

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the Myanmar National REDD+ Taskforce

Date: 23 March, 2018

Venue: Forest Department, Nay Pyi Taw

Time: 09:00 – 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: Dr. Thaug Naing Oo, representing U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, Deputy Director General, Forest Department

Participants:

Taskforce members U Kan Shein, Director, Planning Department, MOPF,
Daw Wut Yi Phyo, Assistant Director, Budget Department, MOPF,
U Kyaw Lwin, Director, Department of Planning, MOALI,
U Moe Aye Zin Thein, Assistant Director, Department of Agricultural Land
Management and Statistics, MOALI,
Daw Phyu Lay Myint, Staff Officer, Department of Agriculture, MOALI
Dr. San Oo, Director, Environmental Conservation Department, MONREC
U Soe Moe Aung, Staff Officer, General Administered Department,
U Tin Aung Moe, Secretary, MERN,
U Myo Ko, Programme Manager, POINT,
U Hla Myint, Advisor, Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association
(MRPPA)

Taskforce Secretary Dr. Thaug Naing Oo, Director, Forest Research Institute (FRI), Forest
Department, National Programme Director, UN-REDD Programme,
Myanmar

Observers/Donors U Ngwe Thee, Assistant Director, Forest Department (FD), MONREC, Dr.
Myat Su Mon, Assistant Director, FD, MONREC, Daw Yu Ya Aye, Assistant
Director, FRI, FD, MONREC, Ms. Rose Enn Tin Sung, Project Officer, Chin
Human Rights Organization (CHRO), U Zar Ni Zaw, Technical Officer,
MRPPA, U Khaing Myint, S/G, MRPPA, Mr. Franz Arnold, Chief Technical
Advisor, FAO Myanmar, Mr. Timothy Boyle, Chief Technical Advisor, UN-
REDD Programme, Myanmar, Daw Khin Hnin Myint, Programme
Coordinator, UN-REDD Programme, Myanmar, U Thein Zaw Win,
Communication Officer, UN-REDD Programme, Myanmar, U Min Soe,
Stakeholder Engagement Officer, UN-REDD Programme, Myanmar, U
Kyaw Min Aung, Programme Assistant, UN-REDD Programme, Myanmar,

Daw Phyo Pa Pa Han, Office Assistant, REDD+ National Programme, Myanmar

Opening

The meeting was opened with remarks by the Secretary, Dr. Thaug Naing Oo, Director of the Forest Research Institute, representing the Chair, U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, Deputy Director of Forest Department. In his opening, he highlighted the mandate of TF to provide guidance and oversight for all related REDD+ programme, projects and initiatives in Myanmar. He mentioned the implementation of Myanmar REDD+ Programme is being accelerated through several initiatives in which the overall guidance of TF is crucial for effective implementation of the whole programme. He concluded his opening by encouraging to all the TF members for their fruitful discussion on how the TF will manage all the REDD+ initiatives in Myanmar.

Session 1: Action taken to follow up on Decisions reached at the 2nd meeting of the Taskforce

Dr. Thaug Naing Oo reported on the implementation of decisions reached at the 2nd meeting of the TF. Progress can be seen in the table below.

No.	Decision	Response
2/1	It was decided that the Taskforce should meet quarterly.	The 3 rd meeting of the TF is held approximately 3 months after the previous meeting
2/2	The Taskforce requested that the UN-REDD Programme should undertake a detailed analysis of the costs, risks and benefits of mixing multiple forest carbon schemes, compared with a "REDD+ only" scenario.	A report is presented as Document TF3/5
2/3	TF Secretary will prepare regular 3-month progress reports, and the TF Chair will report to DG and Minister on progress of REDD+ in order that this information can be presented at NECCCCC meetings	The Secretary's report is presented as Document TF3/3
Supp. 1	The TF requests the UN-REDD Programme to compile a database of "REDD+ related programmes for review and approval at next TF meeting	A report is presented as Document TF3/4
Supp. 2	Based on the database of "REDD+ related programmes" (Issue 1A), the TF Secretary contacts the governing bodies of each and requests a similar solution to that adopted by UN-REDD	The Secretary has communicated with the steering committee of the KFS and ICIMOD projects, which have verbally agreed to similar arrangements to those in place for UN-REDD. Communication with other initiatives will be based on the Taskforce decision

		on what constitutes a REDD+ related project/programme.
Supp. 4	TF requests the Secretary to work with private sector entities to identify up to 2 nominations for TF membership – including at least one representing processes that are drivers	U Myo Thant , Vice-President of the Myanmar Rubbers Planters & Producers Association, and Daw Yu Wai Maung , Sustainability Advisor, KBZ Bank, have been invited to join the Taskforce

Session 2: Progress on REDD+ in Myanmar

Dr. Thaug Naing Oo described the progress on REDD+ in Myanmar. He noted that by the end of 2017, Myanmar was nearing the end of Phase 1 of REDD+, and by the end of 2018 it was expected to be well into Phase 2.

