

Minutes of the 9th Meeting of the Myanmar National REDD+ Taskforce

Date: 22 October 2019

Venue: Forest Department

Time: 09:00 – 12:00

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: U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, Deputy Director General, Forest Department

Participants:

Taskforce members: Daw Aye Min Thin, Assistant Director, Planning Department, MOPF,
U Soe Naing, Director, ECD, MONREC,
U Than Htut, Director, DALMS, MOALI
Daw Yi Yi Htwe, Director, DICA, MOIFER
U Min Lwin, Deputy Director, Planning Department, MOALI,
U Aung Htwe, Staff Officer, Planning Department, MOALI,
U Htein Lin Aung, Assistant Director, General Administered Department,
MOUG,
U Aung Kyaw Moe, Staff Officer, IWUMD, MOALI,
Daw Kyi Kyi Win, Staff Officer, Department of Agriculture, MOALI
Daw Yin Kyi, Assistant Director, Department of Agriculture, MOALI
U Hla Myint, Advisor, MRPPA,
U Aung Thant Zin, CEO, MERN,
Naw Ei Ei Min, Director, POIN,
Daw Thu Zar Win, Supervisor, KBZ, Nay Pyi Taw,
Daw Aye Min Thein, Junior Assistant, KBZ, Nay Pyi Taw

Taskforce Secretary: Dr. Thaug Naing Oo, Director, Forest Research Institute, FD.

Observers/Donors: Daw Thinn Thitsar Kyaw, Programme Specialist, FAO, Myanmar, Mr. Timothy Boyle, Chief Technical Advisor, UN-REDD Programme, Myanmar, Daw Khin Hnin Myint, Programme Coordinator, UN-REDD Programme, Myanmar, U Min Soe, Stakeholder Engagement Officer, UN-REDD Programme, Myanmar

Agenda item 1: Opening

The meeting was opened by U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, Chair of the TF, Deputy Director General of the Forest Department. He highlighted the fine progress of Myanmar REDD+ programme and acknowledge the supports of the REDD+ TF for the significant progress.

Agenda item 2: Action taken to follow up on decisions reached at the 7th meeting of the Taskforce

Dr. Thaug Naing Oo, the Secretary of TF reported on the implementation of decisions reached at the 8th meeting of the TF. Progress can be seen in the table below.

Actions taken to follow up on Decisions reached at the 8th meeting of the Taskforce

No.	Decision	Action Taken
8/1	TF commented to distribute the draft strategy (both English and Myanmar version) to the participants ahead of the workshop.	Done
8/2	TF recommended to set facilitators and do preparation ahead of the workshop.	Done
8/3	TF recommended to invite Private Sector to the REDD+ Strategy Validation Workshop as it is one of the important stakeholders for REDD+ implementation.	Done
8/4	TF asked UN-REDD Team to have discussion with CSO on its interest on SIS database hosting when it has meeting with CSO on 6th August 2019.	Done; (agenda item 6 for details)
8/5	TF recommended to invite CSO to take part as TF member as Myanmar REDD+ programme will have to collect various data for its implementation.	Done
8/6	TF decided that the decision for SIS hosting will be set for next TF meeting when CSO representation is there.	Will have discussion on agenda item 6
8/7	TF recommended to invite RECOFTC to involve in the FPIC informal working group as it is providing training on FPIC.	Done

Agenda item 3: Progress on REDD+ in Myanmar

Dr. Thaug Naing Oo, the Secretary of TF updated the progress of REDD+ in Myanmar in the context of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+.

In term of Strategy Development, engagement with ethnic nationalities for consultation on the draft has already been accomplished. The final National Validation Workshop was conducted on September and the revision of Strategy is under process. In relation to FREL/FRL, a discussion with the Environmental Conservation Department (ECD) took place on issues on consistency between the GHG-Inventory as under preparation during the SNC process and the implications for the revision of the NDC. No results as yet from these discussions. The next update of the Forest Reference Level (FRL) is planned for 2021 when more data from National Forest Inventory (NFI) and updated forest cover maps are available.

As the progress of setting National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), the field methodology for the NFI has been further revised and an updated version as of October 2019 is available. A high-level meeting with national NFI experts will be conducted on 1st November 2019 in Yangon in order to carry out a final consultation on NFI methodology before the start of the upcoming field season (2nd field testing and NFI work in Mangroves of Southern Myanmar). For the work on the NFMS Web-GIS portal this year, in the end, the decision was made to use OneMap Myanmar as the basic platform. Former ideas of developing a separate web-based platform or adding the Myanmar NFMS to a Servir Mekong platform, after several technical discussions, were dismissed. A draft NFMS module on OneMap was established in September and the process of uploading REDD+ and forestry relevant information layers is ongoing.

