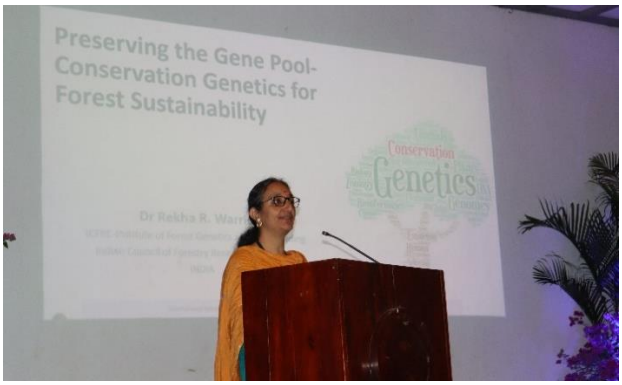
APFORGEN Annual Meeting and International Symposium

Asia's unique forests and trees: Conserving diversity, building resilience, enhancing productivity

19-23 May 2025



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Background

In conjunction with the celebration of the International Day for Biodiversity 2025, the Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN) has organized its annual meeting and international symposium at the University of the Philippines Los Baños from 19-23 May 2025, together with the College of Forestry and Natural Resources of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (CFNR, UPLB), the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, and the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI). The activities were made possible with funding support from the Republic of Korea through the National Institute of Forest Sciences (NIFoS).

The meeting had seven main objectives:

1. To provide updates on implementing APFORGEN's strategy by learning from the experiences of representative member countries.
2. To share initiatives and collaboration opportunities in member countries.
3. To share key findings from Asia through presentations and discussions in the Symposium.
4. To share and identify collaboration, funding, and positioning opportunities.
5. To review and prioritize targets under the APFORGEN's objectives and identify the top three key activities to be carried out.
6. To honor APFORGEN's past board members, and to elect new board members for the next three-year term (2025-2028).
7. To conduct a one-day MyFarmTrees workshop as a digital platform for monitoring and incentivizing tree planting efforts.

The three-day programme consisted of day 1 focusing on sharing APFORGEN's strategy objectives 2023-2030 and its outcome, lessons learned from the regional project, updates from representative member countries on their work in Forest Genetic Resources (FGR) conservation and application, sharing on key findings in the second report taken from the FAO publication on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources, and also sharing of positioning and fundraising opportunities related to the APFORGEN targets. Day 2 programme saw the APFORGEN international symposium - Asia's unique forests and trees: Conserving diversity, building resilience, enhancing productivity which included presentations on research findings, discussion and reflection of forest and biodiversity research, and identification of possible collaborating activities . While day 3 covered a training workshop on using MyFarmTrees digital platform in both theoretical and practical applications, a presentation on APFORGEN's report of the Board meeting of 2024, the dissolution of the past APFORGEN board members, and the election of new board members, as well as prioritization of APFORGEN's target objectives and identification of key activities to be carried out for each prioritized target. Additionally, the last day's activity covered a short campus tour and a cultural visit to the Villa Escudero Plantations & Resort, where

participants got to experience nature, biodiversity and cultural show in the area, after an intensive day of activities and get to know each other better.

The meeting was attended by 30 participants—scientists, researchers, and experts from APFORGEN member countries, including Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. Key speakers and identified partner members also participated in the programme activities. The Annual workshop and symposium programme overview is provided in Annexes 1 and 2. The list of participants is provided in Annex 3.

Day 1 – 19 May 2025

Welcome and Introductions

Zheng Yongqi and Rekha Warrier, co-chairs of APFORGEN, welcomed the participants to the annual workshop. **Rekha Warrier** began by expressing her gratitude to Riina Jalonen (who was unable to join in person at the meeting) for her consistent support and as a moving force in the APFORGEN programmes. She also thanked UPLB and the team for coordinating, facilitating, and hosting the programme at the UPLB campus.

Rekha Warrier then highlighted APFORGEN's strategic objectives 2023-2030 and its outcome stories. In general, the present APFORGEN's strategic objectives 2023-2030 were presented at the 30th Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission in Sydney, Australia, October 2023. Based on the different actions listed in the Global Plan of Action on Forest Genetic Resources of the FAO, four strategic objectives were addressed as below. The full strategy document, containing the scope of activities in each region, is available on the APFORGEN website (www.apforgen.org).

1. Mobilize political and financial support for integrated management of forest genetic resources in land use, biodiversity and climate policies, strategies and programmes;
2. Make information about the region's forest and tree genetic resources available and accessible to support their sustainable management and research;
3. Develop conservation and sustainable use strategies for regionally important and threatened tree species;
4. Strengthen tree seed systems to facilitate ecosystem restoration, support local livelihoods and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The outcome activities included US$1.48M funds raised for the implementation of the previous strategy (2018-2022), getting Siamese and Burmese rosewoods listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, and bringing recommendations to conserve the genetic resources of

threatened trees into the National Forest policy of Laos. Lastly, Rekha Warrier called on the biggest achievements that APFORGEN can claim in the future, and this includes that each country brings small changes to introduce the need for conservation of forest genetic resources into their National policy.

