



# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Mr. Ricardo L. Calderon at the 2021 Annual Thematic Dialogue held in Seoul, Republic of Korea

I am pleased to present AFoCO's 2021 Annual Report. In the pages that follow, we update you on the progress we have made in engagement and outreach, capacity building initiatives, and regional and individual projects in our member countries.

2021 was a year of milestones and achievements for the Secretariat of AFoCO — we were enlisted as an international organization eligible for Official Development Assistance (ODA) under the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC), and our Headquarters Agreement with the Government of the Republic of Korea entered into force. We also welcomed the Kyrgyz Republic as an Observer and also our sixteenth member country.

Despite the limitations and far-reaching impacts posed by the COVID-19 outbreak, we have kept up with our roster of Assembly sessions, and training sessions, alongside online participation in international fora. We held our first Annual Thematic Dialogue and 5th Session of the Assembly held back-to-back in a hybrid mode in October, organized a side event at the 2021 P4G Summit, launched six new projects, and implemented a total of six regular training courses online. We also developed the AFoCO Green Partnership program — a platform to accommodate private sector engagement through AFoCO-led initiatives, joint projects and private sector-led activities.

In response to the challenges faced by project implementing agencies amid the COVID-19 pandemic, we introduced guidelines for catch-up plans to ensure that delayed project activities can be implemented as soon as possible and also encouraged implementing agencies to develop alternative activities in to replace those that cannot be carried out. As a result, disruptions to planned project activities were kept to the minimum.

In the coming years, AFoCO will expand networks with private sector entities, empower member countries to deal with the impacts of climate change, while continuing its core programs in restoration and reforestation, climate change adaptation, forest disaster management, local livelihood improvement. Together with our member countries and strategic partners, we will undertake collective actions to achieve global and regional forestry objectives and work towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



**Ricardo L. Calderon**

Executive Director of AFoCO

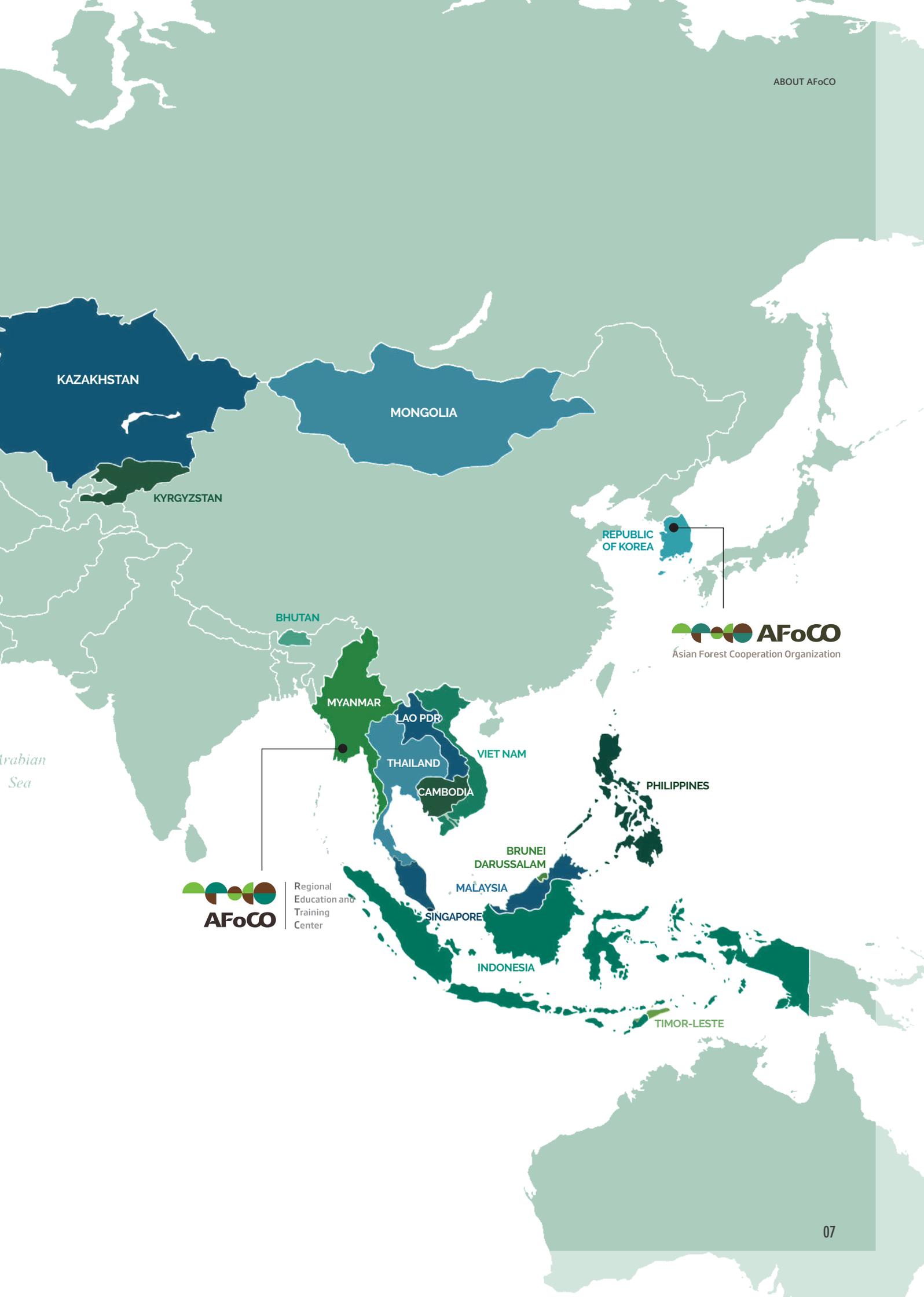
# ABOUT AFoCO

Established in 2018, the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) is a treaty-based intergovernmental organization that is committed to strengthening forest cooperation and taking concrete actions to promote sustainable forest management and address the impacts of climate change. The initial iteration of AFoCO was the ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation, which was formalized in 2012 after the ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit in June 2009.

On a global scale, forests are essential resources that are of inestimable value. However, despite their importance in combating climate change, sustaining livelihoods, and providing various ecosystem services, vast areas of forests continue to be overexploited or degraded. The achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the global agenda for forestry requires concerted efforts and inter-sectoral collaboration. By reaching out to member countries across Asia, AFoCO has been concentrating its efforts on addressing emerging forestry issues to contribute to the sustainable management of forests and achieve our vision of a Greener Asia.

**As of September 2022, AFoCO's membership consists of 16 member countries, including 14 Parties (Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam) and 2 Observers (Malaysia and Singapore), who cooperate and provide support in the implementation of its programs and projects. The headquarters of AFoCO, including the Secretariat, is located in Seoul, the Republic of Korea.**





KAZAKHSTAN

MONGOLIA

KYRGYZSTAN

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

BHUTAN

MYANMAR

LAO PDR

VIET NAM

THAILAND

CAMBODIA

PHILIPPINES

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

MALAYSIA

SINGAPORE

INDONESIA

TIMOR-LESTE

Arabian Sea



**AFoCO**

Regional Education and Training Center



**AFoCO**

Asian Forest Cooperation Organization

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

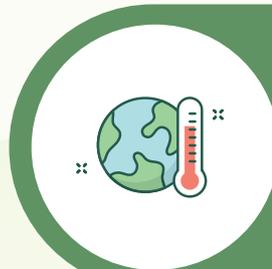
## INITIATING CUSTOMIZED RESTORATION & REFORESTATION MODELS

Establishment of locally customized restoration and reforestation models in target communities and adoption and application of such techniques in other areas



## SUPPORTING RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT IN CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION APPROACHES

Implementation of scientific studies on forestry adaptation approaches and policy adoption of vulnerable member countries to apply relevant adaptation methodologies and approaches



## INTRODUCING SYSTEMATIC MANAGEMENT OF FOREST RELATED DISASTERS

Establishment of demonstration sites for control and management of forest-related disasters and extensive application of such technology-based techniques where appropriate



## LOCAL LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT & COMMUNITY-BASED ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Identification and implementation of best practices on payments for ecosystem services, ecotourism, and community-based enterprise development in target areas and policy adoption in target countries



## STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL CAPABILITIES, DIVERSIFYING RESOURCES & PROMOTING REGIONAL ACTIONS

Development into a credible and accountable organization that takes action to deal with regional and international issues



# MILESTONES IN 2021



## APRIL 2021

### ENLISTMENT AS AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION ELIGIBLE FOR OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA)

In April 2021, AFoCO became an Official Development Assistance (ODA)-eligible international organization with unanimous approval from all Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD DAC) members.

With AFoCO becoming an ODA-eligible organization, financial contributions from donor countries or agencies to AFoCO can be reported as ODA on an annual basis. This is expected to further contribute to enhancing cooperation with donors and partners and help secure funds.

## JULY 2021

### RATIFICATION OF HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT OF AFoCO

The National Assembly of the Republic of Korea ratified the Headquarters Agreement of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization on July 2, 2021.

Under the Headquarters Agreement, the Korean government recognizes AFoCO as an "intergovernmental organization with international legal personality and capacity to perform legal acts required for the performance of its constitutional functions, in particular, to conclude treaties, to contract, to acquire and dispose of property and to participate in legal proceedings". The Agreement also stipulates that AFoCO staff and dependents will be subject to certain immunities and obligations, similar to other major international organizations.

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**ENGAGEMENT  
& OUTREACH**



March 2021	World Wildlife Day International Day of Forests
29 April 2021	16th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF16)
18 May 2021	AFoCO Side Event at the 2021 P4G Summit
23-24 June 2021	Annual Technical Workshop (ATW) for Project Management and Performance Review
August 2021	AFoCO Develops E-learning Course on Forest Fire Management
25 October 2021	2021 Annual Thematic Dialogue
26-27 October 2021	Fifth Session of the Assembly of AFoCO
30 November 2021	Intervention at the Korea-Central Asia Cooperation Forum

26-29 APRIL 2021

# 16th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF16)

AFoCO attended the 16th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), which was held virtually from 26 to 29 April 2021. The forum was also the first official engagement of AFoCO in international processes under the United Nations since its Permanent Observer status was approved by the United Nations General Assembly in 2020.

Acknowledging that the COVID-19 pandemic has undermined decades of unremitting efforts towards sustainable development, AFoCO highlighted the important roles of the forestry sector 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 Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) in AFoCO member parties.

AFoCO's Executive Director, Mr. Ricardo L. Calderon, stressed that AFoCO's mandate and program portfolio are highly relevant and aligned with the achievement of Global Forest Goals of the UNSPF, which is manifested in its strategic priority areas, 50 ongoing and completed country-specific and regional projects, and various capacity building programs. He further introduced a new transformative partnership platform — Landscape Partnership Asia — which aims to restore 10 million hectares of drylands and drought-prone areas in southeast, south, east and central Asia by 2032.

"Through the LPA, AFoCO, together with its founding partners CIFOR-ICRAF and the Global EverGreening Alliance, expects to build robust partnerships among governments as well as technical, implementing, funding, and community partners; more efficiently mobilize financial, human and technical resources to achieve transformational change within landscapes; and deploy proven scalable solutions," noted Mr. Calderon.

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.

Mr. Calderon noted that "the submission of the voluntary national reporting (of the UNFF) is very important to track the progress and achievement of the UNSPF and its contribution to sustainable development goal." Noting the needs and opportunities in enhancing the work of the forum in monitoring, assessment, and reporting of the progress on the implementation of the UNSPF, Mr. Calderon emphasized AFoCO's willingness to work with and be part of the Forum and the network of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) to help enhance coordination and coherence on forest-related issues at the regional level.

The side event discussed ways to improve the implementation of the GFGs, by streamlining forest-related reporting and developing a methodology for measuring performance, inviting country partners (Australia, Republic of Korea, Indonesia, and Thailand) and the CPF members (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.



1 Mr. Jin Sunpil, Vice Executive Director delivering a presentation on the Progress of AFoCO countries on the UNSPF implementation and its contributions to the attainment of GFGs at the Side Event  
 2 (Top row) AFoCO Secretariat; Dr. Jürgen Blaser, Head of International Forestry Research Group, Bern University of Applied Science; Mr. Sapol Boonsermsuk, Forestry Foreign Affairs Office, Royal Forest Department, Thailand  
 (Middle row) Dr. Kim Raehyun, Senior Researcher of NIFoS; Mr. Tomasz Juszcak, Forest Affairs Officer, UNFF Secretariat; Mr. Jesse Mahoney, Director, International Forest Policy, Agvet Chemicals, Fisheries, Forestry and Engagement Division, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Australia; Dr. Eunho Choi, Researcher of NIFoS  
 (Bottom row) Mr. Anssi Pekkarinen, Team Leader on FRA, FAO; Dr. Kim Myungkil, Director of NIFoS; Mr. Rinaldi Imanudin, Senior Scientist, Forestry and Environment Research Development and Innovation Agency, Indonesia

26-29 APRIL 2021

# AFoCO Side Event at the 2021 P4G Seoul Summit

On 18 May, AFoCO organized an official side event of the 2021 P4G Seoul Summit entitled **“Forest-based Solution - A Green Path to Building Back Better”**. The event attracted more than 100 participants.

Through a video message, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, President and Chair of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) / 8th Secretary-General of the UN, extended warm congratulations and encouragement for the works of AFoCO. Ambassadors of Indonesia and Viet Nam, being members of both P4G and AFoCO delivered their congratulatory messages at the event.

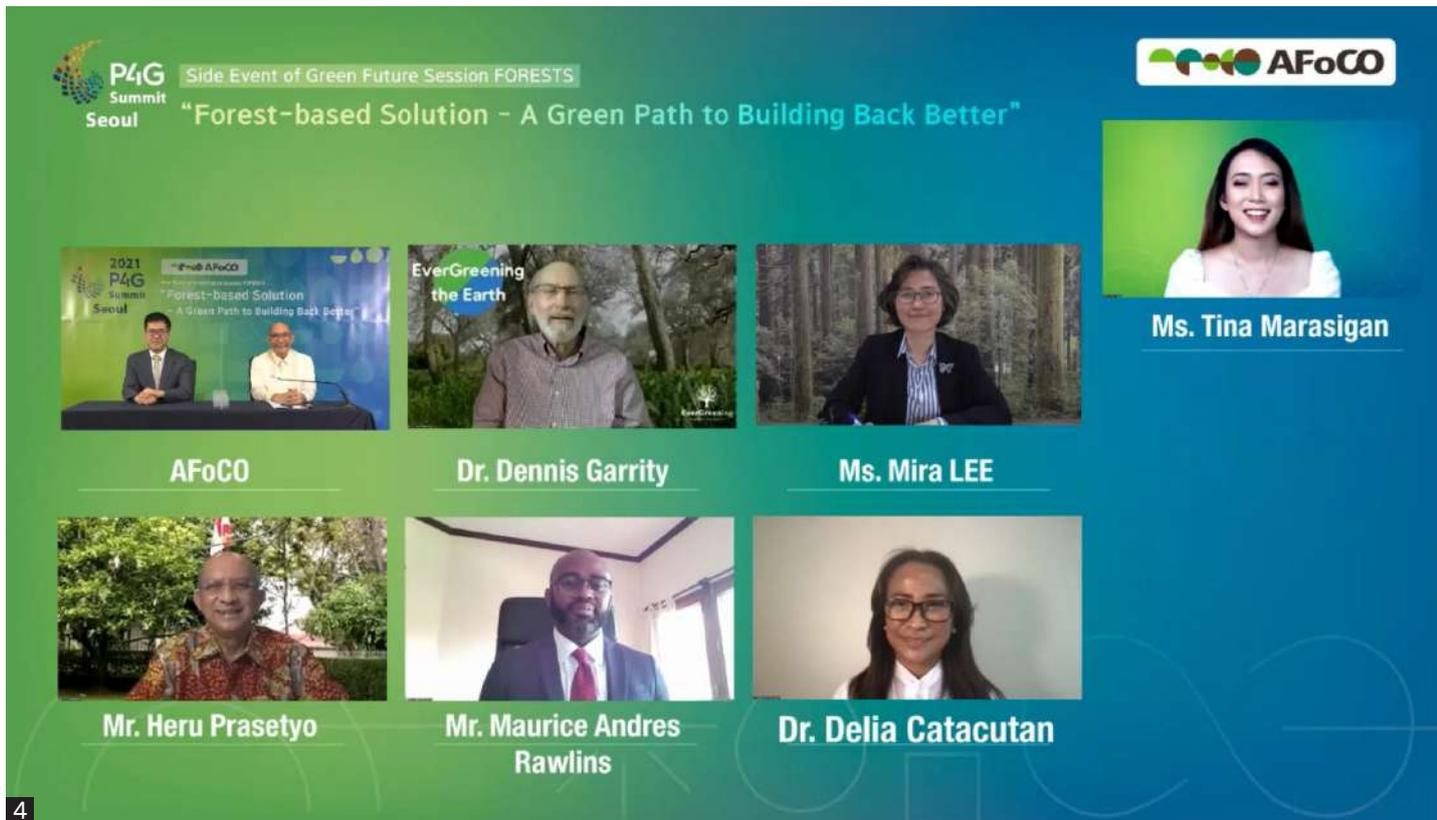


- 1 Mr. Ban Ki-Moon (President and Chairperson of GGGI, 8th Secretary-General of UN)
- 2 H.E. Mr. Umar Hadi (Ambassador of Indonesia)
- 3 H.E. Mr. Nguyen Vu Tung (Ambassador of Viet Nam)

In his keynote speech, Dr. Dennis Garrity, UNCCD Drylands Ambassador, extended optimistic views and opportunities where **“forests”** can contribute substantially to the climate crisis as a nature-based solution.

AFoCO with its partners explored the role of forests in contributing to the global net-zero emission ambition through a panel discussion and provide an opportunity for state and private sector leaders to better understand the mitigation potential of the global forests and promote investments in the forest sector.

Ms. Lee Mira, Director General of the Forest Policy Bureau of the Korea Forest Service share the newly launched carbon neutrality policy in Korea and highlighted that public participation will be the key in achieving the goals.



4 Introduction of speakers by MC Ms. Tina Marasigan

Mr. Heru Prasetyo, Chairperson of Indonesia Business Links, delivered perspectives from the private sector. He emphasized there is “no silver bullet for green recovery particularly on conservation and restoration businesses, there is a need for clarity on carbon and ecosystems services and valuation and governance, balancing national and global needs for emission reduction credits.” There is a need to incorporate externalities on nature, human and social capital vs. revenue in order to ensure sustainability.

Dr. Delia Catacutan, Senior Scientist and Regional Coordinator of the Southeast Asia Program of the World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF) noted that in order to enhance private-public partnerships and investments, finance rules, procedures and requirements has to find a good balance of safeguards and simplicity. It also requires government pro-restoration policies and a well-defined natural accounting policy and sustained fiscal investments.

The Side Event soft-launched the Landscape Partnership Asia (LPA) with its founding partners, Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO), Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (together: CIFOR-ICRAF), and Global EverGreening Alliance (GEA). Mr. Jin Sunpil, Vice Executive Director of AFoCO opened the soft launch, which also kick started a series of events and workshops before the grand launch of the LPA slated at the coming XV World Forestry Congress to be held in 2022. Starting off with a video introduction of the LPA, Dr. Robert Nasi, Managing Director of CIFOR-ICRAF and Ms. Maaik Slotema of GEA had a high-spirited discourse on the challenges of restoring drylands restoration as well as the opportunities that the LPA will be capitalizing on.

