

# MYANMAR

## **Context**

Myanmar is making good progress on the four pillars of the Warsaw Framework. A draft National REDD+ Strategy is undergoing a broad consultation process. Myanmar's draft FRL is due to be developed by the end of 2017. Work is underway on defining REDD+ safeguards in the national context and a safeguard road map, and there is an action plans for further development of the NFMS including support by a new national forest inventory through a complementing Finland/FAO project.

Although decisions on the initial FRL remain to be formalized, it seems likely that the reference period for historical emissions will be the 2005-2015 period. The REDD+ activities covered by the FRL, based on the existing monitoring capacities, will likely be reducing deforestation and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks. Other REDD+ activities will be included in the future once the abilities of establishing baselines and monitoring changes are developed and the appropriate decisions on measurement methodologies are made. A National REDD+ Investment Plan is scheduled for being developed in parallel with the National REDD+ Strategy, and should be largely complete by the end of 2017. A funding proposal to the GCF to partially fund REDD+ Phase 2 is expected to be finalized at the same time. As a commitment to forest carbon stock enhancement, a national restoration and reforestation plan has been agreed with a financial volume of 460 MM USD over 10 years for which around 40% is expected to come from international sources.

The scope and the targets of the draft REDD+ strategy are also consistent with the LULUCF component of the emerging NDC of Myanmar although reporting and accounting periods maybe be slightly different. These developments indicate the potential to report on results and thereby start qualifying for RBPs from 2022 onwards.

## **Rationale and approach**

While individual capacities in Myanmar are high by LDC standards, and increasing, further development of institutional and systemic capacities is required. International best practices, for example, from Brazil, are being transferred trough a high level (Ministerial) study tour, and through training, including REDD+ Academy follow-up. As an LDC, financial resources to implement the ambitious PAMs emerging in the draft National REDD+ Strategy are a major constraint. The GCF financial proposal will partially address this constraint and improved Development Partner coordination, being developed through current TA support, will also help to focus bilateral and multilateral support.

The UN-REDD Team has expertise in the areas of institutional and systemic capacity development in relation to all components of the Warsaw Framework. The proposed capacity development will address identified constraints and support early piloting of the draft National REDD+ Strategy, thereby improving implementation of PAMs, refining measuring and monitoring protocols, and broadening stakeholder engagement, allowing Myanmar to move more rapidly to RBPs.

## **Technical Assistance requested**

Based on discussions between the UN-REDD team, the national REDD+ Focal Point, and representatives of indigenous peoples and CSO networks as well as other stakeholder groups, four inter-linked deliverables related to building capacity and piloting of elements of the National REDD+ Strategy have been identified. The proposed TA support complements the ongoing NP. For example, the NP is working at establishing required institutional capacities at the national level, but with TA support, we will extend this institutional capacity building to the sub-national level, starting with those states/regions that are highest priority in the emerging National REDD+ Strategy.

Existing UN-REDD funds (TA plus NP) are establishing a foundation for transformational changes to be achieved through implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy. The proposed TA will facilitate this transformational change. For example, strengthened sub-national stakeholder engagement mechanisms, improved capacity to measure degradation, and enhanced capacity to provide information on safeguards will all contribute to the sustainability of such transformational change.

The objective of these TA deliverables is “to accelerate progress towards RBPs in Myanmar”.

Myanmar aims to complete its National REDD+ Strategy by the end of 2017 and to submit its initial FRL at the same time. In support of the strategy, a REDD+ investment plan will also be completed early in 2018. The TA, in the form of staff costs and missions, will be utilized to begin initial implementation of the investment plan in relation to:

- Establishment of sub-national institutional structures that ensure multi-stakeholder engagement in REDD+ implementation and provide a basis for monitoring of PaMs.
- Increased capacity of the NFMS to monitor effectiveness of PAMs related to forest degradation, and to measure emissions from forest degradation
- Engagement with the private sector
- Further development of Myanmar’s SIS.