Lessons from the regional project: Strengthening Collaborative Tree Seed Supply Systems for Restoration in Asia

Pin Kar Yong, who moderated the session, started by inviting Rekha Warrier, Enrique Tolentino Jr., Vivi Yuskianti, and Zahidur Rahman Miah for a panel discussion on strengthening collaborative tree seed supply systems for restoration in their respective countries. The objectives of the session were to share the key activities implemented for the past few years and to have APFORGEN members learn and get ideas on opportunities to conduct similar activities in their own countries.

Briefly, the project titled 'Strengthening collaborative tree seed supply systems for restoration in Asia' was participated in by four member countries, including Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and the Philippines, for 3 years from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2025. The project was coordinated and led by Riina Jalonen from the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, with the project partners of the Bangladesh Forest Department, ICFRE-Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (ICFRE-IFGTB), National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) Indonesia, College of Forestry and Natural Resources University of the Philippines Los Baños, and Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh in collaboration with the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme. The project was funded under the UK Darwin Initiative, amounting to GBP 200,000, and was initiated under the United Nations Decades of Ecosystem Restoration in poverty prevention and combating global climate change.

Generally, the implementation of forest landscape restoration (FLR) projects is hindered by: 1. Overall lack of native tree seed to meet the targets; 2. Lack of information about the quality and origin or available seed to support seed selection; 3. Lack of integration of informal seed suppliers in supply chains; and 4. Lack of information about effective seed sourcing strategies for a changing climate. Given this, the project aimed to strengthen institutional and technical capacities in tree seed supply chains in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia and the Philippines, so that the FLR projects are linked with quality seed sources, and the local seed producers are linked with customers to support local livelihood and sustainable forest management. Four outputs and two outcomes were identified in the project:

Outputs	Outcomes
Output 1: Identified gaps in seed source availability Output 2: Improved access to information on seed and seed sources Output 3: Improved understanding of seed quality and community roles in seed sourcing among FLR implementers Output 4: Tested approaches for connecting FLR implementers and seed producers	1. FLR implementers use information on seed demand and supply to improve seed availability 2. FLR implementers pilot opportunities for seed supply with local people

Following this, each panel member shared the most significant achievements in strengthening tree seed supply systems in their country. This is summarized in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Summary of outcomes or achievements from the tree seed supply systems project.

Country and Regional representative	Outcomes/Achievements
INDONESIA Vivi Yuskianti, National Research and Innovation Agency, Indonesia	Two main outcomes achieved: 1. Five species models for the development of modelling for the suitability of species with habitat, and in connection with seed sources. - This helps with planning of species for restoration, outlining scientific guidelines for habitat suitability, and in economic and policy development 2. Development of a forestry seed information system as a comprehensive information system, which integrates seed source certification with seed quality and seedling quality certification. - The system helps to overcome the issue of only one database on seed source certification in the Ministry of Forestry, Indonesia. Besides that, the system also offers a one-click solution to ease different national, regional, and provincial level authorities in the valuation of the whole seed chain system. - Allows for capacity building and seed funding in two provinces in Indonesia, with more than 170 persons benefiting from the training and more than 14 forest farmer groups obtaining seed funding under the project.
INDIA: Rekha Warrier, Institute of Forest Genetics and	- In the tree improvement program, there was quite a lot of seed sources established, including seedling sources, seed stands, seed production area, and seedling seed orchards. It was emphasized that seeds should be procured from particular and available seed source stands. - Main outcome on the capacity building programme:

Tree Breeding (ICFRE-IFGTB), India	1. Provide 6 trainings to different groups of FLR practitioners, including the Tamil Nadu Forest Department staff and the ground-level staff within a state to sensitize them to the need for quality seed sources and the planting location. Following the success of the training, the Department ensured the entire group (around thousand) of the Department was also given training as a follow-up to the training given to the specific group. Emphasis was on indigenous and native species to restore back to their near natural conditions. 2. Identify the orchards' capacity to produce seeds and assess their quality. Evaluate the need to establish additional orchards to meet demand and determine the best planting methods. Also, sensitize private nurseries to the need for identified seed sources to ensure quality improvement and productivity enhancement of the species planted over a period of time.
THE PHILIPPINES: Enrique Tolentino Jr., University of the Philippines Los Baños	- Application of nature-based solutions in FLR using native tree species is observed important due to a lack of information to identify reliable sources of major native species for restoration. - Gap analysis carried out and sent to the journal for publication has shown the absence of data and studies in terms of climate-resilient primary tree species in the forests that can adapt to and address increasing climate change impact. - Main outcome of the capacity building programme: 1. Training provided to students to use the analytical tool for species distribution modeling and seed zone mapping for at least five native tree species in the forest conservation project in Mindanao. This helps to address widespread poverty and socioeconomic issues. 2. The funding from the project has supported 10 farmer groups and nursery operators to improve their nursery operations. 3. Awareness programme was provided to the local communities who operate nurseries and collect seeds on the importance of seed quality. 4. The information system developed through the project has also provided easily accessible information to the restoration practitioners.
BANGLADESH: Zahidur Rahman Miah, Bangladesh Forest Department	- Gap analysis for seed collector, nursery seedling and landscape restoration manager has been completed. Five different native tree species were prepared by using forest inventory data. - Thousands of species have been reported for the IUCN Red List and seed zone maps were created for these species. Results from Red Data listing has found out 39.5% tree species in Bangladesh are facing Threatened status, with 5 species Critically Endangered. - To ensure tree species conservation in Bangladesh, the Forestry Department has already assessed invasive species in 5 protected areas. - An MoU has signed for the Darwin project in the future project for quality seed supply chain and would like to involve female and other informal groups in the formal platform.