Mr. Chris Armitage, CEO of the GEA called for support for the LPA. The LPA website was also launched at the event.



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7

- 5 Mr. Chris Armitage (CEO of Global EverGreening Alliance)
- 6 Dr. Robert Nasi (Managing Director of CIFOR-ICRAF) and Ms. Maaikje Slotema (Grants Acquisition Portfolio Manager at Global EverGreening Alliance)
- 7 Launch of LPA landing site

## About Landscape Partnership Asia

Founded by AFoCO, the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF), and the Global EverGreening Alliance, Landscape Partnership Asia (LPA) is an evolving, multi-stakeholder platform that seeks to implement performance-based investments in restoring Asian drylands and drought-prone areas. Investments will mitigate the climate crisis, build agricultural and environmental resilience, and improve livelihoods through various people-centered solutions such as institutional capacity building, farmer-managed and assisted natural regeneration, and small-to-medium enterprise and value chain development.

29 MAY 2021

# Intervention at the P4G Green Future Session on Forests

AFoCO was engaged during P4G (Pioneering Green Partnerships) Seoul summit on May 29th, 2021 with the session on “Forest for Global Net-Zero and Peace”. AFoCO was represented by Executive Director Mr. Ricardo L. Calderon at a panel discussion on “Forestry Policies and Businesses implemented by Government and Institutes”. Mr. Calderon highlighted AFoCO’s role in serving as a platform for the exchange of expertise and technical cooperation through regional and country projects; building capacities through the AFoCO Regional Education and Training Center (RETc); facilitating member parties access to funding to support forestry objectives; and increasing coordination through regional and international mechanisms.

Mr. Calderon further elaborated that AFoCO, as a formal intergovernmental development organization, will continue to provide the bridge to enhance cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination among member parties and partner institutions on the management of forests for the sustainable production of economic goods and ecosystem services, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation in order to achieve sustainable development.

LPA was also cited as an example of how AFoCO is expanding its partnerships beyond the forest sector. AFoCO is working with the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF) and the Global Evergreening Alliance to restore ten million hectares of drylands and drought-prone areas.



1 Panel discussion  
2 AFoCO Executive Director, Mr. Ricardo Calderon talking about the roles of AFoCO



23-24 JUNE 2021

# Annual Technical Workshop (ATW) for Project Management and Performance Review



Group photo taken during the ATW

To provide a venue for discussions on project implementation progress, issues and concerns and share good practices on project management and achievement of outputs, the Secretariat organized the “Annual Technical Workshop (ATW) for Project Management and Performance Review” in two sessions on 23 and 24 June 2021.

The workshop aimed to revisit the current year’s achievements, reflect and share lessons learned from each project, successful cases/practices, and explore opportunities for project development (potential in-country or regional projects) among Implementing Agencies (IAs). The workshop also presented the indicative work plan/framework relative to medium and long-term AFoCO project portfolio and project management profile.

At the workshop, the National Focal Points of AFoCO, IAs, and respective project teams from 17 ongoing projects, including five projects under inception arrangements, shared valuable experiences and lessons learned from project implementation.

AUGUST 2021

# AFoCO E-learning Course on Forest Fire Management

Over the past year, AFoCO has been working with the World Bank and the Korea Forest Service to produce three e-learning modules on forest fire management. The three video clips of about 12-14 minutes each cover the fundamentals and basic principles of forest fire management, approaches used in managing forest fires, and technologies applied in monitoring and managing forest fires.

## Module 1

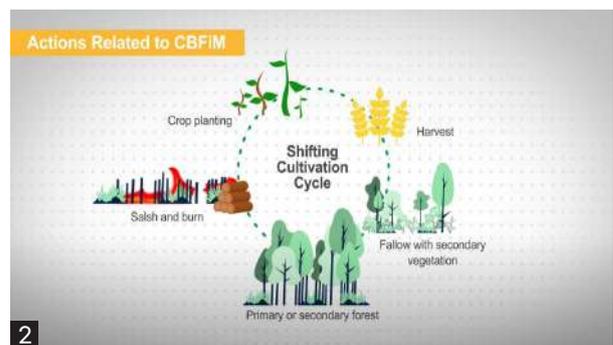
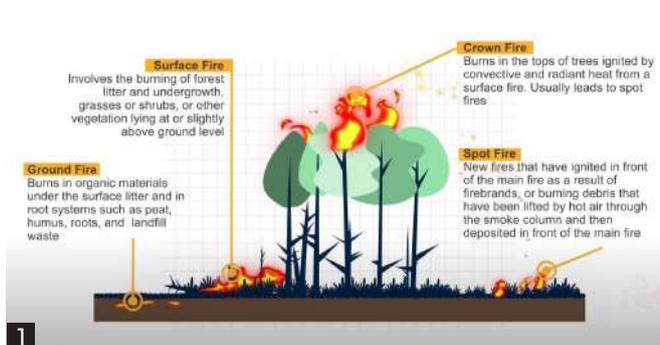
Fundamentals of Forest Fire Management provides a basic understanding of forest fire behavior, safety and prevention, and forest fire suppression.

## Module 2

Forest Fire Management Approaches provides information on the basic approaches to fire management. Depending on the situation, forest fire management authorities can handle forest fires using proven techniques or through community participation. In certain circumstances, the choice is to either suppress fires or let them burn.

## Module 3

Technology for Forest Fire Management used in the Republic of Korea discusses the application of advanced technologies in forest fire management, with a focus on the Republic of Korea. This module introduces the National Fire Danger Rating System, helicopter operations, mechanized fire suppression systems, as well as the utilization of big data for forest fire danger forecasting. The modules may be accessed online via the Open Learning Campus (OLC) of the World Bank. All three modules have been also been uploaded on the AFoCO YouTube Channel.



1,2,3 Snapshots from the e-learning course

25 OCTOBER 2021

# 2021 Annual Thematic Dialogue – Roles of AFoCO in Unleashing the Full Potential of Forests

For AFoCO to stay relevant, it is imperative to have continuous dialogues and engagement with diverse stakeholders to gather collective interest of member parties and partners which is to ultimately shoulder regional and global responsibilities with regard to forests and its associations.

AFoCO launched its first Annual Thematic Dialogue under the theme **“Roles of AFoCO in unleashing the full potential of Forests”** on October 25, 2021. The Dialogue was organized in hybrid mode (online and offline) to meet Paris climate goals and building back better and greener from COVID-19”. The objective of the dialogue was mainly to: i) explore and discuss the potential roles of Asian forests and forest sector in global action on climate change and COVID-19 recovery, ii) collectively identify and prioritize actions to be delivered through AFoCO to make Asian forests more responsive to global call for actions and iii) to showcase best practices and future directions of AFoCO to potential partners to prepare the ground for cooperative

activities. During the session, a postdialogue action plan from the previous year’s thematic dialogue was briefly shared. The plan mainly targeted the expansion of networks, enhancement of policy decision support, and mobilization of financial resources in line with strategic priorities, and harnessing investment from private and public sectors to develop capacities at all levels.

A study was presented by CIFOR/FTA, on enhancing the resilience of Asian forests and trees to climate change, specifically deliberating on need for adaptation through planting, agroforestry, capacity development, cooperation and knowledge sharing and how AFoCO can contribute in this context. RECOFTC explained on why forests matters in post COVID-19 recovery through a study conducted over the span of 2020-2021 in seven countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam, involving 435 people and 14 Community Forests (CFs). The study highlighted the benefits of CFs in terms of providing sustenance and financial gains in times of the pandemic, while strengthening the resilience of communities and improving livelihoods. The study provides lessons on the expansion of CFs, as well as improving community engagement, training and social protection.





1,2,3 Photos taken during the panel discussion

The results of an external assessment of seven AFoCO regional projects were shared at the Dialogue. The assessment highlighted important lessons learned and provided recommendations such as taking into consideration the larger landscape approach in the future to help reverse land degradation, continuing the application of advanced technologies and considering an applied research component wherever possible.

AFoCO presented on its engagement in United Nation Forum on Forest 16th (UNFF16) (held virtually from April 26-29, 2021). The role AFoCO that can play in the implementation and monitoring of United Nation Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) as well as in supporting national reporting and complementing the assessment of GFGs in member countries was also discussed. The dialogue also noted that AFoCO can share experiences and efforts in developing national reports and possible methodologies and consider partnerships to enhance national or corresponding agencies' systems to track and report on progress of GFGs, including tools to improve disaggregated data and information.

26-27 OCTOBER 2021

# Fifth Session of the Assembly of AFoCO



The Fifth session of the Assembly of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) as an annual event was held in hybrid mode from 26-27th Oct, 2021. The Assembly was attended by Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Republic of Korea (ROK), Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam as Parties, and Singapore as an Observer and the Secretariat. Parties and Observers are collectively referred to as the Member Countries. Unlike previous 4th session, in this session fortunately some member country's representative was able to join in person inspite of the pandemic.

The Assembly began with the remarks from the President of the Assembly, Mr. Lobzang Dorji, followed by the Minister of the Korea Forest Service, Mr. Choi Byeong-Am. Then the Parties and Observers were invited to make a county statement, particularly on the impact of COVID-19 in the forest sector in each country. While each country was differently situated and unevenly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, most countries were able to cope with the impacts relatively well.

The Secretariat briefed on the update on the entry-into-force of the Headquarters Agreement between the ROK and AFoCO on the list of Parties and Observers. The Assembly further noted the immunities and privileges conferred to AFoCO as a full-fledged treaty-based multilateral organization and appreciated the support of the Host Country, the ROK. The Assembly was informed of an intention of the Government of Kyrgyz Republic to be a Party to AFoCO, and further took note of the acknowledgment from the Parties. Furthermore, the Secretariat is in consideration of expanding membership, especially with five Central Asian countries which is in consideration.

During the assembly, updates on the ongoing programs/projects and evaluation of completed projects were presented. The Assembly took note of the new and potential projects and programs being developed, including the ASEAN-ROK Garden and the ones targeting collaboration with the World Bank, as well as potential funding opportunities under the International Climate Initiative (IKI), the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030 (P4G), among others.



The Assembly welcomed the development of the Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) Guidelines and the proposed plan for pretesting. The Assembly also authorized the Secretariat to facilitate the necessary actions on project development according to the indicative project development timeline. The Assembly was updated on the ongoing capacity-building activities, including the development of Capacity Building Roadmap, the establishment of the AFoCO Experimental Forest, and High-level Workshop on Forest-related Disasters and Impacts of Climate Change in 2022. The Secretariat also shared a summary and highlights from the training programs, scholarship program, and fellowship program conducted and operated in 2021. The assembly approved two new project which are in Lao PDR and Timor-Leste.

The Assembly welcomed and appreciated the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the ROK, in coordination with the Korea Forest Service, for the participation of AFoCO in the 14th Korea-Central Asia Cooperation Forum, particularly on the arrangement of the thematic session on forest and climate change.



2  
 1 Briefing on the agenda of the Assembly  
 2 Opening statements by Representatives of AFoCO member countries



The Assembly was informed that the 15th Session of the World Forestry Congress (XV WFC) will be organized in Seoul, ROK with new dates from 2 to 6 May 2022. Recognizing the strategic relevance of the XV WFC for AFoCO, the Assembly endorsed the engagement plan of AFoCO and further tasked the Secretariat to implement the plan in close coordination with the Parties.

The Assembly was updated with regard to resource mobilization activities in 2020-2021 and the Secretariat was asked to further the efforts to develop other sources of funds to fully finance the approved budget and make the operations sustainable. The Assembly considered a proposal of the Secretariat to develop a private sector partnership to promote cooperation between AFoCO and the private sector entities and noted that the proposal should be considered in the context of the discussion on Promotion and Enhancement of Partnership.

The Secretariat introduced a plan on the engagement of Project Coordinators and operation of AFoCO Country/Regional Offices with the clarifications that the country and regional presence of AFoCO will be implemented on a phased and need-based approach. The Assembly was also informed on the plan and timeline for the preparation and development of the next term's organizational strategy, tentatively titled as "Strategic Plan 2024-2030". The assembly concluded by electing Republic of Union of Myanmar as President and Cambodia as Vice President for successive year.

3



3 AFoCO representatives with delegates from member countries (Left to right) Ms. Kim Jimyung (Program Officer for Governance and Assembly), Mr. Jin Sunpil (AFoCO Vice Executive Director), Mr. Ricardo L. Calderon (AFoCO Executive Director), Mr. Hang Suntra (Representative of Cambodia, Deputy Director General, Forestry Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries), Mr. Nurpeisov Madi Nauanovich, Head of the Department of Forest Management Committee for Forestry and Wildlife of Kazakhstan), Dr. Park Eunsik (Director General, International Affairs Bureau, Korea Forest Service)



30 NOVEMBER 2021

# Intervention at the Korea-Central Asia Cooperation Forum

AFoCO joined the 14th Korea-Central Asia Cooperation Forum's Forest Session held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on November 30, 2021.

With drylands occupying a significant proportion of its total land area, Central Asia is facing the challenges of desertification. Land degradation caused by illegal logging and abandonment of arable land, and grazing land also remains a concern in the region. Infrequent rainfall and water scarcity increases the soil erosion risks and intensifies the drivers of land degradation. Recognizing these issues, AFoCO highlighted its potential in international cooperation for restoration and afforestation, livelihood improvement for local communities as well as capacity building and knowledge sharing. AFoCO announced that it will continue to serve as a bridge linking member countries and partner organizations with global goals.

The AFoCO delegation also took the chance to visit the regional and country offices of German Agency of International Cooperation (GIZ), Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), and the UN World Food Programme (WFP) to explore partnership opportunities in the region.



AFoCO delegates with high level officials at the AFoCO-Central Asia Dialogue, which was organized as a side event under the Forum

# 02

## CAPACITY BUILDING

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## **2.1 AFoCO RETC**

## **2.2 TRAINING COURSES**

2.2.1 Regular Training Courses

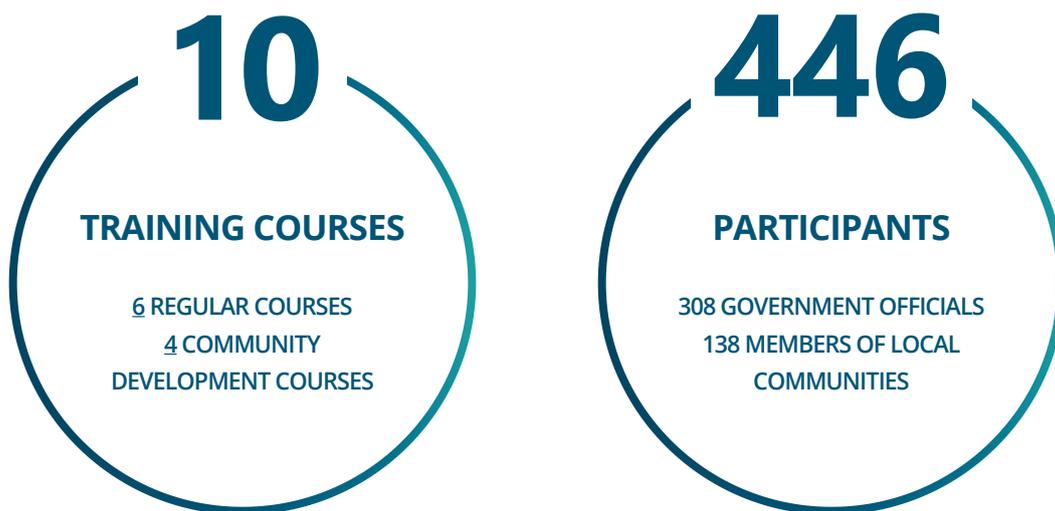
2.2.2 Community Development Training Courses

2.2.3 Other Training & Workshops

## **2.3 AFoCO LANDMARK SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

## **2.4 AFoCO FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

## 2.1 AFoCO RETC



\*1,922 Participant days in total

AFoCO is committed to offering quality training courses that develop the capacities of member countries to deal with pressing forestry and environmental issues such as deforestation, forest degradation, and climate change. The AFoCO Regional Education and Training Center (RETC) was established as a subsidiary organ of AFoCO to develop the capacities of member countries to deal with forestry and related environmental issues. The RETC also represents the project outcome of Component 1 of the Landmark Program. Training courses and workshops are conducted regularly for government officials from member countries, university students, and members of local communities.

As the capacity building arm of AFoCO, the RETC aims to

- educate and develop leaders to practice good governance in the forestry sector;
- provide practical and problem-solving oriented education programs to improve and promote sustainable forest management;
- enhance knowledge and practices to promote sustainable livelihoods for forest-dependent communities, and;
- serve as a hub for meaningful discourses and the implementation of customized forest restoration and rehabilitation models in Asia.

Ten training and education programs were organized in 2021. Policy briefs were developed for each regular course, where the fundamental causes of each problem is assessed to propose strategies for AFoCO and participants to address forest-related issues and reach goals in the long term.

<b>REGULAR COURSES*</b>	<b>22-26 Mar.</b>	Project Development and Project Proposal Writing
	<b>3-7 May</b>	Forest-based Climate Change Adaptation and Practices
	<b>31 May – 4 Jun.</b>	Community-based Forest Enterprise Development
	<b>19-23 Jul.</b>	Payments for Ecosystem Services: how PES serves as a new financial instrument in UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021 – 2030
	<b>30 Aug. – 3 Sep.</b>	Forest Landscape Restoration in the Asia-Pacific Region
	<b>1-5 Nov.</b>	Forest Fire Management Information System
<b>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COURSES</b>	<b>22-23 Sep. 27-28 Oct. 15-17 Dec.</b>	Community Livelihood Improvement through Seedling Production (Cambodia)
	<b>28-29 Oct. 3-4 Nov.</b>	Enhancing Community Capacity in Forest Plantation under FSC Standards in Bac Quang district, Ha Giang Province (Viet Nam)
	<b>23-26 Nov.</b>	Training on Bamboo Product Development and Marketing (Philippines)
	<b>7-9 Dec.</b>	Community-based Fire and Water Management (Myanmar)

\*All regular courses were conducted virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions.



Forest-based Climate Change Adaptation and Practices

3-7 May, 2021 (Virtual)

Climate change is a global phenomenon that has significant impacts on the ecological system. 45 government officials and forestry experts in climate change adaptation and related work from 12 member countries have participated in “Forest-based Climate Change Adaptation and Practices (FBCCA)”. Participants echoed the importance of agroforestry, disaster risk management, community-based fire and water management, and urban forestry in adapting to climate change. These nature-based solutions can actively respond to the global call to increase awareness of forestbased climate change adaptation and its impacts among policymakers in the forest and forestry sectors.

The regular training on “Forest-based Climate Change Adaptation and Practices” (FBCCA) was conducted online from 3 to 7 May 2021. AFoCO welcomed 45 government officials and forestry experts in climate change adaptation and related work from 12 member countries. Speakers from Chiang Mai University, Kasetsart University, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), National Parks Board of Singapore, and the Oscar M. Lopez Center of the Philippines were invited to share knowledge and insights on climate change adaptation. The speakers shared knowledge and insight on forest-based climate change adaptation, REDD+, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilient genetic resource management, climate resilient urban forestry and innovative technologies, climate change and disaster risk management, community-based fire and water management, national strategy and implementation to forest-based climate change adaptation, and climate change and sustainable development goals (SDGs) in post Covid-19.

