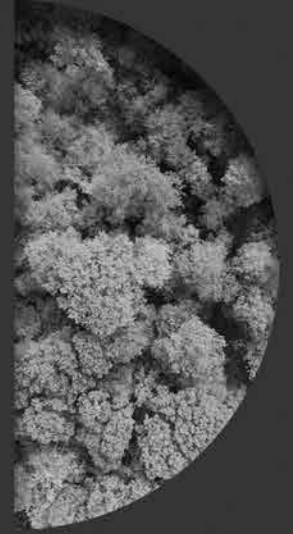




Asian
Forest Cooperation
Organization

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Mr. Ricardo Calderon delivering the opening remark for the 2022 AFoCO Corporate Forum in Seoul

As we approach the end of another year, I am pleased to present to you the 2022 Annual Report of our organization. It has been a year like no other, with many challenges and changes, but AFoCO has remained steadfast in its commitment to promoting sustainable forestry practices across the Asia region and continued its efforts in empowering our member countries to achieve global and regional forestry objectives.

2022 has been a year of milestones – we convened the 2nd AFoCO Ministerial Meeting, became an official Supporting Partner to the United Nations on Ecosystem Restoration, was admitted as an observer organization to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and welcomed the Kyrgyz Republic as the 14th Member Party of AFoCO.

Despite the difficulties posed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, our team has continued to work hard to advance our mission. In the past year, we have successfully implemented several initiatives aimed at improving forest management, including 18 capacity-building workshops, training courses, and consultations, benefitting over 1,410 participants. We also completed 9 projects and prepared for the implementation of 5 new individual projects.

As we look to the future, I am confident that the AFoCO will continue to be a leading voice in promoting sustainable forestry practices in the region. We will continue to work with our members and partners to promote a greener and more sustainable future for all.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated team, responsible ministries and implementing agencies in our Member Countries, and partners for their unwavering support and cooperation. Without their tireless efforts, we would not be able to achieve our goals. We look forward to your continued support as we work towards a brighter future for Asia's forests.

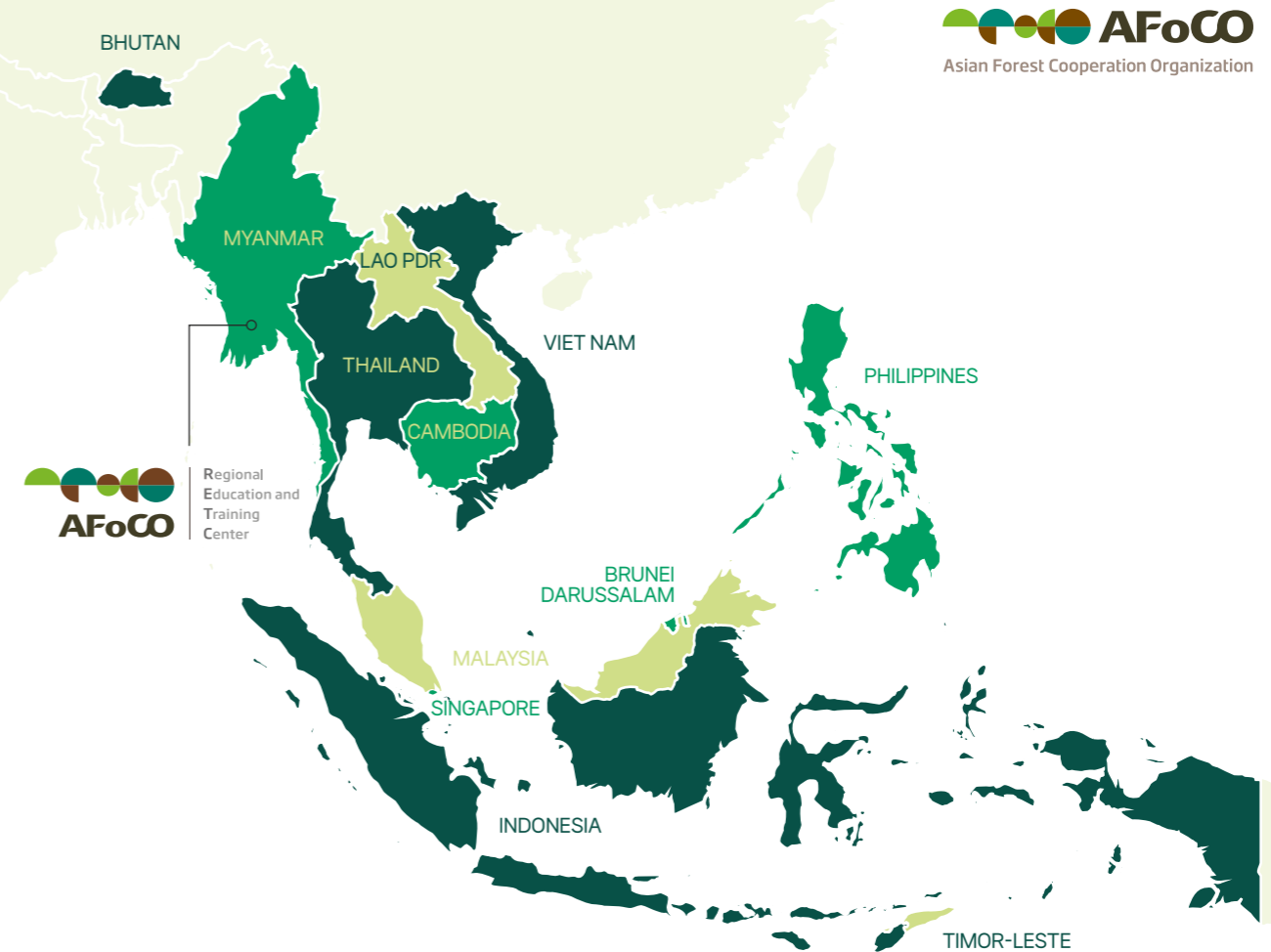
Ricardo L. Calderon
AFoCO Executive Director

ABOUT AFoCO

The Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO), a treaty-based intergovernmental organization established in 2018, 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 following the ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit in June 2009.

On a global scale, forests are essential resources that are of inestimable value. 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 require 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 March 2023, 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.

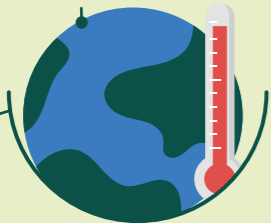


STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2019-2023



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 2022

11 NOVEMBER 2022

ADMISSION AS OBSERVER ORGANIZATION BY THE UNFCCC

Newly admitted as an observer organization by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), AFoCO was represented at the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 27) to the UNFCCC in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. AFoCO's delegation to COP 27 explored the establishment of new partnerships and expanded networks with both government and private sector stakeholders, as well as other like-minded organizations. Working towards the global goals of mitigating and adapting to climate change, AFoCO will continue to emphasize the role of forests by promoting sustainable forest management and taking regional action to enhance the resilience of forests, landscapes, and communities.

9 SEPTEMBER 2022

KYRGYZSTAN BECOMES PARTY TO AFoCO

The Kyrgyz Republic came on board as a full-fledged Party of AFoCO on August 30, 2022. The deposit of the Instrument of Accession of the Kyrgyz Republic took place on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Forest Sector in the Kyrgyz Republic. Having the Kyrgyz Republic as a Party to AFoCO will contribute to the expansion of regional representation of the Central Asian region, strengthening organizational presence on the global level, and promoting diversification of programs.

8 AUGUST 2022

AFoCO BECOMES SUPPORTING PARTNER OF UN DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

AFoCO is an official Supporting Partner of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (UN Decade) 2021-2030. Together with other UN Decade partners across the globe, AFoCO is committing to a long-term partnership to help amplify efforts on ecosystem restoration by building evidence-based recommendations, contributing to strengthening restoration capacities, and playing a part in coordinating the UN Decade's initiatives by co-leading the Climate Restoration Challenge.

ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

- 14 AFoCO Corporate Forum on Forest, Climate and ESG
- 17 #REFOREST Campaign & AFoCOxPengsoo Collab
- 20 Sixth Session of the Assembly of AFoCO
- 21 2022 Annual Technical Workshop
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AFoCO Corporate Forum on Forest, Climate and ESG

February 28, 2022

AFoCO organized its first forum for corporate and private sector entities on 24th February 2022 in a hybrid fashion at Westin Chosun Hotel in Seoul. The Forum welcomed some 123 participants – 60 joined in person and 60 joined virtually. The forum aimed to provide a platform to learn about (i) the outlook and possibility of forest investment in climate responses and ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance), (ii) trends and outlook of the forest carbon market, and (iii) global private-public partnership through international organizations. To promote and mobilize forest investments by corporations in the Republic of Korea, the Forum introduced cases of engagement by global conglomerates in forest projects and highlighted the benefits of carbon investment by companies. Reiterating the economic returns of forest rehabilitation projects, the Forum encouraged Korean companies to invest in overseas forest projects.

The forum was opened by Mr. Ricardo Calderon, Executive Director of AFoCO, and Mr. Ban Ki-Moon extended a special message to the speakers and participants before the presentations began.

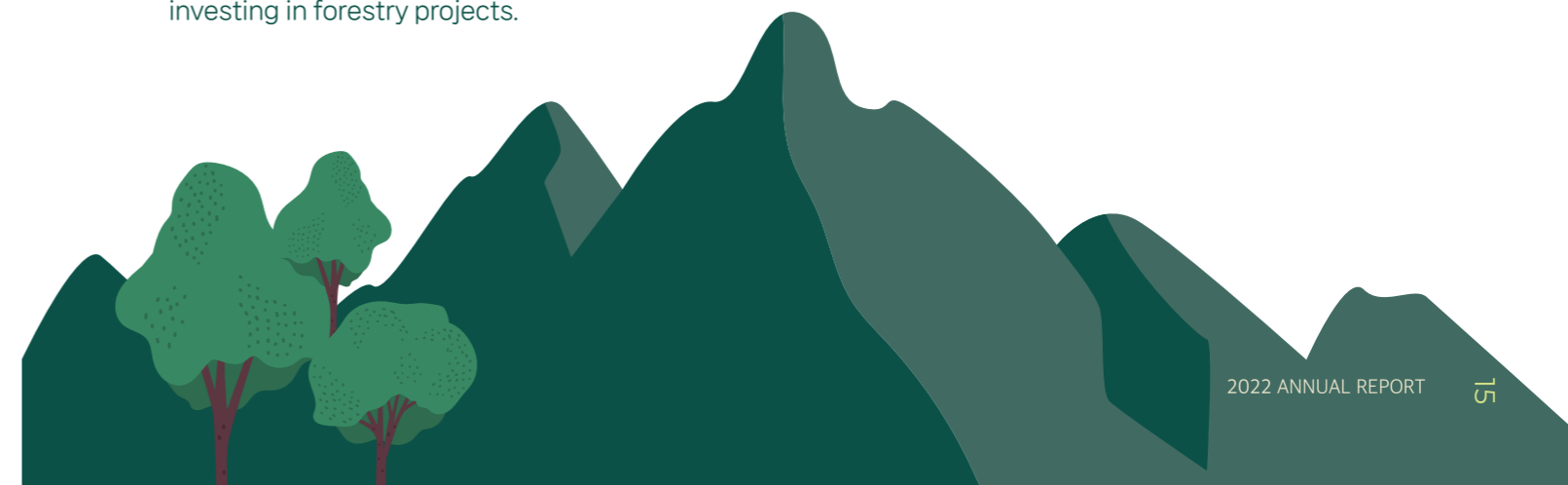


(From left) Speakers, moderator and panelists physically present at the Forum; View of the forum venue; Mr. Ban Ki-moon, President and Chair, Global Green Growth Institute; Ms. Margaret Kim, CEO of Gold Standard; Mr. Jean-Charles, Guinchard, Associate Partner, Dalberg; Mr. Stephen Donofrio, Director of Ecosystem Marketplace

- Ms. Margaret Kim, CEO of Gold standard, shared current and future trends in climate response through forest investment in the private sector.
- Mr. Jean-Charles Guinchard, Associate partner, Dalberg, focused mainly on how businesses can create value by investing in forest conservation and restoration which will result in business profitability, business resilience, and values-based leadership.
- Mr. Stephen Donofrio, Director of Ecosystem Marketplace, shared the current trends and outlook in the forest carbon market by mentioning the evolution of forest carbon financing and the mechanisms driving finances towards forests and conservation initiatives. He also shared data on forest carbon and corporate engagement.
- Mr. Jin Sunpil, Vice Executive Director of AFoCO, presented on how corporate and private entities can participate through six different programs under the AFoCO Green Partnership – AFoCO Climate Link, Saving Asian Vulnerable Ecosystems (SAVE), Earth Garden, Livelihood Improvement through Forest-based Enterprise (LIFE), AFoCO Landmark Program 2.0 and Landscape Partnership Asia (LPA). He added that the six programs can further be tailored to suit the needs of cooperating entities.

A panel discussion involving representatives from private sector entities and AFoCO was moderated by Mr. Moon Kook-hyun, Chairman and CEO of New Paradigm Institute.

- Mr. Chung In-Bo, CEO of SK Forest, shared his thoughts on how Korean businesses can also engage in gaining carbon credits through investing in forestry projects and highlighted that Nature-based Solutions (NbS) has much potential in the future and should be included in the carbon market of Korea. He added that stronger support from international organizations like AFoCO and government bodies such as the Korea Forest Service (KFS) can help bridge and lower barriers for corporate sector entities to invest in forestry.
- Dr. Oh Deok-yo, from the Korea Corporate Governance Service (KCGS), touched on the importance of forests as carbon sinks in achieving net-zero goals and also on creating shared value. He shared that barriers for corporate entities to invest in forestry projects can be overcome by lowering initial costs or allowing companies to invest in project implementation and increase investment based on results. He also highlighted the risk of greenwashing when companies fail to meet high standards of assessment.
- Mr. Lee Ok-su, Director of Deloitte Korea, highlighted the importance of CCUS (Carbon capture, Utilization, and storage) and businesses taking part in ETS (Emissions Trading Scheme) and how AFoCO can be instrumental in providing a credible environment for business entities investing in forestry projects.
- Prof. Kim Jaehyun from Konkuk University, shared how businesses like SK forest, Yuhan Kimberly and projects like 'Forest for life' have contributed by investing in forestry projects. He also emphasized that AFoCO can play a role in bridging companies and developing countries to increase investments in overseas projects.
- Dr. Park Eunsik, Director General of the International Affairs Bureau of the KFS, shared about the government initiative of providing REDD+ guidelines and how business entities can gain carbon credits by investing in forestry projects.



Concluding the panel discussion, Mr. Moon shared his experience working in Yuhan Kimberly where participatory planting with communities was initiated. He highlighted the importance of public engagement and how AFoCO can play an imperative role in providing tailored projects to promote investment in forestry-related activities.



Group photo with panellists: (From left) Mr. Jin Sunpil, AFoCO Vice Executive Director; Dr. Park Eunsik, Korea Forest Service Director-General; Mr. Moon Kook-hyun, Chairman and CEO of New Paradigm Institute; Mr. Ricardo Calderon, AFoCO Executive Director (2021-2022); Mr. Chung In-bo, CEO of SK Forest; Prof. Kim Jaehyun, Konkuk University; Dr. Oh Deok-yo, from the Korea Corporate Governance Service; and Mr. Lee Ok-su, Director of Deloitte Korea,



Panel discussion

#REFOREST Earth Day Campaign

March-April, 2022

Commemorating the International Day of Forests (March 21) and Earth Day (22 April), AFoCO, in collaboration with SK Forest and with support from the Korea Forest Service, organized a campaign on social media platform, Instagram, to raise environmental awareness among the public, and promote sustainable habits that help care for the Earth. The campaign ran for a month, from March 21 through April 22, in the form of a social media challenge under the theme of sustainability living habits to make an impact on the environment. To promote the campaign, AFoCO issued press releases, shared social media posts, collaborated with local influencers, and disseminated event posters to related institutions and government agencies.

One of the highlights of the campaign was the pledge to plant a mangrove seedling for every mission post uploaded. With the support of SK Forest, almost double the number of seedlings were planted – resulting in a total of 3,022 mangrove seedlings (*Sonneratia caseolaris*) being planted across 1.5 hectares in Donglong commune, Tienhai district, Thai Binh province, Viet Nam.

The tree planting contract was signed on August 4, 2022 between the Institute of Ecology and Works Protection of Viet Nam. The planting activity was coordinated by Mr. Luu Tien Dat Senior Official of the Viet Nam Administration of Forestry (VNForest), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam and AFoCO National Focal Point, in cooperation with the forest rangers, commune people's committees, and district officials.

The afforested plot, which boasts a survival rate of 98% after three months of planting, is expected to contribute to efforts in coping with natural disasters, contribute to climate change mitigation, and safeguard regional biodiversity. The planting techniques and practices were carried out in accordance with relevant regulations and were closely monitored, resulting in a high rate of afforestation compared to other similar programs and projects.



#REFOREST Campaign

The Instagram campaign saw a total of 1,569 posts from both domestic and foreign participants.

Among them, 130 domestic and 9 international participants were selected as campaign winners and were rewarded with cosmetics sponsored by SK Forest and digital gift cards.

Another 100 lucky draw winners were selected to receive coffee gift vouchers among the remaining participants.



Campaign promotional posts explaining how to join the #REFOREST campaign

AFoCOxPengsoo Collab

April 8, 2022



AFoCO has been making efforts to enhance its visibility and reach out to a wider audience through various outreach activities. To connect with the public in a more friendly and visually compelling way, AFoCO collaborated with Giant PengTV of Korea Educational Broadcasting System to produce an AFoCO-branded video featuring the well-known penguin character, Pengsoo. The video showcased AFoCO's participation in the XV World Forestry Congress (WFC) and then ongoing Earth Day campaign, #REForest, to raise environmental awareness. The story revolved around the establishment of a "Pengsoo Forest" in response to the forest fires that were a major issue in the Republic of Korea at that time. The filming took place at a site sponsored by the Inter-Korean Forest Cooperation Center in Paju. About 300 seedlings planted by AFoCO and Pengsoo during the filming will be managed by the Center.

The video aired on local TV via the EBS 1TV channel and on the Giant PengTV Youtube channel on April 8. As of February 2023, the video on the Giant PengTV YouTube channel recorded 827,073 views and 1,746 comments. Additionally, snapshots of the video were used to decorate the AFoCO exhibition booth at WFC from May 2-6, 2022.

