

Ninth Session of the Assembly  
25-26 October 2023, Seoul, Republic of Korea

## Agenda Item 10

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### Updates on Capacity Development Activities and Future Plan

#### I. Ongoing Capacity Building Activities

##### A. Updates on Education and Training Programs

1. In the year 2023, a total of 25 programs were/are to be conducted, encompassing both online and hybrid formats. In response to requests made during the fifth Session of the Assembly, the Regional Education and Training Center (RETC) undertook an exploration of venues to facilitate in-person training activities in Member Countries. Consequently, the Secretariat orchestrated two off-site training sessions in Indonesia and Thailand in 2023.
2. Proposed and funded by the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (French MoFA), the RETC and the Royal Forest Department of Thailand jointly conducted the training of trainers for forest fire suppression on 15-19 May 2023 in Thailand. Recognizing the substantial demand and significance of capacity enhancement in the field of forest fire management across Asia, AFoCO partnered with French MOFA to formulate a comprehensive program titled the "AFoCO-France Joint Capacity Building Program on Forest Fire Management for Climate Action." This program encompasses training, scholarship, and research components. The development of a detailed proposal for the program will be accompanied by a feasibility study scheduled for 2024-2025.
3. Building upon insights garnered from the Science and Technology Exchange Partnership (STEP) program, a collaborative effort between Baekdu Daegan National Arboretum of the Republic of Korea, a new long-term training for seed conservation promotion known as "Keep Eternally Your Seeds for Future (KEYS for Future)" was devised. This initiative was developed in cooperation with Baekdu Daegan Global Seed Vault and was presented at the seventh session of the Assembly in 2022 (A-22-7-10). Consequently, a prototype program for KEYS for Future was implemented in the year 2023.
4. The summary of training and education programs in 2023 and the summary of the concept note of "AFoCO-France Joint Capacity Building Program on Forest Fire Management for Climate Action" is in **Annex-1** and **Annex-2**, respectively.

## **B. Update on AFoCO Fellowship Program**

1. In the year 2023, the Secretariat extended a warm welcome to a total of four (4) Fellowship Officials, with one individual hailing from each of the following countries: Bhutan, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, and Myanmar. These Fellowship Officials commenced their assignments at the Secretariat Headquarters in March 2023, with a designated service period spanning six to ten months, concluding in December 2023.
2. The Secretariat has arranged the study visit programs to relevant agencies in the forestry sector of Korea in order to provide the Fellowship Officials with an opportunity to explore and share expertise and knowledge that can be adopted and transferred to improve their practice in relevant fields as follows: 1) Forest Fire Management Training and Drone Education at the Korea Aviation Headquarters; 2) Sustainable Forest Management Training at the Northern Regional Office of the Korea Forest Service, National Forest Seed Variety Center, Forest Management Technology Research Unit, and; Korea National Arboretum, and among others.
3. Pursuant to the Decision 48-VII-22R Work Plan and Budget for 2023 adopted by the Seventh Session of the Assembly held on 26-27 October 2022 in Kazakhstan, the Secretariat completed the selection process for the 2024 batch Fellowship Officials. Considering the expected workload and budget availability, the Secretariat selected seven (7) Fellowship nominees in two categories for 2024 batch. The term of service of the Fellowship Officials will be one (1) year for Category I and two (2) years for Category II in accordance with the Guidelines on the Expanded Fellowship Program starting from January 2024 except for the Fellowship Officials selected from Indonesia whose term will be six (6) months.
  - Category I: Cambodia, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, and Thailand (5 officials)
  - Category II: Indonesia and Kazakhstan (2 officials)
4. The status of the Member Countries participating in the Fellowship Program is in **Annex-3**.

## **C. Update on the Landmark Scholarship Program**

1. The Landmark Scholarship program has been instrumental in providing support to a total of 9 doctoral and 17 master's degree students since its inception in 2014. With the admission of four candidates in 2024, the Landmark Program will have successfully achieved its intended goal of selecting and sponsoring 10 doctoral and 20 master's degree students.
2. In response to the growing demand for expanding the scholarship program to accommodate all Member Parties, the Secretariat has undertaken the task of identifying potential donors for the upcoming phase of the scholarship program. This process has been carried out in close collaboration with and support from the Korea Forest Service. The Secretariat is actively working towards maximizing the impact of the AFoCO's scholarship program by diversifying its sources of funding, which includes contributions from organizations such as the government of the Republic of Korea (i.e., Korea Forest Service) and France (i.e., French MOFA), among others.
3. The status of the Member Countries participating in the Landmark Scholarship Program is in **Annex-4**.

