

Overview of Four Initiatives under Climate Action Plan 2025-2034

A. Asian Forest Living Lab Initiative

Title: Asian Forest Living Lab. Initiative: A Cooperative Research and Development Platform for Sustainable Forest Management and Human Resource Development in Forest and Forestry Sector

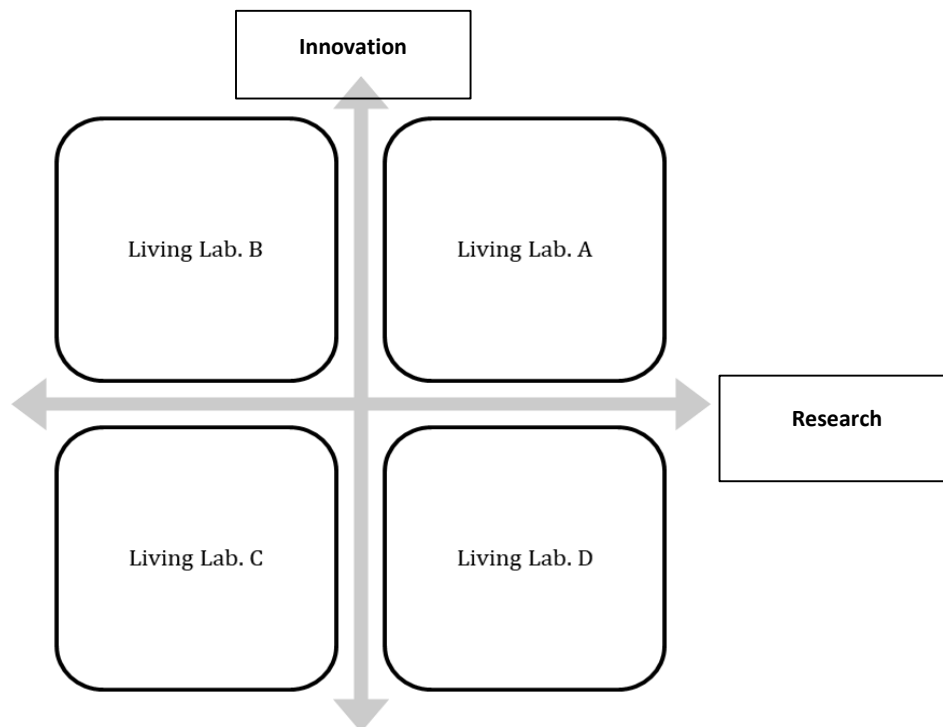
Scope: All AFoCO Member Countries

Focus / Objectives:

The Living Lab Initiative is a research and development (R&D) platform which serves as a real-world testing environment through transforming AFoCO project sites into innovation hubs, enabling the application of research, technology, and policy integration in sustainable forest management:

- **Strengthening Policy & International Cooperation:** Supporting the development of regional and global forestry policies through scientific research, practical case studies, and cross-border collaboration.
- **Enhancing Climate Resilience & Carbon Management:** Integrating climate impact assessments and carbon management activities to position forests as a key climate mitigation tool beyond the Post-SDG 2030 framework.
- **Developing Economic Self-Sufficiency Models:** Promoting sustainable forestry business models that enable mutual economic growth between corporations and local communities while enhancing corporate social responsibility (CSR) efforts.
- **Expanding Human Resource Development:** Providing education, training, and capacity-building programs to strengthen expertise in forest conservation, ecosystem restoration, and climate adaptation.
- **Advancing Technology & Innovation in Forest Management:** Introducing cutting-edge technologies, such as AI-driven forest monitoring systems, remote sensing tools, and smart forestry applications, to maximize efficiency in forest management and restoration.

Four types of Living Labs (A, B, C, and D) are categorized according to their position in relation to the level of 'research' and 'development'. Since the development is closely linked to the outputs of 'innovation', so the category shapes into 4 dimension of research and development/innovation:



Living Labs' Type A (a balanced combination of research and development/innovation), Type B (focuses on development/innovation over research), Type C (a practical focus with less emphasis on both research and development/innovation), and Type D (emphasizes research)

Duration and Main Activities:

A 10-year initiative (2024-2034) designed to integrate research, develop scalable solutions, and institutionalize best practices in AFoCO's sustainable forest management efforts.