The AFoCOxPengsoo video was produced in collaboration with Giant Peng TV, run by the Education Broadcasting System (EBS) of the Republic of Korea. View the video in Korean (with English subtitles) on the Giant Peng TV channel here: <https://youtu.be/QBJYGwi7XAA>

Sixth Session of the Assembly

March 29-30, 2022

The Sixth Session of the Assembly of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization was held on 29-30 March 2022 as a special session. The Assembly was attended by Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam as Parties, Singapore and Kyrgyz Republic as Observers. In this Session, the Assembly members warmly welcomed the new Observer, the Kyrgyz Republic which was granted observer status last November 2021.

The Assembly discussed various agendas which include regarding engagement of AFoCO at the XV World Forest Congress, and preparation for the upcoming Ministerial Meeting. The Assembly noted 17 meetings and events in which AFoCO engaged as an organizer or partner. The Assembly reassured full support for the activities and looked forward to participating in this significant global event.

The Assembly was further updated on the status of projects. Apart from the fruitful discussions, the Assembly adopted the decision on approving the new project "Establishment of ASEAN-Korea Garden in Cambodia." The Assembly further considered and endorsed the Rules of Procedure for Partner Countries and Partnership Organizations which is an imperative document for smooth communication and cooperation among the member countries and the partners, as well as the expanded fellowship program and internship program. The annual and financial report 2021 was presented in detail at the Assembly which was subsequently approved for publication with an appreciation of the progress made despite the pandemic.

The Assembly decided to hold the Seventh Session of the Assembly in October 2022 as a Regular Session.



Sixth Session of the Assembly held virtually from March 29-30, 2022

2022 Annual Technical Workshop

April 29, 2022



AFoCO has been organizing the Annual Technical Workshop (ATW) for Project Management and Performance Review since 2020. The workshop's purpose is to revisit the current year's achievements, and progress while reflecting and sharing the overall experience of projects including the lessons learned from successful cases and practices, and project development ideas among the Implementing Agencies (IAs). The 3rd ATW was held in person on 29 April 2022, as part of the pre-congress events preceding the XV World Forestry Congress that was held from May 2-6 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The workshop comprised the 2021 performance review of completed and ongoing projects, and included interactive discussions to help build networks and promote exchanges among the participants.

The first session of the ATW addressed project implementation and management concerns, where each project manager presented the project profiles, progress and outcomes for 2021, success factors of projects, challenges and lessons learned, and way forward, especially in terms of project sustainability. This was followed by an active discussion where project managers could raise relevant concerns they have faced during implementation. Despite the many challenges posed by the pandemic, most of the projects were able to reach their respective physical targets and many were able to successfully and effectively implement project activities by adopting COVID-19 adaptive measures and methods.

As the number and scope of AFoCO programs and projects are envisioned to grow in the coming years, topics on strengthening project performance and country presence of AFoCO at the sub-region and country levels were tackled at the workshop. The workshop provided an opportunity to reflect on the performance of AFoCO projects, including discussions on how each project should utilize its outcomes, success factors, and lessons learned. There was a collective affirmation of the continuous learning experience for projects to optimize rather than be distracted by the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The workshop participants also arrived at a general consensus on sustaining the utilization of online platforms in project implementation and development.

At the core of project management, it was apparent that building the capacities of project implementers and AFoCO staff is crucial. For this, participants suggested conducting a project management training at the regional level. Towards the same disposition, capacity building programs for project staff should be sustained at the level of

the IA, implementing country and sub-region, while supplementary technical training (GIS, database management, etc.) may be conducted for project-specific purposes. On top of this, the crucial transition period (2023-24) where the establishment of project offices is planned, will allow AFoCO to play a bigger role in coordination within the implementing country while enhancing its visibility.

To further improve project management, it was agreed that ensuring a collective understanding of the importance of project site validation and/or feasibility studies during the project inception stage is crucial. In the same way, project sustainability remains a core aspect of project development, implementation, and evaluation. Henceforth, it is relevant to the ATW not only during mid-term and post-project evaluation, but throughout the entire project period. Lastly, the program approach was introduced to offer ample basis for the ensuing project development schedule in the near future.



Panelists during the panel discussion (from left) Professor Kang Kyu-Suk, Seoul National University; Ms. Kim Jina, Korea Forest Service; Dr. Park Junghwan, AFoCO Senior Project Manager; and Professor Lee Youngjin, Kongju National University

2nd AFoCO Ministerial Meeting

May 3, 2022

The Second AFoCO Ministerial Meeting of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) was held on 3 May 2022 at Seoul, at the occasion of the XV World Forestry Congress. The Meeting was envisioned to reaffirm high-level commitment and support on AFoCO and its activities.

Building on past discourses, the Second AFoCO Ministerial Meeting recalled global actions and commitments for sustainable development and sustainable forest management. The Meeting provided the venue for ministers responsible for forests and forestry in AFoCO Member Countries to reaffirm the high-level support for international forest cooperation through AFoCO; share the priorities of each country in achieving common global goals and commitments; review the progress and contribution of AFoCO and its activities; and shape the strategic direction to implement the actions identified by global goals.

Chaired by H.E. Mr. Pedro dos Reis, Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of Timor-Leste, the Meeting

The Meeting shared on impending concerns that need to be prioritized in the long-term strategy of AFoCO.

- Developing alignment for engagement (REDD+ initiatives, forest landscape restoration and building resilience of forest and communities against forest-related disasters like forest fires)
- Capacity building support towards adherence to relevant guidelines effective in Parties and Observers
- Consider ecological education, capacity building, training of human resources in forestry sector
- Strengthen regional and international cooperation with neighboring countries
- Development of a mechanism to share and exchange (i) knowledge/good practices between AFoCO Parties and Observers, and dedicated international organizations, and (ii) implementation of forest management, protection and utilization plans
- Enabling dialogues and collaborations with non-member countries in terms of promoting sustainable value chains and on the issue of imported deforestation and zero-deforestation agriculture policies
- Taking advantage of key impact-oriented findings of science international and regional institutions and translating them into policy/concrete operational options for joint activities
- Systemized cooperation projects promoting regional approach, where flagship program is developed for respective sub-regions
- Creating synergy between the member countries by taking into account the prioritized needs of the member countries
- Expansion of membership to scale-up projects
- Resource mobilization and diversification
- In-house capacity building of the AFoCO Secretariat



The Second AFoCO Ministerial Meeting of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) was held on 3 May 2022 at Seoul, at the occasion of the XV World Forestry Congress. The Meeting was envisioned to reaffirm high-level commitment and support on AFoCO and its activities.

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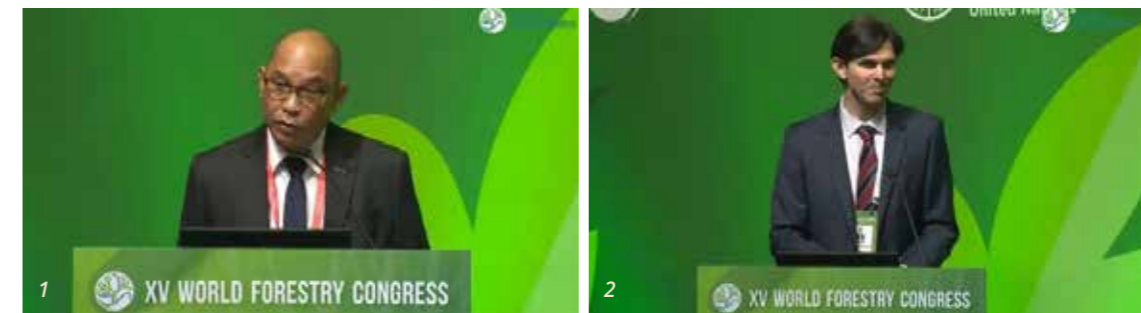


Group photo with attending ministers and high-level representatives from AFoCO Member Countries

AFoCO at the XV World Forestry Congress (WFC)

May 2-6, 2022

Launch of Landscape Partnership Asia May 4, 2022



1) Ricardo Calderon, AFoCO Executive Director
2) Chris Armitage, Chief Executive Officer of the Global EverGreening Alliance

3) His Excellency Dzhanybekov Askarbek, Minister of Agriculture, Water Resources and Regional Development of the Kyrgyz Republic
4) Her Excellency Aliya Shalabekova, Vice-Minister of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources, Republic of Kazakhstan

The Landscape Partnership Asia was officially launched, attracting high levels of interest from around the world. The Partnership is expected to be an evolving, multi-stakeholder platform that seeks to implement performance-based investments in restoring Asian drylands and drought-prone areas. The partners range from public through private to civil society. It will seek commitments and funding from implementing, technical, financial and political partners. At the event, founding partners

The Partnership – which was co-founded by AFoCO, the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF) and the Global EverGreening Alliance – plans to realise by 2032 that national dryland restoration efforts are substantially enhanced with large areas brought under integrated dryland and drought management.



Thomas Hofer, senior forestry officer and team leader of Forest Resources Management of the Forestry Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Thomas Hofer, senior forestry officer and team leader of Forests Resources Management of the Forestry Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations noted that restoration happens on the ground at national level, which is why national commitment is essential.

'Restoration also requires collaboration across sectors at national level, overcoming administrative boundaries,' he said. 'Restoration needs to be prioritised in national strategies, programmes and budgets and national collaboration needs to also cross borders, exchanging experience and knowledge, which is a part of the Landscape Partnership Asia and also the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Forest and Landscape Restoration in Asia-Pacific of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission.' Four hundred million hectares are available for restoration in Asia-Pacific, he noted.

Launch of AFoCO-AKCF Forest Fire Project May 4, 2022

The 8.5 million USD AFoCO-AKCF (ASEAN Korea Cooperation Fund) project was officially launched on the occasion of the XV WFC. The event was participated by AFoCO, Non-Timber Products-Exchange Programme Asia (NTFP-EP), and CLMV Countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam). The project implementing agencies are AFoCO and the NTFP-EP, and the participating countries for technical assessment are Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam. In preparation for the project launch, AFoCO convened a series of virtual meetings with participating countries and NTFP-EP to prepare for the project's inception. AFoCO also conducted site visits to participating countries to assess the proposed sites for forest fire monitoring centers and rehabilitation areas in the CLMV countries. The launching ceremony marked the beginning of a regional initiative on capacity-building of ASEAN countries on the integrated management of forest fires to conserve natural resources, enhance local livelihoods, and promote micro, small, and medium enterprises.

The project will aim to strengthen institutional and technical capacities for the integrated management of forest fires through training programs and public awareness-raising activities. Participating organizations will be involved in the planning and implementation of regional activities in consultation with experts and local communities.

Commemorative photo with project with delegates from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam and Non-Timber Products-Exchange Programme Asia (NTFP-EP)



AFoCO meets the IFSA Delegation XV World Forestry Congress in Korea May 5, 2022

The AFoCO team met with the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) delegates during the XV World Forestry Congress (WFC) to exchange ideas and lay the foundation for future cooperation. IFSA is one of the largest international networks of students in forestry and related sciences, and it is a non-political and non-profit organization coordinated entirely by students. IFSA connects students studying forest science with their peers as well as forest-related organizations and policy platforms.

It is both internationally and locally governed. Recognizing the importance of engaging youths as future leaders in the sector, a dialogue meeting between AFoCO and IFSA on the occasion of WFC was arranged and facilitated by internship trainees, Ms. Lee Yeji and Ms. Juyoung Yang. The meeting was a meaningful time for both AFoCO and IFSA to learn about one another and explore opportunities to collaborate.



Group photo with IFSA delegates

Forging Partnerships

Meeting with UK Minister of the Pacific and the Environment

AFoCO representatives had the honor to meet Rt Hon Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park, UK Minister of the Pacific and the Environment, to discuss future opportunities for collaboration.



MoU Signing with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)



Group photo with signatories (first row, from left) AFoCO Executive Director Mr. Ricardo L. Calderon, and ITTO Executive Director Ms. Sheam Satkuru

AFoCO and the ITTO signed a new memorandum of understanding (MOU) to strengthen joint initiatives on forest conservation, forest restoration, sustainable forest management, and the sustainable production and consumption of forest products and ecosystem services. The new MOU follows an earlier agreement between ITTO and the ASEAN-Korea Forest Cooperation, signed in 2013. With this renewed partnership, AFoCO and ITTO will work together in areas of mutual interest to maximize the impacts of their efforts, especially in Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR).

Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)

Under a new MOU, AFoCO and KOICA will collaborate to develop a regional strategy and approach, implement joint programs and capacity-building activities, and build capacities to increase access to climate funds. KOICA President Hyuk-Sang Sohn and AFoCO Executive Director Ricardo L. Calderon recognized the two organizations' shared interest in supporting the prevention and management of forest disasters based on the information and communications technologies (ICT), enhancing the carbon sequestration potential of forests, contributing to the restoration of vulnerable forest ecosystems, and promoting livelihood improvement of forest-dependent communities through community-based enterprises. The AFoCO-KOICA partnership will open up an avenue for both organizations to play key roles in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and taking decisive actions to address the negative impacts of climate change



KOICA President Mr. Hyuk-Sang Sohn and AFoCO Executive Director Mr. Ricardo Calderon posing for a commemorative photo

World Food Programme (WFP) – Kyrgyz Republic

AFoCO inked an MOU with the WFP's Kyrgyz country office to collaborate on the development of joint initiatives, projects, and activities targeted at enhancing food security and nutrition, reducing disaster risks, mitigating and adapting to climate change, increasing forest cover, enhancing livelihoods, and promoting sustainable forest management in the Kyrgyz Republic. Together, both organizations will identify food security and livelihood strategies and support vulnerable local communities in enhancing their livelihoods through community-based interventions.



(From left) Ms. Elmira Shishkaraeva, Policy and Partnership Officer of WFP Kyrgyz Country Office; Mr. Nakai Kojiro, Country Director of WFP Kyrgyz Country Office; AFoCO Executive Director Mr. Ricardo Caldeorn; AFoCO Vice Executive Director Mr. Jin Sunpil

AFoCO Exhibition Booth

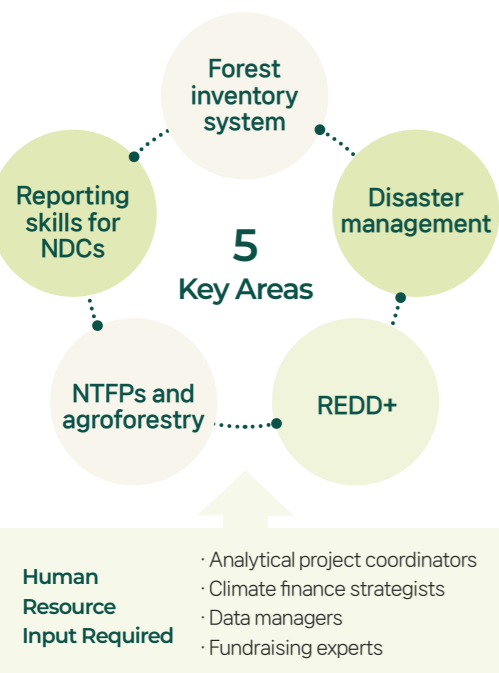


Consultative Workshop on Capacity Building for Central Asian Region

October 20-21, 2022



From the current geographical coverage of AFoCO, it is apparent that the ecosystems and environmental characteristics of countries in the Central Asian region differ from those in other regions of Asia. The AFoCO RETC organized the "Consultative Workshop on Capacity Building for the Central Asian Region" from 20 to 21 October 2022, in Almaty, Kazakhstan, with four AFoCO member Parties – Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Mongolia – and two prospective member countries – Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The workshop identified the needs and specific topics for capacity-building at the country and regional levels for Central Asia's forest and forestry sector. A situation analysis on capacity-building and potential training topics for the Central Asian region was conducted, and a pool of resource persons and facilities were identified for the development of a collective action plan for capacity-building in the Central Asian region.



Among the key capacity-building areas identified, priority was given to standardized forest inventory systems, for which the proposed platform may serve as a hub to develop regional templates, and therefore national forest inventory systems will also be improved. The accumulated information and data are expected to finally strengthen the research and development (R&D) activities of the region as well as to help other stakeholders identify opportunities to enhance the infrastructure of the sector. Finally, countries in the region are expecting the AFoCO to establish and develop regional-level training programs in order to reach mutual empowerment. As part of its mandate to advance good forest governance via capacity building in Asia, AFoCO will continue to pursue capacity-building initiatives for the Central Asian region in 2023 and beyond.

Key areas and human resources needed for regional capacity-building in the forest and forestry sector, identified through situational analysis

2022 Annual Thematic Dialogue

October 25, 2022

The Annual Thematic Dialogue (ATD) is a dialogue session and platform for forward-looking discussions among AFoCO and its member countries to inform the strategic planning process and programming for the coming years. This activity also aims to harvest the interest of member countries to facilitate achieving AFoCO's regional and global responsibilities, engage diverse stakeholder groups to make AFoCO's operation relevant to on-going policy processes and contexts in the member countries. The ATD are annual events with a theme-based discourse on strategically timely and relevant topics.

Under the theme of "Roles of AFoCO in catalyzing global efforts to reduce and reverse forest loss in Asia to address impacts of climate change, while harnessing co-benefits," the 2022 ATD was organized back-to-back with the Seventh Session of the Assembly in Almaty, Kazakhstan, with the following objectives:

- Explore and discuss the challenges and ways to ensure sustainable benefits to Indigenous Peoples and local communities while mitigating and adapting to climate change
- Collectively identify and prioritize Climate Actions to be delivered through AFoCO to make Asian forests more responsive in addressing climate change
- Share emerging opportunities from the private sector and discuss future directions of AFoCO to cooperate with potential partners

In the first inspirational speech by Ms. Regan Pairomahaki, **Senior Program Officer, The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC)**, she highlighted that Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) are the ones managing the remaining forest lands, and evidence has shown that IPLC-managed lands tend to have lower rates of deforestation. She introduced the Peoples Forest Partnership (PFP), which has developed principles to ensure respect for human and indigenous rights while reducing deforestation and advancing global climate goals. Dr. Veerachai Tanpipat, Senior Expert Faculty Member of Forestry, Kasetsart University, delivered the second inspirational speech. He highlighted the increasing frequency of destructive disasters due to climate change and the need to integrate climate change discourses into disaster risk reduction. He suggested the regional initiatives with expected two outcomes: 1) Regional collaboration platform to exchange knowledge in four pillars: science & technology, engineering, indigenous knowledge, and social/history, 2) Cloud-based centralized forest and climate change-related disasters information supporting system.

