AFoCO
Asian Forest Cooperation Organization

Decision-61-XIII-25R

Thirteenth Session of the Assembly
29-30 October 2025, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Agenda Item 8.1

DECISION 61-XIII-25R

Approval of New Projects

The Assembly of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO),

Having considered the appraisal and recommendations of the respective Project Appraisal Panel (PAP); and

Taking note of the summary of project proposals as contained in document **A-25-13-10 Annex-1**,

Decides to:

1. *Approve* the project proposals as below, subject to the compliance with any remaining concerns as per comments and recommendations during project appraisal; and

No	Proponent (Registration No.)	Project Title	Project Duration (year)	Budget (USD)	
				AFoCO	National
1	Bhutan (PP-2025-BT-001)	Restoring Fire-Damaged Ecosystems and Enhancing Wildland-Urban Interface Resilience	4	1,195,569	475,000
2	Brunei Darussalam (PP-2025-BN-001)	Development of Forestry In-Situ and Ex-Situ Areas for Effective Biodiversity Conservation	4.5	1,200,000	
3	Cambodia (PP-2025-KH-001)	Building Resilient Communities through Sustainable Forest Management and Agroforestry	4	1,198,902	100,008
4	Indonesia (PP-2025-ID-001)	Restoring *Taxus sumatrana* to Support Carbon Sink Conservation Areas in Kerinci Seblat National Park, Indonesia	4.5	1,200,000	100,000
5	Kyrgyzstan (PP-2025-KG-001)	Organization of a forest seed base and a modernized forest nursery complex for growing high-quality planting material using the latest technologies for afforestation, reforestation and landscaping	4	1,200,000	100,000
6	Lao PDR (PP-2025-LA-001)	Village-driven Agroforestry Practice and Local Livelihood Improvement in Saravan and Champasak Province	4.5	1,201,088	120,109
7	Myanmar (PP-2025-MM-001)	Integrated Watershed Management and Climate-Smart Agroforestry for Sustainable Recovery in Southern Shan State, Myanmar	4.5	1,250,000	300,000
8	Tajikistan (PP-2025-TJ-001)	Establishment of a nursery with seed storage facilities to increase capacity for mass production of quality planting material to achieve national afforestation targets in Tajikistan.	3	1,200,000	120,000
9	Viet Nam (PP-2025-VN-001)	Sustainable Acacia Plantation Management for Household Livelihoods, Carbon Enhancement and Circular Bioeconomy Development in Northern Viet Nam	5	1,200,000	200,000

2. *Task* the Secretariat to facilitate the necessary follow-up actions for project inception in accordance with Project Manual of AFoCO, including funds mobilization, in due course.

A-25-13-10 Annex 1 (Agenda Item 8.1)

Summary of Project Proposal

I. Project Proposal 1

Project Title	Restoring Fire-Damaged Ecosystems and Enhancing Wildland-Urban Interface Resilience in Bhutan		
Proponent	Bhutan	Registration No.	PP-2025-BT-001

1. Project Profile

a. Program Priority Area: PPA 1: Forest Land Restoration and Conservation

b. Total budget: USD 1,670,569 (AFoCO: USD 1,195,569 / National: USD 475,000*)
** 400,000 in cash for salary of project staff and USD 75,000 by ECRUL-UNDP/GCF; co-financing*

c. Project Duration: July 2026 – June 2030 (4 years)

d. Implementing Agency: Forest Resource Planning and Management Division
Department of Forest and Park Services

2. Objectives

a. Reduce forest fire risks in Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) zones by implementing hazard zoning strategies and establishing buffer plantations to enhance community safety and ecosystem resilience.
b. Restore fire-affected landscapes through ecological rehabilitation by using high-value and fire-resistant species to enhance the economic, ecological, scenic, and environmental value of the land.
c. Strengthening institutional, technical, and community capacities on forest fire prevention through plantation creation in WUIs and landscape restoration in fire affected landscapes.
d. Develop and implement a systematic monitoring and evaluation framework to support adaptive management of forest fires and restoration efforts in WUI areas.