(a) National REDD+ Strategy

On 28th February 2018, the draft strategy was posted on the REDD+ Myanmar website for public comment up to the end of April; it is available at: <http://www.myanmar-redd.org/national-redd-strategy-myanmar-document-for-public-comment>.

(b) Forest Reference Emission Level

On 8th January 2018, Myanmar submitted its initial Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL) to the UNFCCC and a process of Technical Assessment has begun.

(c) National Forest Monitoring System

An action plan for NFMS was developed in 2015 and implemented from the same year; it is not yet available on the REDD+ Myanmar website. The data collection approach for the NFI is still in the piloting phase and the final decision on which carbon pools will be included in field measurements not yet fully decided.

(d) Safeguards Information System

A Safeguards Roadmap was developed in 2017 under the auspices of the Technical Working Group on Stakeholder Engagement and Safeguards. The safeguards roadmap provides information on the proposed goals and scope of Myanmar's safeguards approach, an overview of UNFCCC safeguards requirements, and a description of completed or ongoing initiatives in Myanmar that are relevant to its safeguards roadmap.

Phase 2 activities under implementation

Some policies and measures to reduce net emissions from forests are already under implementation. Since the NLD government took office, there have also been several policies and measures designed to reduce degradation of forests due to over-harvesting of timber. These include:

- A one-year logging moratorium, and a 10-year logging moratorium in Bago Region;
- A substantial reduction in "annual-allowable cuts" for both teak and other hardwoods – and a commitment to harvest well below the annual allowable cuts;

- Reform of the Myanmar Timber Enterprise;
- The passage of a new Forestry Law, with significantly increased penalties for all forest crimes, particularly illegal logging.

Looking ahead to Phase 3

The Green Climate Fund recently launched a pilot programme of results-based payments for countries which have results to report for the period 2014-2018, and which meet the requirements of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ by 2022. The potential for Myanmar to take advantage of this pilot programme is currently being assessed.

Dr. Thaug Naing Oo explained that currently Myanmar is near the end of “Phase 1” of REDD+, and plans are that by the end of 2018, Myanmar will be well into Phase 2.

Session 3: Issues arising from decisions of the 2nd meeting of the Taskforce

- A) Database of REDD+ relevant projects and programmes, and the definition of “REDD+ relevant”

Daw Khin Hnin Myint, Programme Coordinator, UN-REDD/Myanmar, gave a presentation on actions undertaken by UN-REDD in response to TF Decision Supplemental 1. Through a variety of processes, the database amounts to 113 projects, valued at about \$1.4 billion. Three possible criteria were presented to determine which of the 113 projects the Taskforce should consider “REDD+ relevant. These were:

1. *Those projects and programmes that contribute directly to one or more of the four elements of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ (most restrictive). There are **six** such projects. The total funding for these projects amounts to about USD 14,500,000.*
2. *Those projects and programmes that primarily address climate change and forests. There are **17** such projects. The total funding for these projects amounts to about USD 480,745,000.*
3. *Those projects and programmes that include some component related to climate change and forests (most broad). These are represented by blue shading in the Annex. The total funding for these projects amounts to about USD 963,350,000.*

The Taskforce discussed the implications of adopting narrower or broader criteria and reached decision 3/1. The Taskforce also requested the UN-REDD to keep the database regularly updated – Decision 3/2.

- B) Costs, risks and benefits of engaging in forest carbon initiatives other than REDD+

Mr. Timothy Boyle, CTA, UN-REDD/Myanmar, gave a presentation on five forest carbon initiatives: REDD+, FCPF Carbon-fund, REDD+ Early Movers; the Joint Crediting Mechanism (Japan) and the Voluntary Carbon Market. The analysis looked at four issues: who participates in the mechanism, the carbon accounting methods, whether there is transfer of title, and the scale of the initiative. The table below summarizes these issues.