	- In the future, it is planned to establish seed zone mapping and a formal platform on the seed supply chain, used by the Forest Department for the threatened species to ensure quality seedlings are available for FLR activities.

On future projects to be carried out, **Enrique Tolentino Jr.** suggested improvement of the APFORGEN network that has already been established, especially on sharing of experiences and good lessons learned from partner countries (e.g. Indonesia, India) and cascading to other institutions. Besides that, institutions, for example Korea could also share their information on seed zoning to the APFORGEN member countries. In addition, based on the concept of seed database learned from Indonesia and the Philippines, **Rekha Warrier** mentioned that India has started a database that includes information on seed sources and seed suppliers. The OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme has also helped the country to frame regulations for tree seed certification. For this, **Rekha Warrier** proposed a national-level project to identify minimum seed certification processes for tree seed certification in India, where the OECD will act as a technical partner, so the country will have a policy to guide the seed certification process. In framing the guidelines, emphasis will also be given to seed and seedling quality, to enhance the percentage of quality seeds planted in the country. For Bangladesh, **Zahidur Rahman Miah** mentioned that the Department is currently constructing a draft project proposal for vulnerable and threatened seeds in the country, and establish a formal platform for genetically improved seed supply, and also on tree seed act, which are proposed to be carried out under the future project with the hope of getting fund from state owned financial platform Bangladesh Climate Change Trust. For Indonesia, recognising that each APFORGEN member country is facing similar problem, **Vivi Yuskianti** called for each member country to have regional cooperation through learning and adopting good practices from other member countries. She also added that the Ministry of Forestry in Indonesia are looking forward to more species distribution modeling in many projects and working together for adoption of information systems for national implementation to support forest restoration and rehabilitation.

Ongoing initiatives in member countries

Zheng Yongqi provided updates on the Forest Genetic Resources (FGR) conservation and utilization in China. Among others, these include national capacity development for FGR through training workshop and lectures on FGR survey, collection, documentation, characterization and evaluation, genotyping and gene identification; technical study tours; joint research proposals, funding proposals through various channels; and continuous work on *in situ*, *ex situ*, and conservation at Seed Bank facilities.

Then, **Benjarat Prompen** shared updates on the seed supply and seed management from the Royal Forest Department (RFD), Thailand, particularly on the teak cloning, seed manager, intercrop of selected Thailand rosewood (*Dalbergia cochinchinensis*) with other tree species in the forest plot, and planning for seed collection by RFD. Lastly, **Rekha Warrier** shared her experiences on multi-organization collaboration and joint initiatives with agencies such as FAO and the Alliance Bioversity of International and CIAT to produce 'Handbook on Asian Rosewoods', and 'Policy Briefs on Tree Seed Sources for Effective Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR)'. Also, an international conference on population genetics will be held in Coimbatore, India, in January 2026, hosted by ICFRE-IFGTB and co-organized by IUFRO and APFORGEN. The details are available in the APFORGEN website.

Global processes and programmes on forest genetic resources

Jarkko Koskela from FAO presented key findings of the second report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources (SoW-FGR), which was recently published in March 2025. Briefly, the second report assesses the progress that has been made in implementing the Global Plan of Action on Forest Genetic Resources (FGR). A total of 77 countries provided input into the report, a bit less than the first report of 86 countries in 2013. Globally, about one-third of the tree species are threatened, with the number of threatened tree species concentrated in the world's tropical and subtropical areas. The availability of information reported on FGR has increased, but remains inadequate. Most countries (about 64%) documented conservation of FGR, production of forest reproductive material, and research and development efforts in their national FGR inventories, with nearly 1800 species having been characterized.