Considering that major global business leaders joined the carbon neutrality wave and investors are quickly adopting ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) criteria in their investment decisions, there is huge potential for the forest sector to mobilize diverse partnerships to enhance the roles of forests in providing nature-based solutions for climate through forests, including through REDD+ initiatives.

At the ATD, AFoCO showcased three REDD+ feasibility studies conducted in partnership with private sector entities in the Republic of Korea:

- AFoCO-Woori Bank REDD+ Feasibility Study in 15 community forestry areas in Kratie Province and Steung Treng Province of Cambodia conducted to assess the technical and financial feasibility of developing a REDD+ project VCS or other carbon standards to secure carbon credits
- AFoCO-Yuhan-Kimberly REDD+ Feasibility Study in Mandal soum, Selenge aimag, Mongolia conducted to assess the technical and financial feasibility for the development of a REDD+ project that provides carbon and non-carbon benefits
- AFoCO-SK Forest REDD+ Feasibility Study in Aurora Province, Philippines, conducted to assess the technical and financial feasibility of developing a VCS REDD+ project

At the end of the session, Dr. Donghwan Kim from AFoCO introduced the initial concept of the AFoCO Climate Action Partnership to respond effectively to rising demand for climate actions in Asian forests from both public and private sectors. The proposed strategy includes four objectives: to promote knowledge management, align public and private climate actions, facilitate research and technology cooperation, and build capacity to strengthen forest governance. To implement the

partnership, a match-making platform will be established to facilitate cooperation among various partners, and a web page will be created for the registration of potential partners. The AFoCO Climate Action Partnership seeks to recognize all opportunities for climate action in the forests through financial, technological, and informational match-making among different partners.



Group photo taken at 2022 AFoCO Annual Thematic Dialogue

AFoCO Secretariat will develop a concept note for the partnership and seek endorsement at the 8th assembly in 2023, subject to feedback and consultation with member countries. Furthermore, AFoCO will create an AFoCO climate action match-making platform in anticipation of the 2023 AFoCO Corporate Forum, aimed at facilitating cooperation and partnership among various stakeholders towards the implementation of climate action in AFoCO member countries.

Seventh Session of the Assembly

October 26-27, 2022

The Seventh Session of the Assembly of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO), as a regular session, was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan in hybrid form from 26-27 October 2022. The Assembly was virtually attended by Brunei Darussalam and the Philippines, and physically attended by representatives and focal officials of AFoCO's member countries – (Parties) Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam, and (Observer) Singapore.

Mr. Kylyshbayev Nurlan, Chairman of the Forestry and Wildlife Committee of Kazakhstan welcomed the delegates of AFoCO Member Countries. He further highlighted the significance of the forest sector in Kazakhstan and the Central Asian region, expounding on the many efforts of Kazakhstan, including the national program for planting 2 billion trees until 2025. He also extended high expectations from activities under AFoCO. He looked forward to the success of the Seventh Session of the Assembly and wished all delegates a pleasant stay in Kazakhstan.



Joint Exhibition with NEPA & IKEA Korea

November 16-29, 2022

In collaboration with home furnishing retailer IKEA Korea and outdoor brand NEPA, AFoCO hosted its first joint exhibition under the theme of sustainable living at IKEA's Gwangmyeong store in the Republic of Korea.

Officially titled 'Green Life Must Go On,' the two-week long exhibit aimed to encourage the public to take actions and adopt habits that help address climate change. The exhibit area featured three display areas – Five Actions for a Greener Life, Green Room featuring a sustainable lifestyle showroom, and Let's Forest wall, which invited the public to participate in afforestation efforts. Visitors who participated in the booth activities also received a 'Green Life Must Go On' souvenir package composed of a variety of items from AFoCO, NEPA and IKEA.

The first section outlines five actions that can be easily taken in everyday life, including wearing more layers of clothes, turning off the faucet, planting trees, using tumblers, and carrying sustainable bags. As part of an effective way to raise public awareness of climate change, Korean fir trees native to the higher mountains of the Republic of Korea threatened by climate change will also be on display. Following this, a showroom furnished with sustainable products from IKEA and NEPA provides a glimpse into living a green lifestyle. Lastly, a wall depicting deserted areas will be unfolded, which were filled with green leaves by visitors as a booth activity, transforming it into a pine forest in Kazakhstan next spring.

With this exhibition, AFoCO launches its Let's Forest campaign to protect forests in Asia, with the forest to be created this time being the campaign's first forest. By participating in the campaign, individuals, companies, and organizations can help create forests by planting trees, upcycling burnt wood, protecting forests through plog-ging activities, and raising awareness about the value of forests as precious resources.



Other Events

Changwon Youth Diplomacy Visit August 1, 2022

On 1st August, middle and high school students from Changwon City visited the AFoCO Secretariat to learn about international relations and diplomacy. The visit was part of the 2022 Changwon Youth Diplomacy Summer Camp organized by Changwon City, which saw the students embark on visits to international organizations and diplomatic missions. Students and officials from Changwon City were introduced to AFoCO through a video and the AFoCOxPengsoo video clip. This was followed by a Q&A session on the background of the establishment of AFoCO as well as the programs and projects initiated by the organization.

AFoCO's Fellowship Officials also worked together with the students in small groups to learn about forestry in certain Member Countries. After gaining some background knowledge on current issues in forestry, group discussions were carried out on three topics. The first topic touched on the forest sectors of Fellowship Officials' home countries—Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, and Kazakhstan were introduced and explained through the remarks of the Executive Director of AFoCO. The second topic was about what students think the future issues in the forestry sector would be. Lastly, there was a discussion about the role of international organizations like AFoCO in addressing these issues.

Through the group activities, the thoughts and ideas of students were consolidated, and it was concluded that the students expect forest fires, desertification, floods, climate change, droughts, biodiversity, refugees, and forest destruction to emerge as significant issues in forestry in the years to come. The students from Changwon City had the opportunity to acquire knowledge on the involvement of international organizations in the forestry sector through the workshop.



UNCCD Workshop November 29 - December 1, 2022

The mobilization of resources and tracking of financial flows are essential for achieving the objectives of the UNCCD, including the Land Degradation Neutrality targets. The UNCCD Strategic objective-5 (SO5) focuses on the mobilization of substantial and additional financial and non-financial resources to support the implementation of the Convention. Decision 11/COP14 requested the Global Mechanism to improve the reporting template for financial flows. In response to this decision, the UNCCD Global Mechanism recommended a series of improvements and new developments in the reporting for strategic objective 5. The reporting process will capture a more comprehensive way of financial and non-financial resources targeting desertification, land degradation, and drought (DLDD). The reporting process will also give a greater perspective on how investments deliver environmental, social, and economic impact. The UNCCD reporting system looks at future resources for activities related to the implementation of the Convention. Decision 13/COP15 requests the Global Mechanism and the Secretariat to develop a methodology and conduct a needs assessment to determine the financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention.

In line with the UNCCD reporting process, a workshop has been developed to enhance the capacity of National Focal Points (NFPs) and relevant officials of the UNCCD in Asia and Pacific SIDs regions to mobilize, monitor, evaluate and report on the financial flows including from innovative sources. The workshop aims to build the capacities of relevant UNCCD stakeholders in the Asia and Pacific region on mobilizing, monitoring, evaluating and reporting on financing resources for land-based projects. The workshop program covered reporting on the full range of possible funding sources, including bilateral, multilateral, domestic, private, new and innovative sources. The expected outcomes include participants gaining relevant knowledge on global financing sources, best practices, and innovation in accessing and reporting on financing resources. Participants are also expected to identify and increase their awareness of private sector and innovative sources of financing, develop an understanding of technology transfer in the context of UNCCD, and have the skills to report effectively on financing flows, identify gaps, and plan a strategic approach to resource mobilization for full UNCCD implementation.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

40 ONGOING PROJECTS

- 42 Establishment of Forest Genetics Research Center for Restoration of Major Timber Species in Cambodia (AFoCO/005/2014)
- 44 Rehabilitation and Development of Mangrove Forest Ecosystem in Thai Binh Province, Viet Nam (AFoCO/006/2014)
- 46 Village-based Forest Rehabilitation in Lao PDR (AFoCO/008/2014)
- 48 Improving *Pinus caribaea* Morelet for plantation on degraded land in Viet Nam's Northern mountainous region. (AFoCO/013/2020)
- 51 Integrated Pest and Disease Management in Teak Plantations in Bago Region, Myanmar (AFoCO/014/2020)
- 54 Model Forest for Livelihood Improvement of Forest Dependent Communities through Development of Community-based Enterprise and Forest Conservation (AFoCO/015/2020)
- 56 Promotion of Vertical Integration in Wood Processing through People's Organization in Community Based Forest Management Areas in the Philippines (AFoCO/016/2021)
- 58 Sustainable Community-based Enterprise Development for Improved Rural Livelihood in Bhutan (AFoCO/017/2020)
- 60 Development of Agroforestry Models for Promoting of Reforestation in Different Agro-Ecological Zones in Timor-Leste (AFoCO/018/2020)
- 63 Innovative Solution for Climate Change and Biodiversity Landscape Strategy to Support SDGs in Indonesia (AFoCO/023/2021)
- 66 Conservation and development of forest ecosystems biodiversity resources at Cat Tien National Park (AFoCO/024/2021)
- 68 Integrated Village-Driven Forest Rehabilitation and Livelihood Improvement in Viengthong District, Bolikhamxay Province, Lao PDR (AFoCO/025/2021)
- 70 Re-greening the Bare Lands through Promotion of Locally Customized Restoration Models (AFoCO/026/2021)
- 72 Site Restoration and Sustainable Management of Community Forest Using Multiple Tree Species and Agroforestry (AFoCO/027/2022)
- 74 Pilot Project on Inventory of Unaccounted Forests in Kostanay and North Kazakhstan Regions and Automation of Information Collection on Forestry (AFoCO/028/2022)
- 76 Rehabilitation of Degraded and Potentially Deserted Forest Land in the Northwest Region of Viet Nam through Application of Integrated Technical Measures (AFoCO/031/2022)

78 PIPELINE PROJECTS

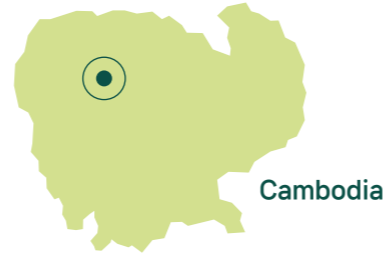
- 78 Advancing Restoration of Native Agarwood – *Aquilaria crassna* and *A. Malaccensis* – for Sustainable Use and Management in Southwestern Cambodia (AFoCO/038/2023)
- 79 Forest Restoration Demonstration through High Capacity Tree Nursery and Capacity Building in Support to “1 Billion Tree” Campaign in Mongolia (AFoCO/039/2023)
- 80 Forest Restoration using Philippine Threatened and Endemic Species (PTES) in Bacon-Manito Geothermal Reservation in Support to the Philippines’ Forestry Sector’s National Greening Program (AFoCO/040/2023)

81 LIST OF PROJECTS



ONGOING PROJECTS

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



Duration	2016-2025
Budget	Total: US\$ 2,191,913 AFoCO: US\$ 1,500,000 / National: US\$ 571,500 (in-kind) / NIFoS: US\$ 120,413
Project Site	Khun Ream and Chan Sor, Siem Reap, Cambodia

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Khun Ream Forest Research Station was established in 2012 under the funding support from Korea Rural Community Corporation (KRC). The station has a research building, nursery, memorial tree garden, and a storage house and new installation of a forest fire control system. Currently, the station serves as learning sites for forest restoration models and tree nursery management to students, researchers, government officials, and the local community. Several researchers and students conducted research in the nursery in Khun Ream Station, who are interested in seed propagation, nursery operation, pest control, among others.

For 2022, the main works of the project were focused on the maintenance of Progeny Test Plantations, Clonal and Seedling Seed Orchard, as well as conducting silviculture treatment (pruning, maintenance brushing, firebreak renovation) of the project area covering 216 ha. (89 ha. for Dalbergia plantation, 18 ha for research plots of restoration method, 9 ha. for seed source plots and 100 ha for reserved forests for research activity).

Objectives

- 1 To implement the long-term tree breeding plan; and
- 2 To strengthen the restoration and tree breeding capabilities of FA in Cambodia

Achievements in 2022

Year	Activities	AFoCO Budget (USD)
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Maintenance/Weeding of Progeny Test Plantation and Seed Orchard · Silvicultural Management of Experimental Forest (180 ha) · Weeding and Measuring and Monitoring · Forest protection activities including patrolling and fireline maintenance · Nursery operation Khun Ream · Education and training activities including supporting students conducting research in the tissue culture laboratory, student research support, and study visits 	US\$ 56,737.89
AFoCO Budget Expended		US\$ 56,737.89



Seedling production



Weeding activities

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

Duration	2016-2023
Budget	Total: US\$ 1,650,000 AFoCO: US\$ 1,500,000 / National: US\$ 150,000
Project Site	Thai Binh Province, Viet Nam



▲ Thai Thuy District in Thai Binh

► Tien Hai District in Thai Binh

PROJECT SUMMARY

Thai Binh is a coastal province located in the Red River Delta. The total area of the province is 154,650 hectares. The province is divided into a city and 7 districts, in which there are two coastal districts, Tien Hai and Thai Thuy. The province has a 54-km coastal line and four big estuaries where mangrove forests and small areas of *Casuarina equisetifolia* (Australian Pine tree) plantation can be found. Mangrove forest ecosystems found in the estuaries and in coastal areas of Vietnam and in Thai Binh, particularly, play a significant role in human life and the maintenance of the ecological environment. The forests provide a large number of products including wood, firewood, charcoal, tannin, honey and others. In addition, these forests are also the habitat of aquaculture species, flora and fauna. Moreover, mangrove forests play an irreplaceable role in protecting the ecological environment. They reduce the impact of floods, whirlwinds, and tides, limit erosion and the penetration of salty water, fix silt, protect biodiversity, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This project 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

- 1 To afforest, rehabilitate and sustainably manage mangrove forest ecosystems in Thai Binh province
- 2 To 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 2022

Year	Activities
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Protection of mangrove forest (953.1 ha) · Supported materials for tending 6.9ha replantation · Developed project achievement maps for four (4) project communes · Organized a training course for local people · Communication activities regarding project impact including publication on the local news and dissemination through radio channels



Planted mangroves in Thai Binh Province, Viet Nam

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



Duration	2016-2025
Budget	Total: US\$ 1,865,830 AFoCO: US\$ 1,500,000 / National: 87,990 (In-cash); / US\$ 277,840 (in-kind)
Project Site	Paksong District, Champasak Province, Lao PDR Sangthong District, Vientiane capital, Lao PDR

PROJECT SUMMARY

The project developed by the Department of Forestry (DoF) with a strong support from the AFoCO Secretariat and technical assistance from a Korean Expert Team and a national consultant, was designed to contribute to increase national forest cover, reduce rural poverty, enhance forest carbon stocks, and contribute to mitigating global climate change. To achieve these aims, different forest regeneration measures will be applied. In order to engage local villagers to implement rehabilitation activities, the project will 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. To ensure sustainability and ownership, forest rehabilitation objectives will be integrated into a five-year plan of local social-economic development plan and village and clusters village development or three pillars development policy in the so-called "Sam Sang".

The project will be implemented in two project sites in degraded state protection forests in Paksong District of Champasak Province and Sangthong District of Vientiane Capital. In addition, reforestation in private lands applying agro-forestry techniques is also encouraged and supported by the project.

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.

- 1 To demonstrate village-based forest rehabilitation concepts in degraded forests through the application of different forest regeneration measures (ex-situ conservation plantation, enrichment planting, and assisted natural regeneration)
- 2 To generate broad public support on the implementation of national forest rehabilitation policy in general, village-based forest rehabilitation program in particular;
- 3 To 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.
- 4 To strengthen capability of stakeholders at all levels for successful implementation and replication of the project.

Achievements in 2022

Paksong District

- Activity 1.1.2. Seedling production 42,500 seedlings
- Activity 1.3.2. Maintenance and protection of the ex-situ conservation plantation (Weeding, Mortality survey and replanting, Pruning and thinning)
- Activity 1.4.2 Conducting Village Driven Forest Patrolling (VDFP) covering the whole project site
- Activity 2.1.3 Organise Arbor Day Events including awareness raising materials and engagement of media specialist

Sangthong District

- Activity 1.1.2. Seedlings production 102,000 seedlings
- Activity 1.3.2. Conducted enrichment planting of 131 ha
- Activity 1.3.3 Maintenance and protection of the ex-situ conservation plantation (Weeding, Mortality survey and replanting, Pruning and thinning)
- Activity 1.4.2 Conducting Village Driven Forest Patrolling (VDFP) covering the whole project site
- Activity 2.1.3 Organise Arbor Day Events including awareness raising materials and engagement of media specialist

Total AFoCO Budget Expended	US\$ 93,166.47
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Established nurseries in Paksong and Sangthong

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



Duration	July 2020 - December 2023
Budget	Total: US\$ 576,285 AFoCO: US\$ 486,000 / National: 90,285
Project Site	Northern mountainous region of Viet Nam

PROJECT SUMMARY

As the rehabilitation of degraded forest regions is an urgent issue for Southeast Asian countries, the project aims to rehabilitate the 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 that they are able to be developed to increase the productivity of plantation forests and rehabilitate forests on degraded land. The experiences and lessons learnt from the implementation of the 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.



