

**Minutes of the 3rd Programme Executive Board Meeting
UN- REDD Programme, Myanmar**

Date:	25 July, 2017
Venue:	The Hotel Amara, Nay Pyi Taw
Time:	09:30 – 12:00
Objective of the meeting:	To update the mid-year progress of programme implementation and approve the budget plan for the rest of the year 2017
Co-Chairs:	Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw, Director General, Forest Department, MONREC Mr. Peter Batchelor, Country Director, UNDP Myanmar
Participants: PEB members	Ms. Xiaojie Fan, FAO Representative in Myanmar Mr. Johan Kieft, Technical Specialist, UNEP U Sein Htoon Linn, Deputy Director General, Environmental Conservation Department, MONREC U Aung Thant Zin, CEO, Myanmar Environment Rehabilitation-conservation Network (MERN); Daw Naw Ei Ei Min, Director, Promotion of Indigenous and Nature Together (POINT)
PEB Secretary	Dr. Thaug Naing Oo, Director, Forest Research Institute, Forest Department, National Programme Director, UN-REDD Programme, Myanmar
Observers/Donors	Daw Naw Dora, National Programme Officer, Royal Norwegian Embassy Mr. Mangshang Yaw Bawm, National Programme Coordinator, Diplomatic Mission of Finland
Participating Agencies	Daw Lat Lat Aye, Team Leader, Environmental Governance and Disaster Resilience, UNDP Myanmar, U Ye Khaung, Programme Officer, FAO Myanmar
UN- REDD Programme Bangkok	Mr. Timothy Boyle, Regional Advisor, UNDP Bangkok Mr. Jamil Mahmood, Regional Land Monitoring Consultant, FAO Mr. Franz Eugen Arnold, Technical Specialist, UNDP Myanmar Daw Khin Hnin Myint, Programme Coordinator, UNDP Myanmar U Min Soe, Stakeholder Engagement Officer, UNDP Myanmar U Thein Zaw Win, Communication Officer, UNDP Myanmar U Kyaw Min Aung, Programme Assistant, UNDP Myanmar Daw Phyo Pa Pa Han, REDD+ Office Assistant, UNDP, Myanmar Daw Thinn Thitsar Kyaw, Project Assistant, FAO Myanmar

Opening

The meeting was opened with remarks by the co-chairs, Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw, the DG of the Forest Department and Mr. Peter Batchelor, the UNDP Country Director.

In his opening, Dr Nyi Nyi Kyaw highlighted the important of REDD+ for Myanmar in its international commitments on climate change mitigation in which REDD is one of the two main sectors in the draft Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). He pointed out the importance of high level political commitments in the REDD+ process and the need for a suitable support structure within public and private institution at the operational level. He expressed his appreciation to the UN-REDD Programme for a recently conducted study visit to Brazil for High Level Officials to learn Brazil's success in reducing deforestation in the Amazon and the lessons learnt from their experiences.

Mr. Peter Batchelor mentioned that 2017 is the first year under the full national programme of the UN-REDD Programme for Myanmar after two years (2015-2016) of Targeted Support. His appreciation goes to the Government of Norway for providing financial support through the UN-REDD Multi-Partner Trust Fund. He highlighted the overall objective of the UN-REDD programme in Myanmar that will help and support the country in developing the mechanisms, skills and capacities to be able to successfully participate in developing and implementing REDD+ in the context of the Climate Change Convention of the United Nations (UNFCCC) and to be, in the future, one of the beneficiaries of results based payment against verifiable reduction of GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. He also highlighted that effective coordination among different sectors is crucial for the success of REDD+ implementation.

Session 1: Updates

a) Progress of UN-REDD/Myanmar towards major targets for 2017

Dr Thaung Naing Oo, the National Programme Director of UN-REDD Programme presented the progress and achievements of the programme implementation during the first 6 months of 2017. He highlighted the most significant cases which are a bit behind the plan. The development of competency framework and capacity building plan is in delay due to unexpected difficulties in the delivery of the contributions of the National Consultant. REDD+ basic concept training was planned to be conducted once in every quarter but up to now, only one training has been done and the rest of the trainings will be conducted during the following mid-year.

