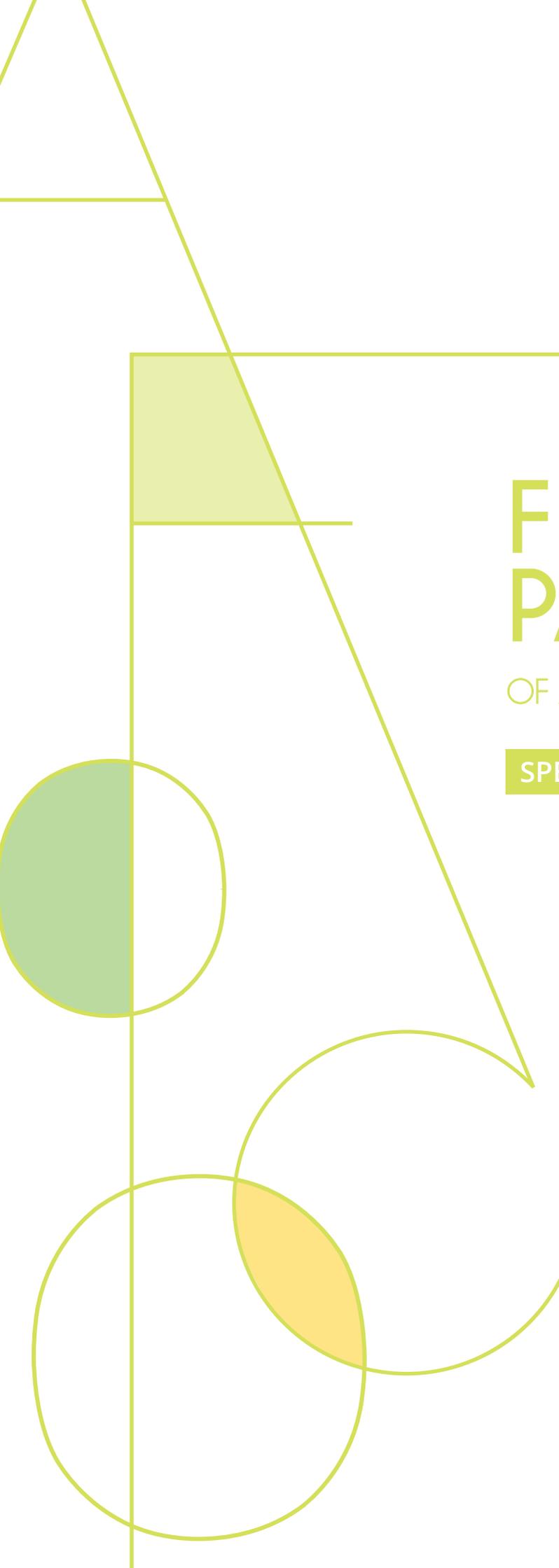


The background is a lush green forest with sunlight filtering through the trees. Overlaid on the left side are several white geometric shapes: a large triangle, a vertical line, and three overlapping circles in shades of green and yellow. The text is positioned on the right side of the image.

FOUR-YEAR PARTNERSHIP

OF ASEAN-ROK FOREST COOPERATION

SPECIAL REPORT



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SPECIAL REPORT

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FOREWORD



The ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation (AFoCo) is widely known as a foundation phase towards the establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO). Since the signing of AFoCo Agreement on 18 November 2011 and entry-into-force on 5 August 2012, AFoCo has made a remarkable achievement and visible impact through wide ranging forestry activities implemented in ASEAN region. Four years of collaborative partnership between the Republic of Korea and the ASEAN Member States exemplifies a concerted effort to work on the rehabilitation and sustainable management of forests in the region.

I am so privileged and honored to be part of this AFoCo's undertaking, as the Executive Director of the AFoCo Secretariat, knowing what has contributed to the needs of the countries in the region and set a solid foundation for the future, as this collaborative partnership is expected to expand under the forthcoming AFoCO towards a Greener Asia.

This report on "Four-Year Partnership of ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation" aims to highlight the achievements of AFoCo Agreement. It also aims to identify the challenges and recommendations of the stakeholders and analyze the needs for further strengthening forest cooperation in each participating country as well as in the region.

This report commences with the chronological development and history as well as the overview of AFoCo. It showcases the significant results of cooperative activities by thematic areas through the individual and regional cooperation projects, including the capacity building program in various aspects. The views and perspectives of the members of the Governing Council, focal/fellow officials and those of partner organizations / agencies are presented as well to capture the key lessons from the undertaking of AFoCo Agreement and, of course, their recommendations for the AFoCO.

The latter part of this report presents the projected scenario of AFoCO, which will benefit from the lessons learned from the implementation of the AFoCo Agreement and for future implementation of projects and delivery of services for the member countries.

This report would not have been made possible without the collaborative effort of all ten ASEAN Member States and the support of the Republic of Korea. I believe that amidst the many challenges, our strong partnership and commitment have taken us to the next level of forest cooperation. Let's all carry on this symbolic partnership towards a "Greener Asia."

Hadi Susanto Pasaribu
Executive Director

ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AFoCO	Asian Forest Cooperation Organization
AFoCO Agreement	Agreement on the Establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization
AFoCo	ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation
AFoCo Agreement	Agreement between the Governments of the Member States of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations and the Republic of Korea on Forest Cooperation
AKECOP	ASEAN-Korea Environmental Cooperation Project
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AMS	ASEAN Member States
APFNet	Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation
ASOF	ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry
CBFM	Community-based Forest Management
Dialogue-AFoCO	Dialogue for the Establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization
EETS	Endangered, Endemic and Threatened Species
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FRA	Forest Resources Assessment
GC	Governing Council
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
GIS	Geographic Information System
Ha	Hectare
IAI	Initiative for ASEAN Integration
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
KFS	Korea Forest Service
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
MBC	Mekong Basin Countries
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
PFES	Payment for Forest Environmental Services
REDD+	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries
RECOFTC	The Center for People and Forests
RETC	Regional Education and Training Center
ROK	The Republic of Korea
RRR-DFE	Reclamation, Rehabilitation and Restoration of Degraded Forest Ecosystems
RS	Remote Sensing
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USD	United States Dollar
WG-AFoCO	Working Group for the Establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 4th day of August 2016 is a milestone in the history of forest cooperation between the Republic of Korea (ROK) and ASEAN Member States (AMS) as the “Agreement between the Governments of the Republic of Korea and the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on Forest Cooperation (AFoCo Agreement)” has come to a successful completion after four (4) years of intensive implementation of cooperative activities. The 4-year journey of cooperation was part of the ROK’s initiative for the establishment of a regional forestry organization called “Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO)”, for which the former President of ROK formally introduced at the Commemorative Summit in June 2009 while celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Cooperation. A series of negotiation meetings took place among the forestry officials of 11 countries over two years from 2009 to 2011 and the aforementioned AFoCo Agreement was formally signed on 18 November 2011, marking the first step towards the establishment of AFoCO. Eventually, the AFoCo Agreement came into effect on the 5th day of August 2012, another milestone in the history of ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation.

In the late 2000s, the ROK adopted a strategic approach “Low Carbon, Green Growth” as its national vision and since then, it has taken a proactive role internationally in support of sustainable development. With rapid economic growth on track, the ROK’s pledge of overseas development assistance to promote this prominent national strategy further abroad gained momentum and the idea of setting up AFoCO was eventually materialized. However, the journey to AFoCO was not as straightforward as anticipated and multiple rounds of negotiation took place between Korean and ASEAN officials for more than two years. Eventually, ROK agreed to the proposal from the ASEAN side to take a stepwise approach, beginning with the AFoCo Agreement for regional forest cooperation prior to the establishment of AFoCO.

Mission and Achievements

Following the entry-into-force of the AFoCo Agreement, two institutional bodies, namely the Governing Council (GC) and the Secretariat were operationalized with the aim of fulfilling two main objectives: first is to undertake forest cooperation programs/projects with a mission to rehabilitate degraded forest land as well as prevent deforestation and forest degradation, and second is to provide a dialogue platform towards the establishment of AFoCO. Initially, the agreement was planned for two years and later in 2014, the Agreement was further extended for two more years until 2016.

As part of fulfilling the first objective of the Agreement, the ROK committed about USD 24.5 million to support the implementation of 7 individual cooperation projects (country-based), 7 regional cooperation projects, and the AFoCo Landmark Program (10-year program with 4 components). The areas of project intervention are categorized as: (1) Forest rehabilitation; (2) Prevention of forest degradation; (3) Biodiversity conservation; (4) Livelihood improvement through Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) and high value species; and (5) Capacity development. In particular, capacity development activities were wide- ranging depending on the nature of the project. Key outputs achieved under this objective of the Agreement are summarized below.

Forest Rehabilitation

1. Direct seeding field trial for 10 high value timber species in Siem Reap, Cambodia (ongoing)
2. Establishment of 6-ha seed orchard, 24-ha progeny plantation, and 200-ha conservation site for forest genetic resources in Cambodia (ongoing)
3. Rehabilitation of 3,620-ha forest area, including establishment of 60-ha ex-situ seed sources and 790-ha enrichment plantation in Lao PDR (ongoing)
4. Rehabilitation of 960-ha mangrove forest in Thai Binh Province, Viet Nam (ongoing)

Prevention of Forest Degradation

1. 20-ha demonstration trial for “Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD+)” and livelihood improvement activities in Bago Yoma Region, Myanmar (completed in 2013)
2. National master plan for climate-resilient forestry development in the Philippines (completed in 2016)

Biodiversity Conservation

1. Biodiversity conservation and eco-tourism development at Mondulkiri Protected Forest Reserve, Cambodia (completed in 2015)
2. Joint learning opportunities through exchange visits regarding payment for forest environmental services (PFES) and ecotourism activities among the Mekong Basin Countries (completed in 2015)
3. 12-ha domestication of endangered, endemic and threatened plant species in disturbed terrestrial ecosystems in Malaysia and Thailand (ongoing)

Livelihood Improvement

1. Demonstration of NTFP production and planting/ tending models (4-ha each) in Hoa Binh, Son La, Dien Bien and Lai Chau provinces in Viet Nam (completed in 2014)

Capacity Development

1. Laboratory for plant tissue culture at Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development, Cambodia (completed in 2013)
2. Installation of wood pellet making equipment at Kadipaten Forestry Vocational School, Indonesia (completed in 2013)
3. Supply of necessary equipment and satellite images for Geographic Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS) laboratories in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam (completed in 2015)

4. New installation of GIS/RS equipment and laboratory in Brunei Darussalam (completed in 2016)
5. Establishment of Regional Education and Training Center (RETC) in Myanmar (ongoing)
6. Tree seed laboratory at Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development, Cambodia (ongoing)
7. Delivery of 62 technical training courses and workshops under 14 projects and Landmark Program for 2,336 participants from AFoCo member countries (completed in 2016)
8. Assignment of 7 fellowship officials from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam for one-year term at AFoCo Secretariat (ongoing)
9. Scholarships for 2 Ph.D. students and 4 Masters students from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam at the Korean universities (ongoing)
10. 11 exhibitions for publicity of AFoCo and AFoCO at international events (completed in 2015)
11. 17 Memorandum of Understandings entered by AFoCo Secretariat (completed in 2016)
12. Production of 65 publicity materials such as video, report, leaflet, and research paper (completed in 2016)

Regarding the second objective of the dialogue for the establishment of AFoCO, a total of 15 prospective member countries participated in six dialogue meetings organized between December 2013 and September 2015. The text of “Agreement on the Establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO Agreement)” was adopted in September 2015 and its signing has been scheduled upon clearance of domestic procedures in each country. By the date of termination of the AFoCo Agreement, ROK, Timor Leste, and Indonesia have completed the signing of the AFoCO Agreement.

Review and Evaluation

Review and evaluation of the Agreement was made through a questionnaire survey with the members and focal officials of GC as well as officials from partner international organizations. In addition, assessment for implementation of Agreement, done by the external consultants, was also included particularly on the performance of AFoCo, evaluation of institutional arrangement, and operation of the Secretariat.

In general perspective, AFoCo provided a regional cooperation platform in forestry and climate change related to forestry issues and showed a high potential to fill the gap in delivering relevant global forestry policy directions into actions. It has been recognized as an action-oriented organization that enhances the technical capacity and meets the demand of member countries through implementation of various cooperation projects. They were generally commendable as the focus was always within the context of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and in line with the emerging global forestry agenda. One key perspective was that the AFoCo projects give more flexibility and ownership sense than donor-driven projects because of continuous engagement of the implementing countries from the early stage of formulation to later implementation stage. Compared to other international programs in the region, AFoCo has made a significant impact on the ground in a relatively short period.

Overall, AFoCo was successfully able to plan, coordinate, implement, and provide services at the required standard to the AMS, which is evident in the regular reports and field observation of the completed and ongoing projects and activities. Four key factors affecting the performance of AFoCo were further elaborated below.

A. Organizational Motivation and Leadership

AFoCo and its members have demonstrated much commitment, cooperation, communication, and trust in dealing with issues, and challenges confronting AFoCo. Its vision, mission, and values have been a

source of motivation to all the stakeholders who work together to achieve the desired goals.

The GC had clearly displayed strong leadership towards the achievement of the organizational objectives of the Agreement. The programs, projects, and activities of AFoCo have been strategically aligned with its objectives, which help to find a clear direction for the AFoCo programs and projects. The GC has also shown resoluteness, flexibility, and persistence in times of difficulties and has reacted swiftly to environmental challenges.

B. External to the Organization

Environmental factors influenced the operations of the GC and Secretariat, including political, economic, sociocultural, technological, and legal factors. In particular, domestic policies and procedures such as inter-country fund transfer process, accounting system and administrative regulations have also shown to hinder the effective and efficient implementation of activities or projects initiated by the GC and Secretariat. AFoCo, however, has been able to adopt practical strategies to deal with the domestic policies in a member state that may affect the operations of AFoCo.

C. Internal to the Organization

The capacity of the Secretariat has had a strong influence on organizational performance. Capacity existed in a number of basic organizational rudiments such as performance framework, leadership, institutional factors, management structure, etc. The Secretariat has developed a comprehensive plan that reflects the strategic outcome of AFoCo and its resources are well aligned with the target goals and objectives. The organization has been able to provide financial support and technical assistance to projects and programs, and within the four years of its operation, the Secretariat has developed good network and strengthened partnership with other international organizations and agencies.

AFoCo has had a strong leadership and provided a good environment for learning, and also the working

conditions for employees have been satisfactory. In addition, the personnel at the Secretariat are professionals and have shown the required competencies for their respective positions, which enhance the performance of AFoCo.

D. Financial Management and Sustainability of AFoCo

AFoCo has not yet established a financial management system that will respond to an eventual growth cycle of AFoCo. The plan to enhance the annual and/or multi-year financial planning and reporting systems could be considered in the future.

Challenges and Recommendations

The challenges identified by the members of GC and focal officials of AFoCo were quite common in view of bringing lessons and experiences of the AFoCo Agreement forward and expanding the activities into the future. The following specific challenges were identified in the implementation of the AFoCo Agreement.

1. Realizing the AFoCo became the main challenge under the AFoCo Agreement itself.
2. Certain constraints and delay in the implementation of the AFoCo activities occurred due to differences in government structure, socio-economic situation, and domestic procedures as well as lack of coordination and the need for reaching consensus among the countries.
3. It would not be possible for equitable financing distribution for projects among the 10 implementing countries, which may become a challenge in the future.
4. Implementation of some regional projects was delayed in view of domestic procedure in some countries.
5. Despite challenges faced in undertaking regional projects with different goals and needs, there were substantial achievements and diverse outcomes.

6. Some training courses were found to be less relevant for the circumstances of the participating countries.
7. There was a lack of action regarding the evaluation of completed activities and recommendation for up-scaling the potential programs.
8. One-year fellowship program was not favorable for some countries due to their internal regulations.

The following recommendations were made regarding the implementation of the AFoCo Agreement.

1. More flexibility in arrangement and handling of projects is needed.
2. Sustaining some promising AFoCo activities and aligning with future activities is highly recommended.
3. Proper transfer of experience and lessons learned from AFoCo to AFoCO is recommended through documentation, maintenance of activities, and follow-up actions.
4. A more decisive role for GC and Secretariat would help expedite the implementation of some activities.
5. A standard mechanism is needed to be in place to resolve some outstanding issues as well as to deal with individual domestic procedure.
6. The Secretariat, upon approval by the GC, should consolidate all achievements from 4-year implementation of AFoCo Agreement and make a unique showcase for wide dissemination.

AFoCO in the Future

The four-year journey of AFoCo has given lessons and options to be considered for the future undertakings. The future strategy is likely to be set in line with national priorities of AFoCO members and the global policy directions with particular references to the 15th goal of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) “Biodiversity, Forests and Deforestation” and Article 5 (which is dedicated to forests) of Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

When AFoCO was first introduced at the ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit held in Jeju Island in June 2009, the ROK’s vision of “Low Carbon, Green Growth” was highlighted and specific areas of intervention were proposed as “to strengthen cooperation in the context of the UNFCCC, especially on the REDD initiative, enhancement of SFM, wasteland restoration, and promotion of industrial forestation”. Until today, the ROK’s proposed mission is still valid and in line with the emerging global forestry agenda.

The vision of AFoCO is set as to contribute to strengthening regional forest cooperation by undertaking proven technology and policy into concrete actions for a greener Asia. The AFoCO will have a legal identity and capacity of an intergovernmental organization. As for the mission, AFoCO is designed to undertake the following action-oriented forest cooperation activities towards the attainment of sustainable development for a greener Asia.

- A. Forest rehabilitation and prevention of forest-related disasters;
- B. Undertaking climate change mitigation and adaptation activities;
- C. Promoting SFM; and
- D. Capacity building and transfer of technology.

The members of GC, focal officials, international partner agencies, and external consultants have made the following specific recommendations for future AFoCO.

1. Large organization with more members means more issues and complexity. It is recommended to start with a relatively small number of members at the beginning.
2. Advanced planning for policy development and work program under AFoCO is recommended.
3. Project Implementation Manual with detailed guidelines and regulations is needed to be in place as a multilateral cooperation organization in preparing, implementing, and evaluating the projects.

4. AFoCO needs to work in close collaboration with other international agencies and donors for effective coverage and better synergy.
5. It is recommended that AFoCO should support the relevant elements of SDGs and Climate Change Paris Agreement, particularly on mitigation of climate change, enhancement of carbon stocks, SFM, desertification, land degradation, and biodiversity conservation.
6. AFoCO needs more participation and representation at the international events and dialogues for worldwide recognition as a lead organization in SFM.
7. Multiple sources of financing should be sought, including private sector and international financing institutions.
8. With the joining of more member countries with different types of topography and forests, the approach for SFM and project design should be modified.
9. Future regional programs and projects should be aligned with the specific and urgent needs of the countries.
10. It is highly recommended to develop a strong capacity building program with short-term training courses and long-term graduate studies in response to the needs of the countries.
11. Field-oriented activities with a focus on increased awareness and capacity building of stakeholders are more beneficial.
12. A technical panel is recommended to set up for review of training courses, project proposals, and new initiatives as well as to find out the best solutions to deal with the bureaucratic barrier of each country and to advance for effective cooperation.
13. Operational fund should be utilized to fully support the participation cost of both country representative and support official.
14. A basic course of Korean language and cultural orientation session would be helpful for any overseas officials who are taking a long-term assignment at the Headquarters in the ROK.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. About the Report
- 1.2. Background History
- 1.3. Chronological Development



Chapter 1. Introduction

1.1. About the Report

This special report entitled “Four-Year Partnership of ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation” covers a detailed account of activities related to AFoCo Agreement, starting from the stage of conceptualization since the year 2007 until the termination of the Agreement in 2016. Chapter 1 introduces the historical background, chronological developments, and their implications leading to the birth of AFoCo Agreement. Chapter 2 further introduces on the missions and institutional arrangements of the Agreement. In Chapter 3, the achievements made over the course of 4-year implementation are exemplified in depth under the identified areas of cooperative activities. Chapter 4 essentially reflects the views, challenges, and lessons learned including evaluations and recommendations of key stakeholders, partners, and consultants on the implementation of Agreement. Finally, Chapter 5 gives more insight on the dialogue process, challenges, vision and missions of AFoCO, a future regional organization that will be established as the next step of this strategic partnership.

1.2. Background History

The countries of Asia are so diverse that on the surface they have little in common. Asia is composed of a multiplicity of ethnic groups and religions, tribes and languages, history, political and economic systems, and cultural traditions, which prevented the countries of the region from seeking a shared destiny. Their commonality lies in the diversity itself. The Asian region is endowed with vast forests and mountains, home to various biodiverse species. The region holds 20 percent of the world’s biodiversity, 14 percent of the world’s tropical forests, and 34 percent of global coral resources (Asian Development Bank (ADB), 2013). With globalization and technological development, these valuable resources are exploited without taking cognizance of the future it will lead to.

The ASEAN integration is opening new opportunities for the region, strengthening their economic bonds and

leading to higher development potential. Among the three pillars of ASEAN community, realization of ASEAN Economic Community is gaining momentum including Food, Agriculture, and Forestry sector. The vision of ASEAN Food, Agriculture and Forestry sector is set as “competitive, inclusive, resilient and sustainable Food, Agriculture, and Forestry sector integrated with the global economy, based on a single market and production base, contributing to food and nutrition security, and prosperity in the ASEAN Community”. In particular, the strategic measures relating to forestry are defined as: (1) increase resilience to climate change, natural disasters, and other shocks and (2) promote SFM. As development often goes hand-in-hand with environmental degradation, it is at this time of regional advancement that sustainable development must be most emphasized.

One of the key areas of sustainable development is in forests. Forests and trees provide shelter, fuel, and land as well as lower Greenhouse Gases (GHG) levels in the atmosphere. It is the forest that can contribute significantly to a harmonized and sustainable lifestyle in the future with the support of technology.

During the first five years of the 21st Century, the variation in the net rate of change in forest cover among countries in Asia was so dramatic. FAO figures indicate that the rate of forest loss is greatest in Asia with many countries losing more than 1 percent of their forest each year. From 1990 to 2015, in Southeast Asia alone, the forest area has decreased to approximately 32 million ha of forests, with about -0.35 percent annual change of forest cover from 2010-2015 (Figure 1) (FAO, 2015).