AFoCO’s Executive Director Mr. Ricardo L. Calderon encouraged participants to take collective action to adopt forest-based climate change adaptation practices, which he noted will eventually lead member countries and others in Asia to achieve Paris Agreement. During the lecture on the National Strategy on National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), participants also emphasized the potential of AFoCO in offering capacity-building programs in NAP preparation to member countries. Such initiatives also align well with the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Deforestation is the primary cause of climate change. Accordingly, reducing deforestation and mitigating climate change are important “to move forward.” AFoCO member countries realized that FBCCA measures would help increase forest cover and forest carbon stocks by adopting and promoting nature-based solutions such as agroforestry, increasing the forest and landscape restoration initiatives and campaigns, and managing the forests in a sustainable way. To strengthen the effective implementation of FBCCA, mainstreaming adaptation actions into the mitigation projects/programs, making funding sources available, acknowledging FBCCA as a part of SFM and accelerating its implementation, developing the awareness on FBCCA, and strengthening the intersectoral networking and coordination between the forestry sector and other relevant industries/ organizations were suggested.



1,2 Group photos taken with the participants



3 (Left) Prof. Suree Lakanavichian (Chiang Mai National University, Thailand) shared insight on REDD+ under adaptation; (right) Mr. Hassan Ibrahim (NParks, Singapore) introduced nature -based solutions applied in an urban setting

Six participants from the Philippines who attended the Project Development and Proposal Writing Training held in March 2021 subsequently conducted a roll-out session with 200 regional and field officers in the Philippines. As much as the RETC regular training is targeted to investigate and explore future AFoCO projects, it is expected that these voluntary follow-up actions will play an important role in developing capacities in member countries.

## Community-based Forest Enterprise Development

31 May to 4 June, 2021 (Virtual)

Community forestry can help in securing livelihoods and the development of community-based forest enterprises (CBFE) is recognized as a way of improving the market access to forest products and generating additional income. Despite the opportunities that community forestry present, there are certain challenges and difficulties in establishing sustainable enterprises in the forests and forestry sector, including in urban-/peri-urban forests where people are densely living around. One of the challenges is about scaling up of the community forestry; wherein there are many questions to make community forests economically viable. Rural community makes up today is rapidly changing, either due to economic pressure driving people to unsustainable use of forest resources or pushing them out from forest-based livelihoods to cities for alternative labor opportunities. Building up an entrepreneurial mindset at the local and community level is still limited in the region.

To provide a platform for collective efforts to address the lack of knowledge and skills, AFoCO RETC and The Center for People and Forest jointly organized the Training of Trainers for CBFE in 2019. Based on the training module, the CBFE development (CBFED) training in 2021 was conducted virtually with local entrepreneurs, project managers, governmental officials, and financial enablers to listen to explore the CBFED's practical applications.

The course aimed to provide participants with in-depth knowledge of the policies and practical strategies for planning and encouraging community-based enterprise development in the forests and forestry sector. Participants learned how to address practical and sustainable solutions by sharing practical cases and experiences of the Asian region. The training outputs were utilized as the baseline information for the project concept note development.

Four CBFED practices were introduced by various fields covering the current trends and cross-cutting practices reflecting general concepts and methodologies. The sessions were split into an extensive introduction of CBFED and sustainable approach, characteristics of CBFED, and CBFED Practices. CBFED Practices are again divided into four sessions — Biodiversity Friendly Enterprise of the Philippines, Local Entrepreneurship: a voice from a young forester of the ROK, Locally Controlled Forest Enterprise by Small-holder Group Certification Scheme, and CBFED for Carbon Offset.

The viability of CBFE can be efficiently strengthened when stakeholders are effectively engaged with supportive legislatives. To achieve the goal of CBFED for AFoCO Member Countries, the following interventions were recommended:

1. Activate discussions among relevant stakeholders to enhance CBFED knowledge and find the proper solutions for its growth and progress.
2. Develop innovative public-private/buyer-supplier partnerships which are mutually beneficial in the long term.
3. Enhance cooperation between the government and other relevant institutions to smooth CBFE procedures.
4. Strengthen the business skills of the local community via capacity-building programs and other institutional support.
5. Build good governance, sound transparency, and equitable benefit sharing into the internal CF body to strengthen management regimes in the long run.

**Payments for Ecosystem Services: How PES services as a financial instrument or mechanism in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030**

19-23 July, 2021 (Virtual)

PES is a type of market-based incentive system offered to farmers or landowners in exchange for managing their land to provide ecological services to society or end-users. Under the “UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030”, PES has been recognized as a new financial instrument and is considered and implemented as part of nature-based solutions under the Sendai Resilience Framework. PES is contributing to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. It is also an innovative financing modality for forest conservation, restoration, and sustainable use to address deforestation. PES restoration of damaged ecosystems contributes to securing food, water, and biodiversity.

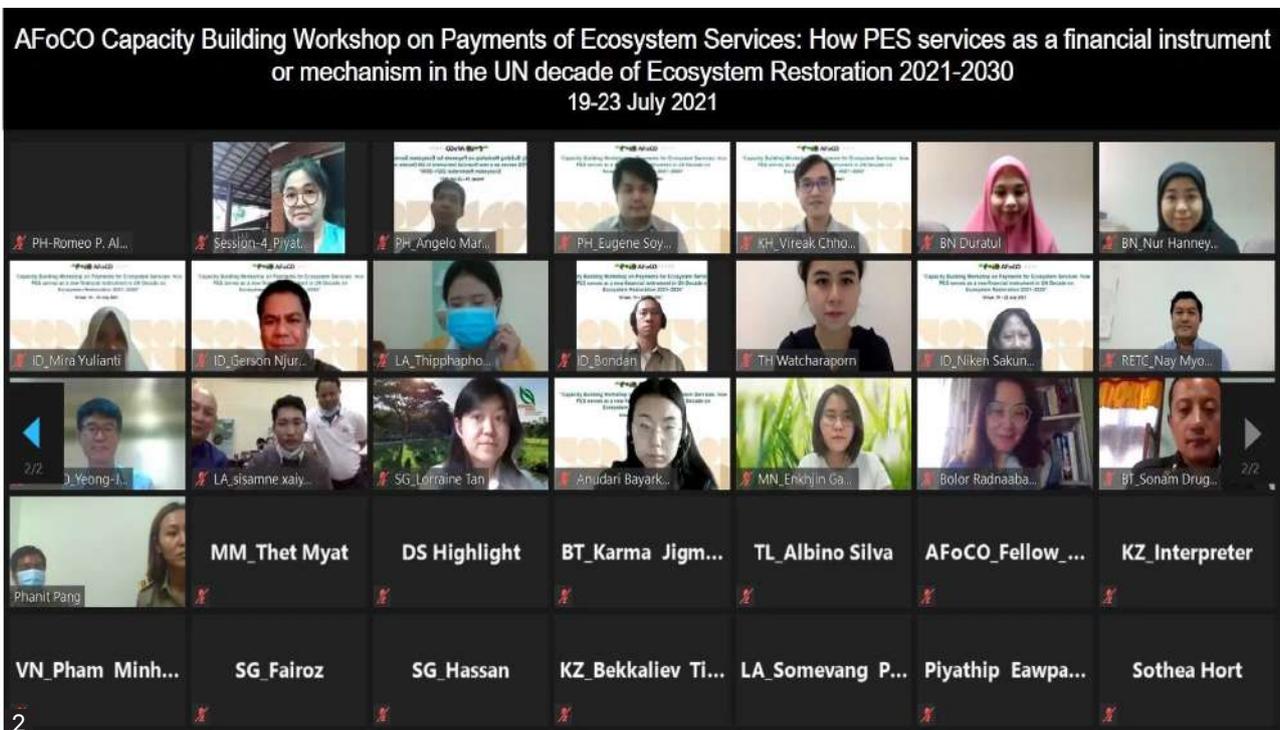
The capacity building workshop on “How Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) services as a financial instrument or mechanism in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030” had more than 80 government officials and experts from all 15 AFoCO member countries; the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), and the National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS) of the Republic of Korea. This course aimed to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of PES for practical strategies in planning and encouraging projects/programs for PES in the forests and forestry sector.

Eight sessions were provided in the training by various experts. Four PES practices covered the current trends and cross-cutting practices reflecting general concepts and methodologies. Other sessions covered the country report, PES’s role in livelihood of forest and climate change & pandemic, and the role of institutional work for payments for ecosystem services. During the workshop, participants were encouraged to share their knowledge of PES implementation at the country level. CIFOR researchers shared their global and regional analytical views on PES with two lectures on its institutional roles and financial instruments. This has boosted landscape restoration initiatives under climate change and pandemic recovery. At the final session, all member countries presented country action plans on addressing gaps and challenges in implementing PES.



This workshop acted as a stepping stone for further assessment and development before planning AFoCO's PES initiative at the regional level. PES schemes can be a viable financial mechanism with strong political support, effective governance systems, and adequate administrative and institutional capacity in the future. Moving forwards, the following interventions were recommended:

1. Mainstream PES in national planning and financial decision-making ensures political advocacy and high-level commitment.
2. Build trust among the stakeholders and involve them in decision-making.
3. Promote local communities' interests and active participation through all-inclusive policies framed by equitable stewardship and benefit-sharing.
4. Strengthen the necessary capacities of institutions to enable them to establish PES schemes.
5. Develop a platform for sharing lessons and success stories of national, regional, or global PES.



1.2 Group photos taken with participants

Forest landscape restoration (FLR) is an inclusive and integrated landscape approach that can help address the need to restore degraded forests and landscapes, conserve biodiversity, increase carbon sinks, and create sustainable livelihoods for local communities.

Acknowledging the need to enhance restoration initiatives and to contribute to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, AFoCO and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) jointly organized a virtual workshop on “Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) in the Asia-Pacific Region” from 30 August to 3 September 2021. FLR is an inclusive and integrated landscape approach that can help address the need to restore degraded forests and landscapes, conserve biodiversity, increase carbon sinks, and create sustainable livelihoods for local communities. A total of ninety-two participants from fifteen countries and various organizations have participated. Organizations include the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF), Green Climate Fund (GCF), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), and The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC).

AFoCO’s Executive Director highlighted that the challenge at the landscape level is striking a balance among land uses to sustainably manage landscapes to ensure sustainable and continuous flows of economic goods and ecosystem services. He also added that exchanging technical expertise and relevant experiences between partners should be encouraged. In the meanwhile, the Officer-in-Charge of the ITTO stressed that the more than 9 million hectares of degraded forests in the tropics need to be restored and maintained to ensure resilience in the face of climate change. He also highly appreciated the partnership between the ITTO and AFoCO because it promoted sustainable forest management.

Participants built the capacities in implementing FLR actions by understanding the six FLR principles and the ITTO’s Guidelines on FLR in the Tropics. There were ten sessions to facilitate this, consisting of four keynote presentations on the global discourses on forest restoration and rehabilitation six lectures about the main pillars of FLR. The outputs of this workshop have contributed to future project development on integrated forest and ecosystem restoration initiatives at the national and subnational levels.

Participants also suggested ways to ‘move forward’ based on workshop discussions. There was a consensus to organize workshops at regular intervals (at least four times annually). This will be beneficial for FLR policymakers/practitioners and help FLR to achieve the global targets in time. Additionally, enlarging the number of regional FLR practitioners in capacity building to prepare good proposals for financing FLR projects were recommended. The preparation of case studies of good quality FLR interventions from across the region would also be beneficial.



1 Participants with Mr. Steven Johnson, Officer-in-Charge of ITTO Secretariat; Mr. Lobzang Dorji, Director General of Department of Forest and Park Services; and Mr. Cheang Dany, Deputy Director General of Forestry Administration of Cambodia



2 Participants with Mr. Ricardo L. Calderon, Executive Director of AFoCO Secretariat and Dr. Michael Klein, Deputy Executive Director of IUFRO, Mr. Saidzoda Madibron Ikrom, Head of the Forestry Agency under the Government of Tajikistan, Mr. Nury Atamyradov, Head of National Institute of Deserts, Flora and Fauna under the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection of Turkmenistan, Dr. Ma Hwan-ok, Project Manager of ITTO

Forest fires are the uncontrolled and unprecedented burning of plants in an explosive area due to the physical, biological, ecological, and environmental consequences of anthropogenic activities. Generally, the majority of forest fires are incited by anthropogenic activities driven by demographic pressure, the expansion of agricultural land, and the conversion of forest land into other land uses.

Despite its beneficial effects on some ecosystems, such as forest rejuvenation for some species, forest fire creates a risk to people, wildlife, and property. It causes the drastic deterioration of the environment in most cases. In 2020, devastated Australian bushfires, also called forest fire or wildfire, burnt an estimated 18.6 million hectares, destroyed over 5,900 buildings, and caused the death of at least 39 people. In the northern summer of 2021, damaging fires had occurred in the USA and Canada, Turkey, Greece, southern Italy, the Arctic Circle, and South America.

A total of 8 lectures were led by experts from various organizations. The sessions introduced the concept of forest fire in the ecosystem, root causes of a disastrous fire, fire dependence, adaptation of plants and animals, and fire history. During the workshop, the Vice Executive Director of the AFoCO Secretariat stressed how the advanced techniques can be embedded in sustainable forest management. He further emphasized that it is necessary to think about how to systemically and technically listen to the voice of vulnerable communities that cannot reach out to the global society. Another lecturer emphasized that FFMS and fire prevention play important roles in decision-making processes. Therefore, understanding the behaviors of people who use fire as a tool is essential to make fire prevention procedures, campaigns, and participatory approaches more efficient and effective. Additionally, feasible and possible alternative income options should be provided to encourage communities to engage in fire prevention activities.

Fire Management Consultant at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN stated that this training provides an opportunity to meet other fire management professionals and continue those relationships beyond this course. The outputs of this training have contributed to future project development on forest fire management at the national, sub-national, and regional levels, and form a part of baseline information to be discussed at the "High-Level Workshop on Forest-related Disaster Management and Impacts of Climate Change" slated in 2022.

The frequency of wildfire occurrences may possibly increase due to climate change and hence, a joint global response is required. Based on the training discussions, the following interventions were recommended:

1. Develop an effective management system to minimize damage from fire and smoke haze.
2. Network to share knowledge, find solutions in FFMS and study more on fire, smoke haze behaviors.
3. Deliver scientific information to policy(decision)makers with an easier communication schema.
4. Raise public awareness and inform the public about fire prevention and control.
5. Implement community-based fire management with modern and local knowledge.
6. Try to understand the nature and timing of burning and find local/regional solutions.
7. Try to approach human behaviors underlined in causes of forest fire, considering underlying socio-economic and conflict factors.
8. Strengthen all regional/international cooperation to solve problems of fire and smoke haze.



1,2 Group photos taken with participants

## 2.2.2 Community Development Training Courses

### Community Livelihood Improvement through Seedlings Production

22-23 September, 27-28 October, and 15-17 December, 2021, Cambodia

In 2021, the Forestry Administration of (FA) of Cambodia received financial support from AFoCO to organize an in-country community development training on “Community Livelihood Improvement through Seedling Production” for a forest community — Veal Okdey Forest Community — in Kampong Thom Province. The training is expected to provide the forest-based community with opportunities to improve their livelihoods while ensuring the sustainable utilization of forest resources through seedling production. This would allow the community to produce fruit tree seedlings for private plantations, wood tree seedlings for community forest restoration and rehabilitation, and an assortment of seedlings for small-scale businesses.

Carried out in three separate sessions — the first session provides the target community with the necessary skills to establish small-scale tree nursery and collect their desired seeds productively; the second session imparts knowledge on the germination and collection of seeds; and the third session teaches participants how to plant seedlings properly and care for saplings effectively.

#### 1st Session on Small-scale Nursery Establishment

On September 22-23, 2021, the first session on small-scale nursery establishment and seeds selection, collection, and maintenance (storage) was carried out at the target site. The two-day training consists of theoretical training on small-scale tree nursery establishment and the selection, collection, and maintenance of seeds and field observation and practices. The two topics delivered and discussed in the session include:

##### 1. Small-scale tree nursery establishment (STNE)

This topic focuses on 5 main areas including the purpose of the STNE, types, and infrastructure of the small-scale tree nursery, necessary nursery equipment and materials, media compositions and treatment, and safety while nursery establishment.

##### 2. Seed selection, collection, and maintaining (SSCM)

This topic focuses on 6 areas including the selection of location and characteristics of mother trees, methods and times for seed collection, seeds processing, protection, transportation, and storage, precautions and safety when conducting the seeds collection, and biodiversity conservation and environmental protection while collecting the tree seeds.



1 Group photo taken at the start of the training



2 Group discussion to identify and select appropriate media compositions

Field observations and practices were conducted to equip participants with the appropriate skills and techniques. For field observations, the participants were organized to observe 4 different seed sources, including Beung Rong 1 (BR1) for Kranhoung species, Beung Rong 3 (BR3) for Thnong species, Chheuteal Chrum (CC) for Chheuteal species, and Thmor Samleang for fruit species (cashew and longan). During the field practices, participants were tasked to establish a small tree nursery near the training venue and to collect the necessary soil compositions for the potting media.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Session on Seed Germination

Organized from October 27 to 28, 2021, the 2nd session focused on the following two topics:

### 1. Seeds germination (treatment)

The first topic is the treatment of collected seeds, sowing seeds in seedbeds, quality of seedlings, and marketing strategies of the produced seedlings.

### 2. Transplanting germinated seedlings and caring for the seedlings

The second topic involves methods of transplanting germinated seeds into plastic pots as well as how to care for seedlings, such as watering, weeding, spacing, replacing, roots, pruning, changing plastic pots, fertilizing, and hardening control pests and diseases.

During the field practices, all the participants were organized to mix their collected soils and rice husk for a mixture before putting it into the plastic pots with a sufficient amount for three tree nursery beds. Then they were organized to germinate four local wood species — Kranhoung, Beng, Thnong, and Kokoh. More than 400 pots transplanted with germinated seedlings were arranged in the three nursery beds.

3 Group Discussion on marketing strategies

4 Forestry Administration official providing guidance on seed treatment



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Session on Planting and Maintenance

Organized from October 27 to 28, 2021, the 3<sup>rd</sup> session was organized with the participation of 14 community forest members with the focus on the following two topics:

#### 1. Planting of seedlings

The first topic involves preparation of planting ground and different planting methods.

#### 2. Care for and maintenance of saplings

The second topic covers involves maintenance of saplings, saplings protection from animals, fire prevention and fighting, weeding, and thinning.



During the field practices, all the participants were organized to plant ten wood seedlings each in their Veal Okdey community forest. As a result, 140 wood seedlings were planted, including 50 seedlings of Kranhoung, 45 seedlings of Beng, and 45 seedlings of Thnoug. The participants also practiced caring for their 15 fruit saplings through watering and creating protective frames for individual saplings to prevent animal eating, disturbance, or destruction.



To promote community participation in environmental protection and livelihood improvement, all of the participants were organized to plant fruit trees surrounding their residences and at their private plantations and plant wood trees in their community forest to restore the high degraded forest.

All training sessions were completed well with positive feedback from the participants. All participants are satisfied with gaining new knowledge through the training and show their determination to apply this knowledge and skills for saplings production to improve their livelihood and protection of their environment.

