

**Minutes of the 7th Programme Executive Board Meeting
UN- REDD Programme, Myanmar**

Date:	2 July 2019
Venue:	The Hotel Amara, Nay Pyi Taw
Time:	09:00 – 12:00
Objective of the meeting:	To update on progress in programme implementation and approve 2019 workplan and budgets
Co-Chairs:	Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw, Director General, Forest Department, MONREC Ms. Xiaojie Fan, Country Representative, FAO
Participants:	
PEB members	Dr. San Oo, Deputy Director General, Environmental Conservation Department, MONREC Mr. Alexis Corblin, Regional Technical Advisor, UN Environment Daw Naw Ei Ei Min, Director, Promotion of Indigenous and Nature Together (POINT) U Aung Thant Zin, CEO, MERN.
PEB Secretary	Dr. Thaug Naing Oo, Director, Forest Research Institute, Forest Department, and National Programme Director, UN-REDD Programme, Myanmar
Observers/Donors	Mr. Mangshang Yaw Bawm, National Programme Officer, Embassy of Finland
Participating Agencies	Mr. Biplove Choudhary, Team Leader, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Programme, UNDP Myanmar,
UN- REDD Programme	Mr. Timothy Boyle, Chief Technical Advisor, UN-REDD PMU Mr. Franz Arnold, Chief Technical Advisor, FAO Daw Thinn Thitsar Kyaw, Project Assistant, UN-REDD PMU Daw Khin Hnin Myint, Programme Coordinator, UN-REDD PMU U Min Soe, Stakeholder Engagement Officer, UN-REDD PMU Daw Thit Thit Han, Communications Officer, UN-REDD PMU Daw Phyo Pa Pa Han, Programme Assistant, UN-REDD PMU
Absent	Mr. Peter Batchelor, Resident Representative, UNDP Myanmar (Co-Chari)

Opening

The meeting was opened with remarks by Forest Department Director General, Dr Nyi Nyi Kyaw and FAO Country Representative, Ms. Xiaojie Fan.

In his opening, Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw highlighted the great achievements of the programme and significant progress on the development of a Safeguard Information System and Myanmar's first "Summary of Information". He also noted the completion of a long and complicated series of consultations with a number of ethnic organizations, including Ethnic Armed Organizations. He also pointed out the progress being made in the mobilization of new sources of finance for REDD+ implementation. The DG also

commented that Myanmar's NDC does not yet include clear and ambitious emission reduction targets, but these must be developed and publicized. He stated that he wanted the National REDD+ Strategy to include such targets and expected the same targets to be reflected in the LULUCF section of the NDC. He challenged the UN-REDD Programme and its PEB to consider whether a formula for transfer payments that includes forest cover could be introduced in Myanmar as it was in India; how communities can be supported to register their customary tenure land; and how to most effectively tackle corruption?

Ms. Xiaojie Fan highlighted the collaborative approach of the UN-REDD Programme which bring all three UN agencies together and learn from each other. She pointed out the important of REDD+ Strategy implementation as next step for Myanmar and UN-REDD is putting together all the aspects of government and other partner agencies for the implementing and also supporting government systems. She mentioned the UN-REDD is an outstanding one to showcase an encouragement of UN-reform where UN agencies working closely as one UN.

Agenda item 2¹: 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. Thuang Naing Oo, Secretary to the Taskforce.

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

Decisions reached at the 5th meetings of the Taskforce include:

- TF agreed on proposed changes to Safeguards clarification and decided TF's approval is adequate for finalization. The clarification will be shared at EC meeting of FD for information sharing.
- 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.
- All TWGs must report their activities to TF in Phase II. REDD+ TF will oversee the REDD+ implementation in the country.
- As per the requirement of REDD+ strategy implementation, TWGs should be formed at the States and Regions/Districts Level.
- TF delegated to TWG to have preliminary decision on identifying financial management options and TF will review the results.

