



OLDIES BUT GOODIES: OUR VISION TO BUILD UP NEW GENERATION THROUGH AFoCO RETC

**A PAPER PRESENTED DURING THE XV WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS SIDE EVENT
“Forestry Education in the New Normal: Challenges, Opportunities, and Solutions”**

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Capacity Development Division, AFoCO Secretariat
5 May 2022



I. Introduction to AFoCO

- ❑ AFoCO is a **treaty-based inter-governmental organization** that was adopted in 2015 and formalized in 2018.
- ❑ AFoCO established **Regional Education and Training Center** (RETC) in 2018 as a subsidiary organ of the Secretariat. It is located in Hmawbi, Yangon Region, Myanmar.
- ❑ AFoCO obtained **Observer Status** in the **UN General Assembly** granted in 2020, and became an **ODA-Eligible International Organization** accredited by the **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** in 2021.



Geographic Coverage



Parties (13)

Bhutan
Brunei Darussalam
Cambodia
Indonesia
Kazakhstan
Lao PDR
Mongolia
Myanmar
Philippines
Republic of Korea
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Viet Nam

Observers (3)

Kyrgyzstan
Malaysia
Singapore

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→ NEW THINKING UPON LEGACY



Landmark Program

Designed for capacity building for forests and ASEAN Member States

- Regional Education and Training Center
- Training programs
- Scholarship program
- Restoration projects for mangroves, village forest, timber genetic resource management

End up soon by 2023

Lessons learned
from the past
decade

Enhancement of research sector for
serving good governance of the
member countries

Continuous voice from our member
countries to support the research in a
longer-term perspective

Research and Development is a critical
element for AFoCO's Capacity Building
Roadmap for 2030 and beyond

AFOCO Regional Education and Training Center (RETC)

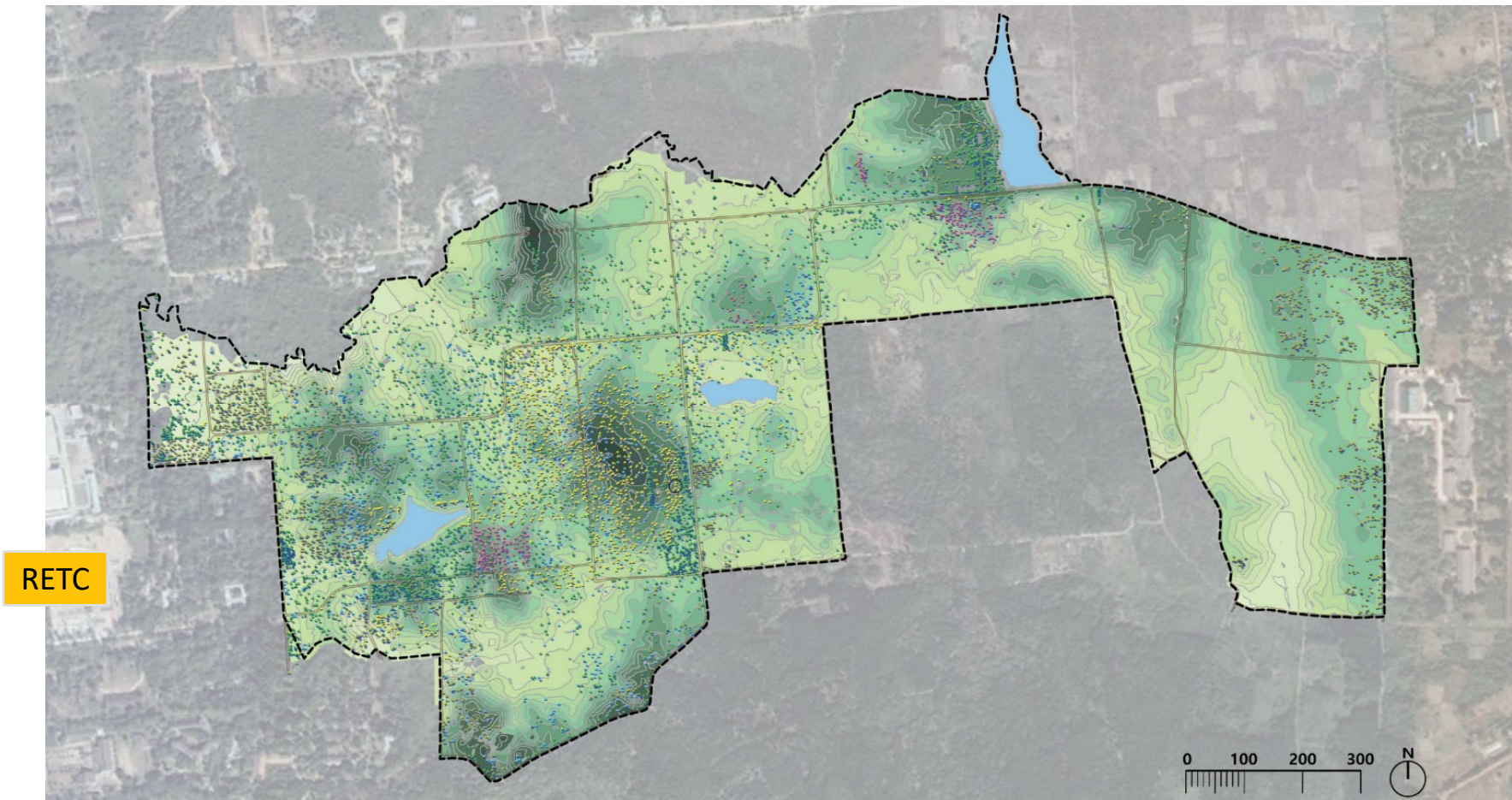
Location: **Hmawbi Township, Yangon, Myanmar**