3. Expected Outputs and Deliverables

a. Hazard zoning maps developed, and fire breaks established through plantations of fire-resistant species in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) in Thimphu
b. Degraded forest areas rehabilitated using high-value, fire-resistant native species with community and institutional participation
c. Targeted training programs and awareness campaigns conducted for government agencies and local communities on forest fire prevention and landscape restoration
d. Monitoring and evaluation framework developed and applied to track fire impacts and guide adaptive restoration efforts

II. Project Proposal 2

Project Title	Development of Forestry *In-Situ* and *Ex-Situ* Areas for Effective Biodiversity Conservation		
Proponent	Brunei Darussalam	Registration No.	PP-2025-BN-001

1. Project Profile

a. Program Priority Area: PPA 1: Forest Land Restoration and Conservation

b. Total budget: USD 1,200,000 (AFoCO: USD 1,200,000)

c. Project Duration: March 2026 – December 2030 (4.5 years)

d. Implementing Agency: Forestry Department
Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism

2. Objectives

a. To strengthen the effectiveness of in-situ and ex-situ conservation areas by integrating innovative technologies and up-to-date scientific methodologies into their planning, development, and management.
b. To identify and prioritize new areas of high biodiversity value through the application of advanced survey and monitoring techniques (e.g., remote sensing, drone mapping, species modeling);
c. To enhance adaptive management practices in response to emerging threats such as climate change, habitat fragmentation, and land-use pressures, ensuring conservation approaches remain resilient and future proof; and
d. To improve the conservation and recovery of threatened species by supporting habitat restoration, species propagation, and genetic resource preservation in both in-situ and ex-situ settings.

3. Expected Outputs and Deliverables

a. Upgrade and Expand Ex-situ and In-Situ Sites Conservation Facilities with establishment of 2 smart green houses, upgrade three Arboreta and five shade houses, and improving at least five existing in-situ sites to strengthen species protection
b. Identify and recommend new protected areas after conducting comprehensive field and remote assessments (including GIS/faunal surveys) to map high-biodiversity and botanically significant forest zones for official designation
c. Applied Modern Technologies (drones, satellite imagery, GIS, and species modeling) to map habitats, analyze forest integrity, and integrate spatial data into conservation frameworks for informed decision-making
d. Built capacity in plant conservation science by delivering annual training workshops (including hands-on biodiversity monitoring) and developing user-friendly field guides and technical manuals, thereby institutionalizing modern conservation practices among forestry staff

III. Project Proposal 3

Project Title	Building Resilient Communities through Sustainable Forest Management and Agroforestry in Kratie, Battambang, and Kampong Thom Provinces, Cambodia		
Proponent	Cambodia	Registration No.	PP-2025-KH-001

1. Project Profile

a. Program Priority Area: PPA 2: Community and Circular Bioeconomy

b. Total budget: USD 1,298,910
(AFoCO: USD 1,198,902 / National: USD 100,008)

c. Project Duration: January 2026 – December 2029 (4 years)

d. Implementing Agency: Department of Forest Industry and International Cooperation Forestry Administration

2. Objectives

a. To strengthen governance and institutional support for sustainable community forestry through improved tenure security, legal frameworks, and forest protection mechanisms.
b. To enhance local livelihoods and economic resilience by supporting forest-based Bio-economy and community-led sustainable enterprises.
c. To restore degraded forest landscapes through the implementation of agroforestry and reforestation by ANR and enrichment planting with native tree species, enhancing biodiversity, ecosystem services, and climate.
d. To share and scale up community forestry experiences and lessons learned through knowledge dissemination and peer-to-peer learning.

