

**Minutes of the 1st REDD+ Task Force (TF) Meeting
UN- REDD Programme, Myanmar**

Date:	27 April, 2017
Venue:	Forest Department, Nay Pyi Taw
Time:	09:00 – 12:30
Objectives of the meeting:	To introduce Myanmar REDD+ Programme; To finalize and approved TOR of TF; and To update the progress of REDD+ Readiness Roadmap Implementation with the supports of UN-REDD Programme and other initiatives.
Chairs:	U Tin Htun, Director of Planning and Statistics Division, Forest Department (on behalf of U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, Deputy Director General, Forest Department, MONREC)
Members: Line Departments	Detailed list with attached Forest Department, Forest Research Institute, Environmental Conservation Department, Department of Mines (MONREC), General Administrative Department (MOHA), Budget Department (MOPF) Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department, Department of Agricultural Land Management and Statistic Department of Planning and Department of Planning (MOALI)
INGOs, NGO & CSOs	MERN and POINT
UN Agencies	UNDP, FAO
TF Secretary	Dr. Thaug Naing Oo, Director, Forest Research Institute, Forest Department, Alternate National Focal Point, Myanmar REDD+ Programme.

Opening of the meeting

On behalf of the Deputy Director General of Forest Department, the meeting was opened by U Tin Htun, Director of Planning and Statistics Division, Forest Department. During his opening, U Tin Htun pointed out TF is needed to provide guidance and oversight for all REDD+ related programmes, projects and initiatives in Myanmar and o coordinate between and among all relevant REDD+ programmes, projects

Introduction to REDD+ and Myanmar REDD+ Programme

Dr Thaug Naing Oo, the alternate Focal Point of Myanmar REDD+ explained about REDD+ basic concept and Myanmar REDD+ Programme. Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) was designed to provide a financial incentive to developing countries to reduce emissions and enhance removals from forests. The five REDD+ Activities are reducing emissions from deforestation, forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, and sustainable forest management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. He also explains about four REDD+ design elements: National Strategy or Action Plan, National Forest Monitoring System, Forest Reference Level and Safeguards

Information System. He continues the presentation with the deforestation and forest degradation in Myanmar and REDD+ Readiness Roadmap of Myanmar with a phased approach to REDD+ implementation.

During his presentation, he briefed about the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) and its objective: to stabilize greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Myanmar is one of developing countries who release significant GHG emissions from land use change and forestry activities (e.g. deforestation, logging).

Discussion points

- A question was raised as to who is going to make result-based payments. The UN-REDD programme is a mechanism providing technical assistance to developing countries to be ready for result-based payments but will not make any payments. The payments will be made through the funding mechanisms of the UNFCCC and/or from bilateral or multi-lateral donors.
- A question was posed on how to measure carbon stocks, emissions and removals. The National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and Forest Reference Emission Level (FRL) are two of four REDD+ design elements under UNFCCC guidance for readiness. The FRL records baseline values of emissions and removals. The NFMS measures emissions and removals over time, following guidelines developed by the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), as required by the UNFCCC.

Terms of Reference (TOR) of REDD+ Task Force

The TOR of REDD+ Task Force were presented by Daw Khin Hnin Myint, the National Programme Coordinator of UN-REDD Programme. She highlighted that the TF is an important mechanism of the Myanmar REDD+ Management Structure and it will work under the overall guidance of the Central Committee for Environmental Conservation and Climate Change. She also presented the duties and responsibilities of REDD+ Task Force.

Discussion points

- Task Force has roles and responsibilities for two directions for upward and downward. One is to provide information on REDD+ related projects and other REDD+ initiatives to the Central Committee that may be required for them to discharge their responsibilities; and the second role is to provide guidance downwards to the Technical Working Groups and REDD+ initiatives.
- The distinction between the advisory duties of Taskforce and its role in providing direction needs to be clear.
- It was suggested to combine duties 5 & 6 as the nature is more or less similar, while recognizing that concerns of rural communities and safeguards need to be highlighted.
- It was proposed that the Agricultural Department (MoALI) and Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (MoPF) should be invited to be members of TF as those are the relevant departments in relation to REDD+.
- Coordination among the Ministries should be improved especially in the national level for the related activities.

Progress of REDD+ Roadmap Implementation

Achievements and plan of UN-REDD programme in Myanmar

Mr. Franz Arnold, Technical Specialist of UN-REDD Programme presented the progress of UN-REDD Programme supports to the implementation of readiness roadmap. He pointed out forest cover and forest cover change rate in Myanmar during 2000 to 2015 and carbon emission from deforestation and forest degradation. Then, he explained about the UN-REDD National Programme in Myanmar: the objectives, expected outcome and activities and budget. The establishment of stakeholder engagement structure, draft National REDD+ strategies, action plan for FREL/FRL development and implementation, development of safeguard roadmap and piloting National Forest Inventory Design are the progress of UN-REDD support.

Discussion points

- The Myanmar REDD+ Programme should be featured in TV programmes to enhance awareness of REDD+.
- Most of the documents related to the REDD+ are available on the Forest Department website but also from websites of respective agencies like ITTO, IUCN and ICIMOD. Through the UN-REDD Programme, the Myanmar REDD+ Programme now has his own website and the documents and publications can be accessed at this website.

Other REDD+ initiatives in Myanmar

Dr. Thaug Naing Oo provided information about the other REDD+ initiatives in Myanmar. The following are some of the initiatives in Myanmar.

