

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

Agenda Item 8.1

Development and Approval of Projects — Regular Projects

I. Background

1. In its continued efforts to strengthen regional cooperation in advancing global initiatives and commitments to sustainable forest management, AFoCO initiated the development of new Regular Projects in 2025 across four (4) priority areas identified in the second (2nd) long-term AFoCO Strategic Plan (2024–2030) (Decision 51-IX-23R). These areas are closely aligned with international processes, regional priorities, and the national imperatives of the Member Countries.
2. In pursuit of a program-based approach to cooperative activities, AFoCO is adopting a phased approach to enhance the effectiveness of project development, structured around AFoCO's three (3) Program Priority Areas (PPAs) and cross-cutting themes (CCTs) under the second (2nd) Strategic Plan. Accordingly, AFoCO issued the first Call for Project Concept Notes (PCNs) to all Member Countries, with a primary focus on PPA 1: Forest Landscape Restoration and Conservation and PPA 2: Community and Circular Bioeconomy, prioritizing long-term sustainability and high-impact project interventions as outlined in the Strategic Plan.

II. Status of Project Development

A. Development of Project Concept Notes (PCNs)

3. In response to the 2025 Call for PCNs, a total of twenty-three (23) PCNs from nine (9) Member Countries, namely Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Tajikistan, and Viet Nam, were received by the submission deadline for the Assembly's consideration this year. An additional PCN was submitted from the Philippines and will be considered under the second (2nd) Call in 2026.
4. During PCN preparation, the Secretariat engaged a designated team of external experts to provide technical consultations, supporting Member Countries in formulating project concepts aligned with the AFoCO Strategic Plan. This support covered the project formulation and review process and, where appropriate, included on-site feasibility assessments.
5. In accordance with the Project Manual, the Secretariat, in consultation with external consulting team, reviewed the submitted PCNs for completeness, clarity, and appropriateness of the required information, including budget estimates. As a result, a total of nine (9) PCNs were selected to advance to full project proposal development.

B. Development of Full Project Proposal

6. The Secretariat received the full project proposals developed from all nine (9) PCNs selected. The Project Appraisal Panels (PAPs) were constituted for each proposal to review and grade it in accordance with the grading system specified in the Project Manual. Each PAP is composed of three (3) experts appointed by the Executive Director of the Secretariat.

7. Following the first (1st) round of project appraisal by PAPs, three (3) proposals received a grade of “A” and six (6) received a grade of “B”. All of them were deemed eligible for the Assembly’s approval, subject to minor revisions. Each proposal was revised to incorporate the comments and recommendations from the initial appraisal and was subsequently subject to a final review by the same PAP members.

8. As a result of the final review, all nine (9) proposals received a final grade of “A”, qualifying them for submission to the Assembly for its consideration and approval. The project profile subject to consideration and approval by the Assembly are summarized in the following table, and summaries of each project proposal are provided in the **Annex-1**.

Proponent (Registration No.)	Project Title	Project Duration (year)	Budget (USD)	
			AFoCO	National
Bhutan (PP-2025-BT-001)	Restoring Fire-Damaged Ecosystems and Enhancing Wildland-Urban Interface Resilience	4	1,195,569	475,000
Brunei Darussalam (PP-2025-BN-001)	Development of Forestry In-Situ and Ex-Situ Areas for Effective Biodiversity Conservation	4.5	1,200,000	
Cambodia (PP-2025-KH-001)	Building Resilient Communities through Sustainable Forest Management and Agroforestry	4	1,198,902	100,008
Indonesia (PP-2025-ID-001)	Restoring <i>Taxus sumatrana</i> to Support Carbon Sink Conservation Areas in Kerinci Seblat National Park, Indonesia	4.5	1,200,000	100,000
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
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
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
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
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

9. Upon the approval of projects by the Assembly, the Secretariat will further consult with the respective proponents to incorporate any additional comments or recommendations from the final review, and to further develop the required project documents, including a multi-year Project Implementation Plan (PIP) Matrix and an enhanced Logical Framework, to strengthen operational practicality and increase the likelihood of successful delivery of the proposed activities.

III. Points for Consideration

10. The Assembly may wish to:

- a. Approve the updated final list of project proposals; and
- b. Task the Secretariat to facilitate the necessary follow-up actions for project inception in due course, including funds mobilization.

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

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