



UN-REDD Programme

Expression of Interest to Receive National Programme Support – Myanmar

January 2015



UN-REDD
PROGRAMME

UN-REDD National Programme Expression of Interest – Myanmar

1. REDD+ Process in Myanmar

Having signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on 11 June 1992 and ratified the convention on 25 November 1994 and the Kyoto Protocol in 2003 as a non-Annex 1 party, Myanmar is fully aware of the causes and potential impacts of climate change. Hence, whilst undertaking political reform and aiming at rapid economic development, Myanmar is striving to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The government of Myanmar has recognised the potential of the REDD+ initiative to contribute to green development by protecting global environmental resources (forest carbon stocks, but also biodiversity), helping to reverse land degradation, helping to improve the livelihoods of the rural poor and aiding adaptation to climate change.

Although still largely a poor country, Myanmar is rapidly opening up to Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) in the energy, mining and agricultural sector. Unless astutely managed, economic growth may have negative impacts on the environment and the natural resource base. In addition, climate change threatens to reverse socio-economic advances. Recognizing these inter-related challenges, the Government increasingly views the forestry sector as a key component and driver of sustainable and climate resilient economic growth and rural development. **Myanmar has the 4th largest forest area in Asia-Pacific** (only China, Indonesia and India have more) and increasing pressures on these forest resources resulting from rapid social and economic change. Myanmar has significant potential to reduce its forest carbon emissions, and enhance and sustainably manage its forest carbon stocks, by implementing REDD+ activities.

Myanmar became a partner country of the UN-REDD Programme in December 2011 and has quickly taken steps to start implementing REDD+ readiness activities. A detailed National REDD+ Readiness Roadmap was completed in 2013 (and validated through a multi-stakeholder process) with Norwegian funding and technical support provided by the UN-REDD Programme and RECOFTC (please find document attached). The Roadmap states that Myanmar intends to move from Phase 1 of REDD+ (*sensu* UNFCCC) into Phase 2 “*within 2 years of the completion of the roadmap document*” (i.e., by end of 2015). Furthermore, its vision is to be receiving results-based payments within 4 years of the completion of the roadmap document (i.e., by end of 2017). The overall goal of implementing REDD+ in Myanmar is:

“To contribute to green development by protecting global environmental resources (forest carbon stocks, but also biodiversity), helping to reverse land degradation, helping to improve the livelihoods of the rural poor and aiding adaptation to climate change”

For details on major commitments, legislation or plans related to climate change mitigation, notably in the forestry sector, please refer to Myanmar’s National REDD+ Readiness Roadmap¹.

Initial REDD+ mitigation assessment

- Myanmar currently lacks accurate data on deforestation, forest degradation and forest carbon stocks. The initial REDD+ mitigation assessment is therefore based on reported FAO FRA (2010) data.
- Myanmar’s total forest area is estimated at 31,773,000 ha for 2010 (out of the total land area of 67,658,000 ha).
- Emissions from deforestation: Taking an annual deforestation rate of 386,875ha (0.3% annual forest loss) and a conservative forest carbon stock estimate of 140tC/ha², emissions are estimated at 198,613,888 tCO₂e/year.
- Emissions from forest degradation:
 - Logging: Taking the average area of forest under in Myanmar between 2000-2010 at 19,633 ha (which underestimates the aerial extent of forest harvesting in the country) and a forest carbon stock loss of 10tC/ha/year from logging, emissions are estimated at 844,315 tCO₂e/year.
 - Fire: FRA figures estimate fire to have affected 218,000 ha of forest in 2005. Taking a conservative figure of 50 tC loss per ha of fire, emissions from degradation by fire are estimated at 39,970,300 tCO₂e/year.

¹The REDD+ Readiness Roadmap is a multi-stakeholder-validated document that is equivalent in scope to an R-PP

²Saatchi et al (2011). PNAS June 3, 2011.

- **Total emissions:** Total emissions from deforestation and forest degradation can therefore be conservatively estimated at **239,428,502 tCO₂e/year**.
- **'+' activities:**
 - **Enhancement:** With a total estimated loss of 7,445,000 ha of forest between 1990-2010 (19% of its forest cover and yielding total emissions of 3,822,114,100 tCO₂e), significant potential exists in Myanmar for enhancement through reforestation (as well as through restoration of degraded forests). If 50% of this area could be reforested through REDD+, sequestration would total **1,911,057,050 tCO₂e**.
 - **Conservation:** An estimated 2,081,000 ha of forest fall within Myanmar's protected area (PA) system (6.5% of the total forest area). Considerable potential exists to expand this PA system and to strengthen the governance of the areas.
 - **SMF:** The implementation of sustainable logging practices in Myanmar's production forests (to, for example, reduce the carbon loss to 5tC/ha/year) could mitigate **422,157 tCO₂e/year**.

