AFoCO
Asian Forest Cooperation Organization

Document Number:
A-23-9-9

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

Agenda Item 8.3

Updates on the new projects and programs under the Climate Action Plan

I. Background

1. Pursuant to Decision 43-V-21R and Decision 49-Viii-23S of the Assembly, the Secretariat has been developing the AFoCO Strategic Plan 2024-2030 and the AFoCO 10-year Climate Action Plan (2025-2034), which are aligned with, and responsive to, global climate and development objectives, including the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change.
2. The AFoCO 10 year Climate Action Plan (2025-2034), which is under the AFoCO Strategic Plan 2024–2030, will put major efforts by new projects and programs into assisting the Member Countries to enhance their contributions to achieving the Paris Agreement's goals and accelerate efforts to remove atmospheric carbon through close coordination with the Member Countries and relevant partners.

II. Updates on the New and Potential Projects and Programs

1. Aside from AFoCO's regular projects which are funded by KFS, the project and program development, which is based on other financial sources, including private sector, is being strongly conducted by the Secretariat in consultation with Member Countries, such as the following:

a. New projects

- (**Woori Bank**) As updated with Agenda 7.3 of the Seventh Session of the Assembly, the Secretariat conducted a feasibility study with Forestry Administration of Cambodia and Woori Financial Group in 2022 to develop the REDD+ project. After a review on the final report of the feasibility study and a series of discussions, Woori Bank is going to contribute funds (3 years, USD 570,000) to the REDD+ project in Cambodia, and will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) within October 2023 (detailed in Annex 1).
- (**Rabobank**) Following an exchange of contacts between the AFoCO Secretariat and Rabobank during the COP27 which took place in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt on 6-18 November 2022, the Secretariat has conducted a series of meetings with Rabobank to explore possible collaborations. For the development of agroforestry and carbon project in AFoCO Member Countries, the Secretariat has signed a Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) with Rabobank on 4 September 2023. In addition, the field studies with Rabobank were conducted in Cambodia, Viet Nam, and Kyrgyz Republic from June to October 2023 to develop the agroforestry carbon project in those countries as pilot project, then will be extended into other AFoCO member countries. The project concepts are provided in Annex 2.

b. Call for proposals, with an estimated cost of USD 17,378,530, to wit:

- The project proposal, entitled: 'Operationalizing Green Resilient Landscapes in Mongolia' (2 years, USD 1,050,000) was submitted and confirmed by World Bank. When an official letter is delivered, the Secretariat will prepare the inception of the project together with the World Bank team.
- The Secretariat developed two (2) Project Concept Paper, entitled 1) 'Establishing an ecosystem restoration model targeting the degraded forest fire-affected areas in the edge forests of the Khentii mountains, Batsumber soum' (6 years, USD 7,108,530), and 2) 'Re-Greening Timor-Leste by Passing on Korea's Forest Restoration/Rehabilitation Experience' (5 years, USD 9,060,000 were submitted to Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Mongolia Office on 25 August (revised on 7 September) and Timor-Leste Office on 21 September 2023, repectively..
- Project Proposal, entitled 'Promotion of Biochar Production through Utilization of Damaged Trees in Mongolia' (1 year, USD 160,000) to the Climate Technology Center & Network on 11 June 2023.

c. Collaboration with partners

- **(Landscape Partnership Asia)** Since its official launch in May 2022, AFoCO has taken on the role of Secretariat for Landscape Partnership Asia (LPA). In 2023, the LPA Management Team was established, comprising founding members AFoCO, CIFOR-ICRAF, GEA, and recently joined member IUCN. This Management Team convenes to facilitate collaboration, coordination, and strategic decision-making among key stakeholders. Several project concepts aimed at supporting the restoration of 10 million hectares over a decade are currently in various stages of development.
- **(IUCN)** On June 12, 2023, AFoCO signed an MoU with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Since IUCN is an Accredited Entity of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and an official Global Environment Facility (GEF) Agency, the Secretariat has been actively involved in project development in partnership with IUCN. This includes GEF8's 'Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biome Integrated Program' and several GCF projects in member countries.

