

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

Agenda Item 9

Development of Projects and Programs

I. Background

1. Pursuant to the AFoCO Strategic Plan (2024-2030) and the AFoCO 10-year Climate Action Plan (2025-2034), the Secretariat concluded the legal arrangements with cooperating entities to develop new carbon-focused projects by aligning the voluntary carbon market with the Paris Agreement.
2. As of 30 October 2024, the Secretariat in cooperation with the member countries, is developing an agroforestry carbon project, afforestation and deforestation carbon projects, REDD+ projects and carbon-focused projects under the guidance of the partners such as Acorn Rabobank, Climate Asset Management, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and Green Climate Fund (GCF).

II. Updates on the Development of new carbon-focused projects and programs

3. AFoCO x Acorn Agroforestry Carbon Project

- a. Kyrgyzstan: In accordance with the MoU signed among AFoCO, Acorn Rabobank, Ministry of Emergency Situation of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture and Production Industry, the Secretariat and Acorn set target to develop proposal for a new AFoCO x Acorn project for Kyrgyzstan and conducted the feasibility study from July to September 2024. A new AFoCO x Acorn agroforestry carbon project has been under development targeting the establishment of 5,000 hectares of new agroforestry farms in bare lands in Kyrgyzstan.
- b. Cambodia: Feasibility studies were conducted in Kampong Thom (2023) and Battambang (2024). Kampong Thom involves 2,500 households covering 12,995 hectares of mostly monocultures (cashew, cassava). Battambang involves 269 households across 696 hectares (mango, longan, corn, fodder). The project is in step 2, with the Eligibility Assessment, Agroforestry Design and Business Case currently being drafted.
- c. Lao PDR: By September 2024, 2,000 hectares of farms in Salavan (southern Laos) and 1,500 hectares in Luang Prabang (northern Laos) were identified for the Acorn project. The project is in step 2, with ongoing drafting of key documents (Eligibility Assessment, Sub-Contractor Assessment, and Agroforestry Design).
- d. Viet Nam: The project is in step 2 (document collection) in Lai Chau province. Key documents (Eligibility Assessment, Sub-Contractor Assessment, and Agroforestry Design) are being finalized by AFoCO, in collaboration with the Department of Forestry

of Viet Nam. 677 households covering 504 hectares of agroforestry (mainly macadamia mixed with tea) were surveyed. The documents have been under review by Acorn Rabobank.

4. Nature-Based Carbon Project

- a. Based on the reporting on the Investment Strategies of Climate Asset Management to the 10th Session of the AFoCO Assembly, the AFoCO Secretariat entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Climate Asset Management, a global financial institution headquartered in the United Kingdom on 3 June 2024. The primary objective of this MoU is to facilitate/implement carbon credit projects for inclusion in and investment on an exclusive basis from the Carbon Nature SCSp (CNS), in return for carbon credits.
- b. In order to achieve the goals of the MoU, the Secretariat is planning to develop Nature-Based Carbon projects potentially in Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan and Lao PDR starting from the conduct of the feasibility studies from late October 2024.
- c. If necessary, the Secretariat may consider the development of the nature-based carbon projects in member countries in cooperation with eligible donors/investors.

5. Call for proposals, with an estimated cost of USD 4,700,000, as follows:

- a. Project Proposal, entitled 'Promoting Climate-Resilient Rural Development and Food Security in Southeast Asia - Responsible Forestry Sector Project in Lao PDR' (1 year, USD 700,000) was submitted to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on 26 April 2024.
- b. Project Proposal, entitled 'Satellite Solutions for Resilient Mekong: Leveraging Korean ICT for Disaster Management' (3 years, USD 1,000,000) was submitted to the Mekong-ROK Cooperation Fund (MKCF) on 10 May 2024.
- c. Project Proposal, entitled 'Unlocking the Potential of Agroforestry for Climate Resilience and Sustainable Development in Timor Leste' (4 years, USD 3,000,000) was submitted to the EU on 17 September 2024.

6. Collaboration with partners

a. Landscape Partnership Asia

Since its official launch in May 2022, AFoCO has taken on the role of Secretariat for Landscape Partnership Asia (LPA). Together with the LPA Management Team, which comprises AFoCO, CIFOR-ICRAF, GEA, IUCN, and UNFF, several projects, including seven (7) under implementation, are underway. Additionally, the LPA partners, both individually and collectively, are developing four (4) projects targeting GCF and EU funding to achieve LPA's vision of restoring 10 million hectares over a decade.

Project Title	Funding	Organization to lead
Enhancing climate resilience through sustainable watershed management and agroforestry practice in Timor-Leste	GCF	AFoCO, IUCN
Landscape restoration for resilient food, livelihoods and ecosystems in Central Asia	GCF	LPA members
Sustainable land management in three provinces in	GCF	AFoCO,

Thailand		IUCN
Regreening Landscapes and Improving Livelihoods through Proven Carbon-Food-Timber Rehabilitation of Degraded Tropical Dryland Savanna on Sumba Island, Indonesia	EU	CIFOR-ICRAF

III. Points for consideration

7. The Assembly may wish to:

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

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

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