

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

Agenda Item 6.2

Assessment of the AFoCO Strategic Plan (2024–2030)

I. Background

1. In line with Decision 51-IX-23R, the Secretariat developed a plan of action for the AFoCO Strategic Plan (2024–2030), including Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), key activities, and targets under each Program Priority Area (PPA). The Plan was prepared in consultation with prospective AFoCO Members and external experts. The Assembly further guided the Secretariat to regularly assess the Strategic Plan through a committee composed of Secretariat staff as well as national and international experts.

II. Development of Assessment Methodology of the AFoCO Strategic Plan (2024–2030) and Its Implementation Plan

2. To ensure a comprehensive assessment of the Strategic Plan, the Secretariat has worked on documentation to systematically track progress. This includes the review of KPIs, determination of appropriate frequency, format, and methods of data collection, and identification of responsible entities and stakeholders for monitoring.

3. A draft Assessment Methodology was prepared with the support of external consultants and shared during the Annual Technical Workshop (ATW) in September to receive feedback from Member Countries. A summary of the Assessment Methodology is attached in **Annex-1**. The methodology will continue to be refined and updated based on inputs from implementing entities and experts.

4. For effective implementation, the Assessment Methodology and reporting template will be shared with the Implementing Agencies of projects and other AFoCO activities. Consolidated information from Implementing Agencies and relevant entities will be reviewed by the committee composed of the Secretariat, national, and international experts, which will be established by Q2 in 2026. Based on this review, the Secretariat will produce and present a comprehensive progress report on the implementation of the Strategic Plan during 2024–2025 at the next Regular Session of the Assembly.

III. Points for Consideration

5. The Assembly may wish to:
 - a. Take note of the information; and
 - b. Indicate their support and willingness to cooperate through their respective national and international experts.
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Queries on the content of the document may be addressed to:

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Summary of the Assessment Methodology

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

The Strategic Plan 2024-2030 of the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) is truly forward-thinking and emphasizes key global and regional issues such as climate resilience, sustainability, and the need for inclusive cooperation in the forestry sector. Its vision—to create a Greener Asia with climate-resilient and sustainable forests, landscapes, and communities—demonstrates a commitment to addressing the pressing environmental challenges in the region. The mission, on the other hand, outlines the specific strategies to realize this vision by focusing on action-oriented international cooperation.

Key components of the mission include:

- **Creating enabling policies:** This is crucial to ensuring that countries have the right frameworks to implement forest management strategies that are both effective and sustainable.
- **Building capacities:** This involves enhancing the skills and knowledge of stakeholders across the region, from governments to local communities, to better manage forest resources and combat climate change.
- **Fostering inclusive multi-level partnerships:** By bringing together various stakeholders, including governments, local communities, non-government organizations (NGOs), and the private sector, AFoCO seeks to encourage collaborative efforts for forest management and climate actions.

The alignment with global climate and development objectives such as the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement reinforces the importance of these efforts. AFoCO aims to mitigate climate change impacts on forests, people, and the environment by focusing on proven technologies and policies that promote sustainable forest management. The plan's action-based approach emphasizes tangible, region-specific solutions to the challenges posed by climate change.

By 2030, AFoCO aims to significantly contribute to regional forest cooperation efforts, which are vital in adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change, especially in countries that rely heavily on forests for livelihoods and ecosystem services.

1.2 Purpose

Monitoring and Assessment of AFoCO's Strategic Plan 2024-2030 serves the following key purposes:

First, is to track progress and performance. By regularly monitoring and collecting data, AFoCO can evaluate the performance of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) associated with each Program Priority Area (PPA) and Cross-Cutting Themes (CCTs) based on the activities it implements, and the projects it funds.

Second, is to assess effectiveness and impact. AFoCO seeks to understand how through its strategies reduced the vulnerability of forests and communities to climate change and how successful their capacity-building programs have been in empowering its target stakeholders.

Third, is to improve decision-making. Monitoring provides evidence-based insights that can guide decision-making and adjustments in the KPIs and targets under the AFoCO Strategic Plan 2024-2030. By tracking progress and evaluating outcomes, AFoCO can identify what works, what doesn't, and why.

Fourth, is to ensure accountability. By monitoring, AFoCO ensures transparency and accountability in how projects, partnerships, and related efforts are contributing to the goals of creating sustainable and climate-resilient forests in Asia as defined in the Strategic Plan 2024-2030.

Fifth, is to enhance learning and adaptation. By monitoring the KPIs and assessing the impacts, AFoCO seeks to learn and adapt its strategies as necessary.

Sixth, is to support reporting and communication. Monitoring provides the data and evidence needed to report progress to stakeholders, including AFoCO Member Countries, donors, partners, and the general public. Data gathered through monitoring the KPIs would be essential for reporting progress on two key fronts: first, the implementation of its Strategic Plan 2024-2030, and second, the achievement of regional and global climate goals, such as those outlined in the Paris Agreement and the SDGs

In summary, monitoring and assessment plays a crucial role in ensuring that AFoCO's Strategic Plan 2024-2030 is effective, efficient, and impactful, leading to continuous improvement in achieving long-term climate resilience and sustainability goals.

