

2021 ANNUAL THEMATIC DIALOGUE

*"Roles of AFoCO in Unleashing the Full Potential of
Forests to Meet Paris Climate Goals and Building
Back Better and Greener from the COVID-19"*

25 October 2021

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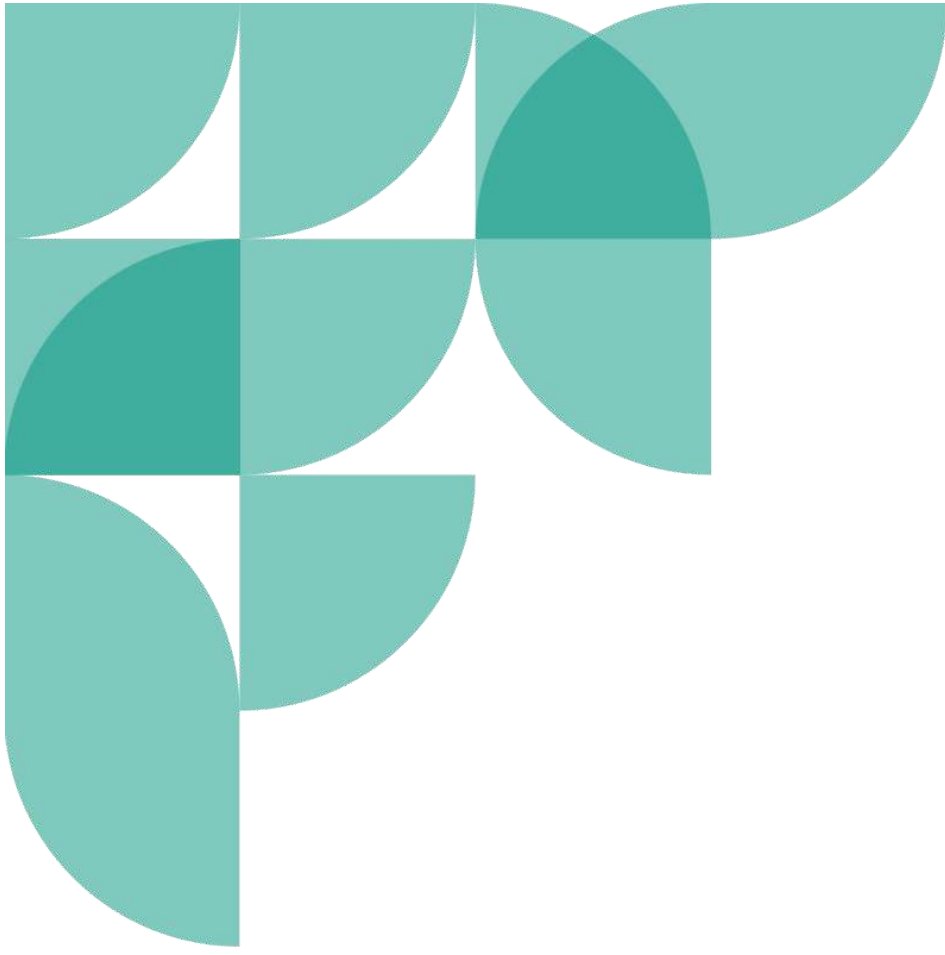
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I. INTRODUCTION



2021 Annual Thematic Dialogue

“Roles of AFoCO in Unleashing the Full Potential of Forests to Meet Paris Climate Goals and Building Back Better and Greener from the COVID-19”

1. Background

The Annual Thematic Dialogue is a dialogue session and platform for forward-looking discussions among AFoCO and its member countries to inform the strategic planning process and programming for the coming years. This activity also aims to harvest the interest of member countries to facilitate AFoCO’s contribution to regional and global environmental benefits, engage diverse stakeholder groups to make AFoCO’s operations relevant to on-going policy processes and contexts in the member countries. This will be organized as an annual event with a theme-based discourse on strategically timely and relevant topics.

The theme for 2021 session is “**Roles of AFoCO in Unleashing the Full Potential of Forests to Meet Paris Climate Goals and Building Back Better and Greener from the COVID-19**”. The objectives of the 2021 session of the Annual Thematic Dialogue are:

- To explore and discuss the potential roles of Asian forests and forest sector in global action on climate change and for a healthy and green recovery from COVID-19 pandemic;
- To collectively identify and priority actions to be delivered through AFoCO to make Asian forests more responsive to global call for actions in addressing climate change and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- To showcase best practices and future directions of AFoCO to potential partners and prepare the ground for cooperative activities

A. Date and Time

The dialogue will be held on **25 October 2021, 13:00 – 18:00 Seoul time (GMT+9)**.

B. Venue & Meeting Tool

The event will be organized in a **hybrid format**, meaning that the participants may join either virtually or in person. The venue will be set-up at **Diamond Hall, 2nd floor of Koreana Hotel Seoul** (Address: *135 Sejong-daero, Taepyeongno 1(il)-ga, Jung-gu, Seoul*). Subject to the COVID-19 and social distancing measures, the meeting may be presided at an alternative venue.

For those who wish to participate virtually, the event will be also be available via Zoom. The meeting link will be emailed to you upon registration here at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3zNPxpckTDm8tX77cKR7A

C. Targeted Participants

- Delegations of Parties and Observers to the AFoCO Assembly
- Other countries in Asia, including Central Asia countries
- Partner organizations and potential partner countries from beyond Asia

2. Tentative Program

Time (Korea time)	Agenda/Presentation Topics	Session moderator
12:45 – 13:00	Pre-session videos Continuous play of two videos, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductory video on AFoCO • Curated video clippings on the impact of climate change and COVID-19 pandemic in Asia will be played while the participants are joining 	MC: Ms. Young Ju Han of AFoCO
13:00 – 13:05	Opening Remarks The President of the Assembly of AFoCO will open the meeting by welcoming the participants.	Mr. Lobzang Dorji President of the AFoCO Assembly (Bhutan)
13:05 – 13:20	Introductory presentation: AFoCO in the Triple Challenges Facing Asia and the Globe The Executive Director of AFoCO will introduce the thematic context and purpose of the 2021 AFoCO Thematic Dialogue.	Mr. Ricardo Calderon , ED of AFoCO
13:20 – 15:00	<u>Session 1</u> Roles of AFoCO in unleashing the full potential of forests to meet Paris climate goals and building back better and greener from the COVID-19	Dr. Misun Park , Professor at Seoul National University
	(13:20 – 14:00) Inspirational Speeches. Each high-profile speakers will be invited to have 15-minute presentation with the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Making Asian forests and trees enhance resilience to climate change” • “Lessons learned from the impact of COVID-19 on forest - why forests matter in post COVID-19 recovery” 	Mr. Alexandre Meybeck , CIFOR, Dr. Chandra Silori , Deputy Executive Director of RECOFTC
	(14:00 – 15:00) Moderated roundtable discussion around 3 guiding questions circulated prior to the session via a ‘background discussion paper’. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The session moderator will recap the inspirational speeches and introduce the context of discussion and the guiding questions. Participants who requested for the floor in advance will be prioritized to speak during the session (40 minutes). • The floor will also be open for spontaneous questions and reactions from the audience. For those who are joining on-line, the questions will be collected through the chat function of the Zoom and addressed by the relevant speakers. (20 minutes) 	Dr. Misun Park , Professor at Seoul National University
15:00 - 16:00	Refreshment Break	

Time (Korea time)	Agenda/Presentation Topics	Session moderator
16:00 - 17:50	Session 2 Strategic Reflections on Selective Outputs of the 2021 Activities	Mr. Chencho Norbu , Technical Advisor for AFoCO
	(16:00 – 16:55) Moderated open discussion relevant to outputs of the “Assessment of AFoCO Project Impact and Best Practices” consultancy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Jürgen Blaser of Bern University will brief on the results of the consultancy project for discussion (15 minutes). The moderator will open the floor for interactive discussion on the guiding questions. Participants who requested for the floor in advance will be prioritized to speak during the session (45 minutes). 	Dr. Jürgen Blaser of Bern University
	(16:55 – 17:50) Moderated open discussion relevant to outputs of the UNFF16 Side event on “Improvement on the Global Forest Goals (GFGs) Implementation: Streamlining forest-related reporting and developing methodologies for measuring the performance” . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Lee Yeong-joo of AFoCO, will present on the results of the side event and guiding questions for discussion (15 minutes). The moderator will open the floor for interactive discussion on the guiding questions. Participants who requested for the floor in advance will be prioritized to speak during the session (45 minutes). 	Dr. Lee Yeong-joo , Planning and Budget Director of AFoCO
17:50 – 18:00	Closing remarks The Vice Executive Director of AFoCO will thank the participants for their attendance and share the next steps, including the publication of the outcome documents and due consideration of the results in the future planning and programming of AFoCO.	Mr. Jin Sunpil , VED of AFoCO

3. Expected outputs

The results of the thematic dialogue will be summarized and published into an **outcome publication** to inform the Organization’s future planning and programming process.

