## National Level Workshop on

# **REDD+** Program

## and The Role of Indigenous Peoples in Myanmar

14th to 15th October, 2020 with zoom online meeting

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#### **Background of the Workshop**

REDD+ is a framework created by the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) Conference of the Parties (COP) to guide activities in the forest sector that reduces emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, as well as the sustainable management of forests and the conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries. The objective of this framework is to reduce human pressure on forests resulting in greenhouse gas emissions at the national level but also an interim measure to consider subnational implementation. The implementation of REDD+ activities

is voluntary in nature for the states that are currently developing and so called developed. It depends on the national circumstances, capacities and capabilities of each country and the situation of support received. Out of 195 world countries, 67 countries including Myanmar are included in the world REDD+ countries.

Simultaneously, the potential for indigenous peoples to contribute to the design and implementation of sustainable mitigation and adaptation measures is considerable. Due to their long history of adapting to climatic variability and ecosystem changes and since their livelihoods are so closely linked to their natural environments, they offer valuable long-term observations and examples based on their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices. These include traditional methods of fire and water management, agro-forestry techniques, shoreline reinforcement and seasonal migration. In Myanmar, there are 135 ethnic nationals officially announced by the government in the 2008 constitution. According to 2014 Myanmar Census announced by MIMU, out of overall population 50 million, 70% are living in rural areas. Most of the peoples who are living in mountainous region, mangrove areas and rural areas are depending on Forest areas for their livings.



Myanmar became a partner country of the UN-REDD Programme in December 2011. Throughout the 9 years of implementation of REDD+ activities, Myanmar is reaching key milestones in preparing required communication to UNFCCC, developing safeguard materials, Guideline paper, national strategy etc. As POINT is one of the indigenous peoples led Nongovernment organization in Myanmar for promoting the rights of indigenous peoples and environmental conservation of the country, POINT has been following and advocating to integrate the rights of indigenous peoples including the principles of Free Prior Informed consent and rights to land and forest in the country policy and legal framework through country REDD+ activates where there is space given for participation of indigenous peoples.

#### I. Executive Summary

On October 14-15, 2020 POINT together with 37 people (24 men and 13 women) of indigenous peoples representatives from all around the country, including from Kachin, Chin, Shan, Rakhine and Karen States and Bago, Ayeyarwady, Sagaing and Magwe Regions and Naga Land held the workshop through Zoom online platform. This workshop was organized to evaluate indigenous peoples engagement on REDD+ for the past 5 years and to discuss on future plan among indigenous leaders promoting indigenous peoples' rights at local level. During the workshop, forest department and UN-REDD+ shared their work on REDD+ related initiatives and activities plan for REDD+ program including identifying appropriate policies measures, engaging with all stakeholders, ensuring respect for Cancun Safeguards

and the roles of indigenous peoples in REDD+ program. POINT has also share the work done for the past 5 years indigenous peoples' engagement related to REDD+ program in Myanmar. After that, the participants discussed on recommendations to Government, UN-REDD+, CSOs and NGOs including POINT. Lastly, there were discussion on future engagement on forest, land and climate change issues and the workshop concluded successfully.

## 1. Objectives of the event are as follows.

- To update on the country's REDD+ program
- To share information on the advocacy done for indigenous peoples in the process.
- To discuss on future activities with indigenous leaders at the local level for indigenous people's rights.

#### **II. Sharing Sessions**

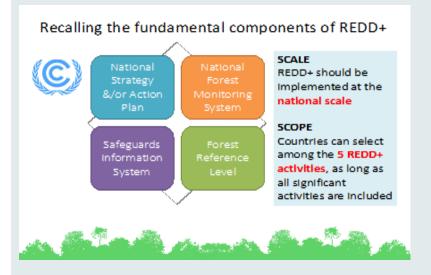
# Sharing of UN-REDD programme, Myanmar

Sayama Khin Hnin Myint, a national programme coordinator from UN-REDD programmme Myanmar presented on the topic of "UN-REDD Engagement with Ethnic Groups in Building Capacity for REDD+ in Myanmar".

Firstly, she recalled the fundamental component of REDD+.

