Capacity Building for Developing REDD+ Activities in the context of Sustainable Forest Management

RED-PD 038/11 Rev.3 (F)










Project Completion Report

Executed by:

Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

With the assistance of

The International Tropical Timber Organization

August 2016

Project Completion Report

(December 2012 – June 2016)

Capacity Building for Developing REDD - Plus Activities in the Context of Sustainable Forest Management

ITTO PROJECT
RED-PD 038/11 Rev.3 (F)

Host Government
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Executing Agency
Forest Department

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION (MONREC)
(MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY-MOECAF)

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Starting Date

1st December, 2012

Duration of Project

December, 2012 to 30th June 2016 (43 months)

Project Costs - US$ 571,890

Forest Department, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

August, 2016

Project Number

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Type of Report

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Forest Department
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(formerMINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY-MOECAF)

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PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

1st December 2012 – 30thJune 2016

Section 1. Project identification

1.1 Context

This project is the capacity building and demonstration activities designed to enhance the capacity of the Forest Department (FD) of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC) as well as line ministries and stakeholders in sustainable management of forest ecosystems under the REDD+ initiatives. The project will have direct contribution to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and increasing carbon sinks through forest conservation, sustainable forest management, and enhancement of carbon sinks by restoring degraded forests in Myanmar. This project has a great potential for sustainable development of forest dependent communities while improving forest ecosystem functions which contribute multiple benefits to the society as a whole. In line with the recent developments on REDD+ initiatives, this project will be implemented in accordance with ITTO guidelines for the restoration, management and rehabilitation of degraded and secondary tropical forests. The project is based on national priority and recommendations identified by the international organization such as ITTO and UN-REDD programme that capacity building is needed at all levels in order to fully implement REDD-plus.

In view of the importance of the Myanmar forestry sector in enhancing national socio-economic development and ensuring ecological balance and environmental stability, the 1995 Myanmar Forest Policy was formulated in a holistic and balanced manner within the overall context of the environment and sustainable development taking full cognizance of the forestry principles adopted at UNCED. It formalized the commitment and intent of the Government to ensure sustainable development of forest resources while conserving wildlife, plants, and ecosystem.

1.1.1 Social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects

Social aspect

The population of the District is about 120,334 with a density of 65 persons per km^2 and an annual growth rate of 2.3 percent. The demographic structure of the Taungoo District shows common pattern as other rural areas of Myanmar such as low density of population, high birth rate and relative high out migration. The male population of the district constitutes 54.7% while the female takes 45.3%. The dependency ratio is approximately 1:1.

There are more male-headed households than female-headed households; males are seldom recorded as spouses. On the other hand, females are recorded more as spouses than as heads of household. Marriage in the area includes formal unions by ordinance, traditional or religious rites and informal co-habiting unions. The societal expectation that a man should be able to provide economic support for his family even in the face of economic hardship tends to delay marriage in the area. Naturally, larger proportions of females than males are married in the District. This may be because men, who normally have to bear the cost of getting married, have to ensure that they are adequately prepared before marriage.

Literacy is an important indicator of social development and such high levels of literacy across the districts indicate development in most parts of the region because every village has at least primary school and Buddhist monastery. Therefore, literacy rate is as high as 95 percent in the District like other parts of the country. The area has high proportions of both males and females with high school education. In this case this could be explained by the presence of sufficient numbers of schools across the District. Every community in the district has a chief and his elders which is hereditary. They also have elected Community Committee members with the guidance of elders, Buddhist monks and authority. Because of rich forest resources, Toungoo District is potentially one of the richest regions of the country. Yet in terms of infrastructure and educational facilities, the area needs to be improved.

Cultural aspect

There are many communities living around and close to the forest areas that are directly involved in forest-based jobs such as logging activities, enrichment planting and other restoration activities. The prosperity of the local community is also attainable through their involvement in wood industries, such as sawmill, plywood, wood-based handicraft, furniture factory as well as non-timber forest products. At the same time, the forest is important for many local communities that depend on them for subsistence, cultural and spiritual needs.

Culturally, ethnic groups residing in and around the forest areas use forest in different ways for their daily life. In Myanmar, there is religious pluralism, in which a wide variety of religious preferences exist side by side. Buddhism is the largest religion in the Taungoo District as well as in Myanmar. In the District, Buddhism predominates with over a population of 80 percent. As such the conservation and management of forests particularly production forests on a sustainable basis and for REDDES will have an impact on the local communities.

Economic aspect

The mainstay in the rural area of the TaungooDistrict is subsistence farming. Land for farming in the District is acquired mainly through the share cropping system. The average farm sizes for agricultural crops range between one and ten acres. The major food crops grown are rice, variety of beans, sugarcane, groundnut and sesame. Alternative livelihood option is limited in the area. Livestock production is on the rise especially pig, goats, poultry farming because of the abundance of grazing lands across the District. Rural communities in the area are largely dependent on forest resources for their livelihood. Most of local people collect fuelwood, poles and posts, non-timber forest products, bamboos etc from the forests for subsistence consumption.

The economy of the district is mixed consisting of large traditional agricultural sector made up of mostly small-scale peasant farmers, also dependent on NTFP harvesting and processing, a growing informal sector of small businessmen, artisans and technicians and an insignificant proportion in the processing and manufacturing sector. The major occupational structure in the district is agriculture, which absorbs 60.4% of the total labour

force in the district. Population engaged in industry and service is comparatively small. In view of the fact that agriculture is also in the hands of peasant farmers using rudimentary tools and methods of farming it has serious negative implication on output levels. The service sector is dominated by public servants, traders who serve as middlemen between farmers and middle women, and those in the communication sector and drivers. Hotels and restaurants contribute a very small labour force. The contribution of industrial sector to the local economy is very low.

Natural forests of Taungoo District are surrounded by a number of communities and others are even located in the heart of this area. By virtue of these communities proximity to this area they depend on it for their livelihood. In try access goods and services from the forest for their living local communities are engage in unsustainable shifting cultivation for food and cash crops as well as illegal logging. Owning to these practices natural forests are being over-exploited leading to deforestation and degradation. The impact of this is that there is reduced supply of forest products as well as environmental services such as increased CO_2 emissions, loss of biodiversity and reduction of reduced water quality and supply, increased soil erosion. Recent studies indicate that there has been significant reduction in number of plant species including NTFP producing plants as compared to about five years ago. This increases the vulnerability of local communities to climate change as well as loss of economic development opportunities for local populations living in and around forest areas.

The interventions from this ITTO project are tailored at mitigating effects of these challenges in Taungoo Districts of BagoYoma Region and improving the livelihood of the communities living in and around the District. Along with the target activities of capacity building and awareness on REDDES, the livelihood of communities would be improved through creation of alternative livelihoods in the BagoYoma Region.

Environmental aspect

Taungoo District Forest is located on the eastern aspect of BagoYoma Region. The altitude of the project site is between 300 m and 800 m. The geological formation of BagoYoma region consists mainly of tertiary sedimentary rock. The region consists of beds of slate-clay and sandstone. The slate-clays weather easily and from a clayey soil,

which dries out and become hard in the weather. The sand stone varies from a yellow soft stone, which appears to yield a soil very suitable for teak, to a much more resistant greenish micaous homogenous rock. In most places, the shaley rocks and sandstones are so mixed that the resulting soil is a remarkably uniform loam. The rocks in the region have been subjected to a certain amount of metamorphism towards the east. Throughout the BagoYoma region, the rocks are folded and dip in all directions. The mature soils are found mainly on the lower and flatter localities where soil forming processes have been at work for a long time. In hilly localities where even forested, erosion is continuous and tends to remove the products of the weathering of the primary rocks as soon as formed. Most of the forest soils on the top are therefore of a skeletal nature. On the lower slopes the soils are deeper by reason of accumulation of wash from the top and slopes, moister and more fertile. In general, the soils which are commonly found in Taungoo District Forest area Fluvisouls, Ferralsols, and Gleysols.

The project site, Taungoo District in the BagoYoma Region, has a tropical monsoon climate with a rainy season and a pronounced dry season. There is pronounced rainy season from May to October with ample rainfall coming from the Bay of Bengal. There are 6 well-marked dry months from November to May in the study site while wet from the end of May to October with a maximum rainfall in July and August. Mean annual rainfall is about 1775.5 mm and mean monthly temperature is about 27.5 C. The relative humidity is about 73 %.

Deciduous forest is major forest type in the Taungoo District in BagoYoma Region. However, within this type of forest an intricate mosaic pattern of moist deciduous forest, semi-evergreen forest and patches of dry deciduous forest areas can also be found. The different forest types and dense forest cover contribute to the biological diversity and enhancing ecosystem services including carbon sequestration capacity of BagoYoma Region in particular and Myanmar as a whole. The most abundant tree species are teak (*Tectonagrandis*), binga (*Mitragynarotundifolia*), pyinkado (*Xyliaxylocarpa*), padauk (*Pterocarpusmacrocarpus*), thitpagan (*Millettiabrandisiana*), thadi (*Protiumserratum*), panga (*Terminalia chebula*), yon (*Anogeissus acuminate*), hnaw (*Adina cordifolia*), zaungbale (*Lagerstroemia villosa*), etc. The associated bamboo species found in

TaungooDistrict Forest area kyathaung-wa (*Bamboosaporlimorpha*) and tin-wa (*Cephalostachyumpergracile*).

