

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

Date: 15 July 2016



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Approved Mission Itinerary: BKK-Naypyitaw-BKK	List of Annexes: None
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Inclusive Travel Dates: 27 June-1 July 2016	Key counterpart(s) in each location: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN-REDD Office, Nay Pyi Taw (Khin Hnin Myint, Franz Arnold, Aung Kyi) • MYA: FD (Thaung Naing Oo) • UN-REDD Global (Thao Do)
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Purpose/Objectives of Mission
To participate in TWG meetings, assist in analysis of ICA findings, and to pursue the idea of a GCF submission for funding to implement the National REDD+ Strategy

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 received UN-REDD Targeted Support of approximately \$1.1M to initiate implementation of the REDD+ Readiness Roadmap. In November, 2015, an additional request for \$5.5M for a full National Programme was provisionally approved, pending new funding to the UN-REDD Programme.

To support the REDD+ readiness process, three Technical Working Groups (TWG) have been established, covering (1) Stakeholder engagement and safeguards (SE&S); (2) Drivers and strategy (D&S); and (2) NFMS and FRL. The third official meetings of the TWGs were held on June 29 (NFMS and FRL), and 30th (SE&S and D&S).

The idea of developing a submission to the GCF for funding to support implementation of the emerging National REDD+ Strategy emerged in February, 2016, and the DG of the FD sent a letter to the GCF NDA in May, but so far no further action has taken place. However, RBAP recently announced a fund to finance project development for future national projects, offering the possibility of mobilizing resources for the preparation of the GCF proposal.

Following a failed consultancy on Institutional and Context Analysis, it had been decided to make use of internal expertise by asking Thao Do to undertake the necessary consultations and analyses. Her field work was concluding on July 1st.

Summary of Mission Activities/ Findings

1. TWG meetings

The TWG/NFMS&FRL meeting was almost entirely taken up by a presentation on proposals for modifications to the NFI procedures, conducted in Myanmar, but with most of the slides in English.

The main substantive agenda items of the TWG/SES meeting were:

- Presentation of final draft of stakeholder engagement guidelines,
- Sharing and Discussion on Stakeholder Mapping
- Availability of communication tools and materials on REDD+
- Information Sharing Platforms (website for REDD+ Programme in Myanmar, and access to media-fire documents)

Discussion on the stakeholder engagement guidelines mainly focused on whether more detailed guidance was required, especially for Indigenous Peoples (this was decided against), and the need for case studies of good practice.

The review process was extended for another two weeks, during which TWG members were invited to share Case Study/ Success Stories

On stakeholder mapping, it was noted that the private sector was represented only by two forestry-oriented entities, but that there are many other organizations in many sectors that may have a stake or an interest in REDD+.

The main substantive agenda items of the TWG/D&S meeting were:

- Preliminary results of mission for Driver and Strategy analysis
- Scope and work plan of driver analysis of ICIMOD-FRI project. Synergies with overall D+S work of REDD+ in Myanmar.
- From driver analysis to strategy development, the way ahead.
- Institutional and context analysis (ICA) for developing engagement plans for key government agencies in REDD+ strategy

There was discussion on possible duplication of the work of UN-REDD and ICIMOD, and it was clarified that the ICIMOD project will work only in a few townships in Shan State, despite some of their materials suggesting otherwise.

The ICA agenda item involved the only group discussion exercise of any of the TWG meetings, which were designed to generate more insights into the initial results presented. Possibly partly because of limited time, the outputs of the groups were somewhat disappointing in not offering many insights beyond those already known.

Participation in the TWG meetings appears to be quite consistent and stable, which is encouraging, but there is a tendency for the meetings to be viewed as opportunities for awareness raising, rather than for real discussion on technical matters. Agendas for future meetings should focus on generating more targeted discussion.

2. Institutional and Context Analysis

A full report of the ICA is still under development, but some of the key findings related to communication barriers, both vertically, within ministries/agencies, and especially horizontally, across ministries/agencies. For example, although it is standard procedure for members of TWGs to write reports after each meeting for submission upwards, there is evidence that supervisors do not always read or internally absorb such reports and therefore remain under-educated about REDD+.

A possible solution to both vertical and horizontal communication barriers discussed with the NPD was to organize a high-level (ministers and DGs) study tour to Brazil. This possibility is now being further investigated.

3. GCF proposal

There appears to have been a breakdown in communications between the Forest Department and ECD (Environmental Conservation Department) (NDA), possibly associated with the departure of the former ECD DG, such that the letter sent by the FD DG has not yet stimulated any action. There is also some suggestion that the NDA may view the National REDD+ Strategy and an action plan to implement the forest component off the INDC to be separate issues. This was discussed with the CO, and subsequently discussions have been held with the NDA to clarify this issue.

4. Other

I participated together with the CTA in a Skype call with the Head of Pillar II and others in the CO on July 1st. The discussion focused mainly on work planning, ensuring delivery targets for the TS funds are met, and the status and future development of the NP.

<p>Follow up actions:</p> <p>Boyle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue the possibility of seed funding for preparation of the GCF proposal (completed – funding confirmed) • Secure a copy of the UN-REDD/Myanmar National Programme document (not yet achieved) <p>Thy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop concept note for study tour to Brazil (in progress) <p>CO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize an initial, informal meeting with the GCF NDA to clarify the relationship between the NRS and INDC (completed) 	<p>Distribution List:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tim Clairs, UN-REDD UNDP PTA • Lat Lat Aye, Team Leader, UNDP CO • Franz Arnold, Khin Hnin Myint, PMU • Regional Office : Kin Yii Yong, Heang Thy
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