Economic opportunities, biodiversity, and environmental services are being lost and degraded due to problems related to forest degradation and deforestation like illegal logging, desertification, forest fire, shifting cultivation among others, contributing to the global problems on climate change, environmental instability, social conflicts, and poverty. All of these issues cannot be solved effectively without concerted efforts and collaboration of key forest and

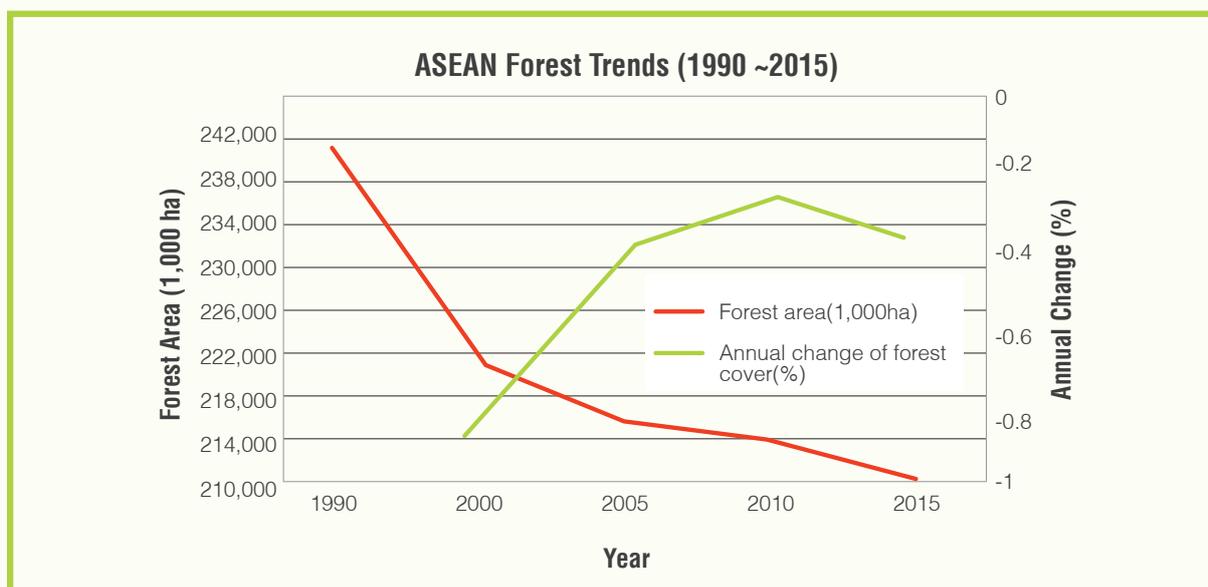


Figure 1 Change of ASEAN forest cover (1990 ~ 2015)

environmental organizations, as well as relevant stakeholders at national, regional, and global levels.

The ROK has ambitious visions to promote and endorse sustainable development in the Asian region. The ROK's successful experience of forest restoration and rehabilitation from the 1970s to the 1980s, which has been noted as a model for global sustainability, is expected to contribute to regional efforts towards sustainable development.

Since the year 2000, the ROK has been extending its overseas development assistance for forest rehabilitation projects in Asia. The first bilateral projects were implemented in China and Mongolia. Dust and sandstorm, originated in central and eastern Asia, had been reaching and causing pollution and health problems in Korean peninsula every year. In response to this transboundary environmental issue, the ROK supported large-scale forest rehabilitation projects to combat desertification in Western China and Mongolia since 2000 and by the end of 2010, a total area of 11,625 ha has been covered with plantation projects.

At the same time, the ROK's collaboration in research and education in the ASEAN region was introduced in 2000 through the project entitled "Restoration of Degraded Forest Ecosystems in the Southeast

Asian Tropical Region" and it still continues to exist through the implementation of the ASEAN-Korea Environmental Cooperation Project (AKECOP). This has created an effective institutional mechanism driving the implementation of its activities in the AMS and contributing significantly to the sustainable management of forest and environment in the ASEAN region. The ASEAN-Korea Environmental Cooperation Unit, the implementing body of AKECOP, has successfully coordinated the Project in close collaboration with and support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Ministry of Environment in the ROK, the ASEAN Secretariat, and various participating ASEAN and Korean institutions.

As early as 2007, the AFoCO initiative was originated at an AKECOP Steering Committee with a proposed institution called the "Asian Forest Institute". A consensus was reached on this concept at the meeting and AKECOP conducted further research on: (1) restoration of degraded forest ecosystems; (2) plant/tree biodiversity conservation; and (3) agroforestry practices in the framework of UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The former President Lee, Myung-bak of the ROK announced during the 34th Group of Eight (G8) Summit organized in Toyako, Japan on 8 July 2008 that the

ROK is playing a bridging role between developed and developing countries in the face of global challenges on climate change.

In August 2008, in recognition of the need to support sustainable development, the ROK announced a “Low Carbon Green Growth” strategy as a new vision to guide the nation’s long-term development. As a member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) with rapid economic growth on track, a pledge of overseas development assistance to promote this prominent government strategy further abroad was enunciated.

In this context, the idea of setting up the ROK-led regional organization in forestry fits well into the picture and has gained momentum.

Hence, due to the need to address these multifaceted problems and due to the need of having an organization that will lead in providing extensive network for doing research, capacity building and activities related to the restoration, rehabilitation and management of forest particularly in Asia, the idea for the establishment of AFoCO was conceptualized.

1.3. Chronological Development



ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit, Jeju, Korea, June 2009

“We agreed to endeavour to strengthen our cooperation in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), especially on the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD) initiative, enhancement of sustainable forest management, wasteland restoration, and promotion of industrial forestation.

In this regard, we appreciated the ROK’s proposal to establish an “Asian Forest Cooperation Organisation.”

By the end of 2008, the Korea Forest Service (KFS) had been granted the exclusive task of setting up AFoCO. KFS explored the possibility for the establishment of AFoCO with forestry agencies of AMS since March 2009. Initiating the vision of green growth internationally, the President of the ROK proposed the establishment of the AFoCO on 1 June 2009 during

the ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit held in Jeju, the ROK. The ASEAN Leaders welcomed and appreciated the initiative.

The AFoCO initiative was presented in detail at the 12th Meeting of ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF) held on 25-27 June 2009 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar with

a proposal to start a dialogue between ASEAN and the ROK. ASOF agreed to form the “Ad Hoc Working Group for the Establishment of AFoCO”. From August 2009 until June 2011, five sessions of the Ad Hoc Working Group were conducted to deliberate further and finalize the text of the draft Agreement (Table 1).

Table 1. Ad Hoc Working Group Meetings for drafting the Agreement

Meeting	Date / Venue
1 st Ad Hoc Working Group Meeting	24 – 26 August 2009, Jakarta, Indonesia
2 nd Ad Hoc Working Group Meeting	15 – 16 March 2010, Jeju, ROK
3 rd Ad Hoc Working Group Meeting	9 – 11 March 2011, Bali, Indonesia
4 th Ad Hoc Working Group Meeting	26 – 28 April 2011, Chiang Rai, Thailand
5 th Ad Hoc Working Group Meeting	31 May – 1 June 2011, Luang Prabang, Lao PDR

Support for the establishment of AFoCO was reconfirmed at the 12th ASEAN-ROK Summit held in Thailand on 24 October 2009. The progress of the establishment process was noted and the Summit encouraged the concerned officials to work towards the finalization of the draft document. As a follow-up, the discussion on AFoCO continued in many relevant ASEAN meetings until early 2010 where a number of issues emerged which requiring further discussion. Following the suggestion to seek views from ASOF as inputs to the ROK, the 13th ASOF Meeting, held on 29-30 July 2010 in Manila, Philippines, took time to deliberate the matter of AFoCO and suggested what is called “a phased approach” where an ASEAN-ROK cooperation program should be initiated first and AFoCO would be considered in the next phase along with the progress made on the cooperation program.



Signing of the AFoCo Agreement

Due to this ASOF decision, the 3rd Ad Hoc Working Group Meeting in March 2011 had to withdraw the earlier draft and considered a new version of the Agreement text on ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation. After a series of negotiation meetings and lobbying effort including last minute compromises, the AFoCo Agreement was finally signed on 18 November 2011 during the 14th ASEAN-ROK Summit held in Bali, Indonesia.

Meanwhile, as part of promoting cooperation with ASEAN, an International Workshop on Forest Cooperation was organized by KFS in Seoul on 8-10 December 2010, which identified the following four key areas of cooperation to be considered for future cooperation projects:

- I. Mitigation of climate change effects through rehabilitation/restoration of degraded forest and ecosystem, environmental service, community forestry and REDD+ activities;
- II. Conservation of biodiversity and eco-tourism;
- III. NTFP development and renewable biomass energy; and
- IV. Human capacity development (scholarship and training programs).

As a follow-up, the ROK initiated four pilot projects in Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, and Philippines from 2010 up to 2011. For 2011-2012, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar,

Table 2. Ratification and effective date of entry-into-force for the implementation of AFoCo Agreement

Country	Date of ratification/ official endorsement	Effective date of entry- into-force
Republic of Korea	3 April 2012	5 August 2012
Brunei Darussalam	26 June 2012	5 August 2012
Cambodia	2 May 2012	5 August 2012
Indonesia	26 March 2013	26 March 2013
Lao PDR	10 September 2012	10 September 2012
Malaysia	26 June 2012	5 August 2012
Myanmar	17 July 2012	5 August 2012
Philippines	21 December 2012	21 December 2012
Singapore	22 May 2012	5 August 2012
Thailand	7 June 2012	5 August 2012
Viet Nam	6 July 2012	5 August 2012

Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam implemented nine (9) individual cooperation projects with support from the ROK.

The AFoCo Agreement entered into force on 5 August 2012, on the thirtieth (30th) day after notification of the completion of internal procedure by the ROK and six (6) AMS. Upon the receipt of notification from all signatory countries to AFoCo Agreement, the ASEAN Secretariat officially notified all parties of the AFoCo Agreement on 17 May 2013 through diplomatic channel informing the status of Agreement and dates for the official entry-into-force for each country (Table 2).

This two-year Agreement was extended for another two years until 4 August 2016 by signing an instrument of extension by all eleven (11) parties on 5 August 2014.

The Agreement represents a milestone in the history of ASEAN–ROK cooperation and gave a much needed confidence to KFS officials that they are part of AFoCo history making. For AMS and ASOF in particular, an opportunity opened up to launch a series of forestry cooperation projects that will address the issues in their national and regional agenda.

CHAPTER 2

OVERVIEW

- 2.1 Institutional Arrangements
- 2.2 Mission of Forest Rehabilitation and Prevention of Forest Degradation
- 2.3 Mission of Platform for the Establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO)



Chapter 2. Overview

2.1. Institutional Arrangements

AFoCo's organizational structure and establishment, which provides a platform for forest cooperation between ROK and the AMS, is made up of a GC and a Secretariat led by the Executive Director (Figure 2). The Executive Director is regularly advised by an Advisory Committee, which consists of eminent persons from diplomatic and technical institutions in ROK. The role of the Advisory Committee is more specifically on domestic consultations and smooth functioning of the Secretariat which is located in the ROK.

The GC was established as a decision-making, coordinating, and implementing body of the Agreement. The GC is made up of senior officials in Forestry from each AMS and the ROK (Article IV (2)

of the Agreement). The Executive Director heads the Secretariat appointed by the GC in accordance with the Article IV of the Agreement and the Vice Executive Director oversees the affairs of the Planning, Budget, and HR Management Team and International Cooperation Team.

Under the guidance of GC, the Secretariat planned and implemented programs, projects, and activities that are directed in accordance with the objectives, scope and areas of cooperation stipulated under the AFoCo Agreement. The projects were developed at the national, regional or sub-regional level to foster closer cooperation among the participating countries with common interests and provide a model for future regional forest cooperation. Although these projects were developed under the framework of AFoCo Agreement, each project had its own legally binding arrangement to be able to operate independently even after termination of the AFoCo Agreement.

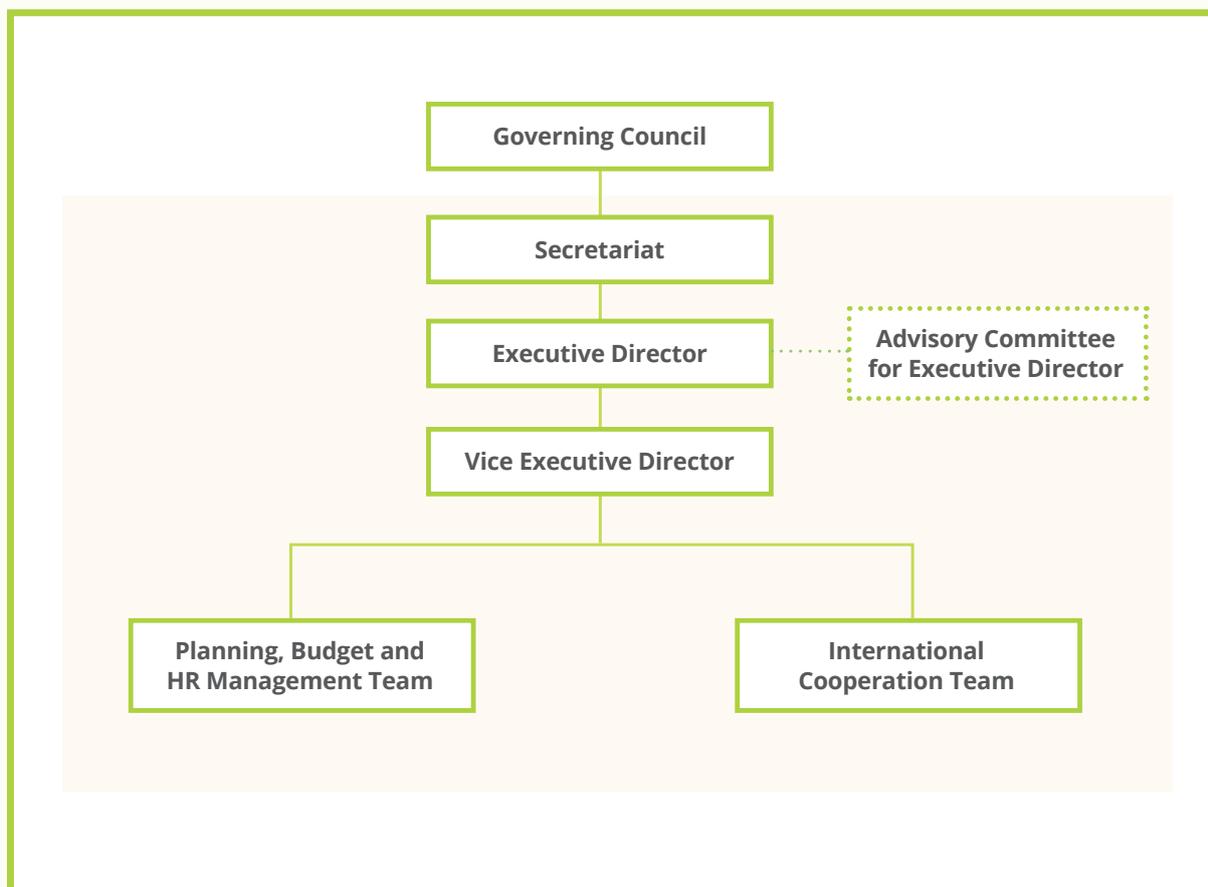


Figure 2 Organizational Structure of AFoCo

2.2. Mission of Forest Rehabilitation and Prevention of Forest Degradation

The AFoCo Agreement facilitates forest cooperation, undertakes projects and translates sound forest policies and proven technologies into action with a mission to rehabilitate degraded forest land and to prevent deforestation and forest degradation in the context of SFM as well as the broader scope of addressing the impact of climate change.

Under this mission, AFoCo projects also implement activities related to the conservation of forest resources, as well as capacity building, in line with the goals and objectives of AFoCo to carry out action-oriented field activities while ensuring synergies and complementation of existing cooperation, regional and international organizations. The projects are expected to serve as a model for addressing deforestation and land degradation in the broader scope of Asia, and output long-term influence through capacity building programs. This will also contribute to narrowing the development gap among the AMS under the strategic framework of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI).

The four areas of cooperation, identified at the International Workshop on Forest Cooperation held on 8-10 December 2010, continued to take into account for consideration of cooperation projects (see in Chapter 1.3).

2.3. Mission of Platform for the Establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO)

Legally, entry-into-force of the AFoCo Agreement on 5 August 2012 has given a platform for dialogue between the AMS and the ROK for the establishment of the AFoCO.

The following missions of AFoCO are outlined and further elaborated in Chapter 5 - "Our Future – Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO)":

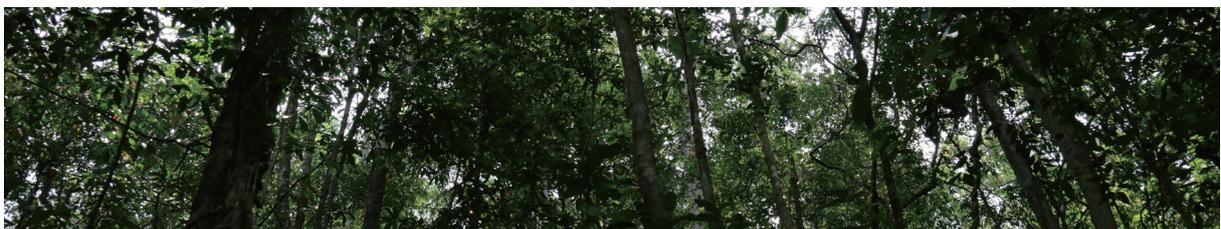
- A. Forest rehabilitation and prevention of forest-related disasters;
- B. Undertaking climate change mitigation and adaptation activities;
- C. Promoting SFM; and
- D. Capacity building and transfer of technology.



CHAPTER 3

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- 3.1 Milestones and Key Outputs
- 3.2 Cooperative Activities by their Areas of Intervention



Chapter 3

Activities and Achievements

3.1. Milestones and Key Outputs

Over the four years of implementation of the AFoCo Agreement, a number of meetings, workshops, and training programs were organized. Other than regular meetings under the AFoCo framework, various workshop and training programs were organized as part of Secretariat activities and also as activities under cooperation projects including AFoCo Landmark Program.

AFoCo had eight regular sessions and one special session of the GC, and organized six meetings of dialogue for the establishment of AFoCo. Seven individual projects and two regional cooperation projects were developed and completed under the AFoCo framework. Five more regional projects are currently being implemented and expected to continue its implementation beyond the termination of the AFoCo Agreement. The AFoCo Landmark Program was launched as a 10-year program with long-term goals under a holistic approach of restoring degraded forest in Southeast Asia as a model for a greener Asia. This program aims to contribute to the socio-economic development of local communities in accordance with the strategic framework of the IAI to narrow the development gap among the AMS. It has four main components: (1) establishment of RETC in Myanmar (Appendix 3); (2) development of education and training programs for capacity building; (3) restoration of degraded forest regions (Appendix 2 and 3); and (4) development of advocacy activities.

The milestone events over four years of implementation of the AFoCo Agreement are shown in the timeline.

Two Special ASEAN-ROK Ministerial Meetings on Forestry were held during the course of 4-year implementation of the AFoCo Agreement. The first Special Ministerial Meeting was held on 30 August

- 18 November, Signing of AFoCo Agreement, Bali, Indonesia



2011

- 25 January, 2nd Session of the GC, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
- 14 May, Signing of Implementation Agreement between AFoCo Secretariat and Thailand for the regional project AFoCo/001/2013, Bangkok, Thailand
- 18 October, 3rd Session of the GC, Singapore
- 18 November, Signing of Implementation Agreement between ROK and 9 implementing countries for the regional project AFoCo/002/2013, Bandung, Indonesia
- 11 December, First Meeting of the Dialogue for the Establishment of AFoCo, Busan, ROK



2013

- 22 April, 6th Session of the GC, Bali, Indonesia
- 22 September, Last (6th) Meeting of the Dialogue for the Establishment of AFoCo, Seoul, ROK
- 25 November, 7th Session of the GC, Da Nang, Viet Nam
- 28 December, Signing of MOU among ROK, Viet Nam, Thailand and AFoCo Secretariat for the regional project AFoCo/009/2015, Daejeon, ROK



2015

2012



- 5 August, Entry-into-Force of the Agreement
- 28 August, 1st Session of the GC, Seoul, ROK
- 1 September, Opening of the AFoCo Secretariat, Seoul, ROK

2012 in Seoul after the commencement of AFoCo Agreement and issued a Ministerial Statement in support of the implementation of AFoCo Agreement and further strengthening of ASEAN-ROK cooperation in forestry. The second Special Ministerial Meeting was held on 11 December 2014 in Busan at the occasion of ASEAN-ROK Summit commemorating 25 years of dialogue cooperation.

The ROK has committed about USD 24.5 million in order to support the implementation of cooperation projects and AFoCo Landmark Program under the Agreement. AFoCo organized 62 technical training courses and workshops under Secretariat activity, cooperation projects, and Landmark Program benefitting 2,336 participants. AFoCo also accommodated 7 fellowship officials for one-year term at the Secretariat. The Landmark Program is supporting scholarships for 2 PhD students and 4 Masters students at the Korean universities. Key outputs achieved under the cooperative programs and projects are summarized in Table 3.



2014



- 14 March, Launching of AFoCo Landmark Program, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
- 14 March, Signing of MOU between ROK and Cambodia for the Landmark Program Restoration Project AFoCo/005/2014, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
- 29 April, Signing of MOU between ROK and Viet Nam for the Landmark Program Restoration Project AFoCo/006/2014, Manila, Philippines
- 30 April, 4th Session of the GC, Manila, Philippines
- 1 August, Signing of MOU between ROK and Myanmar for the Landmark Program RETC Project AFoCo/007/2014
- 5 August, Signing of the Instrument for Extension of the Agreement, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
- 1 October, Signing of MOU between ROK and Lao PDR for the Landmark Program Restoration Project AFoCo/008/2014, Vientiane, Lao PDR
- 9 December, 5th Session of the GC, Busan, ROK
- 9 December, Signing of MOU among ROK, Cambodia and Viet Nam for the regional project AFoCo/003/2014, Busan, ROK
- 9 December, Signing of MOU between ROK and Philippines for the regional project AFoCo/004/2014, Busan, ROK

2016



- 30 March, 8th Session of the GC, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam
- 30 March, Signing of MOU between ROK and Philippines for the regional project AFoCo/011/2016, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam
- 19 May, Signing of MOU among ROK, Malaysia and Thailand for the regional project AFoCo/010/2016, Daejeon, ROK
- 26 July, Special Session of the GC, Bangkok, Thailand
- 4 August, Termination of the AFoCo Agreement

Table 3. Key outputs of Programs and Projects under the AFoCo Agreement

No.	Description of outputs	Beneficiary countries	Year
1	Laboratory for plant tissue culture at Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development, Cambodia	Cambodia	2013
2	Direct seeding field trial for 10 high value timber species in Siem Reap, Cambodia	Cambodia	Ongoing
3	Installation of wood pellet making equipment at Kadipaten Forestry Vocational School, Indonesia	Indonesia	2013
4	20-ha demonstration trial for REDD+ and livelihood improvement activities in Bago Yoma Region, Myanmar	Myanmar	2013
5	Demonstration of NTFP production and planting/tending models (4-ha each) in Hoa Binh, Son La, Dien Bien and Lai Chau provinces	Viet Nam	2014
6	National master plan for climate-resilient forestry development	Philippines	2016
7	Supply of necessary equipment and satellite images for GIS/RS laboratories	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam	2015
8	Biodiversity conservation and eco-tourism development at Mondulkiri Protected Forest Reserve	Cambodia	2015
9	Joint learning opportunities through exchange visits regarding PFES and ecotourism activities among the Mekong Basin Countries	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam	2015
10	Installation of GIS/RS equipment and laboratory	Brunei Darussalam	2016
11	Establishment of AFoCo RETC in Myanmar	AFoCo member countries	Ongoing
12	Establishment of 6-ha seed orchard, 24-ha progeny plantation and 200-ha conservation site for forest genetic resources in Cambodia	Cambodia	Ongoing
13	Rehabilitation of 3,620-ha forest area, including establishment of 60-ha ex-situ seed sources and 790-ha enrichment plantation in Lao PDR	Lao PDR	Ongoing
14	Rehabilitation of 960-ha mangroves forest in Thai Binh Province, Viet Nam	Viet Nam	Ongoing
15	Tree seed laboratory at Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development, Cambodia	Cambodia	Ongoing
16	12-ha domestication of endangered, endemic and threatened plant species in disturbed terrestrial ecosystems	Malaysia and Thailand	Ongoing
17	Delivery of 62 technical training courses and workshops under 14 projects and Landmark Program for 2,336 participants	AFoCo member countries	2016
18	Assignment of 7 fellowship officials for one-year term at AFoCo Secretariat	Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam	Ongoing
19	Scholarships for 2 PhD students and 4 Masters students at the Korean universities	Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam	Ongoing
20	17 Memorandum of Understandings entered by AFoCo Secretariat	AFoCo member countries	2016
21	Production of 65 publicity materials (video, report, leaflet, research paper)	AFoCo member countries	2016
22	11 exhibitions for publicity of AFoCo and AFoCO at international events	AFoCo member countries	2015

3.2. Cooperative Activities by their Areas of Intervention

The projects could be categorized into individual and regional cooperation projects. The individual cooperation projects are bilateral programs between each AMS and the ROK, implemented on one-year term. Individual cooperation projects (Appendix 1) mainly concentrated on policy implementation, forest rehabilitation, and capacity building on community level, aiming to provide the most sustainable developmental plan for the country's forests and improve forest technologies and basic restoration abilities. Altogether seven AMS, namely, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam, signed the respective Implementation Agreements for Individual Cooperation Projects with the ROK in 2012 and they have completed implementing their projects in the following years.

