5th Meeting of the Myanmar REDD+ Task Force

Further information on issues to be taken into account in the negotiation of any bilateral initiatives related to emission reductions from forests
Report prepared by the UN-REDD Programme

Background

Decision TF2/Supp 3 states:

“The TF will review only the final versions of those documents directly related to the “Warsaw Framework for REDD+”. At its 3rd meeting, the TF will decide which of these documents should be referred to higher levels for approval”

This issue was tabled for discussion at the 4th meeting of the Taskforce. At that meeting the Taskforce reached two relevant Decisions:

Decision TF4/1: “The Taskforce defers making a decision on approval of Phase 3 documents (BUR Technical Annex and SOI) until Myanmar is in Phase 3”; and
Decision TF4/3: “The Taskforce approves the proposal of the REDD+ Office regarding approval of Phase 1 documents, subject to clarification under Decision 4/2” [Decision 4/2 related to clarification of the mandate of the NECCCC to approve documents].

The proposal of the REDD+ Office presented to the 4th meeting of the Taskforce (as it relates to Phase 1 documents) was:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document</th>
<th>Approval process</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National REDD+ Strategy [and Investment Plan]</td>
<td>TF endorses and refers to NECCCC for approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Reference Level (or Forest Emissions Reference Level)</td>
<td>TF endorses and refers to Minister of MONREC for approval</td>
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<tr>
<td>Design of the National Forest Monitoring system</td>
<td>TF approves</td>
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<tr>
<td>Design of the Safeguard Information System</td>
<td>TF approves</td>
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Some observers to the Taskforce have communicated to the Secretariat that they believe that the Taskforce does not have the mandate to approve any document (in this context, the design of the NFMS and design of the SIS), and have requested that Decision 4/3 be re-visited.

Key issues

The ToR of the Taskforce identify the following as the two objectives of the Taskforce:

- 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 duties of the Taskforce identified in section 4 of the ToR, the following are pertinent to this issue:

➢ **Supervise the implementation of all REDD+ related initiatives and corresponding reporting by the TWGs, the REDD+ TF Office and whoever is involved in the implementation of REDD+ in the country;**

➢ **Provide information to the Central Committee required to facilitate decision-making, and advise MONREC or other key stakeholders on resource mobilization for REDD+ development, piloting and implementation including the implementation of selected REDD+ strategies and Action Plans, if needed;**

Clearly, neither of these duties explicitly authorizes the Taskforce to “approve” anything. However, the final sentence of section 4, on duties of the Taskforce, states that:

“The list of tasks and duties can be further detailed or amended as needed based on decisions by the Task Force or on advice or instruction by the [NECCCC]”

The Secretary has established, in response to Decision TF 4/2, that the NECCCC does not have the authority to approve documents, but instead should review and comment on such documents, which should then be submitted to the Union Cabinet for approval, with the support of the NECCCCC.

**Conclusions**

a) In relation to the process of approving the National REDD+ Strategy and Forest Reference (Emission) Level, the Taskforce should amend the wording of Decision TF 4/3 to read:

“The Taskforce approves the proposal of the REDD+ Office regarding approval of Phase 1 documents, with the exception that the National REDD+ Strategy and Forest Reference (Emission) Level should be submitted to the NECCCC for comment before being submitted to the Union Cabinet for approval”

b) The Taskforce may consider whether the duty of “supervising the implementation of all REDD+ related initiatives …” includes the approval of Phase 1 documents.

c) The Taskforce may consider whether the duty of “providing information to the [NECCCC] required to facilitate decision-making …” may include that fact that the Taskforce approves Phase 1 documents.

d) If the Taskforce concludes that neither (a) nor (b) apply, it may consider whether it should amend the list of its duties to include approval of Phase 1 documents.

e) If none of the above apply, the Taskforce would need to take a Decision over-riding Decision 4/3, at least as it relates to the design of the NFMS and design of the SIS.