Agenda item 5

APFNet/Council&BoD/ENG/2019/07

Prepared by: APFNet Secretariat Purpose: Consideration

# Fifth Meeting of the APFNet Council

20-21 March 2019 | Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

# Proposed APFNet's Work Plan and Budget 2019

### 1. Introduction

APFNet Secretariat prepared this proposed work plan and budget (AWP&B 2019) to outline activities and projects to be implemented in 2019. The plan builds on progress achieved and concerns noted in 2018, consistent with and aiming to facilitate the achievement the priorities and objectives set forth in current APFNet Strategic Plan (Annex 1).

In line with the responsibilities stipulated in the Council's Rules of Procedure, members shall consider and provide recommendations on AWP&B 2019 to the Board of Directors for its approval.

### 2. Programs and activities

Consistent with APFNet's four pillars, programs and activities are grouped under capacity building, projects, regional policy dialogues and information sharing. A summary of planned activities and actions are listed below and Annex 2 provides details of parties involved, and expected outputs/outcomes.

### Capacity building

- (1). Under the APFNet Scholarship Program (ASP), four host universities plan to enroll 30 students for Master's programs in forestry-related disciplines. In addition, APFNet sponsorships for doctoral programs will be started in three host universities.
- (2). The Asia-Pacific Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism (AP-FECM) will share research findings of *Evolution of Forestry Disciplines in a Changing World* by publishing a report and its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held in second half of year.
- (3). As routine work, four thematic trainings will be organized for regional forest officials. Capacity building events will be also considered in Americas through partnership with University of British Colombia.
- (4). The Trainer in Forestry (TIF) Network will organize its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting to determine activities to promote exchange among forestry training officials in the region. In addition, a policy brief on public policies and training program arrangement will be developed and shared in the Network and to wider audience.

- (5). Building on the policy dialogue that led to the launch of the APFNet Transboundary Wildlife Conservation Initiative (@Wild) in March 2018, a study tour will be organized for GMS officials of wildlife conservation to facilitate on-site learning and perspective exchange on habitat protection for endangered wildlife species. This will follow up the training workshop held in Tangjiahe, China in June 2018.
- (6). Under Sino-ASEAN Network of Forestry Research Institutes (SANFRI), APFNet will support ten young researchers to conduct scientific researches in Yunan Academy of Forestry, in an effort to enhance their research capacity and to further contribute to networking and cooperation among the forestry research institutes.

### **Projects**

APFNet will continue to explore the policy-science-practice interface through projects which respond to members' needs for forest rehabilitation and sustainable forest management, taking into account ways to improve livelihoods. Project quality will be further improved through scientific project planning and implementation that involve local partners and consultants.

# (1). 2019 Call for project concept notes

Concept notes (CN) submitted by the end of April will be appraised in June and full proposals from successful proponents will be appraised in November on their technical merit. Recommendations will then be made to APFNet for funding.

From 2019 on, request for funding for policy and research projects will only be considered through small projects (with funding no more than USD 100,000) rather than regular projects (USD 300,000-500,000). Applications for these smaller projects will be accepted throughout the year.

- (2). Project proposal formulation and project development
- 4 proposals, including 3 appraised and recommended in 2017 and 1 in 2018, will be finalized for agreement signing:
- Enabling Policies and Best Practices for Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests in Asia-Pacific Economies (2017);
- Action Plan for Rehabilitation of the Dry Forest Ecosystem in Northern Peru (2017);
- Assessing the Conservation and Production Value of Managed Tropical Forests in Southeast Asia (2017); and
- Promoting Sustainable Production of Sandalwood in Pacific Island Economies (2018).
  - (3). Project implementation and management

It is anticipated that the Secretariat will sign agreements and kick off implementation for at least 5 projects, and that it will close 5 or more projects technically or administratively. Other ongoing projects total 15.

