

**Minutes of the 6th Programme Executive Board Meeting
UN- REDD Programme, Myanmar**

Date:	17 December 2018
Venue:	Park Royal Hotel, Yangon
Time:	13:00 – 16:30
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 Mr. Peter Batchelor, Resident Representative (<i>ad interim</i>), UNDP Myanmar
Participants:	
PEB members	U Hla Maung Thein, Director General, Environmental Conservation Department, MONREC Ms. Xiaojie Fan, Country Representative, FAO Mr. Alexis Corblin, Regional Technical Advisor, UN Environment 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, 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, Ms. Pem Wangdi, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Programme, UNDP Myanmar Ms. Jieun Park, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Programme, UNDP Myanmar U Ye Khaung, Programme Officer, FAO
UN- REDD Programme	Mr. Timothy Boyle, Chief Technical Advisor, UN-REDD PMU Mr. Ben Vickers, Regional Programme Officer, FAO Bangkok 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 Daw Sandar Min Wai, Programme Assistant, UN-REDD PMU

Opening

The meeting was opened with remarks by Forest Department Director General, Dr Nyi Nyi Kyaw, UNDP Resident Representative (*ad interim*), Mr. Peter Batchelor, FAO Country Representative, Ms. Xiaojie Fan, and Environmental Conservation Department Director General, U Hla Maung Thein.

Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw noted that this was a significant meeting because it was the opportunity for the Programme Executive Board to play a major role in determining the final direction and achievements of the Programme, and that it was therefore important to reflect on where Myanmar should be at the end of the Programme. He also commented on the relationship between REDD+ and the NDC. He observed that Myanmar's NDC has been the subject of some recent criticism, for example, the Rainforest Foundation from Norway, who criticized the lack of emission reduction targets, either for the forest sector alone or across all sectors, emphasized that the plan to increase the area of Reserved Forests and Protected Public Forests must respect the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent, and in no way reduces local communities' traditional use of the forests. They also urged Myanmar to develop a new NDC which should include commitments to recognize the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women, and other vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Mr. Peter Batchelor noted that the PEB meeting was being held the day after a major new agreement was reached at the UNFCCC COP in Katowice, Poland. That agreement lays out how the 2015 Paris Accord will be implemented and includes commitments for increased financial support for LDC's like Myanmar. He also commented that, in talking to donors, UNDP has been hearing proposals for conditionalities for future financing of REDD+; for example, establishing a clear and ambitious emissions reduction target in the NDC - at least for the forest sector, but ideally across all sectors. Donors are also concerned about forest governance conditions in Myanmar, reflected both in the current uncertain political status of peace and reconciliation actions, as well as CSOs' criticism of new laws such as the VFV Land Amendment Law (2018) and Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas Law (2018). He concluded that these concerns exert more pressure on the process to develop new Forest Rules underpinning the Forest Law (2018). Certainly, the issue of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) will be scrutinized by CSO representative, and a significant aspect of consultations on the Forest Rules will be the extent to which the government (FD) shows itself to be willing to embrace a strong and comprehensive FPIC process.

Ms. Xiaojie Fan echoed the remarks from both the Director General and UNDP Resident Representative *a.i.*, observing that the meeting certainly represented a strategic moment which should be seized to ensure that the Myanmar REDD+ Programme is viewed positively at the global level.

U Hla Maung Thein spoke about the need to develop a much improved NDC, noting that the process has recently begun, and that he looked to the UN-REDD Programme to assist in ensuring that the new NDC is attractive to donors, with a technically sound but ambitious emissions reduction target. He also mentioned that during COP-24, he had met with representatives of the World Bank, who encouraged Myanmar to submit a proposal under the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility.

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

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

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.

He reported that the Taskforce had met once since the previous PEB meeting. One of the items discussed at the meeting was the process for approving documents associated with the Warsaw Framework for REDD+. The National REDD+ Strategy will be submitted to Union Cabinet for approval, the FRL and NFMS will have approval of Minister of MONREC and the SIS system will be submitted to relevant Minister for securing comments from other relevant Ministries and approval. The need for approval by Union Cabinet on SIS is subject to Minister's Decision.