5 Planting of saplings in the community forest

6 Participants building a wooden frame to protect the saplings

## Enhancing Community Capacity in Forest Plantation under FSC Standards

28-29 October and 3-4 November, 2021, Viet Nam



Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification is widely recognized as an effective tool to promote sustainable forest management (SFM). In Viet Nam, FSC certification is being promoted as part of the government's efforts to improve forest management and reduce poverty towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). FSC certification has presented new opportunities to farmers, helping to increase selling prices and expand trade networks. One of the main challenges of achieving an FSC group certificate is a lack of technical knowledge and skills in plantations to comply with strict FSC requirements.

Aiming to enhance capacity and develop knowledge and skills on forest plantation under FSC standards among farmer groups, two training courses on enhancing community capacity in forest plantation under FSC standards were organized in Quang Minh commune, Bac Quang district, Ha Giang province, Viet Nam, in 28-29 October and 3-4 November 2021.

The training courses were financially supported by AFoCO under the framework of AFoCO RETC's Community Development Training in 2021. The Sustainable Rural Development Centre under the College of Land Management and Rural Development, Viet Nam National University of Forestry, actively led the training as the implementing agency.

Each training course was attended by 20 farmers (10 men and 10 women) from Quang Minh commune who have been involved in forest plantation management. In total, the two training courses were participated by 40 farmers. The training activities were designed to encourage the active participation of female farmers in group discussions, experience-sharing, decision-making, and in taking up leadership roles in the groups. Participants were provided with knowledge and skills on forest plantation management through training courses on FSC standards. At the end of the training, the participants are expected to be able to apply forest plantation techniques under FSC standards to their forest planting and management activities. The training was further introduced in a local news broadcast of Ha Giang province that emphasized the contribution of the training sessions to sustainable forest management in Bac Quang district, Ha Giang.



1,2 Photos taken during the training by Dr. Do Thi Huong, Director, Sustainable Rural Development Center, College of Land Management and Rural Development, Viet Nam National University of Forestry

The Training on Bamboo Product Development and Marketing aimed to enhance the development of bamboo-based livelihood/enterprises of Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM)–People’s Organizations (CBFM-POs). The training strengthened their capacities in product development and marketing while ensuring the sustainability of forest resources. Representatives from selected 36 (25 men and 11 women) CBFM-POs officers/members were from Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, and Northern Mindanao. The participants had been intending to venture into or were already engaging in bamboo-based livelihoods or enterprise.

The learning event revolved around three major subjects, which entailed extensive, comprehensive, and practical lectures on Bamboo Product Development, Bamboo Product Marketing, and the Support Mechanisms for Bamboo-based Livelihood/Enterprise. The event started off with the Philippines Bamboo Industry, followed by presentations on the Forestry Investment Road Map (FIRM), the DENR Policy on Bamboo, and updates on Philippine Bamboo Development to give an initial glimpse of the status of the bamboo industry in the country. It has set the tone and leveled the participants off on the present situation and the potentials of the industry where they play an important role therein. Thereafter, an overview on Community-Based Livelihood and Enterprise Development immediately followed, along with a lecture on Bamboo Propagation and Plantation Establishment.

This activity primarily aimed to enhance the development of bamboo-based livelihood/enterprises of CBFM-POs through strengthening their capacities on product development and marketing while ensuring the sustainability of forest resources. Specifically, the participants have learned:

1. Understanding the concepts of Community-Based Enterprise Development and Management, and the diverse practices and experiences related to bamboo-based livelihood enterprise in different regions of the country
2. Recognizing the socio-economic and environmental importance of bamboo
3. Acquiring the knowledge and skills in optimizing the utilization of bamboo and development of bamboo products to increase market accessibility, that will eventually contribute to their socio-economic well-being
4. Formulating Action and/or Market Plan to support the participants’ intent to venture into or to enhance the implementation of their existing bamboo-based livelihood/enterprise.

Various methodologies such as plenary discussions, open fora, and daily recap were also adopted to facilitate a more effective learning process and to assist in the absorption of the topics discussed. Audio-Visual Presentations were also integrated into the presentations. Lastly, in the application of the knowledge imparted by the resource speakers, the participants were tasked to create an “action plan” for their bamboo livelihood/enterprises. These plans were presented to the plenary and subjected to the critiquing of the invited resource speakers.

Community-based Fire and Water Management

7-9 December, 2021, Myanmar

Among the many reasons for forest degradation in Myanmar, the major drivers are traditional slashburn agriculture and burning practices for non-timber forest products and hunting. Due to that, misunderstanding of the forest fire behaviors and lack of scientific-based methods has led to uncontrolled or unwanted wildfires. Therefore, "Community-based Fire and Water Management" was designed to integrate local people and government agencies and play an important role in implementing the wildfire management plan in Myanmar.

Targeted at technical level government staff working in the forest and forestry sector, the training aimed to enhance the understanding of effective wildfires and



smoke haze information and monitoring systems, understand the application of participatory or community-based practices in ASEAN countries, learn about the important role of water resource management in the wildfire management, and recognize the role of indigenous people in the successful fire management working of the forests and forestry sector.

The training welcomed a total of 20 participants — 17 technical level officials from the Forest Department, Myanmar, who have been working in forest rehabilitation and restoration, and 3 postgraduate students from Thailand. Through the lectures, participants have learned

Fire Ecology/Weather, Forest Fire Behavior, (Community-based) Forest Fire and Water management, Open and Free Wildland Fire, and Haze Information and Monitoring Systems. Furthermore, lecturer Dr. Veerachai had shared his knowledge on the applicable wildland fire and haze information webbing tools, the safety tips for fire suppression on the ground, the practical example of how the community participates, and how to build cooperation and trust with local communities. The lessons were mainly delivered through the lecturer-led approach but with Q&A sessions and group discussions for the action plan.



- 1 Training Opening Ceremony
- 2 Congratulatory Remark by Mr. Thein Toe, DDO, Forest Department
- 3 Lecture by Dr. Veerachai Tanpipat Senior Expert, Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University, Thailand

## 2.3 AFoCO FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

AFoCO offers regular opportunities for government officials from Parties to work in the Secretariat through its Fellowship Program. The Program functions as a channel for effective communication and helps strengthen understanding between the Secretariat and the Parties for the fruitful achievement of AFoCO's goals. It is a mutually beneficial arrangement which allows Fellowship Officials to gain valuable working experience in an intergovernmental organization and have more opportunities to widen their networks, while enabling the Secretariat to benefit from their expertise and skills. The 2021 Fellowship welcomed 7 officials from member countries:

### 1st Batch

**Husnul Khotimah (Ms.)**

Center for Standardization of Sustainable Forest Management Instruments, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia

**Pham Minh Thu (Ms.)**

(previously) Viet Nam Administration of Forestry, Viet Nam

**Veronica B. Afonso (Ms.)**

General Directorate of Forestry, Coffee and Industrial Plants, Timor-Leste.

*Veronica passed away from illness in early 2022. We extend our deepest condolences to her family.*

### 2nd Batch

**Kay Khine (Ms.)**

Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Myanmar

**Khiev Sokleap (Ms.)**

Forestry Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia

**Maralgoo Ganbat (Ms.)**

Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Mongolia

**Sapanar Sunar (Ms.)**

Department of Forests and Park Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Bhutan



1 1st batch of 2021 Fellowship Officials (From left to right) Ms. Husnul Khotimah, Ms. Pham Minh Thu, and Ms. Veronica B. Afonso

2 2nd batch of 2021 Fellowship Officials (From left to right) Ms. Sapanar Sunar, Ms. Maralgoo Ganbat, Ms. Kay Khine, and Ms. Khiev Sokleap

## 2.4 AFoCO LANDMARK SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The AFoCO Secretariat has been implementing the AFoCO Landmark Scholarship Program to support outstanding scholars from ASEAN Member States in their pursuit of higher education in reputable universities of the Republic of Korea. This Program has been a key aspect of AFoCO's commitment to strengthening capacity and nurturing future leaders in forestry sector of the ASEAN region. Joining our growing network of AFoCO scholars, the following scholarship recipients began their academic journey in 2021:

**Siswo Siswo (Mr.) from Indonesia**

PhD program, Kongju National University

**Michelle N. Ojeda (Ms.) from the Philippines**

MSc program, Dongguk University



In 2021, we celebrated the graduation of our second PhD scholar — Dr. Siriluck Thammanu. After receiving her PhD in February 2021, she has since returned to serve the Royal Forest Department of Thailand.

Dr. Areeyapat Petcharat and Ms. Aomjitr Sena, both from Thailand, graduated from Yeungnam University in the same year. Dr. Petcharat is the also third PhD graduate of the Program.



1 Mr. Ricardo L. Calderon, AFoCO Executive Director, presents the certificate of completion to Dr. Siriluck Thammanu

2 (Left) Ms. Aomjitr Sena and (right) Dr. Areeyapat Petcharat graduated from Yeungnam University in 2021

# 03

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

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### 3.1 ONGOING PROJECTS

Establishment of Forest Genetics Research Center for Restoration of Major Timber Species in Cambodia (AFoCO/005/2014)

Rehabilitation and Development of Mangrove Forest Ecosystem in Thai Binh Province, Viet Nam (AFoCO/006/2014)

Village-based Forest Rehabilitation in Lao PDR (AFoCO/008/2014)

Domestication of Endangered, Endemic and Threatened Plant Species in Disturbed Terrestrial Ecosystem in Malaysia and Thailand (AFoCO/010/2016)

The Registration of Small-Scale Private Forest Plantations (AFoCO/012/2019)

Improving *Pinus caribaea* Morelet for plantation on degraded land in Viet Nam's Northern mountainous region (AFoCO/013/2020)

Model Forest for Livelihood Improvement of Forest Dependent Communities through Development of Community-based Enterprise and Forest Conservation (AFoCO/015/2020)

Promotion of Vertical Integration in Wood Processing through People's Organizations in Community-Based Forest Management Areas in the Philippines (AFoCO/016/2021)

Sustainable Community-based Enterprise Development for Improved Rural Livelihood in Bhutan (AFoCO/017/2021)

Development of Agroforestry Models for Promotion of Reforestation in the Different Zones in Timor-Leste (AFoCO/018/2020)

Assessment of Adelgid Diversity and Distribution in Conifer Forest of Bhutan to Mitigate Future Outbreaks (AFoCO/019/2020)

Investigation of the Resistance of Black Saxaul (*Haloxylon aphyllum*) Forms to Gall-forming Insects (AFoCO/020/2020)

Performance of Cluster Method in Rehabilitating Degraded Lands in Cambodia (AFoCO/021/2021)  
Innovative Solutions for Climate Change and Biodiversity Landscape Strategy to Support SDGs in Indonesia (AFoCO/023/2021)

Conservation and Development of Forest Ecosystems Biodiversity Resources at Cat Tien National Park (AFoCO/024/2021)

Integrated Village-driven Forest Rehabilitation and Livelihood Improvement in Viengthong District, Bolikhamxay Province, Lao PDR (AFoCO/025/2021)

### 3.2 PROJECT LIST

# 3 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

## 3.1 ONGOING PROJECTS

### LANDMARK PROGRAM

## Establishment of Forest Genetics Research Center for Restoration of Major Timber Species in Cambodia (AFoCO/005/2014)



<b>Duration</b>	2016 - 2025
<b>Budget</b>	USD 2,185,000 (AFoCO Funding: USD 1,500,000; National Contribution: USD 685,000)
<b>Project Site</b>	Khun Ream and Chan Sor, Siem Reap, Cambodia

Despite the implementation of a series of restoration projects in Cambodia, there remain fundamental questions regarding the source of seeds. Most of the time, seeds have been collected or purchased without clear genetic information at different places across the country. Especially for major timber species such as *Dalbergia cochinchinensis*, the quality of seeds in terms of genetic superiority cannot be guaranteed. For more effective and efficient restoration of major timber species, it is necessary to produce genetically improved seeds within Cambodia through a long-term tree breeding plan. However, there is limited experience and knowledge on tree breeding in Cambodia.

### Objectives

- Implement a long-term tree breeding plan
- Strengthen the restoration and tree breeding capabilities of the Forestry Administration in Cambodia

### Achievements in 2021

- Conducted weeding among established progeny and in the seed orchard to fully control grasses
- Conducted training, documentation work, field visits, and other activities to raise awareness about forest protection
- Reconstructed firebreaks around the project site to provide protection from fire and also use for patrolling and monitoring
- Promoted the growth of seedlings in the clonal seed orchard by applying fertilizer and pesticide
- Produced grafted seedlings to replace dead trees in the clonal seed orchard by collecting scions from other seedlings
- Conducted regular patrols to protect the management area, including the seed source (2,835.5 ha)
- Conducted maintenance of the restoration area and other forest restoration plots
- Took measurements for progeny test plantation at the project sites
- Conducted consultations with experts and meetings via online communication tools
- Supported students to conduct research on insect population in the project sites
- Provided assistance to university students conducting research in the tissue culture laboratory
- Organized a three-day study tour to the Khun Ream Forest Research Station
- Conducted online monitoring to assess progress and guide future implementation



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- 1 Conducted weeding in the project sites
- 2 Students conducting research in the project site
- 4 Villagers receiving training on silviculture techniques
- 5 Local forestry administration officers working with the villagers to patrol the forest area

Year	Main Activities	AFoCO Budget (USD)
2016	• Establishment of 8ha of PTP and 2ha of CSO	321,245
2017	• Establishment of 12ha of PTP, 2ha of CSO and 1ha of SSO and maintenance	205,715
2018	• Establishment of 4 ha of PTP and 1 ha of SSO and maintenance	180,000
2019	• Maintenance of 30ha of seed orchards and 200ha of former research plots and the restoration area	111,780
2020	• Maintenance of 30ha of seed orchard and 200ha of restoration area and former research plots, support research of university students.	128,510
2021	• Maintenance of 30ha of seed orchard and 200ha of restoration area and former research plots, support research of university students	103,860
<b>AFoCO Budget Expended</b>		<b>1,051,110</b>

**LANDMARK PROGRAM**

# Rehabilitation and Development of Mangrove Forest Ecosystem in Thai Binh Province, Viet Nam (AFoCO/006/2014)



<b>Duration</b>	2014 – 2023
<b>Budget</b>	USD 2,050,000 (AFoCO Funding: USD 1,500,000; National Contribution: USD 150,000)
<b>Project Site</b>	Thai Thuy and Tien Hai District, Thai Binh Province

Mangrove forest ecosystems found in the estuaries and in coastal areas of Viet Nam and in Thai Binh, particularly, play a significant role in human life and the maintenance of the ecological environment. Under the approval of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam, the Viet Nam Administration of Forestry will implement the project entitled “Rehabilitation and Development of Mangrove Forest Ecosystem in Thai Binh Province, Viet Nam” funded by the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO). The Project: “Rehabilitation and Development of Mangrove Forest Ecosystem in Thai Binh Province, Viet Nam” is vital to enhance the protective function of mangrove forests, protect the ecological environment and biodiversity, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and contribute to the improvement of the livelihood of local farmers.

### Objectives

- Afforest, rehabilitate and sustainably manage mangrove forest ecosystems in Thai Binh province
- Raise awareness and enhance knowledge and capacity for local communities on rehabilitation, protection and sustainable development of mangrove forests, biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, and livelihood improvement strategies

### Achievements in 2021

- Protection of 953.1 ha of mangrove forests
- Increased capacities and enhanced knowledge through communications and PR products
- Restoration of 6.9 ha of mangrove forests devastated by changes of natural flow

Year	Main Activities	AFoCO Budget (USD)
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparing forest status map and project map</li> <li>Designed new planting and supplementary planting of mangrove forest</li> </ul>	348,545
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation of new and supplementary plantation designs of mangrove forest</li> <li>New planting (20ha) and supplementary planting (18ha) of mangrove forest in Thai Thuy district</li> <li>New planting (10ha) and supplementary planting (12ha) of mangrove forest in Tien Hai district</li> </ul>	352,148
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation of new and supplementary plantation designs of mangrove forest</li> <li>New planting (22ha) and supplementary planting (22ha) of mangrove forest in Thai Thuy district</li> <li>New planting (8ha) and supplementary planting (8ha) of mangrove forest in Tien Hai district</li> <li>Tending and protection of mangrove forest planted in 2017 (60ha)</li> <li>Tending and protection of mangrove forest planted in 2016 (40ha)</li> </ul>	390,413
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protection and tending of mangrove forest planted in 2018 (60ha)</li> <li>Protection and tending of mangrove forest planted in 2017 (60ha)</li> <li>Protection of 800ha of mangrove forest, including 800ha of existing forest and 40ha of 2016 plantation handed over for protection</li> <li>Conducted 01 thematic workshop and 01 training course</li> </ul>	139,049.50
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New plantation (80ha) including planting and tending for the first 3 years (2016 – 20ha; 2017 – 30ha; 2018 – 30ha);</li> <li>Supplementary plantation (80ha) including planting and tending for the first 3 years (2016 – 20ha; 2017 – 30ha; 2018 – 30ha);</li> <li>Protection of existing forest (960ha).</li> </ul>	106,344
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protection of existing forest (953.1ha; 6.9ha devastated due to change of natural flow);</li> <li>Completed project mid-term audit</li> </ul>	76,120
<b>AFoCO Budget Expended</b>		<b>1,410,619.50</b>

1,2 Forest inventory activities in Thuy Xuan Commune, Thai Binh Province, Vietnam



LANDMARK PROGRAM

## Village-based Forest Rehabilitation in Lao PDR (AFoCO/008/2014)



Duration	2016 – 2025
Budget	USD 1,865,830 (AFoCO Funding: USD 1,500,000; National Contribution: USD 365,830)
Project Site	Paksong District in Champasak Province & Sangthong District in Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR

Over the past decades, in order to recover the degraded forest and increase forest cover, the government together with local authorities and international organizations continued to make significant efforts in applying different measures to address the root causes of unsustainable wood extraction and shifting cultivation by improving timber harvesting systems, wood industries and associated trades, and the livelihood of people living in rural areas. The forest strategy also aims to take necessary measures to reduce DD and increase the forest cover to 70% of the total land area by managing current forests, rehabilitating degraded forests of up to 6 million ha, and promoting tree plantations on highly degraded forestland of up to 500,000 ha. The village-based forest rehabilitation project supports the Lao PDR Forest Strategy to increase forest cover up to 70% of the total country's land mass.

### Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to increase forest cover by the restoration of degraded forest areas, strengthen capability of government agencies and local authority including villagers in implementing national forest rehabilitation policy, and contribute to poverty reduction by providing direct income to local people, particularly, the poor. The specific objectives of the project are as follows:

- Demonstrate village based forest rehabilitation concepts in degraded forests through the application of different forest regeneration measures: (1) establishment of ex-situ conservation plantation; (2) enrichment planting in degraded forest areas where natural regeneration cannot secure; (3) assisted natural regeneration where degraded forests can naturally generate;
- Generate broad public support on the implementation of national forest rehabilitation policy in general, village based forest rehabilitation program in particular;
- Provide incentives to local villagers through various means, inter alia, strengthening capacity of villagers to produce a good quality of seedlings, seedling production, enrichment planting, maintenance and protection of rehabilitated areas; and
- Strengthen capability of stakeholders at all levels for successful implementation and replication of the project.

