ASEAN – ROK FOREST COOPERATION

Driving towards a greener Asia

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Outline

• ASEAN Forestry Issues and Challenges
• ASEAN – ROK Forest Cooperation
• Cooperation Opportunities towards a Greener Asia
ASEAN Forestry Issues and Challenges

ASEAN Challenges in the context of Green Economy

- Most countries are still regarded as emerging economies with either high or medium use of carbon intensity. Low carbon economy is not a priority in most ASEAN Member States.

- ASEAN needs to identify ways to pursue economic growth while reducing carbon emission, improving resources efficiency and tackling poverty.

- In response, ASEAN countries have made efforts to address green economy in their domestic economic policies.

* Source: Trade Knowledge Network, June 2012
ASEAN Forestry Issues

- Deforestation in ASEAN region is about 0.49%. ASEAN lost its forest cover about 5.4 million ha between 2005 and 2010, about the size of Brunei Darussalam (5.8 million ha).

Issues —

1. Deforestation through illegal logging and forest conversion to other non-forest landuse
2. Illegal wood and wildlife trade through land and sea
3. Transboundary haze from forest and peatland fire
4. Market demand and pressure on legality of forest products (particularly from EU, US and Australian markets)

Main Areas and Causes of Forest Change in Southeast Asia
Deforestation in ASEAN

(ASEAN Forest Cover in 2010: 213 million ha)

Main Drivers of Deforestation in ASEAN


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Forest area (1,000 ha)</th>
<th>Deforestation (% annual change)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>222,191</td>
<td>2.1 million ha (-0.98)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>218,698</td>
<td>0.67 million ha (-0.31)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>213,322</td>
<td>1.04 million ha (-0.49)</td>
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Drivers of Deforestation

- Population growth
- Rising incomes
- Changing diets
- Policy incentives
- Land tenure and Governance

Growing demand for agricultural products and timber

Extra incentives to deforest

Deforestation occurs when it is cheaper to meet demand by supplying products from converted forest land than from other land
Agreement on ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation (AFoCo) was signed in November 2011 and entered into force on 5 August 2012. It was extended until 5 August 2016.

Parties – 10 ASEAN countries + ROK

Objectives –
1. Facilitate forest cooperation, undertake projects translating sound forest policies and proven technologies into action
2. Provide a platform for dialogue between the ASEAN Member States and the Republic of Korea towards the establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization “AFoCO”
AFoCo Institutional arrangement

Governing Council (11 members from ROK + ASEAN)

AFoCo Secretariat (headed by the Executive Director)
(1) Planning, Budget and HR Management
(2) International Cooperation

Individual Cooperation Projects
Regional Cooperation Projects
AFoCo Landmark Program
Dialogue for AFoCo

AFoCo Individual Cooperation Projects

From 2011 to date, 16 individual cooperation projects have been implemented by 9 ASEAN Member States identified under these 5 key areas.

Forest Restoration
Climate Change Mitigation
Biodiversity Conservation
NTFPs & Community Forestry
Capacity Building
Two AFoCo Regional Projects

1. **Reclamation, rehabilitation and restoration in Mekong Basin Countries** (May 2013 – May 2015)
   - Pwe Hla Lake Watershed Area
   - Mekong region: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam

2. **Capacity Building on Improving Forest Resources Assessment and Enhancing the Involvement of the Local Communities to Address the Adverse Impact of Climate Change** (Nov 2013 – Feb 2016)
   - 8 ASEAN Countries

Activities under AFoCo Mekong project
Activities under Capacity Building on FRA project

1. Establishment of AFoCo Regional Education and Training Center <Myanmar>
2. Development Education and Training Program for Capacity Building <ASEAN>
3. Restoration of Degraded Forest Regions <Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam>
4. Development of Advocating Activities <ASEAN>

AFOCo Landmark Program

Restoring degraded forests in Southeast Asia through Capacity building on forest restoration and sustainable forestry
Artistic Impression of AFoCo Regional Education and Training Center
(Hmawbi, Myanmar)

AFoCo Landmark Program
2. Development Education and Training Program for Capacity Building

Training courses completed
1. Forest Policy and Saemaul Undong, 16-21 March 2015, Gyeongsan, ROK
3. Climate Change and REDD+ for Training of Trainers, 25-30 May 2015, Bogor, Indonesia
4. Seedling Production and Nursery System, 8-12 June 2015, Forest Training Institute, Pochun, ROK

Training courses ongoing and forthcoming
1. Watershed Management and Soil Conservation, August 2015, Philippines
2. Forest-based Ecotourism, October 2015, Sarawak, Malaysia
3. Forest Fire Management, October 2015, ROK
**AFoCo Landmark Program**

3. Restoration of Degraded Forest Regions

1. Establishment of Forest Genetics Center for Restoration of Major Timber Species in Cambodia
2. Rehabilitation of Degraded Community Forest in project sites, Lao PDR
3. Rehabilitation and Development of Mangrove Forest Ecosystem in Thai Binh Province, Viet Nam

### Developments towards AFoCO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASEAN-Korea Environmental Cooperation Programme (AKECOP)</th>
<th>ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit (Initiative of AFoCO)</th>
<th>Agreement on ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation</th>
<th>Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2014-16</td>
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**Theme**

- "Restoration of Degraded Forest Ecosystems in Southeast Asian Tropical Regions"
- ROK’s proposal for the establishment of AFoCo
- Dialogue between ASEAN and ROK on forest cooperation agreement
- Cooperation activities on Sustainable Forest Management, ecosystem maintenance, community forestry and climate change.
- Dialogue for the establishment of AFoCo
- Establishment of AFoCo (Multilateral regional organization)
1st stage: ASEAN + ROK (AFoCo from 2012 to 2016)
2nd stage: ASEAN + ROK + 4 Asian countries (Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Timor Leste)

Cooperation opportunities
towards a greener Asia
AFoCO Vision and Mission

AFoCO, a legally binding regional organization established by an intergovernmental multilateral arrangement involving 10 AMS, ROK, and more other Asian countries.