Although the forest is relatively resilient ecosystem, its regenerative capacity will be greatly affected if disturbances incurred are beyond its withstanding limits. When this happens, the overall sustainability of the forest will be jeopardized. Thus, stringent measures must be taken so that the detrimental effects on the environment arising from forest production are kept at minimum. The implementation of REDDES is expected to bring about positive impacts to the environment with lower impact management prescriptions and logging systems being tested.

1.1.2 Relevant national and regional policies and programmes

Sustainable management and conservation of Myanmar's forests have been accorded a high priority by the Government. Efforts are being advanced to ensure that the flora and fauna are conserved for future generations. In view of the importance of the Myanmar forestry sector in enhancing national socio-economic development and ensuring ecological balance and environmental stability, the 1995 Myanmar Forest Policy was formulated in a holistic and balanced manner within the overall context of the environment and sustainable development taking full cognizance of the forestry principles adopted at UNCED. It formalized the commitment and intent of the Government to ensure sustainable development of forest resources while conserving wildlife, plants, and ecosystem.

Sustainable management and conservation of Myanmar's forests have been accorded a high priority by the Government. Efforts are being advanced to ensure that the flora and fauna are conserved for future generations. Myanmar has also ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1994 and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1994 and the Kyoto Protocol in 2003. Myanmar has adopted its own National Forest Policy, National Policy on Biological Diversity, as well as the National Policy on Environment.

Forest Policy (1995) has identified six imperatives: (a) Protection of soils, water, wildlife, biodiversity and environment; (b) Sustainability of forest resources; (c) Basic needs of the people for fuel, shelter, food and recreation; (d) Efficiency to harness the full

economic potential of the forest resource; (e) Participation of the people in conservation and utilization of the forests; and Public awareness about the vital role of the forests.

The Forest Policy identified ten important objectives of which the following four objectives are particularly relevant to the proposed project.

(a) Protection and Management

To decide development unclassified and protected public forest areas strategically located in the country to extend existing areas under forest reserves and the protected areas system in order to ensure sustainable forest management with the object of minimizing social and environmental benefits for the country and its population; restoration of ecological balance and biodiversity conservation;

(b) Forestry Planning

To initiative the development planning for the forestry sector to achieve sustainable development in resource production, processing and marketing, biodiversity conservation and restoration of ecological balance;

(c) Institutional Strengthening

To ensure that the basic goals of forestry, environmental protection and increased economic benefits to be achieved from forests and forestry are reflected in the institutional structure; and

(d) People's Participation and Public Awareness

To enlist people's participation in forest sector development activities in order to provide "people-based-development" as also create public awareness and mass motivation for protection and conservation of forests.

The forestry sector in Myanmar is an important role in providing environmental protection, particularly those related to climate change, and a major economic role in generating incomes through timber utilization in the country.

Permanent forest estate (PFE) covers 24.7 % of total land area of the country and is composed of Reserved Forests and Public Protected Forests. Furthermore,there are 39 Protected Areas(PAs) which include National Parks, wildlife sanctuaries. Forest Policy (1995) targeted to extend PFE up to 30 % of total country's area while Pas up to 10%.

In order to achieve Forest Policy target, National Forest Master Plan (2001-2030) and District Forest Management Plan for 68 Districts were formulated, and being

implemented. With the provision of Forest Law 1992, Community Forestry Instructions (CFI) was issued in 1995 and Community Forestry (CF) is implemented across the country. It is targeted to establish about one million (2.27 million acres) of CF are targeted to establish with the full and effective participation of local communities.

This being amongst Myanmar's commitments to the UNFCCC, where Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) activities should promote the long-term sustainable management of forests and their resources.Myanmar, being a developing country, has to utilize the forest resource for its economic and social development. Keeping in line with the new forest policy, the Forest Department practices the balance approach towards conservation and development issues implicit in the concept of sustainable forestry. The major concerns of the forestry sector of Myanmar are nature conservation and maintenance of environmental stability. The MONREC is committed to achieving sustainable development of forests and biological resources through ratification and accession to a number of international conventions and agreements. With the experiences accumulated over a period of a century and half with respect to forest management, the Forest Department of Myanmar in close cooperation with relevant partners will continue to conserve the country's valuables natural forest resources.

1.2 Original and problem

Myanmar forest resources play an important role not only to fulfill the basic needs of rural people but also to contribute to the national economy. Myanmar is striving to sustain its valuable forest resources. Myanmar is covered with forest amounted to29,041,000 ha (42.92% of total country area) (FRA 2015). Myanmar's forests have been affected by degradation, shifting cultivation, and conversion to commercial oil palm plantations (the latter is particularly relevant in the lowland forests of the Tanintharyi Region). Deforestation pressures include: i) fuelwood consumption (the principle source of energy); ii) unplanned and unrestricted agricultural expansion; iii) aquaculture (e.g. shrimp farming in the Delta region); iv) infrastructuredevelopment; and v) commercial clear cutting. According to the FRA 2015, it was observed that forest cover of Myanmar accounted for 151,421 square mile in 1990, 134,626 square mile in 2000, 128,653 square

mile in 2005, 122,676 square mile in 2010 and 112,127 square mile in 2015. Accordingly, forest cover loss during 1990 and 2015 is as follows:

Year	Annual forest loss (thousand ha)	Annual forest loss (%)
1990-2000	-435.0	-1.2
2000-2010	-309.5	-0.9
2010-2015	-546.4	-1.8

Due to the lack of national coordination mechanism among relevant line Ministries, deforestation has been increasing over time.It is necessary to reappraise its situation from all angles as there are several issues and problems to be addressed.

REDD+ mechanism is an integrated approach of efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and to enhance ecosystem services which contribute to the livelihoods and environmental stability substantially. Such creative approach is new to Myanmar so that capacity building as well as awareness raising at all levels of relevant stakeholders including Forest Department Staff, local communities, decision makers, NGOs should be carried with momentum. All stakeholders are needed good capacity to formulate forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation policy and action. Design and implementation REDD+ project requires wide range of knowledge and active participation from all relevant stakeholders. More importantly, Myanmar has not yet prepared REDD+ strategy, roadmap and demonstration site due to the lack of institutional capacity and limited capable human resources. Therefore, it is clear that the capacity building programme of upmost importance to implement for all relevant stakeholders in Myanmar.

Weak institutional setting for capacity building on REDD+

Major drivers of deforestation and forest degradation have not been identified yet but mainly due to insufficient research activities and capable human resources. As REDD+ is emerging as a new mechanism, Researchers and Officials of MONREC are limited in knowledge of REDD-plus. Accordingly, officials of line ministries, local communities and local authorities are also limited knowledge in REDD+ as well as their role in sustainable forest management due to the limited extension activities.

There is lack of institutional setting, infrastructures and well-trained persons to build the capacity and raise awareness of various stakeholders. There is also very limited training programme, workshops and seminars regarding REDD+ so that all level of stakeholders is lack of capacity to implement REDD+ and related matters.

Forest Department of the MONREC has formed a REDD+ Core Unit to implement the REDD+ related matters including preparing project proposals, conducting research, carrying out extension activities etc. There are about 25 members in Core Unit but there is no institutionalized structure. All core unit members are engaging with other responsibilities and they have no specific duty and assignment to deal with REDD-plus activities. The consequences of weak institutional setting caused lack of expertise in the respective field, insufficient experts in the respective field, low level of effectiveness, hard to address the emerging issues promptly and correctly. These collective effects contributed adversely to the development of REDD+ national strategy as well as sustainable forest management. Therefore, strengthening institutional structure is of crucial important to deal with REDD+ issues. In order to do so, specific capacity building plan needs to be drawn to cover all round aspects of REDD+. With this project, through hand-on trainings and seminars, capacity of staff of MONREC as well as stakeholders will be built. Stakeholders will also be mobilized and organized to participate the REDD+ mechanism as an integral part of Institution.

Lack of capacity to conduct MRV of carbon stocks

There is a huge area of pristine forested areas being converted for agriculture. Major causes are logging (both illegal and legal), firewood extraction, infrastructure development and agriculture expansion. According to the FRA (2010), average annual loss of forest cover in Myanmar amounted to 372,250 ha during 1990 to 2010. Due to the lack of specific deforestation data of Taungoo District, the annual loss of forest cover was not available for each specific site. However, Taungoo District was one of areas where the largest amount of timber was extracted in Myanmar as well as one of the densely populated areas so that deforestation and forest degradation are unavoidable. Although Taungoo District is the experimental District for the preparation of National Forest Management Plan, sustainable forest management is still challenging due to insufficient

inventory, lack of updated satellite images, limited trained persons and limited infrastructure.

Information sharing and extension activities could not be done because of lack of REDD-plus related project as well as other forest conservation and forest management related projects. This accelerates deforestation and forest degradation and consequently it causes negative impacts on livelihood of forest dependent local communities. The project site is lacking information and documents about financial worth of ecosystem services, capacity to monitor carbon stock and biodiversity and standard methodologies for local communities and Forest Department in monitoring REDD+ readiness and developing a robust MRV system.

Implementation of REDD+ requires high level precision and accuracy on measurement of carbon stock. In addition, there must be reliable Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system for carbon stock. Thus it is necessary to prepare the standard operational guidelines for MRV and baseline data of carbon stock especially in line with IPCC Guidelines. Demonstration plot for REDD-plus has to be established to practice the activities for readiness of REDD+ full project implementation. Software and hardware necessary for RS/GIS will be installed for MRV for the proper combination of ground data and satellite data to have realistic figure of carbon stock as well as to monitor forest cover changes. Then, reference scenario will be set based on forest cover changes.

