

**Minutes of the 1st Programme Executive Board Meeting
UN- REDD Programme, Myanmar**

Date:	12 September, 2016
Venue:	Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC), Nay Pyi Taw
Time:	09:00 – 12:00
Objective of the meeting:	To introduce the UN-REDD National Programme; To finalize and approved TOR of PEB; To update the progress of the UN-REDD Targeted Support Programme implementation discuss and approve the plan for the rest of 2016 with UN-REDD National Programme
Co-Chair:	Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw, Director General, Forest Department, MONREC Mr. Peter Batchelor, Country Director, UNDP Myanmar
Participants:	
PEB members	Mr. Andrea Berloff, Senior Emergency Coordinator, FAO, Mr. Thomas Enters, UN-REDD Regional Coordinator, UNEP U Bobby, General Secretary, Central Executive Committee, Myanmar Environment Rehabilitation-conservation Network (MERN), Daw Naw Ei Ei Min, Director, Promotion of Indigenous and Nature Together (POINT)
PEB Secretary	Dr. Thaung Naing Oo, Director, Forest Research Institute, Forest Department, National Programme Director, UN-REDD Programme, Myanmar
Observers/Donors	Mr. Harald W. Mathisen, Counsellor Development, Royal Norwegian Embassy, Ms. Maria Suokko, Head of Cooperation, Diplomatic Mission of Finland
Participating Agencies	Daw Lat Lat Aye, Team Leader, Environmental Governance and Disaster Resilience, UNDP Myanmar, Daw Thin Thin Aung, Programme Coordinator, UNDP Myanmar
UN- REDD Programme	Mr. Timothy Boyle, Regional Coordinator, UNDP, Bangkok, Mr. Ben Vickers, Regional Coordinator, FAO Bangkok, Mr. Franz Eugen Arnold, Technical Specialist, UNDP Myanmar, Daw Phyu Phyu San, National Forest Policy Consultant, FAO Myanmar, Daw Khin Hnin Myint, Programme Coordinator, UNDP Myanmar, Daw Thin Thitsar Kyaw, Programme Assistant, FAO Myanmar

1. Opening

The co-chair, Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw, Director General of Forest Department and Mr. Peter Batchelor, Country Director of UNDP Myanmar addressed opening speech at the meeting.

In his speech, Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw commented that Myanmar was progressing well with REDD+ readiness activities, although the development of the National REDD+ strategy and the work on safeguards was delayed. Progress on developing the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), especially the NFI component, is well on track and may benefit in the near future also from additional support by the Finnish technical cooperation. . He welcomed the imminent launch of the UN-REDD Myanmar Programme to further build capacities for REDD+ implementation.

UNDP Country Director, Mr. Peter Batchelor highlighted Myanmar has a huge potential to contribute to climate change mitigation through REDD+ since it is one of the countries in the region with the largest forest reserves still (approx. 30 million ha). Myanmar is also a largely rural country with more than 70% of the population living in rural areas and being directly dependent on land and forest use for their livelihoods. Policies, measures and strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from land use and forestry, one of the cornerstones of REDD+, therefore have to take into account the livelihood and development needs of people, especially indigenous and ethnic communities. The UNREDD Programme brings together the expertise of three UN technical agencies, namely; FAO, UNDP and UNEP, and works in more than 60 countries worldwide, including Myanmar. The UNDP Country Office will be the lead agency in Myanmar for UNREDD and assumes the overall responsibility for the adequate delivery of quality advisory services to the Government and relevant stakeholders.

2. Overview about UN-REDD Programme, Myanmar

Dr. Thaug Naing Oo, National Programme Director presented the overview of the UN-REDD National Programme: objectives, management arrangement, expected outcomes, outputs and resource allocation. The programme expects to reach 5 outcomes with the total budget allocation of over US\$ 5.5 million for 4 years (2016-2020). The 3 implementing UN agencies will play key roles for programme implementation with their respective technical expertise. With the overall supervision of PEB and the support of the National Programme Director, the UN-REDD Programme Management Unit will manage the Programme Implementation on a daily basis.

Discussion Points

- Thomas Enters (UNEP) observed, in relation to Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw's opening remarks, that delays in development of the SIS are actually a positive thing in that safeguards have to be designed in relation to policies and measures (PAMs), which have not yet been identified.
- Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw commented that the most recent deforestation statistics indicated that deforestation outside the permanent forest estate (PFE) is much higher (2.3%/yr.) than within the PFE (1.3%/yr) which constitutes a reason for concern by the Forest Department. Also, a priority should be to work with other ministries on development and implementation of the National Land Use Plan.
- Ben Vickers (Observer, FAO) clarified that the target for reference level (FREL) development is the end of 2017 for submission to the UNFCCC by early 2018.

3. Terms of Reference (TOR) of PEB

Daw Khin Hnin Myint, Programme Coordinator briefly explained the draft TOR of PEB.