### Projects to be initiated:

 Demonstration on Integrated Planning and Management of Forest Ecosystem in Greater Mekong Sub-region - Vietnam site

- Demonstration on Integrated Planning and Management of Forest Ecosystem in Greater Mekong Sub-region –Thailand
- Improving Capacities towards Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Peat Swamp Forest Fires in Indonesia; and
- The four projects mentioned above.

### Projects to be completed:

- To Demonstrate the Development and Application of Standing-Tree Carbon Equations to Improve the Accuracy of Forest-Cover Carbon Stock Estimates in Thailand
- Community tree planting project in Papua New Guinea
- Landscape Approach to Sustainable Management of Forests in Prek Thnot Watersheds
- Capacity Building Towards Effective Implementation of Sustainable Forest Management Practices in Fiji, Tonga and Niue
- Adaptation of Asia-Pacific Forests to Climate Change
- Construction of a 8.4 ha mini botanic garden in Mongolia
- Development Participatory Management of Micro Catchment at the Bengawan Solo Upper Watershed
- Strengthening Urban Forestry Demonstration Site of Bang Kachao (Thailand) for Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Learning Center

Continuous efforts will be made to shift focus of implementation and management from process-based approaches to results-oriented ones, to look more at project outcomes and impacts as well as effective sharing and transfer of them. Capacity of project stakeholders will be further strengthened through in-project trainings and providing learning opportunities, knowledge-sharing events among APFNet project partners, and project promotion on proper occasions.

The Secretariat plans to conduct mid-term/terminal evaluations on 13 on-going/completed projects to assess performance and impacts.

### Regional policy dialogues

Emphasis will be put on facilitating the development of common understanding on forest and sustainable development-related issues through policy dialogue activities and exchange of information and experience on forest restoration and SFM.

- (1). To support GCA framework, APFNet will organize a Workshop on Vegetation Restoration in Greater Central Asia, to be held in second half of 2019, to enhance sharing and exchange of vegetation restoration policies, techniques and cases studies, to further facilitate the implementation of the Astana Statement.
- (2). Under the Forestry Planning Network (FPN), APFNet will organize an event in July for knowledge exchange and communications on best practices of forest restoration in terms of policies, planning and implementation of the plans to further improve the availability and accessibility of forestry planning information and help to strengthen the capacity of strategic planners in the region.

Information sharing and communication

APFNet concept of sustainable forest management and rehabilitation, achievements and knowledge products will be presented at APFW 2019(June, Korea), IUFRO World Congress (September Brazil), etc. 2 books entitled *An exploration of the Three North Forest Shelter Belt Development Program* and *Fragmentation of Forest Governance in Asia-Pacific Region* will be published.

Work will continue on the development of APFNet's website as an effective information hub on sustainable forest management and rehabilitation.

### **Partnerships**

APFNet will continue to enhance cooperation with partners, including cooperation with FAO on APFW 2019.

### Governance and operations

Governance and institutional matters

The Secretariat will make further efforts to involve Council and Board in APFNet strategic planning and activities, as well as other oversight and decision-making processes. Secretariat will continue to coordinate with relevant Chinese ministries and government agencies to sign the MoU that reaffirms the host economy's commitment to the organization.

### Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

This will be further enhanced by carrying out following tasks

- (1). Complete Ten-year review to assess APFNet impacts and values to the region, and overall governance and management of APFNet, and to provide a solid base for the development of future strategies and plans;
- (2). Guidelines for APFNet Project M&E will be updated.

# Administration, finance, human resource management

Building on the comprehensive review conducted 2018, the Secretariat will revise APFNet travel and contract management policies, and monitor their implementation. The secretariat will enhance liaison with government agencies in China to achieve sustainable funding, while continuing its efforts to diversify its funding sources.

Training and career development for staff will be continually strengthened, by organizing presentations, academic lectures, study tours, staff exchange with international organizations, opportunities of training and educational programs.

### 3. Budget 2019

In 2019, appx. USD 10.96 million will be available through grants and contributions from the Chinese government, to support operations and activities of APFNet. The budgets by category are detailed in the table below.