- **Construction completed** (Jan. 2018)
- **First training course** (28 May to 1 June 2018)
- **Opening ceremony** (14 Jul. 2018)

<http://afocosec.org/afocoretc-mission/>



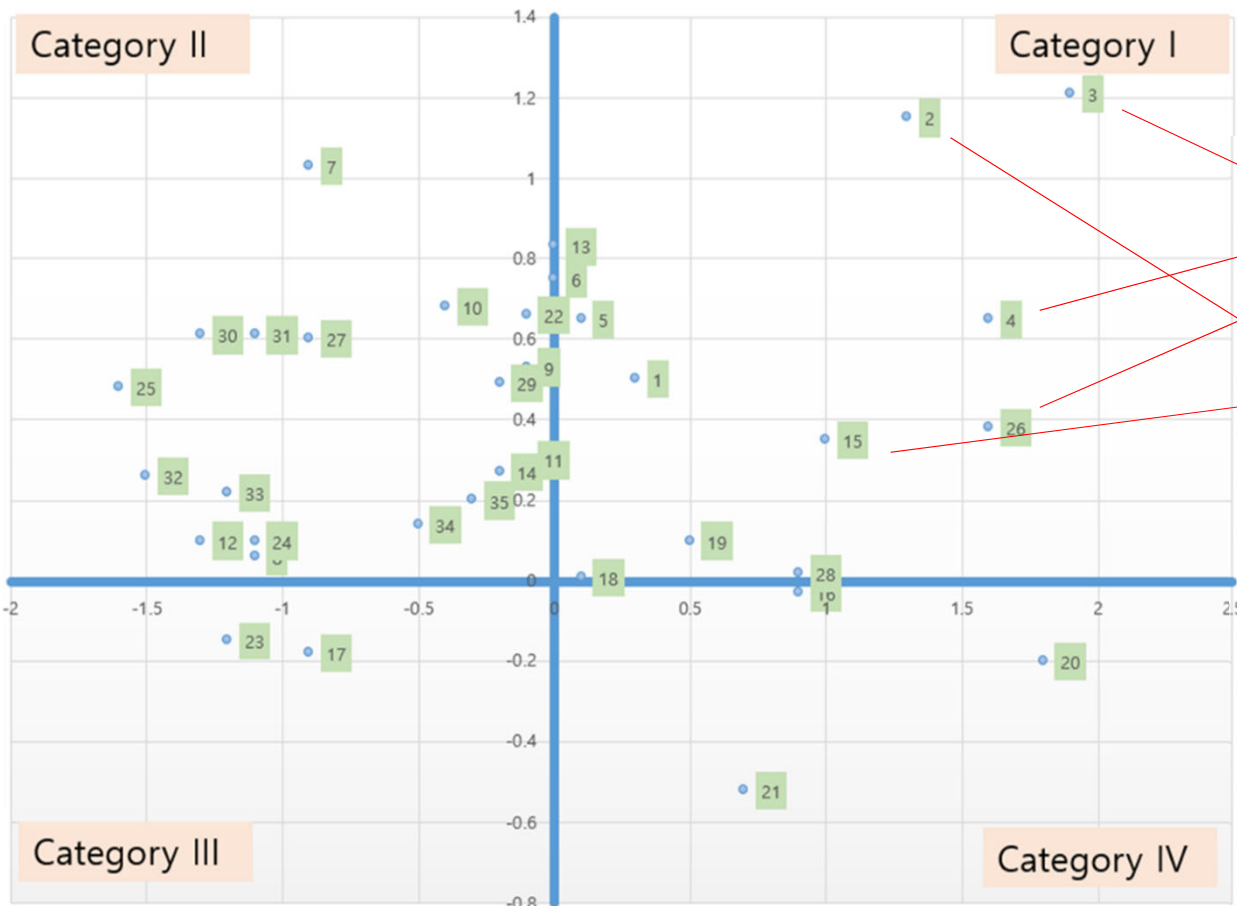
Establishment of RETC Experimental Forest (119 ha)



Move forward...

