

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

Date: 29 Sept. 2016



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

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

**Approved Mission Itinerary:**  
BKK-Naypyitaw-BKK

**List of Annexes:**  
None

**Inclusive Travel Dates:**  
5-16 Sept. 2016

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

- UN-REDD Office, Nay Pyi Taw (Khin Hnin Myint, Franz Arnold, Aung Kyi)
- MYA: FD (Thaung Naing Oo)

**Purpose/Objectives of Mission**

. To participate in REDD+ Academy refresher training, the first UN-REDD PEB meeting, and to initiate work on the GCF proposal

**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. With the prodoc about to be signed, the PEB was convened for the first time.

The REDD+ Academy concept was developed by UN-REDD in recognition of the fact that developing and implementing REDD+ goes beyond the forestry sector and requires input from a broad spectrum of informed stakeholders. The key term here is “informed”. Many stakeholders feel challenged and overwhelmed by unfamiliar concepts and terminology and often find it difficult to distinguish between facts and opinions. The demand for capacity building continues to increase.

Under the REDD+ Academy concept, the aim is to enable current and future decision-makers to support national REDD+ development and implementation under the UNFCCC. The original concept anticipated that REDD+ Academy courses will be offered once a year for each region (Asia-Pacific, Africa, and Latin America/Caribbean), and the first ever Academy session was held for countries of the Asia/Pacific region in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, in October, 2014.

It was quickly recognized that, while regional Academies offer value in terms of allowing participants from different countries to interact with each other, there are also constraints. This is particularly true in Asia/Pacific, where there is no *lingua franca*, with English being used as the language for regional exchange, but where English language capacities are highly varied.

This conclusion was reinforced by many of the participants in the first regional Academy. On returning to their home countries, many of them proposed that national “REDD+ Academies” would be valuable in addressing some of the constraints encountered in the regional Academy. Firstly, the training can be provided in the national language, thus increasing comprehension dramatically, especially for those countries with weak English language skills. Secondly, the course material can be more closely tailored to national circumstances. And finally, a much larger number of national stakeholders can be engaged.

Consequently, the UN-REDD Knowledge Management Action Plan for Asia/Pacific for 2015 included as one of the priority actions: In-country REDD+ Academy events. One of these was held in Myanmar. Subsequently a training plan was developed, and the need identified for refresher training for participants of the 2015 Academy.

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 GCF NDA sent a letter to the GCF Secretariat in August concerning identification of UNDP as the AE for a GCF submission.

## Summary of Mission Activities/ Findings

### 1. Academy refresher training

More than 20 trainees attended the training, from 7 government agencies, a university, and 3 NGOs, although only 7 of these participants had taken the Academy in 2015. In three days, the 12 modules were delivered, mostly without the group exercises. Modules 1 and 2, and 9 and 10 were combined. There was also an additional presentation on KM and Comms.

The course was well-received in the evaluation conducted in the final session, and participants identified modules for which they felt confident that they could provide training. Modifications to the training plan based on experiences in the refresher training were discussed with PMU staff and REDD+ Focal Point.

### 2. 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the PEB

The PEB meeting was held on 12<sup>th</sup> September, in the morning. Decision reached by the PEB were:

- **It was decided** that the PEB would invite the Director General of Environmental Conservation Department (ECD) to be a member of the PEB.
- **It was decided** that the PEB would invite Norway and Finland to be permanent observers of PEB.
- **It was decided** that the PEB ToR would be revised on the basis of comments made and circulated to all members of the PEB – either as an attachment to the draft PEB minutes or independently – for a two-week, no-objection approval process.
- **The PEB requested the PMU** to provide future updates by outcome and output to simplify review by PEB members
- PEB has no further comments/suggestions on National Programme Document.

Discussions were held with the representative of the Finnish Embassy about how proposed Finnish support to an NFI would fit with a GCF submission, and the need for the Finnish/NFI PMU to be the same as the UN-REDD PMU.

### 3. GCF proposal

A meeting was held with the NDA on 14<sup>th</sup> September. The main conclusions from the meeting were:

- The proposal by the Korean Forest Service for a GCF project would be incorporated into UNDP's submission, since the KFS had intended to use UNDP as the AE anyway.
- Despite suggestions from some in the Forest Department that JICA was proposing a submission on afforestation/reforestation, the NDA denied that he had heard of any such proposal.
- The NDA favours a small submission of around \$20M, in order not to negatively impact other possible submissions for the energy (mitigation) and agriculture (adaptation) sectors.
- Feasible milestones include completion of a concept note by the end of November, 2016, and submission of a full proposal for the June 2017 Board meeting.

Subsequently, in a meeting with the REDD+ Focal Point, it was agreed that there should be a development partner round-table held in November to ensure (a) that all development partners are aware of UNDP's role as AE in carrying forward the GCF proposal; and (b) to ensure alignment of all DP initiatives.

To assist with the data collection tasks and to organize the round-table, a national consultant will be hired for 35 days in the October-December period.

#### Follow up actions:

Boyle:

- Develop ToR for national consultant on GCF preparation (completed)

PMU:

- Complete PEB minutes (completed)

CO:

- Recruit national consultant for GCF preparation

#### Distribution List:

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