4. Participation Guidelines

This event is intended to solicit ideas and views of the participants and culture a rich discussion to inform the AFoCO’s future planning. For this, all the participants are highly encouraged to prepare their interventions in advance, guided by **three sets of guiding questions appear respectively in pages [17](#) (for session 1), [21](#) (for 1st topic of session 2), [30](#) (for 1st topic of session 2).**

N.B. Those who requested to speak through the speaker form will be prioritized to speak during the session. The **speaker form ([click](#))** will be open until **24 October 2021, 6 PM Seoul time**.

5. Profiles of Speakers and Moderators



**Mr. Ricardo
Calderon**
Opening Speech

Mr. Ricardo L. Calderon is Executive Director of AFoCO. He is a forester by profession who has served in the Government of the Republic of the Philippines for 33 years. He started as a field Forester, Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO), Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO), Regional Technical Director for Forestry, Regional Executive Director, Bureau Director and most recently as Assistant Secretary. He had held positions as the Assistant Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines designate for Staff Bureaus, and later as the Assistant Secretary for Climate Change and Director of the Biodiversity Management Bureau in concurrent capacity handling programs and policies in protected areas and biodiversity conservation, coastal and marine management, and wildlife resources conservation before joining the Secretariat in January 2021.



Dr. Mi Sun Park
Session 1 Moderator
& Lead Author

Dr. MiSun Park is Assistant Professor of the Graduate School of International Agricultural Technology of Seoul National University. She gives lectures on forest/agricultural/environmental policy and governance, environmental management and policy analysis methodologies. Her research interest includes governance/regime, discourse and communication, policy strategies and instruments, international cooperation in forest management. Currently she is conducting research on green space management policies including urban forestry and urban agriculture, agroforestry policies in developing countries and biodiversity management policies at the national and global level. She works as a Coordinating Lead Author of IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) under the Sustainable Use of Wild Species. She is a Board member from Journal of Forest Research (Springer).



**Mr. Alexandre
Meybeck**
Inspirational Speaker
for Session 1

Mr. Alexandre Meybeck is working in CIFOR as senior technical adviser for the Forest, Trees and Agroforestry research program of the CGIAR. He is the lead author of the FAO-FTA co-publications *Climate change vulnerability assessment of forests and forest-dependent people – A framework methodology* and *Addressing forestry and agroforestry in National Adaptation Plans – Supplementary guidelines*.

He has been senior adviser on agriculture, environment and climate Change to the Assistant Director General in charge of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations where he created and coordinated the FAO/UNEP Sustainable Food Systems programme. He has worked extensively on issues related to sustainability, food security and nutrition at both national and international levels authoring a hundred publications on climate change and agriculture, sustainable food systems, sustainable diets. Prior to joining FAO he served in the French Ministry of Agriculture as head of the Environment and Rural Areas Unit and head of the Environmental Strategies and Climate Change Unit, in which capacity he coordinated the preparation of the first French climate change adaptation plan for agriculture, forestry and fisheries.



Dr. Chandra Silori
Inspirational Speaker
for Session 1

Dr. Chandra Silori is Deputy Executive Director of Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC), based in Bangkok, Thailand. He has been working in participatory forestry management for more than 25 years, including nearly 12 years in south-east Asia. His professional experience includes policy and application research on various forms of participatory forest management, documentation of traditional knowledge systems, biodiversity conservation, rural development, gender mainstreaming in forest management and conservation, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. As deputy Executive Director he supervises seven country programs of RECOFTC in south and south-east Asia, which include Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam. Chandra has also been actively engaged in training and capacity development programs on various aspects of participatory forest management and climate change mitigation and adaptation. He has published more than 70 research articles in peer reviewed journals and edited volumes. He has written many training manuals, guidelines and has co-authored books.



Mr. Chencho Norbu
Session 2 Moderator

Mr. Chencho Norbu served as the first Executive Director of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) from Jan 2019 through December 2020. Before joining the AFoCO Secretariat, he has served the Royal Government of Bhutan in various positions as the Agriculture Director, Director General of Forest Department, Secretary of the National Environment Commission Secretariat, and Secretary of the Ministry of Works and Human Settlement. During his service career with the government, he was one of the active negotiators from Asia and Pacific region, UNCCD in particular. He also served as one of the Review Editors of the chapter 4- Status and trends of land degradation and restoration and associated changes in biodiversity and ecosystems, Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment Report, IPBES, 2017; and as one of the Lead Coordinating Authors of the Chapter 7: "The impact of Soil Change on Ecosystem Services" of the Status of the World's Soil Resources Report, ITPS/FAO, 2015.

Currently, he is involved with AFoCO Secretariat as a technical advisor; and as a Jury member of Climate Innovation Challenge, Climate Adaptation and Resilience for South Asia Project, Asian Disaster preparedness Center, Bangkok, Thailand.

Chencho has a Master Degree in Soil Science from the Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA.



Dr. Jürgen Blaser
Speaker for Session 2

Dr. Jürgen Blaser is Professor for International Forestry and Climate Change at the Bern University of Applied Sciences, School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences, Switzerland. He also acts as the Global Forest Advisor to the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. Between 2002 and 2011 he was head of the Environment Division and Deputy Director General of International cooperation, the Swiss Organisation for Development and Cooperation. From 1996 to 2001 he was Senior Forestry Advisor at the World Bank. From 1981 to 1995 he worked in international forest cooperation with long-term assignments in Latin America, Africa, Asia and Central Asia. Dr. Blaser was a former chair of the International Tropical Timber Council and co-author of various ITTO policy papers and guidelines between 1992 and 2021 between 1992 and 2021, including C&I, SFM and FLR guidelines and the Status of Tropical Forest Management Reports 2005 and 2011. He has led the global evaluation of FAOs work in forest and forestry in 2012/13 and the UN Evaluation of the international arrangements on forests in 2014/2015. He has been actively involved in the development of the work of FCPF and the FIP of the World Bank, an independent technical advisory panel. Prof. Blaser has served on the Boards of CIFOR, Tropenbos and Tropical Forest Foundation and is currently a board member of the Precious Woods Holding.



Dr. Yeong-joo Lee
Speaker for Session 2

Dr. Yeong-joo Lee is a Director of Planning and Budget Division at the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) Secretariat. He has been working for making forests green in Asia since 2009. As a researcher, he elaborated to identify conflicts between civil society and government on natural resources management and to find a way for solving it particularly in the field of protected areas management such as national parks and nature reserves. He published research articles and two books in Korean about forest healing and rural tourism development in Korea.

After joining AFoCO, he worked as a project manager and developer as well. He engaged a negotiation for the establishment of AFoCO and worked for collaboration with many of the developing countries including ASEAN member states and others in Asia. He is a Director for Planning and Budget Division of AFoCO Secretariat since 2017.

