

**Regional Model Forest Network – Asia**  
**2025 Annual Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**24 February – 1 March 2025**  
**Carood Watershed Model Forest, Bohol, the Philippines**  
*Draft Concept Note, Tentative Agenda and Daily Schedule*  
*as of 21 February 2025 (subject to change)*

**Background**

The Regional Model Forest Network-Asia (RMFN-Asia) is a community of practice promoting the sustainable management of forest landscapes using the Model Forest approach. It was established in 2000 and is now one of six regional networks under the International Model Forest Network (IMFN). The RMFN-Asia is composed of eight Model Forests in six countries (Thailand, China, India, Japan, Indonesia and the Philippines). Viet Nam is also considering establishing a Model Forest. The network is governed by a voluntary Advisory Committee, which is chaired by Preecha Ongprasert, Director of the Forestry Foreign Affairs at Thailand's Royal Forest Department. RECOFTC has been serving as the RMFN-Asia Secretariat since January 2024.

The Philippines has been participating in the RMFN-Asia since the creation of Ulot Watershed Model Forest in Samar (2000) and the Carood Watershed Model Forest in Bohol (2010). In addition to the local Model Forest leadership, the national focal point for the Philippines continues to be the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

At the most recent meeting of the RMFN-Asia Advisory Committee held in January 2024 in Lampang, Thailand (home of the Ngao Model Forest), Carood Watershed Model Forest was proposed to be the location of the 2025 RMFN-Asia Advisory Committee meeting. The dates for the event are 24 February – 1 March 2025.

RECOFTC as RMFN-Asia Secretariat would co-organize the meeting with DENR – FMB and DENR – Region 7, the Carood Watershed Model Forest Management Council, and other relevant Carood Watershed Model Forest stakeholders. RECOFTC would cover the international travel, meals, and accommodation of a maximum of 30 RMFN-Asia representatives and selected observers, as well as cover a portion of the local activity costs, which would include a two-day field visit organized by local Model Forest Stakeholders. Carood Model Forest stakeholders and the DENR – FMB and DENR – Region 7 are requested to provide logistical support to identify and book the meeting venue, organize the field day, and provide a welcome dinner. Strategic international partners and those from the Philippines would also be invited to attend at their own cost.

**Objectives**

- Exchange and reflect upon the current situation of Model Forests in Asia (including key successes, challenges, and lessons learned)
- Discuss and identify priority areas and opportunities to promote and advance Model Forests in Asia
- Learn firsthand from the experiences of Carood Watershed Model Forest through a two-day field visit
- Prepare for the IMFN Global Forum at Eastern Ontario Model Forest in Canada in May 2025

## Tentative agenda (Monday 24 February to Saturday 1 March 2025)

\*for more details, refer to the daily schedules starting on p.4

### Monday, 24 February 2025 (Day 0)

- Participants arrive in Bohol and check into hotel
- Group dinner (hosted by Local Government Unit [LGU] of Anda)

### Tuesday, 25 February 2025 (Day 1)

- Annual Advisory Committee Meeting, with the following tentative agenda points:
  - Opening session (welcome remarks from co-organizers and local VIPs)
  - Approval of meeting agenda
  - Updates from RMFN-Asia members, RMFN-Asia Secretariat, IMFN Secretariat, and strategic partners
  - Discussion and approval/key decisions on specific items:
    - Updates to IMFN Charter
    - Updates to RMFN-Asia Operating Principles
    - RMFN-Asia Strategic Plan 2025-30
    - Selection criteria and location of next Annual Advisory Committee meeting
    - Any other business
  - Closing session
- Welcome dinner (hosted by FMB-DENR)

### Wednesday, 26 February 2025 (Day 2)

- Field Day 1 - visit to key locations and stakeholders in Carood Watershed Model Forest
- Group dinner (hosted by LGU Candijay)

