

**Second APN Workshop on Vegetation Recovery in Degraded  
Land Areas (APN 2002-VR2)**

**Project Leader:**

**Prof. S. MATSUMOTO**

Faculty of Bioresource Sciences

Akita Prefectural University

Shimo-Shinjyo, Nakano 241-7

Akita 101-0195

**JAPAN**

Tel: +81-18-872-1622

Fax: +81-18-872-1677

Email: [asmarum@akita-pu.ac.jp](mailto:asmarum@akita-pu.ac.jp)

## **Second APN Workshop on Vegetation Recovery in Degraded Land Areas (APN 2002-VR2)**

### **APN funding**

US\$ 50,000

### **Participating countries**

Participants from the following countries were funded: Australia, Cambodia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, P.R. China, Philippines, Russia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. They were also funded partially by Hyogo Prefectural Government, Japan and the State Government of Western Australia.

### **Brief introduction and background**

Vegetation degradation, especially in degraded lands, is of serious consequence to the environments of the Asia-Pacific region and their inhabitants. It is caused by a combination of inappropriate use of land due to rapid population increase, water deficiency, and unstable global climate change. Vegetation rehabilitation and promotion of sustainable land use practices are amongst the most important, practical, on-ground initiatives we can develop to maintain urban and rural communities. This APN project has an important capacity building role in the region, and thus in collaboration with Hyogo Prefectural Government and the State Government of Western Australia, organized and supported the 2001 Workshop, hosted by the Centre for the Management for Arid Environments, in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia. The following year (2002/2003) APN sponsored another vegetation recovery in degraded land areas workshop to develop project proposals of high quality by polishing the preliminary project proposals derived from the 2001 Workshop.

### **Outline of activities conducted**

In the 2001 Kalgoorlie Workshop discussion group sessions were held to pinpoint proposals for future priority research, development, and training projects across the Asia-Pacific region on various topics associated with vegetation recovery in degraded land areas. Presentations that followed outlined the situation in APN member countries and the work in progress to address the associated problems. In the lead-up to the discussion group sessions participants held a number of informal meetings regarding future priority projects. The three concurrent discussion sessions were:

- Rehabilitation of Degraded Land;
- Sociology and Economics of Vegetation Recovery; and
- Plant Resources.

Participants chose which session they wished to attend. Recorders noted the output of the sessions, and the output was presented and accepted at the end of the meeting. Following the 2001 Workshop a report on the outcomes of the discussions was prepared and circulated. The report recommended amalgamating some of the thirteen proposals, and thus a list of the final eight proposals was composed. At that time participants were asked to nominate the research topic(s) they wished to help develop and in so doing a number of research teams were formed.

### **Outcomes and products**

The Workshop proceedings of the “Capacity Building Workshop for the Asia-Pacific Region, Vegetation Recovery in Degraded Land Areas, Kalgoorlie 27 Oct – 3 Nov, 2001” was produced and at the 2nd Workshop in Kobe, 26-28 November 2002, the final eight project proposals were allocated to three working groups. The allocation of working groups was as follows:

#### **Working Group 1**

- Vegetation Recovery from Grazing/Grazing and Vegetation Management;
- Improvement and Rehabilitation of Mine Sites; and
- GIS and Remote Sensing for Vegetation and Land Condition Monitoring.

#### **Working Group 2**

- Sustainable Farming Systems to Overcome Salinity;
- Asia-pacific Human Dimensions/Dynamics Workshop; and
- Participatory Ecosystem Approach to Watershed Management.

#### **Working Group 3**

- Maintaining the Network of Delegates; and
- Training Course in Research Methodology.

### **Future directions and follow-up work**

Our task is now to develop research, demonstration, and training projects of a high standard. These should be broad and generic enough to suit differing conditions in Asia-Pacific countries while being specific enough for the needs of development priorities in individual countries. Individual delegates and countries will be expected to form a basis for international research activities. It was also proposed that a network of scientists in the Asia-Pacific involved in vegetation recovery in degraded land areas be established.