

Fourth Session of the Assembly
25-26 November 2020, Virtual

Agenda Item 2.7.2

DECISION 35-IV-20R

Approval of New Projects

The Assembly of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO),

Having considered the appraisal and recommendations of the respective Project Appraisal Panel (PAP) and the endorsement of the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) to facilitate fund mobilization process; and

Taking note of the summary of project proposal as contained in document D-35-1,

Decides to:

1. Approve the project proposals, subject to the final notification that the funding has been secured by the donor, as below:

Proponent (Registration No.)	Project Title
Lao PDR (PP-2020-LA-011)	Integrated village-driven forest rehabilitation and livelihood improvement in Viengthong district, Bolikhamxay province, Lao PDR
Timor-Leste (PP-2020-TL-013)	Re-greening the bare lands in Timor-Leste through promotion of locally customized restoration models

2. Task the Secretariat to facilitate the necessary follow-up actions for project inception in due course.
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Summary of Project Proposals

I. Project Proposal 1

Project Title	Integrated Village-Driven Forest Rehabilitation and Livelihood Improvement in Viengthong District, Bolikhamxay Province, Lao PDR		
Proponent	Lao PDR	Registration No.	PP-2020-LA-011

1. Project Profile

- a. Primary Target Area: AFoCO Strategic Priority 1
 “Initiating customized restoration and reforestation model”
- b. Total budget: USD 1,087,520
- c. Project Duration: 5 years
- d. Implementing Agency: Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

2. Objectives

- a. To develop, refine and make available for further replication a set of technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable “Village-Driven Forest Restoration Model, ViDFoRM” for degraded protection forest areas;
- b. To restore the selected degraded forest areas through the application of Forest Restoration Model “ViDFoRM”
- c. To improve local livelihoods within project participating villages as a result of the participation in project implementation and related income earning activities, and from restored forest ecosystem services in general;
- d. To manage the project in an effective manner and compliant with project implementation guidelines and AFoCO related guidelines.

3. Expected Outputs and Deliverables

- a. A set of technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable “Village-Driven Forest Restoration Model, ViDFoRM” for degraded protection forest areas has been developed and made available for further replication;

- b. At the end of the project, approx. 6,000 ha of the degraded forest areas in Phou Khaen Protection Forest has been restored and the whole Phou Khean Protection Forest is effectively protected by the project participating village communities.
- c. Forest based income earning activities promoted with secured markets and credits
- d. Project Steering Committee (PSC), Project Management Unit (PMU) and District Coordination Unit (DCU) are established, fully equipped and functioning.
- e. Institutional capacity for the project management and implementation developed.

4. Implementation Schedule

Activity Description	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5
a. To develop, refine and make available for further replication a set of technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable "Village-Driven Forest Restoration Model, ViDFoRM" for degraded protection forest areas					
- Familiarization with local situations and set up project baseline information	■				
- Develop ViDFoRM, related guidelines and training materials	■			■	
- Produce case studies and policy briefs				■	■
- Dissemination workshop to promote replication of forest models					■
b. To restore the selected degraded forest areas through the application of Forest Restoration Model "ViDFoRM"					
- Establish Village Forest Restoration Committee (VFRC) and the associated activity groups	■				
- Organize 1 participatory planning and consultation meeting with VFPCs	■				
- Run a forest protection and restoration outreach/education scheme		■	■	■	■
- Establish village nurseries and seedling production		■	■	■	
- Conduct enrichment planting and maintenance		■	■	■	
- Support natural forest regeneration through enforcement patrolling and fire control	■	■	■	■	■
- Screen all forest management activities and tree and NTFP species for climate resilience		■	■	■	■
c. To improve local livelihoods within project participating villages as a result of the participation in project implementation and related income earning activities, and from restored forest ecosystem services in general					
- Promote bamboo, rattan and other NTPF production		■	■	■	
- Facilitate in marketing for NTPF and planted timber		■	■	■	
- Establish Village SME Fund for forest-based business		■	■	■	
To manage the project in an effective manner and compliant with project implementation guidelines and AFOCO related guidelines					
- Establish PSC, PMU and DCU	■				
- A2- Establish PMU and DCU offices	■				
- A3- Procurement of vehicles, equipment, supplies	■				
- Develop project management procedures, regulations and M&E framework	■				
- Develop Project Annual Workplan and Budget (AWP&B)		■	■	■	
- Organize a Project Kick-Off Workshop	■				
- Organize managerial and technical trainings/study tours	■	■	■		
- Project monitoring		■	■	■	■
- Project evaluation				■	■

II. Project Proposal 2

Project Title	Re-greening the bare lands in Timor-Leste through promotion of locally customized restoration models		
Proponent	Timor-Leste	Registration No.	PP-2020-TL-013

1. Project Profile

- a. Primary Target Area: AFoCO Strategic Priority 1
“Initiating customized restoration and reforestation model”
- b. Secondary Target Area: AFoCO Strategic Priority 4
“Local livelihood improvement and community-based small enterprise development”
- c. Total budget: USD 1,050,000
(AFoCO: USD 1,000,000 / National: USD 50,000 (in-kind))
- d. Project Duration: 3 years
- e. Implementing Agency: General Directorate of Forestry, Coffee and Industrial Plants (GDFCIP); Directorate of Forestry and Watershed Management; Department of Reforestation, Soil and Water Conservation

2. Objectives

- a. Locally appropriate FLR initiatives that integrate mixed species of high economic value and ecological functions are implemented to restore degraded forest land
- b. A network of community-based enterprises using sustainable value chains/ advance business models.

3. Expected Outputs and Deliverables

- a. Baseline information on degraded landscapes (geospatial datasets) and on the socioeconomic conditions of the population living in the selected municipalities are generated and analyzed.
- b. Farmers are empowered into community groups and are capable of implementing FLR initiatives.
- c. Locally appropriate FLR initiatives that integrate mixed species of high economic value and ecological function are identified, customised, implemented.
- d. Knowledge and lessons learned about trade-off and synergies of multiple ecosystem goods and services, as well as FRL’s socioeconomic and environmental impacts are shared.

4. Implementation Schedule

Activity Description	Yr. 1	Yr. 2	Yr. 3
Locally appropriate FLR initiatives that integrate mixed species of high economic value and ecological functions are implemented to restore degraded forest land			
- Collate existing geospatial datasets and analyze for land use and land cover change			
- Conduct rapid rural appraisal to determine social economic information of the local communities on selected site as well as history of land use change the selected municipalities			
- Produce spatially explicit mapping of forest land degradation in the selected municipalities			
- Identify and assess forest land degradation, their geographic extent and bio-physical characteristics to implement FLR initiatives			
- Analyze the socio-economic drivers of forest degradation and identify the future opportunities for sustainable land use including FLR.			
Farmers are empowered into community groups that are capable of implementing FLR initiatives			

