5th Meeting of the Myanmar REDD+ Task Force

Status of Development of the National REDD+ Strategy

Background

At its 3rd meeting, the Taskforce reached Decision 3/4, which stated:

“In preparation for the 4th meeting of the Taskforce, which will focus on approval of the National REDD+ Strategy, the UN-REDD Programme is requested to circulate the revised version to Taskforce members well in advance of the meeting to allow them to prepare.”

The revised version of the Strategy was circulated to TF members on 18/06/2018; and was tabled at the 4th meeting of the Taskforce as Document 4/5. However, due to time constraints, the agenda item on the Strategy at the 4th meeting of the Taskforce was deferred, and the REDD+ Office was asked to present a document to the 5th meeting of the Taskforce describing the status of development of the Strategy.

Content of the Strategy

The draft National REDD+ Strategy consists of seven sections:

1. Myanmar, Climate Change, Sustainable Development and REDD+
2. Myanmar’s Vision for REDD+
3. REDD+ Actions – Policies and Measures
4. REDD+ Coordination and Reporting
5. Financing REDD+
6. REDD+ Communications and Knowledge Management
7. The Way Forward

The content of these sections was derived from numerous sources, including:

- The REDD+ Readiness Roadmap (parts of Sections 1, 3, 4, and 5)
- Inputs from the TWG/Drivers and Strategy (Section 2 and much of Section 3)
- Analyses conducted under the UN-REDD Programme (parts of Sections 1, 3, and 4)
- Stakeholder Engagement Guidelines and a Communications and Knowledge Management Strategy developed by the UN-REDD Programme (part of section 4 and all of Section 6)
- Expert inputs through focus discussion groups (part of Section 3)
- Inputs by the UN-REDD CTA(s) (all of Section 7, most of Section 1, and parts of Sections 3, 4, and 5)

Consultation processes

a) With Ministries and other government Agencies (June-July 2017)
In mid-2017, a series of consultations was conducted with six Ministries and other government Agencies, focusing in particular on alignment of the emerging, draft Policies and Measures with institutional mandates. These meetings contributed inputs to refine and improve the draft Policies and Measures

b) Sub-national (state/region) consultations (November 2017 – April 2018)
Consultations were held in all 15 states/regions during the period November 2017 – April 2018. These consultations focused mainly on the draft Policies and Measures, from the perspectives of:
➢ Whether the national level priority drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, identified through a UN-REDD analysis in 2016, had been correctly assigned to states and regions through a consultation with state/region FD personnel in January 2017;
➢ What were the possible social, economic and environmental risks and benefits associated with each Policy and Measure, and how feasible it was.

c) **Public consultation (April-May 2018)**
The draft Strategy was posted on the REDD+ Myanmar web-site, in English and Myanmar (2 fonts) for public comment during the period April-May, 2018.

A total of 160 comments were received from 16 organizations and individuals. These were used to revise the draft Strategy (version circulated to Taskforce members on 18/6/2018). For four organizations that submitted the most substantive (and most critical) comments (Conservation Alliance of Tanintharyi, CAT; Promotion of Indigenous and Nature Together, POINT, Forest Trends, and Rainforest Foundation, Norway), in addition to sending response matrices showing how their comments had been addressed, the UN-REDD PMU organized face-to-face meetings to discuss their concerns.

d) **Ethnic Nationalities, including signatories of the National Ceasefire Agreement** (May 2018 – on-going [completion anticipated end-2018])
Partly in response to comments received during the public consultation, it was recognized that Ethnic Nationalities had not been adequately represented in the sub-national consultations in 2017-18 (b, above).

A total of 15 engagement/consultation processes have been identified (see Annex 1). These include:

➢ Five with signatories of the National Ceasefire Agreement
➢ One with the collective signatories of the National Ceasefire Agreement
➢ Five with political parties representing Ethnic Nationalities which are represented in Self-Administered Areas
➢ Four with ethnic CSO’s representing Ethnic Nationalities which are not represented in Self-Administered Areas

In each case, a four-step process is followed:

Step 1: Initial, informal meetings
Step 2: Awareness raising, as requested through the initial meetings
Step 3: More formal organizational meeting (if requested)
Step 4: A consultation event which includes identification of steps for further engagement

Annex 1 shows the current status for each engagement process in terms of these steps.

**Future developments**

The current draft is being used for consultations with Ethnic Nationalities and will be posted again on the REDD+ Myanmar web-site – not for formal public input but, in the interests of transparency, to be available to any interested stakeholder.

Following completion of the consultations with the Ethnic Nationalities, the current draft will be revised to incorporate inputs from those consultations, as well as any feedback from Taskforce members and additional *ad hoc* comments submitted by other stakeholders.
This revised draft will be submitted, through the Taskforce, to the NECCCC, and based on their feedback – and with their support – submitted by the Union Minister of MONREC to the Union Cabinet for approved, as required by Taskforce Decision 4/3, as amended at this meeting.
**Annex 1: Ethnic Nationalities engagement**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Main counterpart</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Ethnic nationality</th>
<th>Main State/Region</th>
<th>Status (steps 1-4)</th>
<th>Next step(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Chin National Front</td>
<td>NCA-S</td>
<td>Chin</td>
<td>Chin</td>
<td>Step 1</td>
<td>Request more formal meeting to plan awareness raising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bridging Rural Integrated Development and Grassroots Empowerment</td>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Kachin</td>
<td>Kachin</td>
<td>Step 0</td>
<td>Initiate informal contact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Karen National Union</td>
<td>NCA-S</td>
<td>Karen</td>
<td>Kayin</td>
<td>Step 1</td>
<td>Seek meeting with KNU-FD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Democratic Karen Benevolent Army</td>
<td>NCA-S</td>
<td>Karen</td>
<td>Kayin</td>
<td>Step 0</td>
<td>Seek contacts through WWF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>New Mon State Party</td>
<td>NCA-S</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Step 3-4</td>
<td>Conduct awareness raising and consultation</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>NCA-S Land, Natural Resources &amp; Environment Working Committee</td>
<td>NCA-S</td>
<td>Multiple</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Step 1</td>
<td>Organize formal meeting on REDD+</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Council for Naga Affairs</td>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Naga</td>
<td>Sagaing</td>
<td>Step 0</td>
<td>Seek further meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Danu National Organization Party</td>
<td>Political party</td>
<td>Danu</td>
<td>Shan</td>
<td>Step 4</td>
<td>Conduct consultation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Kokang Democratic and Union Party</td>
<td>Political party</td>
<td>Kokang</td>
<td>Shan</td>
<td>Step 0</td>
<td>Initiate informal contact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Ta'ang National Party</td>
<td>Political party</td>
<td>Palaung</td>
<td>Shan</td>
<td>Step 0</td>
<td>Initiate informal contact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Pa-O National Organization</td>
<td>Political party</td>
<td>Pa-O</td>
<td>Shan</td>
<td>Step 4</td>
<td>Conduct consultation</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Thai Youth Network</td>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Shan (north)</td>
<td>Shan</td>
<td>Step 0</td>
<td>Initiate informal contact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Restoration Council for Shan State</td>
<td>NCA-S</td>
<td>Shan (south)</td>
<td>Shan</td>
<td>Step 1</td>
<td>Seek follow-up meeting to discuss awareness raising</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Wa Democratic Part/United Wa State Party</td>
<td>Political party</td>
<td>Wa</td>
<td>Shan</td>
<td>Step 0</td>
<td>Initiate informal contact</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>