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

- National REDD+ Strategies will be submitted to Union Cabinet for approval, the FRL and NFMS will have approval of Minister of MONREC and the SIS system will be submitted to Minister of MONREC for taking comments from relevant Ministries and approval. Taking approval of Union Cabinet on SIS is subject to Minister's Decision.
- The Taskforce requested UN-REDD to support the formulation of FPIC principles and enforcement on FPIC for the formulation of PFE.
- TF instructed TF Secretary to invite a representative of Social Welfare Department under MSWRR to be member of the TF.
- TF recommended to integrate a gender approach within competency framework & existing training plans rather than developing stand-alone training.
- The Chair instructed the Secretary to review the members list of TF as some TF members have already been promoted to Deputy Director General and to send request to respective departments for replacement.

Discussion

The PEB noted the progress made by the Taskforce. Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw commented that it was always envisaged that the Taskforce would be a flexible body, to which organizations could be added as required. Mr. Alexis Corblin (UN Environment) asked for a clarification on the process of approval of documents related to the Warsaw Framework, including responsibilities and anticipated timeframes (Decision 6/1).

Session 1: Updates

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

Dr. Thaug Naing Oo, National Programme Director of UN-REDD, presented the progress and achievements of the programme implementation during 2018. He focused only on those outputs and activities where some delays had been encountered.

Discussion

The shortcoming in activity 4.1.3 generated a lot of discussion. When considering the National Reporting to UNFCCC, all country reporting should be consistent. Myanmar Forest Reference (Emission) Level had been submitted by 8th January 2018 and the Technical Assessment process from UNFCCC has already finished and the final version will be available in the UNFCCC website. The upcoming national reporting of Second National Communication should be consistent with the methodologies used in FRL. After the follow up meeting of FRL team with SNC team after 4th PEB meeting (back in January), there is no significant progress and high-level decision on clear guidance of which methodology should be used.

Thus, PEB suggested to organize a follow up meeting with the technical team of SNC and FRL team in the presence of Director Generals of Forest Department and Environmental Conservation Department. The follow up meeting was proposed to be organized around 2nd week of January to discuss the process to ensure consistency in carbon accounting methods between Myanmar's FRL and SNC (Decision 6/2).

The PEB also requested the PMU to secure an update on the implications of COP-24 decisions from the UN-REDD Global Programme (Decision 6/4).

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 5th PEB meeting decisions. Action had been taken on all decisions.

Discussion

The only follow-up action that generated discussion related to the Note on national capacity building, for which the 5th meeting of the PEB had requested advice from the UNDP Resident Representative *a.i.* Mr. Peter Batchelor proposed that he would once again review the Note, but also suggested that the Director Generals of the Forest Department and Environmental Conservation Department also review the Note and advise on how to approach DACU with the information (Decision 6/3).

Agenda item 6: Results of the MTR held in November 2018

In response to PEB Decision 5/6, Mr. Tim Boyle presented the results of the MTR, focusing especially on recommendations requiring PEB's advices, or which were particularly critical for the programme.

Discussion

In response to the recommendation "*Review of per diem and transportation rates ...*", Mr. Peter Batchelor noted that such rates are determined at the country level across all UN agencies and programmes. He observed that the agreed rates were intended to be realistic but did not seek to be more generous than other programmes, and so there was little basis for review.

The recommendation to "*Support the integration REDD+ into the university curriculum ...*" was discussed at length. Although the UN-REDD Programme already has materials (from the REDD+ Academy) that can be used in the creation of a university curriculum (as has been done in Viet Nam), any more active engagement in curriculum development would require the allocation of scarce resources, and it is not clear from where those might come. Similar observations were made in relation to other recommendations for new or additional work, e.g., participatory governance assessments, and hiring a gender specialist. In other cases, the evidence used in generating recommendations was not apparent, for example, "*agencies need to consider [more] on hierarchy and sequencing of the activities*"; "*enhance inter-agency support to safeguards-related activities*"; and "*identify specific gaps in actions to improve institutional development and national ownership of new capacities*".

The recommendation to develop sub-national REDD+ strategies was discussed. While it is not yet clear that such an approach is appropriate in Myanmar's circumstances, Dr Thaug proposed that a sub-national approach to testing of one or more PAMs should be explored.

The PMU was requested to seek further clarifications on some MTR Recommendations from the MTR team, and will then provide draft responses on all recommendations to PEB members before the end of 2018; PEB members will be requested to provide feedback in writing by mid-January (Decision PEB 6/5).

Session 2: Items for information and provision of advice

Agenda item 7: Status and plans for the SIS and preparation of Myanmar's initial SOI

Mr. Alexis Corblin presented the content of document 6/6, outlining plans for the finalization of the SIS and preparation of an initial Summary of Information. He emphasized that the wording in the UN-REDD Results Framework "*At the end of the last year a fully functional safeguards information system is in place...*" should not be interpreted to mean that the SIS will be operational, but rather than the elements required for the SIS are in place. It was also discussed that, in response to a request at PEB-4 to accelerate activities on the SIS and SOI, UN Environment and FAO intends to complete most of the safeguards-related activities by the end of 2019, rather than 2020.

