

REPUBLIC OF KOREA
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

MUN/419/22

14 July 2022

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests and has the honour to transmit to the latter **the Voluntary National Contribution of the Republic of Korea and a letter of submission** from Ms. KIM Jina, Director of the International Cooperation Division, Korea Forest Service, dated 28 April 2022.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosed: As stated.

Secretariat of the
United Nations Forum on Forests
New York





Date: 28 April 2022

Ref. No.: KL22-495

Ms. Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo

Director

United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

UN Secretariat Building (26th Floor)

New York, NY 10017, USA

E-mail: unff@un.org

Dear Ms. Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo,

Subject: Submission of the Voluntary National Contribution (Republic of Korea)

First of all, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the UNFF Secretariat for enabling the international community to work together to achieve the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) and the Global Forest Goals (GFGs). It's my great pleasure for me to submit the Voluntary National Contribution (VNC) of the Republic of Korea (ROK) as the UNFF National Focal Point.

The ROK's VNC demonstrates its efforts to fulfill the GFGs based on the strong commitment and dedication to responding to climate crisis through maintaining and enhancing the world's carbon stocks and promoting sustainable forest management.

Korean government has announced the 2050 Carbon Neutrality Vision and its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to be achieved by 2030 that contains the efforts in greenhouse gas reduction in forestry. As you may know, Korea has been regarded as a country to restore its forests successfully in a very short period of time. As a result, its growing stock per ha has significantly increased from 6 cubic meter right after the Korean War in 1953 to 165 cubic meters in 2020. In addition, 63% of its land is now covered by forests.



Forests in Korea are greatly contributing to provision of environmental benefits and improvement in quality of people's life as one of the key elements for social and economic development. The government of the ROK is sparing no efforts to promote the sustainable forest management by establishing and implementing basic forest policies for the nationwide forests on a 20-year basis in accordance with the Framework Act on Forestry.

The government submits its VNC that includes 17 national actions and their targets to be met by 2030 towards achieving the GFGs, taking into account its national circumstances, policies, capacities and forest conditions.

Lastly, the ROK would like to confirm that the country will make the Voluntary National Report (VNR) to contribute to the implementation of the UNSPF 2017-2030 and report progress towards the achievement according to the reporting period and actively continue to enhance further the VNC.

Sincerely yours,

Jina Kim

Director

International Cooperation Division

Korea Forest Service

Republic of Korea



Cc: Mr. Hakkyun Maeng, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations

Attachment: Voluntary National Contribution of ROK

Simple format for members of the Forum to communicate voluntary national contributions to the secretariat¹

Member State: Republic of Korea

Date/Forum session that voluntary national contributions were announced: 090522/UNFF17

Date voluntary national contributions transmitted to secretariat through Permanent Mission to the United Nations: 280422

List of voluntary national contributions²

Time frame ³	Concise description of each contribution and any associated activities	Unit	Supports the global forest goals and targets	Contribution included in nationally determined contributions ⁴	Contribution also contributes to:		
					Sustainable Development Goals targets (list)	Post-2020 biodiversity framework (list) ⁵	Other
By 2030	Restoration area of degraded land (As of 2021) 690 → 2,750	ha	1.1	Yes	15.1 15.2 15.3	2	Land degradation neutrality Bonn Challenge
By 2030	Contribution of forestry sector on the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) (The amount of the 40% reduced CO2 emission comparing to 2018 : 291 Mt CO2-eq, Forest Carbon Sink: 25.5 Mt CO2-eq (9%) (As of 2021) - → 9	%	1.2	Yes	15.1 15.2	8	-
By 2030	Area of forest tending work (about 20,000ha/year) (As of 2020) 21.7 → 30	10,000ha	1.3	Yes	15.1 15.2	10	-
By 2030	Forest road density in the commercial forest (As of 2021) 5.6 → 8.9	m/ha	1.3	-	15.1 15.2	10	-
By 2030	Reduction of area damaged by forest fire (As of 2021) 1,120 → 880	ha	1.4	Yes	13.1 15.1	-	Land degradation neutrality
By 2030	Investigation and management of landslide vulnerable area (As of 2021) 27 → 70	Thousand pieces	1.4	-	13.1 15.1 15.3	1	-

¹ As contained in Annex III of the outcome of t4.2the fifteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests **E/RES/2020/14**

² Information listed is illustrative only.

³ 2030 or earlier.

⁴ Under the Paris Agreement.

⁵ Placeholder for the outcome of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Time frame ³	Concise description of each contribution and any associated activities	Unit	Supports the global forest goals and targets	Contribution included in nationally determined contributions ⁴	Contribution also contributes to:		
					Sustainable Development Goals targets (list)	Post-2020 biodiversity framework (list) ⁵	Other
By 2030	Number of trees damaged by pine wilt disease (As of 2021) 308 → 100	Thousand trees	1.4	Yes	15.8	6	Land degradation neutrality
By 2030	Forest farm house income relative to national average income (As of 2021) 66 → 80	%	2.1	-	1.1 1.4 8.3	10	-
By 2030	percentage of Beneficiary population by forest welfare (Recreation, healing, education, trail, leports, etc.) (As of 2021) 36.6 → 70.0	%	2.4	-	12.2	11 12	-
By 2030	Number of forest jobs (the number of people) (As of 2021) 386 → 466	People (Thousand)	2.4	-	1.1 1.4 4.4 8.3	-	-
By 2030	The urban forest area of a living per person (End of 2019) 11.5 → 15.8	m ²	2.5	Yes	11.6.2 15.1	12	Bonn Challenge
By 2030	Absorbed amount of fine dust (End of 2019) 9,283 → 12,784	ton					
By 2030	Expanded forest protection area (reserves of living environment; landscape; catchment; disaster prevention: 276,000ha, forest genetic resource: 172,000ha, Baekdudaegan Mt.: 277,000ha) *National OECM standard (developing) will be applied hereafter (As of 2021) 72 → 100	10,000ha	3.1	Yes	15.1 15.4	3	-
By 2030	ODA project budget (As of 2021) 14.0 → 16.7	million USD	4.1 4.2	-	9.5 12.a 15.b 17.1	19	-
By 2030	REDD+ budget (As of 2021) 0.9 → 6.0	million USD	4.1 4.2	-	17.2 17.3 17.7	-	-
By 2030	R&D budget (As of 2021) 124.2 → 166.7	million USD	4.1 4.2	-	12.a 15.b 17.6	20	-
By 2030	Verification on Timber Legality (HSK number of items) (As of 2021) 4 → 15	item	5.2	-	16.3 16.5- 16.7	5	-