Since the AFoCo Agreement has entered into force, there was a common understanding to have activities broader and longer scale reflecting a regional entity of AFoCo after having the individual projects. To accommodate such voice, the concept of regional cooperation project (Appendix 2) was suggested by KFS and was endorsed at the 1st Session of the GC. It was designed to strengthen capacity and share the knowledge and experience more closely among member countries of AFoCo to narrow the gap efficiently and effectively in a relatively long term perspective. Each project is led by a lead country which has a capacity to coordinate the implementation of the project. The implementing countries and the lead country are expected to interact and communicate closely during the project period. The role of lead country include keeping close communication with the Secretariat and facilitating coordination among the implementing countries with a capacity to request the budget, report the progress of the project based on the project document and organize project coordination meetings with the implementing countries such as the project steering committee (PSC) and so on. The Secretariat is expected to be at major activities such as PSC as a resource person to facilitate the meeting

and discussion. Each regional cooperation projects are summarized as below.

As the first regional cooperation project, the project **“Reclamation, Rehabilitation and Restoration of Degraded Forest Ecosystems (RRR-DFE) in Mekong Basin Countries”** was approved to strengthen trans-boundary cooperation on biodiversity conservation, forest restoration, watershed management and eco-tourism among 5 Mekong Basin Countries through pilot testing, organizing workshops on best practices and technology transfer, and capacity development activities. Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam participated and Thailand took the role of lead country. The budget was USD 500,000 and the project was completed on 13 May 2015.

The project entitled **“Capacity Building on Improving Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) and Enhancing the Involvement of the Local Communities to Address the Impact of Climate Change”** was approved in order (1) to organize regional and country Workshops on FRA and identify the gap among Implementing Countries; (2) to promote capacity building programs on recent technologies including the use of satellite imagery in FRA; (3) to support acquiring high resolution satellite images and inventory equipment in Implementing Countries; and (4) to raise awareness through publicity program and study on alternative livelihood for local communities. It was approved on 18 November 2013 with the budget of USD 1,847,528. Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam implemented project and Indonesia served as the lead country. The implementing countries commenced project activities after signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) respectively (8 November 2013 by ROK, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam; 21 November 2013 by the Philippines; 26 December 2013 by Cambodia; 31 January 2014 by Thailand; 3 April 2014 by Brunei Darussalam; 6 August 2014 by Myanmar). The project was completed on 31 May 2016.

The project entitled **“Promotion of Forest Rehabilitation in Cambodia and Viet Nam through Demonstration Models and Improvement of Seed Supply System”** aims (1) to initiate a seed distribution system in Cambodia with identified seed sources and seed distributors, (2) to establish a tree seed laboratory with supporting facilities and trained staffing in Cambodia, (3) to improve seed sources and seedling production and management in Viet Nam, (4) to establish demonstration models of forest rehabilitation in Cambodia and Viet Nam, and (5) to assess the impact of forest rehabilitation on the environment and climate change in Viet Nam. Cambodia is leading the project and the total budget is USD 1,000,000 for five years. It was approved on 9 December 2014 and commenced in April 2015 in Cambodia and July 2015 in Viet Nam. The project is expected to be completed in 2020.

The project entitled **“Facilitating the Participatory Planning of Community - based Forest Management Using Geographic Information System and Remote Sensing Technologies in Forest Resources Management in the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand”** aims (1) to streamline existing planning guidelines and procedures (with the aid of GIS and RS) in the preparation of community-level forest management plan; (2) to improve the planning capacities of target beneficiaries; (3) to improve the certainty of tenured forests with workable community-level forest management plan; (4) to support the community-level forest management plans successfully implemented; and (5) to increase the number of forest technicians with the capabilities to provide assistance in the preparation of community-level forest management plan, with the budget of USD 1,500,000 for five years. The MOU was signed on 9 December 2014 between the Philippines, the lead country, and the ROK. The separate project implementation agreements were signed on 22 April 2015 between the Philippines and Indonesia, and on December 2015 between Philippines and Thailand, respectively. The activities in the implementing countries started by April 2015 (Philippines), October

2015 (Indonesia) and January 2016 (Thailand) due to the time for domestic administrative situations.

The project led by Viet Nam entitled **“Developing High Valuable Species in Viet Nam and Thailand as a Mechanism for Sustainable Forest Management and Livelihood Improvement for Local Communities”** was approved (1) to assess and select the most suitable and high valuable species, including NTFPs, in the study provinces; (2) to develop appropriate techniques, marketing, and policy recommendation for the development, processing and trade of the study species; (3) to develop demonstration models for the development of the study species; and (4) to improve knowledge, techniques, and skills of local people through trainings, visiting and disseminations. The budget is USD 600,000 for three years from 2016 to 2019.

The project entitled **“Capacity Building for Landscape Approach to Support the Sustainable Natural Resources Management in Brunei, Indonesia, Philippines, and Singapore”** which is led by the Philippines with the budget of USD 539,726 for three years has been approved to strengthen trans-boundary cooperation of respective forestry sector within ASEAN countries through the application of landscape approach in natural resources management. It was originally designed as part of the RRR-DFE project for the archipelago countries such as Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore. The original project was withdrawn in 2014 and a new project with a focus on landscape approach was developed in 2015. Eventually, four implementing countries, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Singapore agreed to participate in the project. The MOU was signed on 30 March 2016 and the inception meeting was held in May 2016 in the Philippines. This 3-year project is expected to be completed in 2019.

Lastly, the project led by Malaysia entitled **“Domestication of Endangered, Endemic and Threatened Plant Species (EETS) in Disturbed Terrestrial Ecosystems in Malaysia and Thailand”**

with the budget of USD 1,200,000 for six years was approved (1) to domesticate national red-list species in both countries; (2) to strengthen cooperation between Malaysia-Thailand on conservation of biodiversity, domestication techniques and technology transfer; (3) to exchange knowledge and lessons learned on best practice of rehabilitation and biodiversity conservation; and (4) to enhance capacity of Malaysia-Thailand in reclamation, rehabilitation and restoration of degraded forest ecosystems through domestication of endangered, endemic and threatened species, exchange of expertise and capacity development. The MOU was signed on 19 May 2016 and the activities will be commenced in the third quarter of 2016.

The regional projects with their effective dates of entry-into-force are described in (Appendix 2) and each project will be consistently referred to with its assigned project code throughout this document.

The **AFoCo Landmark Program** is a 10-year project initiated by the Secretariat under the title **“Restoring Degraded Forests in Southeast Asia as a Model for a Greener Asia: Capacity Building on Forest Restoration and Sustainable Forestry”**. The project was launched in 2014 with a total budget of USD 15,000,000. Program activities are developed and implemented under four main components. The establishment of RETC in Myanmar (Appendix 3) is expected to be completed in late 2016. The research equipment and training facilities of RETC will be made available to all AFoCo members for relevant activities including training courses under Landmark Program. The component on development of education and training programs for capacity building aims at developing an integrated pool of experts through educating and training government officials. The component on restoration of degraded forest regions (Appendix 2 and 3) is expected to establish best practice in forest restoration and different types of model forest for AFoCo. The component of development of advocacy activities aims to raise awareness on both forest restoration and related socio-economic aspects of local communities simultaneously.

Both individual and regional cooperation projects as well as AFoCo Landmark Program are developed based on the areas of cooperation under the AFoCo Agreement. The areas of project intervention are categorized as: (1) Forest rehabilitation; (2) Prevention of forest degradation; (3) Biodiversity conservation; (4) Livelihood improvement through NTFP and high value species; (5) Capacity development; and (6) Strengthening cooperation through partnership with other entities. In particular, capacity development activities were wide ranging depending on the nature of project.

The subsequent part of this chapter will highlight achievements in the key areas of cooperation over the course of four years (5 August 2012 – 4 August 2016) under the AFoCo Agreement.

3.2.1. Forest Rehabilitation

Forest rehabilitation is a challenging long-term endeavor that requires careful planning, implementation, and monitoring. This has been a continuous effort of many of the countries until the present days. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) mentioned that the purpose of forest rehabilitation is to restore the capacity of degraded forestland to deliver the forest products and services. It re-establishes the original productivity of the forest and some, but not necessarily all, of the plant and animal species thought to be originally present at a site. For ecological or economic reasons, the new forest might also include species not originally present at the site. The protective function and many of the ecological services of the original forest may be re-established (Gilmour, 2000). The AFoCo's activities on the improvement of seed supply system, strengthening of community-based forest management, and restoration of degraded regions through landscape approaches and restoration projects of the Landmark Program contribute to this effort on forest rehabilitation.



Tree planting

3.2.1.1 Forest Rehabilitation through Improvement of Seed Supply System

In Cambodia, the rapid economic growth in the last decades, coupled with the increase of population, has resulted in an increased demand for forest products. Illegal cutting, over exploitation, firewood collection, and habitat loss, conversion of natural resources to other land uses, among others are the main threats causing deforestation and forest degradation.

Testing direct seeding of indigenous tree species on *Imperata* grassland through the Cambodia individual cooperation project, which was implemented in 2012 - 2013, and the regional project AFoCo/003/2014, which is operational from 2015 to 2020, are some of the forest rehabilitation activities that would contribute to the re-establishment of original forest in the ASEAN region.

Under the individual cooperation project in Cambodia, an experiment was conducted in Khun Ream Commune, Banteay Srey District, Siem Reap Province in 2013 to test the suitability of direct seeding of indigenous tree species as a means to reforest *Imperata* grassland. The main reason for this is that in the past, since 1984, reforestation programs have been costly without much impact on the ground. In addition, this kind of direct seeding trial has never been conducted in the area. This project, which

seeks to create a demonstration site on methods of reforestation for local communities, has tested 10 species of legume. By counting their emergence for several weeks, initial observation revealed that species having large size seeds had higher percentage of emergence compared to small size seeds. The trials on reforestation by direct seeding were maintained and monitored.

Cambodia, as the lead country of the regional project AFoCo/003/2014 on the establishment of demonstration models and seed supply system, has just started its activities in January 2015. All activities planned for year 1 were well implemented and completed. These included the identification of seed sources of priority species in natural forests, maintenance and monitoring of seed production areas, conduct of seed demand survey, and establishment of demonstration plot.



Measuring growth after planting

3.2.1.2 Establishment of a Clonal Seed Orchard and Progeny Test Plantation

The restoration project of Landmark Program in Cambodia, AFoCo/005/2014, is designed to provide technical support for much needed restoration and tree breeding techniques including capacity development of local officials. Under the project, three (3) high value species, namely, *Dalbergia cochinchinensis*, *Pterocarpus macrocarpus* and *Dipterocarpus intricatus* have been selected and the establishment of 24 ha of progeny test plantation, 6 ha of a clonal seed orchard, 18 ha of demonstration forest, and 200 ha of conservation site for genetic resources will follow for 10 years of implementation.



Identification of mother tree for progeny test plantation

The clonal seed orchard will be the first of its kind in Cambodia in order to maintain genetic pool of native tree species and provide technical information for further policy development. As part of the project, a blue print will be developed later for the establishment of Forest Genetics Research Center in Cambodia.

3.2.1.3 Forest Rehabilitation through Community-based Forest Management

Community-based forest management (CBFM), which has long been known in Asia since the 1980s as a powerful tool to strengthen the rights of communities living near the forest to gain access of the resources therein and manage for livelihood opportunities (Mahanty *et al.*, 2006), is considered by AFoCo as one of the important mechanisms to help countries in ASEAN to rehabilitate their forests through the participation of the local people.

With the implementation of the regional project AFoCo/004/2014, it is expected that forests and forest resources management in the community settlement areas will be improved with the support of high technology such as GIS/RS. To facilitate the implementation of the activities, a regional project office was established in the Philippines (lead country) in April 2015 following the signing of MOU with the ROK in December 2014. As a follow-up, two bilateral project implementation agreements were signed between Philippines and two other implementing countries, namely, Indonesia and Thailand, in April and



Consultation with local people for community – based forest management

December 2015, respectively. The achievements for its first year of implementation include the completion of the literature review of existing guidelines on community forest management planning, identification of hardware and software to support CBFM planning, and implementation, field-testing, and documentation of pilot project.

A village-based rehabilitation project of Landmark Program, AFoCo/008/2014, is implementing the activities in Lao PDR in line with the national strategy 2020 which has outlined dual targets of increasing the national forest cover up to 70 percent and reducing rural poverty through SFM. The country's strategy prioritized village forestry with the application of various models, including the ROK's successful new village movement 'Saemaul Undong'. Based on the concept of village forestry, the project is targeting to protect 2,770 ha of mountainous area, establish 60 ha area for ex-situ seed sources, and enrich 790 ha plantation with various native tree species such as *Azelia xylocarpa*, *Dipterocarpus alatus*, *Hopea odorata*, *Paramichelia baillonii*, *Persea kurzii*, *Pterocarpus macrocarpus*, *Sindora cochinchinensis*, *Spondias axillaris*, and *Tectona grandis*.

3.2.1.4 Rehabilitation through Landscape Approach

Forest landscape is not merely composed of forests and forest is not merely composed of trees. It is complex and rehabilitation through landscape approach is not an easy task. The continuous deforestation and forest degradation we are facing right now especially in the tropical region is a global concern affecting the biodiversity, climate change, and human survival. The causes are many and varied among ASEAN countries. Thus, the need for restoring the lost and degraded forests is an urgent task. In the Agenda 21, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) that was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 1992, people and ecosystem-centered restoration approach were highly recommended to address this issue. Forest landscape restoration, which is popularly known, is probably the best process that aims to regain ecological integrity and enhance human well-being.

The earlier proposed regional project entitled "Reclamation, Rehabilitation and Restoration of Degraded Forest Ecosystems (RRR-DFE) in BIMPS Countries" was reformulated as a new regional

project AFoCo/011/2016. It is expected that more activities will be implemented for different types of forest management (beach forest protection in Brunei Darussalam, peat swamp forest conservation in Indonesia and CBFM in Philippines). In addition, Singapore has taken a lead in organizing a regional training course related to urban forestry and biodiversity conservation. An MOU between the ROK and the Philippines (lead country) was signed on 30 March 2016 and the signing of separate legal documents between Philippines and three other participating countries is underway.

3.2.1.5 Rehabilitation of Sustainable Mangrove Forest Ecosystem

The restoration project of Landmark Program in Viet Nam, AFoCo/006/2014, is being implemented for rehabilitation of mangrove forest ecosystem in Thai Binh Province and capacity building of local communities regarding rehabilitation, protection, and sustainable management of mangroves in a holistic approach of ecosystem maintenance, climate change mitigation, and livelihood improvement. As the province's natural resources are being threatened with rapid economic development, it is expected that this long-term project will contribute to finding a locally harmonious way of maintaining mangrove forest ecosystem without compromising existing local livelihood and income generating activities.

The project is expected to rehabilitate 960 ha of mangrove forest, including the establishment of 80 ha of new mangrove forest plantation and 80 ha of supplementary plantation through single-layered and low density planting methods. At the same time, community awareness raising and capacity building activities on conservation of mangrove forest will be implemented. For the long term, the project is expected to contribute to protecting biodiversity, reducing GHG emissions, minimizing impacts of climate change, protecting the coastal dyke system, enhancing local knowledge related to mangrove forest ecosystem maintenance and improving local livelihoods.

3.2.2 Prevention of Forest Degradation



Demonstration of REDD+ and SFM through participatory approach

According to FAO definition, forest degradation is changes within a forest that affect the structure and function of the stand or site and thereby lower its capacity to supply products or services. Hence, in order to prevent forest degradation in the ASEAN region, most AMS have designed projects related to REDD+ for climate change mitigation and adaptation, including climate proofing of national forestry master plan to address this problem.

3.2.2.1 REDD+ for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

The relationship between forests and climate is, needless to say, a complex one. We know that climate has a profound impact on the way forests grow, function, regenerate, and interact with the natural world around them. Forests have irrefutable interactions with climate through their role as carbon sinks and sources. Since the release of the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2014, there has been near certainty that climate change is an inevitable consequence of past and

present human activities. Many of the current sources of environmental change are attributed to patterns of natural resource extraction and utilization. Although mitigating and adaptation for global warming have received a great deal of media and scientific attention these days, it is still important that we further investigate the capabilities of forests as carbon storage units and determine the amount of GHG that trees can uptake and absorb.

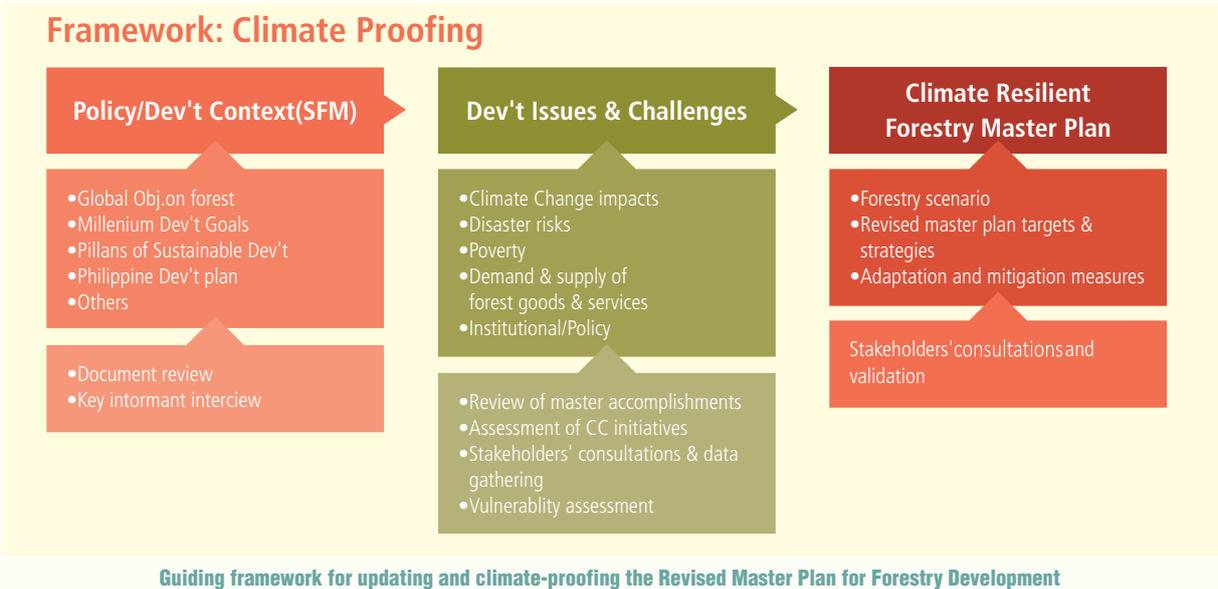
The individual cooperation project in Myanmar was launched on 1 March 2013 and completed on 28 February 2014. It was a pioneer project in the country that introduced the field demonstration activities in the context of REDD+, SFM and participatory approach. All the project activities were designed in line with the national forest management plan and REDD+ Readiness Roadmap. The project activities, particularly conservation and protection of demonstration sites, will be continuously maintained by the Forest Department of Myanmar with the participation of the local community. During the project period (March 2013 – February 2014), all the proposed activities were implemented successfully in accordance with

the work plan. Different activities, covering public talks for awareness raising, capacity building, stakeholder consultations, REDD+ demonstration, publications, livelihood improvement, school gardening, rural development, and study tour abroad were well implemented.

Another REDD+-related project is the individual cooperation project in Thailand. The project was officially launched on 22 May 2013. The administrative arrangement with the Royal Forest Department and the Department of National Parks was made in June - July 2013. The establishment of community network and regular meetings among four villages (Thung Chang, Thung Peung, Pae Klang, and Hauy Yang) in Nam Province in July 2013 was conducted. Other technical activities were conducted in August 2013, specifically on the development of carbon stock measurement and monitoring mechanism as well as watershed restoration activities, such as building check dam and planting of trees.

3.2.2.2 Climate Proofing of Forestry Master Plan

Responding to the need for climate change mitigation and human capacity development, the Philippines has proposed an individual project on Climate Proofing of the Revised Master Plan for Forestry Development (RMPFD) to improve existing national master plan for forestry development in consideration of climate change impact and the vulnerability assessment. The project covered a wide range of stakeholder consultation process at the national and regional level. The project was launched in 2013 with the development of a draft framework for climate proofing of the master plan in consultations with the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) executive committee. The results of the national assessments were validated in the regions to gain understanding of the problems/issues and to generate more recommendations for updating and climate proofing the RMPFD. For this, regional consultations were organized in different clusters of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The first draft was presented to the FMB Expanded Executive Committee Members on 8 October 2014. The outcome of the project was "The Philippine Master Plan for Climate-Resilient Forestry Development". Due to a broad domestic consultation process with various stakeholders, a final draft was presented to the FMB in January 2015 for further consideration and the project was officially completed in May 2016.



3.2.3. Biodiversity Conservation

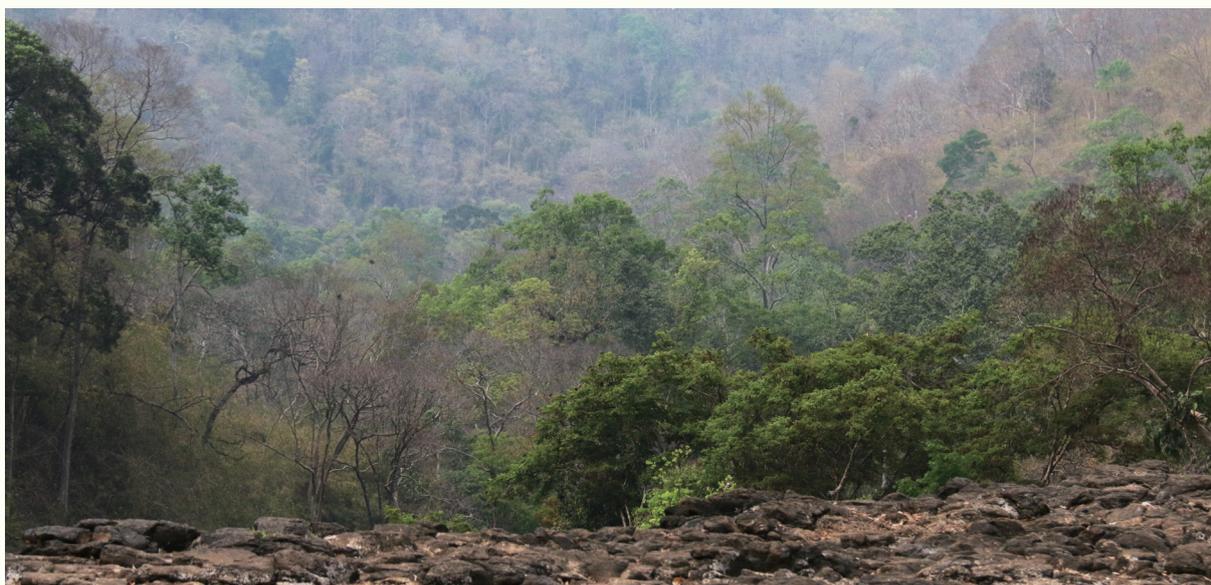
3.2.3.1 Mekong as an Important Biodiversity Landscape

Mekong Basin is an important landscape of biodiversity and water resources in Southeast Asia. The basin provides crucial livelihood support to some of the poorest rural people in region. According to World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) classification, the Mekong River region contains 16 WWF Global 200 Ecoregions, which are critical landscapes of international biological importance. This represents the greatest concentration of Ecoregions in mainland Asia.