3. Expected Outputs and Deliverables

a. Strengthen community forestry land tenure security
b. Strengthened forest law enforcement, protection and conservation to improve biodiversity and ecosystem functions
c. Increase incomes and enhance livelihood of local community through forest-based activities for long-term economic resilience
d. Forest land restoration and maintenance
e. Enhance capacity of local communities for sustainable forest management and climate change
f. Knowledge and lessons learned about community forestry management, forest restoration and socioeconomic development resilient to climate change

IV. Project Proposal 4

Project Title	Restoring *Taxus sumatrana* Ecosystems to Enhance Biodiversity and Climate Resilience in Kerinci Seblat National Park		
Proponent	Indonesia	Registration No.	PP-2025-ID-001

1. Project Profile

a. Program Priority Area:	PPA 1: Forest Land Restoration and Conservation
b. Total budget:	USD 1,300,000 (AFoCO: USD 1,200,000 / National: USD 100,000)
c. Project Duration:	March 2026 – December 2030 (4.5 years)
d. Implementing Agency:	Center for Sustainable Forest Development Ministry of Forestry, Republic of Indonesia

2. Objectives

a. To restore degraded forest areas in Kerinci Seblat National Park using the endemic species of *Taxus sumatrana.*
b. To protect and enhance natural carbon sinks through creation of a climate buffer zone.
c. To empower local communities in conserving and ensuring sustainable use of *Taxus sumatrana* to enhance ecosystem services and climate resilience.
d. To document restoration methods and disseminate best practices to relevant stakeholders and conservation networks, contributing to broader forest restoration and conservation knowledge.

3. Expected Outputs and Deliverables

a. Habitat suitability mapping and restoration site preparation through a complete restoration plan that includes GIS-based suitability maps covering all target areas
b. Establishment of *T. sumatrana* nurseries and propagation systems with establishment of four community-based nurseries with over 60 trained members, successful identification of donor trees, and the production of 800,000 healthy seedlings ready for deployment
c. Reforestation of degraded habitat of *T.sumatrana* by replanting of 8,000 hectares of degraded habitat with a target of 800,000 *T. sumatrana* seedlings and native associate species, all verified by detailed maintenance and monitoring reports
d. To support long-term monitoring and delineation of climate buffer zones with establishment of 10 Permanent Monitoring Plots (PMPs) and approved, mapped climate buffer zone boundaries, supported by baseline carbon stock data and annual monitoring reports
e. Establish sustainable harvesting protocols and quotas and an operational permitting system, alongside *T. sumatrana* agroforestry adoption and the creation of trained local forest stewardship groups
f. Technical restoration guidelines/manuals produced and disseminated documenting effective *Taxus sumatrana* restoration methods and lessons learned

V. Project Proposal 5

Project Title	Enhance the Forest Seed Base and Establishment of the Modern Forest Nursery Complex in Kyrgyzstan to Support National Zhasyl Muras Initiative		
Proponent	Kyrgyzstan	Registration No.	PP-2025-KG-001

1. Project Profile

a. Program Priority Area: PPA 1: Forest Land Restoration and Conservation
b. Total budget: USD 1,300,000
(AFoCO: USD 1,200,000 / National: USD 100,000)
c. Project Duration: January 2026 – December 2029 (4 years)
d. Implementing Agency: Forestry Service
Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic

2. Objectives

a. A forest seed base has been established to collect and preserve the best seeds of priority species.
b. A modern nursery complex has been established in Jalal-Abad to produce high-quality seedlings
c. To enhance community participation and livelihoods.
d. To link farmers to the Acorn project, provide seedlings, and enable income generation through CRU (Carbon Removal Unit) payments

3. Expected Outputs and Deliverables

a. Development of Seed Collection and Preservation System, delivered by establishing three seed orchards (achieving high genetic diversity and yield) and training over 50 specialists based on published scientific guidelines
b. Constructed modernized 10-hectare nursery, capable of producing 2–3 million seedlings annually, verified by operational reports on its mechanized, water-efficient systems and successful trial plantings conducted by trained technical staff
c. Seedlings Distributed and Livelihood & Training Programs implemented delivering community trainings to over 200 participants and established at least 20 microenterprises to support women- and youth-led livelihoods
d. Farmers on boarded into Acorn and received additional income from CRU sales- more than 500 farmers (covering 1,000 hectares) into the CRU-linked income stream by training them on carbon market participation and ensuring the distribution and successful planting of more than 1000,000 verified seedlings for agroforestry and carbon benefits

