

**Minutes of the 9th Programme Executive Board Meeting
UN- REDD Programme, Myanmar**

- Date:** 6 August 2020
- Venue:** Forest Department, Nay Pyi Taw
- Time:** 09:30 – 12:45
- Objective of the meeting:** To update on progress in programme implementation and advise on closure of the programme
- Co-Chairs:** U Tin Htun, Deputy Director General, Forest Department, MONREC
Ms. Dawn Del Rio, Officer-in-Charge, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP
- Participants:**
- PEB members
Ms. Xiaojie Fan, Country Representative, FAO Myanmar
Mr. Alexis Corblin, Regional Technical Advisor, UN Environment (joined online)
U Soe Naing, Director, Environmental Conservation Department, MONREC
Saw Myo Ko Ko, Programme Manager, Promotion of Indigenous and Nature Together (POINT)
Naw Ei Ei Min, Director, Promotion of Indigenous and Nature Together (POINT)
- PEB Secretary
Dr. Thaug Naing Oo, Director, Planning and Statistics Division, Forest Department, and National Programme Director, UN-REDD Programme, Myanmar
- Observers/Donors
Ms. Sanna Takala, Councillor, Embassy of Finland (joined online)
Dr. Yu Ya Aye, Assistant Director, FRI, FD
- Participating Agencies
Ms. Pem Wangdi, Programme Specialist, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Programme, UNDP Myanmar
Daw Lat Lat Aye, Programme and Management Specialist/Senior Advisor, UNDP Myanmar
U Tint Khine, Assistant FAO Representative (Programme), FAO Myanmar
Mr. Ben Vickers, Regional Forest Officer (REDD+), FAORAP, Bangkok
Daw Thinn Thitsar Kyaw, Programme Specialist, FAO Myanmar
- UN- REDD Programme
Mr. Timothy Boyle, Chief Technical Advisor, UN-REDD PMU
Mr. Franz Arnold, Chief Technical Advisor, FAO
Daw Khin Hnin Myint, Programme Coordinator, UN-REDD PMU (Joined online)
U Phone Htut, National Consultant of RS/ GIS, FAO
U Khine Zaw Wynn, National Consultant of NFI, FAO
Daw Sandar Min Wai, Programme Assistant, UN-REDD PMU
Kyaw Min Aung, Administrative Assistant, FAO Myanmar

Opening

The meeting was opened with remarks by Forest Department Deputy Director General, U Tin Htun, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative (Officer-in-Charge), Ms. Dawn Del Rio, and FAO Representative, Ms. Xiaojie Fan.

In his opening, U Tin Htun highlighted the development of Myanmar's first Summary of Information (SOI) on REDD+, expected to be on the UNFCCC web portal imminently, the Norwegian funding for implementing REDD+ in mangrove ecosystems, and the management arrangements for Myanmar REDD+ Phase II in which the National REDD+ Coordinating Body will play an important role in overseeing REDD+ Phase II with the significant facilitation of REDD+ National Coordination Unit.

With less than 4 months from the completion of the UN-REDD Myanmar the DDG emphasized the need to make sure all the hand over processes go smoothly to continuously support Myanmar REDD+ Phase II.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Dawn Del Rio commended the progress made in updating the NDC targets, but expressed concern that donors are likely to be confused by the different targets in the National REDD+ Strategy and the NDC, given that senior government officials including the Union Minister, MONREC had made statements over the past several months about Myanmar adopting a challenging and ambitious target for emissions reductions, at least in the forest sector.

Ms. Dawn Del Rio noted the importance of strengthening the legislative framework (for improvements to policies, laws and regulations required to ensure effective implementation of REDD+), possibly through a Climate Change Law or an amendment to the Environmental Conservation Law. Furthermore, noting that the main threat to Myanmar's forests comes from agriculture, and the Agricultural Development Strategy (2016) emphasizes increases in yields and productivity over expansion of agricultural land, proposed that the FD, MOALI and donors, including the UN, should organize a high-level roundtable on this issue.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Xiaojie Fan highlighted that this is the first UN joint programme in the country and good achievements have been made throughout this programme. FAO has been contributing support to the Forest Department, the Government of Myanmar, to meet the requirements of the forestry related country priorities and the Paris agreement. The new projects and initiatives, like Mangrove initiatives funded by Norway, National Forest Inventory project funded by the Government of Finland, ongoing land project formulation funded by EU and forestry statistics technical cooperation project, all are based on the good achievements and positive results of this UN-REDD Programme.

Agenda item 2¹: Report from the Chair of the National REDD+ Taskforce

On behalf of U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, former Deputy Director General of the Forest Department, and Chair of the Taskforce, a report was provided by Dr. Thuang Naing Oo, Secretary to the Taskforce.

He reported that the Taskforce had met once since the previous PEB meeting and presented the decisions reached at that meeting and actions on these decisions.