## **II. RETC Operation and Achievements**

### **A. RETC Operation and Management**

1. Currently, the Regional Education and Training Center (RETC) is not fully accessible to the general public, and its security measures are supported by the Forest Department (FD) of Myanmar. The RETC's maintenance is overseen by twenty-seconded governmental officials from the FD, along with the contribution of nine local staff members. Following the relaxation of immigration policies in September 2022, the RETC has initiated training programs aimed at enhancing local livelihoods and addressing educational concerns. These programs include the Eco-school Program, which focuses on increasing environmental awareness among young students, as well as livelihood improvement training for local communities in Myanmar. Additionally, the RETC has tailored programs to meet the needs of forest education experts who express an interest in visiting the center.
2. Building on this trajectory, the RETC will continue its operations into 2024. During this period, it plans to organize a total of 19 programs categorized into six distinct categories. These categories encompass short- and long-term training, community development training, the eco-school program, in-house capacity-building programs, workshops, conferences, and partnerships and promotional activities. These programs will be conducted at the RETC itself and in member countries.
3. In order to ensure effective management and sustainable operation, the Secretariat is working on extending the existing Memorandum of Understanding for the Landmark Program with the FD of Myanmar. This effort precedes the finalization of the Host Country Agreement for the RETC, which will involve the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the AFoCO.

### **B. Establishment of AFoCO Experimental Forest (119 ha)**

4. The RETC is currently conducting the bidding process to conduct the 2.3 km main access road improvement work at the experimental forest site in 2023-2024, with the budget from the Landmark Program. Afterward, further works will be identified and updated to seek potential donors.

## **III. Plan for 2024: Finalization of Capacity Building Roadmap 2030**

1. In response to the findings of the Institutional Review of AFoCO (Asian Forest Cooperation Organization) and its Secretariat, as reported during the fourth session of the Assembly (A-4-IV-20R), the Secretariat has formulated a comprehensive plan known as the "Capacity Building Roadmap 2030" (hereinafter referred to as "the Roadmap"). The initial draft of this Roadmap was presented at the seventh session of the Assembly (A-22-7-10) held on October 26-27, 2022, in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
2. In alignment with the forthcoming endorsement of AFoCO's Strategic Plan and Climate Action Plan, expected to occur during the ninth session of the Assembly in October 2023, the Roadmap will undergo further refinement and finalization throughout 2024. The finalized Roadmap will then be presented at the subsequent regular session of the Assembly.

3. The Roadmap's primary objective is to enhance the capacity of member countries in three core areas: training, education, and research and development (R&D). Followed by consultations for the Central Asian region that took place on October 20-21, 2022, in Almaty, Kazakhstan, the RETC will continue its consultations with member countries and regions to achieve this goal.

#### **IV. Points for Consideration**

1. The Assembly may wish to take note of the updates.

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*Queries on the content of the document may be addressed to:*

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### Summary of Training and Education Programs

