

**Minutes of the 5th Programme Executive Board Meeting
UN- REDD Programme, Myanmar**

Date:	6 July 2018
Venue:	Royal Kaytumadi Hotel, Taungoo
Time:	13:00 – 16:30
Objective of the meeting:	To update on progress in programme implementation and approve mid-year workplan and budgets
Co-Chairs:	Dr. Thaug Naing Oo, Director, Forest Research Institute, Forest Department Mr. Biplove Choudhary, Chief of Unit, Sustainable Inclusive Growth Programme, UNDP Myanmar
Participants: PEB members	Mr. Alexis Corblin, Regional Technical Advisor, UN Environment Mr. Ye Khaung, Programme Officer, FAO Myanmar 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	Mr. Mangshang Yaw Bawm, National Programme Officer, Embassy of Finland Daw Zin Myo Thu, Head of Office, IUCN U Myo Nyi Nyi, Assistant Director, GAD
Participating Agencies	Mr. Biplove Choudhary, Chief of Unit, Sustainable Inclusive Growth Programme, UNDP Myanmar, Mr. Ben Vickers, Regional Programme Officer, FAO Bangkok
UN- REDD Programme	Mr. Timothy Boyle, Chief Technical Advisor, UN-REDD Programme Mr. Franz Eugen Arnold, Chief Technical Advisor, UN-REDD Programme Daw Khin Hnin Myint, Programme Coordinator, UN-REDD Programme U Min Soe, Stakeholder Engagement Officer, UN-REDD Programme U Thein Zaw Win, Communication Officer, UN-REDD Programme Daw Phyo Pa Pa Han, Programme Assistant, UN-REDD Programme Daw Thinn Thitsar Kyaw, Project Assistant, UN-REDD Programme

Opening

The meeting was opened with remarks by Mr. Biplove Choudhary, Chief of Unit, Sustainable Inclusive Growth Programme.

After noting that Director General, Dr Nyi Nyi Kyaw, UNDP Country Director, Mr. Peter Batchelor, and FAO Representative, Ms. Fan Xiojie were all indisposed, and wishing them all a speedy recovery, Mr. Choudhary noted that there have been significant developments on REDD+ since the last PEB meeting. Myanmar's initial Forest Reference Emissions Level document was submitted to the UNFCCC on January 8th, and the Technical Assessment process is well advanced, with responses already provided to the assessment team's comments and questions.

Good progress is also being made on the National REDD+ Strategy. A very comprehensive public comments process has been completed, and a revised version of the strategy has been prepared on that basis. The major gap remaining in consultation on the strategy is with EAO's, and there is an agenda item during this PEB meeting on that topic.

Responding to advice from the PEB, work is now advancing rapidly on the Safeguards Information System, and the target of having an initial design ready by the end of the year is in sight. Further capacity building of the National Forest Monitoring System is now facilitated through the Finland-FAO National Forest Inventory project.

Now that Myanmar is moving towards Phase 2, the challenges are even greater. Although we may have an emerging, clear picture on what needs to be done to reduce emissions from forests, much more needs to be done on how to achieve results in practice. The particular circumstances of Myanmar – both environmental circumstances in terms of the immense diversity of forest; and political circumstances with the extremely complex administrative arrangements with the large number of EAO's means that working out "how" emissions are going to be reduced is much more challenging in Myanmar than in most other countries.

Agenda item 2^a: Report from the Chair of the National REDD+ Taskforce

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

Consistent with a decision at its 2nd meeting to hold meetings every three months, the Taskforce has held two meetings since the last meeting of the PEB, including a meeting in the morning, ahead of the 5th meeting of the PEB.

Decisions reached at the 3rd and 4th meetings of the Taskforce include:

- 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+;
- The Taskforce requested that the UN-REDD Programme should regularly update the database of programmes and projects that may contribute to REDD+; and that the achievements of projects should be incorporated into the database;
- 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;
- The Taskforce requested that an analysis of women's participation in REDD+ be prepared;
- The Taskforce decided that they had the mandate to approve documents describing the design of the NFMS and SIS, but that other documents required in Phase 1 of REDD+ (FREL, Strategy) should be endorsed by the Taskforce and referred to higher authorities for approval;

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

- The Taskforce endorsed the principle that before Myanmar engages in non-REDD+ forest carbon mechanisms, a full analysis clarifying costs, revenues, risks and benefits should be conducted by the party proposing the mechanism before any agreement is signed, so as to allow the GoM to take an informed decision about participation.

Discussion

The PEB noted the progress made by the Taskforce and congratulated them on a positive contribution to the development of REDD+ in Myanmar. Mr. Alexis Corblin (UNEP) asked for a clarification on the role of the TF in clearance of technical documents produced through the UN-REDD Programme. It was explained that for most technical documents, clearance is through the participating UN agencies, but in the case of final documents directly related to the Warsaw Framework, the Taskforce also plays a role.