Forest carbon programme	Participants	Scale	Transfer of title?	Carbon accounting methodology
REDD+	Parties to the UNFCCC	National (with sub-national possible as an interim measure)	No	Following COP and IPCC guidance
FCPF	Participant countries of the FCPF	Sub-national, or sometimes national	Yes (with buffer to account for uncertainty)	FCPF methodological framework (aligned with COP/IPCC guidance)
REM	Sub-national jurisdictions	Sub-national (jurisdictional)	No	Proxy indicators, based on IPCC guidance
JCM	Partner countries	Project	Partially, proportion subject to negotiation	<i>ISO 14064 guidelines and consistent with IPCC guidance</i>
VCM	Wide range of options (governments, NGO's, private sector, communities)	Project	Yes (with buffer to account for reversals)	Wide range of methodologies

A set of recommendations emerging from the analysis was presented to the Taskforce and discussed. Taskforce members felt that because the issues are quite complex, they required more time to assess the recommendations. The Taskforce reached Decision 3/3 and asked that the issue be raised again at the next Taskforce meeting.

Session 4: REDD+ Information Exchange

A) Chin Human Rights Organization

Daw Rose Enn Tin Sung, Project Officer, CHRO, described the activities of CHRO, particularly focusing on respect for the rights of indigenous peoples.

B) FAO/Finland National Forest Inventory Project

Dr. Franz Arnold, CTA, described plans for the FAO/Finland National Forest Inventory Project, which has not yet been signed.

C) Worldwide Fund for Nature

Mr. Gaurav Gupta, Sustainable Business Programme Manager for WWF/Myanmar, gave a presentation on WWF activities relevant to REDD+.

Decisions and Action points

Decision 3/1: Initially, the mandate of the Taskforce to provide guidance and oversight to “REDD+ relevant” project and programmes will adopt the criterion that such programmes and projects should contribute directly to one or more of the four elements of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+. (These programmes and projects are listed in Annex 1 to these minutes).

Decision 3/2: The Taskforce requested that the UN-REDD Programme should regularly update the database of programmes and projects that may contribute to REDD+.

Decision 3/3 The Taskforce requested the UN-REDD Programme to provide more information on the issues that need to be taken into account in the negotiation of any bilateral initiatives related to emission reductions from forests.

Decision 3/4: In preparation for the 4th meeting of the Taskforce, which will focus on approval of the National REDD+ Strategy, the UN-REDD Programme is requested to circulate the revised version to Taskforce members well in advance of the meeting to allow them to prepare.

Decision 3/5: Given the importance of mangroves for REDD+, the information exchange session of the 4th meeting will focus on mangroves.

Next meeting

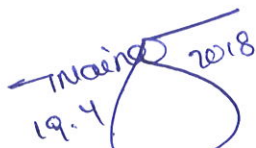
The next Taskforce meeting will be scheduled in June, 2018.

Attachments

- Agenda of the meeting
- Attendance list
- List of programmes and projects defined as “REDD+ relevant” based on Decision TF3/1

Minutes approved by

On Behalf of Chair



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

3rd Meeting of Myanmar REDD+ Task Force

Annex 1: Agenda

No.	Time	Items	Facilitation
1	09:00 - 09:10	Opening remarks	Chair: Dr. Thaung Naing Oo, on behalf of U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, Deputy Director General, Forest Department
2	09:10 – 09:25	Action taken to follow up on Decisions reached at the 2nd meeting of the Taskforce (Document TF3/2)	Dr. Thaung Naing Oo, Secretary to the Task Force
3	09:25 – 09:45	Progress on REDD+ in Myanmar and under the UN-REDD Programme in Myanmar; including plans for requests to the TF for approval of REDD+ related documents (Document TF 3/3)	Dr. Thaung Naing Oo, National Programme Director, UN-REDD Programme, Secretary to the Task Force/Mr. Timothy Boyle, CTA, UN-REDD Programme
4	09:45 – 10:00	Questions & Answers	Chair
5	10:00 – 10:10	Database of REDD+ related projects and programmes in Myanmar (responding to Supplemental Decision 1 from the 2nd meeting of the TF) (Document TF 3/4)	Daw Khin Hnin Myint, Programme Coordinator, UN-REDD
6	10:10 – 10:30	Questions & Answers/ Discussion on the definition of “REDD+ related”	Chair
7	10: 30 – 10:45	The relationship between REDD+ and other forest carbon initiatives (responding to Decision TF 2/2) (Document TF3/5)	Mr. Timothy Boyle, Interim CTA, UN-REDD Programme
8	10:45 – 11:15	Questions & Answers	Chair
9	11:15 – 11:55	Updates on other REDD+ related initiatives: CHRO FAO/Finland WWF	Rose Enn Tin Sung, Project Officer Franz Arnold, CTA Gaurav Gupta, Sustainable Business Programme Manager, WWF/Myanmar
10	11:55 – 12:00	Closing remarks	Chair: Dr. Thaung Naing Oo on behalf of U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, Deputy Director General, Forest Department
11	12:00	Lunch	

