Document PEB3/3: Relationship between the UN-REDD PEB and Myanmar REDD+ Taskforce

Background

The PEB is the governing body of the UN-REDD Programme in Myanmar. The ToR of the PEB state that its objective is “To provide guidance to, and oversight of, the UN-REDD National Programme, in its effort to support effective and efficient development of measures to engage with the UNFCCC REDD+ mechanism”. It achieves this objective by:

- Approval of annual work plans (AWP) and budgets, and substantive revision of annual work plans and budgets,
- Approval of key strategic documents, such as Standard Operating Procedures, Operational Strategies, etc.
- Overall monitoring and evaluation of progress made, including review and approval of annual reports.

The ToR also state that PEB members are responsible for “providing information to the REDD+ Taskforce on progress of the UN-REDD National Programme”, and “ensuring that the Programme activities and outputs are consistent and relevant with developments at the national level.”

The recently-established REDD+ Task Force works under the overall guidance of the Central Committee of Environmental Conservation and Climate Change. Its objectives are:

- To provide guidance and oversight for all REDD+ related programmes, projects and initiatives in Myanmar in order to support the effective and efficient development of all REDD+ actions in the country.
- To coordinate between and among all relevant REDD+ programmes, projects and initiatives in order to achieve consistency among all REDD+ actions to be implemented in national territory, avoid duplication and contradiction between and among them and assure coherent REDD+ performance, accounting and reporting to relevant national and international entities including the UNFCCC.

Among the Taskforce’s duties are “supervise the implementation of all REDD+ related initiatives ... in the country”, and “coordinate and monitor all REDD+ relevant actions in the country to ensure new initiatives and projects are consistent with national approaches, concepts and methodologies in the development and implementation of REDD+ in the country.”

Two issues emerge from consideration of the objectives and duties of these two bodies:

1. How do PEB members provide information to the Taskforce on the progress of the UN-REDD Programme?
2. In the event that guidance and oversight provided by the PEB to the UN-REDD Programme deviates from guidance and oversight that the Taskforce provides (UN-REDD being one of the REDD+ related programmes for which the Taskforce provides guidance and oversight), how would such conflicting guidance and oversight be resolved?
Proposal

1. PEB members providing information to the Taskforce

Secretary of both bodies (PEB and TF) ensures adequate communication. Furthermore, the PEB members representing CSOs and IPs, selected in their personal capacities, both represent organizations which are members of the Taskforce (membership of the Taskforce is on the basis of organizations rather than individuals)

Whilst the responsibility of providing information to the Taskforce is the duty of individual PEB members, it is proposed that the PEB request the Secretary to ensure that the Taskforce is provided with regular reports on progress of the UN-REDD Programme.

2. Potential for conflicting guidance and oversight from the PEB and Taskforce

Since the resolution of conflicting guidance and oversight would be problematic – not to say embarrassing – it is proposed that steps be taken to ensure that such a situation does not arise. This can be achieved through a number of measures:

a) The Chair of the Taskforce, being fully aware of guidance and oversight provided by the PEB in his capacity as Secretary of the PEB, should take steps to ensure that the Taskforce is aware of guidance and oversight provided to the UN-REDD Programme by the PEB, for example, by providing Taskforce members with copies of PEB minutes.

b) Similarly, the Secretary to the PEB should ensure that PEB members are provided with minutes of Taskforce meetings.

c) Furthermore, the UN-REDD Programme Coordinator should pay particular attention to guidance provided by both the PEB and the Taskforce. In the event that she perceives the potential for conflict, she should alert the Chair of the Taskforce and Co-chairs of the PEB, who could convene an ad hoc meeting to resolve any potential conflict.