Mid-term Workshop Conducted in June 2022

Objectives

To develop *P. caribaea* forests on degraded land in the 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 are as follows:

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

Achievements in 2022

- A.3. Conducted 4 monitoring activities and described the phenological characteristics of 15 plus trees (in Phuc Yen, Tam Dao, Ba Vi) and submitted a writing report in Q4 2022
- A.4. Conducted 3 activities on the storage, preservation and assessment seed quality with 3 preservation methods and submitted a writing report in Q4 2022
- B.2. Conducted tending and collected data for 4ha seed orchards (Survival rate has been ensured approximately 90%)
- B.3. Conducted tending and collected data for 10ha of transformed seed stand in Dai Lai (Average density of 700-800 trees/ha)
- D.1. Organised 1 training course for 20 participants in 2 days in Vinh Phuc
- F.2. Conducted tending and collected data for 4 ha of pure plantation model of *P. caribaea* (to provide sawlog) in 2 sites in Quang Ninh and Vinh Phuc (Average planting density of 1100 tree/ha; survival rate has been ensured approximately 90%)
- F.3. Develop of mix plantation model: Conducted tending and collected data for 3 ha of models in 2 sites; *Michelia mediocris* Dandy, *Cinnamomum parthenoxylon*, and *P. caribaea* Morelet (Average planting density of 1100 tree/ha; survival rate has been ensured approximately 90%).
- F.4. Developed, tended and collected data for 2 ha of models in 2 sites to plant NTFPs under the forest canopy of *P. caribaea* (Average planting density 500 trees/ha with *Morinda officinalis* How; survival rate has been ensured approximately 90%)
- F.5. Developed, tended and collected data for 2 ha of models in 2 sites to plant native species under the forest canopy of *P. caribaea* (Average planting density 500 trees/ha with *Cinnamomum parthenoxylon*, *Erythrophleum fordii*, *Chukrasia tabularis*; survival rate has been ensured approximately 90%)



Conducting tending models in Vinh Phuc Province

Year	Main Activities	AFoCO Budget (USD)
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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 Arranged experiments, collected and analysed data for 3 technical guidelines for propagation method by seeds, cuttings and grafting respectively. Also, the IA has organised 1 training course on propagation methods in the first year of the Project 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> Conducted survey and assess markets of pine wood, <i>P.caribaea</i> and timber processing inside and outside of country Developed technical guidelines on temporary post-harvesting wood, post-sawing timber preservation techniques; and <i>P.caribaea</i> wood processing of finger joint boards and veneer Conducted Inception meeting Hired 1 contract staff to assist PMU 	143,226.2
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey and assessment activities: to monitor, describe (phenological and characteristics), germinate seeds from selected plus trees to produce 8,080 seedlings 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. Arranged experiments, collected and analysed data to finalise 3 technical guidelines for propagation method by seeds, cuttings and grafting respectively. Also, the IA has organised 1 training course on propagation methods in the first year of the Project Organised 4 training courses on soil conditions determination and forest rehabilitation Finalised 4 technical guidelines on temporary post-harvesting wood, post-sawing timber preservation techniques; and <i>P.caribaea</i> wood processing of finger joint boards and veneer Hired 1 contract staff to assist PMU 	160,638
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organized the Mid-term workshop on 27 June 2022 Organized the training courses on seed production, forest intensive plantation, and <i>P.caribaea</i> timber preservation and processing Survey and assessment activities: to monitor, describe (phenological and characteristics), Conducted data collection and maintenance for models: 4 ha seed orchards, 10 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. Nominated 1 staff for abroad training course in philippines for 5 days Hired 1 contract staff to assist PMU 	98,994.90
AFoCO Budget Expended		USD 402,859.1

Integrated Pest and Disease Management in Teak Plantations in Bago Region, Myanmar *AFoCO/014/2020*



Duration	2020-2025
Budget	Total: US\$ 955,360 AFoCO: US\$ 955,360
Project Site	West Bago Yoma Region (Pyay and Tharyarwaddy Districts)

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Forestry Sector in Myanmar plays an important role in providing environmental protection particularly those related to climate change. In this context, exploring reliable control measures against those pests and diseases, monitoring systems and capacity building programmes are urgently needed to conduct.

The principal target project site is West Bago Yoma Region which covers two main Districts; Tharyarwaddy District and Pyay District. These project sites have tropical monsoon climate with a rainy season and pronounced dry season. Accordingly, the development objective of this project is to contribute to healthy forests and vitality of West Bago Yoma Region through exploring pest and disease lists, their possible control and prevention measures, and enhancing capacity building programmes for all stakeholders. The project will be addressed specifically in consistency with the objective of AFoCO "To undertake projects and translate sound forest policies and proven technologies into action with a mission to rehabilitate degraded forest land to prevent deforestation and forest degradation in the context of sustainable forest management as well as under scope of addressing the impact of climate change".

Objectives

- 1 To manage sustainably Teak forests through effectively integrated pest and disease management;
- 2 To improve capacity and facilities for pest and disease research and management for Teak forests; and
- 3 To create a network for Teak pest and disease management

Achievements in 2022

- 1 training report on pest/disease survey has been organised and published in Q3, 2022.
- 1 survey report has been implemented.
- 1 chemical control has been used for 1 month.
- Detection and monitoring for pest and disease problems about 5 months have been conducted.
- Mapping using GIS and ArcGIS Software training was organised.
- 1 training course to all relevant stakeholders has been organised.
- The list of participants including gender data has been annually updated.
- Lab facilities have been procured.
- 1 research study has been started.
- 1 set of literature review has been completed.
- 1 Roundtable Meeting has been organised.
- A Working Group has been formed.
- Monthly monitoring reports had been submitted for 2022.
- Annual report has been conducted.

Year	Main Activities	AFoCO Budget (USD)
	· Carry out regular pest survey	5,824
	· Control measures	9,297
	· Build capacity for integrated pest and disease management through workshops, trainings, seminars and lesson learned	1,328
	· Prepare and develop pest and disease management curriculum for training institutions	600
2020	· Update Forest Protection Lab, Forest Protection Museum of Forest Research Institute	4,452
	· Conduct research activity and disseminate findings to Forest Department and private sector	250
	· Form Working group for pest and disease management	5,000
	· Management Cost	24,129
	· Monitoring and Evaluation	2,493
AFoCO Budget Expended		USD 53,373



Working Group Meeting concerned with Pest and Disease Management in Teak Plantations at Aureum Palace Hotel & Resort, Naypyidaw, Myanmar



Pest and disease survey on ground training to the Forest Department Staff from the project sites at Bo-Tone Nursery, Tharyarwaddy District, Bago Region, Myanmar



Training on Mapping using GPS and ArcGIS software to Forest Department Staffs at Forest Research Institute Yezin, Naypyidaw, Myanmar

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

Duration	1 October 2020 - 30 September 2023
Budget	Total: US\$ 952,000 AFoCO: US\$ 952,000
Project Site	Shan State and Bago Region of Myanmar



PROJECT SUMMARY

The project focuses on Livelihood Improvement of Forest Dependent Communities through Development of Community-based Enterprise and Forest Conservation in Myanmar. It will be demonstrated 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 homegarden, 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 fulfil the AFoCO's objectives such as increase in forest cover, enhancing adaptive capacity of forest dependent communities, and improving local livelihood and income through forest related activities. Regarding priority area, this project is in line with strategic priority area no. 4 "Local Livelihood improvement and community-based enterprise development".

Objectives

- 1 To demonstrate model forest villages by improving rural livelihood and ensuring sustainable
- 2 To develop the community-based enterprise in the Shan State and Bago region

Achievements in 2022

A.1 Improvement of community forest (CF), homegarden, sustainable shifting cultivation (SC). (Agroforestry practices included in CF)

- Homegarden and agroforestry Training
- A total of 15,610 fruit trees and trees seedlings distributions to local households in Ywangan township (Mango 500 seedlings, Jackfruit 1500 seedlings, Avocado 1500 seedlings, Silver oak 1500 seedlings, Teak 10,500 seedlings, Pyinkado 110 seedlings) (June - September 2022)
- Education for model forest village development
- On site training visit of local community for nursery operation and CF establishment
- Forest conservation training

A.2 Establishment of demonstration plot

- Consultation meeting for feasibility study of developing Community-Based Tourism (CBT) in Shan State and Bago Region
- Field inspection on potential area for establishing a model forest and CF and home garden and shifting cultivation area
- Field survey for Community-Based Tourism analysis in Paukkaung township and consultation meeting for need assessment survey based on the results of community based tourism analysis in Pindaya township and Taunggyi township
- Establishment of model forest demonstration area

A.3 Distribution of efficient cook stoves

- Distribution of 300 cook stoves

B.2 (Development of Community-based enterprise)

- Education program for CBE needs and model forest establishment in Taunggyi township and Bago region
- Exchange visit to learn Korea experience

C.1 (Human resource and capacity development)

- Public talk on forest conservation
- Educational extension of forest conservation to youth
- Model forest knowledge product making and publication of newsletters
- Study tour to Korea



Planting trees in the shifting cultivation areas of the project sites in Myanmar



Distribution of seedlings to local people in the project sites in Myanmar

Promotion of Vertical Integration in Wood Processing through People’s Organization in Community Based Forest Management Areas in the Philippines *AFoCO/016/2021*



Duration	1 July 2021 - 30 June 2026
Budget	Total: US\$ 1,118,536.60 AFoCO: US\$ 928,821.60 / National: US\$ 169,315 / Others: US\$ 20,400
Project Site	One in the Visayas and one in Mindanao · Visayas: Region 7, Central Visayas Province of Negros Oriental, Municipality of Bindoy; · Mindanao: Region 13, CARAGA Region; Province of Agusan del Sur, Municipality of Prosperidad

PROJECT SUMMARY

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 the project entitled "Promotion of Vertical Integration in Wood Processing through People’s Organizations in Community Based Forest Management Areas in the Philippines", (AFoCO/016/2021). This five-year endeavor will be implemented in tenured areas covered by a Community Based Forest Management Agreement (CBFMA) awarded to People's Organization (POs), namely Nalundan United Farmers Association, Inc. (NUFAI) located in Barangay Nalundan, Bindoy, Negros Oriental, Central Visayas (Region 7) and Mabuhay Timberland Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative (MATILFAMCO) located at Barangay Mabuhay, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur, CARAGA (Region 13).

Objectives

The project intends to support the vertical integration in CBFM areas through the promotion of community-based livelihood by utilising the existing plantation. Specifically, the project is designed to:

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

Achievements in 2022

- Procurement of wood processing machineries and equipment - the bidding process for the two project sites/Regions (Regions 7 and 13) were undertaken and the contract was already awarded and signed, for delivery and payment by Year 2023;
- Setting up of Wood Processing Plan (WPP) facility as counterpart of the People's Organisations - the NUFAI CBFM PO in Region 7 initiated the land preparation and installation of drainage pipe, columns, flooring and beams; while the MATILFAMCO CBFM PO in Region 13 initiated the rehabilitation works for the WPP facility and necessary preparations for the installation of three-phase wiring and transformer for electrification;
- Conduct of training-workshops – these include the training on Resource Assessment and Data Gathering, workshop on the formulation of Benefit Sharing Agreement, workshop on the updating of the Community Resource Management Framework (CRMF), and workshop on the formulation of re-investment scheme in Region 13; and
- Under Project Management and Supervision – activities include the conduct of Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA), setting up of Project Management Offices (PMOs), procurement of office equipment, Project Steering Committee meetings and other related management meetings, as well as planning and assessment workshops and validation and monitoring activities.

Below is the matrix of activities conducted utilising AFoCO funds;

Year	Main Activities	AFoCO Budget (USD)
2021	· Workshop for the formulation of DENR and PO Agreement · Consultation workshop for the situational gap analysis · Procurement of Office Equipment	22,825.65
2022	· Training on Resource Assessment and Data Gathering · Workshop on the Formulation of Benefit Sharing Agreement · Workshop on the formulation of Re-investment scheme · Workshop on the updating of Community Resource Management Framework · Staff Resource Allowance · Management Support to Operation · Monitoring and Evaluation	31,343.1
AFoCO Budget Expended		USD 54,168.75



Establishment of the WPP facility inside the CBFM area of NUFAI PO in Region 7

Sustainable Community-based Enterprise Development for Improved Rural Livelihood in Bhutan

AFoCO/017/2020



Duration	2020-2025
Budget	Total: US\$ 1,400,000 AFoCO: US\$ 1,000,000 / National: US\$ 400,000
Project Site	Bumthang, Chukha, Gasa, Haa, Lhuentse, Paro, Punakha, Thimphu, Trashigang, Tsirang, Pemagatshel, Wangdue Phodrang

PROJECT SUMMARY

Bhutan's rural community directly depends on the natural resources using it as wild vegetables, medicinal herbs, firewood, house building timber, drinking and irrigation water, fodder and leaf litter for cattle, spiritual ground, recreation, ecotourism, etc. They utilise 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 provide 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

- 1 To promote CF and NWFP industries by establishing community-based enterprises.
- 2 To develop alternative income sources for the livelihoods of rural communities.
- 3 To enhance knowledge and technology on climate change adaptation through sustainable forest

Achievements in 2022

Year	Main Activities	AFoCO Budget (USD)
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Identification of potential NWFP/CF for enterprise development through consultation meetings (2 community based enterprises identified in Laya and Zordung) · Community Forest for ecotourism identified at Tsirang through several consultation meetings (hot stone bath and guest house) · Procurement of equipment/Infrastructure for three different community-based enterprises, including purchase of furniture making equipment and construction of processing building · Training on operation and maintenance of equipment, business plan preparation with community forests, and wood product development · Protection and management of watersheds - 20ha plantation completed 	US\$ 252,561.68
AFoCO Budget Expended		US\$ 252,561.68



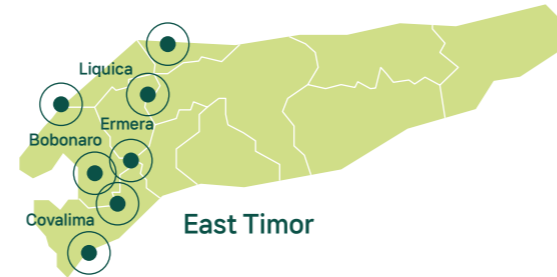
Drakey Chinto Community Based Enterprise Group, producing incense sticks



Ecotourism site in Gasa fully operationalized (hot stone medicinal bath)

Development of Agroforestry Models for Promoting of Reforestation in Different Agro-Ecological Zones in Timor-Leste *AFoCO/018/2020*

Duration	2021-2024
Budget	Total: US\$ 605,580 AFoCO: US\$ 516,700 / National: US\$ 88,880
Project Site	Six villages in four municipalities including Bobonaro, Covalima, Ermera and Liquica



PROJECT BACKGROUND & SUMMARY

Forests play key important roles for the livelihoods of people in Timor-Leste; however, they have been facing deforestation and degradation for decades. The government and other institutions have made efforts to restore the forest, however those have not been able to reduce the degradation. Agroforestry is believed to be one community-based approach for forest and landscape restoration and has been practised successfully in many countries. The approach not only improves environmental conditions, but it also provides direct and alternative livelihoods for local people.

However, technical weakness of promoting agroforestry for restoration of degraded forest and lands in Timor-Leste is lack data and knowledge on agroforestry-based reforestation models which are suitable to different natural and socio-economic conditions in the country. Agroforestry has been practised traditionally in Timor-Leste but there is a lack of information on the models and their suitability to the agroclimatic zones including species and farmers' preference. Therefore, it is essential to develop and demonstrate agroforestry models in different agroecological zones and socio-economic areas in the country to enable the government (DGFCIP) in promoting community -based reforestation.

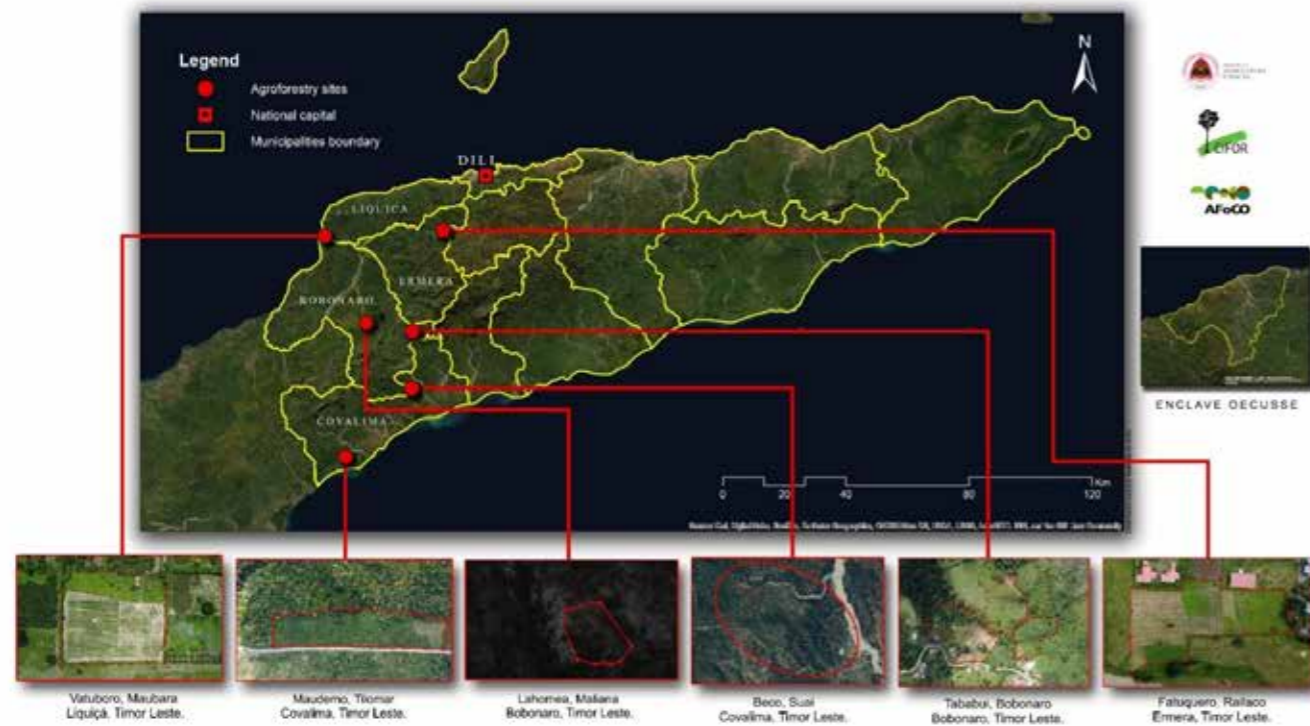
Objectives

- 1 Promote agroforestry-based reforestation by disseminating agroforestry models suitable for the different natural conditions in the typical agro ecological zones as well as socio-economic conditions.
- 2 Strengthen institutional capacity of Ministry of Agriculture and Fishery (MAF)/ Directorate General Forest, Coffee, and Industrial Plantations (DGFCIP) and relevant offices to promote reforestation and sustainable forest management in collaboration with other government and non-government institutions as well as local communities.
- 3 Build and strengthen networks with relevant stakeholders in the country and the region, particularly AFoCO member countries for knowledge sharing and scale-up of the agroforestry-based reforestation.