**Table 1. Status of Training and Education Programs in 2023**

No.	Date/Venue	Courses	Number of Trainees* (Male/Female)	Number of Countries*
<b>AFoCO Regular Training (short-term)</b>				
1	May/Thailand	AFoCO-RFD-French MOFA Training of Trainers for Forest Fire Suppression	24 (19/5)	12
2	Jun/virtual	AFoCO Capacity Building Workshop on Forest Biodiversity “Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: Synergize in Achieving Future Conservation Targets”	36 (16/20)	14
3	Jun/virtual	Study visits for Fellowship Officials	4 (2/2)	17
4	Jun&Nov/ROK	Forest Fire Management and Drone Training for Fellowship Officials at Forest Aviation HQ	4 (2/2)	21
5	Jul/virtual	AFoCO – ITTO Capacity Building Workshop on “Forest Landscape Restoration in the Asia-Pacific Region: Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification in Forest Carbon Assessment”	46 (23/23)*	14*
6	Jul/Indonesia	AFoCO – MOEF of Indonesia Capacity Building Workshop “An Intensive Discussion for MRV in Forest Carbon Assessment”	14 (5/5)	8
<b>AFoCO Regular Training (long-term)</b>				
7	Sep/ROK	AFoCO-BDNA STEP Program	4 (2/2)	4
<b>Community Development Training</b>				
8	Jul/Philippines	(Philippines) Training on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation (CCAM) and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) for Community-Based Forest Management- People’s Organizations (CBFM-POs)	<i>To be updated</i>	1
9	Oct/Bhutan	(Bhutan) Capacity building of the Community Forestry Management Groups (CFMGs) of Eastern Bhutan by Providing Training on Proper Maintenance of Community Forestry Documents and Records	<i>To be updated</i>	1
10	Oct/Cambodia	(Cambodia) Strengthening the restoration capability of the community forestry members in Siem Reap province, Cambodia	<i>To be updated</i>	1
11	Nov/Viet Nam	(Viet Nam) Enhancing community capacity in conservation and sustainable development of non-timber forest product (NTFP) species in Mai Chau district, Hoa Binh province	<i>To be updated</i>	1
12	Dec/Thailand	(Thailand) Community-based Water and Forest Exchange Knowledge and Strategies Management	<i>To be updated</i>	2
13	Dec/RETC	(Myanmar) Agroforestry practices	<i>To be updated</i>	1
<b>Eco-School Program</b>				
14	Jun-Dec /RETC	Eco-Schools for Teachers in Myanmar	<i>To be updated</i>	1
15	Jun-Dec /RETC	Eco-Schools for Students in Myanmar	<i>To be updated</i>	1
<b>Workshop &amp; Conference</b>				
16	Aug-Oct/ROK	AFoCO Landmark Program Roundtable Meeting	<i>To be updated</i>	1
17	Sep/ROK	AFoCO-NIFoS Young Scientist Program	8	24
<b>Partnerships &amp; Promotion</b>				
18	Aug/ROK	8 <sup>th</sup> UNEP Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network Forum	n/a	n/a

In-house Capacity-building Program for RETC Staff				
19	Mar/RETC	Fire-drill & electricity	12 (9/3)	1
20	Jul/RETC	Forest fire engine operation and maintenance	10 (10/0)	1
21	Jul-Dec/RETC	English	10 (4/6)	1
22	Nov/RETC	Landscaping	<i>To be updated</i>	1
Customized Training & Others				
23	Aug/ROK	Study Visit of the Vietnamese Delegation to the Republic of Korea for Sustainable Forest Management and REDD+	16 (14/2)	2
24	Sep/Indonesia	Study Visit of the Secretariat Staff to the Korintiga Hutani (KTH)	5 (2/3)	n/a
25	Nov/RETC	Study Visit and Consultation on School Forest Program	10 (6/4)	1

(\*including Fiji, India, and Papua New Guinea)

**Table 2. AFoCO RETC Trainees of the Member Countries (2019 ~ 2023)**

Country	Number of Certified Trainees*					Total
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Bhutan	14	2	11	12	8	47
Brunei Darussalam	6	2	5	11	9	33
Cambodia	13	6	22	25	6	72
Indonesia	14	8	66	20	18	126
Kazakhstan	8	-	13	6	2	29
Kyrgyzstan	-	-	-	5	4	9
Lao PDR	10	6	9	5	6	36
Malaysia	-	-	6	17	25	48
Mongolia	6	4	9	8	3	30
Myanmar	24	10	14	10	9	67
Philippines	8	2	43	16	3	72
Republic of Korea				3	4	7
Singapore	2	2	5	3	8	20
Thailand	15	8	16	11	6	56
Timor-Leste	10	6	25	10	6	57
Viet Nam	14	8	12	11	8	53
Total	144	64	256	173	125	762

Note:

\*Participants nominated by the member countries were included. In 2023 records, the number of participants has been counted attending the training #1, 2, 5, and 6 in Table 'Status of Training and Education Programs in 2023'.

\*Number of speakers, facilitators, and other countries' participants are not included.

Table 3. AFoCO STEP Researchers of the Member Countries (2019 ~ 2023)

Country	Number of STEP Researchers					Total
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Bhutan	1	-	-	-	-	1
Brunei Darussalam	1	-	1	-	1	3
Cambodia	1	-	1	-	-	2
Indonesia	-	1	-	-	1	2
Kazakhstan	-	-	1	-	-	1
Kyrgyzstan	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lao PDR	-	1	-	-	-	1
Mongolia	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myanmar	1	1	-	-	-	2
Philippines	-	-	-	-	1	1
Thailand	-	-*	1	-	-	1
Timor-Leste	-	-	-	-	1	1
Viet Nam	1	-	-	-	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16</b>

Note: \*The nominee who did not participate the STEP program was not included.