1. Capacity Building of Relevant Stakeholders for REDD+ Readiness of Myanmar (2016 – 2018) (KFS - ongoing)
2. REDD+ Himalayas: Developing and Using Experience in Implementing REDD+ in the Himalayas (2016-2018) (ICIMOD – ongoing)
3. Nesting a REDD+ project carbon accounting and monitoring system under the (sub-) national system (FFPRI - ongoing)
4. Grassroots Capacity Building for REDD+ project in Myanmar (2013 – 2016) (RECOFTC- Completed)
5. Advancing Indigenous Peoples' Rights in REDD+ and strengthening Indigenous Peoples' Forest Management and Livelihoods in Myanmar (CHRO - ongoing)
6. Promoting the recognition and protection of indigenous peoples' rights in REDD+ in Myanmar and Peru (POINT-ongoing)
7. Capacity building on REDD+ (ITTO - completed)

Discussion points

- The role of the private sector involvement in environmental conservation/sustainable forest management was discussed. Private sector involvement is crucial for REDD+ and it's participation should be encouraged.

Engagement Plan for National REDD+ Strategy

The UN-REDD Programme has developed a consultation plan for the National REDD+ Strategy. Daw Khin Hnin Myint presented the consultation plan.

Discussion points

- The schedule for ministerial meetings (only in May) might be a bit tight, as each ministry has a busy schedule, and adjustments may be needed.
- There might be several points/issues to be discussed relating to drivers and these should be included in sub-national consultation workshops.
- When conducting the awareness raising activities in the region and state level, community forestry, REDD+ and FLEGT should be included in the topics for common understanding among the communities.
- After PaMs have been developed, the implementation arrangements should identify the roles of Departments and Ministries to ensure effectiveness and efficiency in implementation.
- An option might be to meet all Ministries in one place instead of individual Ministry meetings.

Summary: Decisions/Required Actions

- **It was decided** that the TF would invite the Agricultural Department and DICA to be members of TF.
- **It was decided** that the TF ToR would be revised on the basis of comments made by TF members.
- **It was decided** that the schedule for ministerial meetings for consultation on the draft National REDD+ Strategy and PAMs be adjusted as per the availability of each ministry and requests send directly to Ministry Office.

Attachments

- Agenda of the meeting
- Attendance list

Minutes approved by
On behalf of Chair

Dr. Thaug Naing Oo
Secretary of National REDD+ Task Force
Director, Forest Research Institute, Forest Department

Annex 1: Agenda 1st meeting of Myanmar REDD+ Task Force

No.	Time	Items	Facilitation
1	09:00 – 09:10	Opening remarks	Chair: U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, Deputy Director General, Forest Department
2	09:10 – 10:00	Introduction to REDD+ and Myanmar REDD+ Programme - What is REDD+ - Myanmar REDD+ Readiness Roadmap - REDD+ Management Arrangement	Dr. Thaung Naing Oo, Director, Forest Department, Secretary of Task Force
3	10:00 – 10:20	Discussion, questions and answers	Chair
4	10:20 – 10:40	Presentation of the Terms of Reference, TOR, of the TF	Khin Hnin Myint, National Programme Coordinator, UN-REDD Programme
5	10:40 – 10:50	Discussion, questions, answers, decisions about final TOR	Chair
9	10:50 – 11:30	UN-REDD programme in Myanmar: Achievements and Plan	Mr. Franz Arnold, Technical Specialist, UN-REDD
10	11:30 – 11:45	Other REDD+ Initiatives in Myanmar	Dr. Thaung Naing Oo, Director, Forest Department, Secretary of Task Force
11	11:45 – 12:20	National REDD+ Strategies (Draft): Engagement Plan	KHM/Min Soe
12	12:20– 12:30	Closing remarks	Chair: U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, Deputy Director General, Forest Department
13	12:30– 13:30	Lunch	

Annex 2: Participants at the 1st REDD+ Task Force meeting

No	Name	Title	Organization	Contact
1	U Ohn Lwin	Director	Department of Mines	0931492337
2	Daw Phyu phyu San	Sustainable forestry specialist	FAO	phyu.san@fao.org
3	Tim Boyle	RTA	UNDP	
4	Celina Yong	SE specialist	UNDP	kin.yii.yong@undp.org
5	Bruno Hugel	National Strategies Advisor	UNDP	Bruno.hugel@undp.org
6	U Than Htut	Director	DALMS	Uthanhtut888@gmail.com
7	U Yarzar Myo Thant	Assistant Director	DALMS	
8	Dr. Thaung Naing Oo	Director	FRI	Tnoo71@gmail.com

9	Dr. Yuya Aye	Staff Officer	FRI	yuyaaye@gmail.com
10	U Myint Zaw Oo	Staff Officer	ECD	Myintzawoo.kp9@gmail.com
11	U Kyaw Lwin	Director	DOP, MOALI	
12	U Zaw Win	Member	MERN	naywunmyat1@gmail.com
13	U Khin Mg Kyaw	Director	GAD	09421079085
14	U Nyi Nyi Phyu	Interpreter		09252899434
15	Daw Aye Thida Naing	Assistant Director	Budget Department	067 410308
16	U Tin Yi	Director	P.D	0931661779
17	Franz Arnold	Technical Specialist	UN-REDD	fran.arnold@undp.org
18	Thin Thitsar Kyaw	Project Assistant	UN-REDD	
19	Dr. Zaw Lwin Tun	Director	IWUMD	kozawlwin@gmail.com
20	Daw Naw Ei Ei Min	Director	POINT	point.neem@gmail.com
21	U Myo Ko Ko	Programme Manager	POINT	
22	U Tin Htun	Director	Forest Department	
23	U Ngwe Tee	Assistant Director	Forest Department	
24	Daw Khin Hnin Myint	NPC	UN-REDD	
25	U Min Soe	SEO	UN-REDD	