Decisions reached at the 6th meetings of the Taskforce include:

- TF endorsed the revised Knowledge Management and Communication Strategy of Myanmar REDD+ Programme.
- TF agreed the proposed contents of SOI and workplan for the development of SOI.
- 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.
- 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) for Phase 3.
- Taskforce recommended to have discussion with the focal points of EMF/MBF development about REDD+ alignment with fund design.

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

- The UN-REDD Programme is requested to prepare a proposal for inclusion of REDD+ as a formal agenda item in a future NEC⁵ meeting.

Discussion

There was a discussion on linkage between REDD+ Activities and Community Forestry as it is one of the activities prioritized for REDD+ implementation. The Community Forestry National Working Group at the Central Level and sub working group at the sub-national level have already been set up and operationalized by Forest Department to provide guidance on the development of community forestry. As the REDD+ Taskforce and CFNWG has linkages, DG commented to have back to back meetings with CFNWG and REDD+ TF (Decision 7/1). At the same time, when REDD+ implementation starts at the sub-national level, the two governance bodies at the sub-national level should have links to each other (Decision 7/2). In terms of reporting to NEC⁵ on REDD+ Progress, the PEB instructed the PMU to prepare a workplan to ensure that the NEC⁵ is informed of, and able to participate in the National Validation Workshop of the National REDD+ Strategy (Decision 7/3).

Session 1: Updates

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

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 2019. He highlighted the outputs and activities where some delays had been encountered. There were no activities falling significantly behind 2019 deliverables and almost all are on track. The only some delay activities found for activity 4.1.4: technical protocols for developing/ assessing AD, standardized land assessment for different purposes (MRV-REDD+, FRA, IPCC), activity 4.2.2: development of data storage, access and management system for spatial data and activity 5.2.1: supplementary studies on specific PAMs. For Act. 4.1.4, annotated outline for a manual of land cover assessment has already been developed and further work will happen on the upcoming technical mission in July. For act 4.2.2, technical discussion and draft concept note on the proposed NFMS Web-portal (three options in discussion) has already been developed and waiting the final decision of FD. The activities 5.2.1 was originally set at the beginning of the year in case if there is significant PaMs need to have further study. However, till now, the programmed doesn't seen any specific study to have it done.

Discussion

DG commented to have update on the progress/issues to the REDD+ TF and the TF has been updated all the progress quarterly.

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

Daw Khin Hnin Myint presented the actions and follow-up activities taken on the 6th PEB meeting decisions. Action had been taken on all decisions, but further actions need to be done for few decisions

Discussion

There had been a discussion about data consistency on international climate change reporting and NDC revision. ECD is preparing the NDC revision and preparing the SNC and will have consultations with relevant departments on these subjects soon. FD offered any necessary support and data for its sessions. UNDP offered some funds, if needed, to support NDC revision (Decision 7/4).

Session 2: Items for information and provision of advice

Agenda item 6: Proposal for a costed extension to the UN-REDD/Myanmar Programme

Mr. Tim Boyle presented the proposal for a costed extension to the UN-REDD Myanmar Programme. In October 2018, NICFI invited UN-REDD to prepare a submission just for Myanmar in cooperating Mangrove into REDD+ implementation. The key outcome of the proposal is that sustainable management, restoration and conservation of mangroves contribute to the achievement of the overall goals of the National REDD+ Strategy, in terms of emissions reductions and enhanced livelihoods of local communities. The UN-REDD proposal submitted in June 2019. The proposed activities would be added to the existing UN-REDD/Myanmar Programme under a new Outcome, Outcome 6. Outcome 6 will be implemented over 30 months (2½ years) because NICFI funding cannot be spent after Dec. 31, 2021. For the first 18 months (1½ years), Outcome 6 would be managed by existing PMU, with additional costs only for recruitment of national mangrove specialist. The period Jan-Dec 2021 would represent an extension of the UN-REDD Programme (Outcome 6 only), with a reduced PMU. The estimated proposed budget is over USD 2.2 million.

