Proposal for follow-up activities on South-South cooperation between Brazil and Myanmar (Session 1: Updates)

Background

In July 2017, a delegation from Myanmar, including representatives from five ministries, and led by H.E Ohn Winn, Union Minister of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC), visited Brazil to learn about experiences in early implementation of REDD+. The study tour focused on several issues, including coordination among government agencies responsible for REDD+ implementation, engagement with the private sector, and forest monitoring.

Interest was expressed by the governments of both Brazil and Myanmar to further develop cooperation between the two countries. PEB Decision 3/8 instructed the PMU to “facilitate the development of proposals for a possible cooperation and present to the next PEB meeting”.

Progress

The PMU has been in correspondence with the South-South Cooperation Specialist at UNDP Brazil concerning follow-up actions. In addition, the UNDP Country Director met with the Brazilian Ambassador to Myanmar in Yangon on 22nd January 2018. Potential topics for Brazil-Myanmar cooperation include:

- High resolution mapping of existing forests, shifting cultivation, and encroachment “hotspots”;
- Design and apply 3rd party independent monitoring procedures for logging operations;
- Establish safeguards for informants and whistle-blowers;
- Empower and incentivize law enforcement agencies to prioritize legal action against individuals;
- Develop a national land use plan and implement territorial land use planning with emphasis on areas with high potential for REDD+.

However, advice from a Brazilian colleague within the UNDP REDD+ team suggests that the offer of continuing cooperation made by the Agência Brasileira de Cooperação to the study tour delegation was probably not intended to be followed-up.

Conclusion

The PMU will continue to discuss the possibility of cooperation with Brazil on one or more of the topics listed above, but the likelihood of success seems likely to be low.