Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Learning Center	Royal Forest Department (RFD) of Thailand	24	300,900	128,600	42.7%	On going
12	2012P2/2-UNU	Sustainable Forest Rehabilitation and Management for the Conservation of Trans-boundary Ecological Security in Montane Mainland Southeast Asia– Pilot Demonstration Project of Lao PDR, Myanmar and China/Yunnan	United Nations University Institute for Sustainability and Peace(UNU-ISP)	36	650,000	500,000	77%	On going
13	2013P1-FECOFUN	Supporting to Develop New Forest Sector Policy and Strategy through Consultation with Civil Society Organizations and Local Communities in Nepal	Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal(FECOFUN)	12	109,900	100,000	91%	On going

14	2013P2 -FCDMM	Innovative Sustainable Forest Management Education in the Asia-Pacific Region	FCDMM-Office	24	777,900	551,950	71%	On going
15	2013P3 -RMFN- Asia	Forest Restoration at the Landscape Level in Asia: A Unique Model Forest Approach	Regional Model Forest Network-Asia	24	914,493	481,239	52.6%	On going
16	2013P4 -NPL	Supporting community based sustainable forest management and economic empowerment of Women in Central Region of Nepal	Consurtium (HIMAWANTI/Ashmita/NR MC)	36	530,586	398,358	75%	On going
17	2013P5 -MAS	Community-based sustainable forest management of Sungai Medihit Watershed Sarawak, Malaysia	Sarawak Forest Department	24	693,000	460,000	66%	Approved
18	2014P1 -ASEM	Sustainable Forest Management in Northern Provinces of Lao PDR	Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry (MAF), Lao PDR	60	3,563,433	2,982,573	83.7%	On going
19	2014P2 -PNG	Establish the self-sustaining Model for Community Forest Harvesting	Foundation for People and Community Development Inc. PNG	10	64,500	51,000	79%	On going
20	2014P3 -SPC	Capacity building towards effective implementation of SFM practices	SPC	36	551,500	389,500	70.6%	On going

Assessment of the Progress towards the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal

April 2015

Assessment of the Progress towards the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal

APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal –

Increasing forest cover in the APEC region by at least 20 million hectares of all types of forests by 2020

(set at 15ᵗʰ APEC Economic Leaders Meeting was held in Sydney in 2007)

Assessment of the Progress towards the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal

➤Proposed by the Chinese Government in collaboration with APFNet

➤Adopted at the 1st Senor Official's Meeting of APEC 2014

➤In November 2014, the Leaders mandated in APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM) to ensure the achievement of the aspirational goal by working with relevant international organizations including APFNet

➤Included as one of the actions in the APEC Tasking Statement for 2015.

➤The Program has been formally launched in **December 2014**

◆ APEC senior officials' channel *(26 Dec 2014)*

◆ APFNet ED's letter to Focal Points *(31 Dec 2014)*

Assessment of the Progress towards the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal

Objectives

✓To analyze the progress that has been made by end 2014 towards the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal

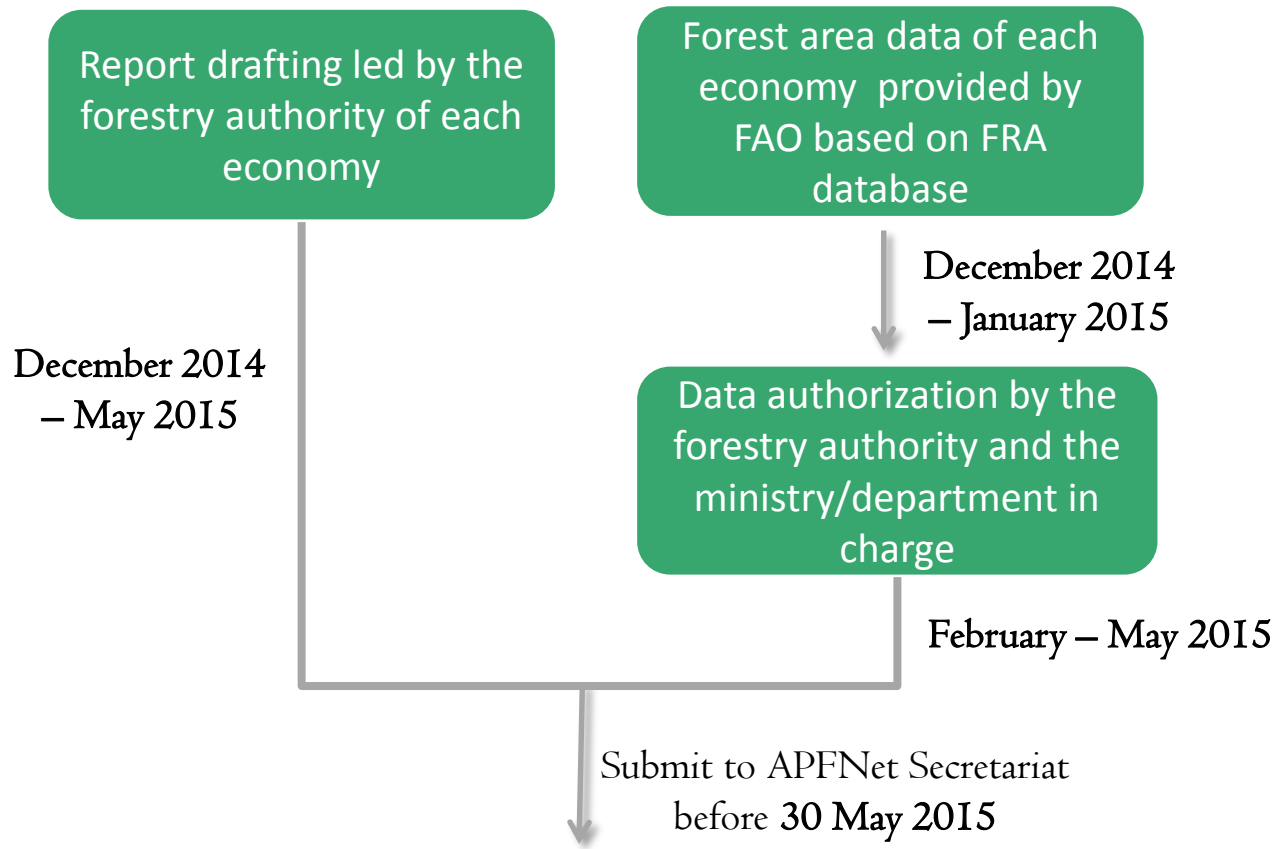✓To provide guidance for further actions that will make major contributions to achieving the Goal

Targeted participants

✓21 APEC economies

Duration

✓December 2014 – October 2015

Assessment of the Progress towards the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal

Assessment of the Progress towards the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal

Report review and synthesizing by the expert group

June – July 2015

Synthesized report sending to each economy for authorization

August 2015

Final editing and compiling

September 2015

Submitted to APEC Secretariat at **October 2015**

Assessment of the Progress towards the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal

Expected outcomes

✓ A collection of reports from all APEC economies

✓ A Synthesized report to APEC leaders presenting the achievements by 2014 and the recommendations for further actions

Assessment of the Progress towards the APEC 2020 Forest Cover Goal

Progress

✓Formally launched in December 2014

   Concept paper together with recommended report outline have been distributed to each APEC economy

✓Relevant forest area data of each APEC economy has been sent for confirmation *(15 Feb 2015)*

   Supported by FAO/RAP, data were collected based on FRA database

✓APFNet will provide certain financial support to developing economies upon receiving the output reports. Draft contracts have been sent to related economies for comments *(20 Apr 2015)*

Look forward to every APEC economy's participation!

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