**AFoCO-NIFoS Young Scientist Program Participants  
(2023)**

Country	Number of STEP Researchers					Total
	2023	-	-	-	-	
Bhutan	2	-	-	-	-	2
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cambodia	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indonesia	2	-	-	-	-	2
Kazakhstan	2	-	-	-	-	2
Kyrgyzstan	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lao PDR	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mongolia	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myanmar	-	-	-	-	-	-
Philippines	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thailand	-	-	-	-	-	-
Timor-Leste	-	-	-	-	-	-
Viet Nam	2	-	-	-	-	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8</b>

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## Concept Note on AFoCO-France Joint Capacity Building Program on Forest Fire Management for Climate Action



### Concept Note

## AFoCO-France Joint Capacity Building Program on Forest Fire Management for Climate Action July 2023

### I. BACKGROUND

Climate change impacts forest ecosystems. Forest fires have become more complex issues. The fire seasons can extend and be stronger. During the driest periods and heat waves, the forest is so vulnerable that the fires can reach large and non-manageable scales. Both natural processes and anthropogenic activities cause forest fires, but over 90 percent are human-caused. In spite of having beneficial effects on some ecosystems such as forest rejuvenation for some species, forest fires bring a serious threat to the natural environment and humankind. Demographic pressure, the expansion of agricultural land, and the conversion of forest land into other land use increase the risk of human-induced fire. The behavior of the fires is related to several parameters such as fuel, topography, and weather; the communities and authorities have different expectations with regard to forest and goods preservation from one place to another. Now it threatens the global commitment to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) intends to strengthen the capacities of member countries by enhancing knowledge and understanding of forest management and providing greater access to advanced technologies. Between 1990 and 2016, around 21.3 % of the global forest loss derived from that of the 16 member countries of AFoCO<sup>1</sup>, from which the AFoCO has strived for loosening the trend of forest degradation. Capacity building is one of the core actions to serve the member countries. Diverse Training courses have been implemented at the AFoCO Regional Education and Training Center (RETC) since its inception in 2018 for which, forest fire management is one of the core training areas in line with AFoCO Strategic Priorities. Scholarship programs for graduate schools, long-term research-purpose training, and consultative workshops are also actively implemented. Since 2018, the average loss of forest area of the member countries has been much less than the previous years, and AFoCO is proud of contributing to the future of forests as the forestry intergovernmental organization in Asia.

Anchored to the experience, AFoCO is currently developing the 10-year Climate Action Plan in recognition of AFoCO's unique position and responsibility for promoting the critical role of forests in mitigating the climate change crisis. It aims to assist the member countries enhance their contributions to achieving the Paris Agreement's goals and accelerate efforts to remove massive amounts of atmospheric carbon to stabilize global temperatures. The talent development of AFoCO also considers that the member's population occupies 10 % of the global population, from which AFoCO believes that these endeavors will eventually bring a positive impact to the next generation.

Since UNFCCC COP 21, held in Paris in December 2015, France would like to reinforce its ODA policy on global challenges, particularly climate change and biodiversity preservation. France is a forestry country, with one-third of the land covered by forest areas, various fuels (e.g., moors, bush, maritime pines, Alep pines, oak, and also rainforest in overseas territories), and various lands (e.g., coastal areas, mountains, etc.). Historically the country has to face large fires during the summertime from June to September. The country has developed an integrated approach to forest fire management, with a national and interagency strategy, a lot of effort on prevention & law enforcement, national standards, and training. This expertise has been successfully shared and implemented overseas, such as in central and south America,

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<sup>1</sup> Global forest loss between 1990 and 2016 was 132,444,900 ha, wherein the loss of 16 AFoCO member countries occupied 26,950,000 ha (source: World Bank Data <https://data.worldbank.org/>).



and north and western Africa; and French experts have participated in several international support during large fires, as recently in Chile. Based on the lessons learned, France is preparing for the next level of partnership in Asia in the forestry sector.

In this context, AFoCO and French Embassy joined hands to collaborate, develop and implement a joint capacity-building program on forest fire management. The program will invite many regional partners and experts of the member countries, such as Kasetsart University, the Royal Forest Department of Thailand, IPB of Indonesia, the Forest Aviation Headquarters of the Republic of Korea, Korea Forest Service, and so on. The collaborations consist of four (4) components to wit: training, scholarship program, research program, and partnership enhancement activities. Interventions from the training course are expected to be part of the baselining information for the countries' governance enhancement in wildfire management in the future.