2. Monitoring and Assessment Framework

2.1 Key Performance Indicators

PPAs & CCTs	KPIs	Targets
1A. Reforestation and Rehabilitation	1. Increased forest area as a proportion of total land area (SDG 15.1.1) 2. Increased forest area net change rate (%) (SDG 15.2.1.2) 3. Increased aboveground biomass in forests per hectare (SDG 15.2.1.1) (Optional)	100,000 ha, including 10,000 ha of reforestation/ rehabilitation (about 1.1 MtCO ₂ e/year), contributing to a potential 1 million-ha of forest lands under reforestation and rehabilitation across all Member Countries, halting deforestation
1B. Conservation of natural forests	4. Increased proportion of important sites for terrestrial biodiversity that are covered by protected areas by ecosystem type, such as forests, wetlands, drylands, mountains (SDG 15.1.2) 5. Increased proportion of forest areas with long-term management plans (%) and increased proportion of forest	100,000 ha, including 10,000 hectares of reforestation/ rehabilitation (about 1.1 MtCO ₂ e), contributing to a potential 1

	areas within legally established protected areas (%) (SDG 15.2.1.4 and 5) 6. Increased Red List Index (SDG 15.5.1) (Optional) 7. Number of Member Countries that established national targets in their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan in accordance with the Kunming–Montreal Biodiversity Framework (SDG 15.9.1) (Optional)	million ha of conserved natural forests across all Member Countries, halting deforestation
2A. Green villages and enterprises	8. No. of communities/people who participate in community-based forest enterprises and green villages 9. Increased income/average hourly earnings of employees/local communities (SDG 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 8.5.1) (Optional) 10. Decreased unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities (SDG 8.5.2) (Optional)	At least 10,000 participants involved in establishing representative green villages (one per country) and 100 green enterprises across all Member Countries towards the achievement off circular bioeconomy in the forestry sector
2B. Rewards for Forest Ecosystem Services' schemes	11. No. of communities/people who participate in PFES / reward schemes 12. Carbon credits generated (For carbon project, optional) 13. Increased income /average hourly earnings of employees / local communities (SDG 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 8.5.1) (Optional) 14. Decreased unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities (SDG 8.5.2) (Optional) 15. Improved forest economic, environmental, and social values (Optional)	At least 50,000 participants involved in establishing representative models for PFES (at least one per country)
3A. Disaster control	16. No. of Member Countries that established or improved early warning systems and prediction models for forest fires and pests and diseases 17. Reduced number of deaths and missing persons attributed to forest disasters per 100,000 population (SDG 13.1.1) (Optional) 18. Increased proportion of local / central governments that have an implementation structure for disaster risk reduction (SDG 13.1.3) (Optional)	XX Member Countries with improved early warning systems and prediction models for forest fires and pests and diseases per country to develop an intelligent forest disaster control strategy

3B. Disaster response	19.No. of countries that developed forest disaster response strategies for forest fires and pests/diseases at sub-national and or national levels	A comprehensive publication on the assessment of current status of forest disasters related to forest fires and pests / diseases in Member Countries
CCT 1. Policies	20. No. of Member Countries that adopt improved policy instruments	
CCT 2. Capacity development	21. No. of Member Countries trained staff contributing to the achievement of forest-related goals	
CCT 3. Knowledge management and learning exchange	22. No. of Member Countries' Developing integrated systems 23. No. of Member Countries contributing to learning platforms	
CCT 4. Technology transfer and application	24. No. of Member Countries that have developed, adapted/adopted, and shared technologies.	

3. Monitoring and Assessment Roadmap (2024-2030)

The monitoring and assessment process for AFoCO's Strategic Plan will span from 2024 to 2030 with the following key components:

- 1) **Annual Progress Monitoring** will be conducted each year, focusing on tracking the KPIs across the PPAs and CCTs, and providing annual reports and dashboards to visualize the progress toward the strategic goals.
- 2) **Mid-Term Review** will be undertaken in 2027, to systematically evaluate the effectiveness and outcomes of the Strategic Plan 2024-2030, identify areas requiring enhancement, and propose refinements to the adopted strategies as deemed necessary.
- 3) **Final Review** will be held by the early part of 2031 to assess the overall results of AFoCO's initiatives, measure their alignment with regional and global climate goals, and evaluate the sustainability of the results achieved over the decade.
- 4) **Impact Assessment** will be conducted post-2030 to evaluate the effects of AFoCO initiatives on forest management, the mitigation of climate change impacts, and their influence on individual and institutional stakeholders

2024–2030: Annual Progress Monitoring

Frequency: Annual (Every Year)

Key Activities:

- Track progress on KPIs across PPAs and CCTs

- Report on progress toward meeting the Strategic Plan objectives

Output: Annual progress reports and data collection summaries

2027: Mid-Term Review

Frequency: Once, in 2027

Key Activities:

- Comprehensive assessment of the Strategic Plan's mid-term progress.

- Evaluate the effectiveness of the Strategic Plan through the established KPIs.

- Identify gaps and opportunities for improvements or adjustments

Output: Mid-term review report, with recommendations for strategy refinement and future actions

Post 2030: Final Review and Evaluation

Frequency: Once, post 2030

Key Activities:

- Evaluate the long-term impact and overall achievement of the Strategic Plan

- Measure the sustainability of AFoCO's initiatives and alignment with global climate goals

Output: Final evaluation report, summarizing achievements, lessons learned, and recommendations for future action

Post 2030: Impact Assessment

Frequency: Once, post 2030

Key Activities:

- Gather relevant data from annual monitoring reports, and project sites, stakeholders and other reports

- Use surveys, interviews, focus groups and field observations

- Analyze how through the Strategic Plan, AFoCO has influenced forest health, climate adaptation and mitigation efforts, livelihoods, policies, capacity, etc.

- Assess the socio-economic, environmental, institutional and policy impacts on local communities and institutions.

- Identify lessons learned and provide actionable recommendations

Output: Final impact assessment report, summarizing achievements, lessons learned, and recommendations for future action