On the use of forest genetic resources, nearly 500 species were reported for tree breeding programmes, which was somewhat less than a decade ago, due mostly to fewer countries reporting, or maybe there is less interest in different countries to continue with their tree breeding programmes for these species. First-generation selection is the most advanced material deployed for the production of forest reproductive material for 60% of these species, showing how breeding efforts are still incipient for most species in breeding programmes.

On the institutional capacities, there was an increase in the national coordination mechanisms on FGR, which now exist in 52% of the countries. Across countries, such mechanisms are mainly dominated by the governmental organizations and research organizations compared to other stakeholders.

On the national strategy for FGR, 58% of the countries reported having it, which showed a slight increase in the past decade. A common finding reported by countries is the lack of human and financial resources for the work of FGR, thus hindering efforts globally across different regions.

Looking ahead, the Global Plan of Action remains highly relevant to the needs and priorities reported by countries to FAO. Also, global awareness of the importance of FGR must be increased, including at the national and regional levels. And there is a need for international and regional cooperation on FGR to be reinforced.

Lastly, under the 20th Regular Session of the FAO Commission Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in Rome in March 2025, the Commission has reviewed the Global Plan of Action and endorsed the draft Conference Resolution and invited the Director-General to bring the documents to the attention of the FAO Conference. It was also highlighted that countries were reminded of the possibility of requesting support from FAO through its Technical Cooperation Programme for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

Following this, Riina Jalonen sought details if SoW-FGR would be on the agenda of the next APFC. She also stated that APFORGEN would be interested to collaborate with FAO-RAP team and discuss proposing related recommendations. Jarkko Koskela informed that he would keep APFORGEN informed of any developments on this.

Day 2 – 20 May 2025

International Symposium

The symposium set up a platform for sharing, discussion and reflection of forest and biodiversity research, and identification of possible collaborating activities through the APFORGEN international symposium at the College of Forestry and Natural Resources (CFNR), UPLB, which is situated at the foot of Mt. Makiling Forest Reserve. Organized in two parallel sessions, invited speakers, participants, and guests were gathered to share research findings, communicate ideas, and discuss innovative solutions to address issues concerning documenting forest genetic diversity and forest biodiversity, conserving diversity, and building resilience to enhance productivity.

Notably, three keynote speeches were delivered by Dr. Rekha Warrier, Prof. Emeritus Edwimo S. Fernando, and Dr. Riina Jalonen (Annex 5-7). In her speech titled 'Preserving the Gene Pool-Conservation Genetics for Forest Sustainability,' Dr. Rekha Warrier shared on using single nucleotide polymorphism (SNPs), to identify genotypes which adapt to the localized climate conditions. She gives examples of Indian sandalwood (*Santalum album*), and red sanders (*Pterocarpus santalinus*) which are facing issues with rampant felling. Besides that, Dr. Rekha also stressed the importance of understanding the reproductive biology of the species and its adaptability for single or multispecies conservation. She pointed out that forest ecosystem

resilience requires both resistance and recovery over time, and that by making genetic data available through monitoring of tree species, avoiding inbreeding, informing proactive management, and predicting genetic variability of the species could help in the restoration efforts to speed up the growth of the species. At the end of her speech, Dr. Rekha urged experts and researchers from member countries to collaborate in helping the forest to heal better and promote forest restoration for future generations.

On the 2nd keynote speech, Prof. Emeritus Edwino shared on the 'Forest of the Philippines and plant diversity darkspots', in which he highlighted the diversity of forest ecosystems and vascular plants in providing ecosystem services for the benefit of the people, biodiversity, and ecosystems.

The 3rd keynote speech by Dr. Riina Jalonen shared the importance of maintaining and restoring genetic diversity within and between populations of native, wild, and domesticated species, through the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework 2022. Besides that, she also highlighted the importance of using the right species, right seed sources, and right seed zones with the right seed collection practices. She called to strengthen national capacities to deliver quality native seeds for restoration goals and regional collaboration to fill gaps in seed availability and help to optimize resources.

Day 3 – 21 May 2025

MyFarmTrees Training Workshop

MyFarmTrees is a digital platform used for monitoring and incentivizing tree planting efforts. A one-day workshop was conducted, covering both theoretical and practical components of using this app (Annex 8-10). Participants were mainly engaged in a role game that touched environmental and socio-economic aspects of forest restoration, decision-making processes across supply chain, and roles within nature-based solutions. The goals of the activities were to learn and explore MyFarmTrees application and to maximize the socio-environmental outcomes through this simulated implementation process. By using MyFarmTrees app, the simulated exercises were designed for connecting, documenting, and verifying tree seed supply chains for restoration purposes. Participants were led to discuss dilemmas in the allocation of resources, their financial benefits, and project design related to their use cases. As a result, the training has open opportunities on the potential of local applications of MyFarmTrees app to participants who took part (online and on-site) in the training from various countries. Project proposals on using these apps were also discussed.

