



# Report on Myanmar REDD+ National Workshop, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, April 7, 2010

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UN-REDD PROGRAMME

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April 15, 2010

## Introduction

Myanmar has recognized that REDD+ is an innovative concept that can complement ongoing forest policies. However, there are several technical and methodological limitations to be overcome in order to turn the concept into action – in other words, REDD+ Readiness needs to be built. In this context, Myanmar proposes to formulate the national REDD+ strategy and undertake other actions required to implement REDD+. This will require a review and probably modifications to existing forestry sector policies, legal and institutional arrangements and associated practices.

UNDP has been carrying out Human Development Programme (HDI) since 1993 and it comprises the five projects. Environmental sustainability is one of the major objectives of the Human Development Programme. Among these projects, Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP), Community Development in Remote Townships (CDRT) and Early Recovery Project are conserving the natural forests and establishing the forest plantations (community forestry) with the aim to improve the quality of life of local people. In this connection, REDD offers the potential for new forms of financing for community forestry and it appears as an attractive option to raise income for local communities. UNDP also chairs the Environment Thematic Working Group with the aim to establish the knowledge sharing platform and advocate the environment policy among the civil societies, NGO, government officials and UN agencies.

A National REDD+ Workshop was organized at the Ministry of Forestry in Nay Pyi Taw on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010, with the assistance of the UNDP Country Office. Participants included officials of the Ministry of Forestry and other ministries, and members of the Environment Thematic Working Group (see Annex 2).

The objectives of the workshop were:

1. The participants from different stakeholders will identify the gaps to implementation of REDD in Myanmar. The gaps are defined as the differences between the present status of forestry policies, institutional frameworks and existing forestry practices and the requirements to address the issues associated with REDD.
2. In addition, the participants will investigate the potentials of REDD to generate revenue and identified the compatibility between the issues and a community forestry practices (natural forest conservation and forest plantation establishment) in Myanmar.

The Agenda of the workshop is shown in Annex 1.

## Analysis

While the macro-political issues which limit development partners' engagement with Myanmar have obviously hindered progress towards REDD+ readiness, there are various positive developments which make progress more feasible. Firstly, at least within the forest sector, there is a greater acceptance of the value and potential role of NGOs than in the past. This is reflected in the participation of at least 5 NGOs in the Environment Thematic Working Group, and the active participation of these NGOs in the National REDD+ Workshop.

Secondly, within the Ministry of Forestry, there is a cadre of relatively young and well-educated officials, many with advanced degrees from Korean and German universities, who have a good grasp of the fundamental issues associated with REDD+. The presentations by Ministry officials were quite impressive, revealing, for instance, that there has been some interesting work on carbon densities in different forest types in Myanmar<sup>1</sup>. There is a strong tradition of solid forest research in Myanmar, and the Forest Research Institute at Yezin (just outside Nay Pyi Taw) remains very active.

Another factor that could facilitate progress on REDD+ readiness in Myanmar is an increasing level of engagement from both development partners and the private sector. The government recently relaxed previously strict controls of ownership of teak plantations, leading to a spurt in private sector-supported plantation establishment. The Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) recently initiated a project to improve rehabilitation capacity of the deforested Nyaung U region. The International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) will help Myanmar conduct research on forestry and train experts in various areas, including GIS. FAO has been providing assistance for Myanmar's forestry research work since 1987; for example, a recent FAO-funded technical cooperation project organized workshops and training programs relating to adoption of forestry policy, organization of research work and administration. UNDP's Human Development Initiative also has a strong focus on community forestry management, working in various parts of the country, especially in northern Kachin State.

There was considerable interest from among participants and senior management of the Ministry of Forestry in joining the UN-REDD Programme. However, in discussions among the UN-REDD Regional Coordinator, UNDP ARR and Department of Forestry Deputy Director General, Nyi Nyi Kjaw, it was agreed that for the present there would be no formal request submitted to join the Programme, but regional staff based in Bangkok would provide informal advice and assistance to the REDD+ readiness process. This might include:

- Sharing of experiences and lessons; for example, lessons emerging from the REDD+ roadmap process in Cambodia and elsewhere, ToR for multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms from Viet Nam, Cambodia, and elsewhere, etc.
- Provision of targeted advice in response to requests from the government
- Seeking opportunities for participation in regional REDD+ meetings
- Taking advantage of other missions to Myanmar to engage further with the Ministry and other stakeholders.