Another delay case is the development of the FREL document. More work on the Activity Data (AD) and the Emission Factor (EF) development is still needed. . It is planned to have a draft FREL document ready by end of October. Submission to the UNFCCC before January, 2018 is intended. The approval of the FREL document is expected to be made at the level of the Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC). A technical Backstopping mission from FAO HQ on FREL for Myanmar is planned for the last week of August. The pilot activities for the National Forest Inventory started in January 2017. Piloting work has been carried out so far on 5 pilot sites, and 2 are still remaining. The work on NFI piloting is still largely on track although many questions came up during piloting which require more discussions on approaches and methodologies.

The work on developing a draft REDD+ Strategy is on track and the consultation process in development. For the development of a REDD+ investment plan the recruitment process for international and national consultants has started.

The overall delivery of the whole programme till end of July (including commitment) is 39% of total annual budget figure (UNDP 41%, FAO 34%, and UNEP 79%).

Discussion

The PEB discussed outputs where significant delays are occurring, in particular on the Competency Framework, and reached **Decision 3/1**.

Regarding the potential delay in FRL formulation, the PEB noted activities planned in August and October, and in order to meet the UNFCCC deadline for submission (Jan 2018), reached **Decision 3/2**.

b) Fulfillments of actions from meetings minutes of last PEB meeting in Dec 2016

Daw Khin Hnin Myint, Programme Coordinator of UN-REDD Programme presented the actions and follow-up activities taken on the 2nd PEB meeting decisions. Except setting up M&E framework, all the decisions have already been taken place. PMU proposed to develop M&E framework with Regional Team and PMU rather hiring consultant and the set budget will be used for this purpose (mission costs, etc.)

Discussion

The PEB meeting discussed the PMU proposal for M&E and reached **Decision 3/3**. The frequency of meetings was also discussed. The PEB2 Decision on two meetings per year was re-confirmed, but **Decision 3/4** provides for extraordinary meetings, if required.

Session 2: Items for information

a) Relationship of UN-REDD PEB with REDD+ Task Force (TF)

Dr Thaug Naing Oo, the National Programme Director of UN-REDD Programme explained the role of the REDD+ Task Force which is the governing body of Myanmar REDD+ Programme and the UN-REDD Programme. The TF supervises the implementation of all REDD+ related initiatives in the country and coordinate and monitor all REDD+ relevant actions in the country to ensure new initiatives and projects are consistent with national approaches, concepts and methodologies in the development and implementation of REDD+ in the country. The PEB is the governing body of the UN-REDD Programme in Myanmar and its objective is to provide guidance to, and oversight of, the UN-REDD National Programme, in its effort to support effective and efficient development of measures to engage with the UNFCCC REDD+ mechanism.

Discussion

The PEB discussed the type of issues that might be the source of conflicting guidance from the PEB and the TF, and reached **Decision 3/5** and **Decision 3/6**.

b) Side event of Myanmar for the next COP of UNFCCC

Dr. Thaug Naing Oo presented the proposed plan about the side event of Myanmar for the next COP of UNFCCC. It will be in early Nov, 2017 at Bonn, Germany. Myanmar is now at a stage of its REDD+ readiness process (REDD+ Phase 1) where it has some positive messages to disseminate (draft strategy; draft FRL, emerging NFMS, broad stakeholder engagement). Looking ahead to Phase 2 of REDD+, involving implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy, a substantial amount of new funding will be required. The event will be partnering with Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Mongolia in order to attract delegates who may be primarily interested in one of the other countries and it will be associated with UNDP's pavilion in order to attract more

delegates to the side event. During his presentation, Dr. Thaung Naing Oo proposed the possible theme for the event: "Role of REDD+ in achieving the SDGs in three contrasting Asia/Pacific countries" and requested the views of PEB members.

Discussion

The PEB considered that the proposed theme "*Role of REDD+ in achieving the SDGs and NDC in three contrasting Asia/Pacific countries*" was appropriate and reached **Decision 3/7**.

c) Study tour to Brazil

Dr. Thaung Naing Oo briefed the PEB about the high level study visit to Brazil, the agenda of the visit and some preliminary conclusions which may be relevant for developing REDD+ in Myanmar.

Discussion

The PEB discussed options for further cooperation between Brazil and Myanmar and reached **Decision 3/8**. UN Environment also offered to explore options on knowledge sharing between Myanmar and Indonesia on peat and forest fire.

