

## Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Myanmar National REDD+ Taskforce

- Date: 9 April 2019
- Venue: Forest Department
- Time: 09:30 – 12:30
- Objective of the meeting: To update the Taskforce on progress in REDD+ initiatives in Myanmar, and to discuss the way forward for the Taskforce
- Chair: U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, Deputy Director General, Forest Department
- Participants:
- Taskforce members: U Ko, Director, Planning Department, MOPF,  
U Than Htut, Director, DALMS, MOALI,  
U Min Lwin, Deputy Director, Agricultural Planning Department, MOALI,  
U Tun Win, Deputy Director, IWUMD,  
Daw Yi Yi Htwe, Deputy Director, DICA, MOIER,  
Daw Ei Ei Theint, Deputy Staff Officer, Department of Agriculture, MOALI  
Daw Soe Sandar Aung, Assistant Staff Officer, Department of Agriculture, MOALI,  
U Kyaw Soe, Assistant Director, General Administered Department, MOUG,  
Daw Hnin Phyu Phyu Aung, Staff Officer, ECD, MONREC,  
U Aung Thant Zin, CEO, MERN, and  
U Myo Ko, Programme Manager, POINT.
- Taskforce Secretary: Dr. Thaug Naing Oo, Director, Forest Research Institute, FD.
- Observers/Donors: Dr. Yuya Aye, Assistant Director, FRI, Mr. Martin Fodor, Senior Environmental Specialist, World Bank, Daw May Nwe Soe, Consultant, UN-REDD, Ms. Lucy Emerton, Consultant for REDD+ Finance Options, UN-REDD, Daw Thinn Thitsar Kyaw, Project Assistant, UN-REDD Programme, Myanmar, Mr. Timothy Boyle, Chief Technical Advisor, UN-REDD Programme, Myanmar, Daw Khin Hnin Myint, Programme Coordinator, UN-REDD Programme, Myanmar, U Min Soe, Stakeholder Engagement Officer, UN-REDD Programme, Myanmar, Daw Thit Thit Han, Communication Officer, UN-REDD Programme, Myanmar, Daw Phyo Pa Pa Han, REDD+ Office Assistant, REDD+ National Programme, Myanmar,

### Agenda item 1: Opening

The meeting was opened by U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, Chair of the TF, Deputy Director General of the Forest Department. He highlighted the important role of relevant line Ministries/Departments for the implementation of Myanmar REDD+ Programme.

### Agenda item 2: Action taken to follow up on Decisions reached at the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Taskforce

Dr. Thaug Naing Oo, the Secretary of TF reported on the implementation of decisions reached at the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the TF. Progress can be seen in the table below.

### Actions taken to follow up on Decisions reached at the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Taskforce

No.	Decision	Action Taken
6/1	TF agreed on proposed changes (to the national clarification) and decided TF's approval is fine for finalization. The clarification will be shared at EC meeting of FD for information sharing.	National clarification will be presented to an EC meeting on April 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2019
6/2	Moving to Phase 2, the new TOR for new TF and TWGs need to be developed and the level of members must be requested base on the requirement of the activities. For central level, rather NE5C or Central Level Management Committee will be formed, and TF will have to report to the Central Level REDD+ Committee.	ToRs are still under development
6/3	All TWGs must report their activities to TF in Phase II. REDD+ TF will oversee the REDD+ implementation in the country.	This decision will be implemented when Phase 2 begins
6/4	As per the requirement of REDD+ strategy implementation, TWGs should be formed at the States and Regions/Districts Level.	This decision will be implemented as REDD+ implementation begins
6/5	TF delegated to TWG to have preliminary decision on identifying financial management option and TF will review on it.	TWG meeting was held and conclusions are presented at TF7, Agenda item 8

