

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

Agenda Item 11.5

REDD+ Readiness Initiative

I. Background

1. Pursuant to the endorsement at the Eleventh (11th) Session of the Assembly (30–31 October 2024, Seoul, Republic of Korea), AFoCO launched the REDD+ Readiness Initiative as part of the Climate Action Plan (2025–2034). The Initiative was designed to strengthen Member Countries' capacity to implement REDD+ in line with the UNFCCC Warsaw Framework for REDD+ (WFR), while contributing to their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and enhancing readiness for future carbon market engagement.
2. REDD+ Readiness is particularly relevant for AFoCO Member Countries, many of which are at different stages of REDD+ preparation, with diverse national priorities and capacities. The Initiative aims to provide a structured, regionally coordinated platform through which Member Countries can share experiences, access technical support, and prepare bankable projects aligned with international standards – including UNFCCC WFR result-based payments (RBP) pathways and Paris Agreement Article 6 market engagement – to move from readiness to financeable implementation.
3. The following section provides an update on the REDD+ Readiness Initiative, which has progressed from initial stocktaking to more targeted technical activities.

II. Progress Update

4. Since its introduction, the Initiative has undertaken preparatory activities, including an initial stocktaking of REDD+ and climate policy implementation across Member Countries, technical analyses, and the exploration of potential partnerships. This stocktaking confirmed that most Member Countries are engaged in the UNFCCC WFR; have integrated the LULUCF sector into their NDCs; and are considering international cooperation.
5. Building on this foundation, the Secretariat has undertaken two (2) new activities to advance the Initiative:
 - Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) analysis focusing on the LULUCF sector, with the objective of preparing tailored cooperation with three (3) Countries (**Annex-1**, **Annex-2**, and **Annex-3**); and

- Participation in a project commissioned by the National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS) to support the preparation of a draft of REDD+ Operational Standard under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement for bilateral cooperation between the Republic of Korea and the Lao PDR (**Annex-4**).

6. These efforts have allowed the Secretariat to consolidate a technical foundation, test cooperation modalities with Member Countries, and identify priority areas where readiness support can be scaled up in the coming years.

III. Plan for 2026

7. Building on this foundation, the Secretariat will further operationalize the Initiative through the following activities in 2026:

- Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) analysis focusing on the LULUCF sector, with the objective of preparing tailored cooperation with AFoCO Member Countries.
- Knowledge sharing on REDD+ operational standards under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement, in collaboration with the Republic of Korea and the Lao PDR
- Outreach activities to promote the Initiative through AFoCO-hosted events
- Consultations with potential donors and partners to align the Initiative plan with financing opportunities and ensure long-term sustainability.

8. For reference, the draft REDD+ Readiness Initiative Concept is attached as **Annex-5**.

IV. Points for Consideration

9. The Assembly may wish to take note of the information and provide further guidance and recommendations, as appropriate:

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

*Sungho Choi, Project Team 2, Project & Program Division
(Phone: +82 2 785 8994; Email: quercus1@afocosec.org)*