3rd Meeting of Myanmar REDD+ Task Force

Annex 2: Attendance

No	Name	Title	Organization/ Ministry	Email	Phone Number
1	Mr. Tim Boyle	Chief Technical Advisor	UN-REDD Programme	timothy.boyle@undp.org	0945232984
2	U Tin Aung Moe	Secretary	MERN	tinaungmoe1@gmail.com	09420330417
3	U Soe Moe Aung	Staff Officer	GAD, MOHA		09250129766
4	U Kan Shein	Director	Planning Dept., MOPF	kanshein77@gmail.com	09420737088
5	Mr. Franz Arnold	Advisor	FAO	franz.arnold@fao.org	
6	Dr. Myat Su Mon	Assistant Director	Forest Department	sumonforest@gmail.com	0925066174
7	U Kyaw Lwin	Director	DOP, MOALI	kyawlwindop@gmail.com	067-410528
8	Dr. San Oo	Director	ECD, MONREC	nreia.env@gmail.com	067431346
9	Rose Enn Tin Sung	Project Officer	CHRO	raisa.beloved.rose@gmail.com	09780397965
10	Daw Wut Yi Phyo	Assistant Director	Budget Dept., MOPF	wutyiphyo276@gmail.com	09250863811
11	U Ngwe Thee	AD	FD, MONREC	ngwethee@gmail.com	09250107754
12	U Zar Ni Zaw	Technical Officer	MRPPA	spszarni@gmail.com	095156126
13	Dr. Thaung Naing Oo	Director	FRI, FD	tnoo71@gmail.com	09448533635
14	U Moe Aye Zin Thein	Assistant Director	Department of Agricultural Land Management and Statistics, MOALI	mazthn@gmail.com	09262015327
15	Daw Phyu Lay Myint	Staff Officer	DOA, MOALI	phyulaymyint1980@gmail.com	09420717895
16	Dr. Yu Ya Aye	AD	FRI, FD	yuyaaye@gmail.com	09964964770
17	U Myo Ko Ko	PM	POINT	point.mkk@gmail.com	09450005395
18	U Khaing Myint	S/G	MRPPA		095067294

19	U Hla Myint	Advisor	MRPPA	hmyint.mrppa@gmail.com	095118927
20	U Thein Zaw Win	Communications Officer	UN-REDD Programme	thein.zaw.win@undp.org	09-254186907
21	U Min Soe	Stakeholder Engagement Officer	UN-REDD Programme	min.soe@undp.org	09-256000883
22	Daw Khin Hnin Myint	Program Coordinator	UN-REDD Programme	khin.hnin.myint@undp.org	09-420114720
23	Daw Phyo Pa Pa Han	Program Assistant	UN-REDD Programme	phyo.pa.pa.han@undp.org	09-252270424
24	U Kyaw Min Aung	Program Assistant	UN-REDD Programme	kyaw.min.aung@undp.org	09-964060194
25	Mr. Gaurav Gupta,	Sustainable Business Programme Manager	WWF	gaurav.gupta@wwfgreatermekong.org	

Annex 3: List of programmes and projects defined as “REDD+ relevant” based on Decision TF3/1

No.	Status	Title	Implementer	Geographic scope	Funding level	
					USD	EUR
1	Planned	NFI/NFMIS project (Finland)	FAO	National	8,300,000	
2	Closed	Strengthening Myanmar’s National Forest Monitoring System- Land Use Assessment and Capacity Building	FAO	National	244,000	
3	Active	UN-REDD Myanmar Programme	FAO, UNDP, UNEP	National	4,206,527	
4	Active	REDD+ Himalayas: Developing and using experience in implementing REDD+ in the Himalayas	ICIMOD	Shan State and National		300,000
5	Closed	Capacity Building for Developing REDD-Plus Activities in the Context of Sustainable Forest Management)	ITTO	Bago Region	571,890	
6	Active	Capacity Building of Relevant Stakeholders for REDD+ Readiness of Myanmar	Korea/KFS	Bago Region	800,000	