In relation to the UNFCCC process:

- Myanmar has not initiated the process towards submission of a FREL/FRL for technical assessment. This work will be initiated in 2015 through UN-REDD Targeted Support.
- Myanmar does include information on the forestry sector in its National Communication to the UNFCCC. Myanmar's INC can be accessed [here](#).

2. Current status of implementation of readiness

A number of initiatives are already under implementation to support the delivery of the vision described in the Roadmap. These include:

- ❖ **International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO):** Capacity building for developing REDD+ activities in the context of sustainable forest management
Project Objective: To strengthen national capacities to implement REDD+ in Myanmar.
- ❖ **Korea Forest Service (KFS):** Mitigation of climate change impacts through restoration of degraded forests and REDD+ activities in Bago Yoma Region, Myanmar
Project Objective: To initiate pilot activities for restoration of degraded forests and conservation of ecosystems for mitigating climate change impacts and supporting sustainable forest management.
- ❖ **Asia Air Survey Co. Ltd. (Japan):** Study on the strengthening of methodological approaches for reducing deforestation and forest degradation within the REDD+ implementation framework
Project Objective: To strengthen RS/GIS capacity of FD staff.
- ❖ **UNDP Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund:** DGTTF project
Project Objectives: Increased youth participation in REDD+ and enhanced Narga ethnic minority youth rights and measure to reduce the risk of corruption.
- ❖ **Regional Community Forestry Training Center (RECOFTC):** Grassroots Capacity Building for REDD+
Project Objective: To contribute to the REDD+ planning and policy process by effectively engaging and communicating grassroots perspectives to policy makers and positioning of local stakeholders to take advantage of potential benefits from REDD+ for local socio-economic development.
- ❖ **FAO-GEF:** Sustainable cropland and forest management in priority agro-ecosystems of Myanmar
Project Objective: To build the capacity of farming and forestry stakeholders to mitigate climate change and improve land condition by adopting climate smart agriculture and SFM policies and practices.
- ❖ **IUCN-Smithsonian Institute-NORAD:** Mapping Forest Cover Change in Myanmar 2000-2013: a National Baseline for Forest Management and REDD+ Development
Project Objective: To develop a countrywide forest cover change database for Myanmar from 2000-2013 using standardized remote sensing and change detection methods.
- ❖ **AFoCo Secretariat:** Capacity Building on Improving Forest Resources Assessment and Enhancing the Involvement of the Local Communities to Address the Adverse Impact of Climate Change
Project Objective: To build capacity on forest cover assessment and improvement of livelihoods of rural communities to be able to address climate change impacts.

Among the projects mentioned above, only two projects supported by ITTO and KFS are grant aid projects while others are technical cooperation projects.

The REDD+ Session within the Forest Department, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry (MOECA), is responsible for REDD+. MOECA, as a Ministry, is responsible for reporting to the UNFCCC. The number of staff in the REDD+ Section is currently five (including Dr. Thaug Naing Oo) (the REDD+ Core Unit of Forest Department is comprised of approximately 20 persons).

In early 2015 a REDD+ Task Force Office will supersede the existing REDD+ Session and an inter-sectoral (multi-ministerial) National REDD+ Taskforce will be established to coordinate the REDD+ process. This will be accompanied by the establishment of a stakeholder consultation process for REDD+. See the Roadmap for more details. National financial contributions related to climate change mitigation and REDD+ amounted to US\$ 250,000 in 2014-15.

3. Proposed niche for UN-REDD Programme support in Myanmar

The components and outputs listed below in section 4 will be delivered with support of a number of partners, including both UN-REDD and those listed under section 2, above. It is anticipated that there will be a UN-REDD contribution under all components, but will be entirely responsible for Component 1 and for the vast majority of Component 2. For components 3 and 4, UN-REDD will work together with FAO-GEF, ITTO, KFS, and RECOFTC, while for component 5, UN-REDD will work together with ITTO, KFS and Asia Air Survey. UN-REDD will be responsible for the large majority of Component 6, but with a contribution also from IUCN-Smithsonian Institute (NORAD).