Decisions reached at the 10th meeting of the Taskforce included:

- The Forest Department should send a request to the Director General of the Environmental Conservation Department to share REDD+ info at the NECCCCC meeting in January 2020. This was done.
- Agreed to the proposal contained in Decision PEB 8/3 of the UN-REDD Programme Executive Board that it should assume the role of governance and oversight for REDD+

¹ The annotated agenda of the PEB meeting is included as Annex 1 to the minutes

implementation in mangroves delivered through the UN-REDD Programme, and that it should serve an equivalent role in other REDD+ Phase 2 projects. No further action required.

- Endorsed the proposed TOR of a revised oversight body and asked the UN-REDD PMU to share the proposed ToR to all the members through email in order to allow them one week to check the text. No further comments were received, so the ToR were adopted.
- Recommended to add Environmental Conservation Department, DICA, Agriculture Department and Budget Department to the list of the proposed members of a reformed TF and to invite the representatives of NCA-S EAOs as observers whenever necessary. No further action required.
- Recommended that the most appropriate name of the revised TF for Phase 2 might be "National REDD+ Steering Committee". The DG/FD subsequently recommended "National REDD+ Coordinating Body".
- Endorsed the proposed institutional arrangements and ToR of sub-national REDD+ coordination bodies and recommended to update the membership list whenever necessary. No further action required.
- Recommended further discussion on the proposed REDD+ Management Arrangements in Phase 2 and take approval of the Director General (Forest Department)/Minister (MONREC). These discussions have been held.
- Requested the Secretary to work with the UAGO and MCCA to investigate the most effective approach to promoting sustainability of the Taskforce and REDD+ National Coordination Unit, as well as addressing other REDD+ regulatory requirements, with the possible development of a Climate Change Law, and modifications to various existing laws being two of the options considered. These discussions are on-going.

Session 1: Updates

Agenda item 3: State of advance UN-REDD Programme in Myanmar, development towards major targets for 2019

Dr. Thaung Naing Oo, National Programme Director of UN-REDD, presented the progress and achievements of the programme implementation during the 1st half year of the 2020, as well as results to date against indicators in the UN-REDD M&E framework. He highlighted those outputs and activities where some delays or a major delay had been encountered.

Several activities have experienced some delays due to Covid-19 restrictions, particularly in Outcome 1. Only one activity is falling significantly behind 2019 deliverables, 5.2.2, Development of a REDD+ Investment Plan.

Discussion

No issues were raised by PEB members.

Agenda item 5: Fulfilment of pending actions from meetings minutes of last PEB meeting in 11 December 2019

Dr. Timothy Boyle presented the actions and follow-up activities taken on the 8th PEB meeting decisions. All decisions had been addressed, although Decision 8/5 ("Back-to-back meetings of the Taskforce and CFNWG are again encouraged ...") had proven impossible to organize. Instead, the UN-REDD PMU had given a presentation to a meeting of the CFNWG, and a representative of the CFNWG had given a presentation to the Taskforce.

Discussion

No additional actions were identified.

Session 2: Items for information and provision of advice

Agenda item 7: Administration of funding for mangroves

Dr. Timothy Boyle presented an update of the status of Norwegian funding for REDD+ implementation in mangrove ecosystems. The funding has been approved by Norway and the funds have been deposited in the UN-REDD MPTF. Release of the funds to UN agencies will be possible if the UN-REDD Programme Board raises no objections. The deadline for that is August 10th.

Discussion

Mr. Ben Vickers noted that due to the need to translate the UN-REDD Programme Board documentation into French and Spanish, the no-objection deadline is now closer to the end of August.

Dr. Thaung Naing Oo made three requests/suggestions:

- That a joint letter from three UN agencies should be submitted to the Forest Department for this Mangrove Project as one of the initiatives under the Implementation Phase of REDD+ so that it can be put in the project bank;
- That discussions should be held to ensure coordination with other mangrove initiatives;
- Regarding to the output 2 of the Mangrove project: *Data generated for enhanced decision making and a comprehensive monitoring system of land-use and land-cover (LULC) change along coastal areas of Myanmar*, there is a Land Use Planning Working Committee under National Land Use Council and the coordination and discussions with those working committees should be made.

Agenda item 9: Update on the National REDD+ Strategy and Investment Plan

Dr. Timothy Boyle provided an update on the status of the National REDD+ Strategy, EAO Action Plans, and REDD+ Investment Plan.

The submission of the National REDD+ Strategy through the Minister of MONREC to the Cabinet for approval is currently stalled due to a final decision on harmonizing the REDD+ targets with the emission reduction/ enhancement of removal targets of the updated NDC for the forestry and land use change sector.

Initial discussions have been held with two EAO's (KNU and NMSP) on the formulation of EAO Action Plans, but progress has been hampered by Covid-19, since electronic communications is difficult. Additional EAO's for which Action Plans could be developed include RCSS, PNLO, CNF, and KNPP.

The REDD+ Investment Plan represents a plan to operationalize implementation of the Strategy. A seven-step process has been developed to prepare the plan, and several steps have been completed while others are in progress. The target remains to complete the Investment Plan by Q3/2020.