## II. PROBLEM ANALYSIS

### Global level: Forest fire needs to be understood as part of a climate change regime<sup>2</sup>

The fire triangle consisting of oxygen, heat, and fuel provides a visual guide of the core elements needed for a fire to ignite. In a fire regime, this triangle is interpreted as climate, human activities, and vegetation, respectively. Among the three, the factor "climate" has shown a dramatic change as detected in global data from the last half-century. Changing temperature and precipitation patterns due to climate change result in longer fire seasons and are expected to increase how frequently forest fires occur and how much area they burn. Warmer temperatures are likely to cause rapid evapotranspiration and desiccation of wildland vegetation, and the resulting drier conditions increase the frequency and number of fires. Accordingly, increased temperatures imply longer fire seasons as a result. Eventually, drastic changes in fire seasons and patterns can raise global temperatures<sup>3</sup>, further impacting and changing the fire regime.

### Regional level: Lack of human resources and technical capacity

Forest fires are a common occurrence in many Asian countries, particularly those with tropical and subtropical forests. The causes of forest fires in Asian region are diverse and include both natural and human factors, such as lightning strikes, drought, agricultural practices, and land-use changes.

At the regional level, several challenges are identified from poor forest fire management in Asia:

- Lack of human resources: Many forest fire management agencies in the region lack the necessary resources, including equipment, personnel, and funding, to effectively manage forest fires.
- Limited technical capacity: Forest fire management requires specialized knowledge and skills, such as fire behavior prediction, fire suppression techniques, and post-fire rehabilitation. However, many forest fire management agencies in the region lack the technical capacity to effectively control forest fires.
- Unstretched governance: Effective Forest fire management requires coordination and collaboration among multiple stakeholders, including government agencies, communities, and non-governmental organizations. However, the coordination and collaboration among these stakeholders in the region are often limited.
- Inadequate public awareness: Public awareness of forest fire management is often low in many Asian countries. This can lead to a lack of support for forest fire management efforts and can hinder the effectiveness of fire prevention and suppression activities.

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<sup>2</sup> AFoCO Policy Brief (2022) Envisioning an Integrated Information System for Forest Fire Management (source: <https://afocosec.org/publication/policy-brief-5-envisioning-an-integrated-information-system-for-forest-fire-management/>)

<sup>3</sup> Flannigan, M., A.S. Cantin, W.J. de Groot, M. Wotton, A. Newbery, and L.M. Gowman. 2013. Global wildland fire season severity in the 21st century. *Forest Ecology and Management* 294: 54–61. (source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2012.10.022>)

#### AFoCO member countries: human resources factor must be considered as a key drive of forest fires<sup>4</sup>

From 2012 to 2022, the average burned area per fire occurrence of the AFoCO Member Countries varies in the range of the minimum 120 ha (Singapore) and the maximum 1,115.5 ha (Mongolia)<sup>5</sup>. Improving forest fire management the region is a complex and multi-faceted challenge that requires the coordination and collaboration of multiple stakeholders. Addressing the challenges identified in this problem analysis will require a range of interventions, including capacity building, technical assistance, and public awareness campaigns.

Forest fire management in Asian countries is primarily the responsibility of government agencies, such as forestry departments, fire departments, and disaster management agencies. These agencies are responsible for fire prevention, detection, suppression, and post-fire rehabilitation. However, the capacity of these agencies varies widely across the region. Some countries (e.g., Bhutan, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Thailand) have well-established and well-equipped forest fire management agencies under the forest department, while others lack the resources and technical expertise to effectively manage forest fires. In particular, most of the member countries except Indonesia do not provide master's or doctoral courses on forest fire management in the faculty of forest, despite many research agencies are dealing with forest fire management. It is observed that there may a gap of knowledge transfer between the graduate schools education and the research agencies in the countries. In France, the PSL-EPHE university in Montpellier, proposes a master's degree on Forest Fires, and the forestry and civil protection agencies conduct joint research projects with research centers on fuels, climate change, fire behavior, urban interfaces protection. The Civil Protection Directorate General as its own applied research centre, that conducts experiments on fire suppression equipment, chemical retardant, fire proof buildings.

