

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

Agenda Item 9

AFoCO Projects: Implementation Status and Related Issues

Background

1. To date, a total of 31 projects consisting of 22 individual projects, three (3) regional projects and six (6) AFoCO-NiFoS research projects are on-going and approved for immediate implementation this CY 2022. These projects have a total funding requirement of 42.8 million USD. Nine (9) projects are expected to be launched this CY 2022 based on the AFoCO Project Manual as follows: 1) five (5) individual projects, 2) two (2) regional projects and 3) two (2) AFoCO-NiFoS research projects. The list and updates on the on-going projects and those that are under inception arrangements are summarized in Annex-1.
2. Out of the on-going projects and projects under inception arrangements, the two (2) projects in Myanmar (AFoCO/014/2020 & AFoCO/015/2020) and another two (2) projects in Timor-Leste (AFoCO/018/2020, AFoCO/026/2021) have been seriously affected by the Pandemic, domestic situation and operational issues.
3. In cooperation with respective NFPs and IAs, the Secretariat has been putting serious efforts to discuss and address project inception and operational issues and concerns through the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and related meetings as early as 4th Quarter of 2021.

Points for consideration

4. The Assembly may wish to:
 - review the update on the on-going programs and projects, and provide further guidance as necessary.
-

Annex-1.

List of On-going Projects and Summary of Follow-up Actions to Facilitate Project Implementation

List of on-going projects

1. Below is the list of on-going projects as of September 2021.

Unit : Thousand USD

On-going Projects				
Project code	Country	Project title	Period	AFoCO fund
AFoCO/005/2014	KH	Establishment of Forest Genetics Research Center for Restoration of Major Timber Species in Cambodia	2016-2025	1,500
AFoCO/006/2014	VN	Rehabilitation and Development of Mangrove Forest Ecosystem in Thai Binh Province, Viet Nam	2016-2023	1,500
AFoCO/007/2014	Sec.	Establishment of Regional Education and Training Center in Myanmar	2014-2023	8,734
AFoCO/008/2014	LA	Village-based Forest Rehabilitation in Lao PDR	2016-2025	1,500
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/012/2019	KH	The Registration of Small-scale Private Forest Plantations in Cambodia	2020-2021	249
AFoCO/013/2020	VN	Improving <i>Pinus caribaea</i> Morelet for Plantation on Degraded Land in Viet Nam's Northern Mountainous Region	2020-2023	486
AFoCO/014/2020	MM	Integrated Pest and Disease Management in Teak Plantations in Bago Regions, Myanmar	2020-2025	955
AFoCO/015/2020	MM	Model Forest for Livelihood Improvement of Forest Dependent Communities through Development of Community-based Enterprise and Forest Conservation	2020-2023	952
AFoCO/016/2021	PH	Promotion of Vertical Integration in Wood Processing through People's Organizations in Community Based Forest Management Areas in the Philippines	2021-2026	929
AFoCO/017/2020	BH	Sustainable Community-based Enterprise development for Improved Rural Livelihood	2020-2025	1,000
AFoCO/018/2020	TL	Development of Agroforestry Models for Promotion of Reforestation in the Different Zones in Timor-Leste	2021-2024	517
AFoCO/023/2021	ID	Innovative solution for climate change and biodiversity landscape strategy to support SDGs in Indonesia	2021-2025	700
AFoCO/024/2021	VN	Conservation and development of forest ecosystems biodiversity resources at Cat Tien National Park	2021-2026	1,132
AFoCO/025/2021	LA	Integrated village-driven forest rehabilitation and livelihood improvement in Viengthong district, Bolikhamxay province, Lao PDR	2021-2026	993
LP-2	Sec.	Development of Education and Training Programs for Capacity Building (Landmark Scholarship Program)	2014-2023	2,334
LP-4	Sec.	Development of Advocating Activities	2014-2023	1,000
Subtotal				25,681
Project under Inception Arrangements				
AFoCO/026/2021	TL	Re-greening the bare lands in Timor-Leste through promotion of locally customized restoration models	2021-2024	1,000
AFoCO/027/2022	KH	Site Restoration and Sustainable Management of Community Forest Using Multiple Use Tree Species and Agroforestry	2022-2026	664
AFoCO/028/2022	KZ	Pilot project on inventory of unaccounted forests in Kostanay and North Kazakhstan regions and automation of the collection of information on forestry	2022-2025	953
AFoCO/029/2022	PH	Ensuring Functioning of Cultural Ecosystem Services in an Urban Setting: Assimilating Nature for Forest Healing and Experiential Learning in Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center	2022-2025	705