Field & technical level

Core subjects selected by High and Field-level Governmental Officials of AFoCO Member Countries




3	Climate Change Adaptation
4	Forest Disaster Protection/ Management
26	Carbon Stock Measurement
2	Forest Restoration and Rehabilitation
15	Watershed Management
28	Landscape Management and Geoinformatics
1	Forest Policy
19	Integrated Water Resource Management
5	Livelihoods Improvement
18	Soil Conservation
6	Forest Technologies (Using GIS)
13	Biodiversity Conservation
11	Forest Management
22	Wetland Management

Source: Draft AFoCO Capacity Building Roadmap 2030 ©AFoCO

• BEST PRACTICES AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

AFoCO programme evaluation



A review of 7 AFoCO projects to improve sustainable forest management in Southeast Asia

Lessons learned and best practices

Review team:
 Jürgen Blaser, Ian Thompson, and Mélanie Feurer
 Bern University of Applied Sciences
 October 26, 2021

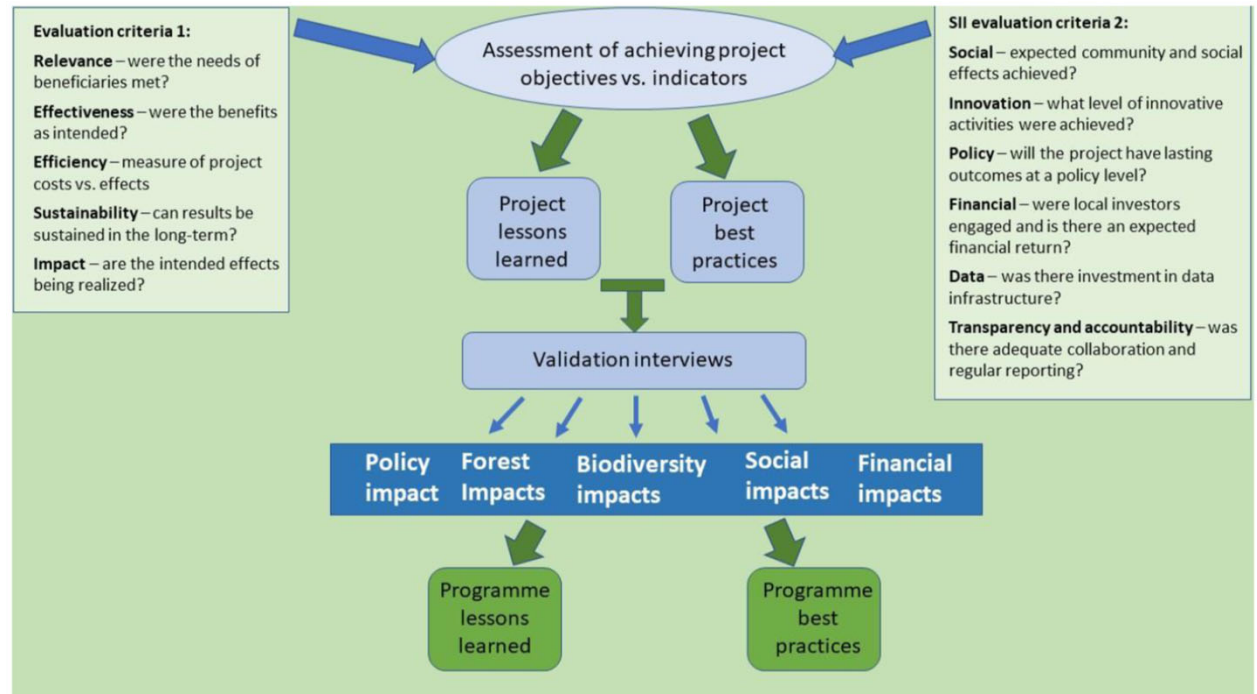
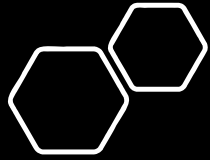


Figure 1. Evaluation criteria and process for projects and the overall programme



*Reflections from the XV WFC
Pre-Congress on 1 May 2022:*
**Asia Forest Forum:
Research, Capacity
Development, and Good
Governance**