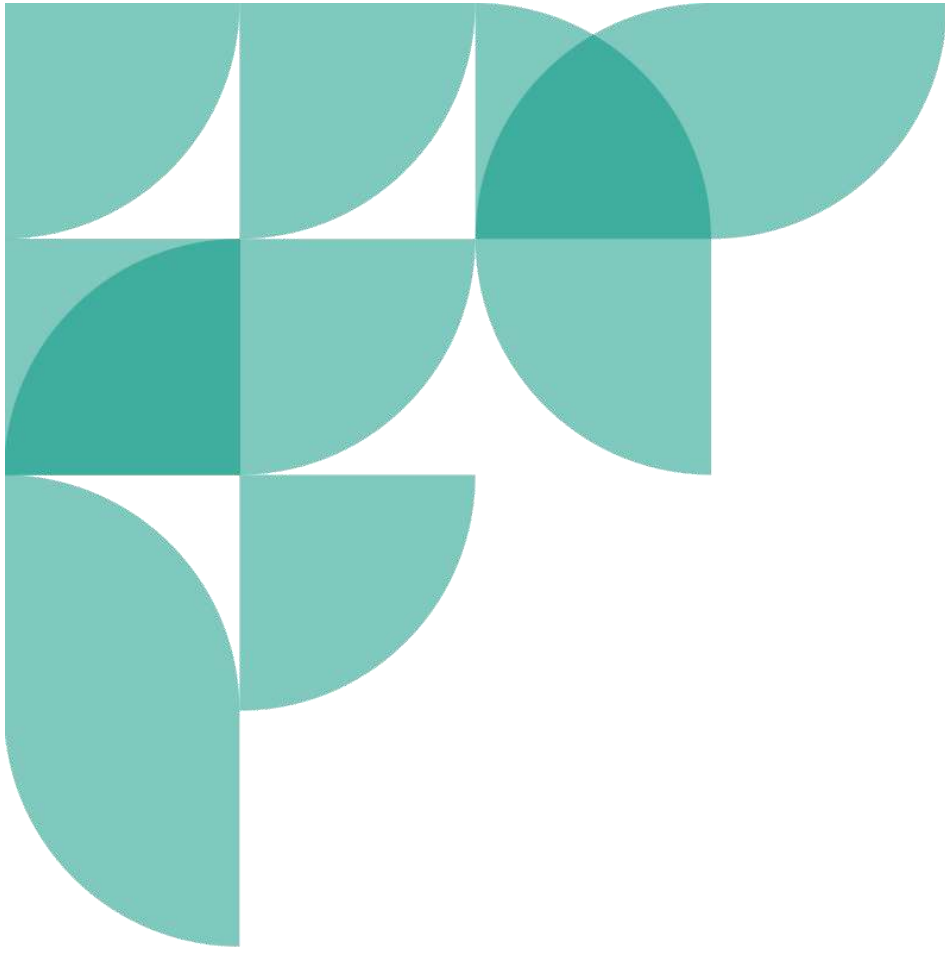


Mr. Sunpil Jin
Closing remarks

Mr. Jin Sunpil, joined the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization as Vice Executive Director in February 2021.

Having led overseas projects by the Korea Forest Service in AFoCO Party countries, Mr. Jin brings close to 25 years of extensive experience and leadership in both international and domestic forestry policy development as well as project planning and implementation. Prior to joining AFoCO, he served as the Director General of the Forest Aviation Headquarters of the Korea Forest Service and was in various senior management positions.

Mr Jin graduated from the Department of Forestry of Seoul National University and also holds a master's degree from the Korea National Defense University.



II. SESSION 1: MAIN THEMATIC SESSION

Roles of AFoCO in Unleashing the Full Potential of Forests to Meet Paris Climate Goals and Building Back Better and Greener from the COVID-19



Session 1: Main Thematic Session

“Roles of AFoCO in Unleashing the Full Potential of Forests to Meet Paris Climate Goals and Building Back Better and Greener from the COVID-19”

1. Background Discussion Paper

This paper was developed by Dr. Mi Sun Park, Associate Professor of Graduate School of International Agricultural Technology, Seoul National University, as a Lead Author for 2021 AFoCO Annual Thematic Dialogue, in close coordination with the AFoCO Secretariat

A. Global and Regional Context

Human beings have utilized forests for development and growth. Deforestation as conversion of forest land to non-forest land is a continuous phenomenon. But speed of deforestation dramatically increased since 1920 (Williams, 2006:372). In particular, deforestation intensively emerged in tropical forests. Various problems in using forest resources are faced such as forest degradation and illegal logging. The problems connect with the newly emerging global issues such as climate change and COVID-19. Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) activities accounted for around 23% of total anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions (2007-2016) (Shukla et al., 2019: 5). Deforestation was examined as a cause of climate change. Global society is struggling to address climate change problems. Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) member countries established national strategies for mitigating and adapting to climate change. Most countries announced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Several countries established forest-related mitigation targets such as Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR etc. Some countries established forest adaptation plans such as Thailand and some are developing forest adaptation plans including Bhutan, Mongolia and Cambodia.

Recently COVID-19 has created impacts in the forest sector positively and negatively (**Table 1**). COVID-19 increased pressure on the forest due to the increase in forest products demand in Central Sulawesi, Indonesia (Golar et al. 2020). COVID-19 caused conversion of forest land to non-forest land, especially for the establishment of palm trees, which led to the massive arrival of employees in Cameroon, Gabon, the DR Congo (Walters et al., 2021: 62). In Nepal, illegal logging and hunting increased during the lockdown period due to the absence of monitoring practices by governmental agencies (Giri, 2021). Regular forest management practices and capacity building activities were cancelled due to COVID-19. In many countries such as Fiji, Gabon, Hawaii, Thailand, Pakistan and Tanzania, due to the pandemic, the collapse of tourism caused job loss (Walters et al., 2021; Giri, 2021). The economic crisis caused by COVID-19 pandemic led to a reduction in production of forest products and job loss in forest industry in Mexico (Tomaselli, 2021). On the other hand, livelihood assets strengthened by community forestry increased resilience to the pandemic impacts in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand and Viet Nam (RECOFTC, 2021). Indigenous people's dependency on forests increased. In Guatemala, indigenous people's usage of traditional medicine increased, since governmental assistance has historically discriminated them (Walters et al., 2021: 60). As well, urban forest visits dramatically increased in Germany (Weinbrenner

et al., 2021) and Slovakia (Pichlerová et al., 2021). As the cases indicate, the global problems including climate change and COVID-19 have impacts to the forest sector. We need to design a forest management strategy responding to the crisis like climate change and COVID-19.

Table 1. Impacts of COVID-19 to forests

Country	Impacts of COVID-19	References
Indonesia	Increasing pressure on the forest due to the increase in forest product demand	Golar et al. (2020)
Guatemala	Increased usage of traditional medicine by indigenous people	Walters et al. (2021)
Cameroon, Gabon, the DR Congo	Conversion of forest land to non-forest land, especially for the establishment of palm trees (stopping progress on the collaboration)	Walters et al. (2021)
Nepal	Increased illegal logging and hunting due to the absence of monitoring practices Cancel of regular forest management practices and capacity building activities	Giri (2021)
Thailand	Job loss in the forest sector Decrease of income in forest-based tourism sites	Giri (2021)
Mexico	Reduction of forest products and job loss due to decreased demand on forest products	Tomaselli (2021)
India	Empowered local communities are better equipped to deal with crisis	Walters et al. (2021)
Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand, Viet Nam	Increase of resilience to the pandemic impacts due to livelihood assets strengthened by community forestry	RECOFTC (2021)
Germany	Dramatic increase in urban forest visits	Weinbrenner et al. (2021)
Slovakia	Increase of forest visit	Pichlerová et al. (2021)
Fiji, Gabon, Hawaii, Pakistan, Tanzania	Job loss from the collapse of tourism	Walters et al. (2021)

B. Implication of regional forest cooperation

Asia as a regional society faces transnational problems such as climate change and COVID-19. One nation has limited resources to handle the problems. Collective intelligence is needed to identify and interpret the problems. Transnational problems can be best managed through regional cooperation. Since regional challenges are neglected at the global level, regional cooperation emerged as an important tool addressing both regional and global challenges (Hettne and Söderbaum, 2006).

AFoCO is a representative model of regional forest cooperation. It has been established upon a solid foundation laid by the past ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation Agreement since 2012. It begun its operations as an international organization since April 2018 to promote cooperation towards achieving

shared sustainable development goals and contribute to the global goals of increasing forest cover and implementing the Paris Agreement on climate change through action-oriented practices. AFoCO has been engaging directly with member countries' forest departments to undertake action-oriented forest programs and projects targeted at restoring degraded forests and lands, strengthening the resilience of forest ecosystems and forest-dependent people against changing climates and related natural disasters, and securing the livelihoods of rural forest communities. AFoCO provides training courses to strengthen the capacities of member countries by enhancing knowledge and understanding of forest management and providing better access to advanced technologies. The courses include various topics including reforestation, forest fire management, community-based forest management etc.

Asia has good experiences of regional forest cooperation. ASEAN formally endorsed the ASEAN Guidelines for Agroforestry Development at the 40th ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry meeting, held in Ha Noi, Viet Nam on 11 October 2018. The Guidelines Consisting of 14 principles and 74 guidelines can contribute to promoting the role of agroforestry in simultaneously achieving economic, environmental and social outcomes at farm, household and landscape levels and help ASEAN Member States achieve their targets related to Sustainable Development Goals including food security, land restoration, watershed protection, gender equality, climate-change adaptation and mitigation and so on.