Achievements in 2022

- Six villages in four municipalities participated in the project
- Six participatory land use planning (PLUP) developed
- A total 14,8 ha of demonstration agroforestry model representing 6 agro ecological zones established
- The demonstration plots mapped and monitored including survival rate and performance growth between March and September 2022
- Draft of agroforestry manual is ready for further final discussion
- ToR of capacity building including study tour developed.
- Site for the study tour program selected and the implementation will be in collaboration with an Indonesia forest institution in South Sulawesi province

Year	Main Activities	AFoCO Budget (USD)
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Project site selection · Community mobilisation and organisation building · Demonstration plots identification · Recruitment of field facilitators 	48,807.70
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Participatory land use planning (PLUP) in 6 villages in 4 municipalities · Develop a set of technical manuals on development of the agroforestry-based reforestation models · Establishment of demonstration plots on agroforestry models in 4 villages in 4 municipalities · Monitor, evaluate and document the process and results of development and management of the agroforestry-based reforestation models in the target villages · Develop TOR for study tour and capacity building · Participated and share project results in AFoCo regional workshop · Participated in RETC-AFOCO training · Organised 2nd PSC meeting to communicate and share the project result to AFoCO secretariat 	125,264.95
AFoCO Budget Expended		USD \$174,072.65



Agroforestry demonstration plot models in 6 sucos in 4 different municipalities



Focus group discussion to identify socio-economic and environmental challenges in Vatuboro village, Liquica Municipality

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

AFoCO/023/2021



Duration	2021-2024
Budget	Total: US\$ 800,000 AFoCO: US\$ 700,000 / National: US\$ 100,000
Project Site	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tropical peatlands forest of Forest Area with Specific Purpose of Kepau Jaya, Forest Management Unit of Minas Tahura, in Pekanbaru, Riau Province 2. Mangrove ecosystem of Forest Management Unit Ampang Plampang in Sumbawa district, West Nusa Tenggara Province; 3. Karst and lowland ecosystem of the Forest Management Unit of Bulusaraung, in Maros district, South Sulawesi Province.

PROJECT BACKGROUND & SUMMARY

Forests occupy about 63% of Indonesia's total land area. Government report show that the deforestation rate in Indonesia declined from 1.09 % in 2014 to 0.48 % in 2017 due to stricter law enforcement and increased environmental awareness of local communities. However, a recent Green Growth Policy Review report by OECD (2019) showed that Indonesia has the second-highest deforestation rate in the world after Brazil. This conversion of forest and peatland will reduce carbon stocks and increase GHG emissions significantly. Indonesia aims to strengthen its economy and alleviate poverty while reducing emissions from the forestry sector, which constitute the largest part of its national commitment. Forest areas in Indonesia have been delineated into Forest Management Units (FMUs), which play important roles in the implementation of mitigation and adaptation actions to ensure that forest sector contributions contribute to the NDC targets. This project will introduce innovative solutions to sustainable management practice and enhance the capacities of FMUs (KPH) and local communities on contributing to Indonesia's emission reduction target and Improving biodiversity landscapes.

Objectives

- 1 Establish baseline information by mapping the existing biophysical, socio-economic condition, and potency of natural resources in the three study sites
- 2 Facilitate the preparation of business plans for the Forest Management Units (FMUs) at three study sites
- 3 Develop demonstration plots of at least 10 ha in each study site for carbon stock enhancement in FMUs or Forest Areas with Specific Purpose (KHDTK) areas
- 4 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 2022

Activities 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 3.1, 6.1, and 7.1 have been completed for all 3 projects sites – karst lowland site in South Sulawesi Province, tropical peatland site in Riau Province (Kepau Jaya FWSP and Minas Tahura FMU), and mangrove site in West Nusa Tenggara Province(Ampang Plampang FMU)

- Completed surveys, site observations, and interviews with local communities and village officials to obtain socio-economic data (livelihood, economic assessment, market analysis) at the beginning of the project
- Investigated and collected data for value chain analysis and market analysis of potential commodities
- Conducted capacity building/trainings:
 - GIS Application for Supporting SDGs and Spatial Analysis of Indonesia’s FOLU Net Sink 2030 with 30 participants from 27 units FMUs in South Sulawesi Province, 20 participants from 16 FMUs in Riau Province, and 22 participants from 18 FMUs in West Nusa Tenggara Province.
 - Accounting Carbon Stock Based on Indonesian National Standard of 7724:2019 and Emission Reduction from Forestry Sector with with 32 participants from 27 forestry units and FMUs in South Sulawesi Province and 21 participants from 18 forestry units and FMUs in West Nusa Tenggara Province
- Established 10 hectares of agroforestry-based demonstration plots in each site with high survival rates. Enrichment planting activities will be conducted in 2023
- National experts from each activity have presented their research result and already submitted the activity reports to the project secretariat.
- The National expert for Activity 3.1 published 1 IOP International publication with title: "Value chains and market analysis for the potential commodity of Buah Tani Tonggak Negeri forest farmers Group"
- An online Project Progress Meeting was also successfully convened on October 13, 2022, where the IA provided a comprehensive report of the overall progress of the project and the results of the data collection conducted by National Experts. In 2023, the contents of the documents and reports could be further consolidated into a project brief in cooperation with the AFoCO Secretariat to further promote and disseminate the project’s achievements and findings.



Investigating and conducting value chain analysis and market analysis of potential commodities (forest honey project from Apis mellifera bees), Kampar District, Riau Province

Year	Main Activities	AFoCO Budget (USD)
2022	· Collect and analyse data and information for scoping and spatial analysis (Riau, West Nusa Tenggara, South Sulawesi)	
	· Collect and analyse baseline data and information of carbon stock, emission, biodiversity; and identification of potential commodities in three sites (Riau, West Nusa Tenggara, South Sulawesi)	
	· Survey and assess data and information of Socio-economic (livelihood, economic assessment, market analysis) at the beginning and end of the project (Riau, West Nusa Tenggara, South Sulawesi)	4,741.46
	· Investigate and conduct value chain analysis and market analysis of potential commodities (Riau, West Nusa Tenggara, South Sulawesi)	8,016.94
	· Conduct capacity building on GIS and Remote sensing analysis for FMU Officers at three project sites (West Nusa Tenggara dan South Sulawesi)	8,967.45
	· Conduct capacity building on accounting of carbon stocks and emissions reduction, for FMU officers in the three project sites (Riau, West Nusa Tenggara, South Sulawesi)	9,461.10
	· Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) on demonstration plat site matching	35,881.68
	· Establishing demonstration plots	14,277.46
	· Maintenance growth monitoring of the demonstration plots	12,283.57
	· Publication and dissemination (workshop, seminar, conference, publications)	40,407.39
	· Review, Monitoring, Evaluation: mid-term, annual review, and reporting substance and financial	2,498.61
	· Review, Monitoring, Evaluation: mid-term, annual review, and reporting substance and financial	8,502.93
2021	· Management for support operation	4,762.16
	· Staff Resources	5,046.41
	· Bank charge	20,048.77
		119.58

AFoCO Budget Expended USD \$175,015.52



Measuring the tree diameter at breast height (DBH) during the capacity building and training on accounting of carbon stocks and emissions reduction for FMU officers in South Sulawesi Province, Tabo-tabo Forest Area with Specific Purposes, South Sulawesi Province, Indonesia

Conservation and development of forest ecosystems biodiversity resources at Cat Tien National Park *AFoCO/024/2021*



Duration	July 2021 - December 2025
Budget	Total: US\$ 1,232,000 AFoCO: US\$ 1,132,000 / National: US\$ 100,000
Project Site	Cat Tien National Park and buffer zone of (1) Tan Phu District (Dong Nai Province) (2) Cat Tien District (Lam Dong Province)

PROJECT BACKGROUND & SUMMARY

Cat Tien National Park (CTNP) is renowned for its exceptional biodiversity, housing numerous rare and endemic flora and fauna species. It is recognized as one of the 200 Important Ecological Areas (IECAs) of the World by the World Wildlife Fund, and as one of three Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (EBAs) in Vietnam by Birdlife International. CTNP also holds the status of an International Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO/MAB and has been designated as a Special National-Level Relic Site since 2012. The park's Crocodile Lake is recognized as a Ramsar Site (2005).

Despite its accolades, CTNP's biodiversity resources are declining due to human impacts and climate change. Efforts have been made to improve livelihoods, strengthen forest patrolling, and foster a commitment to forest conservation, but illegal logging, trapping, and snaring remain persistent challenges. Biodiversity loss in the park is attributed to factors such as low literacy rates, limited awareness, and non-compliance with forest protection regulations, particularly among local ethnic minorities. Common violations include illegal logging, unauthorized collection of non-timber forest products, and hunting of wildlife. Local communities face difficult living conditions with low and unstable incomes and limited job opportunities. CTNP is home to abundant wetland areas in the Nam Cat Tien region. Additionally, invasive species like Mimosa pigra and floating vegetation, combined with the effects of climate change and human activities, pose further challenges. CTNP lacks resources and effective solutions to control these invasives, and the capacity for biodiversity monitoring and forest protection by CTNP staff is limited.

Objectives

To address these challenges, CTNP proposes the project "Conservation and Development of Forest Ecosystems and Biodiversity Resources at Cat Tien National Park," aiming to ensure the sustainable preservation and development of CTNP's valuable natural resources.

- 1 Improving knowledge, sharing information on biodiversity of forest ecosystems of the Park for local managers and policy makers;
- 2 Assessing 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;
- 3 Piloting models of sustainable livelihood improvement for communities in the buffer zones

Activity & Achievements in 2022

Year	Activity	Achievements
2021	G.1. Survey the potential and situation to build a model of planting Golden Camellia	5 species of Camellia have been identified (Camellia dormoyana, C. luteocerata, C. cattienensis, C. capitata, C. sinensis).
	G.3. Develop and maintain plantation model for the first 5 years	625 trees/ha. In which, 385 trees/ha planted available (not including 175 low viability trees). New planting 240trees/ha funded by AFoCO.
	H.2. Conduct inventory and collection of local orchids species	Total 50 sps. Included 35 collected sps in 2021 and 15 sps of wild orchids in 2022
2022	J.4. Monitor key species	7 species were monitored, including 4 of large mammal species: Sambar Deer (Rusa unicolor), Gaur (Bos gaurus), Yellow-cheeked Gibbon (Nomascus gabriellae), Black-shanked Douc (Pygathrix nigripes), Phasianidea of Green peafowl (Pavo muticus), Siamese fireback (Lophura diardi) and Siame crocodile (Crocodilus siamensis).
	K.4. Organize training courses on developing forest protection patrolling plan and method, communication education skills, management of violators in the community.	Two training courses, 25 rangers/course.
	P.1. Use PRA methodology for identification of locations and participants and profiling. Support high value trees to help improve livelihoods of ethnic minorities Village 3 and Village 4, PhuocCat 2 Commune	49 HH and 28.4 ha planting of cashew-nut, durian, avocado.
	P.2. Organize trainings on skills and knowledge for HH on planting and maintaining techniques, sustainable production development, clean agricultural production of specific local products, associated with CBT	2 training courses for 23 HH for grazing pasture, 1 training course for 50 HH for planting cashew nut, durian and avocado.
Total AFoCO Budget Expended		USD \$426,995



Trainings and workshops for capacity building of project stakeholders

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



Duration	2021-2026
Budget	Total: US\$ 1,099,840 AFoCO: US\$ 993,440 / National: US\$ 106,400
Project Site	Phou Khene Protection Forest, Viengthong District, Bolikhamxay Province, Lao PDR

PROJECT BACKGROUND & SUMMARY

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 the 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 GoL.

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 communities and individuals on the planted trees and tree plantation upon legal registration. This increases the opportunity for village communities to integrate commercial plantation activities into the Village-Driven Forest Restoration Model as additional sources of alternative income. Thus, the project is designed in such an 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

- 1 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 following DoF's Common Approach to Village Forestry. One aspect of promoting replication of the models will be to develop institutional and human capacity for successful implementation, management and replication of the ViDFoRM.
- 2 Restore degraded forestland and protection of Phou Khaen Protection Forest Areas through the application of Forest Restoration Model "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;
- 3 Improve livelihood of forest dependent community in Phou Khaen Protection Forest Areas through incomes generation from implementing forest restoration activities and NTFPs products;
- 4 Manage the project in an effective manner and in compliance with project implementation guidelines and AFoCO related guidelines;

Achievements in 2022

- Established 10 Village Forest Restoration Groups (VFRGs)
- Developed 10 Village Forest Management Plans (VFMP) and set up the pole and signboard
- Seedling production 100,000 seedlings
- Conducted enrichment planting in 54 ha and natural regeneration in 610 ha
- Established 10 Village Forest Protection Groups (VFPGs)
- Conducted patrolling activity in 10 target villages
- Organized 2 trainings

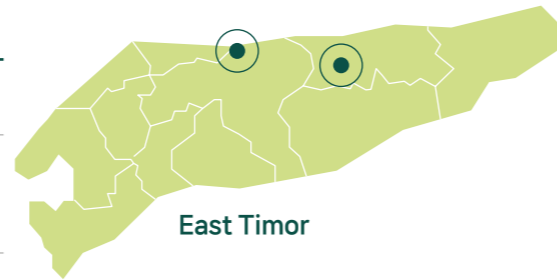
Year	Main Activities	AFoCO Budget (USD)
2022	• Act 2.1.4 Seedling production	Total: US\$ 190,440
	• Act 2.1.5 Conduct enrichment planting, assisted natural regeneration and maintenance	AFoCO: US\$ 165,000 National: US\$ 25,400
AFoCO Budget Expended		USD \$179,696.10



(Left) Villagers producing seedlings in Viengthong District, Bolikhamxay Province, Lao PDR
(Right) Enrichment planting by the villagers in Viengthong District, Bolikhamxay Province, Lao PDR

Re-greening the Bare Lands through Promotion of Locally Customized Restoration Models *AFoCO/026/2021*

Duration	1 October 2022 - 30 September 2026
Budget	Total: US\$ 1,050,000 AFoCO: US\$ 1,000,000 / National: US\$ 50,000
Project Site	Timor-Leste - Manatuto Municipality and Aileu Municipality



PROJECT BACKGROUND & SUMMARY

Timor-Leste, the youngest southeast country, has more than about 64% of its 1.2 million population dependent upon agriculture and natural resources for their livelihoods. Due to traditional agriculture practices, such as slash and burn activities, land degradation is a serious problem in many parts of the country and because of a lack of capacity for appropriate management practice in local communities, these practices continue. Lack of clear land tenure, shifting cultivation and heavy dependence upon firewood for energy are other reasons which exacerbate land degradation. Moreover, governmental institutions in Timor-Leste have lacked the capacity, knowledge nor resources to implement sustainable land management practice.

Locally customized Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) is essential to restore the ecological and economic value of these critical landscapes. However, to date, limited progress has been realized due to lack of appropriate business model and financing opportunities, low economic opportunities for local communities and smallholders, and associated low level of stakeholder participation. To achieve restoration goals, actions will be needed to scale up from current models based on government funding or donor driven projects to engaging large-and small-scale private sector investors whilst ensuring that restoration efforts also integrate the needs of local people and provide local economic opportunities.

This project would engage a range of stakeholders to ensure better understanding of the degraded forest and restoration priorities in East Timor and employ a combination of methods such as participatory approaches, geo-spatial analysis, and participatory action research. Based on the stakeholders' interests and priorities, we will develop and demonstrate locally appropriate restoration and business models that address the climate and development goals of East Timor. The focus will be on restoring degraded lands with mixed species that have both economic and ecological functions. Training and capacity strengthening of key partners in the technical aspects of restoration planning and implementation, business development, and field-based research will be carried out to ensure sustained engagement and continuity of project activities into the future. The results of both technical and research will inform and shape key development of policy processes and goals, such as restoration policy, forest-based livelihood improvement and achievement of sustainable development goals. Lessons from this project can be applied elsewhere in the target countries and other parts of the South.

Objectives

- 1 Establish database of the forestland degradation and to build capacity of farmers in the project sites
- 2 Develop a business model for tradeoff of key ecosystem goods and services through a network of community-based enterprises

Achievements in 2022

- Inception meeting
- Launching 2 traditional ceremonies in 2 municipalities

Year	Main Activities	AFoCO Budget (USD)
2022	· Inception meeting	\$ 1,280
	· Launching 2 traditional ceremonies in 2 municipalities	\$ 2,232
AFoCO Budget Expended		USD \$3,512



Temporary nursery



Traditional ceremony

Site Restoration and Sustainable Management of Community Forest Using Multiple Tree Species and Agroforestry *AFoCO/027/2022*



Duration	2022-2027
Budget	Total: US\$ 727,515 AFoCO: US\$ 663,515 / National: US\$ 64,000 (in-kind)
Project Site	Neakta Thmor Prung Community Forestry, Kampong Seila District, Preah Sihanouk province

PROJECT BACKGROUND & SUMMARY

The project is implemented by the Forestry Administration of Cambodia under financial support from the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization, which will span over five years starting in 2022. The project aims to restore forest resources (timber and NTFP) and increase community members' revenue to sustainably maintain community forests. The project site covers 592 ha of degraded forests in Neakta Thmor Prung Community Forestry located in Kampong Seila district, Preah Sihanouk Province. Through the project intervention, sustainable forest management will be achieved by creating a CF restoration plan, increasing the capacity of local community members, establishing tree nurseries, and restoring a quarter of the community forest with a variety of species to meet the needs of the community and forest site conditions as well as promoting sustainable forest-based livelihoods.

Objectives

- 1 Ensure the community forest is well managed by the local community, capable of protecting the forest, producing seedlings, and implementing forest restoration;
- 2 Rehabilitate the community forest by using multiple species with high economic value and sustainably managed to benefit the local communities;
- 3 Disseminate the project experiences and lessons to ensure the beneficial positive effects on other CFs and to sustain the activities after project completion.

