

AFoCO REDD+ Readiness Initiative

1. Introduction

AFoCO has advanced forest cooperation in Asia by focusing on sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation, reforestation, and ecosystem services. It supports climate change mitigation through REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries) initiatives, addresses deforestation, forest degradation, and desertification, and mitigates forest-related disasters. AFoCO also strengthens stakeholder capacity through research, technology transfer, education, and partnerships with international forest initiatives.

AFoCO member countries are considering incorporating the LULUCF sector, including forests, either directly or indirectly, into their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Ten (10) member countries are implementing national REDD+ programs in line with the UNFCCC Warsaw Framework. However, most countries remain in the readiness phase, working to establish and operationalize the four key elements of the Warsaw Framework.

2. Objective of the Initiative

The objective of this initiative is to support AFoCO member countries in establishing the four key elements of the UNFCCC Warsaw Framework for REDD+ (National REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan, National Forest Monitoring System, Forest Reference / Forest Reference Emission Level, and Safeguard Information System). This will be achieved by fostering partnerships between AFoCO member countries and partners to mobilize resources and collaboration for technology development and transfer, capacity building, and by focusing on research, technical assistance, and policy advice.

3. Activities of the Initiative

The initiative will provide overall support for the REDD+ readiness of AFoCO member countries, and while not limited to, the specific activities include the following:

- Identification of AFoCO members and partners interested in participating in the initiative, followed by confirming cooperation needs and willingness to support among entities to establish partnerships.
- Development and implementation of detailed collaborative activities to complete the REDD+ Readiness of the REDD+ countries.

- Development and implementation of sub-national (provincial or regional) REDD+ Readiness to ensure consistent implementation of national REDD+ between central and local governments.
- Support for the submission of national REDD+ documents to the UNFCCC and registration on the REDD+ Web Platform.

4. Expected Outcomes

This initiative will enhance global climate efforts by increasing forest carbon sequestration and promoting sustainable development.

The initiative will support AFoCO members in achieving REDD+ readiness, advancing towards Result Based Payments (RBPs) and/or International Transferred Mitigation Outcome (ITMO) cooperation under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, and contributing to NDC targets through the forest sector.

5. Implementation and Monitoring

The initiative will be implemented in three phases, with monitoring and evaluation carried out at each stage based on specific performance indicators.

Phase 1 will involve identifying the collaboration needs of AFoCO member countries and potential partners, assessing readiness gaps, and establishing partnerships.

Phase 2 will focus on developing a tailored REDD+ Readiness collaboration program, including detailed activities to support member countries in achieving REDD+ readiness. Finally, in

Phase 3, the program will be implemented, with progress monitored and achievements reported to the international community, including the UNFCCC.

The specific details of each phase and the corresponding monitoring plans will be determined through future consultations with stakeholders.

6. Conclusion and Call to Action

The AFoCO REDD+ Readiness Initiative is poised to play a vital role in advancing the REDD+ preparedness of its member countries, supporting global efforts to combat climate change while promoting sustainable forest management.

By fostering partnerships, mobilizing resources, and providing targeted technical and policy support, this initiative will facilitate the completion of the REDD+ readiness phase and pave the way for the realization of Results-Based Payments (RBPs) and cooperation under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Through a phased approach and continuous collaboration with stakeholders, AFoCO member countries will be empowered to

contribute more effectively to their NDC targets and global climate goals, ensuring a resilient and sustainable future for forests and the communities that depend on them.

We call upon governments and relevant institutions to actively participate and support this initiative.

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