COP30 FOREST PAVILION:

A Shared Commitment to Our Planet

2025 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP30)

10-21 November 2025, Belém, Brazil

Blended Finance for Forest

Scaling Community-Based Carbon Programs in Asia

14th November 2025, 09:00-10:30

Format: In-person

Interpretation is not required/ and be delivered in English

Concept Note

I. Background

Forests are at the center of climate solutions, yet financing for forest-based and community-driven programs remains far below the level needed. While Official Development Assistance (ODA) has provided critical early-stage support, it is no longer sufficient to meet the scale and urgency of climate and biodiversity challenges.

AFoCO, as the only intergovernmental organization dedicated exclusively to forests in Asia, is uniquely placed to bridge this gap. With its strong government-to-government networks, proven track record in grant-based projects, and community-centered implementation model, AFoCO provides the legitimacy and stability that investors and partners seek.

Building on its Climate-Forest Cooperation Framework (2025–2034), AFoCO has advanced a blended finance approach that strategically combines ODA, multilateral development finance, and private capital. This approach not only de-risks investments but also ensures that carbon projects deliver tangible co-benefits for local communities.

AFoCO is organizing this side event at COP30 to highlight its role as a connector of governments, MDBs, and private finance, and to showcase its unique approach to community-based carbon programs.

II. Objectives

In the context of COP30, where the global community seeks innovative and scalable solutions to close the climate finance gap, forests and nature-based solutions remain underfunded and underutilized. AFoCO, with its unique position as a regional intergovernmental organization, is committed to bridging this gap by linking public finance, multilateral support, and private capital while ensuring that local communities remain at the center of action.

III. Programme/Schedules of Events/Speakers

Set up: (i.e panel discussion or other format)

- Opening & AFoCO Pre-Session: AFoCO is organizing this side event at COP30 to highlight its role as a connector of governments, MDBs, and private finance, and to showcase its unique approach to community-based carbon programs.
- Partner Case Studies: Presentations from government, private sector, MDBs, and finance innovators, illustrating how blended finance is being applied in practice
- Panel Discussion: An interactive exchange to explore practical ways to de-risk investments, ensure community benefits, and identify innovations for scaling forest finance in Asia
- Closing & Way: Wrap-up and concluding messages, outlining next steps and emphasizing opportunities for collaboration and partnership

Length of Time: 1 hour 30 mins

Speakers:

MC: Ms. Aidai Zhumasheva, Program Officer, AFoCO Secretariat

Moderator- Ms. Soozin Ryang, Team Leader, AFoCO Secretariat

Speaker 1- Mr. Sunpil JIN, Vice Executive Director, AFoCO Secretariat

Speaker 2- Mr. Sungho CHOI, Team Leader

Speaker 3- Mr. Lee Suho, Deputy Director [TBC], Korea Ministry of Economy and Finance

Speaker 4- Ms. Dinara Kemelova[TBC], Special Representative, Krygyz Republic

Speaker 5- Mr. Stephan Salim, Environmental Specialist, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Speaker 6- Dr. Lee Sue Kyoung, Assistant Director, Global Climate Council

Run of Show (add rows as necessary)

Time	Activity	Speaker
10:00 - 10:05 (5min)	**Opening Remark** Welcome & framing	Vice Executive Director, AFoCO Secretariat
10:05 - 10:20 (15 min)	**AFoCO Presentation: Blended Finance & Community-Based Carbon** AFoCO's blended finance approach, Seed-to-Scale, NbS + MbS, community-based carbon model, vision	Team Leader
10:20 - 10:30 (10 min)	**Partner Case Study 1** Global Voluntary Carbon Market (GVCM)	Korea Ministry of Economy and Finance

10:30 - 10:40 (10 min)	**Partner Case Study 2** Smallholder agroforestry & farmer revenue-sharing	Kyrgyz government
10:40 - 10:50 (10 min)	**Partner Case Study 3** Nature Solutions Finance Hub	Asian Development Bank (ADB)
10:50 - 11:00 (10 min)	**Partner Case Study 4** GCC's strategy and practical approaches to leveraging carbon finance for project implementation	Global Climate Council (GCC)
11:00 - 11:20 (20 min)	**Panel Discussion: De-risking and Scaling Forest Finance in Asia** Qs: ODA–private bridging, community-centered finance, innovations for scale	Moderator with all speakers
11:20 - 11:30 (10 min)	**Closing & Way Forward** Wrap-up, next steps	Team Leader

IV. Guiding Questions

1. How can regional cooperation and governance mechanisms help de-risk investments and strengthen investor confidence in nature-based and community-driven models?
2. How can blended finance be structured to effectively scale forest and community-based carbon programs in Asia?
3. How can AFoCO's government-led model balance national sovereignty with the flexibility and incentives required by private investors?

Optional discussion prompts (for deeper exchange):

- What specific innovations or instruments can bridge ODA and private capital in forest finance?
- How can community benefit-sharing models be designed to attract long-term investors?

V. Expected main messages

This side event is designed not only to share AFoCO's blended finance and community-based carbon approach, but also to generate tangible outcomes for AFoCO and its partners that can guide future collaboration and investment. The expected outputs include:

- Enhanced visibility of AFoCO in the international community as a regional enabler of forest and climate finance.
- Strengthened partnerships and networks with governments, MDBs, private investors, and technical partners in blended finance.
- Identification of potential pathways for resource mobilization and fundraising through community-based carbon initiatives. /END/

VI. Focal Point/Contact(s)

- Sungho Choi (quercus1@afocosec.org)
- Ari Bima Putra (aribima@afocosec.org)
- Kikang Bae (baekikang@afocosec.org)
- Jimyung Kim (jmkim@afocosec.org)