In order to maximize the beneficial effects of advanced tools and technology, it is critical to recognize human behaviors as a vital factor. With reference to the country reports, human activities are widely embedded as major causes of forest fire in the region, including land clearing for agricultural activities, slash-and-burn or shifting cultivation, settlement, concession, non-timber forest product harvesting, logging, carelessness, conflicts, and hunting. Among these, poverty is observed as a key driver for the frequency of forest fires. For example, to migrant farmers, shifting cultivation is still prevalent, and burning is the easiest and cheapest preparation method for land clearance. Therefore, in line with public awareness activities, long-term approaches to developing alternative land management methods and income sources are necessary to change people's fire ignition habits and cultivation methods.

Land conversion using fire for the concession is another socio-economic phenomenon as it is the least expensive method for clearing forest and preparing land for agriculture and other purposes. Not only indigenous communities or poor migrants but also land speculators and forest estate companies widely use fire for land conversion. Indeed, fire prevention measures should consist of awareness-raising programs or campaigns that demonstrate simple and safe fire suppression methods to educate people on ways to control forest fires. There should also be public health programs to inform people of the consequences of fire — how it affects weather and climate, results in air pollution, causes a range of health issues such as respiratory and cardiovascular problems, and even impacts mental health and psychosocial wellbeing, according to a recent report from UN World Health Organization (WHO)<sup>6</sup>.

### **III. OBJECTIVES**

The capacity building program aims to enhance a greater understanding of forest fire management both at technical and policy levels. It further enjoins practitioners and policymakers in exploring comprehensive understanding and

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<sup>4</sup> AFoCO Policy Brief (2022) Envisioning an Integrated Information System for Forest Fire Management (source: <https://afocosec.org/publication/policy-brief-5-envisioning-an-integrated-information-system-for-forest-fire-management/>)

<sup>5</sup> Global Wildfire Information System (source: <https://gwis.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>)

<sup>6</sup> United Nations World Health Organization (source: [https://www.who.int/health-topics/wildfires#tab=tab\\_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/wildfires#tab=tab_1))

interactions of forest fire regimes in the context of climate change and nature-based solutions, so that participating countries will be encouraged to develop action plans to support effective forest governance toward sustainable forest management.

#### IV. EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

At the end of the joint capacity-building program, the program will produce:

- Trainers who can domestically disseminate the techniques on forest fires suppression
- Bi-lingual training modules in English and the local languages
- Online course on forest fire suppression
- Young talented government officials with the higher degrees
- Policy-level government officials with advanced knowledge on improving the FFM governance
- Researchers with the advanced techniques to lead the countries’ FFM technologies

In the long run, the program is expected that:

- AFoCO member countries’ capacity in dealing with forest fire issues has been increased by diverse talent development across the level
- AFoCO member countries’ forest fire governance under the climate change regime has been enhanced by the science-based knowledge sharing amongst the policy-level officials
- AFoCO and France have developed a long-term partnership in forest fire management to serve the member countries and Asia