Reforestation experience in ROK

Degraded forest at Pohang area in the 1960s (left) and same area in the 1980s after successful reforestation (right)
In 2013 after entering into developed world,
GDP per capita: 24,000 USD
Population density: 490/km²
Growing stock: 126m³/ha (2010)

* Source: Korea National Statistics Organization, 2014

In 1953 after Korean war
GDP per capita: 66 USD
Population density: 222/km²
Growing stock: 6m³/ha

* Source: Korea Forest Service, 2012

Potential activity: South Korea
Green Growth and Reforestation Model for Asia

Seongbuk-dong area, Seoul in the 1950s

Seongbuk-dong area, Seoul at present

Potential activity: Learning from SAEMAUL UNDONG (Korea New Community Movement in the 1970s)

Key Messages From Saemaul Undong

- "Saemaul Undong was a corner-stone of national modernization and considered as a spiritual culture that encouraged people with active participation and action”

- The UN adopted Saemaul Undong as an official program to eradicate poverty across the (underdeveloped) world.

-Saemaul Globalization, 2013
Pursuing Green Economy in ASEAN

• Concept of green economy is becoming mainstream into political, economical and social discourse.

Issues: Pro and Con

• Developing countries:
  o Cautious about potential of implication of green economy policies on their country economies >>> green economy has to be nationally defined and owned.
  o High priority on the importance poverty eradication and equity

• Developed countries: pushed green economy policies as a means to bring about resources efficiency, job creation and competitiveness

Natural Capital:
Underlying Components and Illustrative Services and Values

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<tr>
<th>Biodiversity</th>
<th>Ecosystem goods and services (examples)</th>
<th>Economic values (examples)</th>
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</table>
| Ecosystems (Variety & extent/area) | • Recreation  
• Water regulation  
• Carbon storage  
• Eco-tourism | Avoiding GHG emissions by conserving forests: US$ 3.7 trillion (NPV) |
| Species (diversity & abundance) | • Food, fibre, fuel  
• Design inspiration  
• Pollination | Contribution of insect pollinators to agricultural Output: ~US$ 190 billion/year |
| Genes (variability & population) | • Medicinal discovery  
• Disease resistance  
• Adaptive capacity  
• Cosmetics | 25-50% of the US$ 640 billion pharmaceutical market is derived from genetic resources |

*Source: UNEP, 2013*
In the context of Green Economy

- Promoting the implementation of REDD+ which set to make the largest contribution to Green Economy from forest sector
- Improved forest management
- Promoting Payment for environment services
- Reforming and improving forest governance
- Adopt and implement certification schemes to support Green Economy

NTFPs in Green Economy

- Some NTFPs are very important for livelihood and income of rural communities in some ASEAN Member States.
- Promoting high-valued NTFPs and extracting NTFPs at commercial scale should not threaten biodiversity and integrity of ecosystem.
- Production and trade of NTFPs in ASEAN needs strong law enforcement to ensure proper protection in view of ecosystem sustainability.
- List of important NTFP in ASEAN
  (Bamboo, Rattan, Oil & resin, Agar wood, Honey, Spices, Edible birds’ nest, Mushroom, Leaves for home materials)
Mitigation Potential of Climate Change from Land Use

**GHG Mitigation Potential from Land Use (South & South East Asian)***

- **Avoided Deforestation**
- Reduced Deforestation from Slash & Burn Agriculture
- Reduced Forest Conversion to Pasture and Intensive Agriculture
- Reduced Timber Harvesting
- Forest Sequestration
- Pastureland Afforestation
- Cropland Afforestation
- Degraded Forest Reforestation
- Forest Management
- Agriculture
- Tillage and residues management
- Grassland management
- Organic soils restoration
- Degraded lands restoration

* Mitigation Opportunity

- **0.7**
- **1.7**
- **1.4**
- **3.8**

*2020: Forest carbon, agricultural sequestration, and assistance of N2O and CH4 emissions, mainly from livestock (> 0.1 tCO2).
Source: Fournier et al., 2007 (Table 3.3: Potential of mitigation measures of global forestry activities. Global model results indicate annual amount sequestered or emissions avoided, allows business-as-usual. In 2020; for carbon prices 160 US$/tCO2 and below), both from Climate Change 2007: Mitigation.
*Source: Roberts River, 2013

**Challenges ahead**

- What Policy intervention and plan are needed at national and ASEAN regional levels towards viable and sustainable Green Economy?

- How to promote ecofriendly forest products and their supply chain at national and regional levels?

- Issues on forest, land tenure and access right are dominated in most ASEAN countries. How can these issues be addressed and regulations for enabling conditions be in force to promote related products towards Green Economy?
Thank you