For SIS setting, following the development of draft design for Myanmar's SIS during the first half of 2019, discussion on operationalization for the SIS has started and is still ongoing. Unfortunately, we lost our SIS consultant back in July and only now are able to select a successor. The tasks for the remainder of the year and most of Q1 2020 will be dedicated to further develop the SIS operationalization plan that sets out the technical, human resources and financial needs with a detailed data template of data collection from each sector. The 2nd draft of the SOI (Summary of Information) has already been prepared with the support of SOI drafting group members and the consultation workshop will be conducted on 24 October 2019. The piloting at the Community Level in Mawlamyine District for the development of FPIC guideline is ongoing and expect to finish by end of October 2019.

Agenda item 4: Results of National Validation Workshop for the REDD+ Strategy (Sept. 10-11) and next steps

Mr. Timothy Boyle, CTA, UN-REDD Programme Myanmar presented the outputs of the National Validation Workshop on Myanmar's draft National REDD+ Strategy. A total of 130 comments and recommendations were generated during the workshop (not counting comments on the lack of accuracy of the Myanmar translation). Subsequently, additional comments were submitted by the Forest Department, MTE, and CAT. The majority of the comments were minor, many of an editorial nature. By far the most substantive comment was submitted by the Forest Department after the event. The Forest Department decided that it did not want to be ambitious in implementing REDD+, and instead of seeking to achieve a zero net deforestation target by a specific date, simply to aim to reduce the rate of deforestation by 30% by 2030.

He explained that the National REDD+ Strategy will be amended accordingly and submitted for approval. Since (especially by 2030) a significant proportion of the remaining forest will be in territory controlled by Ethnic Armed Organizations, it is proposed that a NCA-S REDD+ Action Plan also be developed. This would establish targets decided by NCA-S EAO's.

Decision

To decide the specific target for REDD+ Strategy, TF asked UN-REDD to prepare the 4 different scenarios with very low to high ambitious target by highlighting the priority PaMs to reach to each scenario (decision 9/1). FD will decide the target after reviewing those scenarios (Decision: 9/2)

Agenda item 6: Decision on hosting of SIS

Daw Khin Hnin Myint, Programme Coordinator of the UN-REDD Myanmar updated on discussion with the Director General of CSO for the decision on hosting SIS. Responding to Decision TF 8/4, the UN-REDD Team did meet with CSO on 6th August 2019. During which meeting CSO indicated a willingness to serve as host of the SIS. Responding to Decision TF 8/5, CSO has been invited to participate as a member of the National REDD+ TF. Consistent with Decision TF 8/6, Daw Khin Hnin Myint invited the TF members to set the decision on hosting SIS database.

Discussion:

CSO representative mentioned DG's willingness on hosting SIS database.

Decision:

TF decided CSO as a host institution for SIS database. Forest Department will do any necessary formal process for the decision (Decision 9/3). TF recommend UN-REDD to have further discussion with CSO the development of SIS Operationalization Plan (Decision 9/4).

Agenda item 8: Plans for national FPIC consultation

Mr. Timothy Boyle, CTA, UN-REDD, Myanmar gave initial briefing on the plan for conducting workshop on the development of FPIC guideline. At its 8th meeting, the TF was presented with the information on the development of FPIC guidelines. The National Consultation on FPIC was planned for September 11th, a day after the National Validation Workshop on the REDD+ Strategy, to take advantage of so many stakeholders already being present. However due to the delay of UNDP's piloting in Mon State due to the catastrophic flooding and landslides in the area in July and FD had not yet received a first draft of the SOP for protected Areas being developed by WCS, Director General of Forest Department commented to postpone the workshop.

He informed that the date for the National Consultation will be re-scheduled during November. The results of UNDP's piloting are now available, but the draft Standard Operating Procedures being developed by WCS are still awaited.

Agenda item 10: Update on approval of Norwegian funding for REDD+ implementation in mangroves

Mr. Timothy Boyle, CTA, UN-REDD, Myanmar updated on proposal of Norwegian Funding for REDD+ implementation in mangroves. At its 8th meeting, the Taskforce was presented with information on a request to Norway for funding to support REDD+ implementation in mangrove ecosystems. Norad reviewed the submission from UN-REDD and identified a few issues where further information was requested. Submission was "technically cleared" by Norad, although additional information requested on stakeholder engagement, a human rights-based approach, risk management, and conflict sensitivity. Initial indication of funding becoming available in 2019 has not yet materialized, but still possible this year. Although total requested budget was USD 2.3 million, total funding is also still not finalized. The fund will be transferred to regional UN-REDD "Implementing REDD+" project, but ear-marked for Myanmar mangroves and it does not require approval of the UN-REDD Executive Board. The implementation arrangements can follow current institutional set-up, however, the significant problem is that current UN-REDD PMU will dissolve in March/April 2020.

Discussion:

TF had discussion on funding gap after March/April 2020 as the UN-REDD PMU Staff Salary will be ended in March/April 2020.