AFoCO/030/2022	TH	Improving local community's livelihoods and engagement in sustainable forest and land management in Thailand through Forest Landscape Restoration	2022-2024	304
AFoCO/031/2022	VN	Rehabilitation of degraded and potentially deserted forest land in the Northwest region of Viet Nam through application of integrated technical measures	2022-2026	800
AFoCO/032/2022	CLMV	Capacity Building on Enhancing Resilience to Forest Fire and Local Livelihood in CLMV Countries	2021-2026	8,503
AFoCO/035/2022	Sec.	Improved local community livelihoods through increased income from non-timber forests products (NTFP): Modeling scalable community-based enterprises in Asia	2022-2026	4,000
Subtotal				16,929
AFoCO-NIFoS- Research Project				
On-going projects				
AFoCO/019/2020	BH	Assessment of Adelgid diversity and distribution in conifer forest of Bhutan to mitigate future outbreaks	2020-2022	33
AFoCO/020/2020	KZ	Investigation of the resistance of black saxaul (<i>Haloxylon aphyllum</i>) forms to gall-forming insects in Kazakhstan	2020-2022	33
AFoCO/021/2020	KH	Performance of Cluster Method in Rehabilitating Degraded Lands in Cambodia	2021-2023	35
AFoCO/022/2020	VN	Research on Forest Enrichment using High Valuable Native Species in Hoa Binh Province, Viet Nam	2021-2023	34
Projects under inception arrangements				
AFoCO/033/2022	ID	Community-government restoration, recreation and livelihoods in Batur UNESCO Global Geopark	2022-2024	34
AFoCO/034/2022	TH	Assessment of Financial Instrument and PES Model Application for Rare and Endangered Species Preservation in Thailand: Pilot site in Suratthani Province	2022-2024	30
Subtotal				199
Total				42,811

Updates on projects being implemented in Myanmar

2. The two projects (AFoCO/014/2020 & AFoCO/015/2020) have been initiated in Myanmar since 2020. Due to the COVID-19 and political situation in Myanmar, the fund transfer has been considerably affected/delayed specifically in the two (2) on-going projects as follows:
 - Integrated Pest and Disease Management in Teak Plantations in Bago Regions, Myanmar (AFoCO/014/2020)
 - Model Forest for Livelihood Improvement of Forest Dependent Communities through Development of Community-based Enterprise and Forest Conservation (AFoCO/015/2020)
3. The Secretariat has organized series of bilateral meetings with the Forest Department of Myanmar from September 2021 to February 2022 to explore workable options to handle the projects-related matters. Based on the recommendations in the meetings and confirmation from Myanmar side, the Secretariat will conduct an on-site visit to Myanmar from 12 April 2022 to 23 April 2022 for the following concerns, among others:
 - Facilitate project fund transfer for the (2) ongoing projects (AFoCO/014/2020, AFoCO/015/2020);
 - Site visit/selection for the newly approved projects, i.e. Forest Fire Management under the AKCF, Regional NTFP and ASEAN-Korea garden;
 - On-site monitoring of the ongoing AFoCO projects.

Update on the projects in Timor-Leste

4. There are two (2) projects in Timor-Leste: 1) On-going project (AFoCO/018/2020) and project under inception arrangements (AFoCO/026/2021).

[AFoCO/018/2021]Development of Agroforestry Models for Promotion of Reforestation in the Different Zones in Timor-Leste:

As there are considerable delays in the official submission of the physical/financial report for CY 2021 of the project (AFoCO/018/2020), the conduct of the 2nd PSC meeting and approval of CY 2022 Work and Budget Plan have been consequently delayed.

