Process to consider and adopt recommendations emerging from PAM consultation workshops

Background

A draft National REDD+ Strategy was developed in 2017, and has gone through several forms of consultations, including meetings with concerned ministries, sub-national consultations in each State/Region, public comment, and consultations with ethnic minority groups. In the course of these consultations, concerns have been raised, questions asked, and/or negative feedback provided in relation to a number of proposed PAMs.

The REDD+ Myanmar Programme needs to respond to these concerns/comments. Not to do so would invalidate the consultation process. In some cases, the concerns/comments may simply relate to a lack of understanding of the context of the proposed PAM; in others, further elaboration of the PAM may be required, but in some cases, the comments received certainly reflect genuine concerns of stakeholders.

Consequently, a series of consultation workshops is being organized in which those stakeholders which have expressed concerns or uncertainties are invited to share them with the REDD+ Myanmar Programme, in order to review and, if necessary, revise the respective PAMs. The PAMs or group of PAMs that need to be further developed or re-considered are:

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<tr>
<th>PAM</th>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Concerned stakeholders</th>
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<tr>
<td>Incorporate forested VFV land into PFE, supported by strengthened VFV land management committees</td>
<td>Historically, communities have had their land grabbed by the government using this approach</td>
<td>CSO’s: Forest Trends, POINT, CAT and others</td>
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<td>Expand CF network</td>
<td>CF’s outside PFE rare; CF’s in EAO-controlled land not covered by PAM</td>
<td>CSO’s concerned with CF’s, including RECOFTC</td>
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<td>Set of PAMs related to shifting cultivation</td>
<td>Government has tried to force shifting cultivators to settle, undermining their culture and depriving them of their customary rights</td>
<td>CSO’s focused on ethnic minorities, especially POINT</td>
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<td>Mapping PAMs:</td>
<td>The principles of these PAMs is widely accepted, but in practice it is not clear who will be responsible and how actions will be coordinated</td>
<td>FD, FAO, OneMap, MIMU, EU, WWF, GAD</td>
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<td>• Prioritize cadastral surveys and the OneMap methodology in areas of encroachment and high conservation value</td>
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<td>• Undertake high resolution mapping of existing forests, shifting cultivation, and encroachment “hotspots”, with online registry</td>
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<td>Develop and implement a national land use plan with territorial planning</td>
<td>Unclear how this will be implemented in practice</td>
<td>MONREC, MOALI, GAD, CSO’s</td>
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A process to address recommendations

The PAMs consultation workshops are yielding different types of recommendations. These can be characterized as:
6th Meeting of Myanmar REDD+ Task Force

a) **Recommendations on wording of PAMs**

An example of this is:

- The proposed PAM “Incorporate forested VFV land into the Permanent Forest Estate” should be altered to read “Develop and implement processes to promote retention of current forest cover and recovery of forest cover to x%”

b) **Recommendations on substantive decisions relating to forests and forest management**

Examples of this are:

- Deciding on “x”, above
- A potential definition of PFE might be: “PFE includes Reserved Forests, Protected Public Forests, those parts of Protected Areas that are forested, Community Forests, irrespective of the designation of the land on which they are located and Local Community Protected Areas, irrespective of the designation of the land on which they are located”
- Currently CF’s are administered only through Community Forest Instructions. There needs to be a stronger legal framework, which should cover the designation of CF’s on “Forest Land” and VFV Land, and which incorporates issues such as FPIC.

c) **Recommendations on changes in procedures**

Examples of this are:

- The current legal framework for customary tenure is inadequate and so needs to be strengthened;
- In cases where multiple communities claim conflicting rights, there needs to be a dispute resolution mechanism providing space, platforms, and led by local communities to resolve among themselves; rather than being imposed by government or outside entities;
- The REDD+ Myanmar Programme can work towards ensuring a right-based approach to REDD+ by advocating for and supporting:
  - Measures to improve information flow between government and communities, including information on rights
  - Training and capacity building for government officials and community representatives
  - Strengthening the legal basis for recognition of customary tenure and the establishment of ICCA’s (through the Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Area Rules, the Forest Rules, and through the efforts of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs.
- Management of the procedures for CF establishment on “Forest Land” and VFV Land is the responsibility of the government – for communities, the process of establishing a CF should be “land designation-blind” - there should be no added burden on them.
- Township CF Units should be established to help achieve this result, with links to CFDWG’s and the CFNWG.

**Required decisions:**

The Taskforce is requested to provide advice to the REDD+ Office regarding how to process and adopt recommendations such as those listed above.