Discussion

The PEB felt that there was a need 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 requested a presentation of the findings during the next PEB meeting (Decision 6/6). The PEB also discussed and agreed to a change in Output 3.2 target 2 ('At the end of year 3, a SIS is finalized and is integrated with an NFMS') into: '*At the end of year 3, a first version of a SIS is designed and tested and plans/recommendations for its operationalization are developed*'. (Decision 6/7).

Agenda item 9: Work with EAO's and proposal for "Myanmar Ethnic Groups, Forests and Climate Change Week"

Mr. Tim Boyle presented an update on engagement with ethnic groups and introduced a concept note for a major engagement event in 2019: "Myanmar Ethnic Groups, Forests and Climate Change Week". This event would target very high-level participation, and a combination of substantive, cultural and ceremonial activities.

Discussion

Discussion focused on timing of the event, responsibilities, organization, and the title. The proposed date of May 2019 was considered too soon, and it was proposed to aim for late June or July. It was noted that the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs has limited capacity to lead on the event, and that it might be more effective to have MONREC lead. Organization of the event (and financing) was identified as requiring a substantive effort to engage with numerous other partners. The Term "ethnic group" was discussed, as it is often used synonymously with "ethnic armed organization". It was proposed to avoid the term to the extent possible. The PMU was requested to revise the concept note in the light of comments provided (including incorporation of a fund-raising strategy) and requested that the Director General of the Forest Department will then discuss the revised concept note with the Minister for high level Government Approval (Decision 6/8).

Agenda item 11: Moving towards Phase 2/REDD+ implementation: UN Agency initiatives

Mr. Ben Vickers presented a summary of how projects currently implemented or planned by the three UN Agencies contribute to the seven "Action Packages" of policies and measures in the draft National REDD+ Strategy.

Discussion

While expressing appreciation of the breadth and depth of UN-Agency support, PEB members asked how the information would be used. It was explained that, in developing a REDD+ investment plan, it is not sufficient to identify what actions are needed and their likely costs; it is also important to identify sources

of funding, including funding already secured. Therefore, the next step in the analysis will be to match individual projects more closely to specific policies and measures, so as to identify gaps that need to be filled.

Session 3: Items requiring Decisions

Agenda item 13: 2019 work planning

Daw Khin Hnin Myint presented the proposed budget figures for the 2019 annual workplan.

Discussion

It was noted that the precise figures for remaining budget availability were difficult to clarify due to the different accounting systems of the three UN-Agencies, and the fact that final 2018 expenditures would not be confirmed until January 2019. However, it was pointed out that there were some errors in 2019 planned budget amount of UNDP (UN Environment through UNDP) for output 3.2 exceeded the available budget. The PMU was requested to review the figures and re-submit to PEB members before the end of 2018 (**Decision 6/10**). The PEB tentatively approved the AWP, subject to any additional comments made by PEB members in response to the revised submission (**Decision 6/11**). The PMU was also requested to produce information materials on the reporting and submission requirements of a national REDD+ programme (**Decision 6/9**).

Agenda item 15: Planning for next PEB meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the PEB be held in early June, before the Forest and Climate Change Week event (**Decision 6/12**).

Decisions and Action points

Decision 6/1: The PEB requests the PMU, in consultation with the National REDD+ Task Force, to prepare a document describing the Government approval/submission process for documents related to the WFR, including responsible institutions and anticipated timelines for each step.

Decision 6/2: In relation to activity 4.1.3, the PEB proposes that the follow up meeting for the discussion of consistency in carbon accounting methods between Myanmar FRL and SNC should be organized around the second week of January 2019 with the presence of DGs of FD and ECD and the technical teams from MRV and SNC.

Decision 6/3: With reference to the note prepared on national capacity development (PEB Document 5/5), the PEB requests the Director Generals of the Forest Department and Environmental Conservation Department to review the note and to advise on how to approach DACU with the information.

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.

Decision 6/5: The PMU will seek further clarifications on some MTR Recommendations from the MTR team, and will then provide draft responses on all recommendations to PEB members before the end of 2018; PEB members will be requested to provide feedback in writing by mid-January.

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.

