

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

## Agenda Item 6.3

### Updates on the Project Impact and Best Practices

#### Background

1. In consideration of the CY 2021 Work Plan and Budget of the Secretariat as approved by the 4<sup>th</sup> Assembly, particularly Item E-05: Project Impact Report, the Secretariat has facilitated a third party evaluation covering seven (7) regional/multi-country projects. The output of said evaluation takes into account the documentation project impacts and best practices as well as lessons learned and relevant recommendations from its implementation.

#### Objectives and Procedures

2. As a follow-up of the annual plan for project advocacy in 2021, pursuant to the Work Plan and Budget for 2021 approved at the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Assembly on 25-26 November 2020, the Secretariat has been facilitating the development of AFoCO Project Impacts and Best Practices through third party evaluation by Dr. Jürgen Blaser of the Bern University. Seven (7) regional/multi-country projects were evaluated as follows:

Unit : Thousand USD				
Project code	Countries	Project title	Period	AFoCO fund
AFoCO/001/2013	KH/LA/ MM/TH/VN	Reclamation, Rehabilitation and Restoration of Degraded Forest Ecosystems (RRR-DFE) in Mekong Basin Countries	2013-2015	500
AFoCO/002/2012	BN/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	2015-2019	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	BN/ID/PH/SG	Capacity Building for Landscape Approach to Support the Sustainable Natural Resources Management in Brunei, Indonesia, Philippines, and Singapore	2016-2019	540

3. The review reflects three main aspects:
  - A review of documents to provide a project by project assessment, which were then summarized into a review of the programme. The report also relates to the strategic plan (2019-2023) of AFoCO and took advantage of past evaluations of two (2) projects (AFoCO/003/2014 and AFoCO/011/2016).
  - Based on the initial findings, a validation exercise was completed by interviewing project personnel, with a view to ensuring that the initial findings were accurate and to supplement the report with other useful information derived from the interviews.
  - Following validation, the final report is completed, focusing on lessons learned, best practices, policy impacts, and financial aspects as a means to improve overall programme delivery.
4. 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.
5. The consultant team examined the seven (7) projects individually, including lessons learned during each, and then drew summary conclusions at the programme level with respect to impacts and possible improvement for the future. Following the validation interview with the stakeholders of the said projects including a presentation to the AFoCO Annual Thematic Dialogue. The final report will be developed and circulated to member countries for consideration and finalization in November 2021.

#### **Points for consideration**

6. The Assembly may wish to:
    - review the relevant recommendations from the AFoCO Annual Thematic Dialogue
    - comment on the outcomes of the project impact and best practices, and provide further guidance as necessary.
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