



Purpose: Information

Fourth Meeting of the APFNet Council

25 March 2018 Beijing, China

**Appraisal of APFNet Concept Notes and Formulation of
Project Proposals 2017**

1. 2017 Call for Concept Notes

By April, the APFNet Secretariat received 12 concept notes through the annual call for regular Projects¹, and following six were technically recommended by the Project Appraisal Panel (PAP) for further development into full proposals.

(1) Enabling Policies and Best Practices for Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests in Asia-Pacific Economies

Proponent: Chinese Academy of Forestry
Submitted by: State Forestry Administration of China
Project type: Research / policy development
Duration: 36 months

(2) Improving Capacities towards Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Peat Swamp Forest Fires in Indonesia

Proponent and submitted by: Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia
Project type: Research
Duration: 36 months

(3) Assessing the Conservation and Production Value of Managed Tropical Forests in Southeast Asia

Proponent: Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM)
Submitted by: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Malaysia
Project type: Research
Duration: 24 months

(4) Action Plan for the Rehabilitation of the Dry Forest Ecosystem in the Northern Region of Peru

Proponent and submitted by: National Forest and Wildlife Service (SERFOR), Peru
Project type: Policy development
Duration: 24 months

(5) Strengthening Community-based Sustainable Forest Management in Papua New Guinea

Proponent: Wildlife Conservation Society, PNG
Submitted by: PNG Forestry Authority
Project type: Demonstration project
Duration: 36 months

¹ A regular projects refers to one project that requests an APFNet funding exceeding USD 100,000 and spans 2-3 years in duration.

(6) The Development of Joint Forest Management Models through Creation of Nut and Nut-fruit Plantations and Planting Material in the Territory of Forest Fund and State Land Reserve of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Proponent and submitted by: Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, Uzbekistan

Project type: Demonstration project

Duration: 36 months

2. Formulation of Project Proposal in 2017

Following five project proposals developed from concept notes were considered as potential projects for APFNet project grants, with details as follows. ²

(1) Enabling Policies and Best Practices for Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests in Asia-Pacific Economies

Implementation agency: Chinese Academy of Forestry

Budget in USD (total / APFNet grant): 650,000 / 500,000

Target economies: China, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand

Objectives:

- Review previous forest rehabilitation projects in project economies, summarize experiences and lessons from success and failure;
- Identify strengths and weaknesses of different types of smallholder- and government-driven forest rehabilitation projects;
- Develop models for input supply networks and value chains for native tree species, to enhance their successful use in rehabilitation projects and improve incomes of farmers;
- Develop policy recommendations and decision-support tools to capacitate governments and stakeholders in incentivizing, designing and implementing successful and sustained rehabilitation projects.

Expected outcomes:

- Lists of strengths and weaknesses of previous forest rehabilitation projects for each economy and a summary report on lessons and experiences;
 - Strategies for sustaining rehabilitation efforts with native tree species and enhancing related benefits from rehabilitation projects;
 - Criteria for selecting species, seed sources and silvicultural measures and their integration in rehabilitation projects;
 - Policy recommendations and training materials for analyzing, planning and implementing successful forest rehabilitation projects.
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(2) Improving Capacities towards Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Peat Swamp Forest Fires in Indonesia

Implementation agency: Forest Research and Development Center, Forestry and Environment Research Development and Innovation Agency, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia

Budget in USD (total / APFNet grant): 805,570/483,390

Target economy: Indonesia

² Uzbekistan failed to submit the full project proposal by deadline.

Objectives:

- Develop a baseline of GHG emissions from peat swamp forests (PSF) of different degradation stages by empirically measuring fuel loads in fine and coarse size categories and determining combustion factors for each size class;
- Identify drivers of emissions from PSF fires;
- Develop the methodology for reducing GHG emissions based on the knowledge accrued in the project.

Expected outcomes:

- Improved estimates of GHG emissions (CO₂ and non-CO₂) from peat swamp forest fires based on comprehensive field measurements;
 - An updated methodology on estimating GHG emissions from PSF for Indonesia's international reporting;
 - A set of recommendations for reducing GHG emissions from forest fires;
 - High quality peer-reviewed publications making results of the project transparent and readily available for international reporting and verification under the UN-FCCC requirements for the result based payments on emission reduction
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(3) Assessing the Conservation and Production Value of Managed Tropical Forests in Southeast Asia

Implementation Agency: Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) & The French Agricultural Research and International Cooperation Organization (CIRAD)

Budget in USD (total / APFNet grant): 668,500/499,500

Target economies: Indonesia and Malaysia

Objectives:

- Strengthen and consolidate capacities among the different stakeholders (forestry departments, concessionaires, researchers) through the development of a regional office of the Tropical managed Forests Observatory (TmFO), and a web platform for sharing data, analytical methods and products.
- Assess the recovery of timber volume, above-ground biomass and carbon stocks up to 25 years post-logging through the analysis of existing data provided by permanent sample plots included in the Southeast Asian (SEA) TmFO network.
- Develop new silvicultural guidelines, based on (2), and maximize production of timber and environmental services in Southeast Asian forests, which will be disseminated during workshops and international conferences, i.e., IUFRO 2019 World Congress, and policy briefs.