Section 2. Project objectives and implementation strategies

2.1 Project Rationale, Development and Specific Objectives

First National Level Workshop on REDD+ whichwas jointly organized by the Forest Department and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP-Myanmar) on 9thNovember 2010 and second National Level Workshop on REDD+ which was jointly organized by Forest Department and Korea Forest Service on 9th and 10th November 2011 recommended the following actions:

(a) To build the capacity of Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and relevant stakeholders in REDD-plus readiness;

(b) To find every possible means and ways to secure project financing for capacity building;

(c) To establish REDD-plus demonstration plot for capacity building for measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) of carbon stock and REDD-plus related matters;

(d) To promote international cooperation to accelerate capacity building and aware raising of REDD-plus;

(e) To include REDD-plus in the mainstream of national forest management plan; and

(f) To prepare REDD readiness roadmap and REDD-plus national strategy through workshops and consultation meetings.

With the broader perspective on REDD+, the development objective of this project was set to contribute to sustainable forest management of BagoYoma Region to improve the provision of environmental services and reduce GHG emissions from deforestation and degradation and enhancement of carbon stocks.

The specific objective of the project is to strengthen capacity of the MONREC and other relevant stakeholders in REDD-plus activities. In line with the objectives of the project, all activities are designed to build the institutional capacity of Forest Department as well as relevant stakeholders on REDD+ initiatives through holding series trainings, workshops, seminars and awareness raising programme. The proposed project implemented the most important aspects of REDD+ initiatives including capacity building on measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) of carbon stocks, forest resource inventory and REDD+ activities (reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation, sustainable forest management, forest conservation and enhancement of carbon stock i.e., reforestation and afforestation).

2.2 Project Implementation Strategy

The project organized series of capacity building activities such as consultation meetings, seminars, trainings and workshops. Basically, three actions will be involved in the project implementation and they are:

(a) Consultative action (Hold the workshops/meetings)

(b) Facilitative action (Conduct the trainings)

(c) Educative action (Extension and demonstration activities)

The project also implemented REDD+ pilot activities to learn the whole picture of REDD+, conducted survey on baseline carbon stock of project site, set the reference

scenario of emission of the project site and established coordination mechanism among relevant stakeholders. The project identified the major drivers of deforestation and forest degradation through consultations with experts and various stakeholders. With the participation of different stakeholders, consultation meetings were organized in order to have idea of how best to address these director and indirect drivers in the short and long-term periods. Addressing climate change issues would require a concerted effort at all levels and by everyone. In this regard, the project organized various programmes of activities to enhance the understanding and awareness in climate change issues particularly those related to forestry. Efforts were made to assess forest degradation under the current forestry practices as well as developed improved protocols to achieve sustainable forest management and further reduce emissions and enhance ecosystem services.

Throughout the project period, forest based-income generation activities for the local people were implemented. Multi-stakeholder participation at all levels was encouraged. NGOs and CSOs were vital part of the implementation approach to share experiences in local community development and capacity building in forest-based climate change mitigation action. Academic and researchers were also involved in capacity building training workshops. Several training courses were focused on increasing the capacity of relevant stakeholders in enhancing their knowledge on the role of forests in climate change and opportunities and challenges in REDD+.

2.3 Assumptions and risks

The assumptions and risks were identified for the success of the Project. Among them are:

- ❖ All relevant stakeholders including local communities, staff members of Forest Department, decision makers will come to aware the important role of REDD+ initiatives and thus see the need to implement sustainably;
- ❖ The relevant stakeholders and decision makers will be supportive to the implementation of project activities and local authorities will provide legal backing to resources tenure and right for subsistence livelihoods.
- ❖ All relevant stakeholders will show interest in the project and become cooperative in the implementation of the project activities;

The potential risk may emerge from the conflict of interest between key stakeholders who has authority in managing forest area and implementing REDD+ activities. In contrast, there also might be conflicts between interest and non-interest persons, project participants and non-participants. There also might be local elite groups and participants as well as stakeholders. The process of institutional set up and the formulation of national strategy of REDD+ need to deliberate precaution measures against to those risks.Natural disasters such as storm, flood, forest fire, etc. might also be potential risks of the project. These assumptions pose risks to the success of the project. If any of the assumptions fail, it will present setbacks to achievement of project objectives. In order to curtail any such occurrence, efforts will be made to obtain the commitment of the local communities, the local authorities, and other relevant stakeholders of the project. To meet this end, since the beginning of the project, extension activities, consultation meetings, FPIC process need to be designed well to let all stakeholders have much room to take part actively in it. In particular, there shall be adequate understanding of the real values and role of REDD+ activities to mitigate climate change. Thus, a desire to initiate REDD+ will be internally generated by the communities themselves rather than externally motivated. Once this is achieved, the identified risks will be reasonably held in check. The active participation of all stakeholders during the national workshops is an assurance that the risks are manageable.

Section 3. Project performance (Project elements planned and implemented)

Overall, the planned activities in the project document, as well as additional activities approved by the Project Steering Committee for the extended periods were successfully implemented. In reality, the performance was better realized with supports of EA and collaboration with development partners including UN-REDD Programme and Korea Forest Service. The local communities were able to enjoy more benefits as a result. The realizedperformance is summarized below:

(a) Specific objective

The specific objectiveof the Project wasto strengthen capacity of the Ministry of Forestry and other relevant stakeholders in REDD-plus activities.

(b) Outputs and related activities

In order to achieve the objective, the following outputs were targeted:

Output 1.1 REDD-plus national strategies prepared

Output 1.2 Institutional setting for capacity building on REDD-plus strengthened

Output 1.3 Capacity to conduct MRV of carbon stock built

Accordingly, the following activities were implemented to realize the outputs with the participation of multiple stakeholders:

2.2 Progress in implementation of the Activities

To strengthen capacity of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC), and other relevant stakeholders in REDD-plus, the following activities are executed during the period.

Output 1.1 REDD-plus national strategies prepared			
Activity		Completion Status	Summarized Achievement
1.1.1	Collecting all available information on REDD-Plus initiatives and implementing extension activities through media, publications, poster, pamphlet, cartoons, public educational talks	100%	❖ 18 kinds of books, technical guidelines, information note sheets (Newsletter) were published and disseminated. ❖ 8 technical reports were prepared. ❖ 31 times of public education talks were held and about 2000 local people participated the public talks.
1.1.2	Building institutional capacity for REDD-Plus national strategy through workshops, trainings, seminars, lessons learnt	100 %	❖ 8 technical trainings, 4 National Workshops and 2 Seminars were organized. ❖ 10 Officials were

			sent to China, Vietnam, Malaysia and Paris for lesson learnt from other countries.
1.1.3	Formulation of REDD-Plus national strategy through organizing series of stakeholders' consultations meetings and establishing coordination mechanism	100%	❖ 3 National REDD+ Working Groups were established. ❖ 3 REDD+ Core Unit of Forest Department were established. ❖ 25 consultation meetings (technical meetings) were held with the participation of REDD+ Core Unit and National REDD+ Working Group ❖ Assisting and facilitating the development of District Forest Management Plan for Taungoo and Bago Districts of Bago Region
1.1.4	Publication and dissemination of REDD-Plus national strategy	100%	❖ Major drivers of deforestation and forest degradation were identified and National Strategies were developed. ❖ Candidate National Strategies for reforestation and forest degradation

			published. ❖ C&I for REDD+ Social and Environmental Safeguards (in English and in Myanmar) were published. ❖ REDD+ Readiness Roadmap was developed in cooperation with UN-REDD Programme.

Output 1.2 Institutional setting for capacity building on REDD-plus strengthened			
Activity		Completion Status	Summarized Achievement
1.2.1	Preparation of scheme and integrated plan to build capacity on REDD-Plus through consultation meetings among stakeholders	100%	❖ Report on capacity building plan on REDD-Plus ❖ REDD+ Training Modules were developed and disseminated to Forestry Training Schools under Forest Department and Myanma Timber Enterprise
1.2.2	Strengthening coordination mechanism among relevant stakeholders	100 %	❖ 3 National Working Groups (Multi-stakeholder groups) were formed. Members are representatives from line Ministries, CSOs, NGOs. ❖ Coordination

			mechanism was established through contact person from respective Ministry and organizing monthly consultation meeting.
1.2.3	Organizing series of trainings, workshops and seminars as well as practice REDD-Plus activities to increase well-trained persons in REDD-Plus activities including MRV of carbon stock	100%	❖ 419 persons (including government staff and local communities) were trained through REDD+ various training programme. ❖
1.2.4	Building capacity for free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) through trainings and practicing in the project site	100%	❖ FPIC guideline was developed, published and disseminated. ❖ 30 field level staff and Deputy Rangers were trained.