Category	Budget(in USD)
APFNet programs and activities	
Capacity building	971,928
Projects	5,216,293
(Development, implementation, and monitoring and evaluations)	3,210,273
Regional policy dialogues	931,738
Communication and information sharing	739,730
Subtotal	7,859,689
APFNet Operations	
Governance and institutional matters	188,152
(Meetings and travels relating to Council and Board matters)	
HR	1,428,294
Administration	987608
Partnerships, networking and outreach	275,912
(Outreach/partner events, joint activities, collaboration, travel,	
hospitality)	
Others(M&E and APFNet presence in Americas)	220,244
Subtotal	3,100,210
Total	10,959,899

Note: Amounts in USD are converted from Chinese Yuan (CNY) at an exchange rate of 6.8632, released by the central bank of China on 28 December 2018.

## Annex:

- 1. APFNet Strategic Plan Matrix 2016-2020
- 2. Proposed Activities and Operations 2019

Annex 2

# **Proposed Activities and Operations 2019**

S
Target sub-region: GMS, SA, (1)Training on "forest rehabilitation and management" in July in Kumming, China (2)Training on "forestry and rural livelihood development" in November in Kunming, China  1 Regular thematic Target sub-region: GCA (3)A study tour for senior GCA officials on "Combating Desertification and Sustainable Management of Dryland Ecosystems towards Livelihood Improvement" in July in Inner Mongolia, China (4)Training for GCA officers on "Combating Desertification and Catalanting Desertification and Catalantication and Catalanting Desertification and Catalantication and Catalanticatio

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	w	2	
APFNet Scholarship Program (ASP)		Facilitate exchange and cooperation among forestry trainers and policy makers through Trainers in Forestry Network (TIF)	
Doctoral program (new initiative) (1)Program call for application to be announced in March (2)Program promoted regionally	Master's program (routine work)(1)Program call for application to be announced in March (2)Program promoted regionally	5th TIF meeting to be held to discuss future activities for the Network for 2019-2021	in September in Inner Mongolia, China  Target sub-region: Americas (5) 1-2 capacity building events on sustainable forest management
Around 4-6 qualified candidates will be sponsored to pursue Doctoral Degree	Around 30 qualified candidates will be sponsored to pursue Master's Degree.	TIF Work Plan, revised Program Concept Note	4. Feedbacks on the training topics and arrangements will be collected and analyzed for the design of future events
SP Matrix: I (1.2) SP Matrix: I (1.2)			
Beijing Forestry University (BFU) Nanjing Forestry University (NFU) Northwest Agricultual and Forestry University(NWAFU)  BFU, NFU, NWAFU		APFNet secretariat	

APFNet Secretariat		4 project proposals will be finalized and ready for agreement signing	Feasibility studies or stakeholder consultations will be organized, when deemed necessary, to	Assistance on project formulation	6
rioject Appiatsat raist		Submitted project proposals will be appraised by PAP and recommended for APFNet funding	Project proposal appraisal meeting will be held in November	Call for project 2017	·
		Collected concept notes will be appraised by PAP to select good ones for further consideration	Project concept note appraisal meeting will be held in June	Call for ancion 2010	٨
Responsible party	Contributions to Strategic Plan 2016- 2020	Expected results/outputs/outcomes(as monitoring indicators)	Actions /Implementation approaches	Activity/Task	No.
				ects	II. Projects
		<ol> <li>1. 10 member universities to attend the meeting;</li> <li>2. meeting summary to be circulated</li> </ol>	To organize the 6th AP-FECM meeting		
Executive Office of AP-FECM	SP Matrix: I (1.3)	Evolution of forestry disciplines in a changing world will be widely shared	To coordinate publication of Annual Forestry Education Report	Asia-Pacific Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism(AP-FECM)	4
APFNet secretariat and host universities	SP Matrix: I (1.2)	1. The annual Program evaluation by APFNet and self-evaluation will be completed as planned. 2. Concerns or issues raised by students will be addressed in a timely manner.	Communication with host universities and awardees will be effectively maintained to track and assess the program progress		