Election of new APFORGEN Board members

The Board members voted unanimously and concluded with the election of four new APFORGEN Board members for the next three-year term (2025-2028) (Annex 13):

- Dr. Rekha Warrier, Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (Chair)
- Dr. Analyn Codilan, University of the Philippines Los Baños (Co-Chair)
- Mr. Chaloun Bounithiphonh, National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (Secretary)
- Dr. Vivi Yuskianti, National Research and Innovation Agency (Board member)

In addition, Dr. Enrique L. Tolentino Jr. was also appointed as the Honorary Board member. Tokens of appreciation were provided to the past Board members.

Strategic planning of future activities of APFORGEN

The annual meeting ended with a session to discuss and jointly plan future activities of APFORGEN. Participants were first asked to prioritize targets under each of APFORGEN's strategic objectives. Each objective and target under the objective were printed out. Participants were then asked to provide scores between 0 to 3 for each target based on its 'importance', 'feasibility', and 'urgency'. A different color marker was used to distinguish between these criteria (Annex 11). Then, by accumulating individual scores in each target, total scores were generated, and the top 2 to 3 prioritized targets were selected for discussion in the breakout groups.

In the breakout group discussion, participants were divided into four groups according to the four APFORGEN objectives. They were tasked to identify key activities to be carried out, who to implement the activities, when to carry out the activities, and to number top 3 priority activities, for each of the prioritized targets identified before. Two rounds of discussion were organized, with an opportunity for the participants to change groups in between. One lead in each group was to facilitate the discussion session and take notes of all the inputs gathered from the group members. At the end of the discussion, each group lead was to present the outcome of their discussion. Summary of the key activities following the group discussion is shown in Table 1.

Table 2: Key activities identified for each of the prioritized target objectives.

Objectives	Target No.	Key activities (What)	Who	When	Priority
1	1.1	Conduct comprehensive review of current practices on FGRs and ecosystem services, tools employed	APFORGEN and member countries	Q3 2025 (Jul-Sep)	1
		Understand the requirements of donors and funding agencies from the Government and international donors, and the required time schedule.			2
		Prepare a calendar to enable planning			3
		Task forces for different groups to focus on government staff, proposal drafting, and contacts with international organizations			4
		Create a short funding proposal (e.g. fact sheets/concept notes) for current use and reuse in the future			5
	1.4	Policy recommendation to the Government through publications (i.e. What, who, how to do)	APFORGEN, other interested members from other organizations		1
		Publication on the achievements of APFORGEN till date and the improvements required in the future			2
2	2.1	Consolidation of data on tools and protocols of species distribution available and common in different countries	APFORGEN and member countries	2025	1
		Conduct a meta-analysis on the success and failures and come out with a review paper	APFORGEN and member countries	2025	2
	2.2	A phase II of APFORGIS to work on native species using newer technologies such as ecogeographic zones, new climate models, and update on the information	APFORGEN and member countries	ASAP (June-2026)	1
3	3.1	Capacity building, identifying, and obtaining information on important and common priority species, such as Dipterocarps, Dalbergias, and Agarwood among member countries	APFORGEN	2025-2026	1
	3.2	Common guidelines for germplasm collection for common species	APFORGEN	2025-2026	1
	3.3	Standard guidelines for establishment of in situ and ex situ guidelines with minimal requirement of species – akin to GCU	APFORGEN	2025-2026	1

Objectives	Target No.	Key activities (What)	Who	When	Priority
4	4.1	Identify important tree species based on IUCN Red List and specific demand in countries	APFORGEN and member countries	Jul 2025	1
		Develop guidelines for seed handling, storage, and nursery, and translate them into different national and international languages	APFORGEN and member countries	Aug 2025	2
		Promote utilization of My Farm Tree app to make available in different country and region	Member countries	Jan 2026	3
	4.2	Organize cross-country workshop to identify solution and gaps to have quality seed sources	APFORGEN and member countries	Jan 2026	3
		Inform each member country in advance to identify gaps before organizing a workshop, taking the inputs from Government, Department of Natural Resources, research institute, university, and seed users	APFORGEN	Oct 2025	2
		Include capacity building for seed zone modeling and generation of seed zone maps for implementation in member countries (can include online training)	APFORGEN	June/Jul 2025	1