- New paradigm at the moment to establish a research network platform
- Need cooperation with Actions-oriented, Science-based, inclusive, innovative
- Setting priority among the various needs from countries
- Narrow down the knowledge gaps in the region
- Communication more and better



LANDMARK 2.0

Expanded target and scope

RETC's role needs to be expanded to form a forest research network with various players

- universities, research institutes, expert groups, the private sector, and NGOs

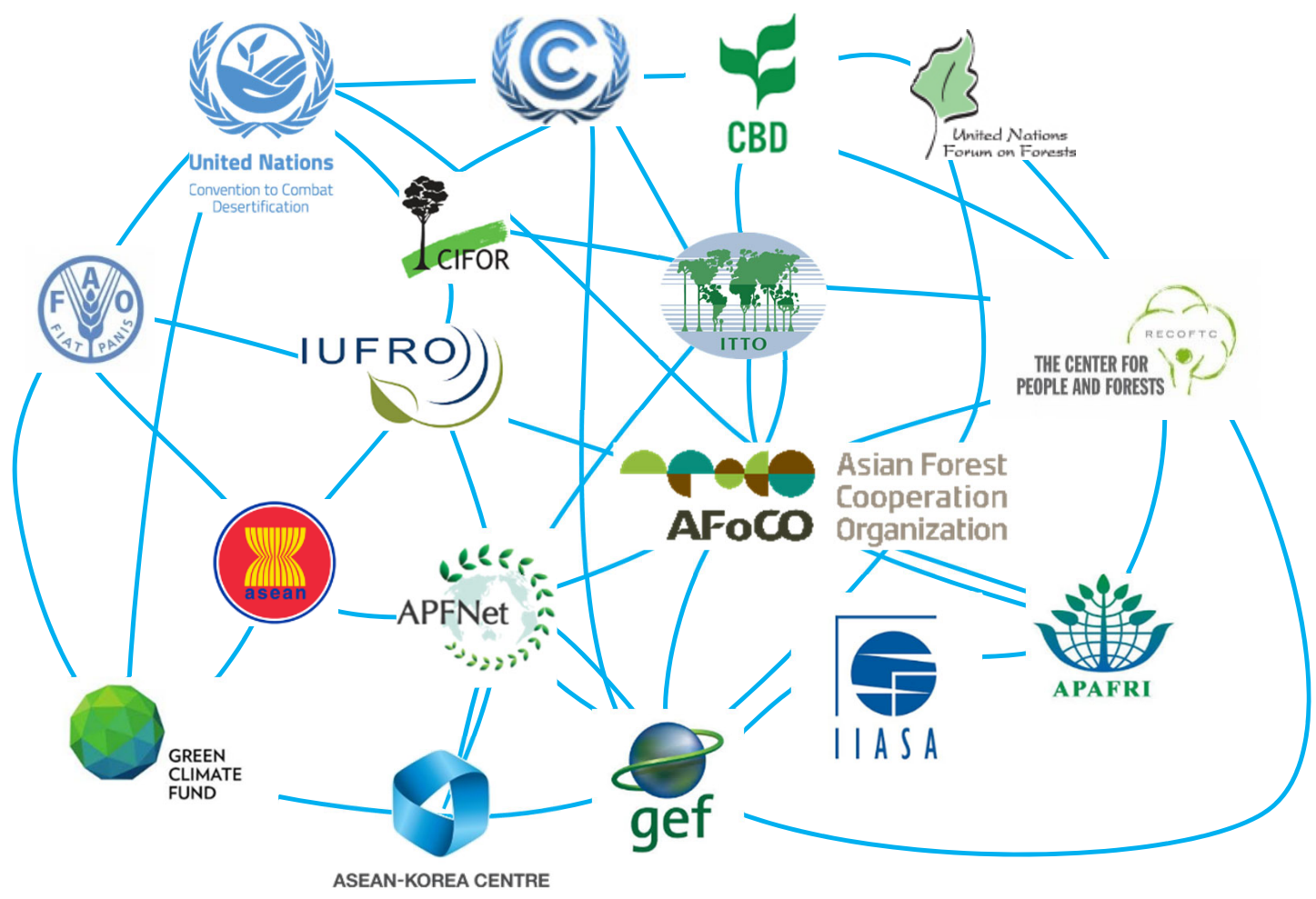
Networking of R&D Centers

Linking dots of research institutes among the member countries as well as with global partners

Joint efforts will be further required including an initiative for the R&D center network in the long-term perspective beyond 2030



We cannot...





AFoCO's New Policy

Partner Country and Partner Organization

Contribute to building R&D

Not only the science and technology in the forest sector,

But also widening opportunities in small enterprise development in the member countries



FOR A GREENER ASIA!

<http://afocosec.org>