Achievements in 2022

- Completed a baseline survey on the socio-economic information of the population managing the Community Forestry;
- Improving the capacity of local Forestry Administration officials and communities on nursery management, and forest restoration through providing a training course and field visit;
- Improving the capacity of two young community forestry members on the use of computer and then on GIS and RS together with local Forestry Administration officials to be able to produce maps and identify areas for rehabilitation and management of the community forests

Improving the capacity of local Forestry Administration officials, authorities, communities, and stakeholders as well as local NGOs through training, workshops, and meetings with knowledge, skills and experiences on CF management and development, forest rehabilitation and livelihood improvement and eventually contributing to sustainable forest management and institutional improvement.

Year	Main Activities	AFoCO Budget (USD)
2022	· Assess the training- need on seedling production, forest restoration, marketing of forest products and CFMP preparation	2,280.00
	· Prepare the training	3,300.00
	· Organize the training for the local community and Local FA to enhance knowledge and skill on nursery management and forest restoration and CFMP preparation (e.g. inventory and land zoning)	8,740.00
	· Provide training to young CF members on the use of computer	2,810.00
	· Organize the training on GIS, RS and database management for local FA and project staff members	2,455.00
	· Conduct baseline survey on the socio-economic conditions of the population managing the CF	3,950.00
	· Develop extension materials (leaflets, posters, and TV spots) for showcasing the project and sharing lessons learned	1,100.00
	· Organize webinar for the project	3,826.00
	· Printing documentation	255.00
	· Project Management	18,276.03
AFoCO Budget Expended		USD 46,992.03



Field visit to learn about the experiences and challenges in nursery management, forest restoration and agroforestry development from other community forestry in Kampong Speu Province, Cambodia



Capacity building training on nursery management and forest restoration in Neakta Thmor Prung Community Forestry in Preah Sihanouk Province, Cambodia

Pilot Project on Inventory of Unaccounted Forests in Kostanay and North Kazakhstan Regions and Automation of Information Collection on Forestry *AFoCO/028/2022*

Duration	2022-2026
Budget	Total: US\$ 1,243,807 AFoCO: US\$ 953,277 / National: US\$ 290,530 (in-kind)
Project Site	Kostanay and North Kazakhstan Regions



PROJECT BACKGROUND & SUMMARY

Despite its importance, no projects on inventory of unaccounted forests in the country have been conducted mainly because of budget limitations. Since Kazakhstan has extensive land area, most of the budget goes to the protection of existing forests from forest fires, pests and diseases. As about 70% of the country is degraded, planting trees on the bare lands of the state forest puts a lot of pressure on the national budget.

Recent data show a small annual decline in area of forest and other wooded land between the last Soviet inventories. However, there are many problems with data quality, as well as of comparability with 1988 data, so it is not possible even to make estimates of trends over the period. This is a typical situation not only in Kazakhstan, but also throughout Central Asia.

The management, inspection, permitting, accounting, and analysis of forest data are being performed by the managers and specialists of the Committee and its territorial agencies, forestry entities, and other forest owners across the country. These managerial functions involve the processing, transmission and storage of large amounts of data and information, which requires a functional and integrated system. At present, the collection and storage of primary data on forests and their processing for the compilation into statistical reports is carried out manually on paper at all levels of forest management. These led to inefficiency in forest management. It is necessary to develop a digital platform that would consolidate all levels of reporting data on forest management starting from the most primary from across the country up to compiled data at the governmental level, since forest data is crucial for forest management decision-making.

Objectives

- 1 Conduct identification and pilot inventory of the unaccounted forests in Kostanay and North Kazakhstan regions by the end of 2025
- 2 Develop a fully functional digital program (software) on forest data management

Achievements in 2022

- Project team established
- Equipment procured according to budget plan
- Preparatory works for forest inventory conducted
- Server room modernization in progress
- Consultation meeting in Kostanay and North-Kazakhstan region was held
- Data analysis in progress

Year	Main Activities	AFoCO Budget (USD)
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project team established • Equipment procured according to budget plan • Preparatory works for forest inventory conducted • Server room modernization in progress • Consultation meeting in Kostanay and North-Kazakhstan region was held • Data analysis in progress 	185,196
AFoCO Budget Expended		USD \$185,196



Consultation meeting with forestry agencies in Kostanay region



Data collecting through forestry offices in Kostanay region

Rehabilitation of Degraded and Potentially Deserted Forest Land in the Northwest Region of Viet Nam through Application of Integrated Technical Measures *AFoCO/031/2022*



Duration	2022-2026
Budget	Total: US\$ 1,243,807 AFoCO: US\$ 953,277 / National: US\$ 290,530 (in-kind)
Project Site	Lai Chau, Dien Bien, Son La, and Hoa Binh districts

PROJECT BACKGROUND & SUMMARY

The project is implemented in the Northwest region (including the four (4) provinces of Hoa Binh, Son La, Lai Chau and Dien Bien), the hot spots in Viet Nam suffering forest land degradation. Limited awareness and application of science and technology in cultivation, coupled with the pressure of population growth and the limited availability of agricultural land have forced people to take unsustainable cultivation on forest land to ensure their food security and livelihoods. In many localities of the Northwest region, the practice of monoculture of short-term crops on sloping land, especially maize and cassava without application of soil protection measures, has resulted in heavy leaching of soil surface, reduction in soil fertility, and even the soil has degraded and faded, leading to a decrease in crop productivity and an increase of cultivation investment cost. These circumstances have resulted in the decrease of forest area in the region, and an increasing risk of flash floods, landslides, soil erosion, leaching and land degradation. In addition, the traditional shifting cultivation method on high sloping land without any fallow period, no soil protection measures, no fertilisation or very little use of fertilisers are the causes of increasing nutrient depletion and land becomes difficult to recover unless there are appropriate technical measures and management methods. To address the aforementioned problems and limitations, the project goal is to sustainably rehabilitate, manage and use degraded and potentially forest land in four (4) project provinces of the Northwest in terms of ecology, environment and livelihoods through application of integrated technical measures associated with the specific classification levels of degradation. The project's demonstration models are expected to enable replication and scaling-up of the project in local and other areas to lessen the degradation problem of forest land and combat desertification in Viet Nam.

Objectives

- 1 Develop integrated technical measures corresponding to different degradation levels of forest land classified in the Northwest
- 2 Establish and evaluate effectiveness of four (4) models of degraded forest land rehabilitation in four Northwest provinces through application of integrated technical measures in combination with advanced scientific technology
- 3 Compile technical guidelines on degraded forest land rehabilitation and policy briefs on sustainable management and use of degraded and potentially deserted forest land in the Northwest region
- 4 Transfer techniques and awareness of project model establishment to relevant stakeholders.

Achievements in 2022

- 1 set of criteria and indicators to assess and classify the levels of forest land degradation in 4 provinces of the Northwest region.
- 4 maps of forest degradation classification in 4 Northwest provinces.
- 4 proposals of integrated technical measures to rehabilitate corresponding to different degradation levels of forest land classified in 4 project provinces.

Year	Main Activities	AFoCO Budget (USD)
2022	· Activity A.1: Develop a set of criteria and indicators to assess and classify the levels of forest land degradation in 4 provinces of the Northwest region	9,927
	· Activity A.2: Survey, assess and classify the current status of forest land degradation in 4 provinces of the Northwest region	69,091
	· Activity A.3: Develop the current status map of forest land degradation in the Northwest region	7,000
	· Activity B.1: Propose integrated technical measures to rehabilitate degraded and nearly degraded forest land in 4 provinces of the Northwest region	1,500
	· Activity B.2: Consult with experts and relevant stakeholders to complete the measure proposal	1,000
	· Indirect Costs	47,567
AFoCO Budget Expended		USD 136,085



Development of criteria for land degradation classification



Establishment of rehabilitation models in Hoa Binh province

PIPELINE PROJECTS

Advancing Restoration of Native Agarwood - *Aquilaria crassna* and *A. Malaccensis* - for Sustainable Use and Management in Southwestern Cambodia *AFoCO/038/2023*

Duration	March 1 2023 - 28 February 2026 (3 years)
Budget	Total: US\$ 739,844 AFoCO: US\$ 684,344 / National: US\$ 55,500 (In-kind)
Project Site	Cardamom Mountain Ranges of Southwestern Cambodia: four provinces of Koh Kong, Pursat, Battambang, and Pailin

PROJECT SUMMARY

The native Agarwood species used to be widespread and abundant in the forest areas of Southwestern Cambodia, the Cambodian Emerald Wild Agarwood, up until the early 2000s. Two native Agarwood species, *Aquilaria crassna*, and *Aquilaria malaccensis*, mainly resided in the areas. Most of the wild Agarwoods nowadays exist in deep forest areas of Protected Areas (PA) while some remaining regrown Agarwood are available in Community Forestry sites. Some native Agarwood species have also been planted in agricultural lands of local villages, within family-scale plantations in an effort to increase its numbers. These two species are however, classified as endangered species by the IUCN Red List, CITES, and national regulations like ministerial order (MAFF, 2005) and primer Sub-Decree No. 53 (RGC5, 2006). The two species are allowed to be legally harvested and traded with the presence of permits from Forestry Administration or MAFF when necessary.

The family-scale native Agarwood plantations have been established as a trial attempt to address this issue. However, the owners claimed that they were facing challenges due to lack of techniques and skills of getting production from the plantations such as inoculating the trees to form Agarwood resins. The challenges eventually led to the abandonment of the plantations, and the two native species came to no longer exist either on plantations or in the wild of Community Forestry sites. The core problem here was the "loss of viable naturally reproductive populations of Agarwood in Community Forestry areas". Three main causes existed behind this issue: 1) ineffective management of Agarwood in the CF areas; 2) overexploitation due to past illegal export trade; and 3) lack of coordination and technical skills among stakeholders in Agarwood plantation management.

In order to address such a situation and to halt any further exacerbation of the problem, the goal of the project is to restore native Agarwood species in their former habitats of the target Community Forestry sites of the Southwestern Cambodia contributing to the country's National Forest Program (2010 – 2029).

Objectives

- ① Rehabilitation of former Agarwood ecosystems in the country piloting areas
- ② Awareness-raising on the advancement of native Agarwood restoration in Southwestern Cambodia
- ③ Establishment of an effective enabling environment to support the development of family-scale and private sector in native Agarwood species plantations

Forest Restoration Demonstration through High Capacity Tree Nursery and Capacity Building in Support to “1 Billion Tree” Campaign in Mongolia *AFoCO/039/2023*

Duration	February 2023 - December 2025
Budget	Total: US\$ 999,656
Project Site	1. Bayan-Uul soum, Dornod aimag, Northeastern Khentii 2. Deendiin valley, Ulaanbaatar city, Mongolia

PROJECT SUMMARY

Mongolia has been suffering from rapid deforestation and forest degradation caused by anthropogenic disturbances and became one of the most pressing issues for the past years within the country. Among many degraded deforested regions, the relatively accelerated region is the eastern Khentii mountains, where in total the mountain itself has approximately 55,000 hectares of degraded forest land that needs to be restored to prevent further degradation and land change. However, one of the major obstacles in this process are the limited number of forest seedlings and saplings due to the limited number of nurseries with the necessary technologies to produce good quality seedlings. Capacity of the staff who manage the nursery is also limited to carry out large plantation projects, which has led to the failure of plantations in the past and ultimately reforestation activities in the region have been insufficient. In this regard, the project aims to focus on establishing the advanced tree nurseries at the target sites and conduct reforestation in 120 ha of degraded and deforested area as a demonstration in the Ereen Mountain Range at northeastern part of Mongolia, as the region is considered a high social, ecological and economic value of Mongolia.

Objectives

- ① Establish mechanised nursery for pine forest restoration
- ② Conduct capacity building activities for the frontline forestry staff and communities on forest restoration
- ③ Conduct soil erosion control and water conservation, and contribute to income generation of participating communities

Forest Restoration using Philippine Threatened and Endemic Species (PTES) in Bacon-Manito Geothermal Reservation in Support to the Philippines' Forestry Sector's National Greening Program *AFoCO/040/2023*

Duration	2023-2025
Budget	Total: US\$ 617,068 AFoCO: US\$ 358,754 / National: US\$ 258,314
Project Site	Bacon-Manito, Sorsogon and Albay

PROJECT BACKGROUND & SUMMARY

The continuous degradation of the Philippine natural forests can be attributed to localised timber poaching and expansion of agricultural areas that leads to unabated deforestation. Despite the massive effort of the government to restore degraded forest lands, the restoration and protection of the country's natural forests remains to be challenged.

The private sector can be a potential partner in forest rehabilitation. At present, most companies are limited to supporting tree planting activities and other environmental initiatives hosted by government and other non-government organisations. Although some companies have capabilities of acquiring land and converting it into forest parks and forest purposes. Most companies have allocated some funds for environmental purposes. Thus, it would be more effective if the government can provide a venue for potential companies to be engaged in forest rehabilitation highlighting, among others, sustainability, transparency, and technical development. This project will propose to institutionalise the learnings and success stories of this private-public partnership through a policy proposal for government appreciation and consideration.

The project aims to demonstrate a private-public partnership in restoring 100 hectares of disturbed forest including the development of an arboretum. The partnership intends to document good practices and proposed policy directions in facilitating private engagement in forest rehabilitation. Likewise, the project also intends to develop and recommend propagation protocols to facilitate production of indigenous and endangered tree species in forest restoration programs.

Objectives

- 1 Restore 100 hectares of disturbed forest with 20 species of highly threatened and endemic trees in Support to the Philippine Forestry Sector's National Greening Program
- 2 Establish 2 hectares arboretum within forest restoration area
- 3 Document good practices and propagation protocols of using PTES in forest restorations that can be developed and translated into national policies and/or technical bulletins
- 4 Demonstrate Private-Public Partnership in forest restorations and translate into working national policies and/or technical bulletins
- 5 Facilitate knowledge sharing on Forest Restoration Using PTES

LIST OF PROJECTS as of June 2023

PROJECT CODE	TITLE	PERIOD	COUNTRY	BUDGET
Completed Projects				
1	AFoCO/001/2013 Reclamation, Rehabilitation and Restoration of Degraded Forest Ecosystems (RRR-DFE) in Mekong Basin Countries	2 years (2013-2014)	KH, LA, MM, TH, VN	500,000 USD
2	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 (2013-2014)	BR, KH, ID, LA, MM, PH, TH, VN	1,847,528 USD
3	AFoCO/003/2014 Promotion of Forest Rehabilitation in Cambodia and Viet Nam Through Demonstration Models and Improvement of Seed Supply System	5 years (2015-2020)	KH, VN	1,000,000 USD
4	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	1,500,000 USD
5	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	2015-2018	VN, TH	600,000 USD
6	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	539,726 USD
7	AFoCO/012/2019 The Registration of Small-scale Private Forest Plantations in Cambodia	2020-2022	KH	Total budget 275,110 USD AFoCO fund 249,410 USD
Projects Under Completion Process				
8	AFoCO/006/2014 Rehabilitation and Development of Mangrove Forest Ecosystem in Thai Binh Province, Viet Nam	2016-2023	VN	1,500,000 USD
9	AFoCO/010/2016 Domestication of Endangered, Endemic and Threatened Plant Species in Disturbed Terrestrial Ecosystems in Malaysia and Thailand	2016-2022	MY, TH	1,200,000 USD
On-going Projects				
10	AFoCO/005/2014 Establishment of Forest Genetics Research Center for Restoration of Major Timber Species in Cambodia	2016-2025	KH	1,500,000 USD
11	AFoCO/007/2014 Establishment of Regional Education and Training Center in Myanmar	2014-2024	MM	6,988,215 USD
12	AFoCO/008/2014 Village-based Forest Rehabilitation in Lao PDR	2016-2025	LA	1,500,000 USD

13	AFoCO/013/2020	Improving <i>Pinus caribaea</i> Morelet for Plantation on Degraded Land in Viet Nam's Northern Mountainous Region	2020-2023.12	VN	Total budget 559,000 USD AFoCO fund 486,000 USD
14	AFoCO/014/2020	Integrated Pest and Disease Management in Teak Plantations in Bago Region, Myanmar	2020-2025	MM	955,360 USD
15	AFoCO/015/2020	Model Forest for Livelihood Improvement of Forest Dependent Communities through Development of Community-based Enterprise and Forest Conservation	2020-2024*	MM	952,000 USD
16	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	Total budget 1,118,537 USD AFoCO fund 928,822 USD
17	AFoCO/017/2020	Sustainable Community-based Enterprise Development for Improved Rural Livelihood in Bhutan	2020-2025	BT	Total budget: 1,400,000 USD AFoCO fund 1,000,000 USD
18	AFoCO/018/2020	Development of Agroforestry Models for Promotion of Reforestation in the Different Zones in Timor-Leste	2021-2024	TL	Total budget 605,580 USD AFoCO fund 516,700 USD
19	AFoCO/019/2020 (NIFoS)	Assessment of Adelgid diversity and distribution in conifer forest of Bhutan to mitigate future outbreaks	2020-2022	BT	Total budget 60,976 USD AFoCO fund 32,862 USD
20	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	32,864 USD
21	AFoCO/021/2021 (NIFoS)	Performance of Cluster Method in Rehabilitating Degraded Lands in Cambodia	2021-2023	KH	34,500 USD
22	AFoCO/022/2021 (NIFoS)	Research on Forest Enrichment using High Valuable Native Species in Hoa Binh Province, Viet Nam	2021-2023	VN	Total budget 39,496 USD AFoCO fund 34,496 USD
23	AFoCO/023/2021	Innovative solution for climate change and biodiversity landscape strategy to support SDGs in Indonesia	2021-2024	ID	Total budget 800,000 USD AFoCO fund 700,000USD
24	AFoCO/024/2021	Conservation and development of forest ecosystems biodiversity resources at Cat Tien National Park	2021-2025.12	VN	Total budget 1,232,000 USD AFoCO fund 1,132,000USD
25	AFoCO/025/2021	Integrated village-driven forest rehabilitation and livelihood improvement in Viengthong district, Bolikhamxay province, Lao PDR	2021-2026	LA	Total budget 1,099,840 USD AFoCO fund 993,440 USD
26	AFoCO/026/2021	Re-greening the bare lands in Timor-Leste through promotion of locally customized restoration models	2022-2026	TL	Total budget 1,050,000USD AFoCO fund 1,000,000USD
27	AFoCO/027/2022	Site Restoration and Sustainable Management of Community Forest Using Multiple Use Tree Species and Agroforestry	2022-2027	KH	Total budget 727,515 USD AFoCO fund 663,515 USD