Decision 6/7: The PEB approves the PMU request to change Output 3.2 target 2 ('At the end of year 3, a SIS is finalized and is integrated with an NFMS') into: '*At the end of year 3, a first version of a SIS is designed and tested and plans/recommendations for its operationalization are developed*'.

Decision 6/8: The PEB requested the PMU to revise the concept note on Forests and Climate Change week, by downplaying references to ethnic groups, incorporating a fund-mobilization strategy, and taking account of proposal in relation to timing, venue and organizational arrangements of the event; the Director General of the Forest Department will then discuss the revised concept note with the Minister for high level Government Approval.

Decision 6/9: The PEB requested the PMU to produce awareness raising materials on reporting requirements of a national REDD+ programme.

Decision 6/10: In relation to the AWP/2019, the PEB requested the PMU to resolve the budget amounts for some outputs (output 3.2 of UN Environment through UNDP in particular) and send the revised AWP to PEB members before the end of 2018; PEB members will be requested to provide any comments in writing by the end of the first week of January.

Decision 6/11: The PEB approved the AWP/2019, subject to any additional comments raised by PEB members on the revised document under Decision 6/10.

Decision 6/12: The PEB proposed to meet ahead of the Forests and Climate Change week, tentatively in the first week of June, in NPT.

Attachments

- Agenda of the meeting

Minutes approved by



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



Mr. Peter Batchelor
Resident Representative *ai.*, UNDP
Co-Chair of PEB

Annex 1: UN-REDD Programme, Myanmar 6th Programme Executive Board Meeting: Annotated Agenda

No.	Time	Items	
1	13:00 – 13:10	Opening remarks by DG of the Forest Department and UNDP Country Director	Co-chairs (FD, UNDP)
2	13:10 – 13:20	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 19 th September 2018, 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
Section 1: Updates			
3	13:20 – 13:35	State of advance UN-REDD Programme in Myanmar, development towards major targets for 2018 (Tabulated progress: Document PEB6/2; Updated M&E report: Document PEB6/3) The PEB may want to comment on measures to rectify any shortcomings highlighted in the presentation	Dr. Thaug Naing Oo, NPD
4	13:35 – 13:45	Discussion, questions and answers	All PEB
5	13:45 – 13:55	Fulfilment of pending actions from meetings minutes of last PEB meeting in July 2018 (Document PEB6/4) The PEB may want to comment on measures to address items not fully implemented	Daw Khin Hnin Myint, NPC
6	13:55 – 14:10	Results of the MTR held in November 2018 (Document PEB6/5) Responding to the PEB Decision 5/6, PMU will provide a report on the findings of the MTR and actions taken or planned to address those findings. The PEB is requested to provide advice on responses to some recommendations.	Tim Boyle, CTA
Section 2: Items for Information and Provision of Advice			
7	14:10 – 14:25	Status and plans for the SIS and preparation of Myanmar's initial SOI (Document PEB6/6) Responding to a request made at the 4 th meeting of the PEB to accelerate work on the SIS during 2018, a report will be presented on progress during the year and plans for 2019.	Alexis Corblin, UN Environment RTA
8	14:25 – 14:35	Discussion, questions and answers	All PEB

9	14:35- 14:45	Work with EAO's and proposal for "Myanmar Ethnic Groups, Forests and Climate Change Week" (Proposal: Document PEB6/7; Update report: Document PEB6/8) Since REDD+ needs to engage effectively with ethnic groups, and in view of the large number of ethnic conflicts in Myanmar, the PMU proposes to organize a major event in the first half of 2019 designed to provide a forum for open discussion on issues of relevance to ethnic groups, contributing to trust building.	Tim Boyle, CTA
10	14:45- 15:05	Discussion, questions and answers	All PEB
11	15:05- 15:15	Moving towards Phase 2/REDD+ implementation: UN Agency initiatives (Document PEB6/9) Myanmar is nearing completion of the basic elements of "REDD+ Readiness", and so needs to plan for REDD+ implementation. The current and planned projects of the UN Agencies that can contribute to REDD+ implementation will be presented.	Ben Vickers, FAO Regional Technical Advisor
12	15:15- 15:25	Discussion, questions and answers	All PEB
Section 3: Items for Decisions			
13	15:25- 15:50	Annual Workplan 2019 (Document PEB6/10) The AWP/2019 is presented for approval.	Daw Khin Hnin Myint, NPC
14	15:50- 16:10	Discussion and decisions	All PEB
15	16:10- 16:20	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 6 th meeting, needs to be set.	All PEB
16	16:20- 16:30	Closing remarks	Co-chairs