However, forest management practices and models in the Mekong Basin Countries (MBC) are diverse depending on the national policy and strategic approach adopted. The problem on forest destruction and biodiversity loss is critical and needs to be tackled by the MBC in their collective effort to restore degraded Mekong ecosystems. The regional project AFoCo/001/2013 was formulated as a pilot project to strengthen transboundary cooperation among the MBC, namely, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam, and Thailand through pilot testing, workshops on best practices, technology transfer, and capacity development activities for two years (May 2013 - May

2015). Thailand was a lead country to organize the regional activities under this project.

In this project, each country selected a pilot site with a specific area of intervention and organized joint learning activities between or among the countries. Cambodia focused on biodiversity conservation and eco-tourism development at the Mondulkiri Protected Forest Reserve near the border with Viet Nam and explored opportunities to promote transboundary cooperation activities. The pilot site in Lao PDR targeted on “participatory forest management with certification” in Xebangnouane Community Forest by exploring and supporting alternative livelihood activities. Myanmar focused on the improvement of the Pindaya Protected Watershed and training of local community who are benefiting from tourist trekking activities in this watershed area. Thailand's project site is focused on ‘ecotourism with forest restoration’ in the Mae Kok Restored Forest Site. The project site is actually one of their well-preserved areas with active homestay tourist activities and regional workshops were organized at the site for other MBC to learn from Thailand experience. Viet Nam's project site is located at the Bidoup Nui Ba National Park, Dalat where PFES mechanism has been implemented with the participation of local communities. Participants from other MBC had a good learning experience



Project site for biodiversity conservation and eco-tourism development

from Viet Nam's nation-wide implementation on PFES and field visit at the site. Survey and documentation of biodiversity was undertaken in these sites and potential SFM models and methods of promoting ecotourism within the pilot sites were formulated. Country reports on best practices were also documented and shared through workshops at the national and regional levels among the five countries for furthering the exchange of experiences and lessons learned.

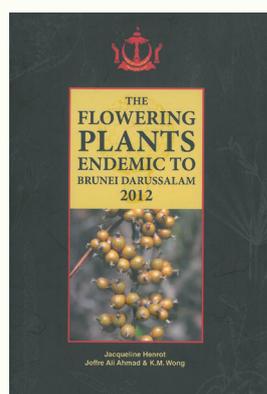
The project provided a good networking mechanism and pilot activities associated with ecotourism in MBC. This project was considered one of the most effective AFoCo projects because of shared learning opportunities among the MBC. Thailand proposed for consideration of extending the cooperation project under the theme "Enhancing livelihood of local communities through biodiversity conservation and ecotourism". Lao PDR and Viet Nam recommended considering the new project on trans-boundary cooperation on biodiversity conservation.

3.2.3.2 Dealing with Endangered, Endemic and Threatened Species (EETS)

Malaysia and Thailand have a mega-biodiverse landscape and their rapid economic development and climate change had inevitably caused degradation of terrestrial ecosystems. These two countries are addressing these problems through collaboration in research and development activities, particularly on conservation of biodiversity, domestication techniques, and technology transfer through domestication of endangered, endemic and threatened species (EETS). The Malaysia-Thailand project aims to domesticate national red-list species in both countries and exchange knowledge and lessons learned on best practice of rehabilitation and biodiversity conservation. The 6-year regional project AFoCo/010/2016 started on 19 May 2016 and the activities are to be implemented until 2022.

3.2.3.3 Brunei Plant Biodiversity Research and Publication

An output of the individual cooperation project in Brunei Darussalam was the publication of "Brunei Plant Biodiversity: Endemics and Database" which was launched on 11 April 2013. After intensive field research and data base development of the country's flowering plants, they were able to consolidate existing data into a form of reference for all researchers and planners at national, regional, and global levels. This book is part of the government's effort to sustainably manage the country's natural resources, especially the virgin forests and ecosystems of the Borneo Island. The book contains a total of 65 flowering plants (35 herbals) that are endemic to the country.



Publication of the Flowering Plants Endemic to Brunei Darussalam

Database management of forest plant species



3.2.4 Livelihood Improvement through Non-Timber Forest Products and High Value Species



Providing technical recommendation to village people



High-value non-timber forest species

Forest provides a multiplicity of NTFP and high value species for different purposes. FAO used the term non-wood forest products (NWFP) describing these products as goods of biological origin other than wood derived from forests, other wooded land and trees outside forests. NTFP offers integrated approaches to land use while promoting sustainable forestry practices (Sah and Dutta, 1996).

The individual project in Viet Nam supported successfully in developing NTFP in the northwest region of the country as a mechanism for SFM and livelihood improvement for the local communities. With the support from KFS, Viet Nam started the project as Phase 1 in 2011 in Hoa Binh, Son La, Dien Bien and Lai Chau provinces. Phase 2 of the project continued in 2012 with the support of the ROK through AFoCo Agreement. Under the project, four (4) NTFP model sites, namely, 4 ha Luong (*Dendrocalamus barbatus* Hsueh et D.Z.Li) in Hoa Binh Province, 4 ha Sanhan (*Amomum longiligulare* T.L.Wu) in Son La Province, 4 ha Tao meo (*Docynia indica* (Wall.)

Decne) in Dien Bien Province, and 4 ha Thao qua (*Amomum aromaticum* Roxb) in Lai Chau Province were established over the period from January to December 2013. Technical transfer, workshops, and field visits were part of the project activities to improve knowledge and skills of local people. The local people were satisfied with the project activities as they have gained knowledge on the different NTFP products in accordance with the new technology, and expected more income opportunity from marketing of NTFP products. According to the local people, the project has been supportive in improving their standard of living and in the reduction of deforestation in the region.

With the experience from the successful implementation of two (2) individual projects on NTFP, Viet Nam proposed a new regional project AFoCo/009/2015 to be supported as an AFoCo regional project. Thailand joined the project as a participating country and a similar approach to that of NTFP project in Viet Nam will be applied in the

locations selected in both countries. Instead of NTFPs, the scope of the project has been expanded to “High Valuable Species”. An MOU was signed in late 2015 by the ROK, Viet Nam and Thailand and the project is ready to be launched in 2016.

3.2.5 Capacity Development

AFoCo envisions promoting rehabilitation of degraded lands, SFM and combat desertification. One of AFoCo’s mechanisms to achieve this vision is through the development of human resource capacity. This includes research work, workshops and short- and long-term training courses encompassing the individual and regional projects of AFoCo as well as the AFoCo Landmark Program through the establishment of RETC, improvement of technical laboratories and facilities, graduate degree scholarship program, and other related activities. These efforts for capacity development are recognized as important approaches to empower local institutions and professionals as effective stewards of managing forest resources in the region.

3.2.5.1 Capacity Building of Stakeholders (Local Communities and Local Officials)

Building local capacity in forestry is recognized as part of community forestry and this is an important element

of empowerment of local communities in making the right decisions for the management of their forests and the other land resources. Many individual and regional cooperation projects as well as activities of the AFoCo Landmark Program have the components related to community forestry activities and these have been designed to meet the needs of target communities in the country.

The individual project in Lao PDR was a follow-up to an earlier capacity building project introduced in 2011. This project was initiated in March 2013 under the AFoCo Agreement and was completed in February 2014. These two (2) projects were, in fact, designed to support the government’s new strategic approach to promote village forestry planning and management. The projects were designed to develop guidelines and strengthen the capacity of local communities as well as local forestry officials at decentralized levels to support village forestry. Guidelines on village forestry planning and management were first developed and field-tested with a target village, Ban Vang, and later the village forest management plan was developed involving all stakeholders. Through a series of consultation and discussion among the villagers and other stakeholders plus additional field data collection, the final village forest management plan was completed and submitted for official approval by the Meune District Governor Office in June 2013. As part of the plan, a village nursery was established and planting and growth monitoring of plants, including



Training and technology transfer to the local communities

bamboo, were conducted. It is expected that these village forestry guidelines and participatory approach model could be applicable at the national level in the future.

It is a fact that developing countries are struggling with forest management due to a number of constraints. Insufficient database often cause restraint in conducting proper forest resource assessment. This consequently leads to inappropriate forest management strategy and impedes the achievement of national targets among the AMS. Efforts and activities to deal with this problem are necessary to fill the gap of technical needs in the region. The regional project AFoCo/002/2013 was designed to address several issues on FRA, such as developing database for better forest management, supporting local communities in forest management, and mitigating climate change impact. The project was launched in November 2013 for the implementation of two (2) years; however, due to the late start of some countries, the project was further extended to May 2016.

Activities of the project were: (1) Regional and Country Workshops on forest resources assessment and identifying the gap among AMS; (2) Capacity building programs (study tours and trainings, exchange of expertise, information sharing) on recent technologies including the use of satellite imagery on FRA; (3) Supporting high resolution satellite images and inventory equipment for the areas under consideration of climate change related REDD+ projects in AMS; and (4) Awareness raising program and engagement of local communities in forest-related activities to address climate change including the study on alternative livelihood for local communities. The project was found to be very beneficial for many implementing countries in terms of their resources assessment as well as in learning and sharing of technology among the countries.

3.2.5.2 Short-term Training Courses and Workshops

The short-term training courses and workshops organized by AFoCo had been diverse, which were participated not only by its members but also by different stakeholders in the country and in the region. Types of these trainings and workshops



Demonstration of forest fire control by helicopters

from individual projects (28 trainings and workshops with 786 participants) (Appendix 4) and regional cooperation projects (62 trainings and workshops with 2,336 participants) (Appendix 5), including the AFoCo Landmark Program, are also diverse and can be considered an integral part of research and forest management. AFoCo recognizes the need to strengthen the capacity of its members in terms of knowledge and skills that would contribute to rehabilitating and sustainably managing their forests.

In support of forestry research in Cambodia, two laboratory technicians were trained at the Korea Forest Research Institute for one month in March 2013 on tissue culture technique and management. Similarly under the regional project AFoCo/003/2014, another technician was also sent to study at the Korean National Forest Seed and Variety Center on tree seed technology in late 2015.

In Myanmar, in order to improve the institutional and technical capacity in managing REDD+ activities as well as to promote the livelihoods of local communities, several trainings were organized under the individual cooperation project. Technical seminar

and consultation meeting with REDD+ Core Unit of the Forest Department and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) were also conducted in October 2013. Over 100 forestry officials and field level staff members were trained through a series of training courses on REDD+ related subjects.

In the Philippines, through the workshops and trainings, the individual cooperation project supported the capacity building of stakeholders for the enhancement of the revised forestry master plan.



Training on seedling production and seed supply

In Lao PDR, trainings helped significantly to strengthen the capacity of the forestry sector at operational levels. Trainees were trained on theory and practices in different subjects and tools for village forest management planning.

In Indonesia, trainings and workshops were conducted to improve the vocational school's curriculum, learning materials and activities in harmony between theory

and practice and wood biomass energy processing technology. They were able to produce a module on "Wood Pellet Processing".

In collaboration with the ASEAN-Korea Centre, the ASEAN-Korea Youth Network Workshop was organized in August 2015 to enhance networking between ASEAN and Korean youths and promote the importance of forest conservation. The workshop, with the theme on "Youth in the Forefront of Forest Conservation in ASEAN and Korea," was organized jointly in the ROK (Seoul and Gangwon Province) and Indonesia (Jakarta and Yogyakarta) over a week period. A total of 92 undergraduate students from AMS and the ROK were invited to share different cultures and environments in a variety of surroundings. The workshop provided the students with lectures, field visits, and cultural activities related to ASEAN-Korea relations and conservation of forests.

A stream event (Stream 5 – Our Green Future: Green Investment and Growing our Natural Asset) was led by AFoCo in partnership with Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet) during the 3rd Asia-Pacific Forestry Week (APFW) held in Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga, Philippines on 23-26 February 2016. Under Stream 5, a workshop on "Forest Spatial Information and User-oriented Service System" was organized in partnership with the Korea Forest Promotion Institute. Participants learned new technologies on forest spatial data and service system developed by Korea, including the



ASEAN-Korea Youth Network Workshop



Workshop on forest spatial information and user-oriented service system

Korean National Forest Inventory System, drone technology in forestry, information service system such as Dadurim, among others.

Under the regional project AFoCo/001/2013, number of capacity building activities were organized at national and regional levels. A Regional Workshop on “Lesson Learned from Thailand’s case on Ecotourism Linked with Forest Restoration” was organized in March 2014 and participants from the MBC learned the Thai model of eco-tourism that linked with the forest restoration

project. Officials and community leaders from the MBC also had a very good learning experience from Viet Nam’s implementation of PFES at a regional workshop and field visit to Lam Dong, organized by Viet Nam in October 2014. In collaboration with the Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC), six-day training on “Enhancing Livelihoods through Community Forestry” was organized in March 2015 for the MBC. In addition to regional events, there were bilateral exchange visits between Cambodia and Viet Nam in March 2015 as well as between Lao PDR and Myanmar in May 2015.



Gap analysis and building capacity in utilization of RS/GIS technology for forest resources assessment

Under the project AFoCo/002/2013, in-country workshops on improving FRA were organized in six (6) countries followed by a regional level workshop in November 2014. A regional level training for trainers on the “Application of RS and GIS Technology to Support FRA” was organized in Lao PDR in September 2014 and this was followed by in-country trainings in eight (8) countries. Syllabus and module for Training for Trainer were developed by Indonesia. A study tour on REDD+ Demonstration Activities was conducted by Indonesia in Meru Betiri National Park in February 2015. A regional shared learning workshop was organized in Lombok Island, Indonesia in November 2015. As a last regional event, a workshop on alternative livelihood was organized in Chiang Mai, Thailand in January 2016.

Under the Landmark Program, short-term training courses for the government officials were organized to support the SFM by sharing successful experiences, transferring advanced skills and technologies, and establishing mutually cooperative network among the AFoCo member countries. As of May 2016, a total of fifteen (15) training courses were organized for 483 participants (Appendix 5). For active participation and more effective outcome of the training courses, all participants are required to present their country report (current status and issues related to the training topic) as well as to draw their action plan (strategies developed using their understanding of the training course and specific action plans for future implementation, based on the strategies) using a prescribed format provided by the Landmark Team.

Based on the extensive survey with the members of GC, focal officials, and training participants as well as in consultation with the international consultants and experts, there were 21 topics of training courses identified for the AFoCo Landmark Program, which are shown in (Appendix 6). These topics reflected the priorities and demands for capacity building in the region. Currently, the training courses are to be organized in various forestry-related institutions and universities in the region before the completion of RETC in Myanmar at the end of 2016.

3.2.5.3 AFoCo Landmark Scholarship Program

The AFoCo Landmark Scholarship Program is designed to provide postgraduate education in the ROK for the AFoCo member countries, with the aim of promoting capacity development in the forestry sector. The Scholarship Program is being implemented in collaboration with the forestry-related departments of Korean universities. In order to strengthen the implementation of the Program, the Secretariat signed MOUs with those Korean universities accepting graduate studies (Appendix 11).

Since 2015 intake, the AFoCo Secretariat has supported one Doctoral degree and two Master's degree recipients every year. The scholarship recipients for 2015 and 2016 are listed in Appendix 7. A total of 30 scholarships are planned to be offered during the course of Landmark Program until 2023.

3.2.5.4 Improvement of Research Facilities

Improvement of research facilities is considered part of capacity development. In the developing countries scenario, this usually impedes the successful implementation of research activities. AFoCo projects were able to augment this need in AMS, based on the identification and proposal in the project. For instance, in Cambodia, a tissue culture expert from the National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS) (formerly Korea Forest Research Institute), was invited to help in the establishment and operation of a tissue culture laboratory. Now, the tissue culture laboratory is operating with skilled technicians trained in the ROK. The laboratory technicians are now testing the propagation of high value timber (HVT) species, such as *Dalbergia cochinchinensis*, *Dalbergia oliveri* and *Pterocarpus macrocarpus*.

In Myanmar, the individual project was able to support school renovation and distribution of learning materials in June 2013. Distribution of fuel-efficient cooking

stoves was aimed at reducing the burden on the forest and supporting rural development. This activity was conducted during the community talk as part of raising awareness on REDD+ and climate change. A total of 18 villages from the area benefitted from this project.

On the other hand, the individual project in Indonesia supported the purchase and installation of forestry workshop equipment in September 2013 at the forestry vocational training school. This school workshop is now being used as a venue for demonstration for students, teachers, and local communities surrounding the forest area (e.g. pellet making from wood waste).

3.2.5.5 Regional Education and Training Center (RETC)

With a long-term vision of regional cooperation, the ROK proposed the establishment of a centralized forestry education and training center in 2013 through the AFoCo Landmark Program. The 3rd Session of the GC held in Singapore on 18 October 2013 approved the proposal and Myanmar was selected as the host of RETC after a comprehensive evaluation process, using criteria such as project sustainability, administration capacity, site appropriateness, and related infrastructure. The Establishment of RETC,



Regional Education and Training Center (RETC)

Component 1 of the Landmark Program, had the objectives to: (1) construct and manage the RETC; and (2) supply the center with training equipment and research instruments to support training and education

programs for various stakeholders in the forestry sector. Following the launch of the Landmark Program, an MOU for the establishment of the RETC was signed between the ROK and Myanmar on 1 August 2014.

The RETC is located in Hmawbi Township, about 40 km north of Yangon, Myanmar. The RETC is designed to be a two-story building with a total floor area of 5,014.4 m². It is divided into three main zones: (1) Education and Training Zone; (2) Support Zone, and; (3) Accommodation Zone. The architectural design of RETC is based on the concept of a sustainable and eco-friendly design, equipped with solar voltaic system as renewable energy source, and shade louvers and green wall systems for the reduction of energy load as well as for cooling effect.

The RETC construction commenced on 1 November 2015 and will be completed at the end of 2016. Once established, the center will become a venue to deliver forestry education and training courses for regional capacity building purposes. Education and training programs and modules will be developed under the Component 2 of Landmark Program “Development of Education and Training Programs for Capacity Building”.

In addition to the functions mentioned above, the center is designed to strengthen the scientific capacity and promote academic research in the region. In support of these capacity building activities at the center, Myanmar has allocated the adjacent area of about 170 ha training forest to be associated with the RETC. Subject to further consultation with the relevant bodies under AFoCO in the future, especially for the period beyond 2023, the scope and programs of RETC will be further aligned in accordance with the capacity need and demand of AFoCO and its members.

3.2.5.6 Fellowship Program

A fellowship program was proposed during the 4th Session of the GC on 30 April 2014, in which officials

from AMS are invited to work as attachment officers at the AFoCo Secretariat. Following the approval by the GC on the guideline for fellowship officials, the first batch of fellowship officials (Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Philippines) started a one-year program from March 2015 up to March 2016. For the second batch, fellowship officials from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Viet Nam joined the program from March 2016 until March 2017 (Appendix 8).

5.2.5.7 Advocacy Activities

Several publications/materials have been prepared and published since the launching of the AFoCo, including the AFoCo Landmark Program. These materials have contributed in promoting the AFoCo activities to public and in the sharing of experiences (Appendix 9).



In order to promote AFoCo and its activities widely across the Internet, a website (<http://www.afocosec.org>) was created to regularly update its news and activities. A website for AFoCo RETC (<http://retc.afocosec.org>) opened in August 2016. This website will play a role in promoting the RETC and its training and education programs from 2017. A number of activities were also uploaded in real time via social media. A significant number of users shared their thoughts and information online through:

- <https://www.facebook.com/afocosec>
- <https://www.facebook.com/AFoCoLandmark>
- <https://twitter.com/afocosec>
- <https://afoconews.wordpress.com>.

News articles of AFoCo activities were published in local newspapers in the AFoCo Member countries before and after certain events. These articles increased awareness and enhanced the publicity of AFoCo.

In addition, to showcase the past and future activities of AFoCo, several exhibits were displayed during the relevant local and international events (Appendix 10).

3.2.6 Strengthening Cooperation through Partnership with Other Entities

AFoCo, since its inception, has established good working relationship and cooperation with some other entities that are also interested in promoting SFM, building human capacity, and research and development in the forestry sector. These entities provided supports in terms of finance, technical know-how, consultation, research, and training, in order to enhance the operational activities as well as the performance of AFoCo.

The GC has endorsed the cooperation of AFoCo with other agencies within the scope of the AFoCo Agreement to support in promoting forest cooperation. In order to strengthen cooperation in developing joint projects, scholarship program, training courses, and other activities, AFoCo has signed about 17 MOUs with various universities and institutions in the ROK and international organizations (Appendix 11).

Several significant events have also been organized by AFoCo Secretariat to highlight many of its achievements (Appendix 12) since the inception of the AFoCo Secretariat. There are also many occasions or events where AFoCo Secretariat participated in various capacity as representative of AFoCo, organizer, panel member, speaker or presenter, among others (Appendix 13).



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used to describe models place local people at the CF delivers sustainable ing the growing needs of mental, fundamentals such tenure rights, resources elopment must be in place.

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REPORT

The path we have to follow is very clear if the world wants to limit the temperature increase to two degrees Celsius... And that should be seen as an opportunity rather than a burden.

Rajendra K. Pachauri
Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change



CHAPTER 4

VIEWS, CHALLENGES, AND LESSONS LEARNED ON THE AFoCo AGREEMENT

- 4.1 Views of GC Members and Focal Officials
- 4.2 Views from Other International Organizations/Agencies
- 4.3 Voices of AFoCo Fellowship Officials
- 4.4 Evaluation on the Implementation of the Agreement
- 4.5 Challenges in the Implementation of Projects



Chapter 4

Views, Challenges, and Lessons Learned on the AFoCo Agreement

In the course of the 4-year implementation of the AFoCo Agreement, many challenges were encountered from strategic, operational and financial perspectives. While formidable issues had to be settled with the GC decisions, the AFoCo Secretariat, within its scope of work, sorted out many minor issues. These challenges were taken as lessons learned for future cooperation work under AFoCo.

In this chapter, some prominent challenges and lessons learned are discussed in detail including views and recommendations of key stakeholders. A questionnaire survey was conducted with the members and focal officials of GC as well as officials from partner international organizations.

In addition to the above, a comprehensive review by an external expert and secondary data from a report entitled “Assessment for Implementation of the “Agreement between the Governments of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian nations and the Republic of Korea on Forest Cooperation” conducted by Yeungnam University, were used particularly for section 4.4 “Evaluation on the Implementation of the Agreement”. The assessment report was submitted and approved by the 6th Session of the GC on 22 April 2015 as part of fulfilling the requirement stipulated in Article VII of the AFoCo Agreement.

4.1 Views of GC Members and Focal Officials

The members of the GC and focal officials are the key stakeholders who have been involved since the very early formulation stage of the AFoCo Agreement and they have been in a leading role throughout the

implementation of the activities under the agreement over the past four years. Therefore, the views and feedback from them are critical to further improve planning and implementation of future cooperation. Most of their views reflected the policy of the country they represent and the following sections provide basically the collective views of the participating countries on the AFoCo Agreement.