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Successfully close 5 or more projects	Successfully launch 5 or more new projects	
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Conduct the project terminal evaluation by the consultants; Convene the project completion workshop(optional); Administrative and financial closure; Send out the completion approval letter and transfer the balance to the EA.	Prepare project agreement (PA) for signing; Convene the project inception workshop with major consensus reached on project technical, financial and managerial aspects; Develop and approve the first Annual Work Plan (AWP1) with annual targets well identified.	facilitate development of quality project proposals
. 4 . 4	1. 3.	
5 or more project terminal evaluation reports produced and feedbacks given to the EA; 5 or more project completion workshops convened; 5 or more project completion letters sent out and balance transferred; Project deliverables produced, documented and shared.	5 or more PAs signed with commitments from project stakeholders; 5 or more project inception workshops convened; 5 or more AWPs approved and project activities started.	
Priority 1, 2,3 SP Matrix: II	Priority 1, 2,3 SP Matrix: II	
APFNet Secretariat, project partners	APFNet Secretariat, project partners	

consultants and project partners	Priority 1, 2,3 SP Matrix: II	knowledge products produced;  2. A draft publication, documenting the APFNet flagship projects on forest rehabilitation (optional);  3. APFNet project cases shared in International or regional events.	Excellence Cases on Forest Rehabilitation (optional); 3. Participate in international or regional workshops for information-sharing.  ogues	3. I  (iii)  (ii	III. Sup
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_	Priorit SP Ma			achievements and lessons	10
	Priori			project results,	10
Priority 1, 2,3 Appropriate Secretariat			Communication Strategies;	Produce, disseminate	
			Annual Project		
		Strategies implemented and	products according to		
		1. Annual Project Communication	<ol> <li>Produce knowledge</li> </ol>		
			implementers.		
			opportunities for project		
		5. Risks reduced or controlled.	trainings or learning		
		project stakeholders;	3. Facilitate in-project		
SP Matrix: II and project partners	SP Ma	4. Efficient communication among	& evaluation;		
Priority 1, 2,3 evaluators, consultants	Priorit	feedbacks;	2. Conduct project monitoring	ongoing projects	9
APFNet Secretariat,		3. M&E conducted with positive	projects;	Manage 20 or more	
		accomplished;	management of ongoing		
		2. Annual project targets	communication		
		well implemented against AWPs;	progress, stakeholder,		
		1. 20 or more ongoing projects are	1. Conduct scope, cost, risk,		

15	No.	14		
Database of regional forest laws and policies (Continued activity)	Activity/Task	Support the Sino- ASEAN Network of Forestry Research Institutes (SANFRI) to improve scientific research capabilities and communication skills of young forestry researchers in the Asia- Pacific region.  Secretaria running a running a running a meeting,	increase cooperation for wildlife conservation among GMS economies	
To complete data collection and editing for 20 APFNet member economies	Actions/Implementation approaches	Secretariat will track the project running and provide support SANFRI steering committee meeting, second half of 2019	promote the experience exchange among government agencies responsible for wildlife conservation.	
Database to be established and data shared at APFNet website	Expected results/outputs/outcomes (as monitoring indicators)	<ol> <li>10 young scholars received by Yunnan Academy of Forestry, to carry out research activities or join research programs</li> <li>Research findings to be shared among SANFRI</li> <li>Scientific research capabilities of young forestry researchers to be enhanced via the program</li> </ol>		
SP Matrix: IV(4.1)	Contributions to Strategic Plan 2016- 2020	Matrix IV-4		
APFNet and member economies	Responsible party	APFNet Secretariat; Yunnan Academy of Forestry		