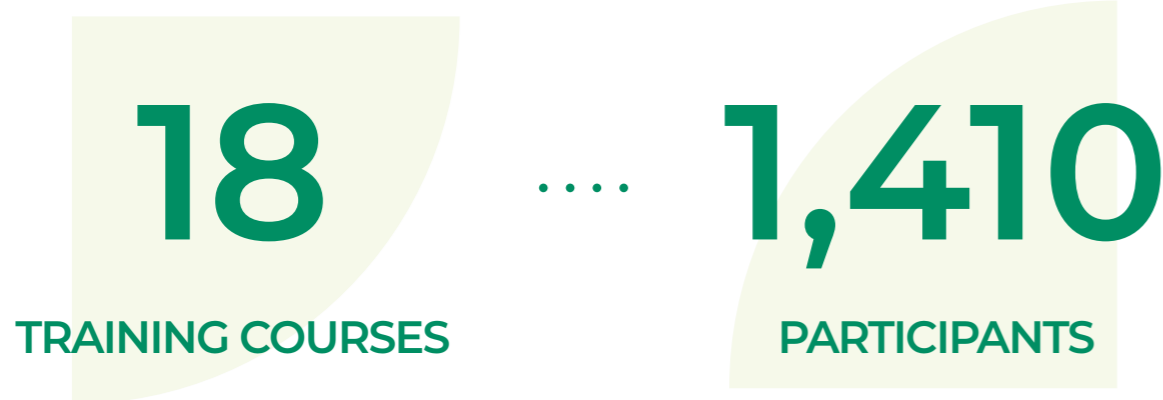
28	AFoCO/028/2022	Pilot project on inventory of unaccounted forests in Kostanay and North Kazakhstan regions and automation of the collection of information on forestry	2022-2026	KZ	Total Budget 1,243,807.2 USD AFoCO fund 953,277 USD
29	AFoCO/030/2022	Improving local communities' livelihoods and engagement in sustainable forest and land management in Thailand through Forest Landscape Restoration	2022-2024.12	TH	300,000 USD
30	AFoCO/031/2022	Rehabilitation of degraded and potentially deserted forest land in the Northwest region of Viet Nam through application of integrated technical measures	2022-2026.12	VN	Total budget 920,000 USD AFoCO fund 800,000 USD
PROJECT CODE		TITLE	PERIOD	COUNTRY	BUDGET
Projects Under Inception Arrangements					
31	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	2022-2025	PH	Total budget 984,175 USD AFoCO fund 705,000 USD
32	AFoCO/032/2022	Capacity Building on Enhancing Resilience to Forest Fire and Local Livelihood in CLMV Countries	2022-2027	AFoCO Secretariat (Lead Agency), KH, LA, MM, VN	Total budget 5,000,000 USD AFoCO fund 2,000,000 USD
33	AFoCO/033/2022 (NIFoS)	Community-government restoration, recreation and livelihoods in Batur UNESCO Global Geopark	2022-2024	ID	Total budget 43,800 USD AFoCO fund 33,800 USD (KRW equivalent up to 40M)
34	AFoCO/034/2022 (NIFoS)	Assessment of Financial Instrument and PES Model Application for Rare and Endangered Species Preservation in Thailand: Pilot site in Suratthani Province	2022-2024	TH	Total budget 36,960 USD AFoCO fund 30,960 USD
35	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	4,000,000 USD
36	AFoCO/036/2022	The Establishment of ASEAN-KOREA Garden in Cambodia	2023-2026	KH	-
37	AFoCO/037/2023	ICT for Adaptation to Climate Change and Forest Fire Management in Mekong Region	2023-2026	KH, VN	MKCF
38	AFoCO/038/2023	Advancing Restoration of Native Agarwood – <i>Aquilaria crassna</i> and <i>A. Malaccensis</i> – for Sustainable Use and Management in Southwestern Cambodia	2023-2025	KH	-
39	AFoCO/039/2023	Forest Restoration Demonstration through High Capacity Tree Nursery and Capacity Building in Support to "1 Billion Tree" Campaign in Mongolia	2023-2025	MN	-
40	AFoCO/040/2023	Forest Restoration using Philippine Threatened and Endemic Tree Species (PTES) in Bacon-Manito Geothermal Reservation in Support to the Philippines' Forestry Sector's National Greening Program	2023-2025	PH	-

CAPACITY BUILDING

- 86 AFoCO RETC
- 87 TRAINING COURSES
 - 87 Regular Training Courses
 - 96 Other Training & Workshops
- 98 AFoCO FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



AFoCO RETC



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.

TRAINING COURSES

Regular Training Courses

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Forest and Forestry Sector

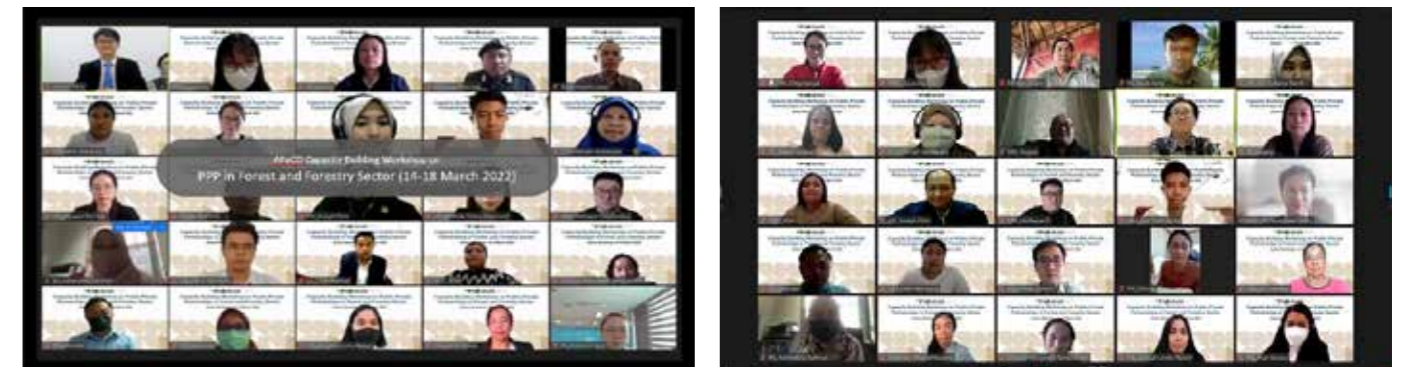
Virtual | March 14-18, 2022

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) are used by governments to procure and implement public infrastructure and services using the resources and expertise of the private sector. In a typical PPP arrangement, one or more private sector entities fund most programs, and technologies and knowledge of both public and private sectors are shared to maximize public goods.

In Asia, forest land is mostly owned, controlled, and supervised by the public sector. As part of efforts to reduce carbon emissions and achieve net-zero goals, forests and the forestry sector have emerged as target areas for PPPs, including REDD+, Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES), and community-based enterprise development, among others. However, PPPs in this sector are still largely unexplored and vague, making it difficult for private sector entities to find entry points. Therefore, it is essential to actively develop ways to promote local communities' interests and their active participation through all-inclusive policies and enhanced governance framed by equitable stewardship and benefit-sharing.

To provide an understanding of PPPs in forests and the forestry sector, the "AFoCO Capacity Building Workshop on PPP in Forest and Forestry Sector" was organized from 14 to 18 March 2022. The training welcomed 60 participants from 14 AFoCO member countries.

The workshop consisted of five sessions: 1) Global and Asian Trends in PPPs in the Forest and Forestry Sector, 2) Policy Instruments to Facilitate PPPs in the Forest and Forestry Sector, 3) Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG) in PPPs in the Forest and Forestry Sector, 4) The Role of the Private Sector in REDD+, and 5) The Roles of the Local and Civil Society in PPPs in the Forest and Forestry Sector, led by renowned lecturers from universities and international organizations. The workshop was designed with a focus on the 4Cs - Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking, and Creativity. During the workshop, participants were grouped in pairs to work on the development of action plans and promote the sharing of knowledge among AFoCO member countries.



Opening ceremony on 14 March 2023 with participants from 14 countries (Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam)

Forest Crime and Sustainable Forest Management

Virtual | May 16-20, 2022

Forest crime implies a broad range of processes of “taking, trading, importing, exporting, processing, possessing, obtaining, and consuming wild flora, including timber and other forest products, in contravention of national or international law,” as defined by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Illegal logging and related trades were not only considered major forest crimes. Rather, it could be argued that illegal logging directly impacted deforestation, climate change, and species extinction and had a long-term negative impact on the livelihoods of forest-dependent people.

To provide a broader understanding of the impact of forest crime on forests and global and regional efforts in maintaining the world’s forests, the Capacity Building Workshop of AFoCO RETC on “Forest Crime and Sustainable Forest Management” was organized online from May 16th to 20th, 2022. The training welcomed 26 participants from 10 AFoCO member countries (Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam). The workshop’s objectives were to improve understanding of significant drivers of forest crime and its socio-environmental impacts and to share knowledge and experiences in combating forest crime in AFoCO Member Countries.

“Illegal logging directly impacted deforestation, climate change, and species extinction and had a long-term negative impact on the livelihoods of forest-dependent people. We had to understand that when we looked down on forest crime issues, it could interfere with the global society’s will and justice for fair trade in the end,” said Dr. Lee Yeong Joo during his opening remarks.

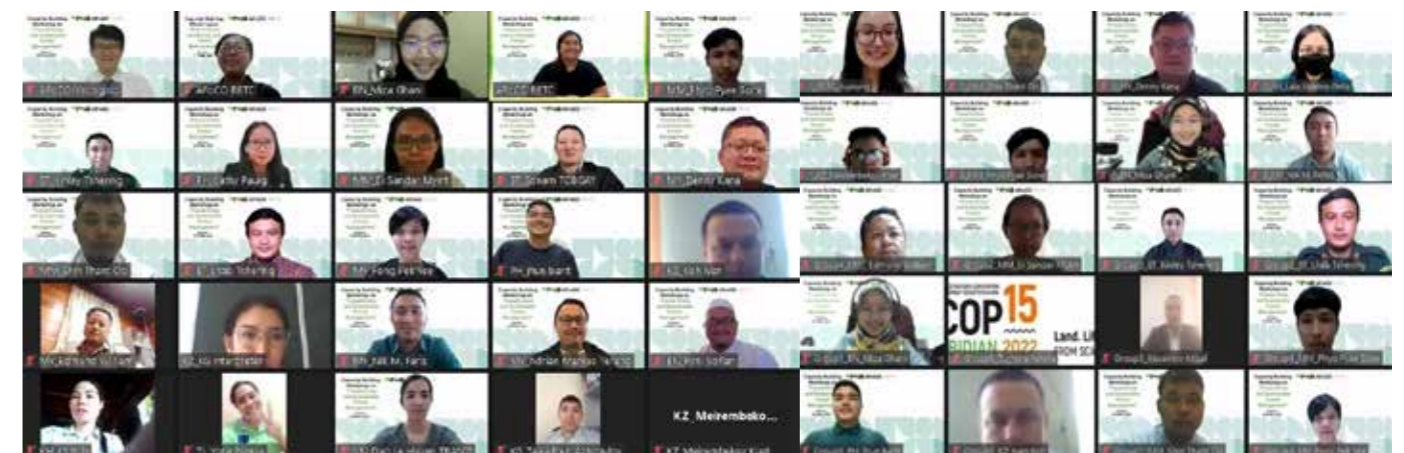
The workshop included four sessions led by experts from UNODC, the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF), the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB), and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF):

- Global and Regional Efforts in Combating Forest Crime – Mr. Giovanni Broussard, Regional Coordinator for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, Environment Team, UNODC.
- Forest Crime and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation – Mr. Ahmad Dermawan, Scientist, CIFOR-ICRAF.
- Transboundary Collaboration in Combating Forest Crime – Dr. Arvin C. Diesmos, Director, Biodiversity Information Management, ACB.
- Demand reduction strategies in combating forest crime – Ms. Natasha Han, Forest Intelligence Coordinator, WWF Greater Mekong.

This workshop was designed to create an environment that enabled both teaching and learning among participants. Participants were assigned to work in small groups to share opinions and experiences and contribute to the development of the “Regional Problem Tree” and “Regional Objective” based on their country reports. They were also tasked with identifying and formulating key recommendations to enhance regional efforts in combating forest crime. Participants from each country presented their own country reports and action plans, and interventions were made during their presentations.

On the last day of the workshop, an online survey assessment was conducted to gather opinions from the participants, and the following recommendations on topics to include in future capacity-building workshops were consolidated:

- Application of modern technology for monitoring forest crime.
- Investigation techniques for money laundering in forest crime.
- Experiences and success stories on controlling forest crime using technological assistance.
- Strategies to eliminate illegal logging activity and transboundary forest crime, such as inter-state intelligence, prevention, cooperation at national borders.
- The role of forest certification in combating forest crime.
- Combating environmental organized crimes and investigation.



AFoCO-ITTO Capacity Building Workshop on Forest Landscape Restoration in the Asia-Pacific Region: Accessing Climate Change Finance and Carbon Benefits for FLR

Virtual | September 28-30, 2022

Recognizing the importance of creating healthy ecosystems, the global community worked together to engage in ecosystem restoration. AFoCO and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) co-organized online capacity-building workshops focusing on "Forest Landscape Restoration in the Asia-Pacific Region" since the first year of the United Nations Decade for Ecosystem Restoration, 2021-2030. The first Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) workshop focused on spreading the understanding of the ITTO Guidelines for FLR, particularly the Six Principles of FLR, among the implementing agencies and policymakers in the region. During the workshop in 2021, all 72 workshop participants from 15 countries noted the increased availability of public and private finances for climate change mitigation and adaptation at global and national levels and, in many countries, even at the provincial and local levels. Moreover, it was recognized that very little of this financing was actually made available for the forestry sector, and there was an emerging need to build capacities among the FLR implementing agencies in the region to access climate change public and private finances at varied scales.

To enhance understanding of the role of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement in promoting FLR and improve FLR practitioners' knowledge of carbon sequestration to aid the preparation of FLR proposals aimed at accessing climate funds from multilateral and bilateral financing agencies, AFoCO and ITTO virtually organized the "Capacity Building Workshop on Forest Landscape Restoration in the Asia-Pacific Region: Accessing Climate Change Finance and Carbon Benefits for FLR" from September 28th to 30th, 2022.

Speaking at the workshop, Dr. Hwan-ok Ma, Officer-in-Charge, Forest Management Division, ITTO, said, "This year's workshop built upon the expertise and network of ITTO and AFoCO and last year's AP FLR capacity-building workshop, which were jointly organized by ITTO and AFoCO. By bringing together policymakers, researchers, and practitioners engaged in promoting FLR in the Asia-Pacific region, I believe this workshop was an excellent opportunity to review the potential of climate change financing and carbon benefits for effective restoration initiatives in policies, programs, and projects at any scale. Furthermore, I am certain that the outcomes of this year's workshop will be of great value in enhancing FLR interventions and mainstreaming sustainable supply chains for sustainable timber consumption and trade."

The workshop welcomed 49 government officials and forestry experts from 14 member countries of AFoCO and ITTO. The workshop consisted of two keynote addresses and six lecture sessions to provide participants with a fundamental understanding of the climate change financing mechanisms and carbon benefits synergized by FLR interventions.



Post Workshop Session: An Intensive Discussion for FLR and REDD+

Phnom Penh, Cambodia | October 5-7, 2022

Following the capacity-building workshop jointly organized by AFoCO and ITTO on "Forest Landscape Restoration in the Asia-Pacific Region: Accessing Climate Change Finance and Carbon Benefits for FLR," AFoCO RETC facilitated a post-workshop session titled "An Intensive Discussion for FLR and REDD+" at the Forest and Wildlife Training Center in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The workshop was held from October 5th to 7th, 2022, in collaboration with the Institute of Forest and Wildlife Research and Development (IRD) under the Forestry Administration (FA) of Cambodia. The three-day workshop welcomed 15 government officials from 9 AFoCO member parties—Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam.

During the opening of the workshop, Mr. Chan Ponika, Deputy Director-General of Forest Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry, Kingdom of Cambodia, welcomed the workshop participants and acknowledged the support of AFoCO in his welcome remarks. "I believed the outcomes of this intensive discussion would lead to the development of a practical action plan paving the way for the success of Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) implementation in the region as well as making our forests healthier. Our training center was built 20 years ago, and much of its facilities deteriorated due to a lack of budget for maintenance. With the opportunity of having the AFoCO regional workshop here, we were able to renovate and refurbish some of the training facilities, and we looked forward to promoting and maximizing the use of these training centers after the training."

The workshop aimed to provide a platform for intensive discussions among the member countries on FLR and REDD+[1] by learning from the experiences of Cambodia. The workshop also introduced the concept of the Climate Action Partnership Strategy currently under development as part of AFoCO's Strategic Plan 2024-2030 and explored the effective implementation of FLR/REDD+ activities with AFoCO's Climate Action Partnership Strategy. On the first day of the workshop, the workshop started by summarizing the previous online workshop, the participants' presentations on the challenges and opportunities of FLR and REDD+ implementation in their countries, and started the group discussions on "AFoCO Climate Action Partnership Strategy." On October 6th, 2022, the second day of the workshop, the participants visited the "Tumring REDD+ Project Site" located in Kampong Thom Province, Cambodia. During the field visit, the participants met and discussed with officers from the Project Management Unit (PMU) and Field Implementation Unit (FIU) of the project site, later visiting the two Community Forestry Management Committees – CFMC (O'bosleav & Kbal Dontey). On the last day of the workshop, the RETC team and the workshop participants shared observations & lessons learned from the field visit, continued intensive group discussions, and closed the workshop by wrapping up all of the discussions and handing over the certificate of completion.

