



Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation

Confirmation of Accepting the APFNet Operational Framework

Document	APFNET OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK
Economy / international organization	Public Fund "Rural Development Fund", Kyrgyzstan
Signature of the Focal Point	 Umut Zholdoshova, Environmental Programs Coordinator
Endorsement and Signature of the representative of the responsible ministry / international organization	 Zakhifa Omorbekova, Director of the Rural Development Fund
Stamp of the responsible ministry / international organization	
Date	November 20, 2014

Interest on membership of APFNet

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时 间: 2014-11-20 11:41:00

附 件:  [RDF Confirmation sheet.pdf](#)

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Dear Mr. Qu Quilin,

On behalf of the Rural Development Fund (RDF) , Kyrgyzstan I would like to express my gratitude for APFNet secretariat for their assistance in organizing a study tour for our team to Yunnan province of China last year and for invitation to the Regional Workshop on Strategic Forestry Cooperation in Central Asia in Beijing recently.

RDF is a not-for-profit and nongovernmental policy and research organization established in 2003 to conduct research, develop policy recommendations, and implement activities in the field of the rural development. One of the main strategic directions of our work is Natural Resources Management, including Forest Management.

Hereby, Rural Development Fund expresses its great interest on becoming a member of the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet) and notifies its willingness to accept and support the vision and objectives of APFNet and agrees with the items of the Operational Framework Document of APFNet.

Ms. Umut Zholdoshova , Environmental Programs Coordinator of RDF is nominated as a Focal Point of APFNet from RDF.

Detail contact information of the Focal Point is followings:

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We believe that our cooperation would positively impact on promoting sustainable forest management in our region.

Please, kindly find the signed form in an attachment: "Confirmation of Accepting the APFNet Operational Framework".

Yours sincerely,
Zakhifa Omorbekova

Director

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Brief information on public fund “Rural Development Fund”, Kyrgyzstan

The Rural Development Fund (RDF) is a non-for-profit and nongovernmental policy and research organization established in 2003 to conduct research, develop policy recommendations, and implement activities in the field of the rural development.

RDF's mission is to support locally appropriate initiatives to alleviate poverty and achieve sustainable development in rural areas.

RDF has hands-on experience in designing technical assistance, intervention, mobilizing staff, engaging local counterparts, ensuring results, and properly documenting experience and lessons learned for further dissemination. RDF designs survey and study methods, sampling methodology, develops survey tools, mobilizes and trains interviewers, and supervises their field work, conducts data entry and analysis, and provides analytical reports in English, Russian, and Kyrgyz languages.

RDF believes in the importance of local, national, and international context in achieving development objectives. RDF provides innovative ideas and approaches while drawing on practice from the region and technical expertise in a range of areas such as land and natural resources management, governance, social development and agricultural economics. Our major principles are Integrity, Responsiveness and Partnership. RDF has a track record of implementing programs with the involvement of multiple projects and/or donors on a collaborative basis. The main motto of the organization - *Local Solutions for Local Development* - which means use of knowledge, tools and innovative methods to improve the area and empower communities based on their local context, knowledge and experiences.

RDF Human Resources

There are 15 experts work with RDF. Many of the RDF staff members have academic degree PhD in sociology, biology, MA in social and environmental sciences. RDF has also experienced specialists in statistical data management and experts in agriculture. The RDF experts have been involved in the rural development and land reform issues since mid-90s and have strong experience in research as well as in supervision and implementation of various rural development projects. The RDF researchers were involved in a number of projects commissioned by the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, local government bodies, Soros Foundation, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, USAID as well as local institutions – CDIA, Ministry of Agriculture, State Agency on Environment and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz and others. The projects embraced research and recommendations related to governance issues and the land reform, forest management, pasture use and management, women's rights to land, role of traditional community based institutions in conflict resolution, empowerment of community leaders, social aspects of community mobilization, introduction of an academic course on rural development, improvement of rural infrastructure, etc. Some of our experts have been also involved in preparation, implementation, and evaluation of the donor-funded operations related to agriculture and rural development and have experience in conducting research in the Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Armenia.

Focus areas

RDF works in the following main directions: Nature Resources Management, Traditional Knowledge, Research and Analysis, Rural institutional development, Conflict prevention and mitigation and Community foundation. Within Natural Resource Management direction RDF's focus areas include: Forestry and non-timber forest products, Rangelands, Biodiversity Conservation and Water resources management.

RDF's contribution to Forest management sector of the Republic

RDF is one of the non-government organizations in the Republic which actively participated in forestry reform process in a close cooperation with the forestry authority. Started since 2010 in a frame of series of projects "Joint Forest Management in Kyrgyzstan", "Community Forest Ecosystems co-management in Kyrgyzstan", RDF has developed and initiated a model of forest ecosystem co-management that fully engages local communities in understanding their rights and responsibilities related to the management and use of natural forest resources. The model promotes a holistic concept of management and conservation, thereby jointly protecting bio-cultural diversity and sustainable use of the resources by vulnerable populations, based on traditional ecological knowledge of local communities and leading local and international practices. Currently the model has been piloting in two regions of the republic. The community ecosystem conservation and management model of RDF was acknowledged as a good practice by a wide range of stakeholders in Kyrgyzstan, especially by the State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic, Department of Forest Ecosystems Development. RDF takes active part in discussions on forest management reform in the republic, organized by donor community as well as by the forestry authorities.

There are projects implemented by RDF related to forestry sector:

- Forest and rural livelihoods in the Kyrgyz Republic - development potentials (PROFOR)
- Promoting community joint forest management in Kyrgyzstan
- Approach to participatory management of natural resources
- Kyrgyz Traditional Pastoral and Ecological Knowledge Dissemination and Bridging Support to the Community Co-management of Mountainous Ecosystems in the Kyrgyz Republic
- Community Co-management of Mountainous Ecosystems Model in the Kyrgyz Republic
- Biodiversity Protection in the Transboundary Region "Northern Tian Shan Mountains"