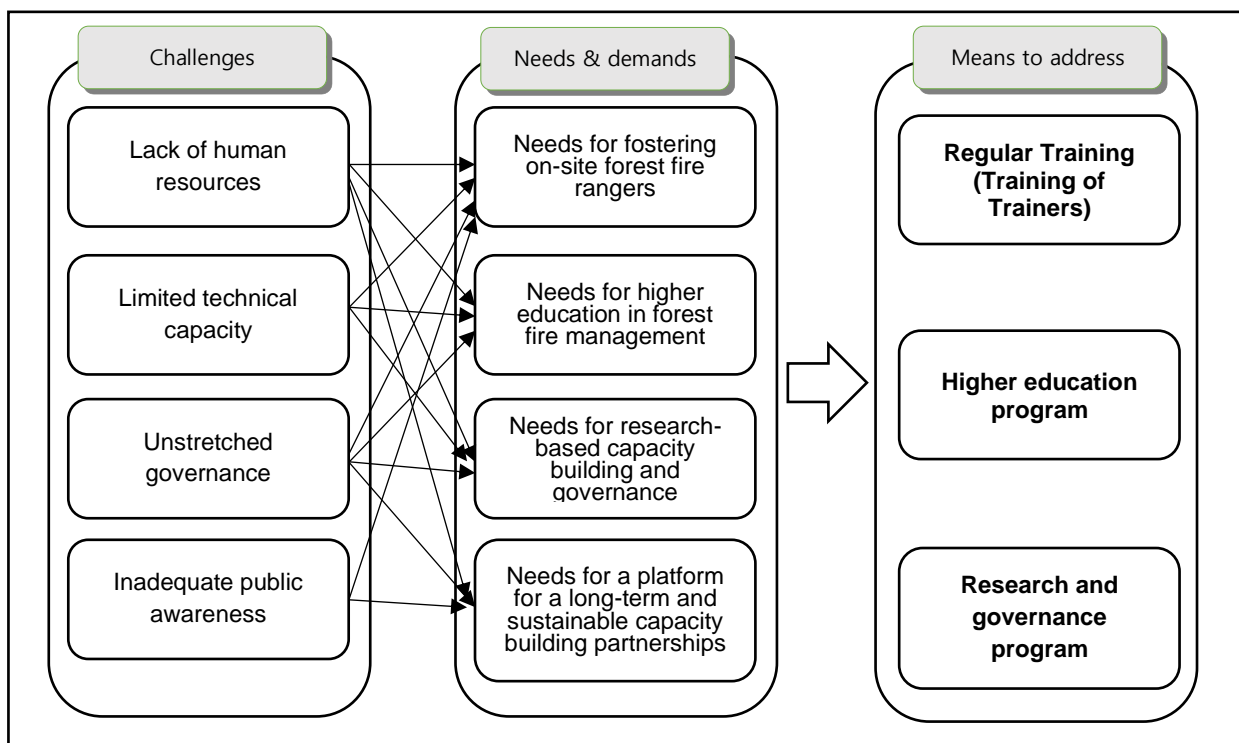


Figure 1. Diagram of the program

## V. TARGET COUNTRIES: 16 AFoCO Member Countries

Primary target	Central Asian region: Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Mongolia Southeast Asian region: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam
Secondary target	Republic of Korea, Malaysia, and Singapore

## VI. COMPONENTS

### ● Component-1 Regular Training<sup>7</sup>

- A. Objective: to foster the field-level trainers who will develop the domestic forest fire management training on the ground
- B. Target: field-level forest fire rangers who has 10-15 years of experience
- C. Prospective implementing agency: AFoCO RETC, in cooperation with
  - ◆ Kasetsart Univ., Sakaerat Research Centre, Thailand, to cover south Asian region for forest fires,
  - ◆ IPB Univ., Indonesia, to cover south Asian region for peatland fires,
  - ◆ A university in Mongolia, to cover Central Asia region,
  - ◆ Any other places mutually agreed (e.g., New Caledonia)
- D. Target activities
  - ◆ Training of trainers on forest fires suppression (e.g. forest fires, peatland fires, etc.)
    - ToT duration should be 4 days online + 2 weeks in the field in Sakaerat (May) + 2 weeks in the field in Noumea (New Caledonia) or 4 weeks in Sakaerat if we procure equipment for the Centre
    - French and Korean forest fire rangers will jointly could join as the main trainers
  - ◆ In-country training led by the trainers fostered by this program
  - ◆ Development of the training modules
  - ◆ Development of the online course on forest fire suppression
- E. Expected outputs in Phase-1
  - ◆ 200 trainers (4 certified trainers per country per year)
  - ◆ 7,000 in-country trainees educated by the certified trainers from this program (100 trainees by 1 trainer)

<sup>7</sup> The basic structure of training was designed by observations from AFoCO-Royal Forest Department of Thailand Joint Training of Trainers for Forest Fire Suppression held on 15-19 May 2023 in Thailand, funded by French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs. Its highlights are captured in AFoCO Policy Brief (2023) Strengthening Forest Firefighting Capabilities in AFoCO Member Countries through a Specialized 'Training of Trainers' Program for Forest Fire Suppression (source: <https://afocosec.org/publication/policy-brief-11-strengthening-forest-firefighting-capabilities-in-afoco-member-countries-through-a-specialized-tot-program-for-forest-fire-suppression/>).

- ◆ Bi-lingual training modules in English and the local language
- ◆ Learning Management System (LMS) with Online course on forest fire suppression