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<sup>1</sup> Thaung Naing Oo. 2009. Carbon sequestration of tropical deciduous forests and forest plantations in Myanmar. PhD Thesis, University of Seoul

## Next Steps

The UN-REDD Programme will follow-up in line with the actions outlined in the previous section. The UNDP Regional Centre will continue to liaise through the UNDP Country Office, and encourage FAO to do likewise. UNEP can also liaise through the UNDP Country Office.

An excellent opportunity to allow Myanmar to engage more closely in regional and international developments might be the Southeast Asia Katoomba meeting in Hanoi, June 23-26, and meetings being organized in association with that meeting. Opportunities to fund participation by Myanmar participants should be sought.

## **Annex 1**

### **National Workshop on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD)**

**Jointly organized by Forest Department (FD), Ministry of Forestry and United Nations  
Development Program (UNDP), Myanmar**

**7<sup>th</sup> April 2010 in Ingyin Hall, Forest Department, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar**

#### **Revised Agenda (2 April 2010)**

09:00-09:15 Opening speech by Minister, Ministry of Forestry

09:15-09:30 Opening remarks by Resident Representative, UNDP Country Office, Myanmar

#### **09:30-10:00 Break**

10:00-10:30 Forest resources, forest management system and enabling conditions for REDD in Myanmar by **Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw, Deputy Director General and Dr. Thaung Naing Oo, Assistant Director**, Forest Department, Ministry of Forestry

10:30-11:00 Role of forestry sector in climate change mitigation through REDD by **U Ohn Lwin, Deputy Director, U Bo Ni, Assistant Director and U Min Zaw Oo, Staff Officer**, Forest Department, Ministry of Forestry

11:00-11:30 How to link CF practices and REDD by UNDP, Myanmar

11:30-12:00 “Procedure and potential implications: How to link with UN-REDD programme?” by Coordinator, UNDP Regional Office, Thailand

12:00-12:30 Penal discussion chaired by Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw, DDG, FD, Mr. Timothy Boyle, Coordinator, UNDP Regional Office and Dr. Kyaw Tint, Vice President, FORM

#### **12:00-13:00 Lunch**

13:00-15:00 Group formation and discussion

Group 1: Linkages with community forestry and REDD (Facilitated by one representative from FD and Dr. Min Htut Yin, UNDP)

Group 2: Capacity support for REDD readiness and project formulation (Facilitated by one representative from FD and NGO)

Group 3: Identify gaps and preparedness for REDD (Facilitated by one representative from FD and U Htun Paw Oo, UNDP)