III. Points for consideration

1. The Assembly may wish to:

- Take note of the information on the said projects and programs and provide further guidance and recommendations, as appropriate.

Annex 1. Summary of the Mekong REDD+ Project-P1
Annex 2. Summary of Agroforestry Carbon Project Concepts in Cambodia, Viet Nam, and Kyrgyz Republic.

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Summary of the Mekong REDD+ Project

I. Project Proposal

Project Title	Mekong REDD+ Project-P1 Project		
Proponent	Stung Treng Province, Cambodia	Registration No.	

1. Project Profile

a. Primary Target Area: AFoCO Strategic Priority 2 "Supporting Research and Development in Climate Change Adaptation"
Secondary Target Area: "Local livelihood improvement and community-based small enterprise development"
b. Total budget: USD 800,000 (Woori Bank: USD 570,000 / National: USD 230,000)
c. Project Duration: 3 years (2024-2026)
d. Implementing Agency: Department of Forestry Industry and International Cooperation, Forestry Administration

2. Objectives

a. to generate forest carbon credit through REDD+ avoided deforestation and carbon removal using bundle community forestry as a platform
b. to secure sustainable livelihoods and increase income generation for the participating local community through promoting community-based forest enterprises, clean charcoal and community-based ecotourism development linking to the market.
c. to enhance knowledge and awareness and build local institutions to implement suitable community forestry carbon project and mechanisms.

3. Expected Outputs and Deliverables

a. Amount of forest carbon credits (tonCO_2e) generated from avoided deforestation and removal through the implementation of community-based forestry management activities.

- community forestry area and its boundary are assessed and scaled up
- boundary of community forestry clear demarcated, registered and received hard land title
- all agricultural/parcels located inside and adjacent areas of community forest are inholding and recorded
- community forestry management plans are developed and integrated into the commune land use planning
- forest land conflicts at the community level are addressed and participated by stakeholders and community forestry members
- regular forest law enforcement activities conducted by the Forestry Administration officers

- regular forest law enforcement activities conducted by the community forestry management committee and its members
- forest crime, forest resource information, and biodiversity data are stored, and disseminated
- local community and local Forestry Administration officers received legal assistance to address issues on filing forest offense cases to the court
- conduct massive reforestation activities taken place on deforested areas inside the community forestry area
- massively produced tree seedlings from the establishment and operation of a tree nursery to provide sufficient seedlings for reforestation purpose.

b. Participating local community members secure their livelihoods and increase income generation through best practices in forestry management, sustainable agricultural practices and linked to market.

- community-based Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) enterprises are set up and received support its value chains
- community-based ecotourism set
- up and operated its management plan and business plan
- community-based eco-charcoal enterprise and link it to the market

c. Capacity, knowledge, and local institutions built, and local communities increased knowledge on free deforestation agricultural production and community-based carbon projects.

- awareness-raising activities conducted regarding forestry law, forest conservation, biodiversity conservation and forest carbon benefits and benefit-sharing arrangement
- capacity for community groups, management committees, and local Forestry Administration are built for effective community forestry management

d. Accuracy forest carbon, social and biodiversity data and information produced and complied with Verra J-NR and CCBA standard

- forest carbon measurement /set up permanent forest inventory plots and satellite image analysis for carbon stock using Verra are conducted
- social and biodiversity assessment as required by VCS and CCB conducted
- Mekong REDD+ Project Design Document for Verra and CCBA developed and received public consultation
- Mekong REDD+ Project Design Document received validation and verification
- Mekong REDD+ project credits produced and registered at Verra Market Registry

A-23-9-9 (Annex-2)

Summary of Agroforestry Carbon Project Concepts in Cambodia, Viet Nam, and Kyrgyz Republic

I. Project Concept in Cambodia

Project Title	Cambodia Agroforestry Carbon Project		
Proponent	AFoCO Secretariat/Cambodia	No.	

