

Twelfth Session of the Assembly  
13-14 May 2025, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

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## Agenda Item 3.1

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### Update on Climate Forest Cooperation Framework

#### I. Background

1. At the 11th Session of the AFoCO Assembly, the Secretariat reported on the proposal to develop the Climate Forest Cooperation Framework (hereinafter referred to as “the Framework”) as a strategic instrument to enhance the effectiveness of AFoCO’s climate-related forest initiatives.
2. The Framework is being developed in response to the increasing need for a coherent and scalable approach to address the complex and interlinked challenges posed by climate change in the forestry sector. It is intended to serve as a flexible guide to align AFoCO’s projects and programs with the AFoCO Strategic Plan (2024–2030) and the Climate Action Plan (2025–2034), with a long-term vision of supporting climate-resilient forests and communities.
3. In line with the UNFCCC Paris Agreement—particularly Articles 5, 6, and 14—the Framework supports jurisdictional approaches that enable Member Countries to pursue forest-based climate actions at sub-national and national levels, and contribute to the Global Stocktake of collective progress toward achieving the purpose of the Agreement.
4. By clarifying strategic directions, strengthening internal linkages across initiatives, and enabling access to blended financing, the Framework will guide the formulation of investment-ready, country-tailored programs that reflect both national priorities and shared regional climate goals.

#### II. Progress since the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the Assembly

5. The Framework has undergone further refinement to articulate its strategic approaches more clearly and to enhance coherence in its key messages. Notably, the Secretariat has proposed a new concept that is designed to function as a jurisdiction-based coordination platform for formulating and implementing long-term, integrated climate-forest programs within Member Countries. The updated draft Framework is provided in **Annex-1**.
6. From the perspective of carbon project development, the Framework is positioned as a strategic reference to facilitate the systematic integration of carbon-related components into AFoCO’s Regular projects. This integration is expected to enhance the climate impact of AFoCO’s portfolio by promoting synergies between conventional development cooperation and forest-based climate actions. Furthermore, the Framework offers a guidance for structuring projects that are eligible for blended financing from both public and private sector sources.

7. To facilitate the practical implementation of the Framework, the Secretariat is in the process of developing an implementation Protocol. This Protocol outlines six operation stages:
  - i. drafting of concept notes,
  - ii. consultation with AFoCO Member Countries,
  - iii. identification and engagement of potential partners,
  - iv. feasibility assessments,
  - v. signing of project agreements, and
  - vi. implementation and monitoring of projects.

The Protocol is intended to standardize project development processes in alignment with the AFoCO Project Manual, while ensuring adherence to environmental and social safeguards, MRV (Measurement, Reporting, and Verification) requirements, and financing frameworks.

### **III. Preparation of the Framework in 2025**

8. With a view to submitting the finalized Framework for consideration and endorsement at the 13th Session of the Assembly, the Secretariat will continue refining the draft in close consultation with Member Countries.
9. To guide this process, a set of pre-shared questions was circulated to Member Countries in April 2025. These questions were designed to elicit structured and constructive feedback on the Framework's strategic direction, core concepts, and implementation modalities, and to support national experts in providing targeted inputs for its further improvement.
10. As part of this process, the Secretariat will establish a Technical Working Group (TWG) composed of national experts nominated by Member Countries. The TWG will provide substantive input to strengthen the technical soundness, operational relevance, and strategic coherence of the Framework.
11. In parallel with the development process, the Secretariat will initiate the drafting of pilot concept notes based on the Framework, in coordination with interested Member Countries. This will serve as an initial application of the Framework to test and refine its practical utility and relevance.
12. A dedicated technical session will be organized in conjunction with the AFoCO Annual Technical Workshop in the second half of 2025 to solicit expert feedback. .

### **VI. Points for Consideration**

13. The Assembly may wish to:
  - a. Take note of the information regarding the proposal for development of the Climate Forest Cooperation Framework; and
  - b. Task the Secretariat with developing the Climate-Forest Cooperation Framework and tailoring tentative programs based on the Framework.

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

*Sungho Choi, Project Team 2, Project & Program Division  
(Phone: +82 2 785 8994; Email: quercus1@afocosec.org)*