4. Funding needs to support the readiness process

National REDD+ Readiness Roadmap budget:

| Roadmap Components | Budget |
|---|-------------------|
| Output 1.1 National REDD+ Readiness Management Structure established | 100,000 |
| Output 1.2 REDD+ TF Office in place and functional | 4,420,000 |
| Output 1.3 REDD+ TF and TWGs supported | 1,300,000 |
| Total Component 1 | 5,820,000 |
| Output 2.1: Stakeholder representation and consultation strengthened | 200,000 |
| Output 2.2: National FPIC Guidelines Developed | 500,000 |
| Total Component 2 | 700,000 |
| Output 3.1 Proposed candidate strategies outside the forestry sector confirmed | 900,000 |
| Output 3.2 Candidate strategies piloted and supporting or enabling activities completed | 5,500,000 |
| Output 3.3 Process for piloting of REDD+ Strategy implementation planned | 800,000 |
| Total Component 3 | 7,200,000 |
| Output 4.1: Institutional structure operationalised | 1,020,000 |
| Output 4.2: Legal framework adapted and reinforced | 200,000 |
| Output 4.3: Financial framework developed | 260,000 |
| Output 4.4: REDD+ Social and Environmental Safeguards System developed | 400,000 |
| Total Component 4 | 1,880,000 |
| Output 5.1: Methodologies for establishing national REL/RLs reviewed | 230,000 |
| Output 5.2: Historical land use change trends analysed at the national scale | 75,000 |
| Output 5.3: Relevant national circumstances reviewed and data collected | 150,000 |
| Output 5.4: National REL/RL tested and demonstrations sites for piloting selected | 620,000 |
| Total Component 5 | 1,075,000 |
| Output 6.1 Capacity building and NFMS Action Plan development | 2,962,000 |
| Output 6.2 Satellite Land Monitoring System developed and operationalised | 1,020,000 |
| Output 6.3 Multipurpose NFI designed and piloted | 842,000 |
| Output 6.4 National capacity built for undertaking GHG Inventory for the LULUCF sector | 166,000 |
| Output 6.5 NFMS-related research supported | 130,000 |
| Total Component 6 | 5,120,000 |
| Grand Total | 21,795,000 |

Proposed UN-REDD National Programme budget:

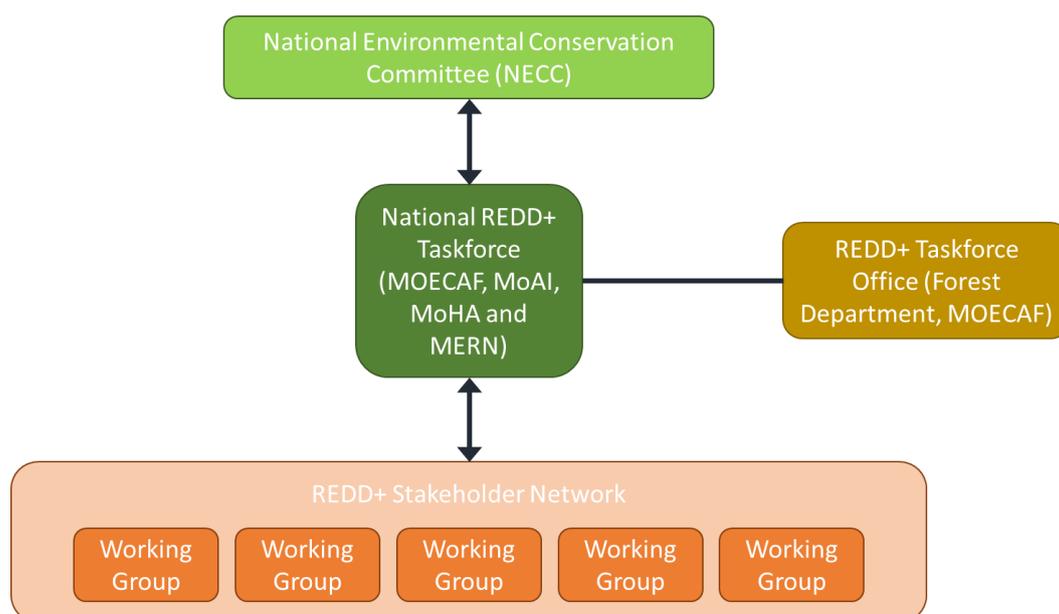
| National Programme Components | UN Org | Budget | | | |
|--|--------|--------|----|----|-------|
| | | Y1 | Y2 | Y3 | Total |
| Outcome 1: Relevant stakeholders engaged and their awareness on REDD+ raised [Roadmap Components 1 and 2] | | | | | |