Output 1.3 Capacity to conduct MRV of carbon stock built			
Activity		Completion Status	Summarized Achievement
1.3.1	Preparing standard operational guidelines for MRV of carbon stock and forest resource inventory in the project site	100 %	❖ Standard operational guidelines for National Forest Monitoring System (M & MRV) (in Myanmar) ❖ Guideline for forest

			inventory and biomass survey was prepared and published.
1.3.2	Establishing demonstration site and practicing REDD-Plus activities	100 %	❖ REDD+ demonstration site was established in Compartments 12, 14, 18, 19, 20 of Kyaukmasin Reserved Forest, Yedashe Township ❖ Demonstration on Agroforestry and Bamboo Plantation were established in Yoma Public Protected Area, Yedashe Township ❖ Model Community Forest (20 household village) was re-vitalized in Yedashe Township.
1.3.3	Conducting forest cover assessment, forest resource inventory and measuring carbon stocks for baseline data on carbon stocks of project site	100%	❖ Report on Forest Inventory in Yedashe and Oktwin Townships of Toungoo District (in English) ❖ Technical Report on Carbon Stock ❖
1.3.4	Setting reference level of carbon emission of the project site	100%	Technical Report on Forest Emission Reference Level/ Forest Reference Level

			in accordance with the Warsaw Framework on REDD+

(c) Schedule and duration

- Starting date: 1st December 2012 to 30th June 2016
- Duration: 43 months

The project duration was 36 months starting on 1stNovember 2012. A seven-month extension without additional funding was approved with reference no. F. 15-0116 dated on 30 July 2015.

(d) Total amount of expenditure

- ITTO's support = $ 571,890
- Contribution of Govt. of Myanmar (in kind) = $ 73,802 (equivalent to 5,5351,500 Kyats)

The 43-month project including extension period of 7 months budget totaled US$571,890 from ITTO and $ 73,802 from the Myanmar government as in-kind contribution. In the applied input, although the cost for each activity was estimated, minoradjustments were often necessary due to variability of exchange rate, increasing cost of travel, transport andmaterials which could not be predicted. Another cause for adjustment was delayinimplementation of certain activities due toadministrativeissues. The overall project budget was not affected.

Section 4. Project outcome, target beneficiaries involvement

The project had achieved the objective of strengthening capacity of the MONREC (former Ministry of Forestry) and other relevant stakeholders in REDD-plus activities with the participation of the relevant stakeholders. The following outcomes were achieved at the end of the Project;

No.	Capacity building activities	Unit	No. of persons trained/ participated
1	Training of Trainers (ToT) for REDD+	4	127
2	Technical trainings on RS/GIS application on MRV	1	20
3	Technical trainings on social and environmental safeguard	1	29

	and FPIC		
4	Technical trainings on GPS application and mapping	1	27
5	Technical trainings on FPIC	1	30
6	Livelihood improvement trainings for local communities	7	186
7	Project Steering Committee Meeting	5	75
8	Stakeholder consultation meetings	2	60
9	Technical working group meetings of REDD+ Core Unit	25	650
10	National workshops on REDD+	4	250
11	Seminar on REDD+	1	35
12	Seminar on Development of District Forest Management Plan for Taungoo and Bago Districts	1	50
	TOTAL		**1,539**

Project Steering Committee Meetings

Training of Trainers for REDD+

Technical trainings on social and environmental safeguard and FPIC

Technical trainings on RS/GIS application on MRV

Stakeholder consultation meetings

Livelihood improvement trainings for local communities

National workshops on REDD+

Technical working group meetings of REDD+ Core Unit

Participation in international event in abroad

No.	Name	Position, organization	International event	Country	Duration
1	Dr. ThaungNaingOo	Assistant Director, Planning and Statistics Division, FD	International workshop on REDD+	Beijing, China	21-5-2013 to 25-5-2013
2	Dr. Rosy Ne Win	Staff Officer, FRI	International workshop on REDD+	Beijing, China	21-5-2013 to 25-5-2013
3	Ms. NyoMiTun	Range Officer, TRDD, FD	International workshop on REDD+	Beijing, China	21-5-2013 to 25-5-2013
4	Mr. KhinMaungOo	Director, Planning and Statistics Division, FD	Study tour on REDD+ and SFM practices	Kuala Lampur, Malaysia	19-10-2014 to 25-10-2014
5	Dr. ThaungNaingOo	Deputy Director, Planning and Statistics Division, FD	Study tour on REDD+ and SFM practices	Kuala Lampur, Malaysia	19-10-2014 to 25-10-2014

6	Mr. Win Aye	Staff Officer, Yedashe township	Study tour on REDD+ and SFM practices	Kuala Lampur, Malaysia	19-10-2014 to 25-10-2014
7	Mr. Soe Moe Oo	Staff Officer, Oktwin township	Study tour on REDD+ and SFM practices	Kuala Lampur, Malaysia	19-10-2014 to 25-10-2014
8	Mr. PyaePhyoMaung	Range Officer, Planning and Statistics Division, FD	Study tour on REDD+ and SFM practices	Kuala Lampur, Malaysia	19-10-2014 to 25-10-2014
9	Mr. Bo Ni	Director, Watershed Management Division, FD	International Tropical Timber Council Meeting	Kuala Lampur, Malaysia	15-11-2015 to 20-11-2015
10	Dr. ThaungNaingOo	Director, Forest Research Institute	UNFCCC COP 21	Paris, France	30-11-2015 to 12-12-2015

It was a milestone and great achievement that the Project successfully organized a side event on "REDD+ within INDCs: Governance Lessons Learnt from Community forest Management in Tropics" on 1st December 2015 at the UNFCCC COP 21/CP11, Paris, Frances. Four Resource Persons from Indonesia, Cambodia, World Resource Institute and ITTO contributed to the Workshop. Over 200 delegates participated in the event.

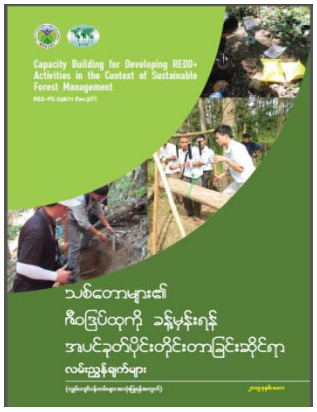
Knowledge materials

Sr.	Items	Frequency	Quantity
1	Newsletters (8) sets 1) SFM and Multiple Function of Forest 2) SFM and Climate Chang Adaptation 3) SFM and Biological Diversity Management 4) SFM and REDD+ 5) SFM and Indigenous People 6) SFM and Gender 7) SFM and Food security and Livelihood 8) SFM and Primary Forests	First Edition	5000
		Second Edition	4000
2	REDD+ Basic Book (in Myanmar)	First Edition	1000
		Second Edition	1000

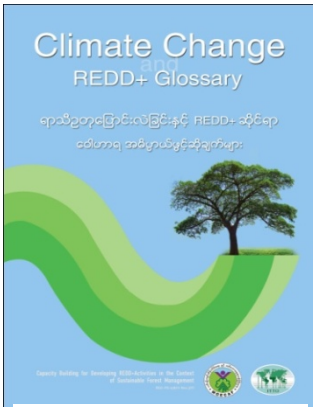
3	REDD+ Glossary (in English and in Myanmar)	First Edition	600
4	Guidelines for FPIC	First Edition	500
5	Guidelines on Destructive Measurement for Forest Biomass Estimation for Technical Staff Use (in Myanmar)	First Edition	500
		Second Edition	500
6	REDD+ Manual (in Myanmar)	First Edition	600
7	Social and Environmental Safeguards (in English and in Myanmar)	First Edition	500
		Second Edition	1000
8	REDD+ Academy Modules (translation into Myanmar languge)	First Edition	30
9	National Forest Monitoring System (M & MRV) (in Myanmar)	First Edition	30
10	Voluntary Guidelines for SFM (in Myanmar)	First Edition	1000
11	Major drivers of deforestation and forest degradation (in English)	First Edition	500

(Kowledgematerias are available the following websites:

1) **Facebook:** REDD+ Programme in Myanmar **(**https://www.facebook.com/redd.psd.fd.moecaf/)
2) **Website:** Forest Department **(**http://www.fdmoecaf.gov.mm/eng/)
3) **Blog:** reddteammyanmar (http://reddmyanmar.blogspot.com/)



Biomass Guidelines

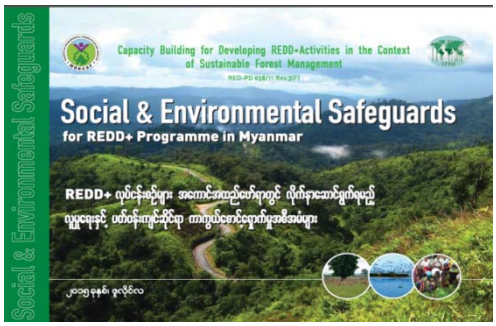


Climate Change and REDD+ Glossary

FPIC Guidelines

Newsletters

REDD+ Manual



Social & Environmental Safeguards for REDD+ Programme in Myanmar

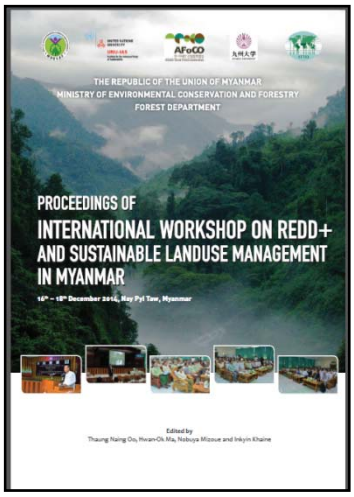
REDD+ Basic Book

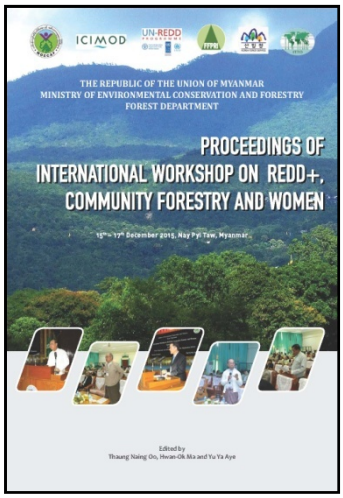
Technical reports and Proceedings

Sr.	Items	Date of report preparation	Remark
1	Report on Forest Inventory in Yedashe and Oktwin Townships of Toungoo District (in English)	September, 2013	
2	Report on Forest Inventory in Yedashe and Oktwin Townships of Toungoo District (in Myanmar)	September, 2013	
3	**Technical Report on Forest Emission Reference Level/ Forest Reference Level** in accordance with the Warsaw Framework on REDD+ (by Dr. Promote Khant, Dr. Hwan-Ok Ma and Dr. ThaungNaingOo)	July, 2014	
4	**Technical Report on Carbon Stock** (by Kyaw Thin Latt and Dr. Moe Myint (WCS)	May, 2015	
5	**Technical Report on Carbon Stock** (by Dr. Yu Ya Aye)	September, 2015	
6	Proceedings on National Workshop on Capacity Development of Stakeholders	December, 2013	
7	Proceedings on National Workshop on REDD+ and Sustainable Land Use Management in Myanmar	December, 2014	
8	Proceedings on National Workshop on REDD+, CF and Women	December, 2015	