The UN-REDD/Myanmar program was designed to support the implementation of REDD+ readiness including identifying





appropriate policies and measures, engaging with all stakeholders and ensuring respect for Cancun safeguards.

## (a) Identifying appropriate policies and measures

Policies and measures that is related to indigenous peoples are; implementing a major expansion of "forest land" under community management is a combination of PAMs S10 ("Expand the number and area of community forests and support the development of Community Forest Enterprises"), and N17 ("Recognize shifting cultivation landscapes as a form of ICCA"). Defining customary tenure arrangements developing and implementing and allow to communities processes register their customary tenure land and secure documentary evidence of customary ownership. Giving incentives to community and private sector plantation establishment as well as enhancing government planting programmes on bare land. Improved management of PAs and through incentivizing the establishment of community-led conservation areas such as Community Protected Areas (CPA's) and Indigenous and Local Community Conserved Areas (ICCA's). Shifting cultivation was identified in an initial drivers' analysis as being a driver of deforestation and forest degradation.

#### (b) Engaging with all stakeholders

Since original support to the preparation of a "REDD+ Readiness Roadmap", in 2013, UN-REDD has always emphasized multistakeholder participation and engagement. The National REDD+ Taskforce, established in 2016, had seats for representatives organizations, of indigenous peoples' environmental NGO's, and the private sector. UN-REDD's own governance body, the "Programme Executive Board", also had seats for representatives of indigenous organizations, peoples' environmental NGO's , and the private sector. As much of the remaining high-quality forest is on land under the control of Ethnic Armed Organizations, a major effort was undertaken to engage with them. EAO REDD+ Action Plans are currently being discussed with KNU and NMSP, with plans to include CNF, RCSS, and PNLO as well.

#### (c) Safeguards

REDD+ requires that a set of 7 "Cancun Safeguards" are addressed and respected and two of these explicitly mention indigenous peoples.

Safeguard 3 (or c): Respect for the knowledge and rights of Indigenous Peoples and members of local communities, by taking into account relevant international obligations, national circumstances and laws, and noting that the UNGA has adopted the UNDRIP



Safeguard 4 (or d): The full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular Indigenous Peoples and local communities ...

The reference in Safeguard 3 (or c) to the UNDRIP emphasizes the need for Free, Prior and Informed Consent. Besides, UN-REDD has been developing a process to ensure FPIC for REDD+ actions to be implemented, incorporating a Grievance Recourse Mechanism.

The Process for developing FPIC guidelines for REDD+ in Myanmar are below;

- Multi-stakeholder workshop in March 2019 yielded ideas for initial guidance
- Piloting in Mon State methodology further developed
- National workshop (Nov. 2019) to learn lessons from piloting and other initiatives
- Draft zero of FPIC guidelines (Feb. 2020)
- Public (online) consultation period (Mar. – Apr. 2020)
- Draft 1 of FPIC guidelines following feedback from public consultation (May 2020)
- Consultant elaborated some elements of the guidelines (July 2020)
- Request for proposals for 4 sub-national consultations (Sept. 2020)

REDD+ is defined as: "Policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to policy change, Myanmar ranking 3rd in the world in terms of deforestation and the current policies need to review and revise and enhanced.

#### 2. Sharing of POINT activities

Sharing of POINT activities for 5 years regarding to REDD+ program based on the category below.

- · Capacity building
- IEC Product
- Indigenous women roles in REDD+
- Advocacy activities
- Mapping

POINT, Program Officer, Pyae Phyo Maung presented on the topic of capacity building. POINT have done awareness training on REDD+, UNDRIP, FPIC and the rights of Indigenous Peoples in existing laws and policies since 2017. Consequently, an indigenous leadership had the capacity to effectively engage in REDD+ in Myanmar.



In addition, Saw Benhur explained about the IEC product that POINT produced within 5 years. IEC materials are important for capacity building and advocacy process. There are several category of IEC materials like posters, research paper, pamphlet and policy brief and so on. Below are some of POINT IEC product.



