

**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
BDP/EEG - MISSION REPORT SUMMARY**

Date: 26 Dec. 2014



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Approved Mission Itinerary:

BKK-Yangon-BKK

List of Annexes:

Inclusive Travel Dates:

15-18 Dec. 2014

Key counterpart(s) in each location:

- MYA: UNDP CO (Khin Nhin Myint)
- MYA: FD (Thaung Naing Oo and Nyi Nyi Kyaw)

Purpose/Objectives of Mission

To participate in the "International Workshop on REDD+ and Sustainable Land-use Management" on 16-18 December 2014 at Nay Pyi Taw, for which I was invited to present congratulatory opening remarks and a keynote paper, and to participate on an expert panel.

Context

With support from the Government of Norway, the UN-REDD Programme, in partnership with the Regional Community Training Center (RECOFTC), assisted the Government of Myanmar (GoM) and other stakeholders to develop a REDD+ Readiness Roadmap in the period July 2012-August 2013.

Myanmar has also received support from an ITTO REDD+ Capacity Building Project as well as cooperation with Korean and Japanese government agencies, universities and the private sector. The "International Workshop on REDD+ and Sustainable Land-use Management" provided a forum for exchange of information among all of these initiatives on prospects for REDD+ in Myanmar.

Over 2 days, more than 20 papers were presented, covering a wide range of topics, although with a strong emphasis on monitoring and measurement. In addition to my presentation in the opening session on "*Development of REDD+ and the role of UN-REDD Programme*", Daw Khin Nhin Myint, of UNDP/Myanmar, also gave a presentation on "*Indigenous Peoples' Participation in REDD+*", based on the work of the DGTTF-funded project.

Although too many papers were squeezed into the 2-day programme, many of the papers were very useful and interesting. Of particular note were presentations on "*Development of Social and Environmental Standards*" by Pyi Soe Aung of the FD, and "*The role of participatory land-use planning for sustainable forest management*" by Kyaw Thinn Latt of WCS. This latter paper reported on participatory mapping for 9 villages in the Myintmoletkhet Key Biodiversity Area, highlighting the speed and low cost of the approach – at least in areas with long-established settlements, and the benefits of such an approach.

The final day of the workshop consisted of a field trip to see harvesting of teak and the use of elephants in skidding, in Thaungoo District.

Although the Forest Department acknowledged the contribution of UN-REDD on many occasions, the DG also expressed concern at the delay in signing the programme document.

Summary of Mission Activities/ Findings

The key results of the mission were:

- Many research and operational projects, funded through a variety of sources, are contributing to relatively rapid progress on REDD+ readiness in Myanmar
- The UN-REDD Programme continues to be held in high regard by the FD and others.
- There is a need to sign the programme document as soon as possible.

Follow up actions:

- Boyle: Check on status of DoA letter (subsequently confirmed that documentation was complete by early December, but not yet sent).

Distribution List:

- Tim Clairs, UN-REDD UNDP PTA
- Lat Lat Aye, Team Leader, UNDP CO