

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

Date: 20 Oct. 2014



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**Approved Mission Itinerary:**

BKK-Yangon-BKK

**List of Annexes:**

**Inclusive Travel Dates:**

9-10 Oct. 2014

**Key counterpart(s) in each location:**

- MYA: UNDP CO (Lat Lat Aye, Khin Nhin Myint)

**Purpose/Objectives of Mission**

To assist with preparation for the LPAC of the project document for implementation of UN-REDD programmatic support to Myanmar, and to participate in the LPAC as a resource person

**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. Most of the information included in the Roadmap was derived from the work of three multi-stakeholder Technical Working Groups (TWG) during the period December 2012-April 2013. A draft document was then subject to six consultation events – two national workshops and 4 sub-national workshops (see Consultation Annex to the Roadmap).

The Myanmar REDD+ Roadmap has six sections:

1. Management of REDD+ Readiness Arrangements
2. Stakeholder Consultation and Participation
3. Development and Selection of REDD+ strategies
4. Implementation Framework and Safeguards
5. Development a National Reference Level and Reference Emissions Level
6. Development a National Forest Monitoring System

The total budget calculated for implementation of these six sections is US\$ 23,320,650 (including administrative costs). This funding will be accessed through the support of numerous donors and development partners, as well as from the government budget. A joint mission undertaken with colleagues from FAO (Joel Scriven) and UNEP (Thomas Enters) in October 2013 developed a request to the Government of Norway to support Roadmap implementation through the UN-REDD Programme amounting to \$4.8M. The budget for the first year of this support, amounting to \$1.1M, was approved by the UN-REDD Policy Board in November, 2013. A joint project document was prepared in April, 2014.

This mission was to finalize preparations for an LPAC that was held on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2014, and to participate in the LPAC as a resource person.

**Summary of Mission Activities/ Findings**

The key results of the mission were:

- Projects Environmental and Social Standards screening reviewed and finalized.
- LPAC presentation reviewed and finalized.
- LPAC completed, and project approved; discussion points raised during the LPAC are attached.
- Arrangements for recruitment of CTA reviewed with Pillar II team leader.

**Follow up actions:**

- CTA posting extended for two weeks, after which the short-listing and interviews need to be completed as soon as possible. Other positions which should be posted as soon as possible.
- CO: To decide on whether to seek a short-term (4-month) detailed assignment as well
- CO: To contract an NGO for collection of baseline information relating to three indicators in the results framework

**Distribution List:**

- Tim Clairs, UN-REDD UNDP PTA
- Lat Lat Aye, Team Leader, UNDP CO
- Joel Scriven, FAO
- Thomas Enters, UNEP

## Discussion points in the LPAC

Igor (UNDP) – The project is an important project for Myanmar. The project document is found as the complete set and no additional comments. However, the project should note the implementation challenges, rather than technical issues, due to conflicting interests among the government ministries, and the complex policy and legal instruments. He also suggested to identify the realistic indicators in the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework which is a critical component for project oversight and its success.

Tim (UNDP/UN-REDD) - The leadership of Forest Department and active stakeholders' participation was found during the process of Myanmar REDD+ roadmap formulation, and which would be an asset for project implementation. For setting up MRV system, the GIS section of FD is found to be well equipped with staff and equipment. He is much confident to implement the project successfully in Myanmar.

Dr. Aung Swe (FAO) suggested that, in the management structure, MRV advisor should report to Chief Technical Advisor of the Project Management Unit (PMU) which is based in REDD Office of Forest Department.

Lat Lat Aye (UNDP) – responded that, though the government agency takes the lead role of the project, the National Project Director (NPD) will not be able to engage in day-to-day project management. NPD will be informed all the issues in project implementation whereas the Chief Technical Advisor and the National Project Coordinator will take responsibility on technical issues and management of the project.

Tim (UNDP/UN-REDD) - explained that, the MRV advisor is with the FAO contract and he/she will report to FAO as per the administrative purpose. Functionally, he/she will closely work with CTA, National Coordinator and PMU in implementation of the project.

Erik (Norway) – commented on the critical role of the cross-sector collaboration and engagement of Civil Society and Private Sector in the project implementation. He also suggested that the Output 5 (National REDD+ Strategy developed) is an important component of the project and the allocated resources is seemed to be little comparing to other components.

Tim (UNDP/UN-REDD) mentioned that the output 5 is central to the project achievement and the other components are also contributing to Output 5 too. The resources mentioned under Output 5 is indicated only for the specific budget for preparing the REDD+ Strategy, as the whole cost throughout the process is included across all other components.

Erik (Norway) also commented that the UN-REDD programme is expected to deliver as “one” rather than through parallel implementation mechanisms. The harmonized framework for procurement should be encouraged for the UN-REDD programme implementation at the country level. Recruitment is also a major challenge in other countries and it is still a concern for Myanmar.

Tim (UNDP/UN-REDD) – Currently, it is not ready to have a harmonized procurement framework for UN-REDD programme implementation in Myanmar. However, Myanmar Country Office is implementing PEI programme (UNDP and UNEP) by delivering as “one”. Such experience could be fed into UN-REDD programming in Myanmar and would be able to improve UN-REDD Programme implementation for delivering as one. Getting qualified staff is also seen as a challenge in Myanmar, no exception to other countries.

Hang (UNDP) - highlighted that, according to the project document, PMU is responsible for preparing the AWP, quarterly reports by compiling all the inputs from participating UN agencies who are responsible for different components. It is simple in theory but would be difficult in practice.

Tim (UNDP/UN-REDD) - explained that the semi-annual and annual reports are required to submit to UN REDD. Each agency will prepare for each component and National Coordinator will compile and take approval of PEB, and will share to UN-REDD. It is feasible in practice according to other countries experiences.

Hang (UNDP) also highlighted the importance of government's commitment for accomplishing the project, as it is mentioned in risk log at least at 3 points.

Dr. Thaug Naing Oo (Forest Department) mentioned MOECAF's strong commitment for implementation of Myanmar REDD+ Roadmap implementation in general and for the UN-REDD project in particular. The Myanmar REDD+ Readiness Roadmap has been developed under the lead of MOECAF and with active stakeholder participation. The government has approved the Roadmap. Deputy Minister of MoECAF has already agreed to chair the PEB. Forest Department has already agreed to provide the office space for the project team. The government also issued banding of timber export, reduced logging and promoting ecosystem services, and law and regulations such as FLAGT, timber certification process etc.

All the participants agreed to submit the project document to UN-REDD, after signed by UNRC. The project is formulated as part of the Myanmar REDD+ Readiness Roadmap implementation which has been approved by the government. So, it is assumed that a separate approval process may not be required. Nevertheless, while the project document is shared to UN-REDD for fund mobilization after it is signed by UNRC, it will be shared to MoECAF for approval process, if required by the department. UNDP will also provide the Myanmar translated version of the project document to Forest Department.

Hang, Igor (UNDP) suggested that, after signing the project document, only two months will be left in 2014 for project staff recruitment and project implementation. It won't be feasible to deliver the project activities during 2014, as the recruitment of project staff will take at least two months. It is suggested to allocate most of the budget in 2015. After signing the project document, recruitment should be prioritized. The LPAC meeting participants noted and agreed the suggestion.

#### **Wrapping up recommendations of the meeting**

All the participants approved the project document.