Annex 1: Annual workshop and Symposium programme

Day/Time	Activity
Mon, 19 May	
10.00-11.30	Preparation meeting
11.30-12.00	Arrival of participants
12.00-13.30	Lunch
13.30-14.00	Welcome and introductions *Zheng Yongqi and Rekha Warrier*, APFORGEN co-chair
14.00-15.00	Updates on the implementation of APFORGEN's strategy • Lessons from the regional project "Strengthening collaborative tree seed supply systems for restoration in Asia" – *Rekha Warrier, Vivi Yuskianti, Zahidur Rahman Miah, Enrique Tolentino jr.; moderated by Pin Kar Yong* • Ongoing initiatives in member countries – *Zheng Yongqi, Benjarat Prompen, Rekha Warrier* • Seed to Tree: Strengthening Value Chains and Partnerships for resilient restored forests – *Riina Jalonen*
15.00-15.30	Coffee break
15.30-16.00	State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources – Jarkko Koskela, FAO
16.00-17.00	Discussion on priority actions for regional collaboration
17.00-17.15	Closing of the day
19.00-20.30	Dinner
Tues, 20 May	
08.30-17.30	International Symposium: *Asia's unique Forests and Trees: Conserving Diversity, Building Resilience, Enhancing Productivity*
Weds, 21 May	
08.30-12.00	Training Workshop: MyFarmTrees app for connecting, documenting, and verifying tree seed supply chains for restoration
12.00-13.30	Lunch
13.30-15.00	APFORGEN business meeting and election of Board members for 2025-2028
15.30-16.00	Coffee break
16.00-17.00	Programme of Work for APFORGEN for 2025-2026
17.00-17.15	Vote of thanks and closing
Thurs, 22 May	
08.30-17.00	Field Trip
Fri, 23 May	
Morning	Networking time Departures

Annex 2: Overview of Symposium programme

9.00-9.30	Opening and welcome remarks
9.30-10.00	Keynote 1: Dr. Rekha R. Warrier, ICFRE-Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, India
10.00-10.30	Refreshments and poster session
10.30-12.00	Parallel sessions 1
	Session 1A: Documenting diversity: Genetic diversity
	Session 1B: Documenting diversity: Species and ecosystems
12.00-13.30	Lunch
13.30-14.00	Keynote 2: Prof. Emeritus Edwino S. Fernando, University of the Philippines
14.00-15.30	Parallel Sessions 2
	Session 2A: Conserving diversity
	Session 2B: Building resilience, enhancing productivity
15.30-16.00	Refreshments and poster session
16.00-16.30	Keynote 3: Dr. Riina Jalonen, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT
16.30-17.00	Closing

Join us online (plenary sessions): https://up-edu.zoom.us/j/93553362536?pwd=xXoXq0JbblLKk9bboUHkKZfBm7wvYD.1

Meeting ID: 935 5336 2536 Passcode: 15263670

Session 1A: Documenting diversity: Genetic diversity

10.30-10.45	Genetic Diversity Restoration Strategies for the Endangered Subalpine Conifer *Taxus cuspidata* in the Republic of Korea *Hyoin Lim, Forest Bioinformation Division, National Institute of Forest Science, Republic of Korea*
10.45-11.00	Unlocking Nature's Code: Genetic Signatures of DNA Barcodes and Fingerprints for Conserving the Philippines' Threatened Forest Trees *Lerma S.J. Maldia, University of the Philippines Los Baños, Philippines*
11.00-11.15	Advancing Forest Conservation Through Genetic Research and DNA Technologies *Ng K.K.S., Tnah L.H., Lee C.T., Ng C.H., Nurul-Farhanah Z., Nur-Nabilah A. & Lee S.L., Forest Research Institute Malaysia*
11.15-11.30	An Amazon giant losing its habitat: Genetic and performance patterns of the Brazil nut tree in Peru, a socio-economically valuable keystone species with restoration potential living under threat. *Chiriboga-Arroyo, Fidel; Jansen, Merel; Bardales-Lozano, Ricardo; Guariguata, Manuel R., Blomberg, Maxime; Miedema, Jolijn ; Schaaf, Jiska; Zuidema, Pieter A.; Velásquez Ramírez, Manuel Gabriel; Atapaucar Sánchez, Nils; Martins, Karina; Brouwer, Rens; Corvera Gomringer, Ronald; Kettle, Chris J. Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT*
11.30-11.45	Morphological and Molecular Variability Studies in *Canarium strictum* Roxb. *Shanthi Arunachalam, ICFRE-Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, India*
11.45-11.50	Flash Talk: Development and Application of Microsatellite Markers for Genetic Diversity Assessment and Construction of a Core Collection of *Myrciaria dubia* (Kunth) McVaugh Germplasm from the Peruvian Amazon *Stalin Juan Vasquez Guizado, National University of San Agustin de Arequipa, Peru*
11.50-12.00	*Discussion*

Join us online (session 1A): https://up-edu.zoom.us/j/93553362536?pwd=xXoXq0JbblLKk9bboUHkKZfBm7wvYD.1

