

Seventh Session of the Assembly
26-27 October 2022, Almaty (hybrid)

Agenda Item 7.3

Updates on the new and potential projects and programs

I. Background

1. Consistent with Strategic Priority Area 5 of the AFoCO Strategic Plan (2019-2023), 'Strengthening institutional capabilities, diversifying resources, and promoting regional actions,' the Secretariat has been sustaining its efforts to initiate and develop projects and programs to facilitate the achievement of the AFoCO vision while, at the same time, contribute to the attainment of forest and climate-related national, regional, and global targets and initiatives.

II. Status of New and Potential Projects and Programs

2. Aside from AFoCO's regular projects which are funded by KFS, project development in response to call for proposals, collaboration with partners, and donor-driven projects have been identified and implemented in consultation with Member Countries such as the following:

a. With confirmed project funding

- The project proposal, entitled: 'Capacity Building on Enhancing Resilience to Forest Fire, and Local Livelihood and Market Linkages' (6 years, USD 8,502,562) was approved as of 4 January 2022 by the Secretariats of ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF) and ASEAN. Correspondingly, the Regional Project manager was hired and started his duty on 21 June 2022. As of this writing, the first tranche of the project budget from AKCF is underway based on the official communications of the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC).

b. Call for proposals, with an estimated cost of USD 11, 059,031, to wit:

- Project Concept Paper, entitled 'Reinforcing the digital-green nexus by employment creation for youth via digital capacity building and technology for food systems and re-forestation initiatives, creating a green, food-secure home for digital nomads in the Kyrgyz Republic' (4 years, USD 10,000,000) was submitted to Korea International Cooperation Agency on 29 July 2022 in partnership with the UN World Food Programme Kyrgyz Republic.

- Upon receiving approval of the Concept Note, the Secretariat submitted the Project Proposal, entitled 'Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for Adaptation to Climate Change and Forest Fire Management in Mekong Region' (3 years, USD 1,059,031) to the Mekong-ROK Cooperation Fund on 12 August 2022.

c. Collaboration with partners

- **(Landscape Partnership Asia)** The Landscape Partnership Asia (LPA) was officially launched on 2 May 2022 at the XV World Forestry Congress in Seoul, Republic of Korea. Together with other founding partners, the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF) and the Global EverGreening Alliance, a number of project concepts to support the restoration of 10 million hectares during 10 years are in different stages of project development. These constitute individual and joint initiatives of partners as reflected in **Annex 1**.
- **(GIZ)** AFoCO signed MoU with the Regional Programme Integrative and Climate-sensitive Land Use in Central Asia, implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (ILUCA-GIZ) on 26 November 2022. The Secretariat has been considering co-funding opportunities with GIZ under the ILUCA Program to realize bigger funding scope and strategically expand AFoCO's footprints in Central Asia.

d. Donor-driven projects

- **(AFoCO Green Partnership)** Since the AFoCO Green Partnership was introduced and reported at the 5th Session of the Assembly in October 2021, the Secretariat held a series of partnership dialogues with Korean companies that led to the following project initiatives:
 - Under the call for proposal by Korea Forestry Promotion Institute (KoFPI), the Secretariat has been undertaking REDD+ feasibility study in three (3) countries, including Cambodia with Woori Financial Group, Philippines with SK Forest, and Mongolia with Yuhan-Kimberly.
 - Under the MoU with MUSTGAMES on 21 November 2021, the company firstly donated in-cash contribution to plant trees in Cambodia.
- **(FAO)** Assuring the Future of Forests with Integrated Risk Management (AFFIRM) Mechanism was signed at the Fire Management Forum at the XV World Forestry Congress in Seoul, Republic of Korea, and will be implemented by UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in collaboration with AFoCO with funding from the Korea Forest Service (KFS). AFFIRM will be piloted in three AFoCO member countries, including Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam, aiming to develop integrated risk management plans to use as examples for other countries to follow, creating a methodology that will enable countries to better conduct disturbance risk assessments and provide an improved understanding of forest hazards and forest-related risks.

- **(UNEP)** The Korea Forest Service developed a concept note with UN Environment Programme (UNEP), entitled Sustaining an Abundance of Forest Ecosystems (SAFE), aims to support and accelerate local action for the conservation and restoration of vulnerable forest ecosystems with high biodiversity value. As an implementing partner for the component on 'Restoring degraded and vulnerable forest ecosystems with high biodiversity value', AFoCO will carry out community-led forest restoration activities in selected member countries.

III. Points for consideration

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

A-22-7-9 Annex 1. Projects under Development for LPA

	Project Title	Target Donor
1	Forest restoration in Kyrgyz and Kazakhstan	GIZ
2	Landscape restoration for improved productivity, livelihoods, climate change adaptation and mitigation in Central Asia	GCF
3	Landscape Restoration TPP: Putting restoration solutions in Asia	USAID
4	From ridge to reef: Enhancing resilience and ecosystem goods and services through forest landscape restoration in Myanmar	DANIDA
5	Expanding successful carbon-food-timber restoration of degraded tropical savanna	The Environmental Fund Management Agency (BPD LH) (TBD)
6	Ecosystem-based adaptation to enhance the role of trees and forest in climate policy and programs Central Asia	GCF (TBD)
7	Addressing the energy-water-land-food nexus in Central Asia to support the transition to climate resilience (CANEX)	IKI (TBD)
8	Reinforcing the digital-green nexus by employment creation for youth via digital capacity building and technology for food systems and re-forestation initiatives, creating a green, food-secure home for digital nomads in the Kyrgyz Republic	KOICA
9	Restore Southeast Asia	Private Sector
10	Site Restoration and Sustainable Management of Community Forest Using Multiple Use Tree Species and Agroforestry	KFS (through AFoCO)
11	Forest restoration demonstration through high capacity forest nursery and capacity building in support to “1 Billion Tree” campaign in Mongolia	KFS (through AFoCO)