Session 1: Updates

Agenda item 3: State of advance UN-REDD Programme in Myanmar, development towards major targets for 2018

Daw Khin Hnin Myint, Programme Coordinator of UN-REDD, presented the progress and achievements of the programme implementation during the first half of 2018. She focused only on those outputs and activities where some delays had been encountered.

In Outcome 2, development of a Capacity building plan and Competency framework was still encountering some delays despite corrective measures recommended by the 3rd meeting of the PEB. These delays are impacting implementation of specific capacity development activities, dependent on completion of the framework.

In Outcome 3, slight delays have been encountered in development of an initial information needs assessment, since this requires completion of the clarification of safeguards. However, since a draft clarification is now available, the delay is unlikely to be disruptive to future plans.

In Outcome 2, initial piloting of PAMs is likely to be deferred to 2019.

The main emerging issue relates to lack of coordination between the GHG Inventory methodology for the 2nd National Communication and the methodologies used in preparation of Myanmar's FREL.

Discussion

Mr. Timothy Boyle, Chief Technical Advisor to the UN-REDD Programme noted that since the preparation of the PEB documents, the competency framework under output 2.1 had been completed, so delays in capacity building could now be overcome.

In response to a request from U Aung Thant Zin (MERN) for more information on the issues relating to GHG methodologies, Mr. Franz Arnold, MRV Advisor to the UN-REDD Programme explained the basis for the divergence of methodologies for the GHG Inventory and FREL, and proposed measures to try to reconcile these differences.

Agenda item 5: Fulfilment of pending actions from meetings minutes of last PEB meeting in January 2018

Daw Khin Hnin Myint presented the actions and follow-up activities taken on the 3rd PEB meeting decisions. Action had been taken on all decisions, although in relation to Decision 4/11, the divergence of methodologies referred to above had only emerged after preparation of PEB

documentation. Further information on some follow-up actions was presented in subsequent agenda items.

Agenda item 7: TOR for MTR to be held in the 2nd half of the year

In response to PEB Decision 4/9, Mr. Tim Boyle presented the draft ToR prepared for the Mid-term Review, to be conducted in the 2nd half of 2018, and described the process through which they had been prepared, incorporating inputs from UN-REDD Regional Technical Advisors and comments from the Forest Department. The Environmental Conservation Department had been invited to comment, but no comments had been received.

Agenda item 8: A note clarifying how national capacity is being built through the programme as required by DACU

In response to PEB Decision 4/10, Mr. Tim Boyle presented a draft note outlining how the programme develops national capacity. This has been primarily through (a) development of mechanisms supporting REDD+ in Myanmar, primarily the National REDD+ Taskforce and three Technical Working Groups; (b) through preferentially using of national consultants, and contracting national organizations to provide technical inputs whenever possible; and (c) by incorporation of specific capacity building activities in the guidance or "roadmaps" prepared for several components of the programme.

Discussion

Mr. Franz Arnold clarified that many capacity building activities relating to the NFMS are conducted in collaboration with other initiatives. Mr. Alexis Corblin requested that the note be shared with UN-REDD Regional Technical Advisors for additional inputs, while Mr. Biplove Choudhary suggested that synergies with other UNDP (and FAO, UNEP) projects be sought.

In discussing how the note should be used, it was proposed that the advice of Co-chair Peter Batchelor, who originally proposed the preparation of the note, be sought (**Decision PEB 5/1**).

Session 2: Items for information and provision of advice

Agenda item 10: Proposed modifications to awareness raising indicators and targets

U Thein Zaw Win, UN-REDD Communications Officer, noted that further consideration of the two indicators for which progress in 2017 was highly deficient revealed that remedial actions were not feasible because of the structure of the indicators themselves. He presented proposals for revisions of the indicators (see Annex 2).

Discussion

Mr. Alexis Corblin suggested that, for clarity, the words "for REDD+" be added to the indicator for Outcome 2. The proposed changes, with this modification, were approved by the PEB (**Decision 5/2**).

Agenda item 11: Consultation with EAOs on REDD+ Strategy

Mr. Tim Boyle presented the proposed approach for engaging with ethnic armed organizations (EAO's) on the National REDD+ Strategy. Since each EAO is different, each engagement process will be different, but the approach to determining the engagement process will be common across all EAO's, involving:

- Step 1: Seek informal, "ice-breaker" meetings with representatives of the EAO/CSO to introduce the issue and to discuss further steps
- Step 2 (if requested): Conduct tailored capacity-building activities on REDD+
- Step 3: Request formal meeting to design and prepare for consultation
- Step 4: Hold consultation meeting, during which the following outputs will be pursued:
- Feedback on the content of the draft NRS and proposals for PAMs
 - Identification of an on-going engagement "roadmap"

EAO's that have signed the National Ceasefire Agreement, or which have a role in administration of "Self-Administered Areas" are considered to be official partners of the Union government, whereas other EAO's (non-signatories) are not. Engagement with non-signatories will be only through working with ethnic CSO's known to have some influence with the respective EAO's.