Expected outcomes:

- Technical capacities among the different stakeholders strengthened and consolidated (e.g. forestry departments, concessionaires, NGOs) through the development of (i) a regional office of the Tropical managed Forests Observatory (TmFO) and (ii) a web platform for sharing information, analytical protocols and products among partners, and possibly a broader audience
 - Recovery of timber volume, above-ground biomass and carbon stocks across TmFO sites over periods of time up to 34 years post-logging assessed
 - New silvicultural guidelines developed, based on updated evidences, which maximize
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production of timber and environmental services in SEA forests.

(4) Action Plan for the Rehabilitation of the Dry Forest Ecosystem in the Northern Region of Peru

Implementation agency: National Forest and Wildlife Service (SERFOR)

Budget in USD (total / APFNet grant): 647,115/ 497,915

Target economy: Peru

Objectives:

- Elaborate a strategic action plan for the rehabilitation of dry forest, including mitigation and adaptation of ecosystems to climate change
- Strengthen the institutional capacities aiming to actively participation in risk prevention and restoration of degraded forest ecosystems of the public, private and civil society organizations.

Expected outcomes:

- Participatory design of a sub-national strategy for the restoration of the degraded forest ecosystem, within the framework of risk management of forest and climate change
- An interinstitutional committee for the sustainable management of forest resources and restoration of degraded forest landscapes
- Methodological packages validated with restoration and low-cost management strategies

(5) Strengthening Community-based Sustainable Forest Management in Papua New Guinea

Implementation agency: Wildlife Conservation Society

Budget in USD (total / APFNet grant): 625,000/ 500,000

Target economy: Papua New Guinea

Objectives:

- Achieve long-term protection of the Manus Great Central Forest while improving livelihoods of 9 landowning communities.
- Strengthen and expand existing initiatives in Manus
- Develop the opportunities for local livelihood diversification
- Increase the social adaptive capacity of the local communities in the face of future climate change.

Expected outcomes:

- Renewal of conservation agreements with up to 9 communities
 - Development of integrated forest land use plans covering up to 29,379 ha
 - Local capacity built to implement permaculture methods to increase productivity while decreasing the reliance on shifting agriculture
 - Establishment of demonstration community nurseries and woodlots to accelerate the regeneration of secondary forest into high-value timber producing stands
 - Improved local knowledge about native timber propagation, PNG forestry regulations, and principles of sustainable forestry
 - The feasibility of sustainable cash crop livelihood options is assessed and a work plan for the most promising option is developed
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Annex 1

Strategic Plan Matrix

The Strategic Plan Matrix below provides highlights of the strategic plan described in the preceding pages of APFNet Strategic Plan 2016-2020.

<i>Priorities</i> <i>Implementation Tools</i>	Rehabilitating degraded forests and increasing forest cover	Promoting sustainable forest management to enhance ecological functions and ecosystem security of forests	Enhancing forests' contribution to socio-economic development and improvement of local livelihoods
I. Capacity Building			
1.1 Training workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A need assessment on the priority topics for training workshops conducted • 150+ trained practitioners on different topics as determined by the need assessment 		
1.2 Scholarships for MS degree and specialized non-degree programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60+ scholarships supported in at least five forestry universities or colleges in the region awarded on topics related to the strategic priorities 		
1.3 Strengthening regional forestry education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More forestry deans from the region encouraged to join the FCDMM • Meetings of regional forestry deans supported • Follow-up to the decisions of those meetings supported • Survey on user satisfaction of the online course modules and a new needs assessment conducted • New online course modules prepared, as needed 		
II. Demonstration Projects	5+ projects on forest restoration 2+ best practice pilots on SFM 5+ projects on forest related livelihoods improvement		
III. Supporting Regional Policy Dialogues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least one regional policy dialogue relevant to APFNet's Strategic Priority Areas supported each year • Two high-level meetings convened in the region at the ministerial level 		
IV. Communication & Information sharing	APFNet learning hub established to share lessons and best practices on SFM and rehabilitation from the region and beyond. The hub will contain analytical studies, research findings, key publications from APFNet and other organizations, and relevant training materials, acting		

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	<p>as a one-stop shop for latest knowledge on SFM and rehabilitation issues.</p>
	<p>Publication series established to share good practices and information on incentives and management approaches and management and planning tools.</p>
	<p>Newsletters, brochures and other audio-video and social media approaches to raise awareness and public support for SFM and for APFNet.</p>
	<p>20+ study tours or staff exchanges to accelerate information sharing on innovations in forest conservation, management and development.</p>
	<p>5+ study tours and/or panel discussions for high-level policy makers to raise political commitment to SFM (ministers, parliamentarians, corporate CEOs, etc.).</p>
<p>V. Strengthening institutional aspects of APFNet</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building for APFNet Secretariat staff • Scholarships for MS degree and specialized non-degree programs in forestry provided to 10 Secretariat staff <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance issues including membership and legal standing of APFNet established <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding strategy developed and implemented <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New partnerships and collaborative activities formed <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M&E system developed and adopted