| National Programme Components | UN Org | Budget | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | Y1 | Y2 | Y3 | Total |
| Output 1.1 Stakeholder representation and consultation strengthened | UNDP | 100,000 | 100,000 | 90,000 | 290,000 |
| 1.2 REDD+ TF and TWGs supported | UNDP | 30,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 | 80,000 |
| Outcome 2: Effective and participatory governance arrangements for REDD+ implementation in place [Roadmap Component 4] | | | | | |
| 2.1 Institutional structure for REDD+ implementation defined and operationalized | UNEP / UNDP | 200,000 | 200,000 | 150,000 | 550,000 |
| 2.2 Legal and policy framework reviewed; and adapted and reinforced, as necessary | UNDP | 70,000 | 40,000 | 30,000 | 140,000 |
| Outcome 3: REDD+ safeguards defined and national safeguards information system developed [Roadmap Component 4] | | | | | |
| 3.1 Define REDD+ safeguards and indicators for Myanmar's context | UNDP / UNEP | 95,000 | 95,000 | 35,000 | 225,000 |
| 3.2 Develop and implement Myanmar's Safeguards Information System (SIS) | FAO / UNEP | 75,000 | 75,000 | 50,000 | 200,000 |
| Outcome 4: National forest monitoring system and preliminary forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels (REs/RLs) developed [Roadmap Components 5 and 6] | | | | | |
| Output 4.1 Build capacity and develop national action plans on NFMS and REs/RLs | FAO | 125,000 | 150,000 | 150,000 | 425,000 |
| Output 4.2 Develop Myanmar's SLMS and web-GIS portal | FAO | 100,000 | 100,000 | 75,000 | 275,000 |
| Output 4.3 Design and pilot a multipurpose NFI | FAO | 175,000 | 175,000 | 150,000 | 500,000 |
| Outcome 5: National REDD+ Strategy developed [Roadmap Component 3] | | | | | |
| 5.1 REDD+ Strategy analysis | All | 70,000 | 50,000 | 0 | 120,000 |
| 5.2 Formulation and approval of National REDD+ Strategy | All | 0 | 30,000 | 75,000 | 105,000 |
| Programme management | | | | | |
| Operations of PMU (in REDD+ Office) | UNDP | 150,000 | 150,000 | 150,000 | 450,000 |
| | Subtotal | 1,190,000 | 1,190,000 | 980,000 | 3,360,000 |
| | Indirect Support Costs (7%) | 83,300 | 83,300 | 68,600 | 235,200 |
| | Grand Total | 1,273,300 | 1,273,300 | 1,048,600 | 3,595,200 |