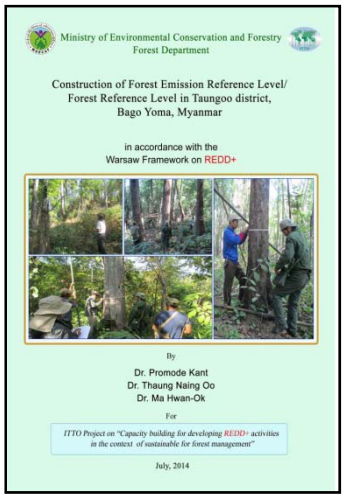
(Kowledgematerias are available the following websites:

1) **Facebook:** REDD+ Programme in Myanmar (https://www.facebook.com/redd.psd.fd.moecaf/)
2) **Website:** Forest Department (http://www.fdmoecaf.gov.mm/eng/)
3) **Blog:** reddteammyanmar (http://reddmyanmar.blogspot.com/)





Proceedings of international workshops



Report on Construction of FREL/REL in Taungoo District in Bago Yoma, Myanmar

Demonstration for carbon enhancement through the involvement of local communities

Sr.	Activities	Location	Areas
1	Agroforestry	Zayepauk village	10 acres
2	Bamboo plantation	Zayepauk village	6 acres
3	Agroforestry	8-mile village	4 acres
4	Re-vitalization of 20-household village community forestry	20-household village	20 acres

Bamboo Plantation

Public education talks about climate change, role of forest in climate change mitigation and REDD+

Sr.	Years	Number	Participants	Remark
1	2013	10	About 500	Local people
2	2014	6	About 300	Local people
3	2015	8	About 350	Local people
4	2016	7	About 750	Local people

Educational Public Talks on climate change, forest conservation and REDD+

Supports to the local communities

Sr.	Supporting materials	Quantity
1	Seedlings (teak, valuable hardwood tree species, fuelwood species etc.)	5000
2	Seedlings of fruit trees (mangoes, jackfruit, Lemon, Papaya, Jaguar Drumstick and other cash crops)	3000
3	A-1 efficient cooking stoves	5000
4	Number of school renovation, providing desks, tables, chairs and stationary to the elementary schools in the Project site	6

Distribution of A-1 efficient cooking stoves

Distribution of Seedlings of fruit trees

Target beneficiaries involvement

The target beneficiaries belonged to four main groups: government staff (staff of MONREC and line Ministries), local communities in the project site, private business sector and CSOs/NGOs.

Government staff of MONREC and line Ministries actively participated in various REDD+ trainings, seminars, technical meetings, workshop, expert meeting and consultation process. They contributed significantly to achieve the objectives of the project. Particularly, they collectively contributed to the identification of major drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, development of Social and Environmental Safeguards Criteria & Indicators and FPIC guidelines, REDD+ Training Manual.

Private business sector and CSOs/NGOs also actively participated in all consultation processes and important activities including identification of major drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, development of Social and Environmental

Safeguards Criteria & Indicators and FPIC guidelines.Private business sector and CSOs/NGOs also involved in various awareness raising and training activities.

Local communities participated in REDD+ demonstration activities such as community-based agroforestry, mixed-species plantation, re-vitalization community forestry, bamboo plantation, forest conservation activities. Local communities also participated in public talks and awareness raising about “the Role of Forests, Climate Change and REDD+” and community-based forest inventory. Local communities participated in the various livelihood improvement trainings such as bamboo plantation establishment, bamboo-based handicraft and broom-making training. Local communities showed their enthusiastic participation by utilizing A1 efficient cooking stove distributed by the Project. By participating the Project, the communities have had their quality of life improved with alternative livelihood opportunities, pleasant environment, gravity feed water supply and amenities, improved education and school facilities, first aids for household health, fruit gardens, village forests and catchment protection. Their participation provided an opportunity for them to become more enterprising and improve their cash income.

Some indicators for the success of the Project are:

a) Increased number of community engaged in forestry related activities,
b) Increased private forest plantation owners and relevant stakeholders in REDD+ activities,
c) Increased political awareness about REDD+ and coordination mechanism among line Ministries,
d) Reduced cases of forest-community conflict within the project area,
e) Awareness raised and case of illegal harvesting and encroachment reduced,
f) Baseline data for carbon accounting collected and up-dated,
g) Capacity of staff members of Forest Department and MONREC, NGOs and local communities improved,
h) Demonstration plots for conservation of forest established,
i) Permanent Sample Plots for carbon stock measure established,
j) FPIC activities are applied in project site,
k) Application of IPCC guidelines promoted,

l) Major drivers of deforestation and forest degradation have been identified and candidate strategies developed,
m) Guidelines for National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) developed, and
n) Criteria and Indicators for social and environmental safeguards have been developed.
o) Forming Three National Technical Working Groups in which members are representatives from MONREC, line Ministries, NGOs, CSOs and Indigenous People

Several activities related to mitigation of forestry sector climate change concerns within the MONREC such as research, and demonstration activities located in several areas would be integrated with the project. Forest Department, Forest Research Institute, University of Forestry, Local Communities and NGOs, Line Ministries, Government of the Bago Region and Local Civil Societies are involved in the operation activities of the project by consultation, discussion and negotiation which have been conducted in irregular basis.

Project's additional contributions to the MONREC

This ITTO REDD+ Capacity Building project is a pioneer in Myanmar and initiated several activities for the readiness of REDD+ in Myanmar. Awareness raising about REDD+ has been improved among line Ministries, NGOs, local communities in the Project site and relevant stakeholders.

In collaboration with UN-REDD Programme,the Project staff members facilitated the series of stakeholder consultation meetings, consultation meetings in States and Regions and finally National Validation Workshop on REDD+ Readiness Roadmap. As a result, REDD+ readiness Roadmap has been adopted in June 2013.

With the supports of the Project, the Project staff members formulated a new Project Proposal entitled "**Capacity Building for Strengthening Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation of the Taninthayi Range in Myanmar**" which has been approved by ITTO and it is expected to be funded by ITTO soon.

With the increasing awareness about the role of forest in mitigating climate change, MONREC has adopted the following decisions during the REDD+ Project implementation:

- Log export ban since April 2014
- Logging ban across the BagoYoma Region (including ITTO REDD+ Project Site) for 10 years to conserve forest resources starting from 2016-2017
- Logging ban across the country for one year(2016-2017) to review all the impacts
- Deciding to reducing logging significantly (well below Annual Allowable Cut-AAC) across the country
- Launching of large scale national reforestation programme (2016-2026)
- Combating illegal logging with momentum in cooperation with Police Force, Armed Force and relevant Ministries
- Initiative of FLEG-T, EU VPA process, Timber Legality and Assurance System (TALS)
- Forming an "Environmental Conservation and Climate Change Central Committee" in which Vice President serves as a Patron and Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC) serves as a Chair.

Section 5. Assessment and Analysis

Through media publicity and presentation of the work in many local meetings, consultation workshops and international workshops, the work of ITTO REDD+ Capacity Building Project and REDD+ had become widely known within and outside BagoYomaRegion. Support from the MONREC, other government line Ministries, private agencies, CSO/NGOs and local communities in the Project site made the Project successful.

i) Analysis on project rationale and project identification process

This project was identified and developed based on the outcomes and recommendations of the National Workshops on REDD+ which was held in 2010 and

2011 with the support of UNDP and Korea Forest Service, respectively.The Workshops highlighted the enabling conditions of REDD+, baseline information on policies and legislation, deforestation and forest degradation, social and environmental safeguard, dependence of local ethnic communities and rural people onforestsand capacity needs for REDD+.

The local key stakeholders were correctly identified but it was not possible to determine to their level of commitment and attitudetowards Project participation among all the communities.

ii) Analysis on (in) adequacy of the results of identification process

The identification process was adequate in correctly defining the problems, project objectives and choice of implementation strategy, but had somewhat underestimated the number of relevant stakeholders in project implementation.