Phase	Duration	Key Actions
Preparation	2024 - 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish pilot Living Labs in selected Member Countries, in collaboration with NIFoS. Launch AFoCO R&D working groups and conduct initial technology assessments.
Phase 1	2026 - 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand Living Lab projects across ASEAN & Central Asia. Develop regional policy frameworks based on Living Lab findings. Scale digital innovations and precision forestry technologies.
Phase 2	2031 - 2034	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation and preparation for the next living lab phase Establish a long-term financing and sustainability model for continued expansion.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutionalize regional best practices and governance mechanisms for future resilience.
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Annual Work Plan (2026-2030)

Main Activities of Asian Forest Living Lab	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5
Working group establishment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate change adaptation - Seed management - Mangroves - Etc. 					
Five (5) living labs. (LLs) in ASEAN region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Type A LL - 1 Type B LL - 2 Type C LLs - 1 Type D LL 					
Five (5) living lab. in Central Asia (incl. Bhutan and Mongolia) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Type A LL - 1 Type B LL - 2 Type C LLs - 1 Type D LL 					
R&D Partnership with stakeholders Working group meetings					

B. Forest Fire Management in Asia (FFMA) Initiative

Title: AFoCO Forest Fire Management in Asia (FFMA) Initiative: Strengthening Regional Capacities and Technologies for Effective Forest Fire Management

Scope: All AFoCO Member Countries

Focus / Objectives:

The FFMA Initiative presents a structured, data-driven approach to tackling escalating fire risks across the region. By building capacity, integrating technology, and fostering regional cooperation, this initiative will significantly enhance fire prevention and response capabilities while contributing to broader climate resilience and sustainable forest management goals:

- **Enhancing Capacity & Institutional Strengthening:** Training forest management personnel, government officials, and emergency responders on advanced fire suppression, monitoring, and policy implementation.
- **Integrating Technology & Data-Driven Solutions:** Expanding the use of AI-powered fire detection systems, remote sensing, and predictive modeling to improve fire management efficiency.
- **Strengthening Governance & Regional Coordination:** Establishing harmonized policies, information-sharing protocols, and cross-border cooperation mechanisms for fire prevention and response.
- **Engaging Communities & Sustainable Practices:** Promoting alternative land-use strategies, fire-resistant agriculture, and localized prevention programs to mitigate fire risks.
- **Scaling Impact Through Partnerships:** Strengthening collaborations with ROK, France, and international forestry and climate organizations to leverage expertise and funding.

Duration and Main Activities:

A 10-year phased approach (2024-2034) designed to ensure progressive scaling, impact assessment, and long-term sustainability.

Phase	Duration	Key Actions
Preparation	2024 - 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch pilot programs in selected fire-prone AFoCO Member Countries. • Deploy initial technology pilots for remote fire monitoring and early warning systems. • Establish the governance framework and capacity-building blueprint.
Phase 1	2026 - 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand training and institutional capacity-building efforts across the region. • Scale fire detection, response, and suppression technologies. • Develop cross-border cooperation protocols and policy recommendations.
Phase 2	2030 - 2034	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct impact assessments and refine strategies based on field data. • Establish a long-term financing and sustainability model for continued expansion. • Institutionalize regional best practices and governance mechanisms for future resilience.

Annual Work Plan (2026-2030)

Main Activities of FFMA	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5
National-level ToT for governments					
ROK-France scholarship					
Research exchanges					
High-level discourses					
Scale fire detection, response, and suppression technologies					
Partnerships (e.g., Australia, Canada, etc.)					

