



PRESENTATION

UNFF16 Side Event on “Improvement on the Global Forest Goals (GFGs) Implementation”

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AFoCO engagement in the UNFF16

- AFoCO attended the 16th session of the UNFF which was held virtually from 26 to 29 April 2021, with a delegation headed by Executive Director Mr. Ricardo Calderon.
- 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 unrelenting 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, with a clear mandate of promoting sustainable forest management, AFoCO 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).
- AFoCO through a joint side event organized with the National Institute of Forest Sciences (NIFoS) of the Republic of Korea, on 28 April 2021, explored its roles to contribute to the implementation of the UNSPF.

UNFF16 AFoCO-NIFoS Joint Side Event

- AFoCO and the National Institute of Forest Sciences (NIFoS) of the Republic of Korea, organized the UNFF Side Event on 28 April 2021 :
 - ✓ 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;
 - ✓ explore 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
- The meeting was attended by 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.

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. <i>*Annual deforestation rate 2015-2020: 0.65 Mha/year (FAO, 2020)</i> 	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 M ha (by 7.79 M-ha 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 (2019-2023) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promulgation 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. 3184 (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 M ha 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promulgation of Community Forestry Instructions (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 (MRPP) targets to establish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Order 318 issued in 2004 provides six guiding principles, 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 M ha 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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	<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 202,429 ha of natural forests in Central Dry Zone; establish 311,875 ha of CF, extend reservation of 1,610 square mile (6.19 5% of country area)	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Formulation of the 2nd National Protection Plan on Baekdudaegan (2016-25)Ecological rehabilitation project for damaged/disconnected forests (Stage 1: 2016 -22, Stage 2: 2023-30)Peace Forest Initiative (2019~)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Promulgation of Forest Policy (1995), 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 Policy (2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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. 11038 in 2018. The Philippines also designates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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 promote financing for small and medium enterprises in the forestry sector through "Badan Layanan Umum" (Public Service Agency) with various schemes, including loans, profit sharing, syaria'h, 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 KFC AF-GO Green Asia Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Government of Myanmar has been implementing Myanmar Rehabilitation and Reforestation Program (MRRP) from	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Government put efforts to increase financial allocation to support forest-based activities through annual budget planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Forest Industry Organization (FIO), state-owned organization, received government support to establish 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.

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 (DKN) 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.

Pro

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 202,429 ha of natural forests in Central Dry Zone; establish 311,875 ha of CF, extend reservation of 1,610 square mile (6.19 5% of country area)	n/a	n/a

Pro

Key observations:



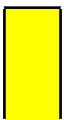
- National voluntary contributions established for goal 6 has varying appreciation at the national level.
- All reporting countries have established C&I for SFM to generate information for national reports; monitor forest state; review forest policies and tools; and respond to the reporting requirement 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 needs in sustainable forest management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited awareness on CF and CFE Limited access to market for non-timber forest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited human resources for the gazettelement of Permanent Forest Estate (PFE) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited supports rendered in long term. Short-term, project-based supports prevails. Long-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 resource 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 within 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
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*observers

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.

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-ICRAFT, INBAR, APFNet, ITTO)

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.)