

Sixth Session of the Assembly
29-30 March 2022, Virtual

Agenda Item 6

Approval of New Projects

Background

1. The Co-chairs' Statement at the **ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit in 2019** welcomed a proposal to establish an ASEAN-Korea Garden as a symbol of friendship. Accordingly, **the Korea Forest Service requested the Secretariat to advance the discussion on realizing the ASEAN-Korea Garden through AFoCO.** So far, 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).**

2. In consideration of the project concept/design of the Garden, **on-site verification is inevitable to appropriately design and implement the project based on standard general criteria.** However, field visit to potential project sites was delayed due to the COVID-19 situation in ROK and in the proponent countries. The Secretariat has correspondingly facilitated the operationalization of an Evaluation Committee to handle project site selection. The Committee proceeded with 1st review of the potential project sites in the five (5) countries (KH, LA, MM, TH, VN) in December 2021 consistent with established selection criteria. **The final selection of the project sites will be pursued based on the outcomes of the field verification.** The first site visit of the Secretariat was done in **Cambodia (9-14 January 2022)** and was followed in **Viet Nam (4-12 March 2022).** Field visits to other proponent countries will be done contingent with the workable domestic travel restrictions.

3. So far, the budget allocation for the establishment of ASEAN-Korea Garden is within USD 4.6M. Likewise, per recommendations reached at the **AFoCO 4th Donors' Meeting** last December 2021, the **project preparation and approval will consider the AFoCO Project Manual.**

4. At the current pace of the conduct of on-site verification of potential project sites, **progressive site selection and project proposal development and review** are being conducted by the Secretariat and the evaluation committee, respectively. This leads to the eventual conduct of project appraisal and endorsement to merit consideration of the KFS and approval of the AFoCO Assembly in 2022-2023.

Submission of Project Proposals

5. At this stage, one (1) project proposal for the ASEAN-Korea Garden (PP-2022-KH-001) has been submitted for the approval by the Assembly. The profile summary of the project is provided in **Annex 1**.

Proponent (Registration No.)	Project Title	Project Duration (year)	Budget		
			AFoCO	National	Others
Cambodia (PP-2022-KH-001)	Establishment of ASEAN-Korea Garden in Cambodia	3	KRW 2,035,836,250 (equivalent to USD 1,801,625)	KRW 224,163,750 (equivalent to USD 198,375)	KRW 200,000,000 (equivalent to USD 176,991) from Korea National Arboretum

Points for consideration

Note: Project Proposal as appraised the PAP and endorsed by the PAC will be provided in due course)

6. The Assembly may wish to:
 - a. Consider the recommendations of the respective Project Appraisal Panel (PAP) and Project Appraisal Committee (PAC);
 - b. Approve the above-cited project proposal; and
 - c. Task the Secretariat to facilitate the necessary follow-up actions for project inception in due course, including arrangements for the conduct of the next Donors Meeting within CY2022.

Annex 1. Appraised ASEAN-Korea Garden Project Proposal of Cambodia

Annex 2. Overview of Project Appraisal Results

Summary of Project Proposals

I. Project Proposal 1

Project Title	Establishment of ASEAN-Korea Garden in Cambodia		
Proponent	Cambodia	Registration No.	PP-2022-KH-001

1. Project Profile

- a. Primary Target Area: AFoCO Strategic Priority 4
“Promoting community forestry and sustainable use of forest resources”
- b. Total budget: KRW 2,460,000,000
(AFoCO: KRW 2,035,836,250 (equivalent to USD 1,801,625)
/ National: KRW 224,163,750 (equivalent to USD 198,375)
(in-kind) / Korea National Arboretum: KRW 200,000,000
(equivalent to USD 176,991, complementary fund)
**USD 1 = KRW 1,130 applied*
- c. Project Duration: 3 years (2022-2025)
- d. Implementing Agency: Forestry Administration of Cambodia and selected construction agency under the guidance of the Korea Arboreta and Gardens Institute (KoAGI) of the Republic of Korea

2. Objectives

- a. To promote human wellbeing and conserve tree and plant species threatened/endangered through the establishment of ASEAN-Korea Garden.
- b. To promote educational and awareness programs on restoration and biodiversity conservation and promote knowledge sharing in the region.
- c. To develop tourist market linkage and prepare sustainable financial planning for sustaining the ASEAN-Korea Garden manage in long-term.

