

“GREENING MYANMAR”

Myanmar is rich in natural resources, 46.96% of total country's area is still forested. Sustainable forest management (SFM) is major responsibility of the Forest Department. However, the implementation of the SFM faltered in recent decades and deforestation and forest degradation has been at an alarming rate. Myanmar has recognized that Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) is a cutting-edge forestry initiative that aims at tipping the economic balance in favor of sustainable management of forests. Accordingly, Forest Department has initiated REDD+ as an innovative approach to gain multiple benefits beyond carbon, and has been implementing REDD+ capacity building, thanks to the financial assistance of ITTO, through project RED-PD 038/11 Rev.3 (F).

Indeed, this project has timely come out in order implement as well as scaling up the on-going REDD+ readiness activities including formulation of REDD+ Road Map and National Strategy. In supporting the sustainable management of forest resources in Myanmar, this project is highly relevant to the national efforts of sustainable development, poverty alleviation, capacity development, institutional strengthening, people-centred development and good forest governance.

The long-term objective of the Project is to contribute to sustainable forest management of Bago Yoma Region, a very important watershed area for major rivers in Myanmar, to improve the provision of environmental services and reduce GHG emissions from deforestation and degradation. Likewise, the Project also set the specific objective as to strengthen capacity of the MOECAF and other relevant stakeholders in REDD-plus activities.

Despite the fact that it has been only 4 months of project implementation, the Project activities are in progress. The Project organized a National Workshop on Formulation of REDD+ National Strategy in December 2012, and a Technical Training on REDD+ in February.



Participants at the Technical Training on REDD+

In parallel with capacity building trainings, the Project has also been working together with UN-REDD Programme for formulation of REDD+ Roadmap and National Strategies through the participation of relevant stakeholders from Government Ministries, non-governmental organizations, civil societies, private sectors and academic institutions. Three technical working groups were formed in order work-out REDD+ Roadmap and National Strategy. The outcomes of the project will play an important role in REDD+ readiness process, strengthening institutional capacity and building capacity of the MOECAF and relevant stakeholders.

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