

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

Agenda Item 4

Information on Engagement of Partner Organizations and Cooperating Agencies

I. Background

1. In line with the AFoCO Strategic Plan (2024–2030) and the Climate Action Plan (2025–2034), the Secretariat has continued to strengthen engagement with international and regional organizations as well as partner countries, in order to advance collaborative initiatives, mobilize resources, and enhance participation in global climate and forestry policy processes.
2. To ensure that all partnerships remain consistent with AFoCO's values, safeguards, and strategic objectives, the Secretariat has also developed a due diligence process to screen and assess potential partners, including those from the private sector.

II. Engagement with Partner Countries and Partner Organizations

3. The AFoCO partner system, established under Decision 41-V-21R-ADD-1, provides a framework for engaging entities beyond its Parties and Observers. It distinguishes between Partner Countries (non-Asian governments seeking collaboration) and Partner Organizations (public or private entities worldwide), both of which are expected to contribute voluntarily to cooperative activities aligned with AFoCO's mandate.
4. The Secretariat manages partner applications, representation, and reporting, while the Assembly is responsible for granting, reviewing, or withdrawing partner status. Regular updates on partner activities are presented at Assembly sessions to ensure oversight, even when no new developments occur.
5. Partners are encouraged to support AFoCO's vision by contributing knowledge, expertise, financial or technical resources, and by proposing activities that align with AFoCO's objectives. They may attend AFoCO meetings by invitation, participate in supported projects, share best practices, and send experts to project activities.
6. The rationale of the partner system is to broaden access to networks, knowledge, and financing, thereby complementing AFoCO's programs and enhancing its credibility as a regional

platform. Following the recent launch of new four (4) Initiatives — Asian Forest Living Lab Initiative, Forest Fire Management in Asia (FFMA) Initiative, AFoCO Mangrove Initiative, and REDD+ Readiness Initiative — under the AFoCO Climate Action Plan (2025-2034) and the establishment of FAAF, an increasing number of partners from private sector and institutions have begun collaboration with AFoCO, contributing both expertise and resources. Although still relatively new, the partner system has already established institutionalized entry points for engagement, and future plans will focus on further leveraging external partnerships to strengthen AFoCO's capacity to implement its mandate effectively and to deliver tangible outcomes across the region.

7. Looking ahead, the Secretariat plans to revisit the categorization of partners to better reflect the diverse nature of AFoCO's engagement, including collaboration through different schemes. The process will involve a review of the existing framework, consultations with Member Countries and stakeholders, which then be submitted for Assembly consideration.

III. Engagement with Cooperating Agencies

8. To advance the implementation of AFoCO's ten (10)-year Climate Action Plan, the Secretariat is strengthening collaboration with the following cooperating agencies, with a focus on project development and co-financing opportunities.

A. Asian Development Bank (ADB)

9. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, is a multilateral development bank dedicated to fostering economic growth and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. ADB provides loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development, with climate change and natural resource management as core priorities under its Strategy 2030.

10. AFoCO, under ADB TA-10240, is implementing a consultancy assignment in Lao PDR to support the Responsible Forestry Preparation Project (RFPP) through a feasibility study for a community-based agroforestry carbon credit model, and by providing market analysis, investment advisory, and capacity building for commercial forest plantation and ecotourism subprojects

11. AFoCO, under ADB TA-6697, is implementing a consultancy assignment to support the development of a sustainable forest management project in the Kyrgyz Republic, focusing on the relic nut and fruit-bearing forests of Arstanbap-Ata in Jalal-Abad oblast in the Kyrgyz Republic through technical assessments, stakeholder consultations, and project concept development.

12. At the Twelfth (12th) Session of the Assembly in May 2025 (Mongolia), and following ADB's proposal, the Secretariat reviewed the draft Letter of Intent (LOI) with ADB. The LOI is expected to be signed by the end of 2025, providing a structured basis for long-term cooperation. This partnership is anticipated to enhance AFoCO's access to blended financing and to facilitate co-financing of large-scale climate-forest initiatives in Member Countries.

B. European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

13. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), established in 1991 and headquartered in London, United Kingdom, is a multilateral development bank that supports the transition to sustainable, open-market economies. EBRD invests in projects that advance private sector development, promote sustainable infrastructure, and foster resilience against climate change across more than 30 economies in Europe, Central Asia, and the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean.

14. EBRD will present its institutional priorities during the Information Session immediately following this Agenda Item. The presentation items are provided in **Annex-1** for reference.

15. AFoCO and EBRD signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 23 April 2025 in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, providing a formal but non-binding basis for cooperation in forest and climate-related initiatives. The MoU expresses the Parties' intent to explore project development in the Kyrgyz Republic, particularly in forestry and agroforestry with farmers, and to identify potential financing sources to support such initiatives.

16. Following the MoU, the two organizations are discussing project development in the Kyrgyz Republic, particularly in the areas of agroforestry-based carbon projects. This partnership is expected to open new avenues for co-financing and to strengthen AFoCO's engagement in Central Asia, complementing ongoing cooperation with other multilateral development banks.

IV. Points for Consideration

17. The Assembly may wish to:
- a. Take note of the information for engagement with ADB and EBRD; and
 - b. Take into account the need to revisit how partnerships are approached in view of the Secretariat's diverse initiatives.

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

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List of Partner Organizations

as of 1 October 2025

No	Partner Organizations
International Organizations and Related Entities	
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
9	International Forestry Students Association (IFSA-Korea)
10	Save the Children Korea
Government/ Public Institution	
11	Chamber of Forest Engineers of Türkiye
12	GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
13	Forest Aviation Headquarters of the Korea Forest Service
14	Korea Agency of Education, Promotion and Information Service in Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (EPIS)
15	Korea Arboreta and Garden Institute (KoAGI)
16	Korea Association of Forest Enviro-Conservation Technology (KAFET)
17	Korea Forest Welfare Institute (FOWI)
18	Korea Forestry Promotion Institute (KOFPI)
19	Korea Foundation for International Healthcare (KOFIH)
20	Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)
21	Korea-Mekong Forest Cooperation Center (KMFCC)
22	Korea National Arboretum
23	Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan
24	National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS)
25	Peace Forest Work
26	Sejong City, Republic of Korea
27	Ojeong Resilience Institute

28	Graduate School of International Agricultural Technology (GSIAT), Seoul National University
Private Sector	
29	EcoServices Consulting (ESC)
30	E-MART Inc.
31	Future Forest Corporation
32	PT Korintiga Hutani (KTH)
33	SKForest
34	Sustainable World Network (SWN)
35	T'way Air
36	Woori Financial Group
37	Yuhan Corporation
38	KT&G - Kazakhstan
39	Khayah International
40	Merry Year Social Company (MYSC)