VI. Project Proposal 6

Project Title	Village-driven Agroforestry Practice and Local Livelihood Improvement in Saravan and Champasak Provinces		
Proponent	Lao PDR	Registration No.	PP-2025-LA-001

1. Project Profile

a. Program Priority Area: PPA 2: Community and Circular Bioeconomy

b. Total budget: USD 1,321,197
(AFoCO: USD 1,201,088 / National: USD 120,109)

c. Project Duration: April 2026 – May 2030 (4 years)

d. Implementing Agency: Department of Forestry
Ministry of Agriculture and Environment

2. Objectives

a. Further test and refine DoF's Common Approach to Village forestry Management in preparation for its wider adoption in Lao PDR.
b. Increase farm productivity, family incomes and tree cover through agroforestry
c. Enhance villager skills, community cohesion and support services for village forestry management

3. Expected Outputs and Deliverables

a. Refine the DoF's Common Approach by securing joint community agreements on agroforestry and sustainable practices, leading to the creation of a forestland use map for 15 villages and the documentation of land use rights
b. Increased adoption of DoF's Common Approach to Village forestry Management programs in GoL by providing both technical support to forestry sector working group and to at least five donor agencies
c. Increased and more stable family incomes by designing and deploying sustainable agroforestry practices, establishing irrigated village nurseries to supply seedlings to all households, and supporting the registration of planted trees
d. Increased tree-cover through agroforestry adoption by over more than 30% households, enabling more than 50% to receive carbon credit payments, and securing PES/CSR funding
e. Improved villager skills in agroforestry management ensuring over more than 90% participants engaged in both general agroforestry and specific silviculture techniques
f. Enhanced community cohesion and support services by establishing agroforestry farmer groups in all 15 villages and strengthening local agriculture and forestry sub-committees to provide sustainable extension support

VII. Project Proposal

Project Title	Integrated Watershed Management and Climate-Smart Agroforestry for Sustainable Recovery in Southern Shan State, Myanmar		
Proponent	Myanmar	Registration No.	PP-2025-MM-001

1. Project Profile

a. Program Priority Area: PPA 1: Forest Land Restoration and Conservation
PPA 2: Community and Circular Bioeconomy

b. Total budget: USD 1,550,000
(AFoCO: USD 1,250,000 / National: USD 300,000)

c. Project Duration: April 2026 – December 2030 (4.5 years)

d. Implementing Agency: Forest Department
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

2. Objectives

a. Conduct integrated watershed assessments and planning, embedding agroforestry into IWMPs and DRR frameworks
b. Rehabilitate degraded ecosystems and water infrastructure using nature-based, climate-resilient techniques
c. Implement climate-smart, participatory agroforestry as a core strategy for watershed management, climate adaptation, and green livelihood generation
d. Strengthening community preparedness and adaptive capacity to climate threats and disasters
e. Institutionalize integrated watershed governance and policy integration

3. Expected Outputs and Deliverables

a. Assessment & Community-Led planning by conducting baseline assessments, facilitating participatory planning workshops across more than 15 villages ultimately developing and endorsing Integrated Watershed Management Plans (IWMPs)
b. Landscape & Ecosystem Restoration by achieving reforestation across 500 hectares of degraded land and 10 community forest, stabilizing 20 landslide prone area etc.
c. Climate-Smart Agroforestry Development by conducting community consultations that led to the creation of 30 hectares of agroforestry pilots and the development of two business models for carbon credits and sustainable NTFPs
d. Green Livelihoods Improvement by implementing a community needs assessment, upgrading two nurseries while training 120 individuals, publishing three research papers, and establishing two green economy initiatives through market networking
e. Build DRR & Climate Resilience by forming and training 30 Community DRR Committees, installing 35 early warning stations, conducting 20 emergency drills, and training over 300 individuals in climate-smart practices, agroforestry, and green business models
f. Institutional Strengthening and Policy Integration by training 150 local officials and establishing three watershed committees

