

Eleventh Session of the Assembly  
30-31 October 2024, Seoul, Republic of Korea

## Agenda Item 4

### Information on Engagement of Partner Organizations and Cooperating Agencies

#### I. Information on the list of Partner Organizations

1. In accordance with Decision 41-V-21R on the Promotion and Enhancement of Partnerships and Decision 41-V-21R-ADD-1 on the Rules of Procedures for Partner Organizations of AFoCO, the Secretariat remains committed to actively pursuing collaboration and resource mobilization opportunities. These efforts aim to expand AFoCO's portfolio of activities in line with its strategic priorities. A detailed list of current Partner Organizations can be found in [Annex-1](#).

#### II. Update on the joint activities with Partner Organizations and Cooperating Agencies

##### A. International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)

2. On May 5th, 2022, AFoCO and ITTO signed a MoU to establish a general framework for cooperation between the two organizations, aimed at promoting and supporting sustainable development through the conservation and sustainable use of forest resources. One of the key purposes of this MoU is to identify potential actions to achieve the common goals of both organizations and strive to develop specific and actionable joint projects while promoting relevant capacity building and knowledge sharing.

3. In this context, the Secretariat received the proposal from ITTO to develop a joint program tentatively titled: *Advancing Nature Based Climate Solutions through Sustainable Community-based Timber and Forestry-based Enterprises*. ITTO proposed developing a joint project per each target country that aligns with the 4 pillars of the program as follows.

Duration	5 years (2~3 years for individual projects under the Joint Program)
Estimated Budget	USD 2.5 M – 5.0 M
Target Country	Initially focused on six Member Countries common to both organizations
Pillars of Joint Program	Pillar 1: Focus on Community Based Forestry Enterprises Pillar 2: Advancement of Tropical Timber Production and Trade Pillar 3: Outputs that directly contribute to the Nature-based Solution (NbS) to Climate Change Pillar 4: Combination of Private Sector and Government Funding

#### Tentative Plan for follow-up Actions

- Technical consultation with ITTO to develop a draft Concept Note, including the relevant funding mechanisms and project management methodologies: Until Jan. 2025
- Circulation of the draft Concept Note to Member Parties for review and feedback: Feb. 2025
- Finalization of the draft Concept Note and call for project proposals: Until March 2025  
(A Workshop co-hosted by AFoCO and ITTO on the project development under the Joint Program may be organized)

#### **B. United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)**

4. The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) has expressed strong interest in joining the Landscape Partnership Asia (LPA), a major program facilitated by AFoCO that serves as a multi-stakeholder platform for performance-based investments aimed at restoring Asian drylands and drought-prone areas. On 8 August 2024, UNFF submitted an Expression of Interest to take on an advisory role within the LPA.

5. As the only intergovernmental body with universal membership within the UN system dealing with forest-related issues, UNFF's involvement is expected to strengthen collaboration between Asia and other regions, further advancing global landscape restoration efforts and contributing to the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) and its Global Forest Goals (GFGs).

6. The LPA Management Team, which comprises AFoCO, CIFOR-ICRAF, Global EverGreening Alliance (GEA), and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), coordinates the strategy, annual plans, and budget allocations for the LPA. Each member organization contributes to the operational costs of the Secretariat. UNFF's involvement is anticipated to enhance these efforts by linking the LPA's work with broader global forest goals.

#### **C. International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)**

7. The International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) is a non-profit, non-governmental global network of forest scientists that fosters international collaboration in forest-related research. In 2023, AFoCO welcomed IUFRO as a Partner Organization, endorsed at the Ninth Session of the Assembly (A-23-9-3).

8. From June 23 to 29, 2024, IUFRO held its 26th World Congress in Stockholm, Sweden, under the theme "Forests & Society Towards 2050." This prominent event attracted around 4,100 forestry experts globally, focusing on the role of forests in achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 and supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals. AFoCO participated by hosting an exhibition booth, presenting project outputs in technical sessions, and outlining its Climate Action Plan during the High-Level Dialogue on "Forest Governance in the Region – A Stakeholder Dialogue," which focused on addressing deforestation and forest degradation through region-specific approaches.

9. To strengthen collaboration on the Climate Action Plan, AFoCO aims to expand its partnership with IUFRO by developing joint capacity-building activities. This includes fostering local researchers and experts in forest carbon, advancing monitoring and evaluation practices, and incorporating more science-based approaches into project implementation.

### III. Points for Consideration

10. The Assembly, taking note of the updates, may wish to:
  - a. Consider and endorse the plan for developing the joint program with ITTO and IUFRO; and
  - b. Welcome UNFF's participation as the management team of LPA.

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

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**List of Partner Organizations***as of 25 September 2024*

No	Partner Organizations
<b>International Organizations/Entities</b>	
1	CIFOR-ICRAF
2	Global Evergreening Alliance (GEA)
3	Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)
4	International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)
5	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)
6	Non-Timber Forest Products-Exchange Programme-Asia (NTFP-EP)
7	The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC)
8	World Food Programme (WFP)-Kyrgyzstan
<b>Government /Public Institution</b>	
9	Chamber of Forest Engineers of Turkiye
10	GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
11	Forest Aviation Headquarters of the Korea Forest Service
12	Korea Agency of Education, Promotion and Information Service in Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (EPIS)
13	Korea Arboreta and Garden Institute (KoAGI)
14	Korea Association of Forest Enviro-Conservation Technology (KAFET)
15	Korea Forest Welfare Institute (FOWI)
16	Korea Forestry Promotion Institute (Kofpi)
17	Korea Foundation for International Healthcare (KOFIH)
18	Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)
19	Korea-Mekong Forest Cooperation Center (KMFCC)
20	Korea National Arboretum
21	Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan
22	National Institute of Forest Science (NIFOS)
23	Peace Forest Work
24	Sejong City
25	Ojeong Resilience Institute

**Private Sector**

26	Dream Sharing Social Cooperative
27	EcoServices Consulting (ESC)
28	E-MART Inc.
29	Future Forest Corporation
30	PT Korintiga Hutani (KTH)
31	SKForest
32	Sustainable World Network (SWN)
33	T'way Air
34	Woori Financial Group
<b>Academia</b>	
35	Graduate School of International Agricultural Technology (GSIAT) of Seoul National University

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