In response thereto, the Secretariat has been exerting coordination efforts as follows: 1) Project assessment through the Korea-Indonesia Forest Cooperation Center (KIFC) conducted on 13-16 December 2021 and 2) Series of bilateral meetings, online communication and three (3) official letters to remind the concerned IA to fast-track the submission of required reports. In the most recent bilateral meeting held on 25 March 2022, mutual agreement was reached that the official submission of the said reports will be facilitated as soon as possible. Upon official submission of physical/financial report of the project, the 2nd PSC meeting will be arranged, in consideration of the technical and operational concerns as appropriately discussed by the Secretariat with the IA, Project Team and the NFP (e.g. operationalization of the PMU, project site, etc.)

[AFoCO/026/2021]Re-greening the bare lands in Timor-Leste through promotion of locally customized restoration models: Following the resolution of the said issues on the project (AFoCO/018/2021), the project inception arrangements will be resumed

Update on the new projects in 2022

5. In 2022, there are the nine (9) projects which will be launched based on the AFoCO Project Manual as follows: 1) five (5) individual projects, 2) two (2) regional projects and 3) two (2) AFoCO-NiFoS research projects.

<Five (5) Individual projects>

6. The Secretariat has organized the Online Technical Meeting for “Inception Arrangements for New Projects in 2022” on 5 January 2022, with all relevant IAs and NFPs of Cambodia, Kazakhstan, the Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam. So far 2/5 Projects, namely AFoCO/027/2021 and AFoCO/028/2022 in Cambodia and Kazakhstan, respectively have signed MOU and project inception/PSC meetings will be scheduled in the 1st week of April 2022. The other three (3) projects are in different stages of completing the project inception requirements, including recent submission of the draft MOU and project document from Philippines and Vietnam which is under review of the Secretariat.

<Two (2) Regional projects>

7. The two (2) regional projects will be launched in 2022 as follows:

- [AFoCO/032/2022] Capacity Building on Enhancing Resilience to Forest Fire and Local Livelihood in CLMV Countries. The following are being conducted:
 - As per advise of the AKCF Secretariat, the AFoCO Secretariat has been conducting a pre-feasibility study/site assessment in CLMV countries, since January 2022
 - Progressive revision and enhancement of Project document are being done as soon as the project sites were selected and profiles submitted leading to the submission of the enhanced document to AKCF/ASEAN Secretariat planned in the 2nd week of April 2022.
 - Project inception arrangements will also be facilitated per CLMV country to launch the project by 15 April 2022 (tentative).
 - The procedure for the engagement of the Regional Project Manager is ongoing. The

Regional PM is expected to report for duty at AFoCO HQ in Seoul.

- [AFoCO/035/2022] Improved local community livelihoods through increased income from non-timber forests products (NTFP). The following are being conducted:
 - Consultation with multiple project partners to facilitate arrangements for the conduct of regional and in-country activities is being done by the Secretariat
 - The procedure for the engagement of the Regional PM is also ongoing to facilitate inception arrangements and coordination. The Regional PM is also expected to report for duty at the AFoCO HQ in Seoul.

<Two (2) AFoCO-NIFoS research projects<

8. The Secretariat has organized the technical meetings on inception arrangements for the two (2) new AFoCO-NIFoS research projects in Indonesia and Thailand since January 2022. During the meeting, the Secretariat provided information related to the project inception arrangements based on the AFoCO Project Manual. After signing of MOU, the two (2) projects are expected to be launched in April 2022 as planned.

No-Cost Project Extension for AFoCO/010/2016

9. The 11th Project Coordination Meeting for the project (AFoCO/010/2016) entitled: “Domestication of Endangered, Endemic and Threatened Plant Species in Disturbed Terrestrial Ecosystems in Malaysia and Thailand” was held on 22 February 2022 through the virtual platform. Pursuant to relevant provisions of the Project MOA, the 11th PCM recommended the extension of the project, without cost until December 2022 to include audit activities. Said extension is premised on the following:
 - Remaining activities will be completed consistent with project objectives and outputs
 - The project extension will not require additional cost
 - Compliance with the provisions of the Project Manual (administrative closure of the project, auditing and preparation of consolidated regional project completion report, among others)
-