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19	18	17	16
APFNet annual report 2019	Publicity and media coverage of major APFNet projects and events	Three-North Shelterbelt Programme of China	Publishing Fragmentation of Forest Governance in the Asia-Pacific region (Continued activity)
the report to be released in early 2020	1. To publicize the International Symposium on Forestry Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region in July 2) To publicize the launch of the project "Wangyedian Training Center" 3) To publicize the launch of the Vietnam project "Integrated Forest Ecosystem Management Planning and Demonstration in the Greater Mekong Subregion" in May	To publish a report on experiences and lessons learnt of forest restoration in arid and semiarid area in China	To publish the report
APFNet activities to be summarized and shared in the region	APFNet promoted among members and partners	Report to be promoted in the region	Research results of the report to be promoted in the region
SP Matrix: IV(4.3)	SP Matrix: IV(4.3)	SP Matrix: IV(4.1)	SP Matrix: IV(4.1)
APFNet Secretariat	APFNet Secretariat and project/programme partners	APFNet Secretariat	APFNet Secretariat

Expected results/outputs/outcomes (as monitoring indicators)  (1) Joint events successfully held (2) Opportunities for cooperation further explored  1) Communication and collaboration with partners enhanced and new opportunities explored  2) Promotional events and exhibitions organized  Contributions to Strategic Plan 2016-2020  SP Matrix: V(5.5)
Contributio to Strategic Plan 2016-2020  SP Matrix: V(5.5)  SP Matrix: V(5.5)

VI. Proj	24	23	22	
VI. Projects and Activities supported from the APFNet Fund	Raise public awareness of the importance of forests	Symposium on Forestry Cooperation in Asia- pacific Region (July, Chifeng, China)	Outreach events in China	
ed from the APFNet Fund	To organize promotional activities in ChaoYang and Chifeng, China	Reducing fragmentation and strengthen regional collaboration and cooperation among economies, international organizations addressing forest issues.	<ol> <li>Study tour to project sites in China for embassy staff in September</li> <li>2020 New year reception to be organized in December</li> </ol>	4) Global Landscape Forum 5) 14th UNFF Session, 6-10 May 6) 55th ITTO Session in November
	Students from primary and high schools educated on forest knowledge	Needs, priorities, and key areas for regional forestry cooperation identified	<ol> <li>Results/information communicated to partners on a regular basis;</li> <li>Good relations maintained with organizations, institutes, universities and other partners</li> </ol>	
	SP Matrix: IV	SP Matrix: III,IV	SP Matrix: IV	
	Green Forestry and Ecological Environment Protection Association (GFEEP) and Wildlife Protection Association (WLPA)	Co-organized by APFNet, National Forestry and Grassland Administration, China, FAO RAP, and ITTO	APFNet	

26	No.	25
Enhance involvement of Board and Council in APFNet's work and efforts to improve governance, decisionmaking and the advisory process	Activity/Task	Support community- based enterprises in GMS region
To organize Fifth Meetings of Council and Board of Directors in March in Mongolia	Actions /Implementation approaches	To provide Thai project with wood processing machinery(chain-saws)
1. APFNet work regularly reported, monitored and assessed 2. Decisions, recommendations and suggestions made to direct APFNet's work 2019 (3)Communication and information sharing enhanced among members and partners for mutual understanding & cooperation exploration (4)Routine institutional work done in line with Rules of Procedure of Council and Board (5)Responsibilities further defined for efficient involvement of Board and Council	Expected results/outputs/outcomes (as monitoring indicators)	Efficiency of wood processing raised
SP Matrix: V	Contributions to Strategic Plan 2016-2020	SP Matrix: II
APFNet Secretariat, Board and Council	Responsible party	APFNet Secretariat and Planning & Design Institute of Forest Products Industry, State Forestry Administration of Thailand

Preparation for Sixth Meetings of Council and Board of Directors in 2020	Secretariat's support in intersessional engagements of Council, Board  - 10 year review  - Council members' engagement in APFNet matters, including recommendation of candidates, resource persons. Support for cooperation exploration, exchange events,  - Board and its sub-groups for ED-PE 2019, 10 year review, oversight and advice on finance, administration, programs, and partnership	To report quarterly to the Council and the Board between meetings
Agenda development further improved	involvement to be further enhanced, with more skills and experience adding valuing to APFNet's activities and development	3. Quarterly reports (June, September and December) distributed to the Council and the Board to enhance monitoring and oversight of APFNet's performance,
		SP Matrix: V, VI(6.6)
APFNet Secretariat and host economy	Board and Council	APFNet Secretariat