All workshop participants supported that AFoCO's Climate Action Partnership Strategy was feasible and would provide a platform for the member countries to 1) share best practices and lessons learned, 2) strengthen cooperation, 3) assist Parties in achieving FLR and REDD+ targets, and 4) provide better access to funding. Regarding the REDD+ implementations, participants



Group photo with Officials from Forestry Administration of Cambodia & Workshop Participants



Discussion with Mr. Chaly Y, Tumring REDD+ Communication Officer

Resolving Conflicts to Advance Sustainable Forest Management and Restore Landscapes

Seoul, Republic of Korea | November 29-December 2, 2022

With the aims of strengthening the capacities of government officers and other key actors in addressing forest-related conflicts and providing opportunities to exchange and learn best conflict management practices in the Asia-Pacific Region, AFoCO and FAO-Korea hosted a capacity-building training entitled "Resolving Conflicts to Advance Sustainable Forest Management and Restore Landscapes" in collaboration with Consensus Building Institute (CBI) and The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC). The training was implemented using a hybrid approach, virtual (17 & 22 November 2022) and face-to-face (29 November to 2 December 2022) at Forest Literature House, Seoul, Republic of Korea. A total of 19 government officials and forestry experts from 15 Asia-Pacific countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam) and 2 AFoCO staff joined the training.

At the two-day virtual pre-training segment, the trainer and participants discussed perspectives on conflict, its drivers, and resolution by using connecting questions and case studies to understand the definition of "conflict" and the range of institutions and processes available to manage and resolve conflict through a transparent and inclusive approach.

During the face-to-face training held from 29 November to 2 December in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, participants learned about the different types of conflict behaviors, stakeholder mapping approaches, and consensus-building processes by using tools and materials developed by CBI and other relevant case studies. The first day of the training saw participants present their own conflict stories/pictures based on the pre-assignment given during the virtual training sessions. The training participants also visited Yangpyeong National Healing Forest, located in Gyeonggi-do, Republic of Korea, to learn and understand good practices, lessons, and experiences from multi-stakeholder engagement and collaboration in resolving the conflict over land uses. They also had the chance to apply the tools and strategies learned at the training to analyze conflicts and their dynamics and key success and failure factors of conflict issues at Yangpyeong National Healing Forest.



Participants sharing about conflict in their countries

Developing Data Portals for Community Forest Data in ASEAN Member States

Bangkok, Thailand | December 5-16, 2022

AFoCO and the Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC) joined hands to conduct the two-week training on 'Developing Data Portals for Community Forest Data in ASEAN Member States' in Bangkok, Thailand. The training welcomed mid- to high-level officials and technical staff involved in data management from five AFoCO member countries—Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The training was funded by Korea International Cooperation Agency's (KOICA) Capacity Improvement & Advancement for Tomorrow (CIAT) Program.

AFoCO, RECOFTC, and KOICA worked together to develop capacities to establish a regional-level community database management portal for the ASEAN region. In line with this, the training course aimed to achieve the following objectives:

- Improved the knowledge systems and potential for investment in community forestry initiatives across the ASEAN member states.
- Learned how to apply knowledge and tools that would support future investment in community forestry solutions that would contribute to climate change mitigation and long-term economic development in the forestry sector.
- Enhanced the quality and availability of community forestry data in decision-making to support community forestry programs and projects.

During the opening ceremony, Mr. Ricardo Calderon, Executive Director of AFoCO, and Dr. David Ganz, Executive Director of RECOFTC, delivered their welcome opening remarks. Both representatives expressed their excitement about holding a joint training course and looked forward to developing more meaningful collaborations in community forestry in the future. Mr. Calderon emphasized the importance of community forests, which had grown exponentially and had become critical components of nature-based solutions. He also stated that it was critical to create the most reliable and well-organized digital data that was accessible and could be shared among ASEAN states and AFoCO member countries, as it could be a valuable tool for planners, investors, and decision-makers.

Dr. Ganz highlighted that indigenous peoples and local communities were important stakeholders in mobilizing global climate and conservation finance, as they could gain opportunities to resolve climate issues and gain resilience from the pandemic. He also stated that because the governments and local institutes of ASEAN states were prepared to support technical systems for community forests, spatial database knowledge would become a critical component for benefit-sharing among forest users.

RECOFTC officers, including Dr. Peter Cutter, Director of Program Coordination and Technical Services, Mr. William Francis, Manager of Digital Development of Knowledge Management, and Mr. Ronnakorn Triraganon, Senior Strategic Advisor, led the training.

This training laid the foundation for addressing future community forestry-related issues and concerns at the regional level. Based on the outputs from the training, AFoCO would pursue its stepwise approach to expansion towards the entire region.



Congratulatory remark by Dr. David Ganz, RECOFTC Executive Director



Mr. Ronnakorn Triraganon introducing the training objectives

Other Training & Workshops

Special Course on GIS-based Project Management

Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga, Philippines | July 26-29, 2022

Project managers of AFoCO projects played an important role in the success of AFoCO projects. At the project inception stage, the AFoCO Project manual required, among others, the formation of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and the appointment of core project personnel. Ongoing AFoCO projects were overseen by project managers who assisted the PSC in running and managing the respective country-specific projects. Working closely with AFoCO, project managers provided critical guidance to local project staff and set the direction to achieve project objectives in a timely manner. It became essential for project managers to acquire good planning knowledge and skills, including suitable tools. Moreover, specific operational concerns encountered by ongoing projects had to be addressed in a manner that was within the competencies of the project management team and at a level that could be conveniently tackled by project stakeholders.

On one hand, the development of a Project Management Information System (PMIS) to systematize project development, monitoring, and evaluation was in progress. One key feature of the PMIS was the geo-referencing of project details that necessitated considerable knowledge and applications of the Geographic Information System (GIS). In order to facilitate the efficient utilization of the PMIS, an appreciation or knowledge-level intervention on GIS was imperative for AFoCO Project Managers and junior officers.

The Special Course provided AFoCO Project Managers with an avenue to further enhance their knowledge of the basic project management principles and their applications in real-life project situations, acquire knowledge and skills on the basics of GIS tools and applications in project monitoring and information systems, and engage in discussions to clarify and improve the effective and practical operationalization of AFoCO Projects and related manuals/guidelines.

Through lectures, hands-on exercises, and structured learning exercises (SLEs), participants were able to:

- Level off on the basic expectations (roles and responsibilities) of the AFoCO Project Managers at the workplace
- Appreciate and acquire knowledge/skill level on the basics and applications of GIS in project-related tasks
- Apply the course learnings through hands-on exercises and case-building cum problem-solving
- Recommend improvements/enhancements to pertinent provisions of the AFoCO Project Manual and related guidelines.



Consultation Workshop on Capacity Building in Forest and Forestry Sector for the Central Asian Region

Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga, Philippines | July 26-29, 2022

Kyrgyzstan joined AFoCO as a new Party, expanding AFoCO's membership of 16 member countries to include 2 Central Asian countries, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The formulation of a long-term action plan with current and potential Central Asian member countries was relevant and critical in fostering member involvement and ensuring that member countries' training needs were satisfied and aligned with national policies and objectives. To develop a plan for capacity-building activities in the region, a Consultation Workshop on Capacity Building in the Forest and Forestry Sector for the Central Asian Region was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from October 20 to 21. Thirteen government officials from Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan participated in the two-day consultation meeting, sharing insights and experiences on forestry-related capacity development programs and activities in their respective countries.

The Consultation Workshop aimed to identify the needs and specific topics for capacity building in Central Asia and develop a collective long-term plan of action for capacity building in Central Asia. The expected outputs of the consultation workshop were as follows:

- Collective action plan for capacity building of AFoCO in the Central Asian region
- Matrix of situational analysis on capacity building and potential training topics for the Central Asian region
- Information on the existing facilities available in each country
- Pool of potential resource persons from each country for future training
- Plan of the ad-hoc Working Group in 2023



At the workshop, participants discussed their country's government structure in the forestry sector, required training within the scope of capacity building for the forest sector, addressing the scarcity of domestic specialists in the field, priority areas for capacity building in the forest sector, and urgent training needs. Participants also discussed the roles they envisioned AFoCO playing in forestry-related capacity building in their countries.

On the final day of the consultation workshop, the previous sessions on capacity building for forests and forestry in Central Asia were reviewed and discussed. The needs and expectations for capacity building in the forestry and forestry sector at the Central Asian regional level were identified, along with the role of an ad-hoc working group. At the end of the meeting, participants were encouraged to expand cooperation between AFoCO and the current and future Parties in the Central Asian Region on capacity building for forestry and the forestry sector and to share best practices in mutual priority areas.

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 that 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 2022 Fellowship welcomed 7 officials from member countries:

1st Batch

- **Abuov Azamat Kairdyuly***
Committee for Forest and Wildlife, Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources, Kazakhstan
- **Guilhermino Moniz**
National Directorate for Community Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Timor-Leste
- **Khin Nyein San***
Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division of the Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC), Myanmar
- **Kittayaporn Jaiarree**
Royal Forest Department, Thailand
- **Sonam Tashi**
Department of Forests and Park Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Bhutan



Certificate Ceremony for 1st Batch of Fellowship Officials: (from left) Mr. Sonam Tashi from Bhutan, Ms. Kittayaporn Jaiarree from Thailand, and Mr. Guilhermino Moniz from Timor-Leste

2nd Batch

- **Altangadas Janchivdorj**
Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Mongolia
- **Aris Ristiyana**
Center for Standardization of Disaster and Climate Change Instrument, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia
- **Rozizan Maslin**
Forestry Department, Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism, Brunei Darussalam

*Abuov Azamat Kairdyuly and Khin Nyein San's Fellowship Program were extended from six months to one year.



Certificate Ceremony for 2nd Batch of Fellowship Officials: (from left) Mr. Altangadas Janchivdorj from Mongolia, Mr. Aris Ristiyana from Indonesia, Ms. Khin Nyein San from Myanmar, and Mr. Abuov Azamat Kairdyuly from Kazakhstan

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM EVALUATION

We are delighted to present the outcomes of the evaluation conducted on the esteemed AFoCO Fellowship Program, a cornerstone of our organization's commitment to capacity development and international cooperation. In line with Document A-22-6-SR, as adopted by the Sixth Session of the Assembly, the Republic of Korea recommended sharing the invaluable lessons learned from this transformative initiative. Responding to this call, the Secretariat took proactive measures to conduct a comprehensive evaluation aimed at enhancing the program's quality.

During the evaluation, which took place from the 18th of July to the 19th of August 2022, the Capacity Development and Coordination Team of the Capacity Development Division (CDD) meticulously assessed various aspects of the Fellowship Program. The evaluation's scope encompassed the program's operational settings, the professional achievements of Fellowship Officials, the institutional advancements in achieving its goals and mission, and the perspectives of participating countries and AFoCO on the program's long-term benefits. Adopting the OECD/DAC Evaluation Criteria and Indicators, the Secretariat evaluated the Fellowship Program based on three key criteria: relevance, impact, and sustainability.

The results of the survey analysis painted a highly positive picture of the Fellowship Program. Fellowship Officials, who are at the heart of this initiative, rated the existing operation of the program at an impressive 4.0 out of 5.0, signifying a "good" rating (Figure 1). Within this score, the relevance criterion achieved a commendable 3.7, while impact and sustainability both garnered an impressive 4.0 and 4.2, respectively. These results clearly indicate that the program's content, as well as the assigned duties and tasks, have been effectively tailored to the needs and aspirations of our dedicated Fellowship Officials. Furthermore, the officials expressed their strong belief in the program's positive impact on their skills and experience, emphasizing their ardent support for its continuity.

The National Focal Points, crucial stakeholders in the program's implementation, also echoed this sentiment of excellence (Figure 2). Their evaluation yielded an outstanding rating of 4.3 out of 5.0, once again classifying the program as "good." Similar to the Fellowship Officials, the National Focal Points highlighted the program's remarkable relevance (4.3) and impactful outcomes (4.2). Moreover, they emphasized the program's instrumental role in fostering project development and facilitating effective communication with the AFoCO Secretariat. In light of these highly positive results, they wholeheartedly recommended the program's continuation.

We are immensely proud of the resounding success achieved by the AFoCO Fellowship Program as confirmed by this comprehensive evaluation. The feedback received from Fellowship Officials and National Focal Points reinforces our commitment to nurturing talent, fostering cooperation, and driving sustainable change. Moving forward, we will continue to build upon the strengths of this exceptional initiative, ensuring its ongoing relevance, impact, and sustainability. Together, we will shape a brighter future for our member countries and AFoCO as we forge ahead with our collective vision for sustainable forest management and green development.

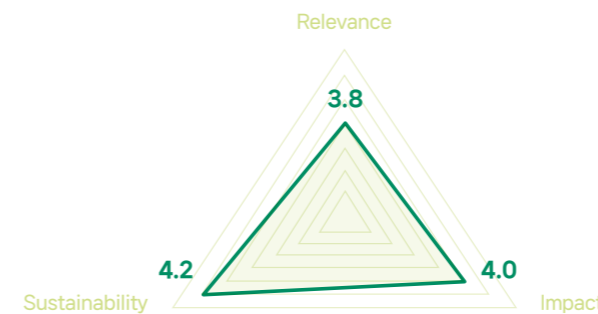


Figure 1. The Average Scores for the Fellowship Program, assessed by Fellowship Officials

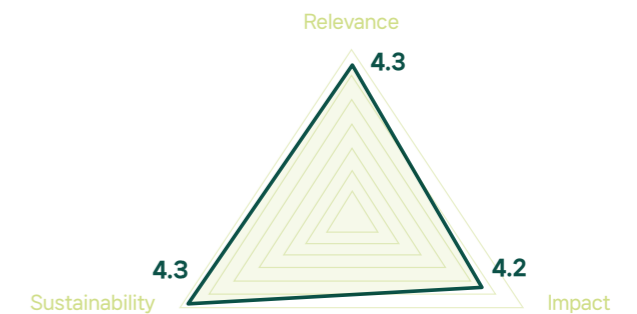


Figure 2. The Average Scores for the Fellowship Program, assessed by National Focal Points

PARTNERSHIP & COMMUNICATION



102 RESPONSIBLE MINISTRIES IN MEMBER COUNTRIES

103 STRATEGIC PARTNERS

104 TRAINING OUTPUTS

106 OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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



* Malaysia and Singapore are Observer countries of AFoCO

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

PARTNERS



GOODWILL AMBASSADOR



CAMERATEA SALZBURG is a chamber orchestra based in Salzburg, Austria

TRAINING OUTPUTS



Policy Brief 1 | Forest Landscape Restoration in the Asia-Pacific Region



Policy Brief 2 | Forest-based Climate Change Adaptation



Policy Brief 3 | Community-based Forest Enterprise Development



Policy Brief 8 | Forest Landscape Restoration in the Asia-Pacific Region – Exploring synergies for FLR and REDD+



Policy Brief 9 | Forest Landscape Restoration in the Asia-Pacific Region – Accessing climate finance and carbon benefits for FLR under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement



Policy Brief 4 | Payments for Ecosystem Services



Policy Brief 5 | Envisioning an Integrated Information System for Forest Fire Management



Policy Brief 6 | Public-Private Partnerships in the Forest and Forestry Sector



Training Report | Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) in the Asia-Pacific Region – Exploring synergies for FLR and REDD+



Policy Brief 10 | Capacity-building in Forest and Forestry for the Central Asian Region



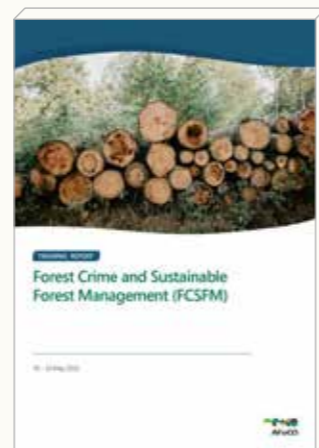
Policy Brief 11 | Resolving Conflicts to Advance Sustainable Forest Management and Restore Landscapes



Training Report | Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the Forest and Forestry Sector



Policy Brief 7 | Forest Crime and Sustainable Forest Management



Training Report | Forest Crime and Sustainable Forest Management (FCSFM)

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

OTHER PUBLICATIONS



AFoCO Overview Leaflet (updated in July 2023)

This leaflet provides an overview of AFoCO's portfolio and the extent of operations in Member Countries. It also features the achievements of its capacity-building initiatives such as the establishment of the AFoCO RETC.



AFoCO Annual & Financial Reports 2021

The Annual Report 2021 highlights events, projects, and activities carried out in 2020 carried out in partnership with our member countries and partner institutions. The report also recaps the organization's progress to date and provides updates on project activities.



Proceedings of the AFoCO Annual Technical Workshop 2022

AFoCO has been organizing the Annual Technical Workshop (ATW) for Project Management and Performance Review since 2020. The workshop's purpose is to revisit the current year's achievements, and progress while reflecting and sharing the overall experience of projects including the lessons learned from successful cases and practices, and project development ideas among the Implementing Agencies (IAs). The 3rd session of the ATW was held in person on 29 April 2022, as part of the pre-congress events prelude to the 15th World Forestry Congress. The workshop comprised the 2021 performance review of completed and ongoing projects and included interactive discussions to help build networks and promote exchanges among the participants



AFoCO 2022 Earth Day Campaign – Full Report

AFoCO, supported by SK Forest, launched a month-long Social Network Service (SNS) campaign to celebrate the International Day of Forests on March 21 and Earth Day on April 22. The activity contributed to raising awareness about the importance of the environment and sustainable forests among the general public. Also, mangrove trees matching the number of challenge participants will be planted in Viet Nam.



AFoCO Project Briefs

This set of leaflets on AFoCO's projects contains brief information on the objectives and main activities of each project. AFoCO tackles a variety of issues pertinent in forestry through sustained cooperation with our member countries. Since 2012, AFoCO has been carrying out regional and country-specific projects designed to complement and enhance forest-related national policies and programs, facilitate knowledge exchange and technology transfer, and promote the sustainable management of forests and forest resources to curb forest degradation and address the impacts of climate change. Our action-oriented approaches also contribute to global forestry objectives and the Sustainable Development Goals



Forest Fire Management in the Tropics

Fire management has been and remains an active issue of interest and concern for decades. In order to manage knowledge and information gained through AFoCO projects on fire management, as well as for future project development and to share these with relevant stakeholders systematically, the Secretariat organized this webinar on 'Forest Fire Management in the Tropics' on 8-9 December 2021.



AFoCO Impacts & Best Practices

AFoCO has implemented seven multi-country projects since 2013 under the ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Forest Cooperation (AFoCo). Valuable learnings and experiences from these projects were uncovered from evaluating and analyzing AFoCO project impacts and best practices conducted by consultants from Bern University of Applied Sciences. The lessons learned identified through this project evaluation will serve as a stepping stone and guidance towards improving project development and management for future and ongoing AFoCO projects. The report is available in the form of a Summary Report and a Full Report containing details of the evaluation.



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