Recognizing that a lack of technical knowledge, skills, and effective approaches were hindering policy making and the implementation of community forests, the Regional Community Forestry Training Center (RECOFTC) was founded in 1987. RECOFTC is an international organization to enhance capacities for stronger rights, improved governance and fairer benefits for local people in sustainable forest landscapes in the Asia-Pacific region. It has government partners including Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Nepal and Viet Nam. Currently RECOFTC plays an active role in providing capacity building programs such as e-learning, in-person training, contextual learning, toolkits, guides, and manuals dedicated to community forestry in the Asia-Pacific region.

C. Recommended Actions (for AFoCO)

The crisis like climate change and COVID-19 require to form and implement forest policies and strategies responding to the regional challenges at the appropriate time. Overcoming limited resources at the nation level, regional forest cooperation can support the process of forest policy making with well-institutionalized structure and more resources. Three key areas of actions are recommended to AFoCO: network expansion, policy decision support and capacity building.

Network expansion

Regional cooperation mechanism is transiting from unidimensional to multidimensional. Regional cooperation has a wider range of purposes and activities and more loosely structured networks including non-state actors who are not necessarily influenced by national interests in the provision of regional public goods (Hettne and Söderbaum, 2006). The complexity of issues and the need for cost saving require more flexible and adaptable network structures in regional cooperation (Hettne and Söderbaum, 2006).

AFoCO basically serves membership-oriented and stakeholder driven activities. For dealing with rapidly changing situations including a pandemic, AFoCO needs multidimensional regional cooperation through extending its networks outside of membership.

- Public-private partnership can be actively introduced. Private actors such as enterprises and NGOs can provide with financial and human resources in handling the regional problems.
- Partnership with universities and research organizations can support education and research including multiple issues targeting young generation in the forest sector.
- Partnership with international organizations can increase capacity for responding to challenges in the dynamic global environment.

Policy decision support

In particular, regional forest cooperation can support evidence-based policy responding to the regional challenges. The evidence-based movement emerged focusing on usable and relevant knowledge to help address and resolve problems in the field of public policy (Head, 2008). Evidence and knowledge can have three types; political knowledge (know-how), scientific (research-based) knowledge and practical implementation knowledge (professional field experience) (Head, 2008). AFoCO can provide three types of knowledge and evidence for effective forest policy formation and implementation.

- For producing political knowledge, policy guidelines and tools for dealing with regional problems can be developed. The ASEAN Guidelines for Agroforestry Development can be a model case of political knowledge.
- For producing scientific research, data-gathering and data analysis can be conducted through research activities with multi-scales. Interdisciplinary and systematic approach is necessary in gathering and analyzing information. AFoCO can enhance its support and facilitation of forest research in partnership with local, regional, and global research institutes.
- For producing practical implementation knowledge, the practice cases can be assessed and implementation guidelines and manuals, such as risk management manuals, can be developed.

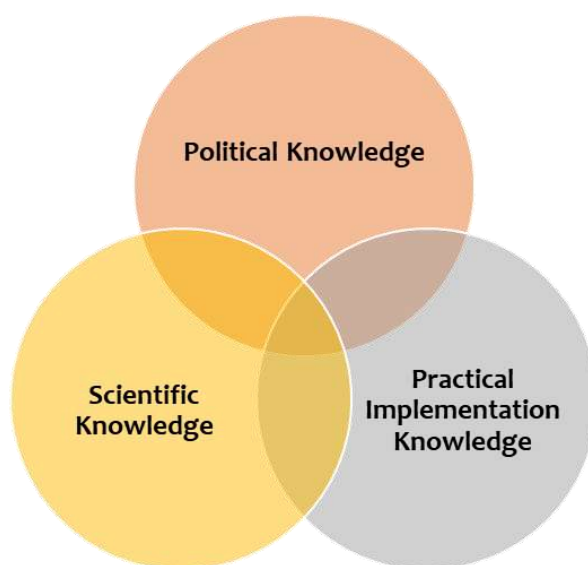


Figure 1. Three lenses of knowledge and evidence (Source: Head, 2008)

Capacity building

As noted by Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 17.9, capacity building is a key vehicle that enables the transition to sustainable development and full implementation of the SFM. Capacity building initiatives of the regional cooperation entities should be able to address these multiple dimensions of capacity building in a way that can best meet the demands of national forest-related policies as well as global and regional forestry objectives.

AFoCO has diverse capacity building programs including regular training courses, scholarship program, fellowship program, science and technology exchange partnership (STEP) program and global forest camps. The Regional Education and Training Center (RETC) provides a solid platform to foster regional knowledge sharing and capacity building in forestry, while AFoCO Headquarters in Korea, taking full advantage of its geographical location, will facilitate technical cooperation between Korea and other member countries. It is time to upgrade AFoCO's capacity building programs for better responding to regional challenges.

- For modifying capacity building programs, assessment of preferred and relevant competencies in the forest sector is necessary. Competencies include sector-specific competencies, such as forest planning, community forest management and environmental impact assessment, and general competencies such as communication with stakeholders, teamwork and computer skills (Park et al., 2019).
- Development of step-by-step training programs is necessary. Both basic and advanced training programs can improve competencies with different levels in managing complex problems in forest management.

D. References

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2. Inspirational Speeches

A. Making Asian forests and trees enhance resilience to climate change

The first inspirational speech will be delivered by Mr. Alexander Meybeck from Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Senior Technical Advisor for Research Program on Forest, Trees, and Agroforestry.

The NDC Synthesis report recently released by UNFCCC secretariat indicates that countries must urgently redouble their climate efforts to achieve the Paris Agreement’s goals. This requires both to increase commitments and to implement them.

The Paris Agreement has profoundly changed the way climate action is determined, putting the focus on the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), on national action, priorities and specificities. It is a bottom-up approach involving all countries, and increasingly actors other than governments. It recognizes the importance of land use for the achievement of its goals. With the Paris agreement and the NDCs there is also a better recognition of synergies and trade-offs between mitigation and adaptation as well as of synergies with sustainable development, opening up additional ways to better integrate land use and forestry.

When considering forests and trees in relation to climate change the focus is generally on their contribution to mitigation of climate change. But nonetheless, this intervention focuses on the role of forests and trees for climate adaptation as a way for unleashing their full potential to meet the Paris agreement goals. It will show how adopting an adaptation perspective can facilitate engagement of actors while promoting a more holistic approach to climate action and sustainable goals. It will consider some of the main actions that can contribute to adaptation of forests and trees: monitoring, risk management, conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and genetic resources, and the need to consider both landscapes (ecosystem-based adaptation) and value chains.

Forests and trees can play a critical role for the adaptation of other sectors/activities and people including most of the adaptation priorities highlighted by countries in their NDCs. This role, still often overlooked, deserves to be appropriately promoted as nature-based solutions in order to increase support, both political and financial, for action in the forestry sector. These two points will allow the identification of what is needed to enable adaptation of forests and trees and to enhance their contribution to the adaptation of other sectors. It will lead to identify some of countries needs and demands, as expressed for instance in the NDCs, among which the importance of evidence and

knowledge to ground adaptation action and of capacity-building as a prerequisite for NDC implementation.

A range of activities could be strengthened or developed by AFoCO to support its members. There is a real demand for more exchanges, sharing ideas and lessons learned, and capacity development. AFoCO can facilitate exchanges of experiences between its members, both on technical issues and on institutional arrangements, processes and policies. This needs to be based on latest findings of science, knowledge and learning. AFoCO can partner with scientific organizations for research and development to fill knowledge gaps and to organize collection and sharing of evidence and data. It can facilitate technology transfer, organize and support capacity building.

B. Lessons learned from the impact of COVID-19 on forest – why forests matter in post COVID-19 recovery

The second inspirational speech will be delivered by Dr. Chandra Silori, Deputy Executive Director of RECOFTC, focusing on their recent research findings on “How community forests boosted pandemic resilience across Asia-Pacific” (June 2021). The full publication can be viewed or downloaded in the following links:

- <https://www.recoftc.org/special-report/community-forestry-boosted-pandemic-resilience>
- <https://www.recoftc.org/sites/default/files/publications/resources/recoftc-0000391-0002-en.pdf>

The report findings reinforce that when a crisis strikes, strong leadership, sound knowledge and people power can make the difference between tragedy and resilience. Community forest committees applied their communication, coordination and leadership skills to access and distribute information and supplies of masks and hand sanitizer. They also mobilized people to enforce health and travel restrictions. Beyond responding to the immediate threat to health, community forest committees continued their normal activities. This included regulating access to forest resources, resolving conflicts, managing funds and organizing patrols to protect forests from illegal harvesting, poaching or encroachment. These activities helped to ensure that local people could continue to use forest resources and, in some cases, access financial support, both of which I shall talk about in a moment.