VIII. Project Proposal 8

Project Title	Establishment of a nursery with seed storage facilities to increase capacity for mass production of quality planting material to achieve national afforestation targets in Tajikistan.		
Proponent	Tajikistan	Registration No.	PP-2025-TJ-001

1. Project Profile

a. Program Priority Area: PPA 1: Forest Land Restoration and Conservation

b. Total budget: USD 1,320,000
(AFoCO: USD 1,200,000 / National: USD 120,000)

c. Project Duration: January 2026 – December 2028 (3 years)

d. Implementing Agency: Forestry Agency under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

2. Objectives

a. To improved mechanized nursery and an improved seed storage facility
b. Creation and commissioning of a nursery, including experimental plantings and preparation for commissioning of a seed storage facility (seed processing)
c. Conducting national and regional capacity building activities and conducting research on the establishment and implementation of mechanized nursery and forestry activities and conducting research on the establishment and commissioning of seed storage facilities
d. Develop a short-term breeding program that includes seed source development, tree selection, plus tree zone creation, and genetic testing
e. To promote national and regional knowledge exchange and dissemination of project results and innovations

3. Expected Outputs and Deliverables

a. Establishment and operation of a modern, mechanized nursery and seed storage facility in Vahdat including the construction of a greenhouse equipped with automated systems, the installation of a functional climate-controlled seed storage facility, and the approval of all design documents, feasibility studies, and procurement reports
b. Strengthen technical and research capacity in mechanized nursery and seed storage by conducting at least ten training events for over 200 specialists, producing five research publications, and fostering collaboration with at least two research institutes or universities
c. Establishment of a stable genetic base for high-quality planting material, achieved through identifying and documenting 200 plus trees, creating three seed collection zones and plantations, and conducting genetic testing on at least 100 trees
d. Strengthen knowledge sharing and regional cooperation by conducting at least five information events, organizing three regional exchange visits and exhibitions, and disseminating three publications and training materials for broader learning impact

IX. Project Proposal 9

Project Title	Sustainable Acacia Plantation Management for Household Livelihoods, Carbon Enhancement and Circular Bioeconomy Development in Northern Viet Nam		
Proponent	Vietnam	Registration No.	PP-2025-VN-001

1. Project Profile

a. Program Priority Area: PPA 2: Community and Circular Bioeconomy
b. Total budget: USD 1,400,000
(AFoCO: USD 1,200,000 / National: USD 200,000)
c. Project Duration: January 2026 – December 2030 (5 years)
d. Implementing Agency: Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences

2. Objectives

a. Promote the transformation of household-managed short-rotation monoculture *Acacia* plantations into high-quality timber plantations and climate-resilient mixed-species plantations with native trees, thereby improving wood quality and increasing resistance to pests and climate-induced disasters;
b. Develop and pilot circular bioeconomy models utilising *Acacia* plantation and wood processing residues to produce biofertiliser and compost for replanting trees, intercropping non-timber forest product (NTFP) and mushrooms to diversify income sources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
c. Support household- and group-based sustainable forest management (SFM) plans, and enabling access to national forest certification schemes;
d. Strengthening the capacity of households and communities in enhancing forest carbon stocks and forest carbon monitoring (MRV), in alignment with Vietnam's strategies and mechanisms for forest carbon development.

3. Expected Outputs and Deliverables

a. Climate-resilient demonstration plantations of large-diameter Acacia and mixed-species plantations with native species established at selected sites
b. Circular bioeconomy models piloted to convert Acacia residues into value-added products (e.g., compost, mushroom substrates) (application and piloting of circular bioeconomy models)
c. Group-based Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) plans developed and submitted for forest certification
d. Strengthened household and community capacity in forest carbon enhancement and MRV contributes to the effective implementation of Vietnam's forest carbon development mechanisms
e. Ensuring effective management, monitoring, and sustainability of project implementation
f. Communication, knowledge-sharing workshops, policy recommendation development, and replication of models