

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Terms of Reference for Interns

Name:			
Job Title:	Intern for AFFIRM - support to development of media communications, report collation and workshop planning		
Division/Office:	Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP)		
Duty Station:	Bangkok, Thailand		
Linkage to FAO's Four Betters:	Better Environment, Better Life		
Start Date of Assignment:	1 July 2024	Duration and End Date:	31 December 2024 (6 months)
Report to, name of supervisor:	Sheila Wertz	Title:	Module Leader, Forests and Biodiversity
Day to Day collaboration:	Brett Shields	Title:	Chief Technical Advisor, AFFIRM project

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TASK(S) AND OBJECTIVES TO BE ACHIEVED

Background:

The Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) is responsible for leading FAO's response to regional priorities for food security, agriculture and rural development through the identification, planning and implementation of FAO's priority activities in the region. It ensures a multidisciplinary approach to programmes, identifies priority areas of action for the Organization in the region and, in collaboration with the Offices, Centres and Divisions at headquarters, develops, promotes and oversees FAO's strategic response to regional priorities. RAP also advises on the incorporation of regional priorities into the Organization's Programme of Work and Budget and implements approved programmes and projects in the region, monitors the level of programme implementation and draws attention to problems and deficiencies. RAP develops and maintains relations with region-wide institutions including the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and regional inter-governmental organizations.

AFFIRM - Assuring the Future of Forests with Integrated Risk Management:

In countries around the world, forests are threatened by many different types of disturbances, including wildfires, insects, diseases, drought, storm damage, flooding, and landslides. In turn, these degraded forests have less ability to store carbon, adapt to climate change and support the most vulnerable.

Assessing and reducing risks to forests are essential to help countries meet their climate mitigation and adaptation goals. The risks of any forest disturbance type are compounded when there are multiple potential disturbances. Conventional forest management practices deal with the risks of each disturbance type individually, but many risks are inter-related.

The AFFIRM project will be implemented by FAO, and the Republic of Korea will be the first partner to provide substantial funding to the project. This AFFIRM Mechanism is proposed as a way to address known gaps in data needs, information, and understanding of forest-related risks, as well as a lack of an integrated approach to risk management for forest sustainability.

AFFIRM will be piloted in four countries in its first phase including Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam. Recognising the threat of damaging wildfires globally and considering the scale of the initial budget, AFFIRM will initially address integrated risk management for wildfires.

Within FAO, the project will be implemented by the Forests and Climate Team in the Forestry Division over a period of four years with a budget of approximately USD 3.4 million.

The Chief Technical Advisor for AFFIRM is based in FAORAP office, Bangkok, and conducts the day to day management of the project, coordinates with the pilot country team members and is responsible for the timely management of the project activities.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the supervision of the Module Leader for Forests and Biodiversity, and in close collaboration with the AFFIRM Chief Technical Advisor, the Intern will perform the following activities:

1) Report compilation support.

Assist with managing, collating, compiling, and drafting report components in relation to the four country level reports that AFFIRM will be developing to complete a "review and analysis" stage of the project in 2024; these will include fire related data, tables, graphs and other commentary from four countries to be compiled into the reports together.

2) Media and communication support.

Initiate story ideas (to be considered for incorporation by the communication and media team) as well as gathering information or data which can support a story requested by the communication and media team to build stories which the communication team can develop into fully published media articles.

3) Workshop planning support.

Assist the planning and preparation team for the organization of a two-day workshop for National Agency participants in November 2024.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Expected Outputs:	Completion Date:
1) Develop a report on potential media communication stories and opportunities that can be elaborated across the AFFIRM project life.	2 months after starting
2) Develop a workshop plan for National Participants of AFFIRM in Thailand (location, number of participants, participant invitations, workshop agenda).	3.5 months after starting
3) Support to compile and collate chapter summaries of various elements of the "review and analysis" reports from four countries.	Ongoing across the 6 month period
4) Complete a final report on the assignment	31 December

REQUIRED COMPETENCIES

Minimum requirements:

- University Degree in Forestry/Natural resources data compilation, analysis and management.
- Working knowledge of English for both verbal and written language.
- Ability to work independently.
- Ability to work in a multi-cultural environment.
- An interest in science communication.