The knowledge and skills of the community forest members also boosted people's resilience. By participating in community forestry, people gain skills in forest product harvesting, forest protection and regeneration, agroforestry, vegetable farming and beekeeping. Some of this knowledge comes from experience and lessons that peers and elders pass on. But by being part of a formal community forest, members may also receive training from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and government agencies.

Across the countries we surveyed, community cohesion translated into high levels of compliance with public health advice, helping to minimise the risk of COVID-19 arriving and spreading. Meanwhile, community forest committees with good external relations generated financial and material support from NGOs and government agencies, and distributed this aid to those in need. Lastly, trade networks allowed some communities to continue to sell their forest products. However, these positive findings were not universal. Some community forest groups lack networks and external sources of support. Others have received little or no training. And some communities voiced concern about the effectiveness and commitment of their community forest leaders.

After the onset of pandemic-related restrictions, community forests continued to provide resources that helped people to endure. By providing such products as wild food plants, medicines, agroforestry crops, firewood and, in some cases, timber, these forests reduced household expenses and generated income. Generally, it was the lowest-income members of communities who depended most on forest resources. During the pandemic, some community forest committees modified their rules and procedures to make it easier for their members to benefit from their forests. In many of the communities surveyed, people said the quality and area of their forest had increased since they started managing it. They attributed this to active management, community compliance with the rules and regulations, tree planting, fire prevention and mitigation, and forest patrols to deter and report illegal activities such as logging or poaching.

Across the countries we surveyed, community forests provided a source of income and savings. Extrapolating from the survey findings, we estimated that personal savings generated by selling timber and non-timber forest products from community forests helped about three million people in the lower Mekong region to cope during the first months of the lockdowns. Many community forests also manage collective funds and revolving credit schemes that provide low interest loans to their members. With incomes down and economic activity curtailed, these schemes provided a lifeline in some situations, particularly as the pandemic wore on and people needed money to pay for food, household costs and farm inputs. Community forest credit schemes make finance available to people who would struggle to access bank loans or afford the high interest rates of informal moneylenders. The funds grow as borrowers repay loans with interest. But there are also many community forests that have no financial mechanism in place or whose credit schemes are too small to make a difference, particularly in crisis situations when demand for credit is high. These findings point to a need to strengthen the ability of community forests and their members to generate and manage financial assets so that people are in a better position to withstand the next shock when it comes.

Some community forests also benefited from external finance. For example, the Government of Viet Nam provides regular payments for forest environmental services, rewarding communities that protect forests because they ensure a water supply for downstream users. These payments are based on the area of forest the community protects. They remained constant throughout the first year of the pandemic, providing a reliable flow of money into the communities we surveyed.

Across the countries, community forestry enhanced people's resilience after the onset of pandemic restrictions to different degrees and in different ways.

Factors that influence the potential for community forestry to enhance livelihoods were not present in all contexts. For example, tenure arrangements and rights over resources — such as the right to sell timber — varied among the countries and communities surveyed. Also, the size and quality of forests that governments allocate to communities to manage were major factors in determining both natural and financial assets. And, as already mentioned, community forests also varied with respect to the quality of their leadership, their links with external organisations, their access to training, and their capacity to manage funds.

The study confirmed that community forestry can generate and strengthen the human, social, natural, financial and physical assets that underpin sustainable livelihoods and directly contribute to people's resilience. These assets are mutually reinforcing so, as each asset improves, the overall potential for community forests to support livelihoods increases. This creates scope for reinvestment of money and labour and raises the adaptive capacity of the participating communities.

Our research therefore highlights the importance of expanding community forests and improving land tenure systems to ensure that local people have clear and strong rights over forest resources. We recommend ramping up capacity-development programs for community forest members. They need stronger skills to raise and manage more funds and restore and improve the quality of the forest resources they manage. Stronger skills will help them recognize and address social disparities and find ways to help their communities cope in any future disasters that may strike. Strengthening community forests now will help build the resilience of marginalized people to endure the ongoing social and economic disruptions caused by the pandemic. Post-pandemic recovery plans should also include strong support for community forestry.

For example, community forests are well positioned to stimulate economic recovery through their local credit schemes that enable members to affordably invest in agricultural production and other livelihood activities. Cash injections to such schemes, delivered through economic stimulus packages, would ensure that money reaches communities in need and enters local economies. The interest paid on loans would then increase the funds available for future loans, further strengthening a community forest's financial assets.

As the survey findings indicate, however, not all community forests have the necessary financial structures and competencies to manage revolving credit schemes and disburse funds efficiently and fairly among members. COVID-19 recovery plans should focus on developing these capacities where they are absent. Every community forest should have a strong credit system, with a disaster response plan and be able to serve as a safety net for its members in times of national crises. The forest protection patrols in all countries studied underscore the idea that by strengthening social cohesion and providing legal tenure to local people, community forestry can be a key approach to preventing illegal activities. The ability of communities to prevent forest crimes would be enhanced if governments, development partners and civil society organizations provide support to strengthen the capacity of community forestry groups to perform this role.

When RECOFTC asked community forest members what they most needed, two-thirds said they wanted training to improve their livelihoods. Providing equipment as well as training in product development, marketing, and enterprise development and management would help forest communities add value to their forest resources and increase their financial security. Three-quarters of the respondents to the initial RECOFTC survey said that selling agricultural products was one of their main sources of income. This highlights the potential for integrating community forestry into wider landscape management, including through agroforestry approaches to boost food security and nutrition. At the same time, increased donor support and technical assistance for forestry training and jobs in forest land restoration and management can improve forest carbon storage and productivity. This would also help mitigate climate change impacts and increase the benefits that forest communities receive from their land.

In conclusion, our study showed that while community forests can provide important safety nets during a crisis, they are not meeting their potential to do so universally because of a range of interacting external and internal factors.

3. Guiding Questions for Discussion

The global issues can only be properly addressed through internationally and regionally coordinated actions. Climate change and COVID-19 pandemic are the most detrimental and universal challenges affecting every nations and every sectors. Yet, there are ample rooms for forest sectors in Asia to come together to contribute in building back better and greener from the devastation we face today.

Followings are the guiding questions for discussion to identify potential roles of AFoCO, as a formal regional body, to combat the impacts of climate change and COVID-19 pandemic in the context of sustainable forest management.

1) What are the most negatively impacted areas of the forest sector in your country from the COVID-19, hence the most prioritized actions are required in post-pandemic recovery?

(Please describe three main issues and challenges of the forest sector in your country.)

2) What specific roles are expected for the regional forest cooperation entities like AFoCO to effectively combat climate change and building back better in post-COVID?

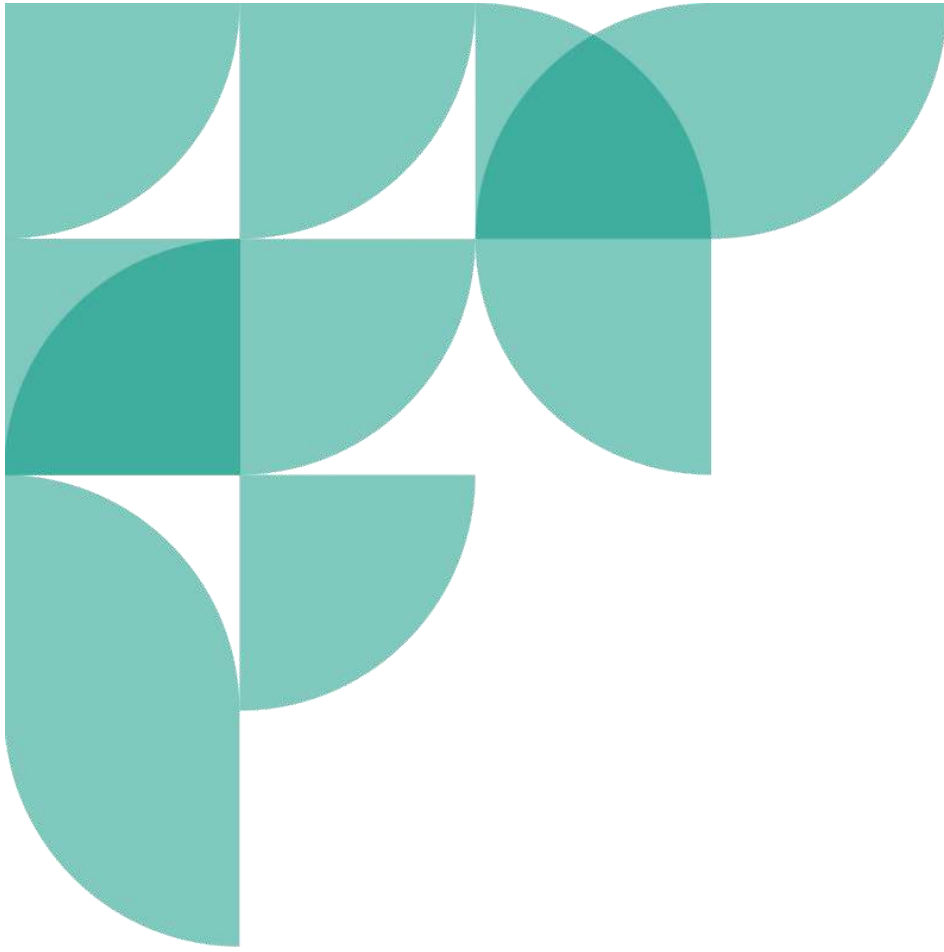
(Please propose three specific roles and the context where those roles are required, anchored in the three aspects of regional cooperation suggested in Chapter 3 above – Network expansion; policy decision support; and capacity building.)