28	No.	<b>УШ.</b> М		27
APFNet Ten-year review	Activity/Task	VIII. Monitoring and evaluation		Facilitate APFNet's operations in host economy
To conduct the review by an independent review team through visits, meetings, interviews as well as documentation review  Details see evaluation plan	Actions /Implementation approaches		Communication with and reporting to the host economy, a consultation meeting to be held with relevant ministries in China	To enhance communication with National Forestry and Grassland Administration(NFGA) and other Chinese ministries to advance MoU signing to reaffirm commitment of the host economy to support such provisions as premises, financial and human resources
<ol> <li>An evaluation report to be produced on effectiveness and impacts of APFNet and its programs</li> <li>Recommendations provided for the future direction, strategy and priorities of APFNet.</li> </ol>	Expected results/outputs/outcomes (as monitoring indicators)			1. Long-term institutional support ensured 2. Further assurances obtained for APFNet operation in China
SP Matrix: V(5.6)	Contributions to Strategic Plan 2016- 2020			SP Matrix: V(5.3)
APFNet Secretariat, Board, Council and partners	Responsible party		APFNet	APFNet

33	No.	IX. Sec	31
Policy review and amendment	Activity/Task	IX. Secretariat Operations: Administration, HR, Finance	APFNet M&E on projects  Improve Guidelines for APFNet Project Monitoring and Evaluation
<ol> <li>To revise travel policies;</li> <li>To revise the rule of contracts management;</li> <li>To revise the rule of service suppliers management</li> </ol>	Actions /Implementation approaches	istration, HR, Finance	To evaluate 15 projects on midterm or on completion, either by secretariat or by independent evaluators, via proper and costeffective means  1. To review current guideline on project evaluation to identify gaps and problems;  2. To develop a set of evaluation indicators for different project types;  3. To update M&E document templates.
(1)Policies and rules reviewed, updated and implemented (2)APFNet administrative and financial operations monitored and efficiency enhanced (3)Financial management improved, and safety and efficiency of APFNet financial resources increased.	Expected results/outputs/outcomes (as monitoring indicators)		Evaluation findings, results and recommendations shared in a timely manner to either contribute to remaining implementation of projects, or to future project planning  (1) An updated Guidelines for APFNet Project Monitoring and Evaluation will be applied before September to further standardize the process internally and externally,  (2) M&E results shared and contributed to APFNet project
SP Matrix: V(4)	Contributions to Strategic Plan 2016- 2020	2 5	SP Matrix: V(5.6) V(5.6)
APFNet Secretariat	Responsible party		APFNet Secretariat, evaluators  APFNet Secretariat

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35	34							
Annual audit	Promote development of human resources							
An independent auditing company will be appointed for the financial performance in 2019	Build capacity in the Secretariat through: (1) Continue to implement the staff capacity building plan with scholarship program and staff exchange (2) Attend regular training, lectures, field visits(3)  Participate in important meetings and events with specific responsibilities (4)  Explore opportunities to join activities with experienced consultants; (5) Support the further education in the spare time							
An independent auditor's report produced	Capacity of Secretariat staff enhanced (1) 2 staff will complete study for MS degree and back to work, and new ones will be sent; (2) Staff seconded to FAORAP or other international organizations to enrich their work experience and professional capacity; (3) Regular training organized on Fridays; (4) Field visits organized; (5) Attended international meetings; (6) Participated in the joint research with UBC; (7)Staff encouraged to take the academic education in the spare time							
SP Matrix: V(4)	SP Matrix: V(1.2)							
APFNet Secretariat	APFNet Secretariat, Partners							