Decision:

In order to avoid financial gap, TF recommended to do follow up with Norway to get funding support before March/April 2020 (Decision 9/5)

Summary of Decisions and Action points

- Decision TF 9/1:** To decide the specific target of the REDD+ Strategy, TF asked UN-REDD to prepare the 4 different scenarios with very low to high ambitious target by highlighting the priority PaMs to reach to each scenario.
- Decision TF 9/2:** FD will decide the target after reviewing the 4 different scenarios.
- Decision TF 9/3:** TF decided CSO as a host institution for SIS database and requested Forest Department to do any necessary formal process for the decision.
- Decision TF 9/4:** TF recommend UN-REDD to have further discussion with CSO for the development of SIS Operationalization Plan.
- Decision TF 9/5:** In order to avoid financial gap, TF recommended to do follow up with Norway to get funding support before March/April 2020.

Attachments

- Agenda of the meeting
- Attendance list

Minutes approved by



Kyaw Kyaw Lwin
Chair of National REDD+ Task Force
Deputy Director General, Forest Department

Annex 1: Agenda

No.	Time	Items	Facilitation
1	09:00 - 09:10	Opening remarks	Chair: U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, Deputy Director General, Forest Department
2	09:10 – 09:20	Action taken to follow up on Decisions reached at the 8 th meeting of the Taskforce (Document TF 9/2)	Dr. Thaug Naing Oo, Secretary to the Task Force
3	09:20 – 09:40	Progress on REDD+ in Myanmar and under the UN-REDD Programme in Myanmar (Document TF 9/3)	Dr. Thaug Naing Oo, Secretary to the Task Force/Khin Hnin Myint, Programme Coordinator, UN-REDD
4	09:40 – 10:00	Results of National Validation Workshop for the REDD+ Strategy (Sept. 10-11) and next steps (Document TF 9/4)	Tim Boyle, CTA, UN-REDD
5	10:00 – 10:15	Questions & Answers	Chair
6	10:15 – 10:30	Decision on hosting of SIS (Document TF 9/5)	Daw Khin Hnin Myint, Programme Coordinator, UN-REDD Programme
7	10:30 – 10:40	Questions & Answers	Chair
8	10:40 – 11:00	Plans for national FPIC consultation (Document TF 9/6)	Tim Boyle, CTA, UN-REDD
9	11:00 – 11:15	Questions & Answers	Chair
10	11:15 – 11:45	Update on approval of Norwegian funding for REDD+ implementation in mangroves (Document TF 9/7)	Tim Boyle, CTA, UN-REDD
11	12:45 – 11:55	Questions & Answers	Chair
12	11:55 – 12:00	Closing remarks	Chair: U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, Deputy Director General, Forest Department
13	12:00	Lunch	

Annex 2: Attendance

No.	Name	Position	Department	Duty Station	Phone No
1	U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin	DDG	FD, MONREC	NPT	
2	Dr. Thaung Naing Oo	Director	FD, MONREC	NPT	
3	U Aung Thant Zin	CEO	MERN	Yangon	9448016358
4	Naw Ei Ei Min	Director	POINT	Yangon	9254000363
5	U Hla Myint	Advisor	MRPPA	Yangon	951189257
6	U Soe Naing	Director	ECD, MONREC	Yangon	9254686261
7	Daw Thu Zar Win	Supervisor	KBZ Bank	NPT	9420716443
8	Daw Aye Min thein	Junior Assistant	KBZ Bank	NPT	9973933393
9	Daw Aye Min Thin	Assistant Director	PD, MOPF	NPT	9420703781
10	U Aung Htwe	Saff Officer	MOAI, DOP	NPT	949296913
11	U Min Lwin	Deputy Director	MOALI- DOP	NPT	9420712654
12	Thin Thitsar Kyaw	Programme Specialist	FAO	NPT	09-973053993
13	U Aung Kyaw Moe	Staff Officer		NPT	9255764213
14	Daw Yin Kyi	Assistant Director		NPT	95082423
15	Daw Kyi Kyi Win	Staff Officer	DOA, MOALI	NPT	9456098462
16	Daw Hnin Hnin Han	Assistant Director	CSO, MOPF	NPT	9421129744
17	Daw Yi Yi Htwe	DD	DICA, MOIFER	NPT	09-259072507
18	U Than Htut	Director	ALMS, MOALI	NPT	9250242633
19	U Htein Lin Aung	Assistant Director	GAD, MOUG	NPT	9250059188
20	Daw Khin Hnin Myint	Programme Coordinator	UN-REDD	NPT	
21	Mr. Timothy Boyle	CTA	UN-REDD	NPT	
22	U Min Soe	SE Officer	UN-REDD	NPT	
23	Daw Thit Thit Han	Com. Officer	UN-REDD	NPT	
24	Daw Sandar Min Wai	Programme Assistant	UN-REDD	NPT	