Discussion

Several members of the PEB asked for further clarification on what commitments might be made to EAO's, what contributions the EAO's might make to REDD+ implementation, the role of state/regional governments, and how inherent negative attitudes towards REDD+ can be overcome. The PEB endorsed the approach (**Decision 5/3**).

Agenda item 12: GCF Proposal Development

Mr. Tim Boyle presented the draft concept note for a submission to the GCF supporting implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy, with a focus on energy. The Proposal would include three outputs, covering demand-side management, supply-side management, and enabling conditions. However, since the proposal will certainly require blended finance, there is no decision on an appropriate Accredited Entity.

Discussion

Several comments were made by PEB members and observers. These covered the feasibility of distribution of improved cookstoves, the quality of available data on consumption by sectors such as tea-shops/restaurants, and the feasibility of enhanced LPG distribution. Mr. Ben Vickers (FAO) recommended that a former FAO consultant who has developed a sophisticated demand-side and supply-side modeling approach should be consulted and also suggested that the proposal could be submitted under the GCF mitigation or cross-cutting windows.

Session 3: Items requiring Decisions

Agenda item 14: Mid-year work planning

Daw Khin Hnin Myint presented the delivery figures for the first half of 2018. Overall delivery is at 36%, with UNDP at 33%, FAO at 40%, and UNEP at 5%. Some budget adjustments are proposed, mainly in relation to shifting activities under output 5.2 into 2019.

Discussion

Mr. Alexis Corblin noted that UNEP had recently signed a new SSFA with WCMC, so the UNEP budget figures would soon reflect a 100% commitment. Dr. Thaug Naing Oo asked what the new SSFA covered, to which Mr. Alexis Corblin responded that it basically represents follow-up to the current SSFA. The PEB approved the mid-year adjustments (**Decision 4/5**).

Agenda item 16: Planning for next PEB meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the PEB be held in mid-December, following the COP (Decision 5/5). Mr. Alexis Corblin requested that an agenda item be on results of the Mid-term Review (Decision 5/6).

Decisions and Action points

Decision 5/1: The PEB instructs the PMU to seek inputs to the note on national capacity development from UN-REDD Regional Technical Advisors; to seek synergies with other agency projects; and to seek the advice of the UNDP Country Director on future use of the note.

Decision 5/2: The PEB approves the revised indicator for Outcome 2, and the revision to the indicator for output 2.1, subject to addition of the words "for REDD+".

Decision 5/3: The PEB approves the proposed approach to EAO engagement.

Decision 5/4: The PEB approves the proposed mid-year amendments to the AWP/2018.

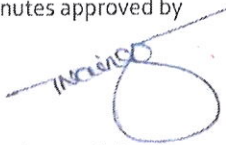
Decision 5/5: The next meeting of the PEB should be held in mid-December, following the COP. December 17 or 18 appear to be the most viable dates, but subject to further consideration, closer to the date.

Decision 5/6: One of the agenda items at the 6th meeting of the PEB should be on the results of the Mid-term Review.

Attachments

- Agenda of the meeting
- Revised indicators

Minutes approved by



Dr. Thaug Naing Oo
Director, Forest Research Institute
Acting Co-Chair of PEB



Mr. Biplove Choudhary
Team Leader (SIG), UNDP
Acting Co-Chair of PEB

Annex 1: UN-REDD Programme, Myanmar 5th Programme Executive Board Meeting: Annotated Agenda