### Achievements in 2021

- Seedling production
- Preparation and conducting enrichment planting
- Maintenance and protection of the ex-situ conservation plantation
- Conducted Village Driven Forest Patrolling (VDFP) covering the whole project site
- Organized Arbor Day Events
- Arrangement and procurement of materials
- Built a community learning center on village-based forest rehabilitation in Katoud village
- Constructed forest fire watchtowers
- Built a small check dam in Phoukhanya mountain near the enrichment plantation site
- Built viewpoint facilities on the top of the Phou Kha Nya mountain between Kao and Vangmar village

Year	Main Activities	AFoCO Budget (USD)
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surveyed and demarked project’s rehabilitation sites of about 2,770 ha (400 ha in Paksong and 2,370 ha in Sangthong)</li> <li>• Completely developed the Village-based Forest Rehabilitation Guidelines</li> <li>• Conducted training for project staff to implement the village-based forest rehabilitation concept and guideline</li> </ul>	388,400
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produced about 118,300 seedlings for an ex situ conservation plantation and enrichment planting</li> <li>• Established about 6 ha of ex situ plantation</li> </ul>	176,175
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produced about 94,500 seedlings for enrichment planting</li> <li>• Established about 51 ha of ex situ plantation</li> <li>• Planted about 35 ha of enrichment areas</li> </ul>	198,500
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produced about 94,300 seedlings for enrichment planting</li> <li>• Planted about 50 ha of enrichment areas</li> </ul>	136,625
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produced about 94,300 seedlings for enrichment planting</li> <li>• Planted about 155 ha of enrichment areas</li> </ul>	187,300
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produced seedlings for enrichment planting</li> <li>• Build a community learning center, forest fire watch towers, check dams and viewpoint facilities</li> <li>• Provision of 130 pairs of trekking shoes, 150 sets of patrolling uniforms, 3 notebooks and 2 motorbikes to support forest patrolling activities</li> </ul>	267,499
<b>AFoCO Budget Expended</b>		<b>1,354,499</b>



1 Tree planting ceremony in Sangthong

2 Tree planting ceremony in Paksong

(Planting ceremonies are held across the country to commemorate National Arbor Day on 1 June in Lao PDR. In Sangthong and Paksong, the ceremonies were organized in the first week of June 2021.)

3 Provision of trekking shoes

## Domestication of Endangered, Endemic and Threatened Plant Species in Disturbed Terrestrial Ecosystem in Malaysia and Thailand (AFoCO/010/2016)



Duration	2016 – 2022
Budget	USD 5,293,919 (AFoCO Funding: USD 1,200,000; National Contribution: USD 4,093,919)
Project Site	FRIM Research Station Bidor, Malaysia

Malaysia and Thailand are a mega-biodiversity landscape and the rapid development and changes of climate had inevitably caused degradation of terrestrial ecosystems. The problem of forest degradation and potential biodiversity loss is critical and Malaysia and Thailand are addressing the problems through research and development activities. Domestication of endangered, endemic and threaten species (EETS) is one of the effective approaches to conserve the germplasm. This project aims to strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two nations focused on biodiversity conservation, domestication and eco-tourism through pilot testing, workshops on best practices and technology transfer and capacity development to ASEAN countries, funding by AFoCO Secretariat. The project plots will be a seed production area of EETS after the project finished in 2022.

### Objectives

- Domesticate national red-list species in both countries
- Strengthen cooperation between Malaysia and Thailand on conservation of biodiversity, domestication techniques and technology transfer.
- Exchange knowledge and lessons learned on best practice of rehabilitation and biodiversity conservation.

### Achievements in 2021

- Planted 1 ha with 500 trees from 10 species of endangered and threatened species
- Organized 1 regional webinar on “Ex-situ Conservation and Carbon Sequestration Potential of Red List Tree Species (20-21 October 2021)
- Organized 2 Project Coordination Meetings (PCM) (11 June & 2 November 2021)
- Published 1 coffee table book and 1 e-proceedings of webinar

Year	Main Activities	AFoCO Budget (USD)
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organized National Workshop on “Domestication of Climax Rainforest Species in Problematic Sites” (15-17 November 2016)</li> <li>Organized 1st PCM</li> </ul>	175,000.00
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planted 3 ha with 1,500 seedlings</li> <li>Organized Regional Seminar on Reclamation, Rehabilitation and Restoration of Disturbed Sites: Planting of National and IUCN Red List Species (15-17 August 2017)</li> <li>Organized 3rd PCM</li> </ul>	27,437.31
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Published 1 journal and 1 leaflet</li> <li>Soil analysis</li> <li>Maintenance of 2017 plot</li> <li>External audit</li> </ul>	153,720.00
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planted 3.8 ha with 1,650 seedlings</li> <li>Organized Regional Workshop on Domestication of Endangered, Endemic and Threatened Species in Disturbed Terrestrial Ecosystems (7-8 November 2019)</li> <li>Organized 5th and 6th PCM</li> <li>Evaluation workshop in Korea</li> </ul>	115,955.00
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documentation of site properties</li> <li>Maintenance of 2017 and 2019 plots</li> </ul>	67,000.00
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planted 1 ha with 500 seedlings</li> <li>Maintenance of 2017 and 2019 plots</li> <li>Organized Regional Webinar on Ex-situ Conservation and Carbon Sequestration Potential of Red List Tree Species (20-21 October 2021)</li> <li>Organized 9th and 10th PCM</li> <li>Produced 1 promotional video</li> <li>Published 1 coffee table book and 1 e-proceedings</li> </ul>	41,509.00
<b>AFoCO Budget Expended</b>		<b>580,621.31</b>



1 Planting of 500 trees from 10 IUCN Red List endangered and threatened species at FRIM Research Station Bidor, Malaysia

2 Regional Webinar on “Ex-situ Conservation and Carbon Sequestration Potential of Red List Tree Species” (20-21 October 2021) with 27 oral papers and 7 posters presented joined by 130 participants in Malaysia

## The Registration of Small-Scale Private Forest Plantations (AFoCO/012/2019)

<b>Duration</b>	<b>2020 – 2022</b> (no-cost extension from 1st Jan. 2022 to 30 Sept. 2022)
<b>Budget</b>	<b>USD 275,110</b> (AFoCO Funding: USD 249,410; National Contribution: USD 25,700)
<b>Project Site</b>	<b>Han Chey Mountain in Han Chey commune, Kampong Siem District, Kampong Cham province</b>

Cambodia's natural forests, which have experienced significant declines in recent decades, have been under the management of the state and, until recently, there has been limited recognition and encouragement associated with the establishment of private forest plantations. This situation has discouraged the private sector, as well as those small-scale farmers who, except for their concerns about ownership claims and user rights, might otherwise have invested in plantation development. There is increasing recognition now of the constraints associated with excessive reliance on funding from the government for reforestation and forest restoration activities that limits the application of those activities to a relatively small proportion of the country's degraded forestlands. Efforts to integrate an interrelated approach into forest landscape restoration activities that would arouse the private sector, small-scale farmers, and financial institutions — the latter of which have heretofore lacked collateral assurances from the government for loan programs — to invest in forest plantations are increasing. The principal elements of that approach were recently espoused when the country's first Declaration on Private Forests with the avowed aims of promoting public-private-farmer partnerships for establishing small- and medium-scale forest plantations and increasing forest cover throughout the country was promulgated. The implementation of that declaration requires an effective enabling environment, however, which would include the establishment of practical guidelines and incentives for confirming tenure and registering small-scale private forest plantations, accompanied by extensive stakeholder consultations and awareness raising campaigns, as well as the piloting of private small- and medium-scale forest plantations.

The implementation of these remedial measures will provide the means for the application of the enabling environment and the comparative assessments of the patterns of growth and market demand in the selection of species to initiate pilot plantations and prepare plans to support the continued establishment of small-scale private forest plantations. That application will require several interrelated actions, which will include an initial step to corroborate that the processes and procedures that are developed for registering small-scale private forest plantations are consistent with the objectives of national reforestation and forest restoration programs. It will also encompass (1) the strengthening of institutional capacity and expansion of outreach initiatives; (2) the provision of multiple levels of training to prepare private sector entities and small-scale farmers to participate in the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations; and (3) the distribution of 100,000 seedlings of the selected tree species to 65-105 small-scale farmers to initiate the piloting of 375-425 ha of small-scale private forest plantations.

## Objectives

The overarching goal of this project is to enhance forest cover, increase sustainable livelihood opportunities, reduce degradation of natural forests, and support local development by establishing small-scale, private forest plantations. Its main (development) objective is to initiate the piloting of small-scale private forest plantations and prepare for a succeeding phase of the project in which the rate of establishment of those plantations is increased. The project's specific objectives are to institutionalize the means to encourage the establishment of sustainable small-scale private forest plantations.

The project has three expected outputs – to produce and endorse guidelines and incentives to encourage the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations; prepare comparative assessments of the patterns of growth and market demand to use in the selection of species for smallscale private forest plantation; provide capacity-building and carry out outreach activities to initiate pilot plantations and prepare plans to support the continued establishment of small-scale private forest plantations.

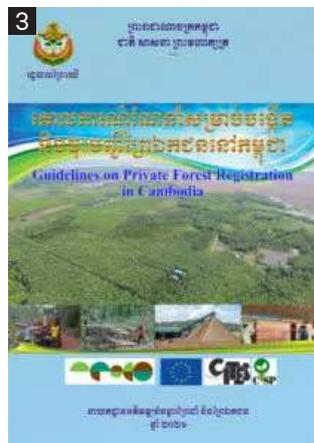
## Achievements in 2021

- Project staff attended AFoCO training courses on “Forest-based Climate Change Adaptation and Practices” (3-7 May 2021), “Payments for Ecosystem Services” (19-23 Jul. 2021); “AFoCO-ITTO Capacity Building Workshop on Forest Landscape Restoration in the Asia- Pacific Region” (30 Aug.-3 Sep. 2021).
- Organized a special PSC meeting to discuss No-cost Project Extension and Corresponding Activity/Budget Reallocation (21 Oct. 2021).
- Conducted a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and organize extensive consultations with stakeholders to develop appropriate guidelines and incentives to encourage the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations.
  - › The Forestry Administration organized an internal meeting to discuss draft guidelines for the registration of private forest plantations (14 Jan.2021).
  - › The guidelines and incentives for the registration of private forest plantations in Cambodia was approved by FA (June 2021). The web story on the development of guidelines and incentives was prepared and uploaded to AFoCO website (16 Nov. 2021).
- Organized national consultative workshops to review and endorse the guidelines and incentives.
  - › Extension Workshop on Guidelines for the Registration of Private Forest Plantations in Cambodia was organized online with 109 participants in attendance from FA officials at national and provincial levels, NGOs and private sector (10 Sep.2021);
  - › Report on Extension and Consultation Workshop on Rule and Guidelines for the Registration of Private Forest Plantations in Cambodia (24 Sep. 2021--validated).
- Ongoing preparation of the evaluation report on the patterns of growth and potential impacts on the environment of a preliminary selection of indigenous and introduced fast-growing trees from which the species that will be selected to establish small-scale private forest plantations will be determined
- Developed review report on the current consumption patterns in local, national, and regional markets of the preliminary selection of tree species
- Conducted literature reviews on the preliminarily selected 15 tree species
- Completed report on the incorporation of measures to ensure that processes and procedures for confirming tenure through the registration of small-scale private forest plantations are consistent with the objectives of national reforestation and forest restoration programs
- Organized a virtual training on guidelines for the registration of private forest plantations in Cambodia with 21 staff from the Department of Forest Plantation and Private Forest Development of the Forestry Administration (6 August, 2021).
- Completed distribution of 36,500 seedlings (21,500 seedlings from original plan and 15,200 seedlings from no-cost extension) to local communities and public institutions in Kampong Siem district. The total number seedlings distributed by the project amounts to 117,700 (102% of the planned number).
- Two project stories were prepared related to the development of guidelines on private forest registration and the benefits of distribution of seedlings to local communities and public institutions and uploaded to AFoCO website (17 Nov. 2021).
- Developed and submitted a new AFoCO concept note on the development of community based ecotourism in Phnom Changkran Roy

Year	Main Activities	AFoCO Budget Release (USD)
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed guidelines on Registration of Small Scale Private Forest Plantations</li> <li>Distribution of 80,000 seedlings of various native species and fruit trees to local communities and public institutions to plant on their land and in their home gardens.</li> </ul>	148,747.50
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organized an internal virtual training on guidelines for the registration of private forest plantations in Cambodia with staff from the Forestry Administration (6 August, 2021).</li> <li>Completed distribution of 36,500 seedlings to local communities and public institutions in Kampong Siem district. The total number seedlings distributed by the project amounts to 117,700 (102% of the planned number).</li> <li>Organized a national consultative workshops to review and endorse the guidelines and incentives.</li> </ul>	104,342.50
<b>AFoCO Budget Expended</b>		<b>253,090.00</b>



1 National Workshop on Guideline for Private Forest 26-27 Nov 2020, Phnom Penh Hotel, Cambodia  
 2 Distribution of 15,675 trees of mixed species to monks and the locals in Han Chey commune, Kampong Cham province, Cambodia  
 3 Guidelines on Private Forest Registration in Cambodia



## Improving *Pinus caribaea* Morelet for plantation on degraded land in Viet Nam's Northern mountainous region (AFoCO/013/2020)



Duration	2020 – 2023
Budget	USD 576,285 (AFoCO Funding: USD 486,000; National Contribution: USD 90,285)
Project Site	Northern mountainous region of Viet Nam

The project proposal aims to rehabilitate plantation forest ecosystem by planting improved high-quality seedlings on degraded land in the north of Viet Nam as well as in Mekong sub-region countries which have similar natural conditions to Viet Nam in order to adapt to climate change. When the project is completed, project technical staff can exchange experience with regional countries on plantation and rehabilitation of forests on degraded land. Additionally, improved seedlings will be widely introduced so as that they are able to be developed to increase the productivity of plantation forests and rehabilitate forests on degraded land. Plantation and rehabilitation of degraded forest regions is an urgent issue for Southeast Asian countries, so the project demonstration model and lesson-learnt which will be applied for the local farmers and also for the other regions which have the same environmental site condition for increasing farmers' knowledge of intensive planting for the high economic value purpose and adaptation to the hard environmental conditions in the current years. The experiences and lessons learnt from implementation project will be shared through international conferences and publications that would be of great significance for exchanging and sharing with countries in the Mekong sub-region

### Objectives

The project aims to develop *P. caribaea* forests on degraded land in northern mountainous region by improving high-quality seedling production, developing intensive cultivation techniques and appropriate *P. caribaea* timber processing and preservation technology to meet market demands and provide raw materials for timber processing industry. The specific objectives of the project are as follows:

- Improve high-quality *P. caribaea* seedling production by selection of at least 150 plus trees from seed orchards; development of 10 ha of transformed seed stands and 4 ha of seed orchards; completion of sexual and asexual propagation techniques to create high-quality seedlings and transfer them to production
- Develop and transfer the guideline of intensive forest plantation to production; develop 11 ha of model forest from created seedlings Develop appropriate techniques to preserve *P. caribaea* timber to meet market demands

**Achievements in 2021**

- Completion of a 2021 data book for plus trees
- Completion of a 2021 data book with 3 preservation methods
- A seedlot has been germinated and 8080 seedlings has been produced in 2021 (total accomplished of 15,180 seedlings in 2 years 2020: 7100 seedlings and 2021: 8080 seedlings)
- 4 ha of 2 seed orchards has been established with 80 families of origin and 1st year tending with density 1650 trees/ha
- 10 ha of seed stands has been transformed therein 9 ha in Dai Lai has been established and conducted tending 2nd year.
- Completed 3 technical guidelines on (1) 3 formulars of fertilizer component in container, (2) 9 formulars of growth regulator, and (3) 2 formulars of grafting
- Completed 2 training courses; 10 persons per course; 5 days per course (2 days for theory and 3 days for field)
- Developed 4 ha of models in 2 sites (2 ha/site): Vinh Phuc and Quang Ninh; planting density 1100 tree/ha
- Developed 3 ha of models in 2 sites (1.5 ha/site); *Michelia mediocris* Dandy, *Cinnamomum parthenoxylon*, and *P.caribaea* Morelet planting density 1100 tree/ha
- Developed 2 ha of models in 2 sites (1 ha/site); planting density 500 trees/ha with *Morinda officinalis* How
- Developed 2 sites (1 ha/site); planting density 500 trees/ha with *Cinnamomum parthenoxylon*, *Erythrophleum fordii*, *Chukrasia tabularis*
- Organized 2 training courses on determination of soil/site conditions for planting *P. caribaea* in Vinh Phuc and Quang Ninh
- Organized 2 training courses on forest rehabilitation in Vinh Phuc and Quang Ninh
- Completed technical guidelines on temporary post-harvesting wood preservation technique; post-sawing timber preservation techniques for making woodworking joints; production of *P. caribaea* finger joint boards, and; production of *P. caribaea* thin wood/veener



Year	Main Activities	AFoCO Budget (USD)
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey and assessment activities: to select plus trees, monitor, describe (phenological and characteristics); and to collect, store, preserve, germinate seeds from selected plus trees to produce 7,100 seedlings</li> <li>Surveyed and prepared field sites for models: 4 ha seed orchards, 9 ha transformed seed stands; 4 ha pure plantation of <i>P.caribaea</i>, 3 ha mix plantation, 2 ha NTFPs, and 2 ha native species under canopy</li> <li>Arranged experiments, collected and analyzed data for 3 technical guidelines for propagation method by seeds, cuttings and grafting respectively. Also, the IA has organized 1 training course on propagation methods in the first year of the Project</li> <li>Conducted survey sites and data collection for soil conditions to produce a soil conditions map, and 1 report on criteria and scale of site conditions for planting <i>P.caribaea</i></li> <li>Conducted survey and assess markets of pine wood, <i>P.caribaea</i> and timber processing inside and outside of country</li> <li>Developed technical guidelines on temporary post-harvesting wood, postsawing timber preservation techniques; and <i>P.caribaea</i> wood processing of finger joint boards and veneer</li> <li>Conducted Inception meeting</li> <li>Hired 1 contract staff to assist PMU</li> </ul>	152,721
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey and assessment activities: to monitor, describe (phenological and characteristics), germinate seeds from selected plus trees to produce 8,080 seedlings</li> <li>Conducted plantation, data collection and tending for models: 4 ha seed orchards, 9 ha transformed seed stands; 4 ha pure plantation of <i>P.caribaea</i>, 3 ha mix plantation, 2 ha NTFPs, and 2 ha native species under canopy.</li> <li>Arranged experiments, collected and analyzed data to finalize 3 technical guidelines for propagation method by seeds, cuttings and grafting respectively. Also, the IA has organized 1 training course on propagation methods in the first year of the Project</li> <li>Organized 4 training courses on soil conditions determination and forest rehabilitation</li> <li>Finalized 4 technical guidelines on temporary post-harvesting wood, postsawing timber preservation techniques; and <i>P.caribaea</i> wood processing of finger joint boards and veneer</li> <li>Hired 1 contract staff to assist PMU</li> </ul>	172,483
AFoCO Budget Expended		325,204



3



2

1 Training course on propagation methods in Vinh Phuc  
 2 *Chukrasia tabularis* A. Juss for forest rehabilitation on degraded land  
 3 Experiment and practical techniques guideline for propagation method by cuttings

## Integrated Pest and Disease Management in Teak Plantations in Bago Region, Myanmar

(AFoCO/014/2020)



Duration	2020 – 2025
Budget	USD 955,360 (AFoCO Funding only)
Project Site	West Bago Yoma Region of Myanmar

Teak grows naturally throughout Myanmar, and teak plantations have been widely established as part of the Myanmar Reforestation and Rehabilitation Programme. Nonetheless, many records of forest loss due to pests and diseases have been reported in teak plantations. The project will contribute to the health of forests in West Bago Yoma Region by exploring pest and disease lists, developing possible control and prevention measures, and enhancing capacity-building programs for stakeholders of agroforestry-based reforestation models.