Discussion

Dr. Thaung Naing Oo requested that FAO technical advisors revise and complete the National REDD+ Strategy so that the emission reduction/ enhancement of removal targets of the REDD+ strategy are consistent with the targets of the updated Nationally Determined Contributions, NDC, for the forestry and land use change sector.

Agenda item 11: Terminal evaluation

Dr. Timothy Boyle summarized the process to date in organization of the terminal evaluation, and invited Mr. Michael Richards (international consultant) to brief PEB members about the anticipated methodology.

Discussion

Naw Ei Ei Min offered to communicate some key stakeholders from the ethnic CSO community.

It was decided that the draft report should be circulated to PEB members (in October) for comments.

Agenda item 13: Disposal of assets

As specified in the UN-REDD Programme document, all assets procured through the programme should be transferred to the implementing partner (Forest Department) following completion of the programme. It was decided that this should be done with the exception of items required for the mangroves initiative and the Myanmar National Forest Inventory (NFI) / National Forest Monitoring and Information System (NFMIS) with a Human Rights Based Approach, since those two projects represent a continuation of the programme even though administratively, the funds will be managed differently. In the case of UNDP, items to be retained for mangroves are three laptops (together with LED Monitors and UPSs). The list of assets procured under FAO had been submitted to PEB and those assets will be continuously used in the field data collection under NFI/NFMIS Project, and thus, PEB agreed to retain those assets under FAO.

Decisions and Action points

Decision PEB 9/1: UN agencies are requested to formally communicate to the government about the new mangrove funding once the no-objection decision of the UN-REDD Programme Board has been received.

Decision PEB 9/2: At the initiation of mangrove implementation, steps need to be taken to ensure coordination with other mangrove initiatives and with the approaches to the Land Use Planning Working Committee under NLUC.

Decision PEB 9/3: FAO technical advisors are requested to revise the targets in accordance with the targets used in revised NDC and complete the National REDD+ Strategy for approval.

Decision PEB 9/4: The PMU is instructed to ensure that the draft terminal evaluation report is sent to PEB members for review and comment.

Attachments

- Agenda of the meeting

Minutes approved by



U Tin Htun
Deputy Director General
Forest Department
Co-Chair of PEB



Ms. Dawn Del Rio
Officer-in-Charge
Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP
Co-Chair of PEB

**Annex 1: UN-REDD Programme, Myanmar 9th Programme Executive Board Meeting:
Annotated Agenda**

No.	Time	Items	
1	09:00 – 09:10	Opening remarks by DG of the Forest Department and UNDP Resident Representative	Co-chairs (FD, UNDP)
2	09:10 – 09:20	Invitation to the Chair of the National REDD+ Taskforce to brief the PEB about the activities of, and progress by the Taskforce Decision PEB 3/5 invited the Chair of the National REDD+ Taskforce to attend future PEB meetings in order to share information about Taskforce activities. The Taskforce met in January 2020, but the Chair of the Taskforce retired in April 2020, so a report to the PEB will be provided by the Secretary of the Taskforce on activities undertaken and decisions made by the Taskforce	Secretary to the National REDD+ Taskforce
Session 1: Updates			
3	09:20 – 09:45	State of advance UN-REDD Programme in Myanmar, development towards major targets for 2020 and the programme (Documents PEB 9/2) The PEB may want to comment on measures to rectify any shortcomings highlighted in the presentation	Dr. Thaung Naing Oo, NPD
4	09:45 – 09:55	Discussion, questions and answers	All PEB
5	09:55 – 10:10	Fulfilment of pending actions from meetings minutes of last PEB meeting in December 2018 (Document PEB 9/3) The PEB may want to comment on measures to address items not fully implemented	Timothy Boyle, CTA
6	10:10 – 10:25	Discussion, questions and answers	All PEB
Session 2: Items for Information and Provision of Advice			
7	10:25 – 10:40	Update on Norwegian funds for mangrove implementation (Document PEB 9/4) Norway has transferred funds to the UN-REDD Programme to address REDD+ in mangroves. Due to various delays, the funding is for a period of 18 months. The PMU will update the PEB on administrative arrangements for the funds and oversight of implementation	Tim Boyle, CTA
8	10:40 – 10:55	Discussion, questions and answers	All PEB
9	10:55 -11:05	Update on REDD+ Strategy and Investment Plan (Document PEB 9/5) The status of approval of the National REDD+ Strategy, NCA-S EAO Action Plan, and Investment Plan will be presented, highlighting next steps for REDD+ in Myanmar	Tim Boyle, CTA
10	11:05 - 11:20	Discussion, questions and answers	All PEB
Session 3: Items related to termination of the Programme			
11	11:20 – 11:35	Terminal evaluation (Document PEB 9/6) The status of the terminal evaluation and workplan to finalization will be presented.	Timothy Boyle, CTA
12	11:35 – 11:55	Discussion and decisions	All PEB
13	11:55 – 12:00	Transfer of assets and other issues	Timothy Boyle, CTA
14	12:00 – 12:15	Closing remarks	Co-chairs