The identification process also assumed full cooperation from participants but this did not turn out to be the case and had affected the project's outcome. For example, some participants or community groups preferred to have the work done for them without having to be actively involved, while others expected monetary gain as an incentive.

iii) Highlight and analyze the most critical differences between planned and actual Project implementation

There was no critical difference between planned and actual Project implementation except some minor activities such as hiring international consultant and national consultant onfor MRV and identification of reference level of emission. The project did not hire them because of no applicants for that vacancy announcement. However, it did not affect the project activities and achievement because UN-REDD Programme, which are engaging for implementation of REDD+ Readiness Roadmap of Myanmar, has been working in these areas in establishing National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and setting Forest Reference Emission Level and Forest Reference Level (FREL/FRL).

iv)Evaluate and comment on the (in)adequacy of time and Project inputs for Project formulation and implementation

The time and Project inputs for formulation and implementation were adequate but were influenced by factors that could not be controlled, such as changes of representatives

of line Ministries throughout the series of consultation meetings, limited contributions of Project technical staff members due to their main responsibilities to their respective Division and weather (establishing demonstration site). This partly led to the six-month extension without additional finding.

v)Evaluate the anticipation and reality of external influences, assumptions and risks etc. and the effectiveness of mitigating measures

Major external influences were weather and local key stakeholder support. The project assumed active support from all participants but this did not turn out to be the case. One mitigating measure was to focus on participants that were proactive. Participation of relevant stakeholders could have been improved.

vi)Evaluate the participation of anticipated and actual Project beneficiaries in Project implementation and how they have or will be benefitted from the Project

Active Project beneficiaries enjoyed better gain from implementation. The line Ministries, private sector, CSO, NGO and Media persons demonstrated their full and effective participation. Local Government and Representatives of Parliament to the Union as well as Bago Region also supported REDD+ and participated in some events (e.g. National Workshop, stakeholder consultation workshops, meetings etc.)organized by the Project. Active participation is the most effective way for communities and relevant stakeholders to benefit from the Project.

vii) Analyze Project (in) sustainability after Project completion

Sustainability depends on active involvement of project beneficiaries. After project completion, the EA will continue to provide various forms of assistance to those who continue to be involved in REDD+ Readiness process. It will not be possible to achieve REDD+ Readiness if relevant stakeholders and local communities are unable to work closely with MONREC.Therefore, project activities have already been linked to National REDD+ Readiness Process particularly preparation of REDD+ Readiness Roadmap, preparation of Criteria and Indicators (C&I) for Social and Environmental Safeguards for REDD+, organizing three technical working groups of Forest Department for National REDD+ Strategies, Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) as well as National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and Safeguard Information System (SIS).

With the various initiatives and supports of the Project, REDD+ Readiness will be going on after the termination of the Project. Particularly, implementation of national strategies, establishment of National Forest Monitoring System, setting up forest reference level and forest reference level and implementation of Safeguard Information System.

Multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism will also be working for the REDD+ readiness since National level working groups were formally established with the facilitation of the Project.

Local communities will continue to participate forest conservation activities since their livelihood activities are linked to community forestry and REDD+ activities.

viii)Analyze and comment on the understanding and appropriateness of the roles and responsibilities of the institutions involved with the Project implementation

The institutions involved were Forest Research Institute (FRI), Planning and Statistic Division, Natural Forest and Plantation Division, Watershed Management Division, Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division and Research and Training Development Division of the Forest Department. District Forest Office of Bago Region, Representatives from various line government Ministries, NGOs, CSOs, Private Sector are also involved throughout the project implementation. FRI took a leading role in implementing the project activities while other Divisions of Forest Department contributed to the awareness raising, capacity building, consultation processes, formulation of REDD+ Readiness Roadmap and establishment of REDD+ Demonstration activities in the Project site (Yedashe Township, Taungoo District). Particularly Taungoo District Forest Department provided great efforts in awareness raising, capacity building and establishing demonstration plots in Yedashe Township. NGOs, CSOs and private sector participated mostly in consultation meetings and National Workshops organized by the Project. It is very significant that Senior Officials from various Departments under MONREC,a representative of ITTO, and that of donor organizations participated actively in all PSC meeting. Involvement of the relevant stakeholders in the project implementation is the crucial important for the success of the Project. This Project was able to identify the roles and responsibilities of the respective Institutes involved in the Project, but not private

sector and community forestry user groups (CFUG). It is very important to consider how to include and promote Private Sector and CFUG engagement in the REDD+ processes.

Section 6. Lessons learned

6.1. Project identification and designing

The Project correctly identified the main problemof “Limited capacity to implement REDD-plus initiative to promote sustainable forest management” and also other issues including lack of national strategies, weak institutional setting for capacity building on REDD+, lack of capacity to conduct MRV of carbon stock and lack of awareness about REDD+ among relevant stakeholders.

The key problem addressed by the project was identified and adequately analyzed by the proponent involving the main stakeholders. The problem analysis identified the direct as well as underlying causes as well as consequences of the key problem that the cause-effect relationship was definitely clear and easy to digest. The clear cause-effect relationship had facilitated construction of a sound project design that had strong vertical logic, relevant elements and well-defined interventions. The sound project design had eased the operational planning and facilitated the smooth project implementation with only minor adjustments to planned activities.

The Project also recognized importance of full and effective participation of the relevant stakeholders in REDD+. The project appropriately designedto be in line with the REDD+ Readiness Preparation (four elements, namely, national strategies (NS), national forest monitoring system (NFMS), forest reference emission level and forest reference level (FREL/FRL) and Safeguard Information System (SIS) of the country.It further noted the lack of active local involvement in the process of sustainable forest management.

The Project had a good understanding of the socio-economic background of the local communities and their needs, and designed appropriate activities forbest benefits. For example, the local communities in the Project area (Taungoo District)wouldbenefit from producing bamboo-based handicraft, household utensils, farming materials, making broom with grass and eco-tourism.

Success or failure wasinfluenced by the extent of participation of key stakeholders.The Project took appropriate actions to avoid variations between planned and actualimplementationthroughorganizing meetings of project technical committee, project steeringcommittee and relevant stakeholder consultations.Some activities werere-scheduled to cope with the planned schedule.

The critical determining factors of project sustainability include consistent application of the technologies developed and skills learned by the primary beneficiaries of the project, continued political and financial support by the governments at different levels, livelihood incentive provided for local communities and enhanced cooperation between Forest Department and stakeholders.

6.2. Project implementation

In order to implement the project, Forest Department established a Project Management Team (PMT) comprising 12officials from Forest Research Institute and H.Q. of Forest Department. Forest Department also formed a Project Secretariat in order to carry out day-to-day project activities including communication and coordination with relevant stakeholders. With the supports of Project Secretariat, PMTwas able to adequately perform the project operational management in an efficient manner relying heavily on solidity of team work, professionalism, established network and ability of individuals to communicate with stakeholders and partners.

To make sure the success of the project, Forest Department also formed the Project Technical Team which is composed of 10 experts from various Divisions of H.Q (Watershed Management Division, Nature and Wildlife Conservation, Forestry Extension Division, Natural Forest and Plantation Division, Planning and Statistic Division). They played a vital role in monitoring and evaluation of progress in implementation of the project on regular basis of monthly, quarterly and annually.

Furthermore, Project Steering Committee (PSC) was also formed in order to supervise the overall aspects of the project implementation. PSC was Chaired by Director General of

Forest Department and members were representatives from Senior Officials of Forest Department, Dry Zone Greening Department, Environmental Conservation Department, Myanma Timber Enterprise, Planning and Statistic Department, Representative of ITTO and Donor Countries. the Project organized Five PSC meetings which had greatly contributed to the successful and efficient project implementation including preparation of work plan and budget.

The strategy pursued in implementing the project, defined during the formulation stage and adapted to developing circumstances during the course of project implementation, was a participatory and collaborative approach in nature and proved working effectively on achieving the project's objectives.

The project that was managed in full compliance with existing ITTO rules and procedures as well as the project agreement, with all required such documents as YPOs, technical and financial progress reports as well as documents of particular purpose submitted to ITTO in time, had facilitated an effective process of NOLs by ITTO in response to the request made by PMU.

The roles and responsibilities of the executing agency and its partners were well elaborated in the respective terms of reference for individual partners, which had facilitated accomplishment of assigned tasks in an effective fashion and avoided disputes from happening.

The project had been successfully completed within the sanctioned financial and time budget due mainly to the adequate project design, employment of an able PMT, supportive primary beneficiaries, engagement of professional partners and strong coordination between Forest Department and ITTO.

The active participation of the relevant stakeholders including line Ministries, CSOs, NGOs and local communities in the implementation of REDD+ related activities and livelihood improvement was realized without any major difficulties because the communities were convinced that the activities would greatly contribute to improving their livelihood.

Section 7. Conclusions and recommendations

7.1 Conclusion

- The Project was fortunate to receive full supports from EA as well as MONREC. The Projectwasalso assisted by a team of hard working personnel and REDD+ Core Unit of Forest Department that enabled to implement not onlyplanned but also additional/new activities.
- REDD+ has been recognized as a very important mechanism for climate change mitigation and adaptation under the Paris Climate Change Agreement. Myanmar's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) which was submitted to UNFCCC also focus on forestry sector as a main sectorfor emission reduction. Thus,MONREC has been implementing REDD+ Readiness activities in momentum.
- Myanmar has been trying to reduce effects of climate change through REDD+. The Government of Myanmar developed Climate Change Policy as well as Environmental Conservation and Climate Change Central Committee in order to scaling up climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- This Project had successfully initiated REDD+ Readiness activities particularly for the development of REDD+ Readiness Roadmap, capacity building, awareness raising, formation of National REDD+ Working Groups and REDD+ related technical guidelines.
- Publications, training modules, technical guidelines and reports published by the Project enables partners both CSOs, NGOs, Government (Academic, Research Institutions, Training Schools) and relevant stakeholders to access and use it to work towards their goals and especially to leverage conservation and sustainable forest management towards reducing carbon dioxide emissions through REDD+ to address effects of climate change and contribute towards biodiversity conservation and improve quality of life for target beneficiaries.