### Thursday, 27 February 2025 (Day 3)

- Meeting/workshop at event venue with the following tentative sessions:
  - Presentation of Bohol Island Geopark (by the Provincial Government of Bohol)
  - Reflection on Field Visit Day 1 to Carood Watershed Model Forest
  - Presentation on Global Forest-based Youth Learning Community (by Dr. YoungHwan Kim, Pusan National University)
  - Sharing and exchange on forest landscape restoration (FLR) initiatives from the Philippines and other Asian countries (led by FMB-DENR)
  - Parallel Session 1: RMFN-Asia planning/coordination for upcoming year, Apr 2025 – Mar 2026 (led by RECOFTC). Topics include:
    - Preparations for the 2025 IMFN Global Forum
    - Preparation for IMFN Climate contribution agreements to be implemented by Specific Model Forests during Apr 2025 – Mar 2026
    - Planning/coordination for RMFN-Asia activities for 2025-2026
    - Any other business
  - Parallel Session 2: Restoration education – Integrating landscape restoration into academic curricula of universities in Asia, based on the experiences/needs of Model Forests (led by CIFOR-ICRAF)
  - Closing session
- Group dinner (hosted by PENRO - Bohol)

### Friday, 28 February 2025 (Day 4)

- Field Day 2 - visit to key geological and biodiversity conservation sites in Bohol
- Reflection on the week's activities
- Group dinner (hosted by LGU Mabini)

### Saturday, 1 March 2025 (Day 5)

- Participants check out of hotel and travel to home/next destinations



## **Participants**

The workshop will be attended by representatives from RMFN-Asia Model Forests, the RMFN-Asia Secretariat, and the IMFN Secretariat. Representatives from strategic partners and observers such as CIFOR-ICRAF, IUCN, FAO, APFNet, AFoCO, FAO, and the Kasetsart University Faculty of Forestry, among others, have also been invited to attend.

DENR/FMB will bring up to 20 participants from DENR's central and regional offices to join the event with their own sponsorship, for the purposes of learning and exchange.

Representatives of key stakeholders from the Carood Watershed Model Forest will also participate in certain activities and events during the week.

It is anticipated that there will be 60-70 participants in total for the event.

## **Event venue and field visit locations**

The event venue will be the Parklane Bohol Resort and Spa in Candabong, Anda, Bohol province, the Philippines.

Participant accommodation will be either at the Parklane Bohol Resort and Spa, or next door at the Bugnaw Si-E Resort. Confirmed participants will be contacted individually regarding their accommodations.

Locations and key details of field visit sites within the Carood Watershed Model Forest landscape and other parts of Bohol are shared below.

## Daily schedules (as of 21 February 2025; subject to change)

### Monday 24 February 2025 (Day 0): Arrival

- Participants arrive at hotels in Anda; please refer to Information Note for airport pickup details.
- Group dinner (hosted by LGU Anda) at 18.00

### Tuesday 25 February 2025 (Day 1): Annual Advisory Committee Meeting

\*Participants staying at the Bugnaw Si-E Resort will be picked up at 08.00 to be taken to meeting venue at Parklane Bohol Resort and Spa