### Results Framework

UN-REDD Technical Assistance outputs	Agencies	Timeline	Indicators	Baseline
<p><b>Output 1.</b> REDD+ PAMs developed and implemented with robust institutional anchoring at national and sub-national levels, and engagement of a broad range of stakeholders.</p> <p>(Linked to UN-REDD strategic framework Output 3.2: REDD+ PAMs have a Technical assistance provided for the robust institutional anchoring, with a wide range of economic sectors engaged in REDD+ objectives)</p>	UNDP	2018-2020	<p>2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revised Phase 2 national level institutional structures identified and a roadmap developed (MoV: submitted reports)</li> <li>• Sub-national institutional structures piloted in at least 2 states/regions (MoV: submitted reports; field visits)</li> <li>• Options for a REDD+ financial mechanism assessed (MoV: submitted report)</li> </ul>	Comprehensive cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder institutional structures exist at the national level (for Phase 1), but not at sub-national levels
			<p>2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revised Phase 2 national level institutional structures operational (MoV: submitted reports)</li> <li>• Sub-national institutional structures piloted in at least 5 states/regions (MoV: submitted reports; field visits)</li> </ul>	
			<p>2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sub-national institutional structures in place nationwide (MoV: submitted reports; field visits)</li> <li>• REDD+ financial mechanism in place (MoV: legal documents establishing the mechanism)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Output 2.</b> Capacity to measure degradation and monitor REDD+ PAMs designed to address degradation, supported by capacity to report on safeguards</p> <p>(Linked to UN-REDD strategic framework Output 3.1: Technically robust REDD+ PAMs are designed and implemented to address</p>	FAO	2018-2020	<p>2018:</p> <p>Research results from various partner projects (e.g., FFPRI, AAS) compiled and analysed to assess potential for upgrading degradation measurement methodologies. Guidance for Monitoring of PAMs developed (MoV: submitted reports, guidance documents)</p>	Draft National REDD+ Strategy includes PAMs addressing degradation but capacity of existing NFMS inadequate to measure their effectiveness
			<p>2019:</p> <p>Existing NFMS institutionalized to measure GHG emissions and removals in forest remaining as forest; Monitoring of degradation-related PAMs piloted.</p>	

drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, while fully accounting for UNFCCC safeguards)			National-level growth models, emission factors and forest classifications updated to facilitate measurement of forest degradation and restoration  (MoV: submitted reports, database)	
			2020: Operational upgrades to the NFMS established to allow detection and measurement of emissions from forest degradation and removals from forest restoration (MoV: submitted field reports, database)	
	UNEP	2018-2020	2018: Identification of PAMs requiring private sector engagement and key private sector entities committed to supporting implementation (MoV: submitted reports)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private sector engagement needs assessed but no progress in effectively engaging with the private sector</li> <li>• SIS under development</li> </ul>
			2019: Myanmar's initial Summary of Information produced (MoV: document submitted to UNFCCC)	
			2020: Operational upgrades to the SIS established, based on early REDD+ implementation (MoV: submitted reports)	

### Risk Management Framework

Risk description	Rating P: Probability I: Impact	Mitigation measure
External risks		
In the course of the year the technical expertise provided by the programme is no longer considered relevant	P= Low I = Medium	The deployment of TA was done based on an analysis of the results of the National Programme, based on discussion with the National REDD+ Focal Point, and taking account of the expertise of the team. In principle, this risk has a low probability of occurrence, and this is further mitigated through the very close relationship the team enjoys with the government and other stakeholders, and the fact that UN-REDD is the only major initiative focused solely on REDD+ readiness. Should the risk materialize; the programme has adequate expertise across a range of issues to adjust to the changed circumstances.
The advice/ recommendations of the UN-REDD team are not appropriated or adopted by the governments or stakeholders in country	P= Low I = High	As above, in principle the TA has been jointly identified with counterparts, and UN-REDD enjoys a unique position in Myanmar as the only major initiative focused solely on REDD+ readiness. Intrinsic government inertia may lead to some resistance, but agency Country Offices are working in parallel to address such shortcomings, so the risk should decline over time.
Internal		
The presence of in-country support through longer missions is requested from governments and increases costs beyond what is planned for.	P= Low I =High	The budget covers primarily regional and global staff costs and contracts, with some resources allocated to missions and other local costs. Should certain support and expertise require longer missions/presence in country, the limited financial buffer would imply reallocating from one country to another or from one activity to another within the same country. The programme will undertake

Risk description	Rating P: Probability I: Impact	Mitigation measure
		a mid-term revision of TA and budgets to determine what flexibility is available and table such reallocations for approval of the concerned country.

**National ownership and sustainability**

A joint mission of UN-REDD Regional Technical Advisors was organized from 25-27 April 2017. Together with the UN-REDD PMU, team members met with the National REDD+ Focal Point on 26 April, 2017. The UN-REDD Lead Advisor also met with the forests advisor of the Royal Norwegian Embassy, Hanoi (who covers Myanmar) on 19 April, 2017, and with PEB members representing CSOs and IPs on 27 April, 2017. A draft TA workplan was shared with the National REDD+ Focal Point on 27 April, 2017 for feedback and validation.

The TA aligns with, but is distinct from the UN-REDD National Programme, in that the anticipated results of the National Programme will see Myanmar through to completion of REDD+ Phase 1, whereas the proposed TA moves beyond Phase 1 and into piloting of some elements of the National REDD+ Strategy under Phase 2.

\*\*\*\*\*