



Restoring Drylands and Drought-Prone Areas

## **World Forestry Congress XV 2022**

**Title:** Landscape Partnership Asia: Restoring Drylands and Drought-Prone Areas

**Theme:** Building a green, healthy and resilient future with forests

**Sub-themes:** 1. Turning the tide: reversing deforestation and forest degradation; and 6. Forests without boundaries: enhancing management and cooperation

**Date and time:** 2 May 2022 from 5:30 PM – 7:00PM

**Audience and expected number of participants:** Government officials, private sector, climate funding organizations, international organizations, NGOs, implementing agencies; 75 people

**Event style and registration:** Hybrid, participants from the three Founding Partners will register by themselves. Other invited participants will be assisted by the LPA Secretariat (TBD).

**Hosting organizations:** Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO), Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF), and Global EverGreening Alliance (the Alliance)

**Background:** Land degradation is negatively affecting the well-being of the world's critical dryland ecosystems, which are home to 2.5 billion people. In Asia, drylands represent over 50% of the continent's land surface. Despite the growing challenges of land degradation on biodiversity conservation, food security, and climate change mitigation and adaptation, few transboundary initiatives exist to restore degraded drylands drought-prone areas in Asia. To address this gap, the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO), the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF), and the Global EverGreening Alliance (the Alliance) established the Landscape Partnership Asia (LPA). Through LPA, these partners aim to bring 10 million hectares of degraded land under integrated dryland and drought management by 2032.

At least 14 countries in Central, East, South and Southeast Asia have already confirmed their participation in LPA with many more expected to join. The side event will unveil LPA's 10-year Vision, Roadmap and Strategy. Investment and membership opportunities will be shared alongside activities to support achievements toward zero net land degradation.

### **Objectives:**

- **Officially launch Landscape Partnership Asia**
- Increase public awareness on Landscape Partnership Asia and its 10-year Vision, Roadmap and Strategy through the official launch
- Enhance knowledge of key factors driving successful implementation of forest landscape in Asian drylands, highlighting the delivery of critical ecosystem co-benefits
- Soft launch of a USD 150M regional land restoration program (TBC)
- Generate funding and membership interests among participants to invest in and join Landscape Partnership Asia to contribute to the restoration target of 10 million hectares

**Agenda:** The side event will feature presentations from Landscape Partnership Asia (LPA) partners and distinguished guests who will join a panel discussion on the importance of forest landscape restoration for achieving land degradation neutrality by 2030, in Asia and beyond. Join founding partner representatives for an overview of Landscape Partnership Asia, why dryland and drought-prone area restoration in Asia is important, how LPA will be addressing the biggest challenges in the region and how LPA will impact Asia and the world. Audience members will also have the opportunity to participate in a facilitated Q&A.

The tentative agenda is as follows:

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
7 Minutes	<b>Introduction/Opening remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome</li> <li>- Introduction to Founding Partners</li> <li>- The importance of partnerships such as LPA</li> </ul>	<b>Emcee:</b> Ms. Han Youngju, Team Assistant, AFoCO
3 minutes	<b>LPA Video run</b>	
10 minutes	<b>Speaker 1:</b> The significance of restoring degraded lands across Asia	<b>Guest Speaker:</b> Paola Agostini, Lead Natural Resources Specialist, World Bank
5 minutes	<b>Speaker 2:</b> How LPA is restoring degraded lands across Asia	<b>Founding Partner representative:</b> Mr. Ricardo Calderon, Executive Director, AFoCO
5 minutes	<b>Speaker 3:</b> Benefits of restoration and the impact LPA on addressing the biggest challenges on the ground	<b>Founding Partner representative:</b> Dr. Robert Nasi, Director General, CIFOR
5 minutes	<b>Speaker 4:</b> Scaling up restoration and uniting diverse sectors	<b>Founding Partner representative:</b> Mr. Chris Armitage, CEO, the Alliance
30 minutes	<b>Response from Partners</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Mr. Chris Dickinson</b>, Senior Ecosystem and Ecosystem Services Specialist, Division of Mitigation and Adaptation (DMA), <b>Green Climate Fund</b></li> <li>2. <b>Private business sector</b> (TBA)</li> <li>3. <b>Mr. Byeong-Am Choi</b>, Minister, <b>Korea Forest Service</b></li> <li>4. <b>Mr. Thomas Hofer</b>, Senior Forestry Officer, Team Leader for Forest Resources Management, Forestry Division, <b>FAO</b></li> </ol>
20 minutes	<b>Government/Minister Reactions</b>	<b>Ministers</b> from 14 participating countries
5 minutes	<b>Closing Remarks + Catering</b>	