No.	Time	Items	
1	13:00 – 13:15	Opening remarks by DG of the Forest Department and UNDP Country Director	Co-chairs (FD, UNDP)
2	13:15 – 13:25	<p>Invitation to the Chair of the National REDD+ Taskforce to brief the PEB about the activities of, and progress by the Taskforce</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Taskforce will meet on the morning of 6th July 2018, and the Chair of the Taskforce will provide a verbal report to the PEB on activities undertaken and decisions made by the Taskforce</p>	Chair of National REDD+ Taskforce
Section 1: Updates			
3	13:25 – 13:35	<p>State of advance UN-REDD Programme in Myanmar, development towards major targets for 2018 (Document PEB5/2)</p> <p>The PEB may want to comment on measures to rectify any shortcomings highlighted in the presentation</p>	Dr. Thaug Naing Oo, NPD
4	13:35 – 13:50	Discussion, questions and answers	All PEB
5	13:50 – 14:05	<p>Fulfilment of pending actions from meetings minutes of last PEB meeting in January 2018 (Document PEB5/3)</p> <p>The PEB may want to comment on measures to address items not fully implemented</p>	Daw Khin Hnin Myint, NPC
7	14:05 – 14:20	<p>TOR for MTR to be held in the 2nd half of the year (Document PEB5/4)</p> <p>Responding to the PEB Decision 4/9, PMU prepared the ToR for MTR that have been consulted with FD and ECD to present to the 5th PEB meeting.</p>	Tim Boyle, CTA
8	14:20 – 14:25	<p>A note clarifying how national capacity is being built through the programme as required by DACU (Document PEB5/5)</p> <p>Responding to the PEB Decision 4/10, PMU prepared the note to present to the PEB.</p>	Tim Boyle, CTA
9	14:25 – 14:35	Discussion, questions and answers	All PEB
Section 2: Items for Information and Provision of Advice			
10	14:35 – 14:50	<p>Proposed modifications to awareness raising indicators and targets (Document PEB5/6)</p> <p>Responding to PEB Decision 4/8, the PMU has reviewed awareness raising activities to address the failure to meet targets established in the M&E plan and to raise awareness of parliamentarians and staff of law enforcement agencies. The fundamental problem is that the indicators are not under control of the programme, so proposals are presented for revisions to the indicators.</p>	Khin Hnin Myint, NPC

11	14:50 – 15:00	Consultation with EAOs on REDD+ Strategy (Document PEB5/7) EAO's are a critical stakeholder for REDD+, since in Myanmar REDD+ will be implemented at the national scale. An engagement plan has been developed for comment by PEB members.	Daw Khin Hnin Myint, NPC
12	15:00 – 15:10	GCF Proposal Development (Document PEB5/8) In response to a request from the NDA, UNDP has been working on a proposal for presentation to the GCF related to implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy. The concept note is presented for comment by PEB members.	Timothy Boyle, CTA
13	15:10 – 15:20	Discussion, questions and answers	All PEB
Section 3: Items for Decisions			
14	15:20 – 15:30	Mid-Year Plan 2018 (Document PEB5/9) Revisions to the AWP are presented for approval.	Daw Khin Hnin Myint, NPC
15	15:30 – 15:40	Discussion and decisions	All PEB
16	15:40 – 16:50	Planning for next PEB meeting (dates and topics) PEB members may wish to identify additional topics, not raised during previous discussions. A date for the 6 th meeting of the PEB, approximately 6 months after the 5 th meeting, needs to be set.	All PEB
17	15:50 – 16:00	Closing remarks	Co-chairs

Annex 2: Proposals for changes to indicators in the UN-REDD Results Framework

Old indicators

Result	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Means of verification
Outcome 2: National institutions have capacity to implement effective and participatory governance arrangements for REDD+	Level of stakeholder satisfaction with law enforcement, governance and transparency	88% of stakeholders rate these issues "poor"; 12 % rate them "fair"	By the end of year 1, the percentage reporting "poor" falls below 67%; after 2 years, below 50%; by the end of the programme, at least 50% rate them "fair" or "good"	Annual stakeholder surveys
2.1 Institutional measures for REDD+ awareness raising and information flow defined and operationalized	Level of stakeholder satisfaction with access to and availability of information	74% of stakeholders rate access to data either not accessible or partially accessible; 72% of stakeholders rate availability of data as either not available or partially available	By the end of year 1, the percentage reporting "poor" falls below 75%; after 2 years, below 60%; by the end of the programme, at least 50% rate them "fair" or "good"	Annual stakeholder surveys

Proposed new indicators

Result	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Means of verification
Outcome 2: National institutions have capacity to implement effective and participatory governance arrangements for REDD+	Level of stakeholder satisfaction with improvements in participatory governance arrangements for REDD+	N/A (since the target – next cell – measures changes in perception, i.e., that capacity has improved, the percentage that felt there was existing capacity does not matter. At the beginning of the programme, the percentage that felt improvement had been made must have been zero)	By the end of year 2, at least 60% of stakeholders consider that national institutions have improved capacity to implement participatory governance arrangements for REDD+; after 3 years, at least 70% hold this view, and the percentage does not decline thereafter	Annual stakeholder surveys
2.1 Institutional measures for REDD+ awareness raising and information flow defined and operationalized	Level of stakeholder satisfaction with measures for REDD+ awareness raising and information flow	Can be assumed to be zero, since there were essentially no institutional measures for REDD+ awareness raising and information flow before the initiation of the programme	By the end of year 2, at least 60% of stakeholders consider that institutional measures for REDD+ awareness raising are "satisfactory" or "good"; after 3 years, at least 70% hold this view, and the percentage does not decline thereafter	Annual stakeholder surveys