4.1.1 General Perspectives

AFoCo provided a regional cooperation platform in forestry and climate change related to forestry issues that implements cooperative activities between the AMS and the ROK. It showed a high potential to fill the gap in delivering and translating relevant global forestry policy directions into actions. As for the ASEAN region, ASOF has been a key forestry decision-making body; however, recommendations made by ASOF are rarely implemented due to the limitation of funding, human resources and technology. The emergence of AFoCo filled the gap to materialize some of the recommendations of ASOF, at least to some extent.

AFoCo attempted to meet the demand of member countries by setting mandates, objectives, and structure of cooperation. The mode of delivery is through the implementation of activities identified in the individual and regional cooperation projects. They are generally commendable as the focus was always within the context of SFM and in line with the emerging global forestry agenda. Besides the projects, other capacity building programs such as scholarship at Korean universities, fellowship at the AFoCo Secretariat, and training courses are also found to be satisfactory. Another important view is that the arrangement of AFoCo projects gave more ownership and buy-in compared to donor-driven projects because of



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the involvement of the implementing countries from formulation to implementation. Compared to the other international support programs in the region, AFoCo has made a significant impact on the ground in a relatively short period.

4.1.2 Expectations and Relevance of AFoCo

Expectations on AFoCo are summarized as: (1) support in forest restoration of the AMS; (2) providing a platform for international cooperation beyond the scope of AMS and the ROK; (3) strengthening the capacity of relevant national institutions; and (4) implementation of programs in collaboration with all stakeholders. While the expectations on AFoCo are generally fulfilled in view of objectives and deliverables, there are also a few unavoidable circumstances as in any such cooperation program with various stakeholders. It was also expected that AFoCo support should not be restricted only with project-based activities but rather designed as a more program-based intervention, addressing the “strategic forestry concerns” of the countries. The main reason for shortcomings was due to limitation of budget and it could be addressed effectively when the cooperation is expanded and a long-term strategic partnership is set up in the future.

Equitable voice, unity in diversity and connectivity in forestry sector are the main essence of AFoCo.

Equity among the members of AFoCo is evident and well appreciated particularly in the negotiation for the implementation of regional projects and other activities despite a major contribution from the ROK.

The professionalism of the AFoCo Secretariat is also commendable and effective in mediating among the members involved in AFoCo activities.



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The organization, negotiations, and management system, especially of regional projects, are excellent as many are designed to fill the development gap among member countries. The AFoCo Landmark Program is also regarded as a significant contributor with the provision of a long-term structural support and capacity building activities. However, all AFoCo activities are still limited in terms of the coverage and outreach and therefore, a large-scale expansion could be considered subject to the availability of fund.

4.1.3 Challenges

The challenges are quite common among the members of GC and focal officials in view of bringing lessons and experiences of the AFoCo Agreement forward and expanding the activities to be taken under the AFoCO in the future. The following major challenges were identified based on the experiences of the AFoCo Agreement. It would be quite challenging to address all the issues and provide an effective package with a flexible arrangement that can suit all.

1. Realizing the AFoCO became the main challenge under the AFoCo Agreement itself.
2. Certain constraints and delay in the implementation of the AFoCo activities occurred due to differences in government structure, socio-economic situation, and domestic procedures as well as the lack of coordination and the need for reaching consensus among the countries.
3. It would not be possible for equitable financing distribution for projects among the 10 implementing countries, which may become a challenge in the future.
4. Implementation of some regional projects was delayed in view of domestic procedure in some countries.
5. Despite challenges faced in undertaking regional projects with different goals and needs, there were substantial achievements and diverse outcomes.
6. Some training courses were found to be less relevant to the circumstances of the participating countries.
7. There was a lack of action regarding the evaluation of completed activities and recommendation for up-scaling the potential programs.
8. The one-year fellowship program was not favorable for some countries due to their internal regulations.

4.1.4 Recommendations

There were two types of recommendations provided: (1) for current AFoCo; and (2) for future AFoCO. They were summarized below:

Recommendations for current AFoCo

1. More flexibility in arrangement and handling of projects is needed.
2. Sustaining some promising AFoCo activities and aligning with future activities is highly recommended.
3. Proper transfer of experience and lessons learned from AFoCo to AFoCO is recommended through documentation, maintenance of activities, and follow-up actions.
4. A more decisive role for GC and Secretariat would help expedite the implementation of some activities.
5. A standard mechanism is needed to be in place to resolve some outstanding issues as well as to deal with individual domestic procedure.
6. The Secretariat, upon approval by the GC, should consolidate all achievements from the 4-year implementation of AFoCo Agreement and make a unique showcase for wide dissemination.

Recommendations for future AFoCO

1. Large organization with more members means more issues and complexity. It is recommended to start with a relatively small number of members at the beginning.
2. Advanced planning for policy development and work program under AFoCO is recommended.
3. AFoCO needs to work in close collaboration with other international agencies and donors for effective coverage and better synergy. During the lifespan of AFoCo Agreement, AFoCo Secretariat is a member of Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission Executive Committee and it is a good example for effective collaboration with other international agencies in the region.
4. AFoCO needs more participation and representation at international events and dialogues for worldwide recognition as a lead organization in SFM.
5. Multiple sources of financing should be sought including private sector and international financing institutions. Besides the prominent private companies and institutions in the ROK, Green Climate Fund established by UNFCCC and other

- regional financial institutions are potential sources. Currently, many international organizations are seeking accreditation by the Green Climate Fund and when appropriate, AFoCO should join as an accredited body to be able to engage in future projects under the Green Climate Fund.
6. With more members with different types of topography and forests joining AFoCO, the approach for SFM and project design needs to be modified.
 7. Future regional programs and projects should be aligned with the specific and urgent needs of the countries. Suggested areas of future intervention are:
 - Issues related to climate change and natural disaster to improve the adaptive capacity of countries in a phased approach;
 - Restoration at the severely degraded areas that impact the livelihoods of local communities and environment;
 - Reforestation management and certification;
 8. It is highly recommended to develop a strong capacity building program with short-term training courses and long-term graduate studies in response to the needs of the countries.
 9. Field-oriented activities with a focus on increased awareness and capacity building of stakeholders are more beneficial.
 10. A technical panel is recommended to set up for review of training courses, project proposals, and new initiatives as well as to find out the best solutions regarding the respective domestic procedures of each country and to advance for effective cooperation.
 11. Operational fund should be utilized to fully support the participation cost of both country representative and support official.

4.2 Views from Other International Organizations/ Agencies



Panel of experts from international organizations at the AFoCo Forest Week 2015

Both AFoCo and AFoCO agreements are designed as intergovernmental agreements. However, in order to deliver the activities with high quality and meet international standards, cooperation with other international organizations and agencies is essential. During the term of the AFoCo Agreement, some activities were implemented in collaboration with some regional and international agencies such as collaboration with FAO for the participation of AFoCo member countries at the 8th Forest Executive Forest Policy Course in May 2015, ASEAN-Korea Youth Network Workshop jointly organized with ASEAN-Korea Centre and a number of training courses on community forestry delivered in collaboration with RECOFTC. Positive feedbacks and high recommendations were received from the participants as well as the GC members after the conduct of these collaborative activities. As their partnership will continue to be important in the future, their views and opinions were collected and summarized in this section.

4.2.1 General Perspectives

Many international partners regarded AFoCo as an important player for forestry cooperation in ASEAN. It is an action-oriented organization that enhances the technical capacity of member countries. The AFoCo Secretariat has been operating with excellent leadership and dedicated staff members with high-level of expertise on forestry. It has been evolving as a newly established international organization and expanding its network geographically and with various stakeholders. The Secretariat has been organizing various meetings, handling the project coordination and engaging with experts in implementing projects and programs.

A primary mode of engagement with several international partner agencies is through signing of MOU based on the designated areas of cooperation and mutual interest. However, some of these MOUs have not been fully materialized and they need to be addressed to identify constraints, challenge, and

areas of interest and collaboration. The partners are interested to be involved more in AFoCo programs such as participating in the AFoCo Landmark Program and related events in the future.

Regarding the jointly organized short-term training courses, it was recommended that the impacts of the course should be assessed against the objectives. A clear monitoring system could be considered to assess the application of lessons learned from the course in their respective working situation. It is preferable to establish a regular joint program for capacity building rather than ad hoc cooperation activities. Many partners have mandates with other ongoing projects in the ASEAN region. Therefore, collaboration with AFoCo is highly recommended for better synergy and broader impacts within the region. It would be a win-win situation if they could be involved in project formulation and implementation holistically.

With the termination of AFoCo Agreement on 4 August 2016, all MOUs signed between the Secretariat and its international partners will also come to end. It is therefore important that such collaboration is sought under the new MOUs or partnership arrangements in the future for the benefit of the region.

4.2.2 Recommendations for Future Areas of Cooperation

The possible areas for future collaboration are identified as climate change, forest restoration, biodiversity conservation, poverty alleviation, forest policy and governance, and capacity building activities. The types of activities could be research and development project, short-term training courses, graduate studies, conducting survey and study, preparation of proposals, and evaluation of the projects. Some partners prefer to continue with the previous activities jointly organized in the past years.

Recommendations of the international partner organizations/agencies for future AFoCO include the following:

1. Detailed guideline and regulation on AFoCO needs to be in place as a multilateral cooperative organization in preparing, implementing, and evaluating projects.
2. The scope of partnership and its specific mission with related organizations and institutions must be clearly identified. AFoCO should focus on its niches and at the same time foster cooperation with other forestry organizations in the region. Areas of cooperation may be decided by mapping out to avoid duplication and identifying the most unattended areas.
3. Regarding the funding support of AFoCO, it should seek from other funding sources in addition to the support from the ROK to be a more viable and independent organization in the future.
4. Collaboration with partner organizations can be further promoted in terms of project design, joint research, capacity development strategy, project monitoring system, and practitioners learning network at both regional and national levels.
5. If a bilateral MOU is stipulated with specific areas and time frame, there must be a clear activity and budget plan, including key performance indicators (KPIs), for both parties to follow.
6. It is highly recommended that AFoCO should support the SDGs particularly, Goal 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts) and Goal 15 (Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss). In line with Target 15.2 of SDG 15 (life on land), AFoCO's future priority for joint collaboration projects should focus on the effort to "restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation in Central and Southeast Asia". It links to the implementation of Article 5 of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in particular "enhancement of carbon stocks" under REDD+.
7. Capacity building programs for government officials, researchers, and academia on global environmental issues, such as climate change adaptation; land degradation neutrality; Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD); forest and landscape restoration; etc. are needed.

4.3 Voices of AFoCo Fellowship Officials

A total of seven (7) fellowship officials from seven (7) AMS have been assigned at the AFoCo Secretariat in 2015 and 2016 (Appendix 8). As they came from different countries to stay and work in the ROK for one year, their feedback from a multicultural point of view will offer another scope of assessment on AFoCo and the future partnership. Their views and recommendations are summarized in the sections below.



Fellowship officials for 2016-2017



Fellowship officials for 2015-2016

4.3.1 General Perspectives

AFoCo is a regional organization specialized on ASEAN-ROK forestry cooperation. The build-up of AFoCo within four years is quite ambitious and impressive by witnessing the amount of work and field activities implemented in ASEAN countries. It is no doubt that the ROK has shown its commitment and support for AFoCo and more support will come for the

future AFoCo. AFoCo “Action-oriented organization” contributes to forest development, ecosystem rehabilitation, biodiversity conservation, and local community empowerment. One has put it in a catchy phrase “AFoCo aims for unity in the field of forestry”.

The objectives of the fellowship program are well achieved through building an effective communication network, expanding cooperation and understanding between the AMS and the Secretariat, and improving the management of the Secretariat. Their direct and effective communication with focal officials promotes understanding and expediting the internal process of their respective forestry agency in addressing AFoCo matters.

4.3.2 Challenges and Opportunities

For those ASEAN nationals working in Korea, the biggest challenge is “language” and it may be helpful to take a crash course prior to their assignment at the AFoCo Secretariat. The second common challenge is “culture”; however, it becomes adjustable as the time went on and for some, Korean culture is similar to their own such as the role of seniority and gender. Climate and food are ranked as the third challenge but these were over after the first few days. In fact, most of these challenges were overcome quickly with the help of friendly and supportive staff members.

At the same time, the program offers the opportunities of international experience through communicating with many other countries and managing projects, working in a multicultural environment, knowledge of forestry subject matters, and learning Korean culture and lifestyle. Besides, they have benefited from better English communication, writing, and interpersonal/social skills, conducting independent work, project management, and research or professional ethics. It is highly commendable that a similar program be initiated especially for the junior officials of parties to the AFoCo, once this is established.

4.3.3 Recommendations

1. A standard AFoCo Project Implementation Manual is recommended to provide guidelines on administrative procedures for the implementation of the AFoCo-funded projects.
2. A basic Korean language course could be helpful for any officials who are taking a long-term assignment at the Secretariat.
3. There are many to learn from the field activities in Korea since they are very different from those in AMS and it is recommended that field visits and practices could be organized regularly.
4. A few days could be spared for an orientation session regarding the office rules, nature of work, understanding the Korean public system and other matters like health and accident insurance coverage.

4.4 Evaluation on the Implementation of the Agreement

4.4.1 AFoCo Institutional Arrangement and Operation of the Secretariat

This section provides a comprehensive assessment of the AFoCo institutional arrangement and overall operations of the Secretariat regarding the core responsibility provided in the Agreement. The AFoCo Agreement has two main objectives: (1) to facilitate forest cooperation, undertake projects and translate sound forest policies and proven technologies into action with a mission to rehabilitate degraded forest land and to prevent deforestation and forest degradation in the context of SEM as well as under the broader scope of addressing the impact of climate change; and (2) to provide a platform for dialogue between the AMS and the ROK towards the establishment of AFoCo. Overall, AFoCo was successful and was able to plan, coordinate,

implement, and provide high standard services to the AMS, which is evident in the annual report and observation of the completed and ongoing projects and organizational activities.

The evaluation framework focused on the performance of the institutional arrangement in terms of its operations, organizational effectiveness and efficiency and their relation to the Agreement (Figure 3). The evaluation also considered all factors (internal and external) that may influence the overall performance of the GC and the Secretariat.



Figure 3 AFoCo Institutional Arrangement Performance Evaluation Framework

4.4.2 Components for the Assessment of Institutional Arrangement Performance

The performance evaluation of AFoCo Institutional Arrangement was conducted to determine the 'efficiency', 'effectiveness' and 'financial viability' of AFoCo in carrying out its duties.

- Efficiency refers to the extent to which AFoCo resources are deployed and used for the intended purposes
- Effectiveness refers to the degree to which AFoCo achieved its objectives and goals
- Financial viability refers to the ability of AFoCo to generate sufficient income to run its affairs and financial obligations, as well as sustaining itself for future growth

The performance evaluation has two directional approaches: 1) external to the Organization and 2) internal to the Organization. When it comes to the external aspect, there are environmental factors that may affect the Organizational performance (i.e. fluctuating economic conditions, domestic laws, policies, rules and regulations) among others. In the aspect of internal parts, organizational capacity includes leadership, human resource, program management, inter-institutional networks, etc. In addition, the organizational performance is affected by the leadership roles of the GC, motivation as well as the degree of participation of all AFoCo Member Countries in relation to AFoCo activities.

4.4.3 Key Factors Affecting the Performance of AFoCo

4.4.3.1 Organizational Motivation and Leadership

AFoCo and its members have demonstrated much commitment, cooperation, communication, and trust in dealing with issues, and challenges confronting AFoCo. The Organization's vision, mission, and values have been a source of motivation to all the stakeholders who work together to achieve the desired goals.

The GC had clearly displayed strong leadership towards the achievement of the organizational objectives of the Agreement. The programs, projects and activities of AFoCo have been strategically aligned with its objectives, which help to find a clear direction

for the AFoCo programs and projects. The GC has also shown resoluteness, flexibility, and persistence in times of difficulties and has reacted swiftly to environmental challenges.

4.4.3.2 External to the Organization

Environmental factors influenced the operations of the GC and Secretariat, including political, economic, sociocultural, technological, and legal factors. In particular, important variables such as policies and procedures (e.g. inter-country fund transfer process, accounting system, administrative procedures) have also shown to hinder the effective and efficient implementation of activities or projects initiated by the GC and Secretariat. AFoCo, however, has been able to adopt strategies to deal with the domestic policies in a member state that may affect the operations of AFoCo.

4.4.3.3 Internal to the Organization

The capacity of the Secretariat has a strong influence on organizational performance. Capacity exists in a number of basic organizational rudiments such as performance framework, leadership, institutional factors, management structure, etc. The Secretariat has a comprehensive plan that reflects the strategic outcome of AFoCo and its resources are well aligned with the target goals and objectives. The organization has been able to provide financial support and technical assistance to domestic projects and programs, and within the three years of its operation, the AFoCo Secretariat has developed a good relationship and strengthened partnership with other international organizations and agencies.

The AFoCo Secretariat has a strong leadership and provides a good environment for learning, and also the working conditions for employees are satisfactory. In addition, the human resource personnel at the Secretariat are professionals and possess the required competencies for their respective positions, which enhance the performance of AFoCo.

4.4.4 Assessment on the Implementation of Projects

The assessment of implemented projects was carried out by making document reviews, expert interviews, and secondary survey data. The implemented projects were evaluated with six key evaluation categories: relevance, efficiency, governance, effectiveness, sustainability, and impact.



4.4.4.1 Relevance

For the perspective of the relevance of AFoCo programs and activities, it was evaluated to assess how the projects were relevant in relation to AMS's goals and in relation to organizational results. In particular, the evaluation category has an importance for assessing the relevance of projects and activities to the target countries' priorities and needs for SFM and restoration of degraded forests, alignment of AFoCo's normative of the organization, and demarcation and duplications between existing organizations and AFoCo. Overall, projects were closely related to vision and missions by contributing to capacity building in villages in each project country and enhancing regional forest environments. The evaluation focused on interviewing with experts who have enough knowledge about not only the vision and missions of

AFoCo Agreement and programs but also the key policies and vision of their governments and forestry policies. Because villagers or participants, who have experienced AFoCo programs and activities, do not have general knowledge and broad insights on those programs, it is hard to assess the relevance of programs and activities in the perspective of the long-term goal of AFoCo Agreement. Most experts agreed that implemented or ongoing AFoCo programs and activities were highly related to vision and missions of AFoCo Agreement, and also were developed on the basis of their needs. They expected that the grants can produce good outcomes by building a sound appraisal of local and national needs.

In Indonesia, for instance, experts mentioned that the implemented individual project would become a role model for other forestry vocational schools, and perceived that the project supports the tasks of forestry vocational school (SMK), Kadipaten, West Java, to support skillful human resources for industry. Not just in Indonesia, but in Myanmar, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam, experts agreed that AFoCo projects align well with national development. For another example, in the Philippines, the fuelwood project of AFoCo was effectively leveraged to acquire a bigger project of the government. The National Greening Program perfectly complemented the project since it also addressed environmental, economic, and social goals. Also, AFoCo supported the review and climate-proofing process of the Master Plan for Philippine Forestry Development, which provided opportunities to integrate recent important policies and programs of the national government in the Master Plan.

4.4.4.2 Efficiency

For the assessment of efficiency, the quality and realism of project's design were evaluated in relation to duration, stakeholder and beneficiary identification, institutional set-up and internal management, and approach and methodology. Financial resources management about the adequacy of the budget

to achieve outputs was also taken into account. Timeliness and adequacy of resources and inputs of co-finance from participating countries and partners are critical parts to investigate for evaluating the efficiency.

The assessment of management and implementation was based on internal management with work plans, operations, internal monitoring and review process, and coordination. A significant improvement has been observed in the institutional set-up and overall internal management of AFoCo program and activities since the implementation of individual and regional projects. When it comes to duration and time management, some flexibilities and conveniences helped to manage projects timely because the implementing countries were allowed to adjust the work plan of their individual projects after official consultation among concerned parties. In addition, administrative and technical supports were sufficient to meet implementing countries' needs. There has been no problem to identify all associated stakeholders. Also, most experts agreed that the project expenses have been managed according to the budget plan except some minor cases. However, there were also unexpected challenges in the management of the projects. For example, different accounting systems between countries produced some managerial issues. Also, some information was not compatible to be used in some countries. In spite of those minor issues, experts perceived that projects have been a great help in bringing about better outcomes not only in technical but also in managerial aspects. The flexible mechanism of AFoCo projects in terms of budget revision helped regional project managers to make a revision in the budget plan. Thus, the flexible budget management system of AFoCo, that is implementing country friendly, helped support the program implementation timely.

4.4.4.3 Governance

Project governance was evaluated by two indicators: (1) active participation of a stakeholder and village

community in management and monitoring of the project; and (2) equitable access to information, training program, and resources. Most of the projects had sound internal management and monitoring system. In addition, AFoCo projects involved broader stakeholders including villagers, students, regional officials representing Government Officials, NGOs, and scholars. Equitable access to information, training program, and resources was guaranteed to stakeholders. Through regional workshop and capacity building activities, funds were allocated to mobilize participation of marginal groups and promoting gender equality. However, in some countries, there were needs for a fully committed focal point of each country in order to achieve the project's goal effectively. Currently, some officials in the AFoCo project management team in the respective implementing countries are engaged in another duty or multi-tasked, which leads to slow internal progress.

4.4.4.4 Effectiveness

The effectiveness of each project was evaluated by the extent to which the expected outputs have been produced against project planning to meet in terms of improving villager's income, the capacity of villagers in forest restoration and management, reducing forest disasters and degradation, and improving the knowledge of villagers. Based on the results of questionnaire surveys, AFoCo projects highly contributed to improving the overall villagers' income and capacity in forest restoration and management. However, there was a limitation to assess the extent of project's effectiveness in term of income contribution and capacity building because it takes a relatively long period to observe evidence from the outcome of implemented AFoCo projects.

To improve the effectiveness of AFoCo projects, enough time need to be allocated in implementing phase. In particular, site development projects, including forest rehabilitation and restoration, take longer time than other types of projects such as capacity-building projects. For instance, one year

duration is not long enough to complete and achieve meaningful outcomes in fuelwood planting projects. Forestry plantation projects require at least three years for observing results and demonstrating the effect of those projects. Also, a thorough review process, such as monitoring, assessment, and field testing, is needed through profiling and baselining of the physical, social, and economic parameters during the project preparation phase to have better project plans.

4.4.4.5 Sustainability

The sustainability of AFoCo programs and activities was also evaluated, based on prospects for sustaining the current AFoCo target sites at the local and national levels and for uptake and mainstreaming of the AFoCo project in the target countries and beyond. AFoCo projects contributed to facilitate enabling environments to support the implementation of SFM program in the Southeast Asian region. Overall, it was highly expected that most individual and regional projects were maintained or extended in the current AFoCo target sites to achieve the long-term goals of local and national level forest management plans.

For example, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam, collectively called as Mekong Basin Countries (MBC), undertook activities related to biodiversity conservation, forest certification, watershed management, and forest restoration linked with eco-tourism. The Project started with selection and establishment of pilot project sites within the Mekong Basin. Land use change studies, survey, and documentation of biodiversity were undertaken in these sites. Potential SFM models and methods of promoting eco-tourism within the pilot sites were formulated. Finally, the pilot sites were used for training, exchange of visits and technology transfer among the MBC, through national and regional workshops, exchange visits, and publication.