Meeting ID: 935 5336 2536 Passcode: 15263670

Session 1B: Documenting diversity: Species and Ecosystems

10.30-10.45	Long Term Ecological Research Plots: Documenting Plant Diversity in Montane and Mossy Forests of Mount Makiling Forest Reserve ASEAN Heritage Park *Leilani A. Castillo, University of the Philippines Los Baños, Philippines*
10.45-11.00	Ecosystem Condition and Extent Analysis of the Pantabangan-Carranglan Watershed Forest Reserve *Jess Riel R. Terbio, University of the Philippines Los Baños, Philippines*
11.00-11.15	Beyond the Surface: Biodiversity and Carbon Stock Potential of Uacon Lake, Candelaria, Zambales, Philippines *Kyle Adrian B. Cancino, University of the Philippines Los Baños, Philippines*
11.15-11.30	Beyond the National Conservation Review (NCR) (1997) in Sri Lanka, Designing an optimum protected areas system for Sri Lanka's Natural Forests *Maddagama Arachchige Thulani Ruchika Kularatne, Department of Forest Conservation, Sri Lanka*
11.30-11.45	Biodiversity and Regeneration Dynamics in Dry Peninsular Sal Forests: An Ecological Assessment *Mishra Shambhu Nath, ICFRE-Institute of Forest Productivity, Ranchi, India*
11.45-11.50	Flash Talk: Quantitative Study of the Ethnobotanical Medicinal Plant Resources of Zanskar Valley, Ladakh, India *Ankush Moran, ICFRE-Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla, India*
11.50-11.55	Flash Talk: High-Altitude Plant Diversity: A Comparative Study on Structure and Composition in Subalpine Zones of Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh-NW Himalaya *Monika Chauhan, ICFRE-Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla, India*
11.55-12.00	Flash Talk: Documentation of the Diversity, Endemism and Ecological Significance of Myrsinaceae Family in the Western Ghats of Kerala State, India *M. Bheemalingappa, KSCSTE-Kerala Forest Research Institute, India*

Join us online (session 1B): https://up-edu.zoom.us/j/96421251656?pwd=amuoAMww7yObhzYOmXpGH20M797eVF.1

Meeting ID: 964 2125 1656 Passcode: 13412784

Session 2A: Conserving diversity

14.00-14.15	Ex-Situ Conservation of *Litsea glutinosa*: An Endangered Tree of North-West Himalayas *Gopal Ram , North Eastern Hill University, India*
14.15-14.30	Reintroducing the Critically Endangered *Polyspora dasanayakei* and Restoring the Associated Habitat *S. H. Bandumala, Department of Forest Conservation, Sri Lanka*
14.30-14.45	Conservation and Utilization of Forest Genetics in the Era of Restoration in Indonesia: Forest Tree Seed Supply System *Vivi Yuskianti, Dede Sudrajat, National Research and Innovation Agency, Indonesia*
14.45-15.00	Securing the Future of Forest Genetic Resources: Strategies for Documentation, Conservation, and Utilization *Vijay Manish Kumar, ICFRE-Tropical Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur, India*
15.00-15.15	Conservation and Restoration of the Critically Endangered *Madhuca insignis* in the Southwestern Ghats of India *Geeta Joshi, Anurag Dhyani, Arunkumar A.N., Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, India*
15.15-15.30	*Discussion*

Join us online (session 2A): https://up-edu.zoom.us/j/93553362536?pwd=xXoXq0JbbILKk9bboUHkKZfBm7wvYD.1

Meeting ID: 935 5336 2536 Passcode: 15263670

Session 2B: Building resilience, enhancing productivity

14.00-14.15	The Identification of Sustainable Intensification Options in Silvopastoral Farming Systems in Northern Laos *Simone Vongkhamho, Forest Research Centre, National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute*
14.15-14.30	Integrating Calliandra Cultivation into Secondary Forests for Sustainable Wood Pellet and Livestock Feed Production in East Kalimantan *Titiek Setyawati, National Research and Innovation Agency, Indonesia*
14.30-14.45	A Blockchain-based Tracking of Origin and Managing Variety Rights in the Seeds/seedlings Supply Chain *Zheng Yongqi, National Center for Forestry and Grassland Genetic Resources, Chinese Academy of Forestry, China*
14.45-15.00	MyFarmTrees: Digital Innovation for Empowering Community-Led Forest Landscape Restoration *Fidel Chiriboga-Arroyo, Anton Eitzinger, Marius Ekue, Francis Oduor, Christian Feil, Riina Jalonen, Nadia Guettou Djurfeldt, Barbara Vinceti, Francesca Grazioli, Smitha Krishnan, Florian Doebler, Simeon Max, Chris Kettle, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT*
15.00-15.15	Integrating Participatory Mangrove Rehabilitation to Strengthen Socio-Ecological Resilience in Teluk Lengung's Degraded and Polluted Coastal Areas, Indonesia *Alawy Fauzan, Serindit Philosophy Centre, Indonesia*
15.15-15.20	Flash Talk: Genomic Selection for Fast-growing Teak Genotypes with Enhanced Heartwood Content *Maheswari Patturaj, ICFRE-Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, India*
15.20-15.25	Flash Talk: Woody Species diversity, management and socioeconomic importance of Agroforestry practices *Achamyeleh Anteneh Kassahun, University of Gondar, Ethiopia*