### Agenda item 3: Progress on REDD+ in Myanmar

Dr. Thaug Naing Oo, the Secretary of TF updated the progress of REDD+ in Myanmar in the context of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+. The consultation process on REDD+ strategy is continuously conducted. The focus is engagement with ethnic nationalities. It has been completed for Danu, Kokang, Karen (DKBA/KNLA-PC) Karenni, Mon, Palaung, Pa-O, and Wa and is on-going for 3 other ethnic nationalities. A meeting has also been held with the NCA-S Working Committee on Land and Environment. Four consultation workshops on the most controversial or unclear PAMs have been held. It has been completed for Danu, Mon, Pa-O, Palaung and Wa and is on-going for 7 other ethnic nationalities. A series of consultation workshops on the most controversial or unclear PAMs has been initiated and four workshops have been held. Myanmar's initial FREL is complete and was posted on the UNFCCC website in January 2019. The FREL currently includes deforestation and enhancement through reforestation and afforestation. The main focus in recent months has been on preparations for the National Forest Inventory. Fourteen Field Crew Members for 7 Field Crews were trained in 18-22 Feb 2019 as the first Field Training of draft NFI Methodology for Myanmar NFI. Field Testing has been undertaken in 6 Districts (Pyapon, Tharyarwaddy, Pyin Oo Lwin, Myingyan, Katha and Taunggyi), following field training, and the plan is to finish field testing in April 2019. An updated version of the Field Methodology will be produced in May, incorporating lessons from field testing and a validation workshop will be organized (possibly in June). The national clarification of the Cancun Safeguards has been finalized, and work on the design of indicators and identification of sources of information for indicators is almost complete. Data collection will be undertaken in May and June. A workplan and Table of Contents for Myanmar's first "Summary of Information" have been prepared, and a consultant identified to lead the work.

#### Discussion

Among the TF members, there was discussion about the management of REDD+ Programme implementation. The Chair response was FD is leading agency for REDD+ implementation, however the strong coordination and participation of the relevant line agencies is required.

#### **Agenda item 4: Knowledge Management and Communication Strategy Update**

Daw Thit Thit Han, Communication Officer of the UN-REDD Myanmar presented the revised Knowledge Management and Communication Strategy of Myanmar REDD+ Programme. With support from the UN-REDD Programme, a Communications and Knowledge Management (CKM) Strategy covering Phase 1 of REDD+ was developed in 2016. As Myanmar is now preparing to move into Phase 2 (implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy) and looking ahead to Phase 3 (full reporting and results-based payments), it is necessary to review and revise the CKM strategy to ensure that the needs for communications and knowledge management during REDD+ implementation are fully met.

##### Discussion

There was a question relating to managing the websites/online platforms of different REDD+ related initiatives in Myanmar and how to establish linkages among them all. The Chair commented that all those platforms will have to be linked with Forest Department's website and social network.

##### Decision

**Decision 7/1:** TF endorsed the revised Knowledge Management and Communication Strategy of Myanmar REDD+ Programme.

#### **Agenda item 6: Progress on REDD+ Safeguards in Myanmar: SOI (Summary of Information)**

Daw Khin Hnin Myint, Programme Coordinator of the UN-REDD Myanmar shared the progress of safeguards works in Myanmar. She highlighted the contents of SOI and work plan for the development of SOI and requested comments and approval of TF on the set workplan. SOI is needed to prepare and submitted to UNFCCC when the country is planning to request result-based payment under REDD+.

##### Discussion

There was discussion on in which level is appropriate for approval of the final SOI. TF recommended to take approval at Minister Level.

##### Decision

**Decision TF 7/2:** TF agreed the proposed contents of SOI and workplan for the development of SOI and decided that the final SOI should be approved by the Minister of MONREC.

#### **Agenda item 8: Options for REDD+ Finance Management**

Mr. Timothy Boyle, CTA, UN-REDD, Myanmar gave initial briefing on the possible finance mechanisms for REDD+. He reported the results and discussions of the meeting of Technical Working Group (TWG) on Drivers and Strategy. Based on the discussion results of the TWG meeting, he requested the comments and endorsement of the Taskforce on recommended finance management options.

