Extract from UN-REDD 2016 Annual Report

MYANMAR

In lieu of a formal National Programme, Myanmar received substantial Targeted Support funds in late 2014. Its National Programme was finally approved in 2016, and began implementation in November of that year.

Progress achieved during the year 2016 against the Warsaw Framework for REDD+

National Strategy and Action Plan
A REDD+ strategy analysis was carried out, based on a drivers analysis, and an advanced draft of a REDD+ strategy was produced (draft finalized during the first quarter of 2017). Initial emission reduction targets for avoided deforestation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks based an existing or intended policies and measures were developed (finalized in the first quarter of 2017). The initial quantitative emissions reduction targets were fed into the draft NDC of Myanmar.

 National Forest Monitoring System, NFMS
The NFMS Action Plan, developed and adopted in 2015, was further implemented. The NFI design process started with a focused and user-oriented information needs assessment and the development of options for the general design of a NFI, the field plot design and data collection approaches. The full NFI proposal was developed, endorsed by the government, presented to the Finnish government and will be implemented through the upcoming FAO-Finland Programme. Several capacity building and training events were carried out on field-based forest inventory techniques, software use for land cover and land cover change monitoring and accuracy assessment of forest mapping products. The development of a GHG-I for the LULUCF sector was planned (to be conducted in early 2017). An initial workplan for piloting of the NFI approach was developed for implementing in 2017.

   Forest Reference (Emission) Level, FREL
The FREL Action Plan, developed and adopted in 2015, was further implemented with technical discussions about options for scope and scale as well as construction methodology and time periods to be considered. Stock taking sessions comparing different approaches adopted by 11 countries, which had already submitted their FREL, were analysed and discussed. An initial and informal draft of FREL for deforestation based on 2005 – 2015 forest cover change data and a national level average Emission Factor was developed and used for calculating draft target proposals for the NDC (LULUCF component) and the avoided deforestation target of the draft REDD+ strategy. To date no formal decision has been made.

Safeguards and Safeguard Information System
Safeguard work during 2016 consisted of training and capacity building as well as awareness raising among stakeholders through the safeguard module of the REDD+ Academy and a specific session on national approaches for the Cancun safeguards for technical working group members. Planning for work on developing a safeguard roadmap and a broader document clarifying safeguards in 2017 was carried out.

Challenges and lessons learnt
The main constraints are in the area of limited institutional and human resources in public and private entities to absorb the wealth of technical and organizational as well as policy requirements the country has (or wants) to comply with and the challenge of developing such capacities in a comparatively short time. The political-historical environment of a country in transition from an

authoritarian military-led regime to a fledgling democracy with still many authoritarian holdouts in the political system poses an additional, potentially retarding, weight on project development. The main lesson learnt from that is that national partners need sufficient time to grow ownership of and develop capacities for a genuine national REDD+ approach with incremental solutions adapted to their national circumstances.