Discussion Points

- **It was decided** that the PEB would invite the Director General of Environmental Conservation Department (ECD) to be one of the members of PEB as ECD is acting as

Committee on Environmental Conservation and Climate Change and secretary to the working group on climate mitigation (including REDD+) and adaptation under the central committee.

- **It was decided** that the PEB would invite Norway and Finland to be permanent observers of the PEB. Both Finland and Norway indicated that they were interested in becoming permanent observers, but need to consult with their embassies first.
- The formulation of the TOR needed a revision in order to use consistent language and terms throughout the document. A new and amended version of the TOR needed to be produced and will be attached to the minutes of this meeting for approval by PEB members on a non-objection basis.

4. Discussion on Management Arrangement of Myanmar REDD+ Programme

With the facilitation of Dr. Thaung Naing Oo, National Programme Director, PEB had a discussion on Management Arrangement of Myanmar REDD+ Programme. He pointed out the imminent need for formation of the REDD+ Taskforce (RTF) according to the proposed management chart of the REDD+ programme in Myanmar. (slide 3 of ppt. presentation by Khin Hnin Myint).

Discussion Points

- U Bobby (MERN) asked for a number of clarifications:
 - The relationship between the PEB and RTF
 - The role of the PEB in requesting fund transfer as well as approving budgets
 - In informing the RTF of the decisions of the PEB, who would be responsible?
- In response, it was clarified that the PEB was the governing body of only the UN-REDD Programme, whereas the RTF will have oversight of all REDD+ activities. The role of the PEB in requesting fund transfer is actually a minor, one-off role, and can be deleted from the TOR. It will be the Secretary to the PEB (Dr. Thaung Naing Oo) who will be responsible for reporting to the RTF.
- Naw Ei Ei Min (POINT) proposed that the RTF should involve Indigenous People representation, like the PEB
- As Taskforce has to take care of the whole Myanmar REDD+ Programme and the Forest Department in its capacity as the focal department of REDD+, should make the relevant decisions on the RTF formation. However, the PEB of the UN-REDD programme can provide recommendations and suggestions to the Forest department for this purpose.

5. Work plan and Progress of UN-REDD Programme Myanmar

Mr. Franz E. Arnold, UN-REDD Technical Specialist explained the progress of UN-REDD Programme and targets for 2016. By the end of the year 2016, the programme expects to draft the national REDD+ strategies, draft the design for a new national forest inventory (NFI), draft Forest (emission) Reference Level, and Safeguards Roadmap.

Discussion Points

- PEB suggested to present the progress by matching with the programme's expected outcomes and outputs.
- The programme is being implemented with the UN-REDD Targeted Support budget but the budget is almost finished at this stage. For the continuation of programme implementation within this year, the National Programme Document has to be signed by 3 agencies as soon as possible.
- The Forest Department does not have any issues with the Programme Document, as it was originally proposed by the Department, so that the required Government signatures can be achieved without major delay.
- All the outcomes of National Programme are very important for Myanmar REDD+ Readiness Programme. In case if it has to be prioritized by Forest Department, outcome 2: national

institutions have capacity to implement effective and participatory governance arrangements for REDD+, outcome 5: national REDD+ Strategy developed and outcome 4: development of Myanmar's national forest monitoring system (NFMS) and FRELS/FRLs would be 1st priorities.

- Finland is planning to provide fund for the necessary areas of NFMS which will be complementary to the UN-REDD Programme Implementation. This support will possibly commence next year.
- **The PEB requested the PMU** to provide future updates by outcome and output to simplify review by PEB members¹.
- No objections were voiced by PEB members to the UN-REDD Programme Document.

6. Summary: Decisions/Required Actions

- **It was decided** that the PEB would invite the Director General of Environmental Conservation Department (ECD) to be a member of the PEB.
- **It was decided** that the PEB would invite Norway and Finland to be permanent observers of PEB.
- **It was decided** that the PEB ToR would be revised on the basis of comments made and circulated to all members of the PEB – either as an attachment to the draft PEB minutes or independently – for a two-week, no-objection approval process.
- **The PEB requested the PMU** to provide future updates by outcome and output to simplify review by PEB members. This has actually been provided but will in the future be brought more prominently to the attention of board members.
- PEB has no further comments/suggestions on National Programme Document.

7. Next Meeting

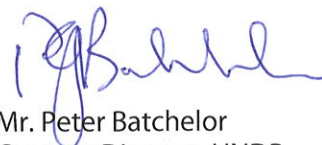
The next meeting will tentatively be at 29th of November, 2016, subject to the availability of the National Programme Budget. The agenda will include (inter alia):

- Achievements of 2016
- Work plan and budget for 2017
- Discussion and Approval of the standard operation procedure (SOP).

Minutes approved by



Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw
Director General, Forest Department
Co-Chair of PEB



Mr. Peter Batchelor
Country Director, UNDP
Co-Chair of PEB

¹ Actually the work progress has been provided by outcome and output but the resulting tables were too space consuming to put them up on the ppt. presentation. They were included in the material which was sent out by email for preparation to board members and also included as a printed version in the folders.