##### Discussion

TF members discussed the importance of establishing a mechanism that is able to accommodate the involvement of non-governmental agencies. They noted that it is essential that the development of a financial mechanisms needed to be coordinated with progress on REDD+, and that as Myanmar was moving into Phase 2, neither the EMF nor the MBF were yet operational. On the other hand, for Phase

2, only "option E", involving budget support and multi-partner funds is needed, whereas when Myanmar enters Phase 3, more sophisticated mechanisms will be needed.

### Decisions

**Decision TF 7/3:** Taskforce agreed with the conclusions of the TWG that, for Phase 2 of REDD+, the use of Direct Budget Support and Multi-donor Trust Funds (i.e., "option E") is the best option.

**Decision TF 7/4:** For Phase 3, Taskforce agreed to use "option F" (start up with the use of Direct Budget Support and Multi-donor Trust Funds and later work with EMF and MBF).

**Decision TF 7/5:** Taskforce recommended to have discussion with the focal points of the EMF/MBF development processes about REDD+ agenda.

### **Agenda item 10: World Bank loan programme to support to MRRP implementation**

Mr. Martin Fodor, Senior Environmental Specialist, World Bank shared the loan programme of World Bank to support to MRRP Implementation of Forest Department (FD). In collaboration with World Bank, FD is preparing proposal for the implementation of MRRP with the loan of World Bank. This loan programme will mainly cover the promotion of Community Forestry and Community Forest Enterprises, establishment of forest plantation, forest inventory system and wood-based industry. He noted, for example, that figures suggest there is demand in one District in Kayin State for around 15,000ha of Community Forest, but the MRRP target is only 500ha for the District.

### Discussion

Taskforce members discussed the need for coordination among numerous initiatives supporting, or planning to support Community Forests. The Chair noted that the Community Forests National Working Group (CFNWG) has a role to coordinate, and that all initiatives supporting Community Forests are invited to present tier information to the CFNWG. He also noted that the proposed WB loan programme would be focused more on Community Forest Enterprises than on Community Forest establishment.

The Taskforce member representing Indigenous Peoples commented that grants were more appropriate for local communities than loans, certainly in the initial stages of Community Forest (Enterprise) development. It was noted that the WB loan would be to the government, and how those funds are used would be based on an agreement between the WB and the government, and could include the provision of grants to Community Forest User Groups.

### **Other business**

There was discussion on the mechanism by which information is exchanged between the Taskforce and the National Environmental Conservation and Climate Change Central Committee (NEC<sup>5</sup>); in particular if Taskforce decisions are conveyed to the NEC<sup>5</sup> as per earlier Taskforce decisions, and how the response of NEC<sup>5</sup> to that information can be brought back to the Taskforce. The Chair explained that he reports to the DG on the Taskforce discussion and decisions, who communicates on to the Minister. The Permanent Secretary of MONREC is Secretary to the NEC<sup>5</sup>, and can provide the link to ensure communication is shared. However, he requested UN-REDD to assist in preparing for a formal agenda item on REDD+ for a future meeting of the NEC<sup>5</sup>.

### Decision

**Decision TF7/6:** The Taskforce requests the UN-REDD Programme to assist the Forest Department in preparing for a formal NEC<sup>5</sup> agenda item on REDD+.

### Summary of Decisions and Action points

**Decision TF 7/1:** TF endorsed the revised Knowledge Management and Communication Strategy of Myanmar REDD+ Programme.

**Decision TF 7/2:** TF agreed the proposed contents of SOI and workplan for the development of SOI.

**Decision TF 7/3:** Taskforce agreed with the conclusions of the TWG that, for Phase 2 of REDD+, the use of Direct Budget Support and Multi-donor Trust Funds (i.e., "option E") is the best option.

**Decision TF 7/4:** For Phase 3, Taskforce agreed to use "option F" (start up with the use of Direct Budget Support and Multi-donor Trust Funds and later work with EMF and MBF).

**Decision TF 7/5:** Taskforce recommended to have discussion with the focal points of the EMF/MBF development processes about REDD+ agenda.

**Decision TF 7/6:** The Taskforce requests the UN-REDD Programme to assist the Forest Department in preparing for a formal NEC<sup>5</sup> agenda item on REDD+.

### Next meeting

The next Taskforce meeting will be scheduled in early July 2019.