7.2 Recommendations

- It was learnt that the factors that would most likely affect Project sustainability would be (a) lack of political supports to REDD+ Readiness Process (b) irregular activities of REDD+ Core Unit of Forest Department(c) inactive local key stakeholder participation (d)weakinstitutional arrangement (e) limited awareness about REDD+ (f) lack of continuous consultation process and (g) lack of capacity building programme for different levels of multi-stakeholders. It is strongly recommended for consideration of above mentioning factors for achieving Project Sustainability.

- A project design must be built on problems and issues with clearly defined project interventions so that projects can contribute to addressing problems, issues and constraints with sound and effective ways.

- Clearly defined Terms of References should be set for each of technical working groups as well as national and international consultants in order to achieve the set objectives of the Project and to avoid unnecessary confusion and dispute between parties at a later stage.

- It is strongly recommended to organize consultations and discussionwith the main stakeholders thoroughly for developing and implementation of REDD+ National Strategies and Social and Environmental Safeguard in order to ensure that sectoral plans of line Ministries have common goal of climate change mitigation.

- For the smooth implementation and successful completion of a project, it is strongly recommended to purse that a project implementation strategy should be carried out based on participatory and collaborative approaches, timely procure material inputs in terms of quantity and quality.It is also important to make installment of sanctioned funds in time and employ only experienced professionals.

- It is very important to assigncapable persons for Project Management Team and keep them working until the completion of the Project. By doing so, the Project will

ensure effectiveness of coordination and communication as well as increase adaptability to changing project environment.

- ❖ It is of crucial important to recognize, identify and manage potential risks associated with project since the initial stage of the project formulation process. In consultation with relevant stakeholders, mitigation measures should be identified and put in place at the early stage of project implementation.

- ❖ Utilization of project results by the relevant stakeholders are also very essential. Therefore, it is strongly recommend that Forest Department, as an Executing Agency, and relevant NGOs, CSOs should consistently make use of the project's results and outputs in order to continuously enhance capacity in implementing REDD+ and Sustainable Forest Management for climate change mitigation and enhancing co-benefits in Myanmar.

- ❖ It would be important for the Forest Department to address these issues for the successful implementation of REDD+ Readiness. Important post project strategy was to continue to strengthen REDD+ technical working group and institutionalization of REDD+ for long run.

- ❖ Political support and recognition of the Project's contributions was a definite advantage in boosting the image of the Project and that of the government inconserving its forest resources, strengthening sustainable forest management and REDD+ Readiness of Myanmar.

Responsible for the Report

Name: Dr.ThaungNaingOo Position Held: National Project Manager

Date: August, 2016

Appendix 1: Project Financial Statement (in US dollar)

Project No. RED-PD 038/11 Rev .3 (F)	**Period ending on**: 30 June, 2016
Project Title: Capacity Building for Developing REDD - Plus Activities in the Context of Sustainable Forest Management	

Cate-gory	Component	Original Budge-ted Fund Amount	Revised Budgeted Fund Amount (A)	Expenditures To-date							Availa-ble
				1st Phase (Jan'13 to Dec'13) Expendi-ture (B)	2nd Phase (Jan'14 to Dec'14) Expendi-ture (C)	3rd Phase (Jan'15 to Dec'15) Expen-ded (D)	Extension period (Jan'16 to July'16)			Total (H) { B + C + D + G}	Funds (I) { A - H }
							Accru -ed (E)	Expen-ded (F)	Total (G) (E + F)		
1.	Funds Managed by Executing Agency										
10	**Project Personnel**										
11	Project Coordinator	25,200	28,800	8,800	9,600	9,600		800	800	28,800	-
12	National Consultant	20,400	6,000	1,200		4,800			-	6,000	-
13	International Consultant	48,000	26,450	12,000	12,000	2,446			-	26,446	4
14	Technicians	36,500	44,150	9,479	11,785	14,345		7,565	7,565	43,174	976
15	Administrative staff	-			-	-			-	-	-
16	Project Secretary	7,200	14,700	4,200	4,200	4,200		2,100	2,100	14,700	-
17	Labour wages	36,800	36,800	14,984	12,016	5,102		4,106	4,106	36,208	592
17.1	Driver	3,600	5,800	1,331	1,800	1,800		900	900	5,831	(31)
18	Honorarium	10,600	12,600	2,000	5,700	4,225		1,950	1,950	13,875	(1,275)
19	**Component Total:**	188,300	175,300	53,994	57,101	**46,518**	-	**17,421**	**17,421**	175,034	266
20	**Sub-contracts**										
21	Consultation meeting	3,300	3,300	360	1,128	1,040		574	574	3,102	198
22	Workshops	24,000	32,600	10,093	10,866	10,939			-	31,898	702
23	Trainings	44,000	49,000	25,139	11,871	11,904			-	48,914	86
24	Seminars	2,000	2,000		1,000	824		466	466	2,290	(290)
29	**Component Total:**	73,300	86,900	35,592	24,865	**24,707**	-	**1,040**	**1,040**	86,204	696
30	**Travel**										
31	International Travel	20,000	17,500	5,148	3,712	8,639			-	17,499	1
32	Local Travel	32,000	17,000	4,046	6,749	3,328		1,727	1,727	15,850	1,150
33	Daily Subsistence Allowance(DSA)	19,228	31,728	11,328	10,217	5,145		3,255	3,255	29,945	1,783
39	**Component Total:**	71,228	66,228	20,522	20,678	**17,112**	-	**4,982**	**4,982**	63,294	2,934
40	Capital Items										
41	Computer and accessories	5,000	6,845	4,741	2,104	-			-	6,845	-
42	Digital video camera	2,000	1,800	1,800		-			-	1,800	-
43	LCD projector	2,000	1,386	1,386		-			-	1,386	-
44	Software and hardware facilities	25,000	24,452	-	24,452	-			-	24,452	-
45	Copier	2,000	2,029	1,615	414	-			-	2,029	-

Project No. RED-PD 038/11 Rev .3 (F)	**Period ending on**: 30 June, 2016
Project Title: Capacity Building for Developing REDD - Plus Activities in the Context of Sustainable Forest Management	

Cate-gory	Component	Original Budge-ted Fund Amount	Revised Budgeted Fund Amount (A)	Expenditures To-date							Availa-ble
				1st Phase (Jan'13 to Dec'13) Expendi-ture (B)	2nd Phase (Jan'14 to Dec'14) Expendi-ture (C)	3rd Phase (Jan'15 to Dec'15) Expen-ded (D)	Extension period (Jan'16 to July'16)			Total (H) { B + C + D + G}	Funds (I) { A - H }
							Accru-ed (E)	Expen -ded (F)	Total (G) (E + F)		
46	Forestry equipment	-			-	-			-	-	-
46.1	Clinometers and hypsometer	4,200	1,651	876	775	-			-	1,651	-
46.2	Clipper	1,600	2,155	1,442	713	-			-	2,155	-
46.3	Diameter tapes	1,500	1,093	1,093		-			-	1,093	-
46.4	Weighting sacles	1,000	1,000	1,000		-			-	1,000	-
46.5	Premises	2,000	3,100	-	2,106	334		671	671	3,111	(11)
47	Office	-		-	-	-			-	-	-
48	Vehicle	30,000	34,634	29,463	1,067	2,100		1,954	1,954	34,584	50
49	**Component Total:**	76,300	80,145	43,416	31,631	**2,434**	**-**	**2,625**	**2,625**	80,106	39
50	**Consumable Items**										
51	Fuel	31,000	13,500	4,554	4,343	2,777		977	977	12,651	849
52	Office Supplies	10,000	11,655	5,131	2,962	2,369		1,184	1,184	11,646	9
53	Publication	11,000	25,500	1,685	1,885	9,149		15,516	15,516	28,235	(2,735)
54	Media	1,600	1,600	-	-	425		1,161	1,161	1,586	14
55	Poster,vinyl,pamphlet,wall sheet etc	4,000	4,000	1,841	950	532		162	162	3,485	515
56	Public education talk	8,000	9,000	-	4,053	2,987		3,505	3,505	10,545	(1,545)
57	Purchasing books, journals	3,000	3,000	732	1,199	154		713	713	2,798	202
59	**Component Total:**	68,600	68,255	13,943	15,392	**18,393**	**-**	**23,218**	**23,218**	70,946	(2,691)
60	**Miscellaneous**										
61	Sundry	8,300	9,200	6,048	1,269	1,362		828	828	9,507	(307)
63	Audit Costs	4,500	4,500	1,050	1,400	1,500	550	1,050	1,600	5,550	(1,050)
69	Component Total:	12,800	13,700	7,098	2,669	**2,862**	**550**	**1,878**	**2,428**	15,057	(1,357)
	SUB TOTAL 1	**490,528**	**490,528**	**174,565**	**152,336**	**112,026**	**550**	**51,164**	**51,714**	**490,641**	**(113)**
70	National Management Cost										
71	Executing Agency Management Cost (10% of total budget by activity)										
	Component Total:	490,528	490,528	174,565	152,336	112,026	550	51,164	51,714	490,641	(113)
80	Project Monitoring and Administration										
81	ITTO Monitoring and Review	24,000	24,000								
82	ITTO Midterm final, Ex-post Evaluation cost	15,000	15,000								
	SUB TOTAL 2	**529,528**	**529,528**	**174,565**	**152,336**	**112,026**	**550**	**51,164**	**51,714**	**490,641**	**(113)**
83	ITTO Programme Support Cost (8%)	42,362	42,362								
100	**GRAND TOTAL:**	**571,890**	**571,890**	**174,565**	**152,336**	**112,026**	**550**	**51,164**	**51,714**	**490,641**	**(113)**

Note: Budget Components are those detailed in the Project Document.

a) The Cash Flow Statement must be completed first, before the input into the Financial Statement.
b) Accrued expenditure: expenditures incurred during the reporting date, but not yet settled.
c) Amount under the Expended column will be imported from the Cash Flow Statement (with direct link – excel format).