### Objectives

To contribute to the health and vitality of forests in the West Bago Yoma Region, the 5-year project aims to:

- Sustainably manage teak forests through effective integrated pest and disease management
- Improve capacities and facilities for pest and disease research and management for teak forests
- Create a network for the management of pests and diseases of teak.



## Model Forest for Livelihood Improvement of Forest Dependent Communities through Development of Community-based Enterprise and Forest Conservation (AFoCO/015/2020)

<b>Duration</b>	2020 – 2023
<b>Budget</b>	USD 952,000 (AFoCO Funding only)
<b>Project Site</b>	Shan State and Bago Region of Myanmar

The project focuses on Livelihood Improvement of Forest Dependent Communities through Development of Community-based Enterprise and Forest Conservation in Myanmar. It will demonstrate as a Model Forest which fully reflects the key environmental, social and economic values and concerns of the region. The project is also a pilot implementation and demonstration of innovative, sustainable approaches to the management of forests for a range of different benefits. Through the improvement of home gardens, upland farming and shifting cultivation as well as the establishment of community forests and agroforestry of the project, the project could not only enhance the sustainable production, resource management system and sustainable forest management but also increase resilience to climate change, natural disasters and other shocks. The project can fulfill the AFoCO's objectives such as increase in forest cover, enhancing adaptive capacity of forest dependent community, and improving local livelihood and income through forest related activities.

### Objectives

The main objectives of the project are to:

- Demonstrate model forest villages to improving rural livelihood and ensuring sustainable landscapes
- Develop the community-based enterprise in the Shan State and Bago region

### Achievements in 2021

- Improvement of community forest (CF), homegarden, sustainable shifting cultivation (SC). (Agroforestry practices included in CF)
  - › Field survey in project area for baseline assessment
  - › Training on Standard Operation Procedures on Community Forestry
  - › Annual income assessment in 3 sites
  - › Consultation meeting with local people to develop participatory management plan in Ywarngan study areas
  - › Distribution of 5,500 fruit tree seedlings to local households
- Establishment of demonstration plot
  - › Consultation meeting for Community-Based Tourism Development in project areas
  - › Survey on the establishment of agroforestry/homegarden
  - › Feasibility study for developing Community-Based Tourism (CBT) in Ywarngan Township, Shan State
- Distributed 4 of pamphlets
- Distributed 400 A1 efficient stoves
- Conducted consultation meetings on the assessment of plant diversity and carbon storage and assessment of ecosystem services
- Prepared for feasibility studies and market networking
  - › Meetings for Community-Based Enterprise Development in project areas
  - › Survey on the collection of non-wood Forest Products in 3 project sites
  - › Feasibility survey for developing community-based enterprise (CBE) in Ywarngan and Paukhaung townships
  - › Assessment on the collection of non-timber forest products at project sites
- Carried out an assessment of General Knowledge on Forest Conservation



Year	Main Activities	AFoCO Budget (USD)
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial discussion with local staffs for CF and selection of demonstration sites</li> <li>Introduction of CBT and CBE component of the project</li> <li>Project logical framework development meeting</li> </ul>	9,074
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baseline assessment of the project sites</li> <li>Training of Trainers for CF establishment</li> <li>Consultations for CBT and CBE development</li> <li>Regional stakeholder consultations and inception workshops</li> <li>Survey on Agroforestry and annual income assessment</li> <li>First PSC meeting</li> <li>Distribution of efficient cook stoves and seedlings for households</li> <li>Feasibility study for CBT in Ywangan township</li> <li>Attending training course developed by RETC</li> </ul>	79,826
<b>AFoCO Budget Expended</b>		<b>88,900</b>



- 1 Project Inception Virtual Meeting with high level politicians and leaders of implementation team of Myanmar
- 2 1st Project Steering Committee meeting (Hybrid) of the FD -AFoCO Model Forest Project held in Forest Department Head Office, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
- 3 Consultation meeting on assessment of plant diversity, carbon storage and ecosystem services held in Forest Department, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

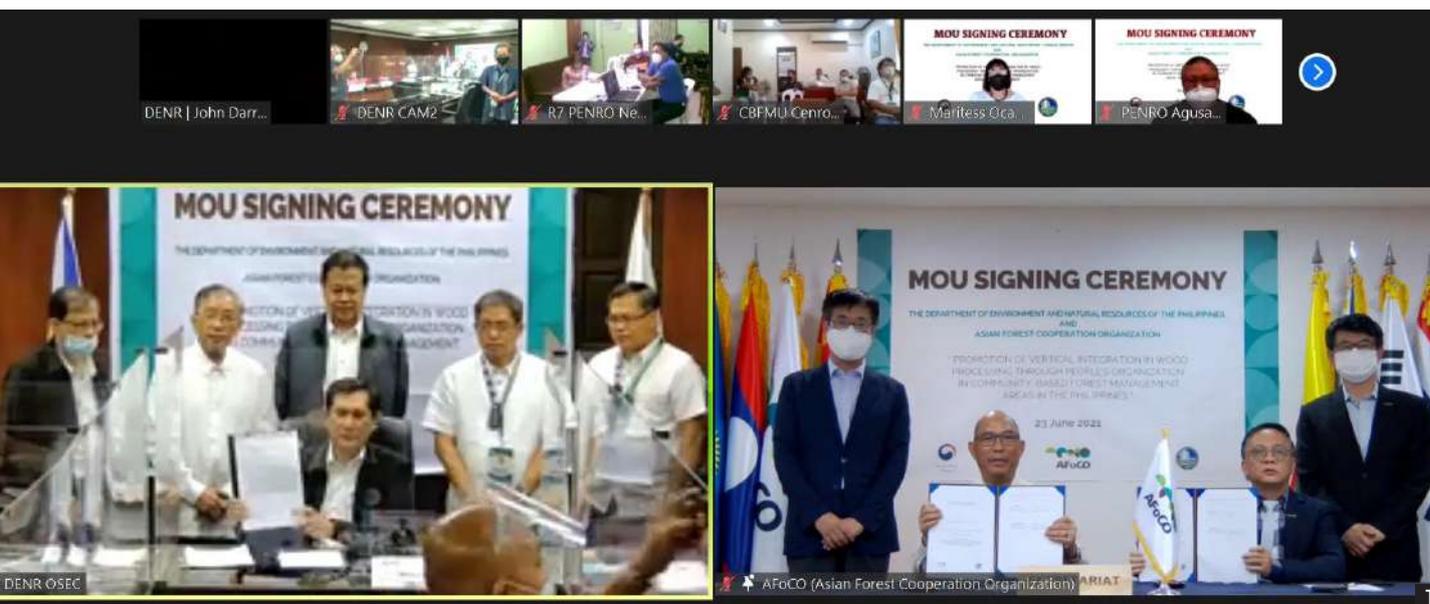
# Promotion of Vertical Integration in Wood Processing through People’s Organizations in Community-Based Forest Management Areas in the Philippines

(AFoCO/016/2021)

<b>Duration</b>	2021 – 2026
<b>Budget</b>	USD 1,117,536.60 (AFoCO Funding: USD 928,821.60; National Contribution: USD 188,715)
<b>Project Site</b>	<b>Visayas</b> (within Region 7 or the Central Visayas, Province of Negros Oriental, Municipality of Bindoy) and <b>Mindanao</b> (within Region 13 or the Caraga Region, Province of Agusan del Sur, Municipality of Prosperidad)

The Philippines, through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) held on 23 June 2021, the ceremonial signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) for the implementation of a five-year project entitled “Promotion of Vertical Integration in Wood Processing through People’s Organizations in Community-Based Forest Management Areas in the Philippines”, otherwise referred to as the AFoCO Vertical Integration Project (AFoCO VIP).

With the circulation of the said MOU, the Project is officially considered to commence on 1 July 2021 that will end by 30 June 2026. It covers two project sites, one in the Visayas and another in Mindanao. This will be implemented in tenured areas covered by a Community Based Forest Management Agreement (CBFMA) awarded to People’s Organizations (POs), namely, the Nalundan United Farmers Association, Inc. (NUFAI) located at Barangay Nalundan, Bindoy, Negros Oriental (under Region 7 or the Central Visayas) and the Mabuhay Timberland Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative (MATILFAMCO) located at Barangay Mabuhay, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur (within Region 13 or the CARAGA Region in Mindanao).



1 Ceremonial/ Virtual signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Secretary Roy Cimatu (left) of DENR and Executive Director Ricardo Calderon of AFoCO (right) conducted on June 23, 2021  
 2 Back-to-back workshop activities at Region 13, Butuan City from 22-26 November (left) and in Region 7, Dumaguete City from 6-10 December, 2021 (right)



**Objectives**

The Project intends to support the vertical integration in CBFM areas through the promotion of community-based livelihood opportunities through utilization of existing plantations. Specifically, it aims to:

- Promote the engagement of the two (2) participating CBFM POs into value adding activities in wood production
- Provide adequate market linkages in the operation of wood-based enterprise
- Formulate and recommend enabling policy guidelines for the implementation of vertical integration as a business model for CBFM POs.

The Project shall engage CBFM People’s Organizations (CBFM-POs) into economic activities adopting vertical integration as the business model in tree plantation establishment, utilization and marketing. Furthermore, it will promote the sustainability of PO managed tree plantations to generate income from timber utilization and wood processing.

Year	Main Activities	AFoCO Budget (USD)
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formulated the Project Implementation Plan (PIP) matrix</li> <li>• Forged a partnership with the DOST-FPRDI through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)</li> <li>• Conducted a back-to-back consultation workshop on the formulation of agreement or MOA between the DENR Implementing Regions (Region 7 &amp; 13) and the PO CBFMA holders (NUFAI &amp; MATILFAMCO) as well as the conduct of situational and gap analysis</li> <li>• Hired project personnel at the NPMO (2 Project Development Officers and 1 Financial Analyst)</li> <li>• Conducted various coordination meeting with implementing partners/collaborators (e.g. DENR-FASPS, DOST-FPRDI, DENR Regional Office, PENRO and CENRO)</li> <li>• Started the procurement process for office equipment (e.g. computer sets, printers, and laptops)</li> <li>• Conducted site visit during the back-to-back workshop to identify/check alternative location for the establishment of wood processing plant/facility</li> </ul>	23,004.15
<b>AFoCO Budget Expended</b>		<b>23,004.15</b>

# Sustainable Community-based Enterprise Development for Improved Rural Livelihood in Bhutan (AFoCO/017/2021)



<b>Duration</b>	2020 – 2025
<b>Budget</b>	USD 1,400,000 (AFoCO Funding: USD 1,000,000; National Contribution: USD 400,000)
<b>Project Site</b>	12 Districts (Bumthang, Chukha, Thimphu, Paro, Haa, Gasa, Wangdue, Punakha, Tsirang, Lhuentse, Trashigang, Pemagatshel)

Bhutan’s rural communities utilize the natural resources with traditional knowledge enhanced by technical knowledge and programs initiated for the benefit of the rural people since the inception of the community forest and non-wood forest products programs in the early 1990s. To further enhance the income generation of the rural communities, while sustainably managing the natural resources, AFoCO Project with million-dollar support 12 districts out of 20 in Bhutan focusing on community forest and non-wood forest product management groups. This project will contribute to strategic interventions such as sustainable forest management and improving the livelihoods of rural communities. This project will build the capacities of key stakeholders in implementing the project at the central, local governments forestry officials, and rural communities.

## Objectives

- Promote CF and NWFP industries by establishing community-based enterprises.
- Develop alternative income sources for the livelihoods of rural communities.
- Enhance knowledge and technology on climate change adaptation through sustainable forest management.

## Achievements in 2021

- Supported establishment of NWFP/Wood-based enterprise at the local level
  - › Identified Drakey Chinto NWFP group at Paro District for incense processing enterprise; Devithan Community Forest at Tsirang District for PES-based enterprise; and Tamshing CF at Bumthang for the wood-based enterprise
  - › Conducted consultation meetings with CF and NWFP groups engaged in the identified enterprises in Paro, Tsirang, and Bumthang Districts
  - › Conducted initial discussions on preparation of the business plan or by-law for operating business for Drakey Chinto NWFP group at Paro and Devithan CF group at Tsirang
- Increased alternative income-generating activities
  - › 2 CF-based PES enterprises were identified – Tokey Menchu CF and Jagu Menchu CF under Gasa District
  - › More than 3 consultation meetings were held with NWFP groups and CFMG groups of and Drakey Chinto and Tamshing
  - › Planted 12.5 ha in the Community Forests (seedling survival rate exceeded 60%)
  - › Community-based ecotourism sites identified at Tsirang under Rangthangling Gewog
  - › Consultation meeting with stakeholders conducted with Devithan CFMG, Tsirang
  - › 2 CF-based ecotourism enterprises operationalized (and with water systems built) at Gasa District – Takey Menchu and Jagay Menchu CF
- Conducted training and workshops on sustainable management of resources
  - › 27 CFMG members from Paro, Haa, Wangdi Phodrang, Bumthang and Thimphu attended a silviculture training from 5 to 9 April 2021 at Bumthang on mixed conifer and blue pine forest in the CF. The training was conducted in collaboration with Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Environmental Conservation and Research (UWICER).

- › 21 CFMG members (mostly executive committee members of CFs) from Paro, Haa, Punakha, Wangdi Phodrang, Thimphu, Tsirang, and Chukha attended Workshop on Good Governance in CF Management held from 2 to 6 March 2021
- › 27 forestry staff attended a training on resource assessment for forestry staff was conducted from 20 to 24 March 2021
- › Conducted buyer-seller meetings on incense, particularly within the Drakey Chinto NWFP group (The decision was made based on the consensus of the group members that 5 CFMG members will run the processing and packaging of incense and pay the agreed amount to the group monthly. The detailed agreement will be shared in 2022.)
- Ongoing development of important/vulnerable timber and non-timber species document
  - › Initiated the documentation of NWFP species in the country in 2020 and currently finalizing the document
  - › Completed the field survey and assessment on Nardostachys Grandiflora and other highaltitude medicinal plants
- Initiated nursery development on tree tea species (Luculia gratissima, Oxyris lanceolata and Terminalia Billerica) in Wangdue district

Year	Main Activities	AFoCO Budget (USD)
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of potential NWFP/CF for enterprise development.</li> <li>• Consultation meetings/ workshop</li> <li>• Support infrastructure (Trails, Gazebos, signages etc.)</li> </ul>	16,705.87
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supported the establishment of NWFP/ Wood-based enterprise at the local level identifying CF based enterprises and having consulting meetings with CF and NWFP groups</li> <li>• Increased alternative income generating activities through planting 10.5 ha in the Community Forests (seedling survival rate is more than 60%) and identifying community-based ecotourism. Conducted a series of trainings on sustainable management of resources</li> <li>• Documentation of NWFP species in the country initiated which is under finalization.</li> <li>• Nursery development on tree tea species (Luculia gratissima, Oxyris lanceolata and Terminalia Billerica) initiated in Wangdue district</li> </ul>	37,621.67
<b>AFoCO Budget Expended</b>		<b>54,327.54</b>



1 PES-based enterprise (Bjagoe Menchu) infrastructure. Gasa, Bhutan  
 2 Training on Resource Assessment in the CFs for Field Foresters conducted from 20-24 March 2021. Phobjikha, Wangdi Phodrang, Bhutan

## Development of Agroforestry Models for Promotion of Reforestation in the Different Zones in Timor-Leste (AFoCO/018/2020)

<b>Duration</b>	2021 - 2024
<b>Budget</b>	USD 605,580 (AFoCO Funding: USD 516,700; National Contribution: USD 88,880)
<b>Project Site</b>	Bobonaro Municipality (Central Zone), Liquica Municipality (North Zone), Covalima Municipality (South Zone), Ermera Municipality (Central Zone)

In Timor-Leste, about 183,800 ha of forests have disappeared between 2003 and 2012. During the same period, nearly 171,000 ha of dense forests have been degraded and converted into sparse forests or other forms of land use. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) Timor-Leste, particularly the Office of Director General of Forestry, Coffee and Industrial Plants (DGFCIP), and international agencies/donors (DPs) have made countless efforts to reduce the deforestation rate through reforestation over past decades. Nevertheless, even at present, deforestation and forest degradation remain as critical issues to be addressed in the country. One of the technical weaknesses in the promotion of reforestation in the country is a lack of data and knowledge on agroforestry-based reforestation models, which must be suitable in different natural and socio-economic contexts in Timor-Leste for application. Since there are only few agroforestry models proven in the field, including traditional practices by the local community it is important to develop and demonstrate a modern agroforestry-based models suitable for introduction in the different agro-ecological and socioeconomic conditions in the country to enable MAF/DGFCIP to promote reforestation in collaboration with local communities in the selected project site with the expectation that this model would be expanded to the entire country in the future. Hereafter, the project focuses on i) establishment of fieldtested agroforestry systems/models in the different agro-ecological zones, which are effective in reforestation and livelihood improvement, and ii) building of the institutional capacity to promote reforestation by demonstrating and scaling up the agroforestry systems/models in combination with Community Based-Natural Resources Management (CB-NRM) approaches.

### Objectives

The main objective is to strengthen the country's efforts for reforestation and sustainable forest management through the development and dissemination of agroforestry-based reforestation models in parallel with the following:

- institutional capacity development,
- promotion of the CB-NRM mechanism,
- coordination/collaboration with MAF DPs, and
- strengthening of linkages with relevant stakeholders for knowledge sharing at both the national and regional levels.