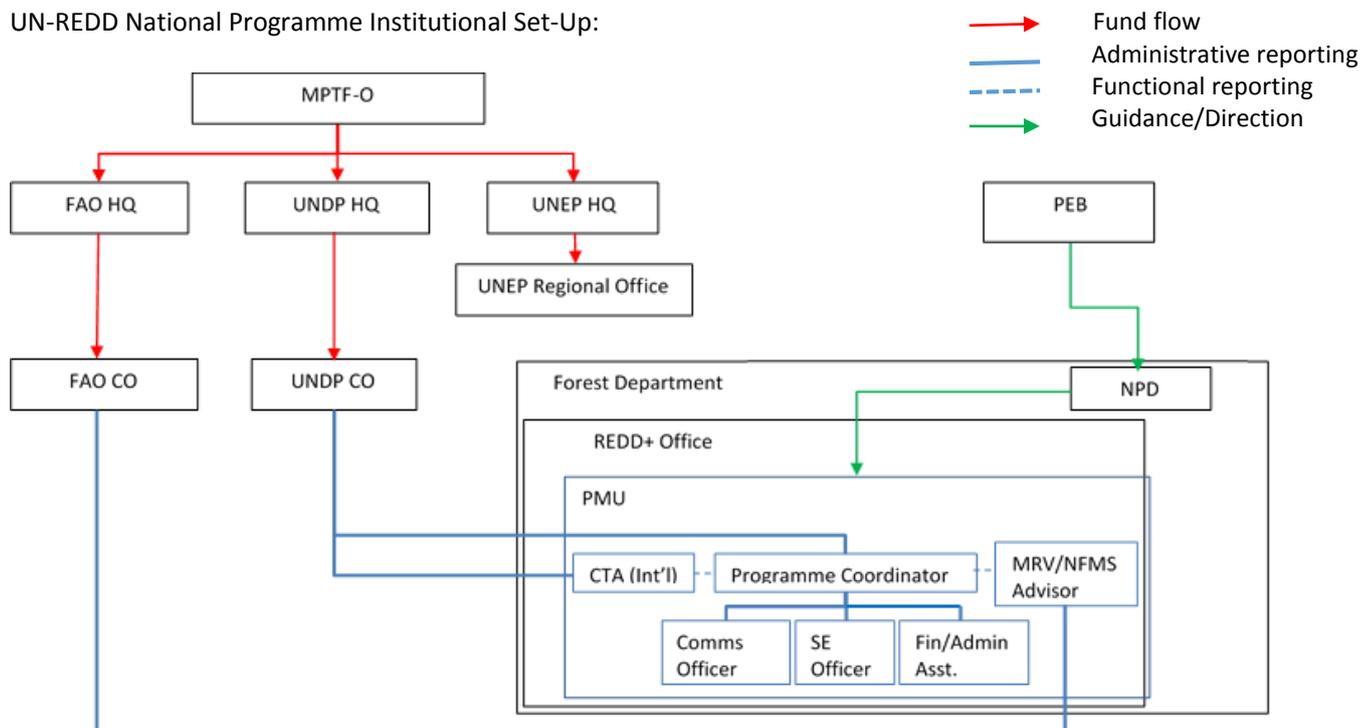
5. Institutional set-up

The REDD+ Session within the Forest Department, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry (MOECAF), is responsible for REDD+. In early 2015 a REDD+ Task Force Office will supersede the existing REDD+ Session and an inter-sectoral (multi-ministerial) National REDD+ Taskforce will be established to coordinate the REDD+ process.

National REDD+ Institutional Arrangements:



UN-REDD National Programme Institutional Set-Up:



6. Self-assessed absorptive capacity

As can be seen from section 2 above, the Forest Department has been and continues to manage multiple internationally financed and supported REDD+-related projects and programmes. This has involved the management of parallel bilateral agreements and financing modalities, the building synergies between the various initiatives and across sectors/line ministries, broad-ranging stakeholder engagement and close oversight to avoid overlap of activities.

The national budget for the Forest Department is an average of US\$ 24 million per annum (i.e. US\$ 23.9 million in 2013-14 and US\$ 24.7 million in 2014-15 budget year). Of this, the average annual budget contribution related to climate change mitigation and REDD+ amounted to US\$ 250,000 in 2014-15, which is comparatively small when compared with other REDD+ countries in Southeast Asia (e.g. Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia etc.), and in light of Myanmar's significant forest cover.

Myanmar initiated its engagement in REDD+ in 2010 and completed the National REDD+ Readiness Roadmap in June 2013. Since then, about 15 forest officers (technical staff) and five administrative staff members have been working on REDD+ and climate change related matters in the Forest Department.

Myanmar still has in place a relatively long administrative process to accept a grant from a multilateral cooperation organization/entity. In order to receive financial support, the Implementing Agency (e.g. Forest Department) has to have approval from Cabinet and the process can take from 5 to 7 months to get domestic clearance for implementation. Planning for the implementation of a UN-REDD National Programme will therefore require careful advance planning to receive the necessary clearances, though the UN-REDD Targeted Support currently being implemented will usefully bridge any lag in the initiation of the implementation of a National Programme.

7. Timeline for submission

Myanmar will be able to submit an R-PP/Roadmap that has been subjected to multi-stakeholder validation, along with a budget prepared in accordance with the UNDG guidelines, in time for to PB-14 in May 2015 (i.e. submission by end of April 2015).

The National Programme would begin in January 2016 and end in December 2018. It is anticipated that a preliminary (potentially subnational) FREL/FRL will be ready for submission to the UNFCCC Secretariat in late-2016. Myanmar's National REDD+ Strategy will be completed by mid-2018.