



Concept Note

International Workshop on REDD+, Community Forestry and Women

15-16 December 2015, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

1. Introduction

Action for reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD+) on the ground has been encouraged internationally. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meeting in Bonn, Germany in June 2015 provided guidance for REDD+ technical issues on safeguards, non-carbon benefits, and non-market based approaches after the adoption of the 'Warsaw Framework for REDD+' in 2013. Therefore, REDD+ is mostly like to find prominent place in the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) of many developing countries that face serious governance, tenure and sustainable forest management issues. In the development and implementation of REDD+ action, there is the continuing need to enhance REDD+ strategies and policies to address the prevailing social, environmental and economic challenges in a sustainable way, taking into account lessons learned from the implementation of sustainable forest management.

In Myanmar, the forest management strategy based on people participation, which is known as Community Forestry has been implementing since 1995. Community Forestry Instructions (CFIs) were issued by the FD 1995 and marked a significant development in the aspects of partnership, participation and decentralization in managing the forests in Myanmar. The instructions grant the local communities trees and forest land tenure rights for an initial 30-year period, which is extendable. This approach encourage active participation of local people in forest management activities as a mean to provide basic-needs for forest products such as fuelwood, agricultural tools and timber and to stabilize the environment. The Forest Department provides technical assistance and plays the leadership role in the exercise of community forestry. At present around 49,061.53 hectares of forest are under the control of about 30,956 community forest user groups.

Women from forest-dependent communities play a key role in the management of forests, but they are frequently marginalised from decision-making in communities. This is a problem since gender equity is essential for tackling more sustainable forest management, and to achieving the aims of REDD+. The development of REDD+ policies and REDD+ interventions must take into account gender-based interests and ensure that women are part of consultations and decision-making processes. Therefore, this workshop will provide an opportunity to develop community forestry practices across the country and to enhance women participation in forest conservation and decision-making process in the context of REDD+ mechanism.

2. Objectives of the Workshop

The objectives of the workshop are;

- To explore the role of community forestry and women participation which can contribute to successful implementation of national REDD+ programme
- To share information and experiences of implementation of REDD+ and community forestry and the strategic role of women in mitigating climate change

- To accelerate the implementation of REDD+ Readiness Process through effective participation of all stakeholders including women and marginalized people

3. Expected Outputs

The workshop will contribute to a better understanding of REDD+ mechanisms development at the International level and sharing the outcomes of on-going REDD+ and carbon assessment research activities. It will also provide to exchange the experiences of community forestry establishment among forest countries and find out the way that women will become participate in decision-making process and distribution mechanism for equitable benefit-sharing in REDD+.

4. Date and Venue

The workshop on REDD+, Community Forestry and Women will be organized on 15-16 December 2015 at the Forest Department of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

5. Organisers and Partners

The workshop on REDD+, Community Forestry and Women will be jointly organized by the Forest Department and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) in collaboration with the Kyusu University of Japan and other partners.

6. Paper and Poster Presentation

The workshop is designed to present technical papers and posters about REDD+, community forestry and women participation by local and international experts from Japan and others.

7. Sponsorship

International speakers and participants are encouraged to find own financial resources. All costs for organizing the workshop will be funded by ITTO REDD+ project.

8. Deadline for registration and submitting abstract of paper/poster

International speakers and participants are encouraged to register not later than **15th November 2015**. Submission of an abstract of paper/poster is encouraged by **30th November 2015**.

Call for poster presentation

Any interested person is very welcome to submit abstract for poster presentations not later than **30th November 2015**. Poster submissions can be accepted from any tropical forestry or REDD+, Community Forestry and Women participation related disciplines at any stage of findings such as preliminary or complete scientific results, project activity reports and research proposals, etc. Each poster presenter will be given 1-2 minutes to explain briefly the concept and findings of her/his poster to all the participants, but she/he will remain at her/his poster for individual discussion until the end of the Poster session.

If you are interested in poster presentation, you are kindly requested to submit **abstract** in English to the Organizing Committee of “**International Workshop on REDD+, Community Forestry and Women**” (tnoo71@gmail.com and zawzaw139@gmail.com) **by 30th November 2015**.

Abstract submission for poster presentation should include Poster Title, Author(s) and abstract of about 200 words. Each submission should include full name of author(s), affiliation(s), and e-mail address(es). Available size of each poster will be 53 cm width by 122 cm length (Custom size).

9. Contact persons

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Tentative Agenda

Day 1: 15 December 2015 – REDD+ development

Session I: Opening Session

- Opening Speech by His Excellency Union Minister of MOECA
- Congratulatory Remarks by ITTO, Kyushu University (Japan) and other partners

Session II: Capacity Development for REDD+ and SFM

- Sustainable forest management (SFM), PES and REDD+ in the tropics
- REDD+ governance, policy and strategies of Myanmar

Session III: Case Studies for REDD+

- REDD+ MRV and REL/RL
- Lessons from the implementation of REDD+ demonstration projects in Indonesia, Malaysia and elsewhere in Asia

Day 2: 16 December 2015 – Community Forestry and Women

Session IV: Sustainable land use management and community forestry

- Development of land use policy in Myanmar
- Land tenure and land use right in Myanmar
- Participatory community-based landuse planning
- Community Forestry in Myanmar: Opportunities and Challenges beyond tenure

Session V: Empowering women in REDD+ and SFM in Myanmar

- Introduction to UN Women Solidarity Movement for Gender Equality
- Empowerment of women through implementation of gender responsive projects
- Gender consideration in sustainable landuse practices in Myanmar
- Empowering women in community forestry in Myanmar

Session VI: Panel Discussion – The way forward for development of REDD+ and SFM to achieve community forestry and women participation in Myanmar

Day 3: 17 December 2015 – A field visit to REDD+ demonstration site and community forestry nearby Nay Pyi Taw