● **Component-2 Higher Education Program**

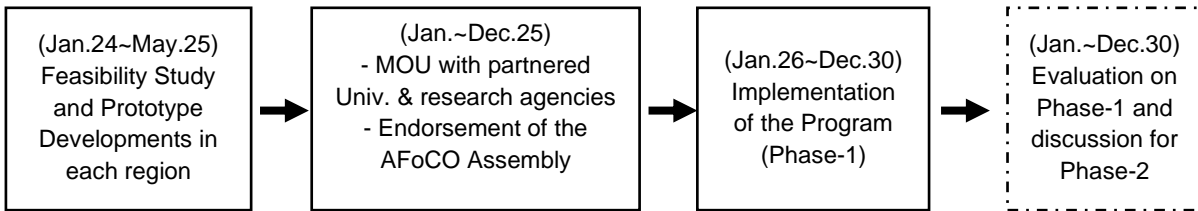
- A. Objective: to foster governmental officials expertise in forest fire management and develop a long-term action plan of educational partnerships
- B. Target: Young government officials (under the age of 35)
- C. Prospective implementing agency: AFoCO RETC, in cooperation with:
  - ◆ Univ. of Paris Science Lettres (PSL) and universities of the Republic of Korea who are interested in the development of Co-degree Scholarship Program
  - ◆ Any university of the member country who is willing to establish the RETC off-site campus on forest fire or a special graduate school in forest and forestry sector (e.g., Asia Forest Academy)
- D. Target activity
  - ◆ Co-degree graduate scholarship program (MSc: 1st year in the member country and the 2nd year in France, PhD: 1st and 3<sup>rd</sup> year in the member country and the 2nd year in France)
  - ◆ Short-term education program (e.g., 6-week summer camp at PSL-EPHE university in Montpellier)
  - ◆ Ad-hoc meetings/dialogues/events with the stakeholders and experts of the member countries and France for establishment of the Asia Forest Academy (including the RETC off-site campus on forest fires in the member countries)
- E. Expected outputs in Phase-1
  - ◆ 20 government officials granted by the graduate scholarships (5 pax per year)
  - ◆ 70 government officials certified by the short-term education program (14 pax per year)
  - ◆ A new funding proposal on the establishment of the Asia Forest Academy (including the RETC off-site campus on forest fires)

● **Component-3 Research and governance program**

- A. Objective: to enhance science-based knowledge in forest fire issues
- B. Target: researchers or policy-level governmental officials of the member parties
- C. Prospective implementing agency: AFoCO RETC, in cooperation with:
  - ◆ Forest fire agencies in France (e.g., Civil Protection Forest Fires Academy)
  - ◆ Any research agency, university, or forest fire agencies of the member country who is interested in developing the intensive research program (e.g., AFoCO Science and Technology Exchange Partnership Program)
- D. Target activities
  - ◆ Immersive forest fire research program
  - ◆ Intensive high-level study visit and colloquium program in Korea and/or France
- E. Expected outputs in Phase-1
  - ◆ 20 researchers (2 researchers/year from Southeast Asian countries and 2 researchers/year from the Northeast and Central Asian region)

- ◆ 20 policy-level governmental officials enhanced in FFM governance

## VII. PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES



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For the inquiries on the concept note, please contact:

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**AFoCO Fellowship Officials of the Member Countries (2015 ~ 2024)**

Country	Number of Fellowship Officials								Total
	2015	2016	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Bhutan	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	5
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Cambodia	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	5
Indonesia	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	2	5
Lao PDR	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Kazakhstan	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3
Kyrgyzstan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Malaysia	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Mongolia	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Myanmar	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	1	5
Philippines	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Singapore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thailand	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	3
Timor-Leste	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
Viet Nam	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	4
Total	3	4	4	3	7	6	4	7	38

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**AFoCO Landmark Scholarship Recipients of the Member Countries (2014 ~ 2023)**

Country	Number of Scholarship Recipient		Total
	Doctoral	Master's	
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-
Cambodia	1 (KNU)	1 (YU PSPS)	2
Indonesia	3 (UOS / KNU / SNU)	1 (YU PSPS)	4
Lao PDR	1 (CNU)	2 (KWNU / YU PSPS)	3
Malaysia	-	-	-
Myanmar	1 (SNU)	3 (CBNU / CNU / YU PSPS)	4
Philippines	1 (CNU)	4 (DKU / YU / SNU PC)	5
Singapore	-	-	-
Thailand	2 (SNU / YU)	1 (YU PSPS)	3
Viet Nam	-	5 (YU PSPS / KMU / SNU / KNU)	4
Total	9	17	26

## Abbreviation

KNU: Kookmin University

YU PSPS: Yeungnam University, Park Chung Hee School of Policy and Saemaul

UOS: University of Seoul

CNU: Chungnam National University

KWNU: Kangwon National University

SNU: Seoul National University

SNU PC: Seoul National University Pyeongchang Campus

CBNU: Chungbuk National University

DKU: Dongguk University

YU: Yeungnam University

KMU: Kookmin University

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