Through AFoCo regional projects, Thailand selected a project site for ecotourism linked with forest restoration in Mae Kok restored forest site. Cambodia launched

project activities addressing “Ecotourism Linked with Biodiversity” at Mondolkiri forest reserve. Lao PDR launched project activities for “Participatory Forest Management Linked with Forest Certification” at Xebangnouane community forest. Viet Nam launched project activities for addressing “Ecotourism Linked with Biodiversity” at Bidoup Nui Ba national park, and Myanmar also launched its activities addressing “Ecotourism Linked with Watershed Management” at Pindaya protected watershed. It is expected that regional projects in these countries may be extended in the current target sites in order to achieve the goal of forest management plans.

4.4.4.6 Impact

When it comes to evaluating impacts, an assessment was made on the extent to which the project is expected to attain its overall objective. Also, we checked whether implemented or on-going AFoCo projects helped the creation of an enabling environment for generating sustainable benefit in ASEAN. Still, it is premature to observe the clear evidence on the impacts of each project in four years of relatively short-term implementation of the projects. For example, new economic activities derived from the implemented AFoCo project were not observed yet. However, experts agreed that individual project has improved participant's capacity, and contributed to the development of suitable communication strategy supporting the project management in each country. Furthermore, implemented AFoCo projects in Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam assisted the new creation of potentials from which sustainable environment benefits could be generated.

4.5 Challenges in the Implementation of Projects

The ROK's approach for country-led regional projects is demand driven, allowing the proponent countries

to design and formulate their projects independently within the scope of the Agreement. The ROK set flexible criteria, only defining the amount of fund, duration (years) and the participation of at least two countries to be entitled as a regional project. Even though the offer is considered flexible and attractive for the proponent countries, the following challenges were found in formulation and implementation of the projects:

- a. Under this modality, the countries have to apply their own domestic procedure to clear internally and consult each other before officially sending the project proposal to the AFoCo Secretariat and the ROK. Since the domestic procedure of each country is different from the others, it took much longer than anticipated. For example, the most efficient project under this modality needed at least 17 months from the invitation for proposal to the launch of activities while the least efficient project took about 31 months.
- b. Most officials involved in the projects are more accustomed to donor-led projects and are not used to leading their own projects. Lack of experience in project management had caused delay in implementation and reporting, poor planning, and weak financial management. For example, many countries had a one-year delay in a two-year project and because of that, activities were not completed on time and budget spending was inefficient.
- c. Lack of proper monitoring arrangements in these projects is also another big challenge. Most projects simply relied on internal monitoring arrangements or non-regular visits by the Secretariat for project monitoring. A regular routine monitoring plan and reporting needs to be in place for all regional projects especially after the termination of the AFoCo Agreement.

There is also another category of projects, which are led by the AFoCo Secretariat. It appeared more systematic and streamlined with some

prescribed guidelines and procedure set by the project management. However, there are also some challenges that need to be considered by the Secretariat in the future.

- a. One big challenge is regarding the legality of the Secretariat, as AFoCo Agreement does not have immunity and privileges clause for the Secretariat. This issue had led to questioning the status of the Secretariat whether it could enter into a legal arrangement with other countries. Due to this concern, some Secretariat-led projects needed first a legal document to be signed by the ROK and the implementing country before handing the project over to the Secretariat. This had led to a significant delay in planning and implementing of all three regional projects managed by the Secretariat.
- b. Lack of technical personnel for the project is also one challenge since some projects require proper technical assessment and judgment in their planning and implementation. One good example is the formulation of a mangrove forest plantation project. Due to lack of expertise from the part of Secretariat, the implementing country demanded the formulation and implementation of the project under its own technical supervision and the arrangement was adjusted in line with the demand.
- c. One component of the Secretariat-led project, capacity building activities, is now facing legality issue, as it was not covered by any appropriate legal arrangement for the post-AFoCo scenario. Except for this component, all other projects have their individual legal arrangement such as MOU or implementation agreement, which will ensure their continuity after the termination of AFoCo Agreement.

In addition, there were other financial and operational challenges encountered.

- a. In some countries, opening official account in USD is not easy and they initially opened an account

in local currency. In one incidence, there was a depreciation of local currency against USD and it had led to a significant transaction loss (about USD 500) from one country to another. Therefore, it is highly recommended to open and use USD accounts consistently in all participating countries in order to reduce the risk of loss from the transaction and currency depreciation.

- b. Planning of annual activities is required for full consultation with the participating countries. There is a constraint for implementing countries due to their busy schedule and limited technical staff. Once it was advised to reduce the number of activities under AFoCo, focusing only on established strategic areas, and to begin preparation of organizing events well before the scheduled activity. It is recommended that the Secretariat should only plan for regular operating activities and other technical activities should be left with the respective projects.
- c. In planning infrastructure projects in other countries, it is important to formulate a comprehensive plan, taking into consideration of financial, environmental, social, and local administrative perspectives. As learned from the current AFoCo infrastructure project, it has emerged that income tax issue was not covered in the bilateral MOU with the host country at the beginning and it could incur extra cost and burden on all stakeholders.
- d. In the development stage of the project plan in terms of project document, it is recommended to complete all the project documents including the work and budget plan by the proponent agency before submitting the project plan through the focal person to the decision-making body, i.e. the GC of AFoCo in this case, to avoid delay in the commencement of the project. It means that the focal agency of the proponent country needs to check and ensure that all the legal and procedural arrangements and concerns are cleared before its submission.

CHAPTER 5

THE FUTURE – ASIAN FOREST COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (AFoCO)

- 5.1 Current Global Developments
- 5.2 Dialogue towards the Establishment of AFoCO
- 5.3 Challenges in the Dialogue for AFoCO
- 5.4 Vision and Mission of AFoCO
- 5.5 Interim Arrangements from AFoCo to AFoCO



Chapter 5

The Future - Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO)

The experiences and lessons learned over the course of four-year implementation with the AFoCo Agreement are highly valuable and enriching in terms of planning, managing institutional activities and implementing cooperative projects in the region. A solid foundation has been laid with the combination of the experiences gained, lessons learned, and commitment of all members. AFoCO, upon establishment, will expand its cooperation network into a wider geographic coverage in Asia. Once established, the founding members of AFoCO will deliberate and shape the future they want. The future journey is likely to be set in line with global development and direction in the forestry sector as well as national priorities of AFoCO members.

At this moment, a legal and protocol process is underway for the signing of AFoCO Agreement by its prospective member countries and by the time of the termination of the AFoCo Agreement on 5 August 2016, the ROK, Timor-Leste, and Indonesia have completed signing of the AFoCO Agreement. AFoCO will come into effect on the thirtieth (30th) day after the date of ratification by at least five (5) member countries including the ROK.

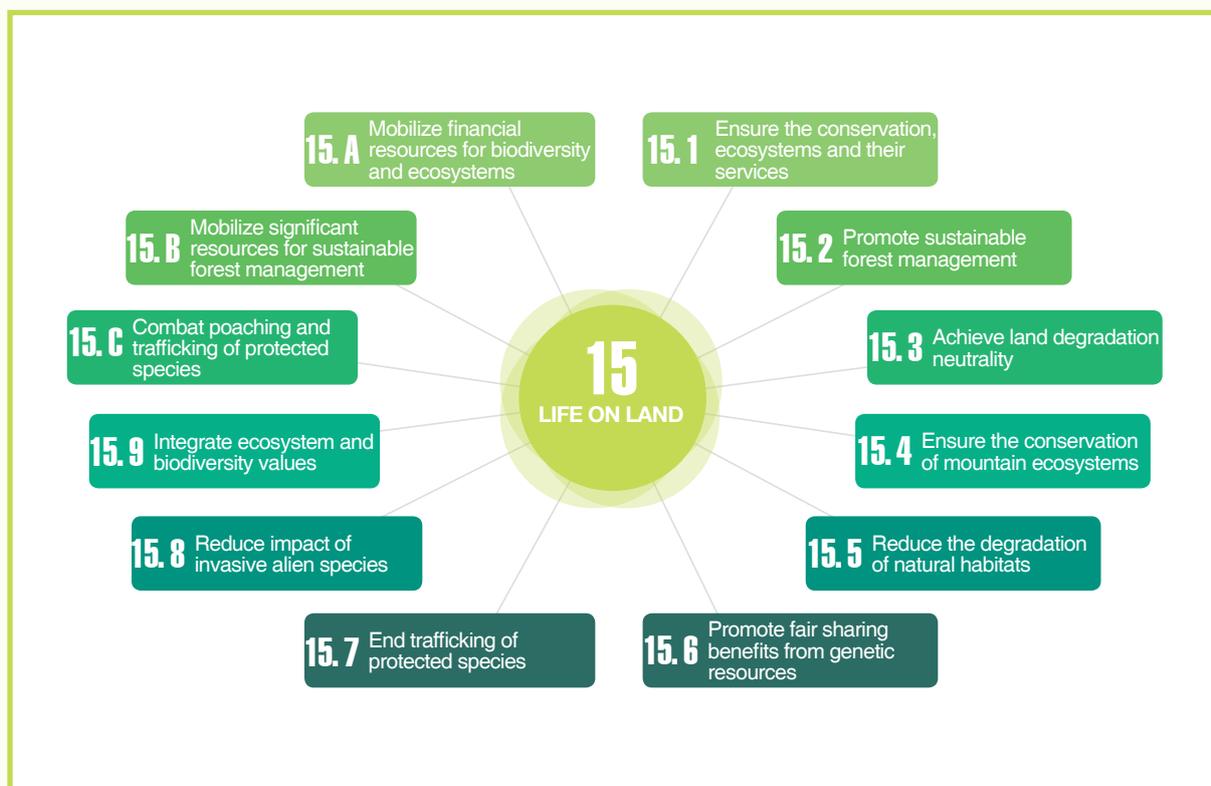
This chapter will attempt to present driving factors influencing on the future vision and mission of AFoCO as well as dialogue process and challenges encountered.

5.1 Current Global Developments

Global concern on environment was first raised at the 1992 Rio Conference on Environment and Development and started with a universal effort on the “Agenda 21”, the first to address on the issue



of sustainable development for the 21st century and forestry sector was included as part of natural resources management. Twenty (20) years later in 2012, Rio+20 Earth Summit on Sustainable Development was held to further intensify the global effort on sustainable development with the objectives to promote “Green Economy” and to strengthen international coordination through institutional networks.



Sustainable Development Goal 15

At the end of the 20th century, the UN organized an international conference to set the MDGs to be achieved with a time frame of 15 years in 2015. Among the 8 Goals, Goal 7 on ensuring “Environmental sustainability” is directly linked to the forestry sector. Generally speaking, the MDGs were not fully met as targeted but significant progress has been made in the right direction in each of the eight goals. With a continued global concern on poverty and the environment, the UN continued its effort with the adoption of the “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” for another 30-year timeframe from 2015 to 2030. Out of 17 Goals under SDGs, forestry sector is placed under Goal 15 that “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”.

Another development came under global climate change negotiation. After the failure of the “Kyoto Protocol” to address global warming through the reduction of GHG emission by developed countries,

the UNFCCC sought for a new global agreement and recently in November 2015, it has concluded a more comprehensive global deal, the “Paris Agreement”, involving all countries to reduce GHGs, take mitigation and adaptation actions, and set up climate financing mechanism. The global support was overwhelming with the signing of the Paris Agreement by 177 out of 195 countries on the Earth Day (22 April 2016). All members of AFoCo Agreement were committed and unanimous to sign it on the same day. The inclusion of a standalone Article 5 on REDD+ in the Agreement showed the importance of the forestry sector in combating global warming and it was hailed as a major step forward to address the issues of deforestation and forest degradation.

The overall global directions and developments mentioned above clearly highlighted the importance of forestry sector in sustainable development and climate change and these factors reflect as the influential factors on how the future AFoCO should be designed to play as an international institution that addresses emerging forestry issues.

5.2 Dialogue towards the Establishment of AFoCO

The establishment of AFoCO was the main and ultimate goal set by the ROK from its first proposal in 2009 and it continued to be a top priority under the AFoCo Agreement as the second objective of the Agreement was stipulated as “to provide a platform for dialogue between ASEAN Member States and the ROK towards the establishment of AFoCO”. The action was further highlighted under Article VII of the Agreement, as “Dialogue for the establishment of AFoCO shall commence soon after entry into force of the Agreement in anticipation of finalizing a separate arrangement for AFoCO within two (2) years from the entry into force of the Agreement”. In reality, it was not that straightforward and the dialogue process took twists and turns due to the limitation of the ASEAN mechanism.

Basically, there was the same question raised earlier from the ASEAN side on how to accommodate other Asian countries under the scope of this Agreement (see in Chapter 1.3) and the issue was not elaborated further throughout the negotiation process of this Agreement. Since the Agreement provided a platform, the ROK started with an action by proposing the formation of a Working Group for the establishment of AFoCO (WG-AFoCO) at the 1st Session of the GC and it has evolved through a trial-and-error process or by making the necessary structural adjustment through the dialogue process.

5.2.1 Working Group for the Establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (WG-AFoCO)

Soon after the entry-into-force of the Agreement, the ROK made a proposal for the formation of the WG-AFoCO in August 2012 at the 1st GC Session. After deliberation at a meeting in November 2012, the 2nd

GC Session approved the terms of reference for the WG-AFoCO in January 2013 and provided guidance to further deliberate rules of procedure internally. Rules of procedure never materialized and the Working Group only lasted until July 2013. The WG-AFoCO was terminated when the issue of accommodating other Asian countries was not resolved and all the stakeholders were forced to find a new way out.

5.2.2 Dialogue for the Establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (Dialogue-AFoCO)

Upon recommendations by the 16th ASOF Meeting held on 5-6 July 2013 in Brunei Darussalam and the 3rd Session of GC held on 18 October 2013 in Singapore, a new independent body “Dialogue-AFoCO” was initiated by the ROK through the diplomatic channel, clearing the hurdle and paving the way for AFoCO. Four (4) additional members (Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and Timor-Leste) joined the Dialogue-AFoCO, making a 15-member dialogue. This dialogue is independent from the AFoCo Agreement with its own terms of reference and rules of procedure. The only exception was the role of the AFoCo Secretariat in providing coordination and secretary service to the dialogue. Altogether there were six (6) dialogue meetings held over the course of 21 months from December 2013 to September 2015. At the 6th dialogue meeting in September 2015, the text for the “Agreement on the Establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization” was adopted and handed over to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the ROK for further diplomatic action.



Bhutan



Kazakhstan



Brunei Darussalam



Korea



Cambodia



Lao PDR



Indonesia



Malaysia



Mongolia



Thailand



Myanmar



Timor-Leste



Philippines



Viet Nam



Singapore



AFOCo Secretariat

5.3 Challenges in the Dialogue for AFoCO

There were three (3) major challenges encountered in the dialogue for the establishment of AFoCO. Two of them have emerged due mainly to the national interest and position of the countries.

- a. The limitation of AFoCo Agreement to accommodate all prospective countries for AFoCO dialogue was a challenge in the process. When the first Working Group formed under the AFoCo Agreement was found to be limited to deal with other Asian Countries, all parties agreed to a suggestion to form a body independent from AFoCo Agreement and it worked in the interest of all stakeholders.
- b. The second challenge was on the negotiation of decision-making procedure. When the ROK proposed for a decision-making procedure by simple majority vote, it received support from dialogue members. However, a couple of dialogue members could not agree to it and stood firm with the demand for consensus decision-making procedure. The ROK eventually agreed to the demand and the issue was resolved.
- c. Another challenge was on the distribution of financial contribution by the members. Although the ROK is committed to financially contribute most as the lead country, the ROK's domestic procedure required indication of commitment from other members by their nominal contribution. Contribution by other members was eventually agreed at 1 percent of the operational budget, which amounts to at least USD 30,000 a year. For many developing countries, this amount is regarded as quite substantial and need time to clear it through their domestic process.

5.4 Vision and Mission of AFoCO

When AFoCO was first introduced at the ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit held in Jeju Island in June 2009, the ROK's vision of "Low Carbon Green Growth" was highlighted and specific areas of intervention were proposed as "to strengthen cooperation in the context of the UNFCCC, especially on the REDD initiative, enhancement of SFM, wasteland restoration, and promotion of industrial forestation". Even after the issuance of the statement 7 years ago, the proposed mission is still valid and very much in line with the global developments.



Promoting this regional forest cooperation is the key element for maximizing SFM in response to recent global efforts on climate change, biodiversity conservation, desertification, and land degradation. The AFoCO should be realized in line with this agenda and with full support from the future members of the AFoCO Agreement. As the repercussions of climate change are being felt worldwide with frequent natural disasters and extreme weather incidences, AFoCO can address emerging forestry and climate change issues through a well-coordinated and strong regional approach. AFoCO is projected to be an internationally recognized model for green growth by undertaking SFM activities and delivering appropriate climate change responses for the region.

5.4.1 Vision

The vision of AFoCO is to contribute to strengthening regional forest cooperation by undertaking proven technology and translating policy into concrete actions for a greener Asia. The AFoCO will have a legal identity and capacity of an intergovernmental organization.

5.4.2 Mission

The AFoCO is designed to undertake the following action-oriented forest cooperation activities towards the attainment of sustainable development for a Greener Asia (Figure 4):

- Forest rehabilitation and prevention of forest-related disasters;
- Undertaking climate change mitigation and adaptation activities;
- Promoting SFM; and
- Capacity building and transfer of technology.



Figure 4 Vision and Mission of AFoCO

The activities are to be implemented over a medium to long-term plan of actions. All the identified areas are closely related and thus, there will be cross-cutting issues to be addressed in the course of implementation.

5.4.2.1 Forest Rehabilitation and Prevention of Forest-related Disasters

Deforestation and forest degradation have been a perennial problem in many countries around the world. With the exception of very few countries, most countries in Asia have experienced a significant loss of forest cover over the years due mainly to land conversion for agriculture, industry, human settlement, and other land use, including overexploitation of forests. It is also considered as one of the main contributing factors to global warming. Joining the global effort to prevent deforestation and forest degradation, AFoCO plans to undertake actions in four key areas, namely, (1) rehabilitation of forest ecosystem to prevent calamities; (2) restoration of degraded tropical forests and combating desertification and land degradation; and (3) prevention of forest disasters.

5.4.2.2 Undertaking Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Activities

REDD+ has become a major tool to combat climate change due to global acceptance of the significant role of forests played in mitigation of climate change. According to the IPCC, the most cost-effective mitigation options in forestry are afforestation, SFM, and reducing deforestation. It also noted that REDD+ is considered the largest and most immediate mitigation option to prevent the release of carbon emissions into the atmosphere in the short term per hectare and per year globally. As part of global effort to address the impact of climate change, AFoCO plans to undertake the following activities: (1) enhance forest carbon stocks and support initiatives on mitigation and adaptation of climate change; (2) support REDD activities; and (3) reinforce eco-friendly industrial plantation of forests within the region.

5.4.2.3 Promoting Sustainable Forest Management

Goal 15 of the SDGs has set targets with a statement of “deforestation and desertification – caused by

human activities and climate change – pose major challenges to sustainable development and have affected the lives and the livelihoods of millions of people in the fight against poverty”. In promoting SFM in environmental, economic, and social aspects, AFoCO plans to focus particularly on: (1) promoting SFM practices; (2) encouraging sustainable trade of forest products; (3) protecting livelihood of forest-dependent and indigenous communities; and (4) promoting community-based forestry activities.

5.4.2.4 Capacity Building and Technology Transfer

Capacity building and transfer of technology are considered crosscutting and integral parts of the development process in many developing countries; and limited technical capacity becomes a constraint factor in national development. As part of strengthening regional cooperation and providing assistance to strengthen the capacity of member countries, AFoCO plans to address: 1) human resource development; 2) public awareness on emerging forestry issues; 3) research and development in forest sector; and (4) establishment of a database for comprehensive information sharing.

5.5 Interim Arrangements from AFoCo to AFoCO

As the AFoCo Agreement is set to terminate on 4 August 2016 and the new AFoCO Agreement will not come into effect before that date, an interim arrangement is needed. There are many ongoing projects under the AFoCo Agreement, which have separate legal arrangements and are allowed to operate independently. The financial audit and settlement need to be done as well after the date of termination. It was agreed at the 8th GC Session that the Secretariat, upon the termination of the Agreement, will be transformed to an interim secretariat which will

be managed by the ROK to implement the following functions:

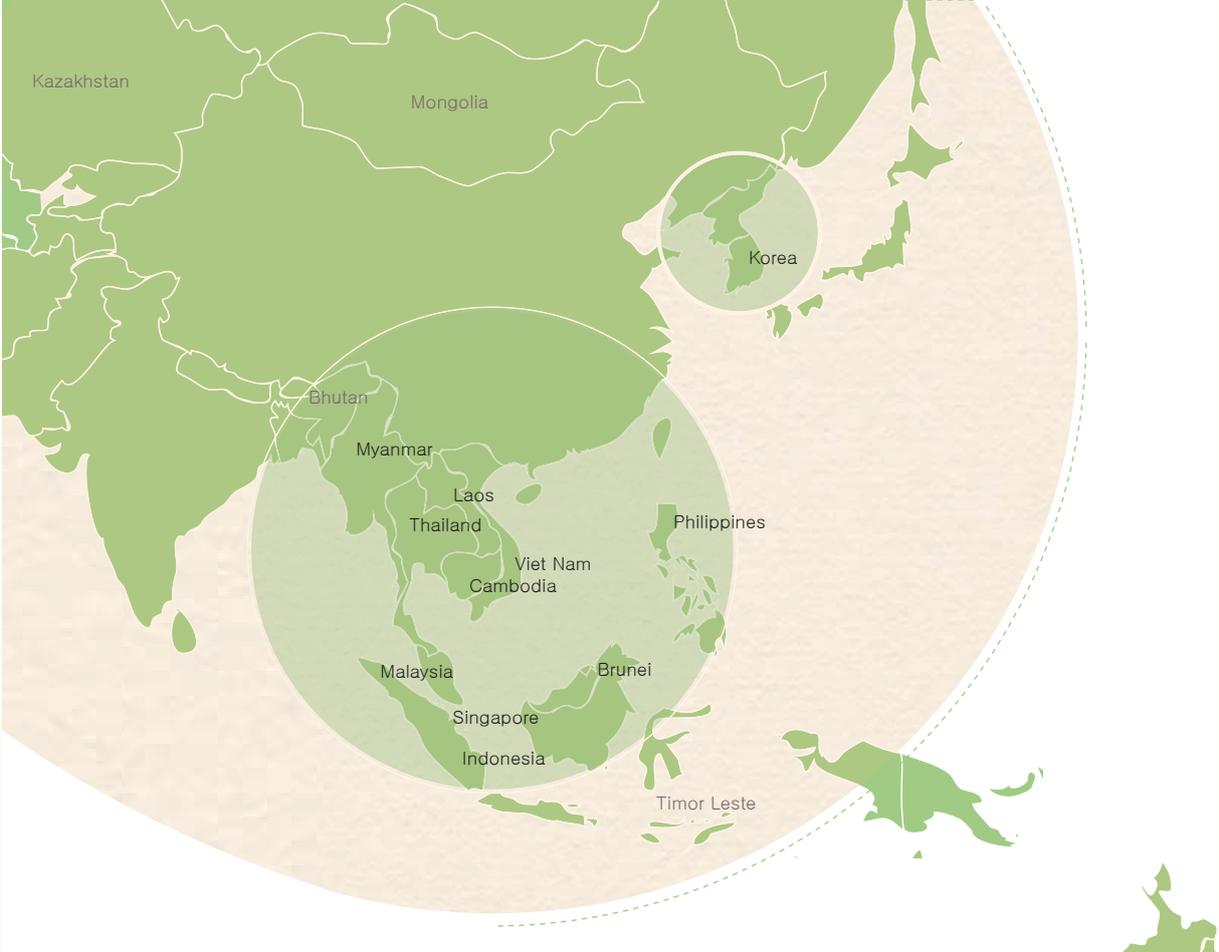
1. Preparation of final financial statements as of 4 August 2016 and its circulation to the Parties of the Agreement;
2. Coordination and management of programs and projects which are approved under the Agreement and will continue beyond the termination of the Agreement; and
3. Preparation for the establishment of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO), including the transfer of the AFoCo Secretariat's functions, personnel, assets, and archives to the new AFoCO Secretariat

As AFoCO is designed to become a regional organization representing Asia and implementing field-oriented activities through regional programs and projects, it needs to set up an appropriate structure and operational guidelines based on the many important lessons learned through the implementation of the activities for four years under the AFoCo Agreement.