### Achievements in 2021

- Four Sucos (villages) have been successfully selected as the targets meeting the project site selection criteria to implement the agroforestry model pilot project
- Held a meeting with community at village Beco in Covalima Municipality and village Tebabui located in Bobonaro municipality
- Conducted a training activity on basic knowledge on Agroforestry Model was held to the community group at Bibel Site located in Covalima Municipality with a total of 20 participants
- Completed the clearing of a 12 ha site area
- All fruit saplings procured and transported to each demo plot

Year	Main Activities	AFoCO Budget (USD)
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selected four villages (sucos) within the selected project site to implement the agroforestry model</li> <li>Organized community consultation meeting at two villages</li> <li>Clearing of project site (12ha) and procurement of saplings and seedlings almost completed</li> </ul>	106,783
AFoCO Budget Expended		106,783



1 Visit to project site  
 2 Community consultation meeting held with two participating villages

AFoCO-NIFoS RESEARCH PROJECT

# Assessment of Adelgid Diversity and Distribution in Conifer Forest of Bhutan to Mitigate Future Outbreaks

(AFoCO/019/2020)



Duration	2020 – 2022
Budget	USD 60,976 (AFoCO Funding: USD 32,862; National Contribution: USD 28,114)
Project Site	11 Districts (Bumthang, Gasa, Paro, Haa, Thimphu, Punakha, Wangdue Phodrang, Trashiyangtse, Mongar, Lhuentse and Trashigang)

Forests are one of the dominant landforms in Bhutan and have played a vital role in shaping the course of country's developmental course centered around Gross National Happiness. Ensuring good health of the forest is of paramount importance for a nation whose rural livelihood and economy are intricately intertwined with ecosystem services derived from the forest. Therefore, preempting any disturbances to the overall health of the forest resulting from both biotic or abiotic factors is a priority and the current research project tries to understand the biology, phenology and distribution of potential forest insect pest to mitigate any future out breaks. Adelgid is one of the emerging forest pest in Bhutan and if left unchecked could cause serious damage to the conifer forest of Bhutan. Conifer forest in Bhutan is vital for timber production and sustaining the flow of ecosystem services and any damage to the forest type can have serious consequences for the sustainability of timber production and ecosystem services. Adelgids are small group of insects with close to 70 species described in the family and they are closely related to phylloxerans and aphids. They feed only on the conifers and maintain their close association with gymnosperms. Out of its native range, adelgids can pose serious threats to conifer forest ecosystem and hemlock woolly adelgids, balsam woolly adelgids are some examples which are decimating boreal forest in north America. In Bhutan, research and studies on forest pest and pathogens in 1980's have generated a lot of information and knowledge on subject. However, there is no information on adelgid, its biology, diversity and distribution, its effect on the host plant, its ecological and economic impact.

### Objectives

- Determine the species of adelgids found in Bhutan
- Survey and assess the distribution of adelgids in
- Develop management strategies for controlling the adelgids in Bhutan's conifer forests
- Train forestry professionals and local communities in identification, survey and control of the insect
- To monitor the spread of the insect by integrating the insect pest surveillance into the spatial reporting and monitoring tool (SMART)

### Achievements in 2021

- Four adelgid species were identified on four host species
- Preserving adelgid specimens
- Survey and sample collection of adelgids in central and western conifer zones of Bhutan
- Conducted Training of Trainers (ToT) training for 18 trainers
- Organized second level training for 6 field and park offices
- Incorporated forest insect pest and disease detection reporting in the existing SMART (Spatial Reporting and Monitoring Tools) system
- Conducted training on reporting pest and disease through SMART system was at Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environmental Research (UWICER)

Year	Main Activities	AFoCO Budget (USD)
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of adelgid samples</li> <li>• Procured insect preservatives (alcohol and vials)</li> <li>• Draft manuscript on diversity and distribution of adelgids in Bhutan and submit to relevant peer-review journal</li> <li>• Writing workshop on the preparation of technical brief on adelgids</li> <li>• Packaging and printing of Technical brief</li> <li>• ToT (Training of Trainers) on pest detection, surveillance, specimen collection and reporting</li> <li>• Second level training in the field and park office</li> <li>• Insect detection reporting will be incorporated into Spatial and Monitoring and Reporting Tool System</li> <li>• Conduct ToT (Training of Trainers for pest and disease component in SMART)</li> </ul>	29,341
AFoCO Budget Expended		29,341



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2

1 Adelgids on Hemlock  
 2 ToT participants inspecting a hemlock sapling infested with hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA), UWICER, Bhutan  
 3 Field level training for Bumthang Forest Division, Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park, Bhutan



3

AFoCO-NIFoS RESEARCH PROJECT

# Investigation of the resistance of black saxaul (*Haloxylon aphyllum*) forms to gall-forming insects (AFoCO/020/2020)



Duration	2020 – 2022
Budget	USD 32,864 (AFoCO Funding Only)
Project Site	Kyzylorda region, Kazakhstan



Among the types of sand forests, saxaul occupies the most. It is saxaul which forms a special zonal type of desert vegetation, the so-called saxaulniki (saxauls). Saxaul - the most important forestforming species of deserts, with economic use, and the sand-strengthening role of saxaul is widely known. The fauna of insect pests of saxaul is represented by a large number of multinivorous and specialized species that damage the roots, vegetative and generative organs. In 2019 sanitary surveys, the fossils in the saxaul of Kazakhstan were formed by the saxaul gall midge. Earlier, in the south-east of Kazakhstan, 213 forms of galls were found, caused by echoptera proboscis, coleoptera, hymenoptera, diptera, lepidoptera, and mites. Of these, 71 on the soil, 64 on the shoot, 44 on the leaves, 15 on the flowers, 6 on the seeds, 1 on the roots. In previous studies, organizational, technical, agricultural, chemical, and biological measures were proposed, but scientific works by identifying resistant plants within a species to this group of insects in Kazakhstan were not conducted.

Map of the location of test plots in the Kyzylorda region

### Objectives

The goal of this research is to study the resistance of specified black saxaul plants among the species damaged by gall-forming insects.

- Analyze pest foci and clarify the species composition of gall-forming pests in the foci of saxaul, and the allocation within the population of individual saxaul plants not damaged by pests in the lesion
- Carry out laboratory tests for biochemical composition in plants and their genetic structure, as well as the study of anatomical and morphological features of plants not damaged by pests
- Collect plant materials from resistant plants within the species for further study of the heritability of this characteristic



**Achievements in 2021**

- Detailed surveys of the foci of the Kyzylkum forestry were carried out in 2 selected groups of forest types and different age groups
- Two test plots in the growing plantations with a predominance of white saxaul were also surveyed and various gall-forming insects were collected as samples. During the survey, the following activities were conducted:
  - › Assessment of total infested trees
  - › Individual enumeration of various types of galls
  - › Identification and recording of all gall-forming insects
  - › Laboratory studies on the biochemical composition of plants
  - › Seeds of black saxaul from intact plants were sown in the nursery

Year	Main Activities	AFoCO Budget (USD)
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis and processing of collected secondary data through in-house researchers of A.N.Bukeikhan KazRIFA</li> <li>• Field survey and collection of plant samples in the research area (Kyzylorda Region)</li> <li>• Analysis and processing of secondary and field survey data through the engagement of experts on saxaul and gall formed insects</li> <li>• Conduct of site monitoring in Q2 of each year</li> <li>• Consolidation and analysis of field survey results</li> <li>• Laboratory analysis of a saxaul sample</li> <li>• Field trial planting and analysis</li> <li>• Field survey and collection of plant samples in the field trial site (Kyzylorda region)</li> <li>• Engagement of experts on saxaul and gall formed insects</li> </ul>	16,203
<b>AFoCO Budget Expended</b>		<b>16,203</b>



1,2 Study of black saxaul plants on test plots: height measurement; preliminary examination of a fruiting tree (Kyzylorda region, Kazakhstan)  
 3 Sowing seeds of black saxaul in the nursery “Republican forest selection and seed production center” (Kyzylorda region, Kazakhstan)

AFoCO-NIFoS RESEARCH PROJECT

# Performance of Cluster Method in Rehabilitating Degraded Lands in Cambodia

(AFoCO/021/2021)



Duration	2020 - 2023
Budget	USD 34,500 (AFoCO Funding Only)
Project Site	Khun Ream, Siem Reap Province, Cambodia

Siem Reap is one of the important provinces in Cambodia that is of significance owing to its historical value and because it is where the Stung Sreng watershed, one of the largest watersheds in Cambodia is located. The unabated cutting and land encroachment has reduced many forests in Siem Reap in a degraded condition. Recognizing the role of the forests in the functioning of the watershed and the ecosystem, the government and the Civil Society Organizations (CSO) have started rehabilitating the degraded areas. Restoring degraded lands, particularly in Siem Reap is very challenging since the soils are exposed to physical elements after logging and slash and burn farming. The soils get dry very fast as they could hardly hold moisture. The low survival of planted seedlings can be mitigated using a water-retaining agent. The low survival of plants in dry and sandy areas was caused by quick drying of the topsoil resulting in a water-stressed condition. The addition of material can act like a “sponge” that will store moisture and gradually release it to the plants. Many literatures pointed out that coconut husk provided good materials for retaining moisture. Coco husk offers some advantages since this material is cheap and biodegradable. The Miyawaki method was reported to be highly success in rehabilitating degraded areas where suitable species are not previously known. The Miyawaki method has been successfully tested in the AFoCO project although the conventional Miyawaki method could hardly be replicated since its cost of establishment is very high (due to the high number of seedlings needed). The Miyawaki method can be modified to reduce cost using cluster planting design. Cluster planting can be adopted to cover a wide area under a limited budget.

## Objectives

- Evaluate the cost effectiveness of cluster planting combined with Miyawaki method in rehabilitating degraded lands
- Determine the survival of test species (*D. cochinchinensis*) planted together with other species in a cluster using the Miyawaki method
- To determine the effectiveness of coconut husk as a water retaining agent on the survival of seedlings

## Achievements in 2021

- Produced a total of 1,704 *Dalbergia cochinchinensis* seedlings in Khun Ream Forest Restoration Station, Banteay Srey District
- Site preparation at research plots and a total of 300 seedlings of 16 different species were planted across 12 cluster plots using 3 restoration methods — cluster planting techniques combined with Miyawaki method; standard planting with coconut husk as water retaining agent; and natural planting as a control
- Soil samples from 3 treatment plots were collected and submitted for analysis

Year	Main Activities	AFoCO Budget (USD)
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inception &amp; Personnel</li> <li>• Production/Purchase of Seedlings</li> <li>• Layout and Establishment of Experimental Plots</li> <li>• Sampling of Weeds</li> <li>• Maintenance Weeding of Experimental Plots</li> <li>• Monitoring and Measurements</li> </ul>	14,138
AFoCO Budget Expended		14,138



1

1 Site preparation at research plots in Siem Reap Province, Cambodia  
 2 Measuring the growth of seedlings at research plots in Siem Reap Province, Cambodia



2

**AFoCO-NIFoS RESEARCH PROJECT**

# Research on Forest Enrichment using High Valuable Native Species in Hoa Binh Province, Viet Nam

(AFoCO/022/2021)



<b>Duration</b>	2021 – 2023
<b>Budget</b>	USD 39,496 (AFoCO Funding: USD 34,496; National Contribution: USD 5,000)
<b>Project Site</b>	Hoa Binh Province, Viet Nam

Hoa Binh, a mountainous province, is located in the Northwest of Viet Nam. Hoa Binh has 261,837 ha of forest, of which natural forest occupies 54%, but largely degraded due to a long time of overexploitation and weak management. The Province has the biggest hydro-electricity plant of Viet Nam, but facing risk of unstable water sources as a result of poor and degraded watershed natural forests. Most of the local people in Hoa Binh are poor ethnic minorities who have limited knowledge on forest management and use backward cultivation techniques.

The province has paid significant attention to the improvement of degraded natural forests by protecting and initial enriching some species in poor and degraded natural forests. However, the province still lacks appropriate techniques such as enrichment using suitable native species, and more important to have demonstration models, that local people and relevant stakeholders could learn and apply.

### Objectives

- Assess the status of degraded natural forests, forest enrichment models, techniques applied, and related policies in Hoa Binh province
- Develop appropriate technical guideline in forest enrichment using high valuable native species in Hoa Binh province based on assessment results and information attained
- Organize technical trainings for relevant stakeholders
- Build demonstration/experiment model on forest enrichment using high-value native species

### Achievements in 2021

- Developed report on degraded natural forests and management, enrichment models and techniques applied and related policies in Hoa Binh Province.
- Developed guidelines to enrich degraded natural forests by using high value native species in Hoa Binh province.
- Conducted technical trainings on rehabilitation of degraded natural forests by application of enrichment using high-value native species for at least 30 relevant participants

Year	Main Activities	AFoCO Budget (USD)
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessed the degraded natural forest status, forest enrichment models, techniques applied, and related policies in Hoa Binh province</li> <li>Generated technical guideline in forest enrichment using high valuable native species in Hoa Binh province based on survey results and information attained</li> <li>Organized meetings to get comments on the draft of technical guideline</li> <li>Revised the draft technical guidelines based on comments received</li> <li>Developed the training curriculum based on the technical guideline</li> <li>Organized technical trainings for relevant stakeholders in Hoa Binh province</li> </ul>	14,308.41
AFoCO Budget Expended		14,308.41



1,2 Carrying out tree measurements for enrichment models at Hoa Binh Province, Viet Nam

3 Training course held in Mai Chau District, Hoa Binh Province, Viet Nam

# Innovative Solutions for Climate Change and Biodiversity Landscape Strategy to Support SDGs in Indonesia

(AFoCO/023/2021)



<b>Duration</b>	2021 – 2024
<b>Budget</b>	USD 800,000 (AFoCO Funding USD 700,000; National Contribution: USD 100,000)
<b>Project Site</b>	Peatland forest in Kampar Regency, Riau Province; karst and lowland ecosystem in Maros District, South Sulawesi Province; and mangrove forest in Sumbawa Regency, West Nusa Tenggara Province

Indonesia covers 120.6 Mha or about 63 % of its total land has been designated as forest area. According to State Forest Indonesia (MoEF 2018), the deforestation rate in Indonesia declined from 1,09 % in 2014 to 0.48 % in 2017 owing to the increase of law enforcement and the increase of awareness of communities. However, a recent Green Growth Policy Review reported by OECD (2019) showed that Indonesia is in the second-highest deforestation rate in the world after Brazil. Total forest area declined by 7 % in 2005-2015, due to illegal logging, land clearing for agriculture, mining, and timber plantation (OECD 2019). The conversion of forest and peatland will reduce carbon stocks and increase GHG emissions significantly. In 2016, through Law No. 16/2016, Indonesia has ratified Paris Agreement and committed to reducing 29 % of its GHG emissions unconditionally and 41 % conditionally or with financial support from funding partners in 2030. At the same time, the country aims to strengthen economic and poverty alleviation, while reducing emissions from the forest, which constitute the biggest part of that national commitment. The climate policy of Indonesia includes mitigation and adaptation actions. Sustainable forest management by improving forest governance and increasing forest cover will provide an opportunity for developing eco-tourism in the forest areas in Indonesia. Forest areas in Indonesia have been delineated into Forest Management Units (FMUs). FMUs have an important role in the implementation of mitigation and adaptation actions to achieve contribution from the forestry sector to the national target of NDC. The mitigation and adaptation action planning should be written in the RPHJP and RPHJM of the FMUs; the business models which align with the RPHJP and RPHJM will support the FMUs to achieve the NDC target and improve the resiliency of the communities on the climate change.

## Objectives

- Establish baseline information by mapping the existing biophysical (spatial-temporal), socioeconomic condition (before and after the project), and potency of natural resources in the three study sites at the beginning of the project;
- Facilitate the preparation of business plans of the Forest Management Units (FMUs) at three study sites;
- Develop demonstration plots of at least 10 ha in each study site for carbon stock enhancement in FMUs or Forest Area with Specific Purpose (KHDTK) areas;
- Transfer techniques and raise awareness of project model establishment to relevant stakeholders through the synthesis of knowledge and experiences, recommendations on policy practices, and dissemination of project outputs.

### Achievements in 2021

- Tropical peatland site in Riau Province
  - › Completed the data collection and field survey for scoping and spatial analyses and carbon stock assessment.
  - › First participatory rural appraisal (PRA) tree site matching was conducted.
  - › Based on the initial assesement, FMU Minas Tahura and Kepau Jaya FWSP were selected as sites for demo-plot establishment.
- Mangrove site (Previously in Bali Province, then relocated to West Nusa Tenggara Province)
  - › The first survey carried out in December 2021 discovered that the nominated area in Tahura Ngurah Rai would not be a feasible project site as it has already been used for other programs while other potential areas in Bali were limited and already have planned another restoration program. The project team began looking for other potential mangrove sites in West Nusa Tenggara.
- Karst lowland site in South Sulawesi Province
  - › Completed the data collection and field survey for scoping and spatial analyses and carbon stock assessment.
  - › First participatory rural appraisal (PRA) tree site matching was conducted.

Year	Main Activities	AFoCO Budget (USD)
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inception meeting</li> <li>• Kick-off meeting</li> <li>• Stakeholder meeting</li> <li>• Collect and analyze data and information for scoping and spatial analysis</li> <li>• Collect and analyze baseline data and information of carbon stock, emission, biodiversity; and identification of potential commodities in three sites (Riau, West Nusa Tenggara, South Sulawesi)</li> <li>• Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) on demonstration plat site matching</li> <li>• Establishing demonstration plots</li> <li>• Review, Monitoring, Evaluation: mid-term, annual review, and reporting substance and financial</li> <li>• Management for support operation</li> </ul>	42,436.57
<b>AFoCO Budget Expended</b>		<b>42,436.57</b>



1 Land Cover at Maros (South Sulawesi)

2 Fencing installed at South Sulawesi demo plot

3 Field survey at Kepau Jaya FWSP, Riau province



## Conservation and development of forest ecosystems biodiversity resources at Cat Tien National Park

(AFoCO/024/2021)

<b>Duration</b>	2021 – 2026
<b>Budget</b>	USD 1,232,000 (AFoCO Funding: USD 1,132,000; National Contribution: USD 100,000)
<b>Project Site</b>	Cat Tien National Park and buffer zones of Tan Phu district (Dong Nai province) and Cat Tien district (Lam Dong province).

At present, due to human impacts and climate change, the biodiversity resources of CTNP are declining. Though, in the last few years, CTNP and local authorities have collaborated to help local people to improve their livelihoods, strengthen forest patrolling, and developing commitment to the forest, illegal logging, trapping, snaring still occur. Biodiversity conservation and development in CTNP is a priority. Without urgent human intervention, biodiversity resources will be degraded quickly, and many rare and endemic wildlife will be extinct. In addition, local people will lose their livelihoods, and their material and spiritual life will also be affected severely.

### Objectives

Improve knowledge, sharing information on biodiversity of forest ecosystems of the Park for local managers and policy makers;

- Assess the climate change and social impacts on CTNP biodiversity and integrated management measures, improving management and conservation capacity, and engaging local communities for forest management and protection;
- Pilot models of sustainable livelihood improvement for communities in the buffer zones

### Achievements in 2021

- Assess the needs of biodiversity training for local policy makers and managers Interviewed 180 staff from DOST, DONRE and DARD of Dong Nai and Lam Dong province
- Collected data from the statistical yearbook for Tan Phu district. Collected data of the socioeconomic last 10 years for 3 communes – Ta Lai, Nam Cat Tien and Dak Lua (buffer zone)
- Interviewed 19 people in Ta Lai, 12 people in Nam Cat Tien, 5 people in Dak Lua
- Field surveys on socio-economic development, cultivation, fishing, afforestation, forest
- Improved 2.5 ha of floating vegetation out to the Crocodile Lake, 5 ha of Mimosa pigra at Bird Lake, and 20 ha, cleaned 2 pits (40m<sup>2</sup>/pit) of drinking water for large mammals in Nui Tuong
- Interviewed 45 people from CPC and 90 local people in 3 communes
- Identified 5 species of Camellia distribution at Cat Tien National Park (Camellia dormoyana, C. luteocerata, C. cattienensis, C. capitata, C. sinensis)
- Planted 1,200 Camellia trees in 5 ha of land
- Organized training course to enhance knowledge and practical skills on investigation and monitoring of endangered wildlife species
- Set up a monitoring team to monitor key species in Cat Tien National Park and purchased trapping cameras and automatic recording devices
- Completed survey for the identification of grazing pasture location
- Developed training course materials for local guides to equip them with knowledge and skills on interpretation, foreign languages, biodiversity, and local culture, among others.



