

Thirteenth Session of the Assembly
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Agenda Item 11.4

AFoCO Mangrove Initiative

I. Background

1. In accordance with the AFoCO Climate Action Plan (2025–2034) adopted at the Ninth (9th) Session of the Assembly (Decision 52-IX-23R), the AFoCO Mangrove Initiative was proposed. Building on AFoCO's extensive portfolio of project implementation across its Member Countries, the AFoCO Mangrove Initiative will be launched in 2026 to consolidate best practices, showcase success stories, and strengthen cooperation on mangrove restoration.

II. Progress Update

2. The Secretariat has developed an initial concept of the AFoCO Mangrove Initiative as below and the full document is provided in **Annex 1**:

- **Policy Engagement:** Encouraging countries to align national policies with sustainable mangrove management;
- **Community Participation:** Engaging local communities in conservation and livelihood programs;
- **Private Sector Investment:** Mobilizing resources to support mangrove-related initiatives;
- **Scientific Research:** Establishing a regional Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) system integrating GIS-based tracking;
- **International Partnerships:** Securing global development partners to co-finance projects.

3. To develop a comprehensive Concept Note and a road map, the Secretariat will work closely with Member Countries and relevant experts, and provide updates at the Regular Session of the Assembly in 2026. To operate the Initiative in a structured manner, a dedicated Working Group comprising Member Country representatives, technical experts, and the Secretariat staff will be established to guide its planning and implementation. The Initiative will be implemented in phases, beginning with Phase I (2026), which will focus on refining the Concept Note, agreeing on priority activities, developing an operational work plan, and organizing in-person and/or online seminars. Phase II (2027 onward) will launch pilot activities at both country and regional levels, emphasizing policy alignment, community-based projects, and initial MRV testing. Knowledge-sharing will be facilitated through annual webinars, regional seminars, technical publications, and participation in global conventions such as the UNFCCC. Concurrently, the Secretariat will actively mobilize resources from the private sector and development partners, while establishing a robust monitoring,

evaluation, and reporting mechanism aligned with AFoCO's results framework to ensure accountability and track progress.

III. Plan for 2026

4. In 2026, the Secretariat will finalize the refined Concept Note, work plan, and establish a Working Group. The refined Concept Note will also incorporate an overview of the current status of mangroves in Member Countries to establish a common baseline for regional action. Activities will include convening webinars and in-person seminars/workshops to facilitate knowledge-sharing and highlight success stories from Member Countries. In addition, the Secretariat will work with the established Working Group to coordinate pilot activities, engage relevant stakeholders, and prepare progress reports for consideration at the subsequent Regular Sessions of the Assembly.

5. The Secretariat will also enhance the visibility of the Mangrove Initiative by showcasing its achievements at key international platforms, including UNFCCC COP31. These opportunities will be leveraged to highlight tangible results, attract new partners and resources, and reinforce the Mangrove Initiative as a flagship undertaking under AFoCO's regional cooperation framework.

IV. Points for Consideration

6. The Assembly will take note of the information and provide guidance and recommendations, as appropriate.

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

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