### Attachments

- Agenda of the meeting
- Attendance list

Minutes approved by



Kyaw Kyaw Lwin  
Chair of National REDD+ Task Force  
Deputy Director General, Forest Department

## 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Myanmar REDD+ Task Force

### Annex 1: Agenda

No.	Time	Items	Facilitation
1	09:30 - 09:40	Opening remarks	Chair: U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, Deputy Director General, Forest Department
2	09:40 – 09:50	Action taken to follow up on Decisions reached at the 6 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Taskforce	Dr. Thaung Naing Oo, Secretary to the Task Force
3	09:50 – 10:10	Progress on REDD+ in Myanmar and under the UN-REDD Programme in Myanmar	Dr. Thaung Naing Oo, Secretary to the Task Force
4	10:10 – 10:30	Knowledge Management and Communication Strategy Update	Thit Thit Han, Communication Officer, UN-REDD
5	10:30 – 10:45	Questions & Answers	Chair
6	10:45 – 11:00	Progress on REDD+ Safeguards in Myanmar: SOI (Summary of Information)	Khin Hnin Myint, NPC, UN-REDD Programme
7	11:00 – 11:10	Questions & Answers	Chair
8	11: 10 – 11:30	Options for REDD+ Finance Management	Tim Boyle, CTA, UN-REDD Programme
9	11:30 – 11:45	Questions & Answers	Chair
10	11:45 – 12:15	World Bank loan programme to support to MRRP implementation	Martin Fodor, Sr. Environmental Specialist, World Bank (TBC)
11	12:15 – 12:25	Questions & Answers	Chair
12	12:25 – 12:30	Closing remarks	Chair: U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, Deputy Director General, Forest Department
13	12:30	Lunch	

7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Myanmar REDD+ Task Force

Annex 2: Attendance

No.	Name	Title	Organization	Email
1	U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin	Deputy Director General	Forest Department	
2	U Myo Ko Ko	Programme Manager	POINT	point.mkk@gmail.com
3	Dr. Yu Ya Aye	Assistant Director	Forest Research Institute	
4	U Aung Thant Zin	CEO	MERN	mern.myanmar@gmail.com
5	U Kyaw Soe	Assistant Director	GAD(MOHA)	landgad300@gmail.com
6	Thinn Thitsar Kyaw	Project Assistant	FAO	Thinn.kyaw@fao.org
7	U Tun Win	Deputy Director	IWUMD	utunwin1962@gmail.com
8	U Ko	Director	Planning Dept	maung2ko@gmail.com
9	Daw Yi Yi Htwe	Deputy Director	DICA	htwe278@gmail.com
10	Dr. Hnin Phyu Phyu Aung	Staff Officer	ECD	hninphy2693@gmail.com
11	Daw Ei Ei Theing	Deputy Staff Officer	Department of Agriculture	theint.eiei@gmail.com
12	U Min Lwin	Deputy Director	Dept of Planning, MOALI	minlwinmaster@gmail.com
13	U Than Htut	Director	DALMS	slrdstatisticslrd@gmail.com
14	Dr. Thaung Naing Oo	Director	FRI	tnoo71@gmail.com
15	Daw Soe Sandar Aung	Assistant Staff Officer	Department of Agriculture	soesandaraung355@gmail.com
16	Mr. Martin Fodor	Senior Environmental Specialist	World Bank	mfodor@worldbank.org
17	Ma May New Soe	Consultant	UNDP	maynwesoe1@gmail.com
18	Ms. Lucy Emerton	Consultant	UN-REDD	
19	Daw Thit Thit Han	Communication Officer	UN-REDD	thit.thit.han@undp.org
20	Mr. Timothy Boyle	CTA	UN-REDD	timothy.boyle@undp.org
21	Daw Khin Hnin Myint	National Programme Coordinator	UN-REDD	khin.hnin.myint@undp.org
22	U Min Soe	SE officer	UN-REDD	min.soe@undp.org
23	Phyo Pa Pa Han	Programme Assistant	UN-REDD	phyo.pa.pa.han@undp.org