#### **15:00-15:15 Break**

15:15-16:45 Presentations by the outcomes of Groups' Discussion

16:45-17:00 Closing Remark by the Director General of Forest Department

## Annex 2: Participants

| Sn | Name                | Designation         | Organization                               |
|----|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1  | U Win Hlaing        | Director            | Planning and Statistics Department         |
| 2  | U Tin Maung Aye     | Assistant Director  | Forest Research Institute                  |
| 3  | U Maung Maung Kyaw  | Director            | Forest Department                          |
| 4  | U Zaw Win           | Professor           | University of Forestry (UOF)               |
| 5  | Dr. San Oo          | Lecturer            | University of Forestry (UOF)               |
| 6  | U Htay Sint         | Director            | Watershed Management Division, Head Office |
| 7  | U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin    | Deputy Director     | Forest Department                          |
| 8  | U Soe Myint Thein   | Staff officer       | Forest Department                          |
| 9  | U Thein Zaw Win     | Assistant Director  | DZGD                                       |
| 10 | Daw Khin May Lwin   | Assistant Director  | Forest Research Institute                  |
| 11 | Daw Yi Yi Han       | Assistant Director  | Forest Research Institute                  |
| 12 | Daw Phyu Phyu Lwin  | Range Officer       | Forest Research Institute                  |
| 13 | Daw Thein Kyi       | Researcher          | Forest Research Institute                  |
| 14 | Daw Wai Wai Than    | Researcher          | Forest Research Institute                  |
| 15 | U Kyaw Win          | Assistant Director  | Forest Research Institute                  |
| 16 | U Kyin Htun         | Assistant Director  | Forest Research Institute                  |
| 17 | U Aung Kyaw Soe     | Assistant Director  | Forest Research Institute                  |
| 18 | U Myint Shein Htun  | Assistant Director  | Forest Research Institute                  |
| 19 | U Aung Kyaw Lin     | Assistant Director  | Forest Research Institute                  |
| 20 | Lara Beffasti       | Country Director    | OIKOS                                      |
| 21 | Dr. Thaung Naing Oo | Assistant Director  | Forest Research Institute                  |
| 22 | U Bo Ni             | Assistant Director  | Forest Department                          |
| 23 | U Saw Win           | Assistant Director  | Forest Department                          |
| 24 | U Khin Hlaing       | Deputy Director     | Forest Department                          |
| 25 | U Nyi Nyi Pyu       | Economic Analyst    | British Embassy                            |
| 26 | U Maung Maung       | Information         | FAO                                        |
| 27 | Naw Ei Ei Min       | Program Coordinator | LOME, Spectrum                             |
| 28 | Heather Morris      | Technical Advisor   | World Concern                              |
| 29 | Aye Myat Thandar    | Student             |                                            |
| 30 | U Aung Myint        | General Sectary     | REAM                                       |
| 31 | U Khin Maung Cho    | Advisor             | MEWG<br>M.N.N                              |
| 32 | U Ohn Lwin          | Deputy Director     | Forest Research Institute                  |

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|----|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 33 | Micheal Rowan          | Project Manager               | British Embassy              |
| 34 | Min Zaw Oo             | Staff Offices                 | Forest Department            |
| 35 | David Allan            | Director                      | Spectrum                     |
| 36 | Daw Khin Hnin Myint    | Consultant                    | UNDP                         |
| 37 | U Nay Wun Paw          | Consultant                    | UNDP                         |
| 38 | U Su Tin               | C.E.O                         | SUS                          |
| 39 | U Than Win Aung        | Assistant Program Coordinator | CARE                         |
| 40 | Maung Maung Than       | Director                      | Forest Department            |
| 41 | Maj. Zaw Win Naing     |                               | Forest Department            |
| 42 | U Ohn Winn             | Pro Rector                    | University of Forestry (UOF) |
| 43 | Dr. Myint Oo           | Rector                        | University of Forestry (UOF) |
| 44 | U Aye Myint Maung      | Director General              | Forest Department            |
| 45 | Dr. Kyaw Tint          | Vice President                | FORM                         |
| 46 | Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw       | Deputy Director General       | Forest Department            |
| 47 | U Kyaw Htun            | Deputy Director General       | PSD, MOF                     |
| 48 | U Ngwe Thee            | Staff Officer                 | Forest Department            |
| 49 | U Kyaw Moe Aung        | Staff Officer                 | Forest Department            |
| 50 | U Aung Myant San       | Range Officer                 | Forest Department            |
| 51 | U Htun Paw Oo          | Specialist                    | UNDP                         |
| 52 | U Maung Maung Soe      | Assistant Director            | Forest Department            |
| 53 | Daw Zin Myo Thu        | Range Officer                 | Forest Department            |
| 54 | Daw May Thet Paing Win | Range Officer                 | Forest Department            |
| 55 | Dr. Min Htut Yin       | ARR                           | UNDP                         |
| 56 | Daw Khin Thuzar Win    | Programme Associate           | UNDP                         |
| 57 | Daw Khin Hla Chaw      | Office Assistant              | UNDP                         |