

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

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Name: Tim Boyle, UN-REDD **Tel No.** +66819005402

Approved Mission Itinerary: BKK-Naypyitaw-BKK	List of Annexes: None
Inclusive Travel Dates: 28-31 March 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)

Purpose/Objectives of Mission
To pursue the idea of a GCF submission for funding to implement the National REDD+ Strategy, and to resolve various administrative issues related to the UN-REDD TS and NP

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.

The idea of developing a submission to the GCF for funding to support implementation of the emerging National REDD+ Strategy emerged in February, 2016. This built on the proposal of Norway and Finland to provide substantial funding for some types of interventions to address forest issues in Myanmar. Therefore, a key objective of the mission was to discuss this idea with UNDP CO and REDD+ Focal Point.

There are also a number of administrative issues that required attention. These include required modifications to the National Programme document relating to ToR and reporting structure of the PMU as well as the possibility to use regional staff for some technical inputs to the programme in place of independent consultants.

Summary of Mission Activities/ Findings

I met with Head of Pillar 2 (Ms Lat Lat Aye) on the morning of the first day of the mission, then with PMU staff in the afternoon. On day 2, we met with Dr. Thaung Naing Oo, REDD+ Focal Point. This meeting also prompted an additional activity, the preparation of a policy brief for the new Minister of the new Ministry (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, MONREC).

Regarding substantive issues discussed in these meetings:

1. GCF proposal

UNDP will follow up in organizing a meeting with U Hla Maung Thein. The proposal to be put to U Hla Maung Thein is for a comprehensive proposal for implementation of Myanmar's National REDD+ Strategy, which will also assist Myanmar to meet its targets under the INDC. This proposal will incorporate the Korean Forest Service proposal.

2. National Strategy

Since the development of the National Strategy is intimately linked to the development of the GCF proposal, we need to move as quickly as possible, while ensuring that we do not compromise on quality. Two measures will help in this – firstly, the CTA has developed an “index”, or table of contents for the strategy, which was discussed at the TWG

meeting the following week; and secondly there is a proposal to establish a “drafting committee” as a sub-committee of the TWG, to guide the process.

3. Training

We all recognize the need for “training” at several levels. These include high-level awareness raising, training of mid-level technical personnel, and lighter training/awareness raising for a wider audience.

Regarding high-level awareness, we started by preparing a Briefing Note for the new minister on REDD+ (incorporating links to FLEGT). This could be supplemented by further Briefing Notes on specific topics. The Briefing Notes may also be valuable for high level officials in other ministries.

At the technical level, we will invite participants from other ministries (and non-governmental organizations) to participate in MoNREC training events. The PMU will develop a specific training plan/schedule. They will also contact the graduates of last year’s REDD+ Academy to see who is interested in supporting future training and will organize a refresher course for them.

For the lower-level training/awareness raising, please see below, under Communications.

4. Communications

For the time being, there is probably no need to pursue a “Communications Coordination Committee” because there are so few organizations engaged in REDD+ communications. We will monitor the situation, and if more organizations get involved, we will reconsider the need for such a committee.

We developed a detailed communications plan which was shared with the REDD+ Focal Point for further comments.

The design of communications materials, including the newsletter, requires improvement. Prior to the next newsletter, we will prepare and share with the REDD+ Focal Point proposals for improved designs.

5. National Programme

We all remain hopeful that Norway will authorize release of funds soon, following submissions of a costed multi-year plan by the UN-REDD Secretariat. The REDD+ Focal Point is comfortable with the concept of using UNDP staff to provide direct support on some NP activities (and possibly TS activities, though this is less likely), providing:

- The staff are suitably qualified
- The costs do not exceed expected costs of using external consultants
- There are still processes to ensure quality of products

Follow up actions:

Boyle:

- Assist in finalization of the Policy Brief (completed)
- Attend a briefing for the GCF NDA, if scheduling permits.
- Revise the NP programme document, to ensure coherence in reporting arrangements and ToR of PMU staff.
- Provide on-going support to the development of the training proposal

CO:

- Organize an initial, informal meeting with the GCF NDA, and schedule a more formal meeting subsequently
- Based on revised ToR emerging from the 3rd bullet point, above, consider whether the modifications require new recruitment processes for the positions

Distribution List:

- Tim Clairs, UN-REDD UNDP PTA
- Lat Lat Aye, Team Leader, UNDP CO
- Franz Arnold, Khin Hnin Myint, PMU