Appendix 2: Project Cash Flow Statement

Project No. RED-PD 038/11 Rev.3 (F)			**Period ending on:** 30 June, 2016	
Project Title: Capacity Building for Developing REDD - Plus Activities in the Context of Sustainable Forest Department				
Component	Reference	Date	Amount	
			in US$	Local Currency (Kyats in kind)
A. Cash received				
1. Carry over cash balance			11,590.56	
2. Funds received from ITTO	6	6-Feb-15	41,934.38	
Total Funds Received:			**53,524.94**	
B. Expenditures by Executing Agency:				
10. Project Personnel				
11. Project Coordinator			800.00	
12. National Consultant				
13. International Consultant				
14. Technicians			7,565.00	
15. Administrative staff				
16. Project Secretary			2,100.00	
17. Labour wages			4,106.00	
17.1. Driver			900.00	
18. Honorarium			1,950.00	
19. Component Total:			**17,421.00**	
20. Sub-contracts				
21. Consultation meeting			574.00	
22. Workshops				
23. Trainings				
24. Seminars			466.00	
29. Component Total:			**1,040.00**	
30. Travel				
31. International Travel				
32. Local Travel			1,727.00	
33. Daily Subsistence Allowance(DSA)			3,255.00	
39. Component Total:			**4,982.00**	
40. Capital Items				
41. Computer and accessories				
42. Digital video camera				
43. LCD projector				
44. Software and hardware facilities				
45. Copier				
46. Forestry equipment				
46.1.Clinometers and hypsometer				
46.2. Clipper				

Project No. RED-PD 038/11 Rev.3 (F)			**Period ending on:** 30 June, 2016	
Project Title: Capacity Building for Developing REDD - Plus Activities in the Context of Sustainable Forest Department				
Component	Reference	Date	Amount	
			in US$	Local Currency (Kyats in kind)
46.3. Diameter tapes				
46.4. Weighting sacles				
46.5. Premises			671.00	
47. Office				
48. Vehicle			1,954.00	
49. Component Total:			**2,625.00**	
50. Consumable Items				
51. Fuel			977.00	
52. Office Supplies			1,184.00	
53. Publication			17,297.00	
54. Media			1,161.00	
55. Poster,vinyl,pamphlet,wall sheet etc			162.00	
56. Public education talk			3,505.00	
57. Purchasing books, journals			713.00	
59. Component Total:			**24,999.00**	
60. Miscellaneous				
61. Sundry			829.00	
63. Audit Costs			1,050.00	
69. Component Total:			**1,879.00**	
Total Expenditures To-date:			**52,946.00**	
Remaining Balance of Funds (A-B):			**578.94**	

Remark: US$ 550 will be paid as final auditing fees and the actual remaining balance of funds will be US$ 28.94.

Appendex 3: Summary of Capacity Building Activities

1. **Training of Trainers (ToT) for REDD+**

This training programmes were organized for Range Officers who are the main working force of Forest Department, Dry Zone Greening Department, Myanma Timber Enterprise and Environmental Conservation Department of MONREC. Trainees from line Ministries were also invited to attend the ToT. The main purpose is to improve the capacity of government staff who have capacity to contribute to the implementation of Myanmar REDD+ Readiness activities and to become a resource person for REDD+ training programme. ToT trainings focus on 12 Modules of REDD+ related subjects including the following subjects:

- Climate Change and Role of Forests in mitigation of climate change
- Concept of REDD+
- Policies and Measures
- REDD+ National Strategies
- Major drivers of deforestation and forest degradation
- National Forest Monitoring System and MRV
- Setting Forest Reference Emission Level and Forest Reference Level
- Safeguard Information System
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC)

2. Technical trainings on RS/GIS application on MRV

Technical trainings on RS/GIS application on MRV were organized to improve the capacity of MRV Working Group and Forest Department staff members for forest cover assessment, forest carbon assessment, land use change assessment and so on. Application of RS/GIS in forest management is becoming very essential so that Forest Officers can utilize their RS/GIS technology as a tool for sustainable forest management. With the combination of GPS and RS/GIS technology, trained forest officers can produce their territory map, forest cover map and forest cover change information very effectively.

3. Technical trainings on social and environmental safeguard and FPIC

Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC) is an important component of REDD+ Safeguard. Relevant stakeholders should be well informed about REDD+ and other development activities. Any development activities and REDD+ should not harm local communities but should contribute to the development of socio-economic conditions of the local communities. Most of the development projects neglected FPIC activities. As a result, undesirable consequences were come out in the project area. REDD+ fully recognize the important of FPIC as a part of Safeguard. Therefore, this FPIC is designed how to implement FPIC activities before the Project. This FPIC training also focused on communication skills, social dealing, extension methods, ways of information sharing, participatory rural appraisal and tools.

4. Technical trainings on GPS application and mapping

Technical trainings on GPS application and mapping was organized for field level forest staff aiming at to improve their capacity in utilizing GPS for mapping, boundary demarcation, area calculation and so on. Furthermore, GPS application is very useful for linking RS/GIS technology, sustainable forest management and national forest monitoring system. By attending GPS application training, forest field staffs improve their capacity of preparing boundaries of Reserved Forest, Forest Plantations and Community Forest and so on.

5. Technical trainings on FPIC

Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC) is an important component of REDD+ Safeguard. Relevant stakeholders should be well informed about REDD+ and other development activities. Any development activities and REDD+ should not harm local communities but should contribute to the development of socio-economic conditions of the local communities. Most of the development projects neglected FPIC activities. As a result, undesirable consequences were come out in the project area. REDD+ fully recognize the important of FPIC as a part of Safeguard. Therefore, this FPIC is designed how to implement FPIC activities before the Project. This FPIC training also focused on communication skills, social dealing, extension methods, ways of information sharing, participatory rural appraisal and tools.

6. Livelihood improvement trainings for local communities

Livelihood improvement trainings for local communities were organized to improve the capacity of local communities, job opportunities and enhancing income generation activities. Basically, local communities in the project area and rural people in Myanmar are depending on forest resources for their livelihoods. Due to the heavily dependency on forests including fuelwood collection, extraction of timber, poles and posts, shifting cultivation and expansion of agriculture areas, deforestation rate is increasing year by year. It is very important to provide livelihood improvement training to rural communities for their income generation and livelihood opportunities. Therefore, the Project organizes series of livelihood improvement trainings including bamboo-based handicraft making training, broom making (with broom grass) training, bamboo plantation establishment training, agroforestry trainings. Furthermore, the Project organize a face-to-face meeting with local people who will produce bamboo-based handicraft and broom with merchants and shop owners for their discussion about supply and demand and marketing.

7. Project Steering Committee Meeting

Project Steering Committee Meetings were held at least once a year in order to monitor the progress of project activities, approve annual work plan and budget plan. The project organized 5 Project Steering Committee during the project period.

8. Stakeholder consultation meetings

Stakeholder consultation meetings were organized to discuss about any issues related to REDD+ including national strategies, national forest monitoring system, forest reference emission level and forest reference level and safeguard information system. Stakeholder consultation meetings were also organized for finding solutions related to identifying major drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, designing forest inventory, identifying C&I for REDD+ safeguard etc.

9. Technical working group meetings of REDD+ Core Unit

Technical working group meetings of REDD+ Core Unit were organized more specifically for discuss about REDD+ technical issues on regular basis. The Meetings were also held in order to response to climate change related policy and technical issues faced by Forest Department.

10. National workshops on REDD+

National workshops on REDD+ with various Theme were organized aiming at to share lessons learnt, experiences and information about REDD+ and its associated matters including REDD+ and Community Forestry, land tenure, gender, sustainable forest management etc. The Project organized 4 National and International Workshops. Renown Research Institutions and Universities from Japan, Korea, ICIMOD, AFoCO, FFPRI, AAS Co. Ltd. Participated the International Workshop.

11. Seminar on REDD+ and Development of District Forest Management Plan for Taungoo and Bago Districts

Seminars were organized to raising awareness about REDD+ among relevant stakeholders. In addition, seminar for Development of District Forest Management Plan for Taungoo and Bago Districts was also organized to support and mainstream REDD+ in 10 year District Forest Management Plans which will contribute REDD+ activities including sustainable forest management.