

AFoCO 2025 OVERVIEW



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The Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) is an intergovernmental organization established in 2018 to promote sustainable forest management and address climate change in Asia. AFoCO develops and implements projects that focus on forest restoration and conservation, forest-based circular economy, forest disaster risk management, and forest governance, while facilitating policy and technical cooperation, capacity building, and knowledge sharing tailored to national contexts.



2018

- Establishment of AFoCO as an international organization (IO);
- Opening of AFoCO RETC in Myanmar

2020

- Granted Permanent Observer status by the United Nations General Assembly;
- Accreditation as an observer IO to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

2021

- Enlisted as an IO eligible for Official Development Assistance (ODA) under the OECD-DAC;
- Entry-into-force of the HQ Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Korea and AFoCO;
- Accredited as observer IO for participation at Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) meetings

2022

- Admission as observer IO to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

2023

- Implementation of AFoCO Strategic Plan (2024-2030)
- Adoption of 'AFoCO 10-year Climate Action Plan' by the Assembly

2024

- Launch of the 'Friends of Asia and Asian Forests' (FAAF) initiative

PROJECT FUND DISTRIBUTION (2013–2025)

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE

231.5 M

AFoCO Funding

197.3 M

Funding from the Korea Forest Service **79.1 M**
 Funding from other donors **118.2 M**

National Contributions from Member Countries 34.2 M

*including cash and in-kind contributions;
 excluding projects without confirmed national contributions

Public Funding

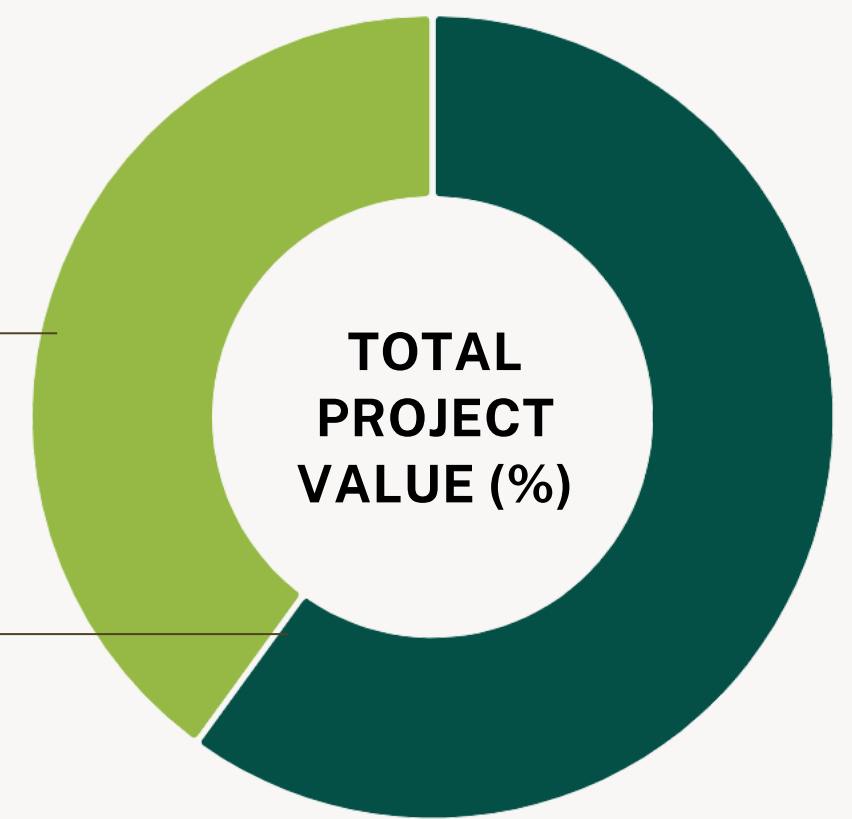
\$93.3M

40.3%

Private Funding

\$138.2M

59.7%



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES (2024–2030)



Program Priority Area 1
 \$49.2 M (21.3 %)

Forest Land Restoration and Conservation

AFoCO conserves forests vulnerable to climate change and restores degraded forest ecosystems. It supports the restoration of fire-affected areas, tropical forests, and mangrove forests, while promoting the sustainable use of forest resources. These efforts contribute to ecosystem recovery and the expansion of sustainably managed forest areas.



Program Priority Area 2
 \$133.1 M (57.5 %)

Community and Circular Bioeconomy

AFoCO enhances the climate resilience and economic self-reliance of forest-dependent communities. To support sustainable income generation for local residents, it develops projects related to non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and agroforestry, while exploring connections with carbon markets.



Program Priority Area 3
 \$16.5 M (7.1 %)

Climate-Forest Disaster Risk Management

To effectively manage forest disasters and climate-related risks, AFoCO is establishing risk assessment and response systems. Key efforts include digitalizing forest data, modeling forest fire predictions, and using drones for fire monitoring. These measures help strengthen the climate adaptability and resilience of forests and forest-dependent communities.



Cross-Cutting Themes
 \$32.7 M (14.1 %)

Policy, Capacity, Knowledge, Technology

AFoCO strengthens the capacities of its member countries through training, scholarship, fellowship programs, and policy cooperation. With national governments, efforts are made to analyze the impacts of climate change on forests, develop relevant policies, and design field-level demonstration projects.

BUILDING CAPACITIES IN FORESTRY

AFoCO's flagship capacity-building programs — Fellowship Program, Landmark Scholarship Program, and Science & Technology Exchange Partnership (STEP) Program — have also benefitted young professionals forestry stakeholders at the national and local levels across Asia.

44

FELLOWSHIP OFFICIALS

(2015-2025)

30

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

10 PhD, 20 MSc
(2015-2025)

24

STEP PROGRAM RESEARCHERS

(2019-2025)

TRAINING COURSES (2014-2025)

53

REGULAR COURSES

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

6,146

(22,7%)

68

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COURSES

MEMBERS OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES

19,549

(72.2%)

15

CUSTOMIZED COURSES

RESEARCHERS & STUDENTS

1,392

(5.1%)

136 TIMES, 27,087 PARTICIPANTS

The AFoCO Regional Education and Training Center (RETC), a specialized subsidiary organ of AFoCO, was established in Yangon region, Myanmar, in 2018 to serve as a platform for capacity development, knowledge transfer, and information sharing. The RETC operates diverse training and workshops to address capacity development needs in the forest sector.