The four-year partnership of AFoCo has delivered cooperation activities that addressed the needs of member countries in the areas of forest rehabilitation, prevention of forest degradation, biodiversity conservation, livelihood improvement, and capacity development. The majority of activities were in various types of capacity development that the participating countries appreciated most and recommended very much for consideration in the future. Although this chapter of cooperation between ASEAN and the ROK has come to an end, it represented only as a transition to open a new chapter of a broader cooperation with more Asian countries joining in the future. The ROK and all prospective members have shown their full commitment to AFoCO and the lessons learned from this 4-year partnership with ASEAN will be beneficial in the future delivery of projects under the AFoCO.

Essentially, AFoCO is expected to take a holistic approach for a greener Asia and along this path, the interventions from AFoCO will be targeting mainly

on forest rehabilitation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, green technology, and capacity development.



REMEMBRANCE

Remembrance

This section is dedicated to the late four (4) personnel who had contributed to the cause of AFoCO.

In memory of the Late Dr. Min Thant Zin



Dr. Min Thant Zin served as Co-Chair representing the ASEAN side at the 1st Meeting of Ad Hoc Working Group for the Establishment of AFoCO held on 24-26 August 2009 in Jakarta, Indonesia. He successfully co-chaired the meeting along with his counterpart Director-General of the Korea Forest Service and moderated the presentations by the ROK and ASEAN Member States.

Born on 5 July 1962 in Yangon, Myanmar, Dr. Min Thant Zin graduated with a Bachelor's degree in forestry in 1984. He received his Master's degree in Forest Management at Kasetsart University, Bangkok in 1998. In 2005, he received his PhD from the University of Gottingen, Germany with a dissertation entitled "Developing a Scientific Basis for Sustainable Management of Tropical Forest Watersheds: Case Studies from Myanmar".

Dr. Min Thant Zin was holding the position of Associate Professor at the University of Forestry, Yezin, Myanmar when he passed away in 2010. He started his career in 1985 working on a plantation project at a paper mill until 1994 before he was transferred to the Central Forestry Development Training Centre to engage in forestry training activities. In 2000, he joined the University of Forestry as Assistant Lecturer. After completion of his PhD study, he carried out more research and published a number of papers. Dr. Min Thant Zin researched widely on topics related to tree growth modeling, community forestry, and watershed management, and he will always be remembered as an outstanding researcher who contributed greatly to Myanmar's forestry sector.

In memory of the Late Dr. Im Eunho



Dr. Im, soon after his return from the PhD scholarship at the Oregon State University in 2008, was appointed as the Deputy Director of the International Cooperation Division at the Korea Forest Service.

After a domestic high-level decision to establish a regional forest organization, this task was entrusted to him. He initiated the 1st Meeting of Ad Hoc Working Group for the Establishment of AFoCO in Jakarta and continued to oversee AFoCO matter until the 2nd Meeting of Ad Hoc Working Group in March 2010. He greatly contributed significantly towards the development of the basic framework and strategy for the establishment of the AFoCO.

Born in 1970, he received his Bachelor's and Master's degree at Seoul National University. He began serving the Korea Forest Service in 1998 at the Forest Training Institute. He was later assigned to the International Cooperation Division before he left for his Ph.D. scholarship at Oregon State University. After completing his studies, he continued to serve the International Cooperation Division and took charge of the AFoCo matter. He was soon promoted and subsequently led the UNCCD organizing task force team. Under his exceptional leadership and coordination, the UNCCD COP10 was successfully held in October 2011 in Changwon, South Korea. Dr. Im passed away in an unfortunate accident in January 2012.

In memory of the Late Mr. Khamphay Manivong



Mr. Khamphay Manivong has been involved in AFoCo projects and activities since 2011 while serving as the Deputy Director General of the Department of Forestry, Lao PDR. He was first involved in the supervision of the AFoCo individual cooperation projects implemented in Lao PDR from 2011 until 2013. He successfully co-chaired the 2nd Meeting of the "Working Group for the Establishment of AFoCO" held in Pakse, Lao PDR on 17-18 July 2013.

He has been a devoted forester who worked extensively in many areas within the forestry sector since 1979 until early 2016 when he passed away. He also served the Central Forestry Technician College for many years, and was responsible for syllabus development and teaching topics on forest management, silviculture, botany, mensuration, inventory, land survey, land management and conservation. He held key positions in several divisions under the Department of Forestry, including Director of Forestry Research Centre and the Agriculture and Forestry Information Centre, Deputy Director General of the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI) before his position as Deputy Director General of the Department of Forestry.

Mr. Khamphay Manivong was engaged in sustainable forest management in the Lao PDR for many years. He was among the first to be involved in introducing and developing models for community based/participatory forest management since its initiation in Lao PDR in the early 1990's. With the emerging needs to integrate forestry into climate change efforts, he had also played an important role in the forestry sector in initiating Reduced Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) in the Lao PDR.

In memory of the Late Dr. Silavanh Sawathvong



Dr. Silavanh Sawathvong was a strong and dedicated supporter of AFoCO initiative from the very early stage since 2009. In June 2011, He successfully chaired the 5th Meeting of Ad Hoc Working Group for the Establishment of AFoCO held in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR and facilitated the finalization of the Agreement text on ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation. In 2012 and 2013, he attended the 1st and 2nd Sessions of the Governing Council representing Lao PDR.

Born in 1955, he was a devoted husband and loving father of two sons. He was especially attached to his hometown, Luang Prabang Province and his father who was a well-known Lao Art Master.

He received his Ph.D. degree at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in 2003. He greatly contributed to works related to participatory land management planning and improvement of the socio-economic living conditions of the resident rural populations in Lao PDR during his service at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Lao PDR. He was serving as the Director General of Forest Department at the time when he passed away in 2013.

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APPENDICES

Appendices

► Appendix 1 Summary of AFoCo Individual Cooperation Projects

Project Title	Project Description	Date of MOU Signing (Inception Date - Completion Date)
Improving Capacity on Forest Restoration in Cambodia (Phase II)	<p>Country: Cambodia Budget: USD 100,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initiate a research study on reforestation of degraded by direct seeding - Improve the capacity of the Forestry Administration in producing seedlings by tissue culture 	<p>29 August 2012</p> <p>(15 December 2012 - November 2013)</p>
Development of Wood Processing Workshop and Capacity Building for Forestry Vocational High School (SMK) Students at Kadipaten, West Java, Indonesia	<p>Country: Indonesia Budget: USD 100,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Train technical forestry professionals to become independent, competitive, and well-experienced in the field of wood processing industry especially on wood biomass energy - Improve SMK's quality of teaching, learning materials, and activities to integrate theory and practice and wood processing/wood biomass energy processing technology - Support production facilities and infrastructure of SMK's wood processing workshop 	<p>29 August 2012</p> <p>(March 2013 - February 2014)</p>
Enhancing Capacity for Village Forestry in Lao PDR	<p>Country: Lao PDR Budget: USD 100,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contribute to building up and strengthening firm foundation for effective and sustainable management of forests in Lao PDR 	<p>31 December 2012</p> <p>(March 2013 - February 2014)</p>
Mitigation of Climate Change Impacts through Restoration of Degraded Forests and REDD+ Activities in Bago Yoma Region, Myanmar	<p>Country: Myanmar Budget: USD 100,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve the institutional and technical capacity for national coordination to manage REDD+ activities in Myanmar - Improve awareness raising about climate change and REDD+ for all relevant stakeholders - Improve the livelihoods of local communities through participation of REDD+ activities 	<p>28 December 2012</p> <p>(1 March 2013 - 28 February 2014)</p>

Project Title	Project Description	Date of MOU Signing (Inception Date - Completion Date)
<p>Climate-Proofing of the Philippine Revised Master Plan for Forestry Development (RMPFD)</p>	<p>Country: Philippines Budget: USD 100,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct consultation and coordination meetings within the DENR and with partner stakeholders on the need for the review, assessment, updating and revision of the 2003 Philippines RMPFD - Review and assess the status of implementation and the achievement under the RMPFD to include the major programs, strategies, and strategic targets - Conduct workshops/writeshops within the DENR and with partner stakeholders to arrive at a consensus of agreements on the would-be programs, strategies and strategic targets under the Climate-Proofed Master Plan for Forestry Development - Prepare and formulate a Climate-Proof Master Plan for Forestry Development 	<p>31 December 2012 (January 2013 - February 2014)</p>
<p>Strengthening Community Capacity in Forest Management of Nam Reab Watershed at Nan Province of Thailand: A Community Forestry Initiative for REDD+ Concept Based on Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Forest Management</p>	<p>Country: Thailand Budget: USD 100,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build the capacity of four local communities located within Nam Leab Watershed who engage in agricultural activities and gather NTFPs from the watershed forest - Design and implement climate adaptation activities in order to reduce deforestation and degradation following the REDD+ concept - Demonstrate how local communities and administration organizations in coordination with related government agencies can implement REDD+ initiatives 	<p>31 December 2012 (22 May 2013 - March 2016)</p>
<p>Developing Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) in the Northwest of Viet Nam as Mechanism for Sustainable Forest Management and Livelihood Improvement for Local Communities</p>	<p>Country: Viet Nam Budget: USD 100,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve the knowledge, skills, and technology of local people in these provinces with respect to the establishment, management, and process of NTFPs in the region 	<p>29 August 2012 (January 2013 - December 2013)</p>

► Appendix 2

List of AFoCo Regional Cooperation Projects and Program

Project Code	Project Profile	Participating Countries	Date of Entry-into-force
AFoCo/001/2013	<p>Reclamation, Rehabilitation and Restoration of Degraded Forest Ecosystems (RRR-DFE) in Mekong Basin Countries</p> <p>Lead country: Thailand Duration: 2 years (2013 – 2015) Budget: USD 500,000</p>	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam	14 May 2013
AFoCo/002/2013	<p>Capacity Building on Improving Forest Resources Assessment and Enhancing the Involvement of the Local Communities to Address the Impact of Climate Change</p> <p>Lead country: Indonesia Duration: 2 years 6 months (2013 – 2016) Budget: USD 1,847,528</p>	Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam	18 November 2013
AFoCo/003/2014	<p>Promotion of Forest Rehabilitation in Cambodia and Viet Nam through Demonstration Models and Improvement of Seed Supply System</p> <p>Lead country: Cambodia Duration: 5 years (2014 – 2019) Budget: USD 1,000,000</p>	Cambodia and Viet Nam	9 December 2014
AFoCo/004/2014	<p>Facilitating the Participatory Planning of Communitybased Forest Management Using Geographic Information System and Remote Sensing Technologies in Forest Resources Management in the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand</p> <p>Lead country: Philippines Duration: 5 years (2014 – 2019) Budget: USD 1,500,000</p>	Indonesia, Philippines, and Thailand	9 December 2014
AFoCo/005/2014	<p>Establishment of Forest Genetics Research Center for Restoration of Major Timber Species in Cambodia (Component-3 of Landmark Program)</p> <p>Lead agency: AFoCo Secretariat Duration: 10 years (2014 – 2023) Budget: USD 1,500,000</p>	Cambodia	14 March 2014

Project Code	Project Profile	Participating Countries	Date of Entry-into-force
AFoCo/006/2014	<p>Rehabilitation and Development of Mangrove Forest Ecosystem in Thai Binh Province, Viet Nam (Component-3 of Landmark Program)</p> <p>Lead agency: AFoCo Secretariat Duration: 10 years (2014 – 2023) Budget: USD 1,500,000</p>	Viet Nam	29 April 2014
AFoCo/007/2014	<p>Establishment of Regional Education and Training Center in Myanmar (Component-1 of Landmark Program)</p> <p>Lead agency: AFoCo Secretariat Duration: 10 years (2014 – 2023) Budget: USD 6,988,215</p>	AFoCo Member Countries	1 August 2014
AFoCo/008/2014	<p>Village-based Forest Rehabilitation in Lao PDR (Component-3 of Landmark Program)</p> <p>Lead agency: AFoCo Secretariat Duration: 10 years (2014 – 2023) Budget: USD 1,500,000</p>	Lao PDR	1 October 2014
AFoCo/009/2015	<p>Developing High Valuable Species in Viet Nam and Thailand as a Mechanism for Sustainable Forest Management and Livelihood Improvement for Local Communities</p> <p>Lead country: Viet Nam Duration: 3 years (2015 – 2018) Budget: USD 600,000</p>	Viet Nam and Thailand	28 December 2015
AFoCo/010/2016	<p>Domestication of Endangered, Endemic and Threatened Plant Species in Disturbed Terrestrial Ecosystems in Malaysia and Thailand</p> <p>Lead country: Malaysia Duration: 6 years (2016 – 2022) Budget: USD 1,200,000</p>	Malaysia and Thailand	19 May 2016
AFoCo/011/2016	<p>Capacity Building for Landscape Approach to Support the Sustainable Natural Resources Management in Brunei, Indonesia, Philippines, and Singapore</p> <p>Lead country: Philippines Duration: 3 years (2016 – 2019) Budget: USD 539,726</p>	Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Philippines, and Singapore	30 March 2016

► Appendix 3

Summary of Projects under the AFoCo Landmark Program

Project Title	Project Description	Date of MOU Signing (Inception Date - Completion Date)
Component 2		
Establishment of Research and Education Training Center (RETC)	Country: Myanmar Budget: USD 6,988,215	1 August 2014
	- Construct a centralized scientific research and training center supplied with research equipment and training facilities in order to deliver regular training courses under AFoCo Landmark program, which will enhance the regional capacity of forest-related personnel and institutions	(November 2015 - 2023)
Component 3		
Establishment of Forest Genetics Center for Restoration of Major Timber Species in Cambodia	Country: Cambodia Budget: USD 1,500,000	14 March 2014
	- Create long-term plan for tree breeding implementation - Train staff for the restoration and tree breeding activities	(25 September 2015 - 2023)
Village-based Forest Rehabilitation in Lao PDR	Country: Lao PDR Budget: USD 1,500,000	1 October 2014
	- To demonstrate village-based forest rehabilitation concepts in degraded forests through (1) establishment of ex-situ conservation plantation; (2) enrichment planting in degraded forest areas; and (3) assisted natural regeneration. - To generate public support for the national forest rehabilitation policy and village-based forest rehabilitation program. - To provide incentives to local villagers through capacity building activities on nursery management, enrichment planting, maintenance and protection of rehabilitated areas. - To strengthen capability of all stakeholders.	(25 November 2015 - 2023)
Rehabilitation and Development of Mangrove Forest Ecosystem in Thai Binh Province	Country: Viet Nam Budget: USD 1,500,000	29 April 2014
	- Afforest, rehabilitate and sustainably manage mangrove forest ecosystem in Thai Bin Province - Raise awareness and enhance knowledge and capacity of local communities on rehabilitation, protection and sustainable development/management of mangrove forests, biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, and livelihood improvement strategies	(25 November 2015 - 2023)

► Appendix 4

Trainings and Workshops Conducted under Seven AFoCo Individual Cooperation Projects

No.	Title	Date	Host Country	Number of Participants
1	Inception Workshop on Developing NTFPs in the Northwest of Viet Nam as the Mechanism for SFM and Livelihood Improvement for Local Communities	February 2013	Viet Nam	30
2	Training on Tissue Culture Technique and Basic Laboratory Management	March 2013	ROK	2
3	Workshop on Development of Social and Environmental Safeguards for REDD+	20 March 2013	Myanmar	72
4	Training of Trainers for Field Level Staff for Awareness Raising About Climate Change and REDD+	2 June 2013	Myanmar	30
5	Training on Wood Pellet Processing Workshop	1-6 July 2013	Indonesia	30
6	National Assessment Workshop on the Status of Achievement of the Revised Forestry Master Plan (9 Workshops)	July -November 2013	Philippines	270
7	Training on Application of GPS, Google Earth and UTM to Support REDD+ and SFM	19-23 August 2013	Myanmar	20
8	Training of Trainers for Improving Capacity of Field Level Staff of Forest Department on REDD+ and the Role of Forests in Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	30 September - 4 October 2013	Myanmar	30
9	Training on Bamboo Handicraft for Livelihood Improvement of the Local Communities in Yedashe Township	23 September - 4 October 2013	Myanmar	30
10	Training on Techniques of Seedling Production, Site Preparation, Planting, Tending, Harvesting, Processing, and Preservation of Luong (<i>Dendrocalamus barbatus</i>), Sa nhan (<i>Amomum longiligulare</i>), Tao meo (<i>Docynia indica</i>), and Tha qua (<i>Amomum aromaticum</i>) (8 trainings)	July - November 2013	Viet Nam	160
11	Training on Forest inventory and Forest Carbon Assessment	19-22 January 2014	Myanmar	45
12	Training on Bamboo Handicraft for Livelihood Improvement of the Local Communities in Shwekyin Township	26 December 2013 - 6 January 2014	Myanmar	30
13	Training for Trainers of Village Forestry	February 2014	Lao PDR	37
Total (28)				786

► Appendix 5

Trainings and Workshops Conducted through the AFoCo Regional Projects and the Landmark Program

No.	Title	Date	Host Country	Number of Participants (Countries)
AFoCo/001/2013: Reclamation, Rehabilitation and Restoration of Degraded Forest Ecosystems (RRR-DFE) in Mekong Basin Countries				
1	Regional Workshop on Lessons Learned from Thailand: Ecotourism Linked with Forest Restoration	19-20 March 2014	Thailand	25 (4 AMS)
2	Regional Workshop on Ecotourism and Payments for Forest Environmental Services Linked to Biodiversity Conservation and Forest Resource Management	14-16 October 2014	Viet Nam	25 (5 AMS)
3	Regional Training Course on Enhancing Livelihood through Community Forestry	9-14 March 2015	Thailand	25 (5 AMS)
	Sub-total (3)			75
AFoCo/002/2013: Capacity Building on Improving Forest Resources Assessment and Enhancing the Involvement of the Local Communities to Address the Impact of Climate Change				
1	In-country Workshop on the Current State of Capacity and Ability of FRA	11-12 March 2014	Indonesia	60 (Indonesia)
2	In-country Workshop on Forest Resource Assessment	12 – 13 May 2014	Viet Nam	41 (Viet Nam)
3	In-country Workshop on Forest Resource Assessment	28 – 30 May 2014	Philippine	41 (Philippines)
4	In-country Workshop on Forest Resource Assessment	18 August 2014	Cambodia	70 (Cambodia)
5	Comparative Study in ROK on the Utilization of Satellite Imagery Technology to Support FRA from AMS	25-29 August 2014	ROK	23 (9 AMS)
6	Regional Training of Trainers on Application of RS and GIS Technology to Support Forest Resource Assessment	22-27 September 2014	Lao PDR	18 (7 AMS)
7	In-country Workshop on Forest Resource Assessment (The Way Forward)	23 October 2014	Brunei Darussalam	70 (Brunei Darussalam)
8	In-country Workshop on FRA	12-16 and 26-30 October 2014	Lao PDR	40 (Lao PDR)

No.	Title	Date	Host Country	Number of Participants (Countries)
9	Regional Workshop on the Current State of FRA to Identify Gap Among AMS	3-5 November 2014	Indonesia	75 (8 AMS)
10	In-country Training of Trainers on Application of RS and GIS Technology to Support Forest Resource Assessment	9-13 and 23-27 November 2014	Lao PDR	20 (Lao PDR)
11	In-country Workshop on Training Programme and Training Module Development	3-4 November 2014	Indonesia	75 (Indonesia)
12	Training of Trainers on Application of RS and GIS Technology to Support Forest Resource Assessment	24-28 November 2014	Viet Nam	15 (Viet Nam)
13	Training of Trainers on Application of RS and GIS Technology to Support Forest Resource Assessment	26-31 January 2015	Indonesia	20 (Indonesia)
14	Study Tour on Community Participation in Protecting Forest Resources to Support REDD+	23-26 February 2015	Indonesia	45 (8 AMS)
15	Seminar for Promoting Capacity building on FRA	11-13 March 2015	Thailand	49 (Thailand)
16	In-country Training of Trainers on Application of RS and GIS Technology to Support Forest Resource Assessment	16-18 March 2015	Cambodia	34 (Cambodia)
17	In-country Training of Trainers on Application of RS and GIS Technology to Support Forest Resource Assessment	29-31 July 2015	Philippines	49 (Philippines)
18	In-country Training on Development and Management of Mangrove Ecotourism	28-31 July 2015	Indonesia	20 (Indonesia)
19	In-country Workshop on Forest Resource Assessment	6-7 August 2015	Myanmar	61 (Myanmar)
20	Training on <i>Trigona sp.</i> Farming to Reduce Forest Degradation in East Kalimantan	6-8 August 2015	Indonesia	50 (Indonesia)
21	In-country Training of Trainers on Application of RS and GIS Technology to Support Forest Resource Assessment	10-16 August 2015	Myanmar	30 (Myanmar)
22	In-country Training on Mangrove Conservation to Improve Farmer's Income	15-16 September 2015	Indonesia	31 (Indonesia)
23	1 st Training on Application of RS/GIS for Forest Resources Assessment in Brunei Darussalam	5-18 October 2015	Indonesia	3 (Brunei Darussalam)

No.	Title	Date	Host Country	Number of Participants (Countries)
24	Regional shared learning program (Study Tour) on Benefit sharing mechanism in REDD+ and identification on potential capacity building activities towards FRA 2020	3-5 November 2015	Indonesia	36 (8 AMS)
25	In-country Training on Alternative Livelihood Development	11-16 November 2015	Lao PDR	52 (Lao PDR)
26	In-country Training on Forest Inventory	23-25 November 2015	Thailand	50 (Thailand)
27	In-country Training on Alternative Livelihood Development	23-25 November 2015	Thailand	40 (Thailand)
28	2 nd Training on Application of RS/GIS for Forest Resources Assessment in Brunei Darussalam	23 November-3 December 2015	Brunei Darussalam	3 (Brunei Darussalam)
29	Regional Workshop on Alternative Livelihood Development	21-23 January 2016	Thailand	45 (8 AMS)
30	In-country Training for Livelihood Improvement of Local Communities	4-26 February 2016	Myanmar	30 (Myanmar)
31	In-country Training on Alternative Livelihood Development	January 2016	Philippines	60 (Philippines)
32	In-country Training on livelihood improvement model for local people residing in the buffer zone of Xuan Thuy National Park in Nam Dinh Province	17 – 26 March 2016	Viet Nam	30 (Viet Nam)
33	In-country Training on Community Forest Management and REDD+ Concept	14 – 16 March 2016	Cambodia	23 (Cambodia)
	Sub-total (33)			1,309
AFoCo/003/2014: Promotion of Forest Rehabilitation in Cambodia and Viet Nam through Demonstration Models and Improvement of Seed Supply System				
1	Tissue culture technique	November 2015	Viet Nam	2 (Viet Nam)
2	Tree seed technology	November – December 2015	ROK	1 (Cambodia)
	Sub-total (2)			3