3) Does your country have successful policy cases or best practices that may be rolled out, or scaled out through the regional cooperation platform like AFoCO?

(Please propose them up to three cases.)

The participants may answer to these questions through their intervention during the Session 1 and also can submit in written form to the AFoCO Secretariat (Ms. Joowon Park, joowon@afocosec.org) after the session. All the answers will be collected and shared with member countries in a form of the **outcome publication** after the thematic dialogue.

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III. SESSION 2: STRATEGIC REFLECTION ON SELECTIVE OUTPUTS OF THE 2021 ACTIVITIES

Session 2: Strategic Reflection on Selective Outputs of the 2021 Activities

1. Assessment of AFoCO Project Impacts and Best Practices

A. Introduction

As a follow-up of the annual plan for project advocacy in 2021 and pursuant to the Work Plan and Budget for 2021 approved at the 4th Session of the Assembly on 25-26 November 2020, the Secretariat has been facilitating the assessment of AFoCO Project Impacts and Best Practices for six (6) completed projects and one (1) on-going project since May 2021 (**Table 1**).

Table 1. Summary of Evaluated Projects

Project code	Countries	Project title	Period	AFoCO fund (Thousand USD)
AFoCO/001/2013	KH/LA/MM/TH/VN	Reclamation, Rehabilitation and Restoration of Degraded Forest Ecosystems in Mekong Basin Countries	2013-2015	500
AFoCO/002/2012	BD/KH/ID/LA/MM/PH/TH/VN	Capacity Building on Improving Forest Resources Assessment and Enhancing the Involvement of the Local Communities to Address the Impact of Climate Change	2013-2016	1,848
AFoCO/003/2014	KH/VN	Promotion of Forest Rehabilitation in Cambodia and Viet Nam through Demonstration Models and Improvement of Seed Supply System	2015-2020	1,000
AFoCO/004/2014	PH/ID/TH	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	2015-2020	1,500
AFoCO/009/2015	TH/VN	Developing High Valuable Species in Viet Nam and Thailand as a Mechanism for Sustainable Forest Management and Livelihood Improvement for Local Communities	2016-2019	600
AFoCO/010/2016	MY/TH	Domestication of Endangered, Endemic and Threatened Plant Species in Disturbed Terrestrial Ecosystems in Malaysia and Thailand	2016-2022	1,200
AFoCO/011/2016	BD/ID/PH/SG	Capacity Building for Landscape Approach to Support the Sustainable Natural Resources Management in Brunei, Indonesia, Philippines, and Singapore	2016-2019	540

The purposes of this assessment include:

- identifying opportunities for future project development vis-à-vis vision and mission of AFoCO;
- promoting AFoCO's achievements and reinforcing existing potential partnerships/networks, encouraging and reassuring commitments among AFoCO Parties and the global society; and
- Drawing a broadened attention from forest cooperation supporters and donors.

B. Scope of Work

The main activities involved in this process consists of the following actions:

- **Individual and programme level evaluation**

Seven projects were reviewed as a part of AFoCO's programme to improve forest management capacity and delivery in Southeast Asia. Individual project evaluation was conducted, including lessons learned that led to generating summary conclusions at the programme level with respect to impacts and possible improvement for the future. The evaluation relied, in part, on the OECD information and methods pertaining to "Social Impact Investment (SII)", along with the common methods used by most donors and project implementation agencies as described in the AFoCO Project Manual.

- **Follow-through communication/consultation with national counterparts and correspondents**

This stage involves follow-through communications and consultation with national counterparts and correspondents including a series of validation interviews in order to assess the level of understanding at the project and programme levels.

- **Management of Priority Knowledge Exchange Activities**

The highlights for project impact and best practices will be presented at the Annual Thematic Workshop which will be held on 25 October 2021.

C. Guiding Questions for Discussion

- 1) Going forward, what are some key themes on which AFoCo could focus for future projects?
- 2) What are some key policy changes in your country that might have an impact on projects of the future?
- 3) What are some forest types that are becoming increasingly imperiled that we could work on?
- 4) On project management: Could you suggest ways to manage the project effectively in the post COVID-19 world? What can be done to further enhance project sustainability?
- 5) Leads for project/policy, technological and capacity enhancement: What components/outputs of the project/s that can be scaled-up or put into policy for adoption of AFoCO Member Countries? in what way? What are the development and capacity gaps that should be further addressed?

2. UNFF16 Side event on “Improvement on the Global Forest Goals (GFGs) Implementation: Streamlining forest-related reporting and developing methodologies for measuring the performance”

A. Background

AFoCO attended the 16th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) which was held virtually from 26 to 29 April 2021, with a delegation headed by Executive Director Mr. Ricardo Calderon. This was the first official engagement of AFoCO in international processes under the United Nations since its permanent observer status was approved by the United Nations General Assembly in 2020.

Through its intervention, AFoCO shared the view with other participating state members and partners of the UNFF on destructive impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to decades of unremitting efforts towards sustainable development, and jointly noted on key roles of the forest sector to play in building back better and greener.

As a formal body, and with a clear mandate of promoting sustainable forest management, AFoCO also expressed its willingness and desire to bridge the gap between global processes and local actions, particularly in assisting the national implementation of the United Nations strategy for forest 2017-2030 (UNSPF) in AFoCO member parties.

The UNSPF is the first global forest strategy which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2017. And six Global Forest Goals (GFGs) are at the very core of the UNSPF illustrating the goals and targets to be pursued by implementing the UNSPF.

- GFG 1: Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change.
- GFG 2: Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people.
- GFG 3: Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests.
- GFG 4: Mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management and strengthen scientific and technical cooperation and partnerships.
- GFG 5: Promote governance frameworks to implement sustainable forest management, including through the United Nations forest instrument, and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- GFG 6: Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, including within the United Nations system and across member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as across sectors and relevant stakeholders.

Entering into the 5th year of the implementation of the UNSPF has been undertaking extensive works for monitoring, assessment and reporting on the implementation UNSPF. With the data provided from the first round of voluntary national reporting and other reliable biophysical data available, the UNFF

Secretariat developed and launched a flagship publication ([link for the publication](#)) on the progress towards achieving the GFGs using the global core set of forest-related indicators at the 16th Session of the UNFF. The publication is expected to contribute to effectively reflecting the implementation of GFGs in terms of achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

B. Scope of Work

The UNSPF promotes sustainable forest management at all levels which is vital to achieving SDGs. The synergy and relevance with respective national forest plans contributes to implementation of UNSPF on the ground.

At this backdrop, AFoCO and the National Institute of Forest Sciences (NIFoS) of the Republic of Korea, organized a side event on 28 April 2021 to learn and share about the progress reported in the voluntary national reports of the Parties to the UNFF and global progress assessed in the flagship publication; recognizing how the global core set of forest-related indicators supports reporting at the national level; and share the relevance and potential of quantitative indicators as introduced by the Republic of Korea in measuring the implementation of GFGs.