C. Mangrove Initiative

Title: AFoCO Mangrove Initiative

Scope: AFoCO Member Countries with mangrove forests

Focus / Objectives:

- **Mangrove Restoration:** Implement large-scale restoration projects to rehabilitate degraded **mangrove** forests, using proven reforestation techniques such as assisted natural regeneration (ANR) and enrichment planting, ensuring alignment with broader forest landscape restoration efforts.
- **Research and Innovation:** Strengthen partnerships with local communities, research institutions, and conservation organizations to develop evidence-based mangrove management practices, integrating nursery and seedling production with restoration facility development.
- **Climate Resilience and Livelihoods:** Harmonizing mangrove restoration with community-based conservation, incorporating sustainable livelihoods such as eco-tourism, sustainable fisheries, and agroforestry-based income generation to enhance economic resilience.
- **Ecosystem Services and Policy Recognition:** Highlight the carbon sequestration, coastal protection, and biodiversity conservation benefits of mangroves, ensuring their role is recognized in national climate policies and international frameworks such as the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the Bonn Challenge.

Duration and Main Activities:

A structured five-year plan (2026–2030, with possibility of extension) aimed at gradual assessment, pilot implementation, scalable expansion, and long-term sustainability.

Phase	Duration	Key Actions
Assessment and Planning	2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Conduct baseline assessments and identify priority areas.● Establish partnerships with governments, private sector, and international organizations.● Develop a comprehensive implementation strategy and financing framework.
Pilot Implementation	2026 - 2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Initiate pilot restoration projects in selected member countries while simultaneously expanding restoration efforts to additional areas● Implement community-based livelihood programs and ecotourism initiatives.● Develop regional carbon credit projects for financial sustainability.
Scaling Up	2028 - 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Expand successful pilot projects to additional countries.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen policy frameworks and governance structures for long-term conservation. Establish a Regional Mangrove Knowledge Hub for capacity building and knowledge-sharing.
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Annual Work Plan (2026-2030):

Main Activities of Mangrove Initiative	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5
Conduct comprehensive baseline assessments across 9 member countries					
Identify and map priority restoration sites using spatial analysis					
Develop a sustainable financing framework and establish strategic partnerships					
Implement pilot community-based restoration, livelihood enhancement, and sustainable enterprise models (e.g., ecotourism, NTFP valorization)					
Design and establish the foundational framework for large-scale carbon credit certification and trading mechanisms					
Expand restoration initiatives, conduct long-term impact assessments, and refine best practices					
Develop and operationalize a Regional Mangrove Knowledge Hub for technical capacity building and information exchange					

D. REDD+ Readiness Initiative

Title: AFoCO Forest Fire Management in Asia (FFMA) Initiative: Strengthening Regional Capacities and Technologies for Effective Forest Fire Management

Scope: Three AFoCO Member Countries, initially focusing on Vietnam and Timor-Leste, based on the recommendation of KFS, with potential adjustments to reflect future needs

Focus / Objectives:

With a focus on enhancing forest carbon management, supporting climate-resilient forestry development, and contribute to national NDC targets and global climate goals, the primary objective is to help AFoCO member countries achieve REDD+ readiness by establishing:

- National REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan
National Forest Monitoring System
- Forest Reference Emission Level / Forest Reference Level
- Safeguard Information System

Duration and Main Activities: The initiative will have a 3-year timeline for each country consisting of the following activities:

- **Stakeholder Engagement & Gap Analysis**
 - Identify and assess readiness gaps
 - Establish cooperation frameworks through stakeholder consultations and workshops.
- **Policy and Strategy Development**
 - Develop national master plans for climate-resilient forestry
 - REDD+ National Strategies (NSAP) and/or sub-national action plans
 - Review report of legal, regulatory, and technical frameworks.
- **MRV Systems Establishment**
 - Design or enhancement of National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS)
 - Establish or update FREL/FRL
 - Establish or enhance safeguard mechanisms
- **Capacity Building & Technical Assistance**
 - Provide targeted training, technical workshops, and support services to enhance institutional capabilities and ensure effective technology transfer.
- **Implementation & Monitoring**
 - Implement phased activities with defined milestones, pilot projects
 - Periodic evaluations to ensure progress toward Result-Based Payments (RBPs) and/or ITMO cooperation under the Paris Agreement

Annual Work Plan (2026-2030):

Main Activities of REDD+ Initiative	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
Stakeholder Engagement & Gap Analysis			
Policy and Strategy Development			
MRV Systems Establishment			
Capacity Building & Technical Assistance			
Implementation & Monitoring			