

Fifth Session of the Assembly
25-27 October 2021, Hybrid

Agenda Item 7.2

Updates on the development of new and potential projects and programs

1. Consistent with Strategic Priority Area 5 of the AFoCO Strategic Plan (2019-2023), 'Strengthening institutional capabilities, diversifying resources, and promoting regional actions,' the Secretariat has been sustaining its efforts to initiate and develop projects and programs to facilitate the achievement of the AFoCO vision while, at the same time, contribute to the attainment of forest and climate-related national, regional, and global targets and initiatives.
2. In consultation with Member Countries, together with the AFoCO's regular projects which are funded by KFS, demand-driven project, including call for proposals, collaboration with partners, and donor-driven projects have been identified and implemented, such as the following:
 - a. **Confirmation of project funding (to be confirmed)**
 - Project Proposal, entitled 'Capacity Building on Enhancing Resilience to Forest Fire, and Local Livelihood and Market Linkages' (6 years, USD 8,502,562) was submitted to the ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund in 2019, and revised Proposal was finally submitted in April 2021.
 - As of 1 September 2021, the proposal is under the final approval process of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea and is expected to be approved within the fourth quarter of CY 2021.
 - b. **Call for proposals, with an estimated cost of USD 24,624,882, to wit:**
 - Project Concept Note (CN), entitled 'Resilient Ecosystem Built on ICT solution for Life in Delta' in Viet Nam' (USD 1,000,000) for possible funding under the P4G as a scale-up project. The CN was developed under the consortium arrangement with the Green Technology Center, International Organization for Migration, Southern Institute of Water Resources Research, Korea Rural Community and Corporation, and SK Forest. Together with SK Forest, the CN development was led by the Green Technology Center while AFoCO will be engaged in the forestry sector component of the project proposal, particularly on mangrove restoration in Mekong Delta and capacity building.
 - Regional Project CN, entitled: 'Improvement of the capacities of countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia to restore forests and landscapes under the Bonn Challenge' involving Caucasus and Central Asia (8 years, EUR 19,888,000 which is

approximately USD 23,624,882) was submitted to the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany. The CN development was led by Food and Agriculture Organization and AFoCO will be engaged in capacity building activities. Other consortium partners include: the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, CIFOR-ICRAF and Michael Succow Foundation.

c. Collaboration with partners

- **(Landscape Partnership Asia)** AFoCO in cooperation with CIFOR-ICRAF and the Global Evergreening Alliance (GEA) are collaborating on Landscape Partnership for Asia (LPA) for the restoration of an initial area of 10 million hectares of drylands and drought-prone areas for 10 years. Based on the LPA Vision and Road Map, sub-regional programming will take its course towards the end of CY2021 up to 1st Q of 2022 leading to the eventual grand launching of the Partnership at the World Forestry Congress in May 2022. AFoCO hosts and manages the LPA Secretariat in terms of coordination, communication and administrative support to LPA. Guided by the LPA Vision and Road Map, a donors' collateral document was prepared as input to respective donors' pre-positioning plan. On the part of AFoCO, LPA is listed as part of the Green Partnership with Private Sector conglomerates in ROK, while GEA and CIFOR-ICRAF are developing project concepts related to carbon projects in South East Asia and approaching bilateral donors, respectively.
- **(Cooperation with World Bank)** As part of the Statement of Intent between World Bank and KFS, the Secretariat developed an e-learning course in Forest Fire Management (FFM), which will be complemented with the regular on-campus FFM training course in the RETC. The Secretariat will continue to cooperate with the World Bank to develop joint programs/projects in cooperation with KFS.
- **(Peace Forest Initiative)** The Secretariat in coordination with KFS and UNCCD channel will facilitate project development initiatives for the Peace Forest Initiative (PFI) as an active member of the PFI Regional Working Group. The project development will be pursued as soon as the PFI Terms of Reference has been issued by the UNCCD Secretariat.

d. Donor-driven projects

- **(AFoCO Green Partnership)** AFoCO Green Partnership is AFoCO's private sector engagement platform that is fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as international climate regime and collaborative initiatives. The AFoCO Green Partnership accommodates all types of private sector engagement in AFoCO-led initiatives and private sector-led or joint projects. The following six (6) AFoCO-led programs are currently open to private sector partners for their participation and contributions depending on their interests and nature of work:
 - a) Landscape Partnership Asia (LPA)
 - b) Earth Garden
 - c) Livelihood Improvement through Forest-based Enterprises (LIFE)
 - d) Saving Asia's Vulnerable Ecosystems (SAVE)
 - e) Climate LINK
 - f) Landmark Program 2.0

While developing the said programs, through initial discussions, the Secretariat conducted initial discussions with some Korea based private companies for potential collaboration with AFoCO.

- **(GCF Readiness)** Consistent with the discussions in the 4th Session of the Assembly (A-7-IV-20R), the Secretariat has been exploring opportunities under the GCF Readiness Program. Targeting to submit Readiness Proposals in 2022, the Secretariat prepared and submitted Financial Management Capacity Assessment and drafted a general concept note of the Readiness CN on National Adaptation Plan in forestry guided by the GCF team. The draft CN will be shared to concerned AFoCO National Focal Points (NFPs) to facilitate vetting and endorsement of respective National Designated Authorities (NDAs) in due course.
- **(ASEAN-Korea Garden)** The KFS has communicated to the Secretariat to advance the discussion on realizing the ASEAN-Korea Garden through AFoCO. Out of the six (6) countries (BN, KH, LA, MM, TH, VN) who submitted their letter of intention, five (5) countries submitted profiles of potential project sites (KH, LA, MM, TH, VN). The concept design of the ASEAN-Korea Garden will be developed with consultation with the Korea Arboreta and Garden Institute (KoAGI) from Q4 2021. The submitted project profiles are being considered by KoAGI in the design development.

Points for consideration

3. The Assembly may wish to task the Secretariat to sustain aforementioned initiatives and further consult with the Parties on project development concerns in accordance with potential donors' requirements and timelines.
-