The side event led fruitful discussion on ways to improve the GFGs implementation, by streamlining forest-related reporting and developing a methodology for measuring performance, inviting country partners (Australia, Republic of Korea, Indonesia, and Thailand) and the members of Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) (UNFF, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)) as speakers and panel discussants. A total of 40 participants joined the 2-hour session, which was held in the form of a webinar.

C. Key Take-away Messages

The voluntary national reporting (of the UNFF) is one of main sources of information to assess the progress and achievement of the UNSPF and its contribution to sustainable development goal. However, there were some challenges observed in the submission of the voluntary national report among the 166 member countries of the UNFF. Looking back as far as the submission of the voluntary reports under UNFF9 (2010) with 22 members' submission, 57 members' submission in UNFF10, 82 members' submission in UNFF11 (2014) and 52 member countries' submission in UNFF15 (2020).

At the regional level, among 13 AFoCO Member parties only four (4) countries submitted their voluntary national reports in 2020. Plenty of needs and opportunities were observed in enhancing the AFoCO member countries in monitoring, assessment, and reporting of the progress on the implementation of the UNSPF.

Given that AFoCO's mandates and strategic objectives are highly aligned to the implementation of the UNSPF, AFoCO may support its Member Countries in acquiring needed capacities to monitor and report on the progress of the implementation of the UNSPF and collaborate with the Forum and the network of the CPF in enhancing coordination and coherence on forest-related issues at the regional level.

AFoCO-NIFOS UNFF16 Side Event

“Improvement on the Global Forest Goals Implementation: Streamlining forest-related reporting and developing methodologies for measuring the performance”

Dr. Yeong-joo Lee, Director for Planning & Budget
AFoCO Secretariat
25 October 2021



Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

To contribute to the member countries in:

- Achieving the **global goal of increasing forest cover up to 3% worldwide**;
- Implementing the **Paris Agreement on climate change** particularly in pursuit of policy approaches for adaptation in the forestry sector;
- **Improving livelihood and income** through forestry-related activities

Initiating customized **restoration & reforestation models**



Supporting research & development in **climate change adaptation approaches**



Introducing systematic management on **forest-related disasters**



Local livelihood improvement & community-based small enterprise development



Strengthening **institutional capabilities**, diversifying **resources** & promoting **regional actions**



MONITORING THE PROGRESS (methodology)

STEP 1: Review of Voluntary National Reports

Information provided from Voluntary National Reports (largely narrative & qualitative)

	UNFF9 (2010)	UNFF10 (2012)	UNFF11 (2014)	UNFF15 (2020)
Total submission	22	57	82	52
From AFoCO MC	1	4	4	4
	PH	MY*, MM, PH, VN	KH, MY*, MM, VN	MM, PH, KR, TH

*observers

STEP 2: Review on regional progress, using:

Draft global core set of forest-related indicators and available biophysical data sources (FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020, etc.)

Information collected through a process of baselining of AFoCO country profile and contexts in forest sector

GFG 1: Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through SFM, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change.

GFG 1	Indonesia	Korea, Republic of	Myanmar	Philippines	Thailand
Voluntary national contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce deforestation from 0.92 Mha/year to 0.45 Mha in 2020 and 0.325 Mha by 2030. This is in line with the NDC in the framework of the Paris Agreement. *Annual deforestation rate 2015-2020: 0.65 Mha/year (FAO, 2020) 	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of Myanmar targeted to increase reserve forest and protected public forest area up to 30%, and protected area up to 10% of total land areas. 	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase forest cover to 55% of the total country area, equivalent to forest area increase to 28.47 Mha (by 7.73 Mha increase) under the 20-Year National Strategic Plan (2018-2037).
Progress	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendment of Carbon Sink Act Amendment of Timber Use Act Formulation of the first Comprehensive Plan for Improvement of Carbon Sinks (2015-2019) Formulation of the second Comprehensive Plan for Improvement of Carbon Sinks (2020-2024) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formulation of Forest Policy (1995), National Land Use Policy (2016), National Environmental Policy (2017), Climate Change Policy (2019), Wetland Policy (2019) Enactment of Environmental Conservation Law (2012), Forest Law (2018) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Order No. 3194 (2004) to mainstream SFM into Philippine policies and programs Executive Order No. 23 to protect the remaining natural forest through a moratorium on all natural and residual forest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During 2015-2019, total 147,514 ha of forests (degraded forests, economic forests, and mangrove) rehabilitated or newly established. Provided planting materials and rendered financial resources for reforestation and REDD+ activities

Key observations:

- All countries integrated forest restoration targets into national-level development or climate strategy.
- All countries took policy actions to enhance forest carbon sink and two countries (MM, ID) invested in readiness actions for the REDD+.
- Technical and scientific actions were emphasized in adopting advance technologies in forest resources monitoring.
- Increasing flow of funding secured for SFM, from domestic public sources, international funding and private sector.

GFG 2: Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people.

GFG 2	Indonesia	Korea, Republic of	Myanmar	Philippines	Thailand
Commitment	To allocate 12.7 Mha for social forestry for the livelihoods of local communities	n/a	To establish community forests up to 2.27 million acres by 2030	n/a	To enhance people's participation to support the sustainable utilization of forest resources
Progress	n/a	Enactment and amendment of the Forest Welfare Promotion Act Mountain village development project (2018-21) Development of forestry-based economic companies through the Forest Job Creation Headquarters (2018-23) Forest welfare promotion plan (2018-22) Forest welfare statistics information	Promulgation of Community Forestry Inspection (2016 & 2019) and Community Forestry Strategy Action Plan (2018-2020) Adoption and application of ASEAN Guidelines on Agroforestry Development (2019) Myanmar Reforestation and Rehabilitation Programme (MARRP) issues in activities	Executive Order 318 issued in 2004 provides disqualifying principle, and two of which are directly relevant to goal 2 – community-based forest conservation and development; and incentives for enhancing private investments, economic contribution and global competitiveness of forest-based industries	2019 Community Forestry Act has been enacted to support alternative community forest activities A policy established to allocate former forest reserve to landless farmers and poor households for subsistence (0.624 Mha by 2023) National Parks Act amended (2019) to

Key observations:

- In most countries, Community Forestry has been promoted as a means for enhancing socio-economic benefits of forests and strengthening ecosystem services.
- Job creation has been significantly recognized in multiple major programs, including national forest rehabilitation program, CF or CBFM, and economic forest plantation projects.
- Technical and financial supports were provided to forest production and trade sub-sector, to promote sustainable forest production and economic activities.
- All countries formulated/enhanced legislative framework to increase the areas of designated PAs.

GFG 3: Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests

GFG 3	Indonesia	Korea, Republic of	Myanmar	Philippines	Thailand
Commitment	To encourage business sector to obtain Sustainable Production Forest Management Certificate and also a Timber Legality Verification System Certificate for sustainable management of forests and forest products	n/a	To establish 146,527 ha of state-owned forest plantations; 115,427 ha of private plantations; conduct 331,392 ha of ANR in the Production Forests; conserve 202,429 ha of natural forests in Central Dry Zone; establish 311,875 ha of CF; extend reservation of 1,610 square mile (6.15 5% of country area)	n/a	In achieving 55% forest cover target under the 20-Year National Strategic Plan (2018-2037), 25% to be classified as protected area
Progress	n/a	Formulation of the 2nd National Protection Plan on Beekduleageen (2016-25) Ecological rehabilitation project for damaged/disconnected forests (Stage 1: 2016-22, Stage 2: 2023-30) Peace Forest Initiative (2019-)	Promulgation of Forest Policy (1955), National Land Use Policy (2016), National Environmental Policy (2017), and National Wetland Policy (2019) Enactment of Forest Law (2018), Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Areas Law (2018), and Rules (2019)	National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992 established a system of administration of all designated PAs and it was further expanded through the enactment of Republic Act No. 11033 in 2018. The Philippines also designated	Under the sustainable forest plantation management scheme, 10% of forest plantation area (18,400 ha) has been reserved for biodiversity conservation PAs under the management of National Park Wildlife and Plant Conservation

Key observations:

- Increasing areas legislated as protected areas
- Significant areas were designated or declared for conservation purposes, with strong support from the legislative frameworks established
- Most countries have launched its actions to enhance timber legality and institutionalize the forest certification system.
- Two countries (PH, TH) could include in their reporting progress made in all relevant ministries/agencies.

