



**Short Term Training Course on
“Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Livelihood Improvements”**

COURSE GUIDELINES

26 – 30 August, 2019

AFoCO Regional Education & Training Center (RETC)

Republic of Union of Myanmar

Secretariat for the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization

1. BACKGROUND

Biodiversity is defined as the variability among living things in every field, such as land, sea and other aquatic ecosystems and the complex ecosystem constituting part of these ecosystems. And it includes diversity within species, interspecific diversity and diversity of ecosystems. In other words, biodiversity generally refers to the species diversity on the Earth, the ecosystem diversity the organisms inhabit, and genetic diversity.

Biodiversity provides a wide range of ecosystem services and affects not only sustainability but also people's lives. Human beings have taken food and shelter, especially food, medicine, and industrial products from components of biodiversity, and at one time almost all medicines came from plants and animals. Biodiversity supports our lives by absorbing or decomposing environmental pollutants, purifying the atmosphere and water, and maintaining soil fertility and proper climatic conditions. The loss of biodiversity has become a threat to the culture and welfare of mankind, and even to the survival of all human beings.

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the distribution of species on the Earth is estimated to be 1-2% in boreal regions, 13-24% in temperate regions and 74-84% in tropical regions. Among tropical regions, tropical rainforests account for about 7% of the Earth's surface area, but about half of the Earth's species inhabit. Rain forests, which are mainly located in developing countries, have recently declined by 0.6% (about 11.2 million hectares) per year until 1985 due to destruction caused by the economic development of each country. Since then, it has been warned that it was sharply decreasing to 1.5 ~ 2 times. As the destruction of ecosystems and the decline of species are proceeding at a rapid pace, the importance of biodiversity is being more widely recognized. Following the adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity at the Rio Summit in 1992, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2000 and the Protocol on Access to genetic resource and Benefit-Sharing in 2010 were adopted. The international society has been making efforts to conserve biodiversity and promote sustainable use.

The strategic priorities of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) over the five (5) years (2019-2023) aim to contribute to the member countries in: 1) achieving the global goal of increasing forest cover up to 3% worldwide; 2) implementing Paris Agreement on climate change particularly in pursuit of policy approaches for adaptation in forestry sector; and 3) improving livelihood and income through forestry-related activities. Most of all, community forestry and maintenance of forest ecosystems are the top two priorities in AFoCO member countries. The involvement of local communities, their co-existence with biodiversity-rich forest ecosystems and mutually benefiting mechanisms are considered significant as the local communities become an inseparable part of sustainable development under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The knowledge and lessons learned during the training course are expected to be shared and transferred for the sustainable use of biodiversity in member countries.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the training course are to 1) enhance understanding of the sustainable use of biodiversity for livelihood improvements, 2) share practical cases and experiences of member countries, and 3) discuss challenges and opportunities, and establish possible recommendations and concrete ideas reflecting the lessons learned.

3. TARGET PARTICIPANTS

This course will welcome 22 technical-level government officials and experts involved in the biodiversity-related work, especially those who have been involved in the sustainable use of biodiversity for a minimum of one (1) year will be invited from the respective member countries.

4. TRAINING SCHEDULE (Tentative)

The 5-day training course will cover **7 training topics** and include **1-day field trip**. Lectures will be held in the lecture rooms at the AFoCO RETC.

Day	Time	Activity	Remark
25 Aug. (Sun.)	Arrival		
26 Aug. (Mon.)	08:30-09:00	Registration	
	09:00-10:00	Opening Ceremony & Course Introduction	RETC Mr. Choi Sung Ho
	10:00-12:00	• Presentation1. Country report	Trainer
	12:00-13:00	Lunch	
	13:00-15:00	• Lecture 1. Understanding of Biodiversity and Forest Ecosystem • Discussion on lecture 1	Dr. Shin Joon Hwan (Former DG of KNA)
	15:00-17:00	• Lecture 2. Economics of Forest Ecosystems and Biodiversity • Discussion on lecture 2	Trainer (The Philippine or ACB)
	18:00-20:00	Welcome dinner	
27 Aug. (Tues.)	9:00-12:00	• Lecture 3. Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (Planning stage) - <i>Needs assessment, Policy Making and Planning</i> • Discussion on lecture 3	Trainer (ACB)
	12:00-13:00	Lunch	
	13:00-17:00	• Lecture 4. Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (Implementation stage) - Conservation of Plant Resources - <i>Community livelihood improvements</i> - <i>Knowledge sharing</i> • Discussion on lecture 4	Trainer (ACB)
28 Aug. (Wed.)	9:00-12:00	• Lecture 5. Case: Biodiversity and Use of Forest tradition knowledge • Discussion on lecture 5	Trainer (TBD)
	12:00-13:00	Lunch	
	13:00-16:00	• Lecture 6. Case : Benefit sharing of genetic resources • Discussion on lecture 6	Trainer (TBD)
	16:00-17:00	• Lecture 7. Case : Biodiversity and Use of Forest tradition knowledge • Discussion on lecture 7	Trainer (TBD)
29 Aug. (Thur.)	09:00-17:00	• Field visit • Planting activity at the RETC	RETC
	18:00-19:00	Dinner	
30 Aug. (Fri.)	9:00-12:00	Presentation 2. Action Plan	Trainees Mr. Choi Sung Ho
	12:00-13:00	Lunch	
	13:00-17:00	• Discussion and Feedbacks on Training Course • Closing Ceremony	Trainees Mr. Choi Sung Ho
31 Aug. (Sat.)	Departure		

*KNA: Korea National Arboretum, ACB: ASEAN Center for Biodiversity

5. REGISTRATION

Participants are requested to complete the registration at <http://retc.afocosec.org>.

6. VISA APPLICATION

Citizens of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Viet Nam can travel to Myanmar without a visa. Participants from other countries can apply for a visa at <https://evisa.moip.gov.mm/>.

7. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The AFoCO Secretariat will cover participation costs (including airfare, accommodation, and training fees) and provide a Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) of US\$35 per day to participants of member countries over the duration of the training. During the training course, reimbursements will be given personally to the participants in US dollars as well as in Myanmar kyat (MMK) (in cash) following the current exchange rate.

8. CURRENCY & CREDIT CARDS

The currency in Myanmar is Myanmar Kyat (MMK). Foreign currencies are accepted at money changers at the International Airport (Terminal 1) as well as at the local banks. Please note that there are no money exchangers near the RETC. As such, participants are strongly advised to exchange the money at the International Airport. Using cash for transactions is recommended.

9. ELECTRICITY

The standard voltage in Myanmar is 220V, 50Hz and plugs with both round and flat 2 pins are generally used. Extension cords can be provided to participants. Plug adapters can be purchased from local stores in Myanmar.

10. LOCAL TIME

Myanmar is 6:30 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT+6:30).

11. ATTIRE

Participants should note that the rainy season in Myanmar is in May, so they are kindly requested to prepare raincoats, umbrellas, casual clothes, and hiking boots for field trips.

12. RETC FACILITIES & SERVICES

The following facilities and services are available at the RETC:

- ✓ Internet Access
- ✓ Self-controlled Air Conditioner, Refrigerator
- ✓ 2-bedded room for trainees and 1 bedded room for trainers
- ✓ Water Heating System (in each bathroom)
- ✓ Toiletries (Towels, shower gel, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste) and hair dryer
- ✓ Laundry Room

13. GENERAL ENQUIRIES / EMERGENCY CONTACT

For more information or in the case of emergencies, please contact:

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