#### **IEC** publication and product

#### **Posters**

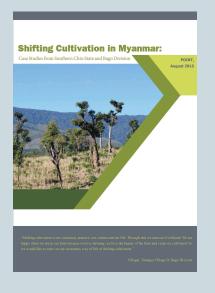


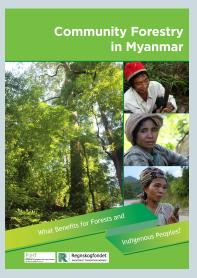




#### Research books and Policy Briefs







#### Bag product and pamphlets







 $For more \ IEC\ list, please\ follow\ the\ link\ below >> \ https://www.pointmyanmar.org/en/publication-category/book$ 

POINT, Program Coordinator, Naw Khin Moe Aye presented on indigenous women roles in REDD+ based on three contents; 5 years activities regarding to REDD+ process, IEC product regarding to indigenous women and herstory. Within 5 years, indigenous women are empowered to participate in REDD+ related process and to invoke and monitor their rights. For the indigenous women activities, POINT

organized trainings, workshops regarding to Gender, UNDRIP, FPIC and CEDAW 3 times in community level and 6 times in national level. Moreover, POINT organized assessment workshop 3 times a year since 2018. The process start with planning workshop and then collect the data by the indigenous women at their respective communities and worship for reviewing data and validation.

Year	Activities	Place	
2016	Community level training on REDD+	Taunggyi, Myitkyina and Linde village (Ngaphe Township)	
	National level training on ethnic women participation on REDD+	Yangon	
2017	Community level capacity building training on REDD+	Gote Gyi (Ngaphe Township), Pin Laung, Kyauk Ta Ga village.	
	National level capacity building of REDD+ and implementation	Nay Pyi Taw	
2018	Community level REDD+ and indigenous peoples' rights training	Sar Pauk village (Ngaphe Township), Aungban, Bome Baw (Ngaphe Township)	
	National level Capacity Development on REDD+ and Gender in Myanmar	ShweTaungNgweTaung Village, PaukKhaung Township, Bago Region.	
2019	Awareness raising trainings on REDD+ at community level	Satsi village (Ngaphe Township), Pone Tat village(Kalaw Township), Upper Min Hla, Shwe Taun Ngwe Taung village (Pauk Kaung Township),	
	National Level Capacity Development of REDD+ and Indiegnous Peoples Rights in Myanmar	Yangon	
2020	Indigenous peoples' rights on REDD+ process programs	Kyauk Taw village (Ywangan Township), Magway,	
	National workshop on REDD+ information Sharing	Online Platform	



POINT program coordinator, Hla Doi delivered the presentation on the topic of advocacy activities that have fulfilled within five years relating to the REDD+ process in Myanmar including indigenous people's rights. He highlighted how we advocated at national, regional and international level besides what are the context of indigenous peoples' rights in national laws and policies.

The last not the least, Mapping is one of the important activities for Indigenous peoples' and Saw Yan Myo Aye, POINT, Program Officer explained on the mapping activities that completed within 5 years in communities area which are in Shan state, Magway region, Bago region and Karen state.

Below figure is one of the maps that POINT has completed.

Year	Hectare	Acre
2016 - 2020	42,547	105,136





#### 3. Sharing of Forest Department

Saya Thaung Naing Oo is a director of Planning and statistic division, head office of Forest department, Myanmar. He presented about the roles of Indigenous peoples in REDD+ program.

Laws and Policies related to environment and indigenous peoples' rights are as follow:

Laws/ Policies/ Bills/ Bylaws	Context
Forest Law (2018)	Article (7) d. Local communities can recognize the natural forests and mangroves that have been preserved in their tradition.
Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Areas Law (2018) (formerly Wildlife Law)	Chapter 4 Article 8 (G) Local community nature reserve area. Article 9 The investigation team includes local communities;
Community Forestry Institution (2016)	Instruction (5) e. Areas traditionally managed by the local communities Instruction (11) c.
National Environmental policy (2019)	Article (6) Land of Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Nationalities; Territorial resources and cultural heritage rights, as well as their role in environmental protection and management of natural resources, must be recognized and protected.
vacant fallow and virgin land law (2018)	Exclusion of traditional lands from VFV land law
Farm Land Law Amenment (2020)	Article3 Farmland includes shifting cultivation lands /Indicate that the land should not be left out except for shifting cultivation.
Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) (2020)	Indigenous peoples' traditional methods
Myanmar Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (2016-2030)	Describe the ethnic nationalities / IPs
Myanmar Climate Change Policy	Under the heading of Justice for Climate Change
The Ethnic rights protection Law (2015)	FPIC (Free Prior Informed Consent)
Draft Strategy of Ethnic rights protection (2019)	Indigenous peoples have the opportunity to participate in discussions.