Discussion

PEB endorsed the proposal for a costed extension (Decision 7/5). There was a discussion relating to the approval process. The time frame of administrative processes and requirements for government and UN-REDD agency approval needs to be clear (Decision 7/6).

Agenda item 8: Update on the implications of COP-24 decision from the UN-REDD Global Programme

Mr. Timothy Boyle shared the implications of COP-24 decision on REDD+. The UN-REDD Global Programme has not produced an update on COP-24 implications for forests. This is because there were no agenda items explicitly dealing with forests at COP-24. He just highlighted the issues under discussion during COP-24, those of greatest relevance to forests were negotiations on Articles 6.2 and 6.4 of the Paris Accord.

Agenda item 10: Fund Mobilization for SIS Operationalization

Mr. Timothy Boyle shared the actions on resources finding for the operationalization of SIS. He mentioned the feasible estimated cost over USD 350,000. At the same time, he shared the possible sources of funding from the existing UN-REDD Programme, mainly FAO's and UN-Environment's existing fund and fun through the cost extension proposal of the UN-REDD and few amounts from UNDP Korean/Italian Fund.

Session 3: Items requiring Decisions

Agenda item 12: Mid-Year Plan 2019

Daw Khin Hnin Myint presented the proposed budget figures and plan for the rest of the year 2019. No revision is needed for the activities with UNDP's budget. However, FAO proposed to add USD 101,100 and UN-Environment proposed to add USD 11,372 on their original AWP. With this proposed, the revised AWP for FAO will have USD 700,300 and UN-Environment will have USD 22,072.

Decisions

PEB approved the proposed revised AWP 2019 (Decision 7/7). The PEB decides to consider the proposal for a 2019 AWP for Outcome 6 inter-sessionally and electronically, if Norway approves the proposal for funding (Decision 7/8).

Agenda item 14: Planning for next PEB meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the PEB be held on 17 December 2019 in Yangon (Decision 7/9).

Decisions and Action points

Decision 7/1: The PEB instructed the Secretary to convey to the National REDD+ Taskforce that it would be useful to consider back-to-back meetings with the Community Forests National Working Group, since there are many common issues.

Decision 7/2: The PEB requested the Secretary to bring to the attention of the National REDD+ Taskforce that the Community Forests National Working Group has established sub-national bodies, and that in relation to Taskforce Decision 6/4, that there should be sub-national bodies established to oversee REDD+ implementation, consideration should be given as to whether these bodies could be combined.

Decision 7/3: The PEB instructed the PMU to prepare a workplan to ensure that the NEC5 is informed of, and able to participate in the National Validation Workshop of the National REDD+ Strategy

Decision 7/4: The PEB acknowledges and welcomes the support offered by FAO and UNDP to support the development of a strong NDC for Myanmar, including ensuring data consistency with the FREL.

Decision 7/5: The PEB endorses the proposal for a costed extension to the UN-REDD/Myanmar Programme dealing with REDD+ implementation in mangroves

Decision 7/6: The PEB requests the participating UN Agencies to confirm the administrative processes each agency requires to approve a costed extension of the UN-REDD/Myanmar Programme, including any action required to be taken by the government.

Decision 7/7: The PEB approves the requests for increases in 2019 budgets from FAO and UN Environment

Decision 7/8: The PEB decides to consider the proposal for a 2019 AWP for Outcome 6 inter-sessionally and electronically, if Norway approves the proposal for funding.

Decision 7/9: The optimal date for the 8th meeting of the PEB is December 17th, with the meeting to be held in Yangon.