1. Project Profile

a. Primary Target Area: AFoCO Strategic Priority 2 "Supporting Research and Development in Climate Chage Adaptation"

Secondary Target Area: "Local livelihood improvement and community based small enterprise development"

b. Implementing Agency: The AFoCO Secretariat
Forestry Administration of Cambodia
Cambodian Farmer Federation Association of Agricultural Producers (CFAP)

c. Project Duration: 5 years (2024-2028)

d. Project budget: To be determined based on a business analysis and a feasibility study

e. Project site: Kampong Thom, Preach Sihanouk Province (approx. 2,000ha)
Kampong Cham, Svay Rieng (approx. 2,000ha)

2. Objectives

a. to generate forest and land-based carbon credits through the implementation of sustainable agroforestry activities toward climate change mitigation and adaptation.
b. to secure sustainable livelihoods and increase income generation for the local community through promoting agricultural production and linking to the market.
c. to enhance knowledge and awareness and build local institutions to implement suitable agroforestry systems.

3. Expected Outputs and Deliverables

a. Amount of carbon credits (tonCO2e) generated through community-based agroforestry activities.
    - baseline studies (interested farmers, land ownership, and species to be planted)
    - identify an appropriate agroforestry model for the project area, including field assessment.
    - set up a community-based tree nursery and its operation
    - conduct agroforestry practices to existing farmlands and barren land.
    - regular tree seedlings maintenance and carbon assessment
    - conduct regular farm-based tree inventory and reporting

b. Participating farmers secure their livelihoods and increase income generation through best practices in agroforestry toward increasing agricultural yields and land uses.
    - agricultural materials provided (i.e., tools and organic fertilizer produced)
    - on-farm trail training conducted for farmers
    - Set up of village markets for agricultural products and linking to markets
    - national forum on agroforestry carbon projects and integration into a national policy
c. Capacity, knowledge, and local institutions built, and local farmers (local communities) increased knowledge on agroforestry and community-based carbon projects.
    - agroforestry village workshop conducted.
    - awareness-raising materials produced (i.e., video clips, posters, and booklets)
    - technical training programs for farmers and field officers conducted.
    - benefit sharing arrangements for communities and stakeholders developed and operated
    - field regularly, farm, community, and biodiversity monitored and reported.
    - project operational procedure, grievance, redress, and gender response mechanism developed.
    - agroforestry carbon policy brief produced.

II. Project Concept in Viet Nam

Project Title	Viet Nam Agroforestry Carbon Project		
Proponent	AFoCO Secretariat/Viet Nam	No.	

1. Project Profile

a. Primary Target Area: AFoCO Strategic Priority 2 "Supporting Research and Development in Climate Chage Adaptation"
   Secondary Target Area: "Local livelihood improvement and community based small enterprise development"
b. Implementing Agency: AFoCO Secretariat/ Viet Nam National University of Forestry (VNUF)
c. Project Duration: 5 years (2024-2028)
d. Project budget: To be determined based on a business analysis and a feasibility study
e. Project site: Hoa Binh, Son La, and Lai Chau Provinces (3,000ha roughly)

2. Objectives

a. Overall objective**:** to promote quantity, quality and sustainability of agroforestry systems in the North-west of Vietnam in order to enhance carbon sequestration, climate change mitigation and strengthen stable livelihoods for small-scale farming households in the North-west of Vietnam (Hoa Binh, Son La, and Lai Chau).

b. Specific objectives:

- To carry out a feasibility study in 3 provinces to attain sufficient data and information for the project development and baseline data;
- To develop best-practice agroforestry systems for small scale farmers in 3 provinces;
- To establish 3 nurseries in 3 provinces to produce high quality timber seedlings for planting (at least 4,000,000 seedlings);
- To develop a baseline scenario and make a calculation of GHG emission reduction and removal;
- To develop best-practice agroforestry systems for small scale farmers in 3 provinces;
- To plant high quality timber trees on agroforestry systems (at least 3,000 ha, or around 3,330,000 trees, assume the planting density is 1,110 trees/ha, spacing 3m x 3 m);
- To improve capacity and public awareness for relevant stakeholders and local people in the Northwest of Vietnam.