GFG 4: Mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of SFM and strengthen scientific and technical cooperation and partnerships

GFG 4	Indonesia	Korea, Republic of	Myanmar	Philippines	Thailand
Commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide financing for small and medium enterprises in the forestry sector through "Badan Layanan Umum" (Public Service Agency) with various schemes, including loans, profit sharing, ayan'ah, for off-farming and on-farming activities. 	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MRRP and RNH demonstrate strong commitments of Myanmar government to achieve goal 4 	n/a	n/a
Progress	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported forest restoration projects in six Asian countries were supported through KFS-LEADER (2011-2015) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Myanmar has been implementing Myanmar Rehabilitation and Subsidization Program (MRRP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government put efforts to increase financial allocation to support forest-based enterprises and small business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest Industry Organization (FIO), state-owned organization, received government support to conduct economic forest

Key observations:

- Funding for the implementation of SFM was increased in all four countries, while they are situated with different positions in international cooperation (donors/recipients).
- Most reporting countries reported to have financing strategies to achieve SFM and implement UN forest instrument.
- Differentiated set of questions may be provided for donor countries to highlight their annual contributions to international partners (ODA flow to forest sector).
- All four reporting countries have been engaged in international cooperation, mainly with governmental or intergovernmental partners. The most common types of cooperation are North-South, followed by technical and financial cooperation, but limited South-South or Triangular cooperation.

(2011) - 1,299 (2015)

(US\$), are also in place.

GFG 5: Promote governance frameworks to implement SFM, including through the UN Forest Instrument, and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda

GFG 5	Indonesia	Korea, Republic of	Myanmar	Philippines	Thailand
Commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage the interaction of the forestry sector in planning systems such as through the National Forestry Council (DNK) to provide policy recommendations; To continue implementation of a gender mainstreaming policy, which involves women in the development of the forestry sector 	n/a	n/a	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To strengthen the policy and legislative framework for the forest sector.

Key observations:

- All reporting countries have integrated forests in either national sustainable development plan and/or poverty reduction strategies.
- Cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms is comparably well established among government agencies in SFM planning and implementation, while in a certain country the forest-sector is not observed to be fully involved in other land-use planning
- Most countries have identified and established mechanisms to engage multiple stakeholders in SFM planning and implementation, but with varying level and depth.
- Measures were taken in all reporting countries to prevent and reduce illegal logging and trade, most commonly managed through legal enforcement, import/export control

GFG 6: Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, including within the UN System and across CPF member organizations, as well as across sectors and relevant stakeholders

GFG 6	Indonesia	Korea, Republic of	Myanmar	Philippines	Thailand
Commitment	n/a	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To establish 148,627 ha of state-owned forest plantations; 115,427 ha of private plantations; conduct 331,392 ha of ANR in the Production Forests; conserve 202,425 ha of natural forests in Central Dry Zone; establish 311,675 ha of CF; extend reservation of 1,610 square mile (6.13 596 of country area) 	n/a	n/a

Pr

Key observations:

- National voluntary contributions established for goal 6 has varying appreciation at the national level.
- All reporting countries have established C&I for SFM to generate information for national reports; monitor forest state; review forest policies and tools; and respond to the reporting requirement of international organizations. Only half of the reporting countries have utilized the C&I for the communication and awareness raising purposes.
- Most countries were actively reaching out to the public and major groups and generating greater awareness on SFM.
- Limited information was provided in terms of coordination mechanisms established in each country that enhance synergies among international partners.

Challenges in achieving Global Forest Goals

	GFG1	GFG2	GFG3	GFG4	GFG5	GFG6
KR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest acreage is decreasing and is expected to continue due to continued expansion of infrastructure and housing demand, which poses challenges in contributing to the goal of increasing forest area by 3% worldwide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since the number of mountain village residents and forestry workers and the proportion that forestry accounts for within the total GDP are insignificant relative to the overall national economic status, difficulties are found in quantifying forest-based social, economic, and environmental benefits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was difficult to differentiate and present implementation and progression of associated goals with similar concepts, such as SFM, long-term forest management, plan, and forests managed by sustainable methods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest sector, which require long-term investment and considered to have low cost-effectiveness, is often situated in low priority in international development cooperation. 	n/a	n/a
MM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited financial resources Capacity results in unsustainable forest management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited awareness on CF and CFE Limited access to market for sustainable forest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited human resources for the gazettement of Permanent Forest Estate (PFE) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited supports rendered in long term. Short-term, revision-based, supports are available. Limited term 	n/a	n/a
PH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demographic and developmental pressures on forest lands and conflict in land use Weak coordination among relevant agencies and stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited value addition and profitability of forest products Limited access to market and financial opportunities for local forest communities and forest smallholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited human resources and institutional capacities in implementing the relevant policies Insufficient coherence between relevant policies and legislations across sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earning buy-in of donors or private investors in forest-based activities Limited experience and capacities in marketing and financing forest-based activities 	n/a	n/a
TH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overlapping authorities among different organizations Policy inconsistency and political instability Increasing pressure on forest lands from population growth, contract farming, infrastructure development, etc. Technical and financial assistance from international partners are required to ensure consistent efforts for the goal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low profitability of forest products compared to other commodity crop Illegal logging and trade Limited financial incentives for promoting forest-based benefits Promoting PPP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening institutional capacity and public awareness to enhance implementation of relevant policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrating forest financing schemes in national development strategy and its associated operational frameworks aligning resources requirements to partner agencies' priorities and coping with procedural requirements defining relevant measures and standards of performance and accountability in compliance with the donors' request 	n/a	n/a

Progress review, using FRA 2020/FAO & NDCs

No	Indicators	GFG Targets	BT	BN	KH	ID	KZ	KR	LA	MN	MM	PH	TH	TL	VN	SG*	MY*	AFoCO	Asia	Global
1	Forest area net change 2015-2020 (%)	1.1 Forest area is increased by 3% worldwide	+	C	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-2.08	+1.07	-0.61
2	Aboveground forest carbon stock change 2015-2020 (tons per ha)	1.2 The world's forest carbon stocks are maintained and enhanced	C	C	C	C	-	+	C	C	-	-	-	C	+	+	-	6	-116	-747
3	Integration of forest targets and measures in NDCs to Paris Agreement	2.5 The contribution of all types of forests to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation is enhanced	o	o	o	o	x	x	o	o	o	x	x	o	o	o	o	11		
4	Proportion of forest area with in protected areas (%)	3.1 The area of forests worldwide designated as protected areas	29.0	3.6	17.8	27.6	0.4	4.5	n/a	1.9	8.0	6.8	n/a	n/a	7.0	4.7	10.5	8.35	4.39	5.38
5	Proportion of forest area with long-term forest management plan (%)	3.2 The area of forests under long-term forest management plans is significantly increased	9.65	n/a	n/a	11.8	1.3	25.6	n/a	9.1	42.7	4.3	n/a	n/a	22.6	n/a	32.3	10.16	11.37	15.51

: Net positive (+) change, or Above aggregate means of AFoCO, Asia, and Global
 : Constant, or Within the range of aggregate means of AFoCO, Asia, and Global
 : Net negative (-) change, or Below aggregate means of AFoCO, Asia, and Global

*observers

Potential roles of AFoCO in UNSPF implementation

1. ANNUAL THEMATIC DIALOGUE OF THE AFoCO ASSEMBLY to assist MONITORING of the PROGRESS of the UNSPF
2. REGIONAL and COUNTRY PROJECTS as PLATFORM for EXCHANGE of EXPERTISE and TECHNICAL COOPERATION
3. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS at the REGIONAL EDUCATION and TRAINING CENTER
4. FACILITATE ACCESS of MEMBER PARTIES to DIVERSE SOURCES of FUNDING (e.g. GCF)
5. BEYOND THE FOREST SECTOR (e.g. LPA)
6. INCREASE COORDINATION with REGIONAL and INTERNATIONAL (e.g. UN conventions, fora and agencies, CIFOR-ICRAF, INBAR, APFNet, ITTO)

D. Guiding Questions for Discussion

- 1) What will be the potential role/contribution of international organizations like AFoCO to national reporting and complementing assessment of GFG implementation?**
- 2) How can the measurement/reporting of implementation of GFGs be improved on the ground? (such as informal dialogues)**
- 3) What are the experiences and efforts of your country in the development of the national reports? And what are the challenges confronting the countries in the process?**
- 4) What are the possible methodologies or partnership that AFoCO can consider to enhance national or corresponding agency's systems to track and report on progress of GFGs, including tools to improve disaggregated data and information? (i.e. national statistics, Forest Resources Assessment of the FAO, global core set of forest-related indicators of the CPF, etc.)**