Session 3: Items requiring Decisions

Work plan for 2017, deviations and adaptations, planning for remainder of 2017

Daw Khin Hnin Myint presented the revised budget plan for the rest of the year. FAO doesn't have any changes on its budget plan but UNEP increases its budget plan from USD 66,019 to USD 109,572. UNDP doesn't change its total annual budget figure but has changes under outcome with the most significant change in outcome 2 (from USD 258,915 to USD 173,268) and 5 (from USD 85,556 to USD 184,000). The annual budget plan was set based on the yearly budget plan of programme document. The budget set for outcome 2 is high in its original budget plan. So, the budget set for outcome 2 was deducted after checking the possible activities within the rest of the year. The programme developed engagement plan for REDD+ strategies formulation process in which a series of consultation with both national and sub-national level is needed for REDD+ strategy formulation under outcome 5. For this reason, the budget is set up for more than the original figure for the outcome 5.

Discussion

The PEB discussed the need for broad consultation on the National REDD+ Strategy, and procedures for approval of budget changes in line with the requirement and procedures of UN-REDD Multi-Partner Trust Fund. They reached **Decision 3/9**, **Decision 3/10**, and **Decision 3/11**.

Decisions and Action points

Decision 3/1: It was decided that the PMU will have a discussion with the National Consultant to finish the contract and hand over the rest of the work to the Stakeholder Engagement Officer, Regional Stakeholder Engagement Specialist and (if needed) REDD+ Core Unit for the development of competency framework.

Decision 3/2: It was decided that UN-REDD Programme will make all reasonable efforts that the draft FREL can be developed by the end of October and be ready for submission by early January 2018 to UNFCCC in time for participating in the technical assessment process of 2018. The first endorsement for submitting to UNFCCC will be made by the Minister of MONREC. Any future revised FREL may be endorsed by a higher level, if needed.

Decision 3/3: With reference to the PEB2 decision on developing/revising the results framework for M&E, the PEB endorses the proposal of the PMU that the Regional team and PMU will develop the results framework and the increased budget will be used for this purpose.

Decision 3/4: It was decided that PEB meeting will take place twice a year and in case necessary PEB can meet virtually or in person at any other time during the year. Co-chairs will decide virtual or in person meeting.

Decision 3/5: It was agreed that the Chair of REDD+ Task Force will be invited to next and coming PEB meetings to share key information about Myanmar REDD+ progress at PEB meeting. Time to time, the PEB Secretary also needs to keep update on the discussions and decisions made during the PEB meetings to the Chair of REDD+ Task Force.

Decision 3/6: PEB instructed the Secretary of the PEB/UN-REDD National Programme Director to:

- a) ensure that the Taskforce is provided with regular reports on progress of the UN-REDD Programme and on guidance provided by the PEB to the UN-REDD Programme;
- b) ensure that the activities of the Taskforce, and in particular guidance issued by the Taskforce is reported to future PEB meetings; and
- c) report to the PEB any potential conflicts in terms of guidance provided by the PEB and Taskforce to the UN-REDD Programme.

Decision 3/7: PEB endorsed the proposal for a multi-country event, including participation by Myanmar, to be hosted by the UNDP pavilion at COP23. The participation of Director General of Forest Department and UN-REDD National Programme Director to COP 23 will be funded by UN-REDD Programme.

Decision 3/8: It was decided that follow up meeting with Brazilian Ambassador will be assumed by UNDP for discussions on further collaboration. The PMU will facilitate the development of proposals for a possible cooperation and present to the next PEB meeting.

Decision 3/9: PEB endorsed the revised budget plan for the rest of the year as per proposed plan.

Decision 3/10: PEB notes that Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office regulations prohibit transfers of budget across agencies, and that changes across **outcomes** need to be referred to the UN-REDD Global Executive Board, since they might constitute substantive changes in the programme objectives and structure. The PEB therefore decides to delegate authority to the National Programme Director for budgetary changes within agency allocations that do not exceed:

- 20% for changes across outputs within outcomes; and
- 40% for changes across budget lines within outputs.

Changes that exceed these limits will continue to require PEB approval, which might be given at a regular PEB meeting or through an extraordinary meeting, in line with Decision PEB3/4.

Decision 3/11: The PEB will review the preceding decision at its next regular meeting, and requests the National Programme Director and PMU to document budget changes that are made within the delegated limits, and any changes that would have been desirable but which exceeded these limits, and to submit a report on this information to the next regular PEB meeting

Next meeting

The next PEB meeting will be scheduled for 12 December, 2017 (if possible) in Yangon.

Attachments

- Agenda of the meeting
- Revised AWP 2017

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