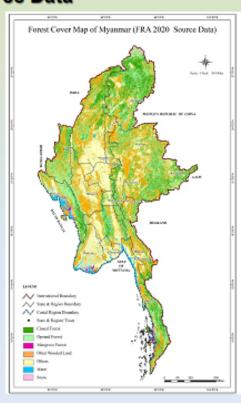


REDD+	Context
Establishment of REDD+ Technical working Group in 2015	Indigenous people's organizations (IPsO) must be involved
Establishment of UNREDD+ Program Executive Board in 2016	
Myanmar REDD+ strategy (Draft) in 2019	Discussed with Indigenous people's organizations (IPsO) and Ethnic Armed Group
Policies, Laws and regulations (PLRs) address Cancun safeguards for REDD+ in Myanmar in 2019	
REDD+ safeguard information System (SIS) in 2019	International standards for REDD+ are being discussed at the national level
Summary of Information (SOI) in 2019	Reporting on the establishment and compliance of indigenous people's rights that include in Cancun safeguards

## Forest cover in Myanmar

# Natural Resources in Myanmar: Forestry Sector Forest Cover Status –FRA 2020 Source Data

Category	Area (,000ha)	% of total	
		country area	
Closed Forest	11811.8	17.46	
Open Forest	16283.61	24.07	
Mangrove	448.4804	0.66	
Total forest	28543.89	42.19	
Other Wooded	18756.05	27.72	
lands	18730.03	21.12	
Others	18386.8	27.18	
Water	1971.14	2.91	
Total	67657.88	100	

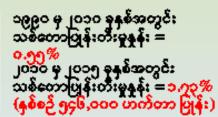




#### Forest Cover Change

- Inevitable deforestation at a very high rate
- Seventh highest deforestation rate in the world between 2010 and 2020 according to GFRA 2020.

Period	Annual deforested Area (,000 ha)	Annual defor est ed Rate (%)
1990-2000	435	-1.17
2000-2010	343	-1.03
2010-2020	289	-0.96





REDD + is a policy incentive to reduce deforestation and forest degradation. It changed the working nature of the forestry sector and opened up coordination with many stakeholders (including indigenous peoples). In every REDD + process, ways that indigenous peoples can engage are (including decision-making) of local District, Region and state level; Participation at the national level; Effective use of traditional knowledge; Good farming practices; Forest conservation techniques; Land use systems; Living in harmony with nature; Livelihood systems; Sharing good management examples; Making it more effective; Non-deforested food; Production of agricultural products; Effective and full cooperation in all REDD + processes; Rule of law; Governance and Trade (FLEGT), Local Public Monitoring Reporting System (CMRS) and involvement in five

REDD + activities (eg. community-owned forestry, participatory conservation of local communities, management of local marine areas, and establishment of plantations).

Forest sector activities to support rural communities' development including for indigenous peoples are followings:

- Establishment of self-established forest plantations (establishment of private plantations)
- Establishment of community forestry (available for your own use, you can earn money by selling surplus)
- Mixed crop and forest cultivation;
- Engaging in government and private forest plantations
- Production of timber and non-timber forest products from natural forests;
   Private extraction;



- Involvement in wood-based industries and value-added products;
- Manufacture of basic forest products (eg production of bamboo, cane, and bamboo shoot)

#### **III. Questions and Answers**

Here are some of the question raised and answers during the workshop.

