

Participation in the NIFoS Project on Article 6.2 REDD+ Operational Standards

1. Background

Pursuant to the endorsement at the Eleventh (11th) Session of the Assembly, AFoCO launched the REDD+ Readiness Initiative to strengthen Member Countries' engagement in REDD+ and international market mechanisms. In line with this, the Secretariat was selected by the National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS) of the Republic of Korea to participate in a research project aimed at developing country-specific REDD+ operational standards under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement.

This project builds on the bilateral cooperation between the Republic of Korea and Lao PDR, initiated in 2023, which focuses on REDD+ activities in Phongsaly Province. The cooperation aims to generate Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs) that contribute to both countries' NDCs.

2. AFoCO's Role

- Review and Analysis: Updating REDD+ guidelines and assessing national contexts in Lao PDR
- Drafting Operational Standards: Supporting the design of country-tailored REDD+ procedures, including MRV, benefit-sharing, and safeguards
- Consultations: Engaging with the Department of Forestry of Lao PDR and facilitating technical consultations
- Dissemination: Sharing lessons learned and preparing knowledge products for wider use across AFoCO Member Countries

3. Timeline and Deliverables (June–December 2025)

- (June) Inception meeting with NIFoS and workplan finalization
- (July) Submission of 1st Interim Report and initial consultations
- (Aug–Sept) Drafting/revision of country-specific REDD+ operational standards
- (Oct) Stakeholder workshops and technical meetings
- (Nov) Finalization of operational standards
- (Dec) Submission of the Final Report and dissemination of results

4. Expected Outcomes

- Development of draft Article 6.2 REDD+ operational standards tailored to Lao PDR
- Strengthening technical and institutional capacity of AFoCO in supporting Article 6 cooperation
- Practical knowledge and models that can be adapted for other AFoCO Member Countries in the future