3. Expected Outputs and Deliverables

a. A feasibility study will be carried out in the 3 provinces to attain sufficient data and information for the project development and baseline data:

- Natural and social conditions of the project sites
- Locations and their conditions for establishment of 3 nurseries in 3 provinces
- Maps, demarcation and conditions of areas for tree planting in 3 provinces
- Maps, demarcation and conditions of areas for degraded natural forest restoration in 3 provinces
- Capacity building and public awareness improvement in 3 provinces
- Other data and information needed and survey reports

b. Baseline scenario and calculation of GHG emission reduction and removal are conducted.
c. Best-practice agroforestry systems for small scale farmers in 3 province is developed;
d. 3 nurseries are established in 3 provinces to produce high quality seedlings for planting (at least 4,000,000 high quality seedlings for planting).
e. High value timber trees (3,000 ha or 3,300,000 trees) are planted and maintained on agroforestry systems in 3 provinces (second year 1500 ha, third year 1000 ha, and fourth year 500 ha, density of 1,100 trees/ha).
f. Capacity building and public awareness improvement are carried out to meet the project implementation requirement (# trainings and meetings)

III. Project Concept in Kyrgyzstan

Project Title	Sustainable land use management through agroforestry practices		
Proponent	AFoCO Secretariat/Kyrgyzstan	No.	

1. Project Profile

a. Primary Target Area: AFoCO Strategic Priority 4 "Local livelihood improvement and community based small enterprise development"
b. Implementing Agency: AFoCO Secretariat/Kyrgyzstan Forest Service
c. Project Duration: 5 years (2024~2028)
d. Project budget: To be determined based on a business analysis and a feasibility study
e. Project site: Scale: 3000-4000ha
Province A: Jalalabad and Osh regions
Province B: Chui and Issuk-kul regions

2. Objectives

a. Objective 1: Livelihood improvement by generating additional income of smallholder farmers through application of agroforestry system in land use management and from sales of carbon removal units (CRU);
b. Objective 2: Promoting sustainable land management practices and agroforestry techniques through training and capacity-building programs, and;
c. Objective 3: Enhancing the resilience of farming systems to the impacts of climate change by providing shade and protection from extreme weather events, increasing food production and food security by diversifying plantations.

3. Expected Outputs and Deliverables

a. Amount of carbon credits (tonCO2e) generated through agroforestry activities
   - Baseline studies (interested farmers, land ownership, and species to be planted)
   - Establish an appropriate agroforestry model for the project areas, including field assessment
   - Tree plantations through planting more than two different species
   - Regular tree seedlings maintenance and carbon assessment
   - Conduct regular tree inventory and reporting
b. Livelihood improved through harvested fruits, nuts, honey, medicinal plants, or other non-timber forest products from agroforestry systems
   - Conduct agroforestry practices to the project areas
   - Data on increased income and livelihoods for local communities through the sale of agroforestry products (e.g., fruits, nuts) or participation in value chains collected

c. Increased Crop Yield due to the positive effects of agroforestry practices on soil fertility, water management, and pest control
   - Quantification of carbon sequestered in trees and soils, which can contribute to climate change mitigation efforts
   - Reduction in soil erosion and increased stability of landscapes, documented through erosion measurement and monitoring

d. Successful Case Studies and Best Practices are promoted
   - Number of training sessions conducted, participants trained, and their ability to implement agroforestry practices enhanced
   - Policy changes or incentives to support agroforestry adoption at regional or national levels are recommended
   - Successful agroforestry case studies and best practices for knowledge sharing and replication are documented
   - Educational materials, workshops, and outreach activities to raise awareness about agroforestry benefits are developed.

4. Additional information about agroforestry model

a. Jalalabad and Osh regions: Agroforestry model: Walnut, pistachio, almond, apricot, apple, peach, cherry x Hay, barley, melons, saffron, ferula
b. Chui and Issuk-kul regions: Agroforestry model: poplar, apple, cherry, pear, apricot x hay, barley, beans, currant, raspberries