3. Expected Outputs and Deliverables

- a. Sustainably establish and manage the ASEAN-Korea Garden.
- b. Conservation of endangered, threatened and culturally significant plant species through domestication.
- c. Promote scientific research on conservation and rehabilitation of endangered, threatened and culturally significant plant species.
- d. Develop a plan for sustainable management and finance for the ASEAN-Korea Garden.

PROJECT CODE	Project Appraisal Panel (PAP)	1 st Appraisal Grade (Score)	1 st Appraisal PAP's Comments	1 st Appraisal Result	2 nd Appraisal Grade (Score)	2 nd Appraisal PAP's Comments	2 nd Appraisal Result
PP-2021-KH-002 : Establishment of ASEAN-Korea Garden in Cambodia (KH)	Member 1	A (95) [25.03.2022]	- No comments	B	A (98) [28.03.2022]	- No comments	A
	Member 2	B (72) [25.03.2022]	- Themes and specialization plans for the six garden plans should be presented.; - It is suggested that the application of ICT should be applied to plant management rather than education HALL; - the six gardens to be created will be planned with justification for education; - Since maintenance of the garden is important, it is recommended to include gardeners in human resource training or education program.		A (90) [28.03.2022]	- Specific details of the proposal should be carefully cooperated with relevant experts between Korea and Cambodia after selecting this project.	
	Member 3	B (71) [25.03.2022]	- Coherence of ideas is not clearly and concisely stated. The health, economic, and conservation aspects of the project are all described but is not tied together well. Some revisions to make the ideas more cohesive and show the interrelationship of the significance of the project must be done; - The policies and facts surrounding the justification of the project are present and adequate, but the elements must be integrated well to better show the relevance and importance of the project. Minor improvements on the flow of ideas information must be done; - The description of objectives and outputs need to be more cohesive within and among each other. Some aspects are left out and does not have clear activities for it: e.g. Rescue of threatened plant species; establishment of the necessary elements to realize sustainable financing and how it will work; - OVIs and MoVs for Objectives 1, 2, and 3 do not have a complete one-to-one correspondence; - The deduction of points is to account for the unclear description of the bases for the rates indicated in the unit cost. The costing for the items included in the operational expenses are somewhat justifiable;		A (86) [28.03.2022]	- Output 2 does not have an activity on educating the visitors on the objectives and significance of the proposed project which is an important element in ecotourism - For Output 3, there is no provision in regulating the number of visitors in order to observe carrying capacity. This is needed to ensure sustainability of the site and adherence to the ecotourism principles. Also, there is no information that will check whether sustainable financing is already set after the 2 years of support is done. - Some items are still do not have one-to-one correspondence (Output 1: Activity 1 and 2; Output 3: There are no OVIs related to the presence of a mechanism on sustainable financing after 2 years of support is done). - Some of the identified technology to be employed does not have a clear connection to its adherence to	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The technology described in the proposal are appropriate but is lacking in terms on some specific aspects such as on the botanical importance of the area and its resources, health and well-being assessment, impact, and performance of ICT to its target audience in relation to the project objectives; - The composition of the PMU lacks expertise on botany, economics, ecotourism, health and well-being, communication, and extension as well. These are all key elements of the project as expressed in the significance and objectives of the project. 			<p>ecotourism principles. Hopefully, the PMU who will implement the project will be aware and mindful of the project's promise of being an ecotourism destination.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make sure that the expertise of the PMU is clear and address the gaps identified in the initial assessment. The necessary expertise is not clearly expressed in the proposal. 	
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