Time	Session	Description
08.00-08.30	Registration	Registration by participants
08.30-10.00	Opening session	<p>Welcome and Opening Remarks* from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado, Governor of Bohol Province</li> <li>2. Maria Vanessa C. Aumentado, Member of the Philippines House of Representatives, Second District of Bohol</li> <li>3. Kristine Alexie B. Tutor, Member of the Philippines House of Representatives, Third District of Bohol</li> <li>4. Arleigh J. Adorable, CESO III, OIC-Assistant Secretary for Field Operations - Mindanao and FMB Director, in concurrent capacity</li> <li>5. Paquito D. Melicor, Jr., CESO IV, Regional Executive Director, DENR Region 7</li> <li>6. Mayor Thamar Olaivar, Chair of the Carood Watershed Model Forest Management Council, Inc.</li> <li>7. Mr. Richard Verbisky, Manager, IMFN Secretariat</li> <li>8. Dr. Preecha Ongprasert, Chair of RMFN-Asia</li> </ol> <p>*3-5 minutes from each speaker</p>
10.00-10.10	Group Photo	
10.10-10.40	Coffee/tea break	
10.40-10.50	<u>Session 1</u> : Approval of Meeting Agenda	<p>Official opening of Advisory Committee Meeting by Meeting Chair</p> <p>Approval of Meeting Agenda</p>
10.50-12.00	<u>Session 2</u> : What have we accomplished?	<p>Updates from RMFN-Asia Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bakhila MF (India)</li> <li>• Carood MF (Philippines)</li> <li>• Kodagu MF (India)</li> <li>• Kyoto MF (Japan)</li> <li>• Lin'an MF (China)</li> <li>• Margowitan MF (Indonesia)</li> <li>• Ngao MF (Thailand)</li> <li>• Ulot MF (Philippines)</li> </ul>
12.00-13.00	Lunch break	

Time	Session	Description
13.00-13.45	Session 2 (continued): What have we accomplished?	Updates from strategic partners under Canada's Global Forest Leadership Program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CIFOR-ICRAF</li> <li>• IUCN</li> <li>• KUFF</li> <li>• RMFN-Asia Secretariat / RECOFTC</li> <li>• IMFN Secretariat</li> </ul>
13.45-14.30	Session 3: What key achievements and insights would we like to promote and share?	Plenary discussion to identify key good practices, lessons learned, and/or key challenges on sustainable forest landscape management from RMFN-Asia to share regionally and globally.
14.30-15.00	Session 4: What can we collaborate on going forward?	Presentation of RMFN-Asia Strategic Plan 2025-2030 Plenary discussion where Observers will be invited to provide feedback and reactions to RMFN-Asia's program of work and possible ideas for future collaboration
15.00-15.15	Coffee/tea break	
15.15-16.30	Session 5: Discussion and approval/key decisions on specific items	Plenary discussion and decisions/approvals as needed on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Updates to the IMFN Charter</li> <li>2. Updates to the RMFN-Asia Operating Principles</li> <li>3. RMFN-Asia Strategic Plan 2025-2030</li> <li>4. Location of next Annual Advisory Committee meeting</li> <li>5. Any other business</li> </ol>
16.30-16.45	Session 6: Field trip introduction	Presentation of the field program and schedule
16.45-17.00	Session 7: Closing of the day	Summary of Day 1 Official closing of Advisory Committee Meeting by Meeting Chair
18.00-20.00	Welcome Dinner	Group Dinner (hosted by FMB-DENR as host) Song and dance performances by students of Bohol Island Statue University (BISU) – Candijay Campus

### Wednesday 26 February 2025 (Day 2): Visit to Key Locations/Stakeholders in Carood Watershed Model Forest

Time	Activity
07.00-07.45	Pick-up from hotels and travel to Congtong Bay (1 <sup>st</sup> stop)
07.45-08.00	Arrive at Congtong Bay and prepare for boat tour
08.00-9.30	Boat tour along the Cabidian River to learn about mangrove, shoreline, and reef/marine conservation efforts
09.30-10.30	Meeting and refreshments with local stakeholders at Congtong Bay
10.30-11.15	Travel to San Pascual, Ubay (2 <sup>nd</sup> stop)
11.15-13.00	Field observation, meeting and lunch with DENR and the Malingin Hills Farmers Association at San Pascual, Ubay, to learn about the restoration of the Carood

Time	Activity
	Watershed's ridge area through Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) and sustainable agricultural practices
13.00-13.45	Travel to Canawa Cold Springs (3 <sup>rd</sup> stop)
13.45-14.45	Field observation, meeting and refreshments with DENR and local stakeholders to learn about successful reforestation project
14.45-15.45	Travel to Cadapdapan Rice Terraces (4 <sup>th</sup> stop)
15.45-16.45	Field observation, meeting and refreshments with local stakeholders to learn about sustainable agriculture practices by the local community
16.45-17.00	Travel to Kankoka Hills, Candijay
17.00-18.00	Enjoy sunset on viewing deck that offers a panoramic "ridge-to-reef" perspective of the Carood Model Forest at Kankoka Hills, Candijay
18.00-20.00	Group dinner (hosted by LGU Candijay)
20.00-20.45	Travel back to hotels

