



## Contributions to Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through demonstration projects

### Side Event

### Collaboration with the Royal Forest Department of Thailand and the Regional Model Forest Network



Friday, 9 May 2025 1:15–2:30 PM

Conference Room 7, UNHQ, New York, United States of America

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## Background

**Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)** has been influential in promoting sustainable forest management throughout the region since its establishment in 2008. With a growing membership of 27 economies and five organizations, APFNet focuses on four main pillars: **capacity building**, **demonstration projects**, **policy dialogues**, and **communication and information sharing**.

In collaboration with regional partners, APFNet has funded approximately 60 demonstration projects to restore degraded lands, enhance forest productivity, and boost socio-economic benefits. With its vast network of forestry education and research institutes, APFNet has also supported hundreds and thousands of students and young researchers through several mechanisms, such as **the Asia-Pacific Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism (AP-FECM)** and **the Sino-Asean Network of Forestry Research Institutes (SANFRI)**, to develop technical and policy competencies of forestry professionals and advance forestry research in the region.

More or less, most of these projects that APFNet has supported impact regional forestry development, increase the capability of forestry professionals, and support livelihoods. Regional economies are constantly improving and adjusting forestry policies and development plans, and have accumulated experience and lessons in strengthening forest management, promoting forest restoration, and developing forestry industries in the new era. At the same time, understanding the **multi-functional forests** is deepening, such as coping with climate change, biodiversity protection,

livelihood improvement, etc. In particular, the forestry industry of developing economies in the region is in a critical period of transformation, and is striving to find a development path of synergy between protection and development, unity of ecology preservation and people's livelihood improvement, as well as harmony between man and nature.

To enhance **collaboration on SFM** and upscale actions and impacts on the ground through APFNet-funded demonstration projects, to further advance policy dialogue and capacity building programs, APFNet is sharing **SFM best practices** and **experiences** and discussing challenges and emerging issues from demonstration projects to further advance an integrated approach to climate change, biodiversity, land, and forest agendas at all levels and **enhance dialogue** with UNFF Members and regional partners and groups.

**The Regional Model Forest Network—Asia (RMFN-Asia)** initiative brings people across Asia together to help them sustainably manage their landscapes. The regional secretariat for RMFN-Asia is **based at RECOFTC's main office** in Bangkok, with a **Chair at the [Royal Forest Department in Thailand](#)**.

**The Ngao Model Forest** encompasses the entire Ngao district in Lamphang Province, Thailand, covering 1,751 square kilometres. The Ngao Model Forest joined the International Model Forest Network (IMFN) in 2000, and since then, stakeholders—ranging from national and subnational government agencies, universities, NGOS, and the private sector—have been working to protect the forest's ecosystem. The Model Forest has increased local awareness and participation in forest conservation activities, including using bamboo plantations to restore unsustainable land-use, monocropping and forest fire protection initiatives. The Model Forest's management focuses on building linkages between landscape restoration and livelihood development to contribute to environmental and social benefits like climate mitigation and biodiversity conservation. (source: <https://iucn.org/resources/factsheet/model-forests-around-world-thailand>)

The speakers will share their practices and models for sustainable forest management, including the International Model Forest Network Secretariat (Canadian Forest Service), on how Model Forests can be managed in a **sustainable, inclusive, and equitable** way while contributing directly and indirectly to the achievement of most of the **17 SDGS**.

## Objectives

- APFNet's actions, activities and dialogues contribute to SFM in the region and the SDGS.
- Introduce the Regional Model Forest Network—Asia (RMFN-Asia) and its activities.
- Share best practices, experiences, challenges, and emerging issues in SFM.
- Strengthen partnerships and networks to promote SFM practices through collaboration with APFNet and RMFN-Asia.

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## Agenda

### 1. Opening Remarks:

- APFNet and the Royal Forest Department of Thailand

### 2. Presentations and speakers:

- **Sustaining Forests for a Resilient Future: Contributions and Lessons Learnt from Demonstration Projects**
  - Ms. Xin Shuyu, Director of the Project Management Division of the APFNet
- **Empowering Youth, Bridging Nations: SANFRI's Inclusive Model for Accelerating Global Forest Goals**
  - Ms Wang Jiayi, Director of Policy Dialogue Division of the APFNet
- **Achievements and lessons learnt from the Ngao Model Forest project in Lampang Province, Thailand:**
  - By the Royal Forest Department.
- **Practices and models for sustainable forest management:**
  - By the International Model Forest Network Secretariat (Canadian Forest Service).  
*(tentative)*
- **Q&A, Discussion**

### 3. Closing Session:

This event aims to enhance collaboration, share valuable insights, and foster ongoing dialogue between UNFF Members and regional partners, ultimately contributing to a more sustainable and resilient future for forests worldwide.