No.	Title	Date	Host Country	Number of Participants (Countries)
AFoCo/004/2014: Facilitating the Participatory Planning of Community-based Forest Management Using Geographic Information System and Remote Sensing Technologies in Forest Resources Management in the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand				
1	In-country Workshop on the Review of Community-level Forest Management (CFM) Planning Procedures	4-6 November 2015	Philippines	25 (Philippines)
2	In-Country Workshop on CFM Planning	5-6 January 2016	Indonesia	120 (Indonesia)
3	Workshop on Forest Spatial Information and User-oriented Service System at APFW2016 STREAM 5	24 February 2016	Philippines	100 (10 AMS)
	Sub-total (3)			245
AFoCo Landmark Program				
1	Training of Trainers on Fire Management	16-23 September 2014	ROK	20 (6 AMS)
2	Forest Policy and <i>Saemaul Undong</i>	16-21 March 2015	ROK	15 (9 AMS)
3	Using GIS for Advanced Forest Management	20-25 April 2015	ROK	17 (9 AMS)
4	Training of Trainers for Climate Change and REDD+	25-30 May 2015	Indonesia	28 (9 AMS)
5	Seedling Production and Nursery System	8-12 June 2015	ROK	16 (9 AMS)
6	Forest Pest Management	20-25 July 2015	ROK	18 (8 AMS)
7	Soil Conservation and Watershed Management	24-29 August 2015	Philippines	31 (8 AMS)
8	Forest Fire Management for Training of Trainers	7-14 October 2015	ROK	29 (8 AMS)
9	Forest-based Ecotourism	30 November – 4 December 2015	Malaysia	30 (10 AMS)
10	Restoration of Degraded Forest Regions	19 January 2016	AFoCo Secretariat	39 (9 AMS)
11	Sustainable Forest Management Policy	14-19 March 2016	Indonesia	30 (9 AMS)
12	Inception Workshop on Mangrove Rehabilitation Project in Viet Nam	18 March 2016	Viet Nam	60 (Viet Nam)

No.	Title	Date	Host Country	Number of Participants (Countries)
13	Inception Workshop for Restoration Project Workshop in Cambodia	27 May 2016	Cambodia	50 (2 AMS)
14	Inception Workshop for Restoration Project Workshop in Lao PDR	30 May 2016	Lao PDR	50 (2 AMS)
15	Forest Fire Management for Training of Trainers	23-27 May 2016	Thailand	50 (Thailand)
	Sub-total (15)			483
AFoCo Secretariat				
1	AFoCo Short-term Training on Forest Management for Adaptation and Mitigation of Climate Change	23-27 September 2013	ROK	18 (9 AMS)
2	Workshop on Human Resource and Research Development "Forestry Education and Research in Asia: Reality, Challenges and Way Forward"	5-6 May 2014	Indonesia	20 (9 AMS)
3	AFoCo International Thematic Workshop on Forest Disaster Management "Challenges and Way Forward in Forest Fire Management"	16-18 September 2014	ROK	60 (12 countries)
4	AFoCo High Level Workshop on <i>Saemaul Undong</i> Spirit for Reforestation in Southeast Asia	17-20 September 2014	ROK	15 (8 AMS)
5	AFoCo International Thematic Workshop on "Payment for Ecosystem Services"	14-16 October 2014	Viet Nam	16 (8 AMS)
6	2015 ASEAN-Korea Youth Network Workshop on Forest and Youth: Youth in the Forefront of Forest Conservation in ASEAN and Korea	10-18 August 2015	Indonesia and ROK (AFoCo Secretariat and ASEAN-Korea Center)	92 (10 AMS + ROK)
	Sub-total (6)			221
Trainings and Workshops Total (62)				2,336

► Appendix 6

List of Training Topics Identified to be Conducted under the AFoCo Landmark Program

No.	Training Topic	Potential courses
1	Rural development	Cultural learning, Forest recreation, Landscape planning, <i>Saemaul Undong</i> (New Community Movement)
2	Forest management certification	Process, Case study
3	Community forestry management	Economics accounting, Forest assessment, Monitoring, Forest resource
4	Payment for ecosystems services (PES)	Forest ecology, Forest assessment, Forest policy
5	National forest plan, politics and laws	Forest policy, Official development assistance, Foreign direct investment
6	Forest and carbon	Carbon cycle, Climatology, Tree physiology, Assessment
7	REDD+	Forest policy, Carbon cycle, Climatology, Assessment, PES
8	Forest measurement	Tree measurement tools, Tree marking, Establishing permanent plots
9	Data analysis for long-term research	Programming, Modelling, Informatics, Archive
10	Ecotourism	Conservation, Sustainable management, Ecosystem protection, Community-based, PES
11	Biodiversity	Genes, Species, Ecosystem diversity, Population management
12	Forest rehabilitation	Harvest seed, Seed storage and supply, Nursery, Tree plantation
13	Forest management and harvesting	Forest tending, Harvest trees, Regeneration, Forest road
14	Wildlife management	Conservation, Habitat management, Wildlife ecology
15	RS and GIS	Lidar, land usage, Digital forestry, Mapping, Data preparation
16	Forest disaster management	Landslides, Debris flow, Disaster prevention, Warning system
17	Forest fire management	Fire prevention, Fire inspection, Warning system, Extinguishing fire, Restoration
18	Forest pathology control	Pests and diseases, Disinfection, Tree physiology, Tree identification, Forest pesticide
19	Watershed management	Streamflow, Hydrology, Soil erosion control, Riparian forest
20	Forest soil management	Nutrient cycle, Soil carbon, Soil physical/chemical analysis, Tenure policies
21	Tree breeding and improvement	Genetics, Statistics, Seed orchard, Biotechnology, Progeny testing, Genomics

► Appendix 7

Recipients of the AFoCo Landmark Scholarship Program

No.	Name	Affiliation	Country	University	Degree/Major
1	Mr. Keng Neab	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Cambodia	Yeungnam University	MS (Forest Resource and Ecology Restoration)
2	Mr. Muhammad Sulaeman	Ministry of Environmental and Forestry	Indonesia	University of Seoul	PhD (Environmental Horticulture)
3	Mr. Vo Trung Kien	Forest Science Institute of South Viet Nam	Viet Nam	Yeungnam University	MS (Forest Resource and Ecology Restoration)
4	Mr. Samsanouk Pathammavongsa	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Lao PDR	Kangwon National University	MS (Forest Environmental Science)
5	Mr. Thant Sin Aung	Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry	Myanmar	Chungbuk National University	MS (Forest Resources)
6	Mr. Sareth Nhem	Forestry Administration	Cambodia	Kongju National University	PhD (Forest Science)

► Appendix 8 AFoCo Secretariat Fellowship Officials

Name	Country/Affiliation	Scope of Work
30 March 2015 - 29 March 2016		
Mr. Kimsrim Seab	Cambodia (Forestry Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate regional project (AFoCo/009/2015) with Viet Nam and Thailand - Making arrangements for upcoming events with relevant Member Countries, and providing secretarial services; - Promoting partnerships and advocacy for implementation and accomplishments of program activities with Member Countries. - Performing other secretarial function as may be required by GC, and - Undertaking other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Director.
Mr. Philaxay Manilack	Lao PDR (Department of Forestry)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate regional project (AFoCo/004/2014) with the Philippines, Indonesia, and Thailand - Making arrangements for upcoming events with relevant Member Countries, and providing secretarial services; - Promoting partnerships and advocacy for implementation and accomplishments of program activities with Member Countries. - Performing other secretarial function as may be required by GC, and - Undertaking other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Director.
Ms. Leyminda Marañon	Philippines (Forest Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate regional project (AFoCo/003/2014) with Cambodia and Viet Nam - Coordinating the AFoCo publicity activities in AFoCo Member Countries; - Making arrangements for upcoming events with relevant Member Countries, and providing secretarial services; - Promoting partnerships and advocacy for implementation and accomplishments of program activities with Member Countries. - Performing other secretarial function as may be required by GC, and - undertaking other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Director.
30 March 2016 - 29 March 2017		
Ms. Galih Kartika Sari	Indonesia (Ministry of Environment and Forestry)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assist in the implementation of the AFoCo Landmark Program - Support posting entries, updates and maintenance of AFoCo Facebook, Twitter, Website - Assist in printing public relation materials and newsletter - Assist in matters related to the establishment of AFoCO - Assist in official communication with Indonesia and Philippines

Name	Country/Affiliation	Scope of Work
Mr. Mohd Jinis Abdullah	Malaysia (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support and facilitate completion of final report of the regional project in Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam (AFoCo/002/2013) - Facilitate regional project in Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand (AFoCo/004/2014) - Facilitate regional project in Thailand and Viet Nam (AFoCo/009/2015) - Support drafting technical documents/papers, including project proceedings, etc. - Assist in official communication with Brunei and Malaysia
Mr. Montri Intasen	Thailand (Royal Forest Department)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate regional project in Brunei, Indonesia, Philippines and Singapore (AFoCo/011/2016) - Facilitate regional project (seed supply system) in Cambodia and Viet Nam (AFoCo/003/2014) - Assist in documentary film related activities - Assist in matters related to the establishment of AFoCO - Assist in official communication with Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand
Mr. Le Van Cuong	Viet Nam (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate regional project in Malaysia and Thailand (AFoCo/010/2016) - Assist in matters related to the establishment of AFoCO - Support drafting official letters - Draft annual report 2016 and support preparation of publication - Assist in official communication with Myanmar and Viet Nam

► Appendix 9 Publication Materials of AFoCo

Title	No.	Date Published
Research outputs:		
- Addressing Climate Change through Community-Based Fuelwood Plantation Development and Management		January 2013
- Strengthening Collaboration of Forestry Research and Sustainable Forest Management with Local People Participation		
- Developing Non-Timber Forest Products in the Northwest of Viet Nam as the Mechanism for Sustainable Forest Management and Livelihood Improvement for Local Communities		
- Comparative Study on the Utilization of Satellite Imagery Technology to Support FRA from ASEAN Member States to Republic of Korea	7	August 2014
- Establishment of Work Plan for Implementing Restoration Component of AFoCo Landmark Program		June 2015
- Design Report on the AFoCo Regional Education and Training Center under the AFoCo Landmark Program		July 2015
- Establishment of Work Plan for Implementing Restoration Component of AFoCo Landmark Program in Lao PDR		November 2015
Short-term training course:		
- Forest Management for Adaptation and Mitigation of Climate Change		September 2013
- Forestry Education and Research in Asia: Reality, Challenges and Way Forward		
AFoCo Landmark Program Training Courses :		
- Forest Fire Management on Forest Fire Management		September 2014
- Forest Policy and <i>Saemaul Undong</i>		March 2015
- Using GIS for Advanced Forest Management	13	April 2015
- Climate Change and REDD+ for Training of Trainer		May 2015
- Seedling Production and Nursery System		June 2015
- Forest Pest Management		July 2015
- Soil Conservation and Watershed Management		August 2015
- Forest Fire Management for Training of Trainer		October 2015
- Forest-based Ecotourism		December 2015
- Sustainable Forest Management Policy		March 2016
- Forest Fire Management for Training of Trainers		May 2016
Workshop proceedings:		
- Strengthening Capacity, Capability and Technology Development on FRA in Indonesia		April 2014
- AFoCo International Thematic Workshop on Payment for Ecosystem Services		October 2014
- The Current State of the Utilization of RS/GIS for FRA: Gap Analysis and Building Capacity in Southeast Asia Region	5	November 2014
- How PES Serves Livelihood of Forest Community in the Southeast Asian Region?		December 2014
- Technical Workshop on Restoration of Degraded Forest Regions under the AFoCo Landmark Program		January 2016

Title	No.	Date Published
AFoCo Leaflet (Landmark Program, Individual Projects, RRR-DFE regional project, Improving forest)	6	2013 -2016
AFoCo Newsletter (No. 1-5, including Special Issue)	6	May 2013 - October 2014
AFoCo Brochure (English and Korean), including promotional brochure	3	August 2013 - February 2016
AFoCo Project Reports	1	February 2014
AFoCo Landmark Program (Restoring Degraded Forest in Southeast Asia as a Model for a Greener Asia: Capacity building on Forest Restoration and Sustainable Forestry)	1	March 2014
Efforts Against Forest Disasters (AFoCo Exhibition Photobook)	1	2015
2015 Annual Plan for AFoCo Landmark Program	1	January 2015
Work Plan for the Restoration Component	3	2015
AFoCo Annual Reports	3	2013 - 2015
Final Report Assessment report (Implementation of the "Agreement between the Governments of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Republic of Korea on Forest Cooperation"	1	April 2015
AFoCo Project Report Volume 1: Individual Forest Cooperation Projects (2011-2012)	1	July 2015
Video clips: - AFoCo Landmark Program - ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation 2015 Fellowship - AFoCo New Challenges Embracing a New Horizon - 2015 ASEAN-Korea Youth Network Workshop - 1 st Anniversary of AFoCo Agreement - Introduction of the Landmark Program for the Groundbreaking Ceremony of the AFoCo RETC	6	2014 -2015
Final Report "Improving Capacity on Forest Restoration In Cambodia (Phase II)"	1	September 2015
Final Report of the project "Reclamation, Rehabilitation and Restoration of Degraded Forest Ecosystems (RRR-DFE) In Mekong Basin Countries"	1	September 2015
AFoCo Forest Week 2015	1	October 2015
Mobilizing Forest and People Together for Greener Asia	1	December 2015
2015 Annual Report for AFoCo Landmark Program	1	March 2016
2016 Annual Plan for AFoCo Landmark Program	1	March 2016
Brochure for 2015-2016 AFoCo Landmark Program Training Courses	1	March 2016

► Appendix 10 AFoCo Exhibits in Various Events

No.	Event	Date	Venue
1	2014 Forest Asia Summit	5-6 May 2014	Jakarta, Indonesia
2	2014 Korea Forest Expo	1-5 August 2014	Hwacheon, ROK
3	Efforts Against Forest Disasters	16-18 September 2014	Seoul Citizens Hall, ROK
4	Efforts Against Forest Disasters	1-30 October 2014	ASEAN-Korea Center, ROK
5	Efforts Against Forest Disasters	3-5 November 2014	Daejeon Government Complex Hall, ROK
6	Efforts Against Forest Disasters	6 November 2014 - 28 February 2015	Kids Theater Hall, Cheongju MBC, ROK
7	12 th Conference of the Parties to UNCBD Interactive Fair on Biodiversity	29 September – 17 October 2014	Pyeongchang, ROK
8	ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit	9-12 December 2014	Busan, ROK
9	2015 Exhibition of Seoul-based International Organizations	27-28 May 2015	Seoul, ROK
10	XIV World Forestry Congress	7-11 September 2015	Durban, South Africa
11	Incheon International Organizations and MICE Career Fair 2015	11 September 2015	Incheon, ROK
	Total (11)		

► Appendix 11

MOUs with International Organizations and Other Institutions

No.	University/ Institution/ Organization	Objectives	Date Signed
1	International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)	Promote rehabilitation of degraded forest, promote sustainable forest management, preserve biodiversity and adapt to climate change around the tropical forests of Southeast Asia	27 June 2013
2	Export-Import Bank of Korea	Support capacity building in addressing climate change as stipulated in the objectives of AFoCo Agreement	23 July 2013
3	Incheon Asian Games Organizing Committee	Promoting 2014 Asian Games as low-carbon games through exploring possible domestic and international cooperation projects with involvement of AFoCo members	27 January 2014
4	Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC)	Sustainable forest management and possible cooperation specially for community forestry management in the Development of Education and Training Programs for Capacity Building component of the AFoCo Landmark Program	24 February 2014
5	Park Chung Hee School of Policy and Saemaul, Yeungnam University, ROK	Capacity building, and operation of degree programs and short-term training courses specializing in <i>Saemaul Undong</i> (New Village Movement)	26 March 2014
6	International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)	Sharing policy practices and experiences as well as information dissemination on sustainable forest management, joint research on PES, nationally consistent carbon modeling, and forest-based bioenergy systems, as well as forest rehabilitation and community based forest management	27 October 2014
7	Kongju National University, ROK	(1) Facilitate capacity building, exchange and transfer of technology, research and development (2) Foster better opportunities in organizing and implementing degree programs and training courses	2 December 2014
8	University of Seoul, ROK	(1) Facilitate capacity building, exchange and transfer of technology, research and development (2) Foster better opportunities in organizing and implementing degree programs and training courses	17 December 2014
9	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Provide framework for cooperation between FAO and AFoCo with overall goal of promoting technical cooperation, policy development capacity building and partnership in areas related to SFM and in particular the rehabilitation of degraded forest land and prevention of deforestation and degradation	29 May 2015

No.	University/ Institution/ Organization	Objectives	Date Signed
10	Kangwon National University, ROK	(1) Facilitate capacity building, exchange and transfer of technology, research and development (2) Foster better opportunities in organizing and implementing degree programs and training courses	15 June 2015
11	Chungbuk National University, ROK	(1) Facilitate capacity building, exchange and transfer of technology, research and development (2) Foster better opportunities in organizing and implementing degree programs and training courses	9 July 2015
12	Chungnam National University, ROK	(1) Facilitate capacity building, exchange and transfer of technology, research and development (2) Foster better opportunities in organizing and implementing degree programs and training courses	9 July 2015
13	Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI), ROK	Development of capacity building programs, networking directed at promoting forest science	7 October 2015
14	Kookmin University, ROK	(1) Facilitate capacity building, exchange and transfer of technology, research and development (2) Foster better opportunities in organizing and implementing degree programs and training courses	19 November 2015
15	Dongguk University, ROK	(1) Facilitate capacity building, exchange and transfer of technology, research and development (2) Foster better opportunities in organizing and implementing degree programs and training courses	30 December 2015
16	Cheongju Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation (Cheongju MBC), ROK	Promoting planning and implementation of publicity activities and dissemination of relevant information through mass media	27 January 2016
17	Cheongju Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation (Cheongju MBC), ROK on joint production of documentary film	Joint production and broadcasting of documentary film in order to raise awareness of the general public on the significance of tropical forest in Asia	25 April 2016

► Appendix 12

Events Organized by the AFoCo Secretariat

No.	Event	Venue	Date Organized
1	1 st Anniversary Opening Ceremony of ASEAN-Korea Forest Cooperation Secretariat	Seoul, ROK	5 February 2013
2	Launching Ceremony of the AFoCo Landmark Program	Nay Pyi Taw Myanmar	14 March 2014
3	Working Luncheon with ASEAN Ambassadors to Seoul	Seoul, ROK	5 June 2014
4	Visit of Secretary General of ASEAN	Seoul, ROK	10 October 2014
5	2 nd Anniversary of AFoCo: Past Achievements and Way Forward	Seoul, ROK	20 October 2014
6	3 rd Anniversary of AFoCo: New Challenges Embracing a New Horizon	Seoul, ROK	22 September 2015
7	AFoCo Forest Week: Mobilizing Forest and People together for Greener Asia	Goyang/ Pyeongchang, ROK	12-16 October 2015
8	Ground Breaking Ceremony for the AFoCo RETC	Yangon, Myanmar	27 November 2015
	Total (8)		

► Appendix 13 Events Participated by the AFoCo Secretariat

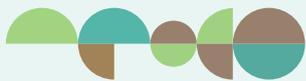
No.	Event	Organizer/s	Venue	Date
1	International Forum for PES for Tropical Forest (Malaysia and Viet Nam for poster presentation)	International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)	San Jose, Costa Rica	7-10 April 2014
2	Forest Asia Summit (Side event and Technical Discussion)	CIFOR and co-hosted by Ministry of Forestry, Indonesia	Jakarta, Indonesia	5-6 May 2014
3	Special ASEAN-ROK Ministerial Meeting on Forestry (Exhibit)	ROK/ASEAN Secretariat	Busan, ROK	11 December 2014
4	ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit on the 25 th Anniversary of the ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations (Exhibit)	ROK/ASEAN Secretariat	Busan, ROK	12 December 2014
5	8 th Executive Forest Policy Course	FAO	Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar	23 March 2 - April 2015
6	6 th International Wildland Fire Conference (IWFC) (Paper presentation)	ROK/ ASEAN Secretariat	Pyeongchang, ROK	12-16 October 2015
7	Pre-World Forestry Congress event (Resource Person)	RECOFTC	Bangkok, Thailand	8-10 July 2015
8	Asia Pacific Forestry Week 2016 (Side event and exhibit)	FAO/FMB-DENR, Philippines	Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga, Philippines	22-26 February 2016
	Total (8)			

► Appendix 14

List of Governing Council Members of the AFoCo Agreement

Country	Name and Position	Year Assumed
Brunei Darussalam	Mr. Hj. Saidin Salleh Director, Forestry Department Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources	2012-2015
	Mr Haji Faizal Haji Md Yaakob Acting Director, Forestry Department Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources	2016
Cambodia	Mr. Chea Sam Ang Deputy Director General, Forestry Administration Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	2012-2016
Indonesia	Dr. Iman Santoso Director-General of Forestry Research and Development Ministry of Forestry	2012
	Dr. Putera Parthama Senior Advisor to the Minister for Economic and International Trade, Ministry of Forestry	2013-2014
	Dr. Henry Bastaman, MES Director General for Research, Development and Innovation Ministry of Environment and Forestry	2015-2016
Lao PDR	Dr. Silavanh Sawathvong Director General, Department of Forestry Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	2012
	Mr. Khamphay Manivong Deputy Director General, Department of Forestry Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	2013
	Mr. Thong-Eth Phaivanh Acting Director General, Department of Forestry Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	2014
	Mr. Thongphath Vongmany Director-General, Department of Forestry Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	2015
	Mr. Sousath Sayakoummane Director-General, Department of Forestry Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	2016
Malaysia	Datuk Dr. Abdul Rahim Bin Nik Deputy Secretary General Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	2012-2015
	Dato' Sr. Dr. Azimuddin bin Bahari Deputy Secretary General (Environment) Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	2016

Country	Name and Position	Year Assumed
Myanmar	Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw Director General, Forest Department Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation	2012-2016
Philippines	Mr. Ricardo L. Calderon Director, Forest Management Bureau Department of Environment and Natural Resources	2012-2016
Singapore	Dr. Lena Chan Director, National Biodiversity Centre National Parks Board	2012-2016
Thailand	Mr. Songsak Vitayaudom Expert Forest Head, Royal Forest Department	2012
	Mr. Thanupong Ruangjirawit Director of International Forest Cooperation Office Representing Head of Royal Forest Department	2013
	Mr. Suchat Kalyawongsa Director of International Forestry Cooperation Office Royal Forest Department	2014
	Mr. Sapol Boonsermsuk Director of International Forestry Cooperation Office Royal Forest Department	2015
	Mr. Pralong Dumrongthai Deputy Director General Royal Forest Department	2016
Viet Nam	Ms. Nguyen Tuong Van Deputy Director of Department of Science, Technology and International Cooperation Representing Head of Viet Nam Administration of Forestry	2012-2016
Republic of Korea	Dr. Kim Yong-Ha Director General of International Affairs Bureau Korea Forest Service	2012
	Mr. Choi Jun-seok Director General of International Affairs Bureau Korea Forest Service	2013
	Dr. Ryu Kwang-su Director General of International Affairs Bureau Korea Forest Service	2013
	Dr. Lee Chang-jae Director General of International Affairs Bureau Korea Forest Service	2014
	Dr. Kim Yong-kwan Director General of International Affairs Bureau Korea Forest Service	2015-2016



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