1 Training course (Class 1) on investigation and monitoring of endangered wildlife species for Cat Tien National Park staff  
 2,3,4 Interviewing local people at Dac Lua, Nam Cat Tien, and Phuoc Cat 2 communes



Year	Main Activities	AFoCO Budget (USD)
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect and analyze secondary data on climate change and social impacts on biodiversity of CTNP</li> <li>• Conduct survey and assessment of climate change and social impacts to CTNP biodiversity</li> <li>• Assess the needs of biodiversity training for local authorities and people</li> <li>• Develop training materials and invite experts</li> <li>• Organize training courses for local authorities and people in the buffer zone of 3 communes: Phuoc Cat 2, Dac Lua and Nam Cat Tien</li> <li>• Assess solutions to minimize negative impacts of climate change and social impacts on CTNP</li> <li>• Choose the appropriate solutions</li> <li>• Improve habitat of Ramsar-Crocodile Lake</li> <li>• Control Mimosa pigra at Bird Lak</li> <li>• Improve grassland for ungulate in Nui Tuong</li> <li>• Assess the needs of capacity building for local communities to adapt to climate change and social impacts</li> <li>• Survey the potential and situation to build a model of planting Golden Camellia</li> <li>• Develop a technical plan for planting and maintaining model of Golden Camellia plantation</li> <li>• Develop and maintain plantation model for the first 5 years</li> <li>• Conduct fire prevention and anti-pests and diseases in the first 4 years</li> <li>• Survey potential and situation to build an orchid collection model</li> <li>• Conduct inventory and collection of local orchids species</li> <li>• Purchase equipment and supplies for the greenhouse system</li> <li>• Assess training needs and organized training courses</li> <li>• Monitored key species</li> <li>• Assess and survey the needs of training on forest protection patrol, skills of using equipment for rangers</li> <li>• Develop a plan for surveying and assessing the benefits and potentials of economic development in the future of the Park and local community</li> <li>• Consult technical experts on identifying economic benefits of biodiversity conservation engaged with improving livelihoods for local people in the buffer zone</li> <li>• Assess the needs of training on CBT knowledge and skills for HHS and local guiders</li> </ul>	122,931
<b>AFoCO Budget Expended</b>		<b>122,931</b>

# Integrated Village-Driven Forest Rehabilitation and Livelihood Improvement in Viengthong District, Bolikhamxay Province, Lao PDR

(AFoCO/025/2021)

<b>Duration</b>	2021 - 2025
<b>Budget</b>	USD 1,099,840 (AFoCO Funding: USD 993,440; National Contribution: USD 106,400)
<b>Project Site</b>	Phou Khene Protection Forest, Viengthong District, Bolikhamxay Province, Lao PDR



Forests are critically important for sustainable socio-economic development and local livelihoods in Lao PDR. However, the country has experienced serious deforestation during the last three decades. This has threatened sustainable socio-economic development and local livelihoods in the country, particularly for those whose livelihoods depend on forest resources.

To reverse the situation, the Government of Lao PDR (GoL) has exerted best efforts in order to halt deforestation, while strongly promoting forest restoration combined with local livelihood improvement. In this connection, the GoL aims to restore 3 million hectares (ha) of degraded forest areas nationwide which are mainly in protection forests. This attempt is expected to contribute to the national target of increasing its forest cover up to 70% in the near future.

To restore the degraded forest areas, various community-based forest restoration models are being developed and tested in the country. The AFoCO/Landmark Rehabilitation Project, for instance, has developed and implemented a site-specific “Village-Driven Forest Restoration Model” in Sangthong and Paksong Districts of Lao PDR. The model integrates 3 technical measures which includes forest protection, forest restoration and livelihood improvement of participating village community. To date, the model has illustrated a convincing appropriateness to the county's circumstances, local acceptance and meeting the policy priorities of the government of Lao PDR.

The recently updated forestry legal framework, particularly the revised Forest Law, allows forest villagers to develop and use degraded forestland in protection forests for commercial tree plantation. The updated forestry law also recognizes the ownerships of village community and individuals on the planted trees and tree plantation upon legal registration. This increases opportunity for village community to integrate commercial plantation activities into the Village-Driven Forest Restoration Model as additional sources alternative income. Thus, the project is designed in such approach, particularly in the areas already occupied by villagers for cultivating agriculture crops in combination with tree plantation within the degraded forests in Phou Khene Protection Forest.

### Objectives

The overall goal of the project is to contribute to fulfilment of the national target in forest restoration (2.5 million ha), particularly to restore degraded forest lands in Phou Khene Protection Forest, while promoting forest-based income generation through the development and utilization of degraded forest lands while minimizing forest land-use conflicts. To realize the overall goal, the project specific

objectives are as follows.

- Develop, refine and make available for further replication of a set of technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable “Village-Driven Forest Restoration Model, ViDFoRM” for degraded protection forest areas;
- Restore and protect degraded forestland of Phou Khaen Protection Forest Areas through the application “ViDFoRM” in selected areas of degraded protection forest through integrated natural forest regeneration measures, including enrichment planting, forest plantation, educational outreach scheme, forest patrols, and forest fire management in 10 villages located surrounding the Phou Khene Protection Forest;
- Improve livelihood of forest dependent community in Phou Khaen Protection Forest Areas through incomes generation from implementing forest restoration activities and NTFPs products;

### Achievements in 2021

- Selected 5 project pilot villages to conduct baseline surveys and assessment of current situations, challenges and opportunities
- Drafted a ViDFoRM guideline
- Drafted 5 village forest management plans including forest restoration and protection works plan
- Finalized a contract agreement with villagers to produce about 100,000 seedlings for signing by project staff and 5 villagers
- Improved the operation of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and District Coordination Unit (DCU)
- Launched a project kick-off workshop

Year	Main Activities	AFoCO Budget (USD)
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Familiarization with local situations and set up a project baseline information database</li> <li>• Develop ViDFoRM, related guidelines and training materials</li> <li>• Establish and equip Village Forest Restoration Groups (VFRGs) and setting up their networking system</li> <li>• Development of Village Forest Management Plan (VFMP), Forest restoration and protection work plan</li> <li>• Seedling Production</li> <li>• Establish and equip Village Forest Protection Groups (VFPGs) and setting their networking system</li> <li>• Establish PMU and DCU</li> <li>• Establish PMU and DCU offices</li> <li>• Procurement of vehicles, equipment</li> <li>• Develop project management procedures, regulations and M&amp;E framework and use M&amp;E results for adaptive project management</li> <li>• Organize a Project Kick-Off workshop and final workshop</li> </ul>	238,000
<b>AFoCO Budget Expended</b>		<b>238,000</b>



1 Project kick-off workshop was organized in Vientong District in November 2021

2 Development of 5 VFMPs (in Kok kham, Thapair, Sopna, Namyang and Phonedou Village s) including forest restoration and protection work plan through a participatory approach involving villagers

## 3.2 LIST OF PROJECTS

(As of December 2021)

PROJECT CODE	TITLE	PROJECT DURATION	IMPLEMENTING COUNTRIES
<b>Completed Projects</b>			
AFoCO/001/2013	Reclamation, Rehabilitation and Restoration of Degraded Forest Ecosystems (RRR-DFE) in Mekong Basin Countries	2 years (2013-2015)	KH, LA, MM, TH, VN
AFoCO/002/2013	Capacity Building on Improving Forest Resources Assessment and Enhancing the Involvement of the Local Communities to Address the Adverse Impact of Climate Change	2 years (2013-2016)	BR, KH, ID, LA, MM, PH, TH, VN
AFoCO/003/2014	Promotion of Forest Rehabilitation in Cambodia and Viet Nam Through Demonstration Models and Improvement of Seed Supply System	5 years (2015-2019)	KH, VN
AFoCO/004/2014	Facilitating the Participatory Planning Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) Using Geographic Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS) Technologies in Forest Resources Management in The Philippines, Indonesia, and Thailand	2014-2020	ID, PH, TH
AFoCO/009/2015	Developing High Valuable Species in Viet Nam and Thailand as the Mechanism for Sustainable Forest Management and Livelihood Improvement for Local Communities	2016-2018	VN, TH
AFoCO/011/2016	Capacity Building on the Application of Landscape Approach to Support the Sustainable Natural Resources Management in Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Philippines, and Singapore (BIPS Project)	2016-2019	BR, ID, PH, SG
<b>Projects Under Inception Arrangements</b>			
AFoCO/026/2021	Re-greening the bare lands in Timor-Leste through promotion of locally customized restoration models	2021-2024	TL
AFoCO/027/2022	Site Restoration and Sustainable Management of Community Forest Using Multiple Use Tree Species and Agroforestry	2022-2027	KH
AFoCO/028/2022	Pilot Project on Inventory of Unaccounted Forests in Kostanay and North Kazakhstan Regions and Automation of the Collection of Information on Forestry	2022-2025	KZ
AFoCO/029/2022	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	2022-2026	PH
AFoCO/030/2022	Improving Local Community's Livelihoods and Engagement in Sustainable Forest and Land Management in Thailand through Forest Landscape Restoration	2022-2024	TH
AFoCO/031/2022	Rehabilitation of Degraded and Potentially Deserted Forest Land in the Northwest Region of Viet Nam through Application of Integrated Technical Measures	2022-2026	VN
AFoCO/032/2021	Capacity Building on Enhancing Resilience to Forest Fire and Local Livelihood in CLMV Countries	2021-2026	AFoCO Secretariat (Lead Agency), KH, LA, MM, VN
AFoCO/035/2022	Improved Local Community Livelihoods through Increased Income from Non-timber Forest Products (NTFP): Modeling Scalable Community-based Enterprises in Asia	2022-2026	All

PROJECT CODE	TITLE	PROJECT DURATION	IMPLEMENTING COUNTRIES
<b>Ongoing Projects</b>			
AFoCO/005/2014 (Landmark)	Establishment of Forest Genetics Research Center for Restoration of Major Timber Species in Cambodia	2016-2025	KH
AFoCO/006/2014 (Landmark)	Rehabilitation and Development of Mangrove Forest Ecosystem in Thai Binh Province, Viet Nam	2016-2023	VN
AFoCO/007/2014 (Landmark)	Establishment of Regional Education and Training Center in Myanmar	2014-2023	MM
AFoCO/008/2014 (Landmark)	Village-based Forest Rehabilitation in Lao PDR	2016-2025	LA
AFoCO/010/2016	Domestication of Endangered, Endemic and Threatened Plant Species in Disturbed Terrestrial Ecosystems in Malaysia and Thailand	2016-2022	MY, TH
AFoCO/012/2019	The Registration of Small-scale Private Forest Plantations in Cambodia	2020-2022	KH
AFoCO/013/2020	Improving Pinus caribaea Morelet for Plantation on Degraded Land in Viet Nam's Northern Mountainous Region	2020-2023	VN
AFoCO/014/2020	Integrated Pest and Disease Management in Teak Plantations in Bago Region, Myanmar	2020-2025	MM
AFoCO/015/2020	Model Forest for Livelihood Improvement of Forest Dependent Communities through Development of Community-based Enterprise and Forest Conservation	2020-2023	MM
AFoCO/016/2021	Promotion of Vertical Integration in Wood Processing through People's Organizations in Community Based Forest Management Areas in the Philippines	2021-2026	PH
AFoCO/017/2020	Sustainable Community-based Enterprise Development for Improved Rural Livelihood in Bhutan	2020-2025	BT
AFoCO/018/2020	Development of Agroforestry Models for Promotion of Reforestation in the Different Zones in Timor-Leste	2021-2024	TL
AFoCO/019/2020 (NIFoS)	Assessment of Adelgid Diversity and Distribution in Conifer Forest of Bhutan to Mitigate Future Outbreaks	2020-2022	BT
AFoCO/020/2020 (NIFoS)	Investigation of the Resistance of Black Saxaul ( <i>Haloxylon aphyllum</i> ) Forms to Gall-forming Insects in Kazakhstan	2020-2022	KZ
AFoCO/021/2021 (NIFoS)	Performance of Cluster Method in Rehabilitating Degraded Lands in Cambodia	2021-2023	KH
AFoCO/022/2021 (NIFoS)	Research on Forest Enrichment using High Valuable Native Species in Hoa Binh Province, Viet Nam	2021-2023	VN
AFoCO/023/2021	Innovative Solution for Climate Change and Biodiversity Landscape Strategy to Support SDGs in Indonesia	2021-2024	ID
AFoCO/024/2021	Conservation and Development of Forest Ecosystems Biodiversity Resources at Cat Tien National Park	2021-2026	VN
AFoCO/025/2021	Integrated Village-driven Forest Rehabilitation and Livelihood Improvement in Viengthong District, Bolikhamxay Province, Lao PDR	2021-2025	LA

# 04

## **PARTNERSHIP & COMMUNICATION**

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**4.1 RESPONSIBLE MINISTRIES IN MEMBER COUNTRIES**

**4.2 STRATEGIC PARTNERS**

**4.3 PUBLICATIONS**

## 4.1 RESPONSIBLE MINISTRIES IN MEMBER COUNTRIES

### Bhutan

Department of Forests and Park Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries



### Brunei Darussalam

Forestry Department, Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism



### Cambodia

Forestry Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries



### Indonesia

Agency for Standardization of Environment and Forestry Instruments, Ministry of Environment and Forestry



### Kazakhstan

Forestry and Wildlife Committee, Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources



### Kyrgyzstan

Forest Service Agency, Ministry of Agriculture



### Lao PDR

Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry



### Malaysia\*

Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resource



### Mongolia

Ministry of Environment and Tourism



### Myanmar

Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation



### Philippines

Forest Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources



### Republic of Korea

Korea Forest Service



### Singapore\*

National Parks Board, Ministry of National Development



### Thailand

Royal Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment



### Timor-Leste

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries



### Viet Nam

Viet Nam Administration of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development



## 4.2 STRATEGIC PARTNERS

### PARTNERS



United Nations  
Convention to Combat  
Desertification



### GOODWILL AMBASSADOR



CAMERATEA SALZBURG is a chamber orchestra based in Salzburg, Austria

## 4.3 PUBLICATIONS



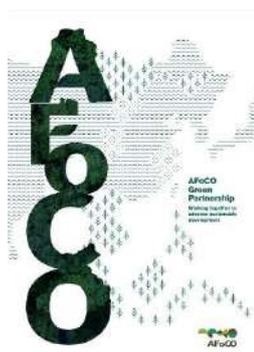
### AFoCO Portfolio

One-page leaflet featuring AFoCO's project fund distribution and key capacity building programs



### AFoCO ANNUAL REPORT 2020

The Annual Report 2020 highlights events, projects, and activities carried out in 2020



### AFoCO Green Partnership

The brochure introduces 6 programs for private sector engagement – Landscape Partnership Asia (LPA), Livelihood Improvement through Forestbased Enterprises (LIFE), Saving Asia's Vulnerable Ecosystems (SAVE), Earth Garden, Climate LINK, and Landmark Program 2.0.



### Exploring the Forest with Tory and Sully

AFOCO’s first comic-based textbook aims to help children understand how to plant, raise, and care for a forest tree. The role of forests in combating climate change and land degradation, conserving biological diversity, and providing other environmental benefits is also incorporated. The book has five chapters, and each chapter consists of three parts: a comic strip and an activity page intended for 10 to 12-year-olds, and a section on further learning for 13 to 16-year-olds.

The book is available in four languages — English, Khmer, Korean, and Burmese.

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The financial highlights are based on the Annual Financial Report prepared for the fiscal year of 2021 started on 1 January 2021 and ended on 31 December 2021 in accordance with paragraph 7.5 of the Financial Regulations of AFoCO.

The Administrative Account for operating cost was managed based on the annual budget plan approved by the Fourth Session of the AFoCO Assembly (Decision 40-IV-20R) held virtually on 25- 26 November 2020. The total amount of operating budget approved by the Assembly amounted to USD 4,395,662 which comprises mandatory contributions from the Parties (88%, USD 3,876,530) and funds from other sources (12%, USD 519,132). The total amount of voluntary contributions received to the Special Accounts for financing cooperative activities in FY2021 was USD 4,132,231, and this was fully committed by the Korea Forest Service.

## Status of Administrative Account for Operating Cost

The revenue secured for the operating budget in FY2021 amounted to USD 4,137,397 (94% of the planned budget approved by the Assembly), among which 92% (USD 3,786,404) was secured by the Parties' mandatory cash and in-kind contributions and 8% (USD 351,186) was raised from other funding sources including voluntary contributions from Myanmar and other funding sources as follows: 1) International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) for joint workshop, 2) Korea National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS) for cooperative projects, 3) Insurance proceeds collected from the defect liability bond for the RETC construction, and 4) Cash donation from Nonghyup (NH) Bank fully used for the sponsorship of the 15th Session of World Forest Congress (WFC).

Item	Actual Amount (USD)
<b>Revenue</b>	
Mandatory Contributions	3,786,404
Voluntary Contributions & Other Sources	284,761
Other Incomes	66,232
<b>Total Annual Revenue (A)</b>	<b>4,137,397</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
A. Salaries and Benefits	1,585,195
B. Official Travel	73,364
C. Special Activity	103,061
D. General Operating Expenses	1,619,13
E. Hospitality	16,102
F. Asset Acquisition	252,446
G. Provisions and Contingencies	0
H. Others	66,232
<b>Total Annual Expenditure (B)</b>	<b>3,715,538</b>
<b>Balance (A-B)</b>	<b>421,859</b>

The budget execution rate for the operating budget was 90% (USD 3,715,538) of the actual revenue. Around 98% of the total assessed amount of mandatory contributions from the Parties and 67% of the total amount of other sources planned to be raised in FY2021 were actually secured for operational expenditures of AFoCO.

## Status of Special Accounts for Cooperative Activities (Programs & Projects)

Voluntary contributions to the Special Account for cooperative activities in FY2021 amounted to USD 4,132,231 (equivalent to KRW 5,000,000,000) which were fully committed by the Korea Forest Service for Landmark Program (USD 167,768), two (2) regional projects (USD 567,007), seven (7) on-going individual projects (USD 1,404,885) and four (4) new projects (USD 1,992,573).



Project	Committed Amount (USD)	Executed Amount (USD)
<b>Landmark Program</b>	167,769	562,120
<b>Regional Projects</b>		
AFoCO/010/2016	82,645	59,058
AFoCO/032/2022	484,362	0
AFoCO/012/2019	116,763	116,857
AFoCO/013/2020	255,128	172,578
<b>Individual Projects</b>		
AFoCO/014/2020	165,225	0
AFoCO/015/2020	315,900	0
AFoCO/016/2020	48,669	39,921
AFoCO/017/2020	311,500	311,500
AFoCO/018/2020	191,700	174,155
<b>New Projects</b>		
AFoCO/023/2021	349,279	124,146
AFoCO/024/2021	453,200	325,170
AFoCO/025/2021	591,392	238,047
AFoCO/026/2021	598,702	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,132,231</b>	<b>2,123,552</b>

Delays in project fund execution in FY2021 occurred due to unavoidable constraints posed by the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic, which hindered the project implementation and inception arrangements. The total amount of expenditures for cooperative activities under the Special Account in FY2021 is USD 2,123,552 (51% of total amount committed) which consists of USD 562,120 for the Landmark Program, USD 59,058 for two (2) regional projects, USD 815,011 for five (5) individual projects, and USD 687,364 for three (3) new projects.

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