Join us online (session 2B): https://up-edu.zoom.us/j/91944069750?pwd=koxWJlTvbLh7DprvBp8bxgVlJGclrb.1

Meeting ID: 919 4406 9750 Passcode: 72699280

Annex 3: List of participants

Name	Organization	Country
Md. Zahidur Rahman Miah	Bangladesh Forestry Department	Bangladesh
Lim Hyo-In	National Institute of Forest Science	Republic of Korea
Ha Young-Ho	National Institute of Forest Science	Republic of Korea
Benjarat Prompen	Royal Forest Department	Thailand
Rekha R. Warrier	Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding	India
Shanti Arunachalam	Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding	India
Mishra Shambhu Nath	Institute of Forest Productivity	India
Ankush Moran	Himalayan Forest Research Institute	India
Ram Gopal	North Eastern Hill University	India
Vijay Manish Kumar	Tropical Forest Research Institute	India
Geeta Joshi	Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education	India
S. H. Bandumala	Department of Forest Conservation	Sri Lanka
Maddagama Arachchige Thulani Ruchika Kularatne	Department of Forest Conservation	Sri Lanka
Aung Zaw Moe	Forest Research institute	Myanmar
Zheng Yongqi	Chinese Academy of Forestry	China
Sreng Syneath	Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development, Forestry Administration	Cambodia
Kevin Ng Kit Siong	Forest Research Institute Malaysia	Malaysia
Pin Kar Yong	Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions	Malaysia
Jarkko Koskela	FAO	Italy
Chris Kettle	Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT	Italy
Riina Jalonen	Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT	Malaysia
Fidel Chiriboga	Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT	Switzerland
Emmy Goh	Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT	Malaysia
Chaloun Bounithiphonh	Forest Research Center, NAFRI	Lao PDR
Simone Vongkhamho	National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute	Lao PDR
Trieu Thai Hung	Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences	Vietnam
Vivi Yuskianti	National Research and Innovation Agency	Indonesia
Titiek Setyawati	National Research and Innovation Agency	Indonesia
Jose V. Camacho Jr.	University of the Philippines Los Baños	Philippines
Marlo D. Mendoza	University of the Philippines Los Baños	Philippines
Enrique L. Tolentino Jr.	University of the Philippines Los Baños	Philippines
Analyn L. Codilan	University of the Philippines Los Baños	Philippines
Crusty E. Tinio	University of the Philippines Los Baños	Philippines
Lerma SJ. Maldia	University of the Philippines Los Baños	Philippines
Marilyn S. Combalicer	University of the Philippines Los Baños	Philippines

Leilani A. Castillo	University of the Philippines Los Baños	Philippines
Jess Riel R. Terbio	University of the Philippines Los Baños	Philippines
Kyle Adrian B. Cancino	University of the Philippines Los Baños	Philippines

Annex 4: Opening and welcome remarks by UPLB Chancellor Dr. Jose Camacho (left, represented by For. Roberto P. Cereno, Vice-Chancellor for Community Affairs) and CFNR Dean Prof. Marlo Mendoza (right). Photo credit: ©UPLB

Annex 5: Certificate of appreciation to Dr. Rekha Warrier as the keynote speaker (standing left is Dr. Pin Kar Yong, and standing right is Prof. Marlo Mendoza). Photo credit: ©UPLB

Annex 6: Certificate of appreciation to Prof. Emeritus Edwino as the keynote speaker (Standing left is Dr. Analyn Codilan, and standing right is Dr. Pin Kar Yong). Photo credit: ©UPLB


Annex 7: Certificate of appreciation to Dr. Riina Jalonen as the keynote speaker (Standing right is Dr. Rekha Warrier). Photo credit: ©UPLB

Annex 8: Dr. Fidel Chiriboga giving a theoretical session for the MyFarmTrees workshop. Photo credit: ©UPLB

Annex 9: Participants' hands-on using the MyFarmTrees app. Photo credit: ©UPLB

Annex 10: (Top and bottom) Photos of participants with the results they have collected after the MyFarmTrees training workshop. Photo credit: ©UPLB

Annex 11: Participants provided scores for the target objectives. Photo credit: ©UPLB

Annex 12: Token of appreciation to the past AFPORGEN Board members (top left: Dr. Zheng Yongqi; top right: Dr. Enrique Tolentino; bottom left: Dr. Rekha Warrier; bottom right: Mr. Chaloun Bounithiphonh). Photo credit: ©UPLB

Annex 13: Four newly elected APFORGEN Board members (from left to right: Mr. Chaloun Bounithiphonh, Dr. Analyn Codilan; Dr. Rekha Warrier; and Dr. Vivi Yuskianti). Photo credit: ©UPLB

Annex 14: Group photo at the welcoming dinner. Photo credit: ©UPLB