

Third Session of the Assembly
28-29 October 2019, Seoul

Agenda Item 2.4

Partnership Arrangements with Partner Organizations

1. Recalling the Decision 12-I-18R on Development and Strengthening External Relations, the Secretariat has strived to build productive partnerships with potential partner organizations active in Asia. As of 28 October 2019, AFoCO has concluded cooperation arrangements and/or Memorandum of Understanding with four (4) partner organizations, including Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), and Korea Institute of Arboretum Management (KIAM) (See Section A of the Attachment-1 for more details).
2. The Secretariat has also been in partnership discussions with the other organizations whose scope of work is closely related to the one for AFoCO. In addition to the potential partner organizations that were reported at the previous sessions of the Assembly, two other organizations - Korea Forest Welfare Institute (FOWI) and World Bank have recently initiated discussions to explore cooperation opportunities in particular in capacity development programs. A brief introductory information about the potential partner organizations is presented in Section B of the Attachment-1.
3. With the established partnership, AFoCO jointly conducted three (3) collaborative activities in 2019, including:
 - The 4th Asia-Pacific Forestry Week;
 - Joint Workshop on Land Degradation Neutrality and Forest Landscape Restoration with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); and
 - Development of Guidelines for Forest Landscape Restoration with International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO).
4. Brief reports on aforementioned collaborative activities conducted with the partners are annexed in Section C of the Attachment-1.
5. The Assembly may wish to take note of the information and provide further guidance and recommendations, as appropriate.

Attachment-1

A. Information on concluded partnership arrangements

	Partner Organization	Areas cooperation and relevance to AFoCO Strategic Priority Areas	Complementary Strengths of the partner organization
a	Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Customized reforestation and reforestation models- Forest landscape restoration (FLR)- Climate change adaptation and mitigation approaches- Forest based livelihood improvement and community-based small enterprise development through development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Expertise in research and development particularly in forestry;- Global and regional networks in forestry research
		<i>Relevant to priority areas: 1, 2, and 4 (MOU was signed on 19 June 2019)</i>	
b	International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- facilitating the development of forest landscape restoration (FLR) policy guidelines for the period 2018-2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Expertise and experiences of promoting sustainable forest management in the global tropical region
		<i>Relevant to priority areas: 1 and 4 (MOU was signed on 21 September 2018)</i>	
c	Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Strengthening national, sub-national and local forest management planning, financing and institutional frameworks- Supporting applicable initiatives to address climate change in the forest sector- Increasing green public and private investment flows to convert green growth strategies and investment plans into implementable action- Improving south-south cooperation and evidence-based knowledge sharing on forest management, drawing upon evidence from both the public and private sectors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Expertise in national and subnational policy development and private-public sector engagement and investment
		<i>Relevant to priority areas: 1, 2, and 5 (MOU was concluded on 18 September 2019)</i>	

d	Korea Institute of Arboretum Management (KIAM)	Promote sustainable forest management, conservation of biological diversity, and plant genetic resources through scientific and technical consultations and exchange and capacity building programs including long- and short-term trainings	- Expertise in managing arboretum, gardening, plant diversity conservation and education
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*Relevant to priority areas: 2, and 5
(MOU was signed on 18 June 2019)*

B. Potential partners under consideration

a. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is a Specialized Agency of the United Nations system with a vision to create a world free of hunger and malnutrition where food and agriculture contribute to improving the living standards of all, especially the poorest, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner. The potential areas of cooperation with FAO include (i) promoting sustainable forest management practices, including forest landscape approach, ecosystem services, and sustainable forestry for food security; (ii) promoting advanced technical solutions against forest-related disasters; (iii) addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation; (iv) promoting role of community in forest management and enhancing community livelihood through forestry; and (v) addressing the climate change through forestry.

b. The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC)

The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC) is an international, non-profit organization based in working to empower local communities to sustainably manage their landscapes and protect their livelihoods. The potential areas of cooperation with RECOFTC are: (i) sustainable forest management, and forest and landscape management, including fields of forest rehabilitation and role of forests in reducing impact of natural disasters; (ii) promoting role of community in forest management and enhancing community livelihood linking to climate change adaptation and mitigation; and (iii) capacity development.

c. UN Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD)

The UN Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD) is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management. The potential areas of cooperation with UNCCD are: (i) promoting synergies on between forestry and land management, (ii) promoting forest and forestry in developing internally agreed target settings, and (iii) exploring participation to relevant initiatives.

d. Korea Forestry Promotion Institute (KOFPI)

The Korea Forestry Promotion Institute (KOFPI) is a public institution established to promote the application and industrialization of research and development in the forest, forestry and wood use fields. KOFPI further provides technical support, quality control systems and information service in order to promote forestry industry. The potential areas of cooperation with KOFPI are: (i) sustainable forest management through application of wood-use technology and information system, (ii) sharing knowledge and experience in creating added value of both wood and non-timber forest products, sound small-sized forestry businesses; and (iii) capacity development.

e. Korea Forest Welfare Institute (FOWI)

The Korea Forest Welfare Institute (FOWI) is a public institute in Korea. The objectives of FOWI are to contribute to promoting national health, improving quality of life and pursuing happiness by providing diverse forest welfare services. The potential areas of cooperation with FOWI are: (i) sustainable forest management, including fields of forest rehabilitation and the role of forests in reducing the impact of natural disasters and climate change; (ii) sharing knowledge and experience in policy approaches and practices on sound use of forest benefits and services; and (iii) capacity development.

f. World Bank

World Bank Group is a group of five institutions working for sustainable solutions that reduce poverty and build shared prosperity in developing countries. Among those five institutions, AFoCO has been exploring partnership opportunities with International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and International Development Association (IDA) which are institutions specialized for providing financing, policy advice, and technical assistance to governments developing countries.

C. Collaborative activities conducted in 2019 with partner organizations

a. The 4th Asia-Pacific Forestry Week

AFoCO had pulled its efforts in leading one of thematic streams of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2019 - Stream 1 on “Restoring our Forest and Landscape”, held on 17-21 June in Incheon, Republic of Korea. Comprised of 18 plenary and partner events jointly shaped by 21 partner organizations, the Stream 1 took stock and progress of FLR in the region and shared a vision of enhancing efforts in forest landscape restoration to meet our future needs.

AFoCO jointly organized six technical events under the Stream 1 and two others in Stream 3 with partners to showcase exemplary policies and practices of it member countries and build networks among potential partners in the region.

b. Joint Workshop on Land Degradation Neutrality and Forest Landscape Restoration with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

AFoCO and the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) jointly organized a regional workshop on 30-31 July 2019 to strengthen the links between forest restoration and land degradation neutrality by bringing together the national focal agencies responsible for their implementation to share ideas for creating synergies and coordination in those efforts. Total 57 participants from 20 countries in Asia and the Pacific joined for the workshop together with seven other strategic partner organizations active in the region.

c. Development of Guidelines for Forest Landscape Restoration with International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)

AFoCO has partnered with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) to support in developing technical guidelines for forest landscape restoration for tropical region. Draft texts for the guidelines have been developed through intensive consultations with international expert group and will be finalized by the year end.