Attachments

- Agenda of the meeting

Minutes approved by


Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw
Director General, Forest Department
Co-Chair of PEB


Ms. Xiaojie Fan
Country Representative, FOA Myanmar
Co-Chair of PEB

Annex 1: UN-REDD Programme, Myanmar 7th Programme Executive Board Meeting: Annotated Agenda

No.	Time	Items	
1	09:00 – 09:10	Opening remarks by DG of the Forest Department and UNDP Country Director	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 on Jan and April 2019, and the Chair of the Taskforce will provide a verbal report to the PEB on activities undertaken and decisions made by the Taskforce	Chair of National REDD+ Taskforce
Session 1: Updates			
3	09:20 – 09:35	State of advance UN-REDD Programme in Myanmar, development towards major targets for 2019 (Documents PEB7/2 and 7/5) The PEB may want to comment on measures to rectify any shortcomings highlighted in the presentation	Dr. Thaug Naing Oo, NPD
4	09:35 – 09:45	Discussion, questions and answers	All PEB
5	09:45 – 09:55	Fulfilment of pending actions from meetings minutes of last PEB meeting in December 2018 (Document PEB7/3) The PEB may want to comment on measures to address items not fully implemented	Daw Khin Hnin Myint, NPC
Session 2: Items for Information and Provision of Advice			
6	09:55 – 10:25	Proposal for a costed extension to the UN-REDD/Myanmar Programme (Document PEB7/4) Norway has invited the UN-REDD/Myanmar Programme to submit a proposal for a 1-year costed extension to address REDD+ in mangroves. A proposal has been prepared, and the PEB is invited to provide comments and endorse the proposal	Tim Boyle, CTA
7	10:25 – 10:40	Discussion, questions and answers	All PEB
8	10:40 – 10:50	Update on the implications of COP-24 decision from the UN-REDD Global Programme (Document PEB7/5) Decision 6/4: The PEB requested the PMU to secure an update on the implications of COP-24 decisions from the UN-REDD Global Programme.	Tim Boyle, CTA
9	10:50 – 11:00	Discussion, questions and answers	All PEB

10	11:00 – 11:10	Fund Mobilization for SIS Operationalization (Document PEB7/6) Decision 6/6: The PEB requests the PMU to organize a discussion among all three agencies to check respective budgets as well as identifying possible resources to render the SIS operational in 2020 and to present findings during the next PEB meeting.	Timothy Boyle, CTA
11	11:10 – 11:20	Discussion, questions and answers	All PEB
Session 3: Items for Decisions			
12	11:20 – 11:35	Mid-Year Plan 2019 (Document PEB7/7) The Plan summarizes expenditures to date and includes a request for a modification to the AWP for approval.	Daw Khin Hnin Myint, NPC
13	11:35 – 11:55	Discussion and decisions	All PEB
14	11:55 – 12:00	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 7 th meeting of the PEB, approximately 6 months after the 7 th meeting, needs to be set.	All PEB
15	12:00 – 12:15	Closing remarks	Co-chairs



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Ref. UNDP/CD/2016-173

02 December, 2016

Dear Sir,

UN-REDD National Programme in Myanmar

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC) for its continued collaboration with UNDP for the implementation of Myanmar REDD+ Readiness Roadmap through the UN-REDD Programme.

UN-REDD Programme, with its three partner agencies (FAO, UNDP and UNEP) has been jointly providing support to the implementation of Myanmar's Readiness Roadmap through so-called Targeted Support (TS) under the leadership of Forest Department. For continuing the support after the completion of TS funding, the Forest Department submitted a proposal to the global UN-REDD Programme for a full National Programme in 2015.

It is with great pleasure that we are able to communicate to you that Myanmar's application for a UN-REDD National Programme was successful. The Programme in Myanmar will receive funding for 4 years (2016-2020) with a total amount of USD 5,554,370.

In this regard, we would like to inform you about the formal start of Programme implementation as of 1st October, 2016 as well as seeking your continuing support for the adequate implementation of the Programme. The Programme Document is enclosed herewith for your kind reference.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Batchelor
Country Director

U Khin Maung Yi
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
Nay Pyi Taw
Fax: 067 405087

- Copy: 1) Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw, Director General, Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Fax: 067 405393
2) Dr. Thuang Naing Oo, Director, Forest Research Institute, Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Fax: 067 416521
3) Daw Thin Thin Aung, National Programme Coordinator, UNDP Office in Nay Pyi Taw.