### Thursday 27 February 2025 (Day 3): Technical Sessions

\*Participants staying at the Bugnaw Si-E Resort will be picked up at 08.00 to be taken to meeting venue at Parklane Bohol Resort and Spa

\*\*Each participant will be assigned to one of the two Parallel Sessions in the afternoon

Time	Session	Description
08.00-08.30	Registration	Registration by participants
08.30-08.40	Day 3 Introduction	Sharing of day's agenda
08.40-09.25	Presentation of Bohol Island GeoPark	Presentation / video of Bohol Island Geopark, a UNESCO Global Geopark, by the Provincial Government of Bohol
09.25-10.55	Field reflection from Field Visit (first day)	Plenary discussion on key lessons learned from Carood Watershed Model Forest
09.55-10.15	Presentation: Global Forest-based Youth Learning Community	Presentation by Dr. YoungHwan Kim, Pusan National University
10.15-10.30	Coffee/tea break	
10.30-12.15	Technical session: How can we make forest landscape restoration (FLR) work?	Presentations and interactive discussions on key factors for effective forest landscape restorations, based on the experiences of different countries and Model Forests in Asia
12.15-13.15	Lunch break	
13.15-16.30** (Coffee break at	Parallel Session 1*: RMFN-Asia planning/coordination for upcoming year	Facilitated by RECOFTC: - Update/planning for proposed RMFN-Asia activities for 2025-2026 o Model Forest Indicator Framework (MFIF) o RMFN-Asia gender analysis and action plan

Time	Session	Description
15.00-15.15)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ RMFN-Asia knowledge management and communications</li> <li>○ Resource mobilization</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation for IMFN Global Forum               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ RMFN-Asia video presentation</li> <li>○ Planning for technical sessions at the Forum</li> <li>○ Model Forest info-sheet production</li> <li>○ Logistics for Canada</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Preparation for IMFN Climate Grants 2025-2026</li> <li>- M&amp;E for the RMFN-Asia Secretariat</li> <li>- Any other business</li> </ul>
13.15-16.30** (Coffee break at 15.00-15.15)	<u>Parallel Session 2*</u> : Restoration Education in Asia	(CIFOR-ICRAF to share session plan by 19 February 2025)
16.30-16.50	Closing of the day	Sharing back from each of the afternoon parallel sessions Summary of day 3
16.50-17.00	Field trip introduction	Presentation of the field program and schedule for Friday 28 Feb
18.00-20.00	Dinner	Group Dinner (hosted by PENRO Bohol)

**Friday 28 February 2025 (Day 4): Visit to key geological and biodiversity conservation sites in Bohol**

Time	Activity
07.00-09.00	Pick-up from hotels and travel to the Philippine Tarsier Sanctuary (1 <sup>st</sup> stop)
09.00-11.00	Visit the Philippine Tarsier Sanctuary (includes refreshment break)
11.00-11.30	Travel to Loboc (2 <sup>nd</sup> stop)
11.30-13.00	Lunch on Loboc River cruise
13.00-14.00	Travel to the Chocolate Hills (3 <sup>rd</sup> stop) On the way there, we will drive by the Bilar-Lobo Man-made Forest which was created through a restoration project.
14.00-15.00	Visit to the Chocolate Hills, designated a National Geological Monument by the Philippines Government
15.00-16.00	Travel to Quinale Beach, Anda
16.00-17.00	Reflection session: What did we learn this week? (includes refreshment break)
17.00-18.00	Free time (at beach area)
18.00-20.00	Goodbye dinner (at Quinale Beach Resort, hosted by LGU Mabini)