

Minutes of the Validation Meeting on the Proposal for UN-REDD Support for the Implementation of Myanmar REDD+ Readiness Roadmap

Date: 10 August, 2015
Venue: The Hotel Amara, Naypyitaw
Time: 14:00 to 17:00

Background

Myanmar developed REDD+ Readiness Roadmap and prioritized the activities for the implementation under the Roadmap in 2013. In early 2015, Myanmar submitted an Expression of Interest (EoI) to UN-REDD to receive National Programme Support for implementation of the Roadmap. In the 14th meeting of the UN-REDD Policy Board, in Washington DC, May 20-22, Myanmar also presented the Myanmar REDD+ Readiness Roadmap and the funding proposal for National Programme Support to the Policy Board. The UN-REDD Policy Board **welcomed Myanmar's proposal**, and invited to submit the full proposal to Policy Board for approval decision inter-sessionally.

Forest Department, at the capacity of Myanmar REDD+ Secretariat, hosted a "Validation Meeting on the Proposal for UN-REDD Support for the Implementation of Myanmar REDD+ Readiness Roadmap" on 10 Aug. 2015 in Nay Pyi Taw, inviting the key stakeholders at the national level and the UN-REDD participating Agencies.

Objective

The objective of the meeting is to validate the proposal for UN-REDD National Programme Support for the Implementation of Myanmar REDD+ Readiness Roadmap and in order to reassure the stakeholder engagement and participation in the Programme implementation in order to address the concerns being expressed by PB members.

Meeting Participants

The total of 36 participants from related line departments, Civil Society Organizations and UN-REDD Agencies in Myanmar participated in the meeting. The list of participating organizations is at Annex.

Key Discussion Points of the Meeting

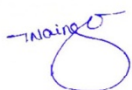
- The meeting was opened with the speech of U Bo Ni, the focal of REDD+ Core Unit, Director of Forest Department. He highlighted the importance of forest ecosystem services including climate change mitigation options. He appreciated the collaboration of the stakeholders in the process of developing Myanmar REDD+ readiness roadmap in 2013. He highlighted the resource mobilization process which Forest Department is undertaking, including the recent presentation of Myanmar proposal for UN-REDD National Programme in the 14th Policy Board Meeting. He called for the continued support of the stakeholders for finalization of funding proposal in order to be proper and efficient approach for the successful implementation of the Roadmap.
- U Ngwe Thee, Assistant Director of Forest Department shared the experience of Myanmar participation in the UN-REDD Policy Board meeting. He highlighted the current UN-REDD Programme (2011-2015) that will be ended and the allocation of new fund will be up to 31 December, 2015. The Funding mechanism of UN-REDD Programme will also be closed by the end of 2017 to transform into a new system. He also shared the draft strategic framework of UN-REDD Programme for 2016-2020 and continuously explained the UN-REDD governance arrangement, the selection criteria for EoI and the available funds.
- U Ngwe Thee also mentioned the **PB's appreciation on Myanmar's enthusiastic effort and briefly shared the presentation made in PB's meeting.** He also highlighted the **PB's recommendations on the proposal including the importance of land uses, agriculture sector as a major factor of deforestation and the important role of Agriculture Ministry to engage in the REDD+ Readiness process.** PB also suggested to seek the approval of fund allocation on an inter-sessional basis, after re-validation with the Myanmar REDD+ stakeholders.

- Then, Dr. Thaug Naing Oo, the national focal of Myanmar REDD+, facilitated the detail discussion on the Myanmar funding proposal for UN-REDD National Programme Support. The proposal was developed with the objective to enhance the national capacity for the implementation of REDD+ under the UNFCCC and to develop relevant (technical, legal, social) systems. Totally there are 5 outcomes: 1) Relevant stakeholders engaged and their capacities developed; 2) National institutions have capacity to implement effective and participatory governance arrangements for REDD+; 3) REDD+ safeguards defined and national safeguards information system developed; 4) **Development of Myanmar's national forest monitoring system (NFMS) and preliminary forest RELs/RLs supported;** and 5) **Development of Myanmar's national forest monitoring system (NFMS) and preliminary forest RELs/RLs supported,** have been expected to reach by the proposal. These outcomes covered the areas of 1) Governance, 2) Stakeholder engagement, 3) National REDD+ Strategy Development, 4) Social and Environmental Safeguards, 5) National Forest Monitoring System, Forest Reference Emission Levels (RELs/RLs).
- He also described the implementation arrangement for the proposed programme. With lead role of Forest Department (Myanmar REDD+ Secretariat), the 3 UN-REDD participating agencies (FAO, UNDP, and UNEP) will implement the programme. The total proposed budget for 4 years is US\$ 5.5 million.
- He also highlighted the importance of the active participation of the sector ministries and other stakeholders including Indigenous People and Civil Society Organizations which was stressed by the PB meeting.
- The participants agreed the components and activities prioritized in the proposal and reaffirmed their participation in the upcoming implementation process.
- The participants expressed their concern on the project duration as 4 years (beyond 2017) against the closure of the current UN-REDD funding mechanism in 2017, and suggested to re-confirm with UN-REDD whether the project period can be stretched till 2019. If the project should be only till 2017, the proposal should be re-adjusted to be realistic for 2-year project.
- The meeting was closed with thankful remarks of UNDP on behalf of UN-REDD participating agencies and Forest Department highlighting enabling political conditions, the opportunities for Myanmar REDD+ Programme, fruitful participation and support of relevant multi- stakeholders and the commitment of UN-REDD participating agencies to support Myanmar REDD+ Roadmap implementation.

Decision

The meeting endorsed the project proposal with one note; to re-confirm the project duration as 4 years or 2 years (by end of 2017). If the project duration is to be reduced to 2 years, the project activities and budget for 2 years should be re adjusted in order to be realistic.

Signed by;



Thaug Naing Oo
Focal of REDD+ Secretariat in Myanmar
Director, Forest Department
Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry



Lat Lat Aye
Team Leader
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Franz Arnold
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Pasquale Capizzi
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The list of participants
Validation Meeting on the Proposal for UN-REDD Support for the Implementation of Myanmar
REDD+ Readiness Roadmap

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