- 1. Is it possible to apply ICCAs in reserved forest and protected public forest?
  - According to Forest law (2018), section 7, sub-section (d), it was stated that areas of natural forests and mangrove forests conserved by the local communities in accord with their tradition pursuant can be reconized with the agreement of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Office of the Union Minister, Nay Pyi Taw.
  - As claimed by the conservation of biodiversity and protected area law 2018, section 13, sub section (e), The Director General may, with the approval of the Ministry allow the community participatory protected area management which favours harmonization of sustainable socioeconomic development of local communities and sustainability of biodiversity conservation. Even so, By-law are detailed and awaiting approval.
- 2. Is it possible to apply ICCAs in community forest areas?
  - It has been waiting to include details processes in future by-law.

- 3. How forest department approach FPIC process when conducting reserved forest and community forest?
  - We have been implementing and issuing form 1 to 5 in accordance with forest laws by cooperating with the leadership of forest officer (for Reserved forest and protected public forest), District or Township Administrator and Director-General. The concept of processes are similar as mechanism of FPIC processes.
- 4. Forest which are depending by indigenous peoples were established as reserved forest and protected public forest during military regime. Is there any process which community can apply to get tenure on these forests?
  - In 2013, we conducted the list of villages and residents who are depending on reserved forests for many years and some areas were omitted from reserved forest and protected public forest areas after the survey done.
- 5. There are over hundreds of land acres which were clearly cut for teak plantation in Ngaphe Township, Magway. What are the objectives of establishing these plantations? (Commercial plantation or Carbon Conservation)
  - Most of plantations which have a broad area of land are mainly focused on the objectives of establishing economic plantations (Commercial Plantation).
- Forest had been established as reserved forest and areas to conserve by communities in Ngaphe Township, Magway Region. However, the areas which had been established are being



depended by indigenous peoples. Can we apply to get tenure in these areas?

- We need accurate information to give the answers. You can directly communicate the responsible township forest officer for the detail information.
- 7. How many acres of community forest have been issued by forest department nationwide? It is because only a few acres have been got while applying CF in Ngaphe Township, Magway Region.
  - CF is not land allotment process. We have been issuing community forest certificate and forming community forest users group to reach 2.27 million acres in 2030 in accordance with CFI 2019. Community can easily apply CF if it matches the required data.
- 8. Are there any activities implemented by forest department which are for indigenous peoples' rights while implementing REDD+ project?
  - Forest department have been trying to implement REDD+ processes in accordance with Cancun safeguard.
- 9. How has the forest department handled the delay process of applying community forestry?
  - Forest department has been issuing community forest certificate to community forest users' group in accordance with CFI (2019). In order to get 2.27 million acres of community forestry in 2030, community can apply in forest department with the required documents and data.
  - If community can tell forest department exact township and village for the delaying process of applying, forest department can

handle and take action for these issues. For the establishment of CF, community have to prepare and complete the required documents and data.

#### **IV. Recommendations**

The participants had group discussion and come up with the following recommendations.

# Recommendations to REDD+ program, Myanmar

- Increase Awareness raising at the community levels including youths and women groups
- In terms of awareness raising, it is suggested to use virtual and visual aids
- While developing the FPIC (Free Prior and Informed Consent), all the stakeholders' including Ethnic Armed Groups that signed in the National Cease Fire Agreements participations and concerns should be considered.

## Recommendations to Government Agencies

- The focal government department should recognize and consider the meaningful and effective participation of local communities and indigenous peoples
- It is recommended that the legal updates and governmental instructions, regulations and announcement should be well informed to the local and indigenous peoples.
- To reduce centralization and encourage



- the decentralization at the state and region government units for better and timely response to the issues happening at the grassroot levels.
- Strengthen the networking and participation of local Civil Society and indigenous peoples Organizations.
- Increase the law enforcement with the strategy to implement anti-corruption activities well at the states and regions levels.

#### Recommendations to CSOs/NGOs

- There should be a platform for the information sharing and networking related to REDD+ process of Myanmar
- To conduct more awareness raising at the grassroot levels
- Advocate on collaboration of Governments department units with Ethnic Armed Groups which signed

- in the National Cease Fire Agreement (NCA)
- The national NGOs/CSOs should implement the project activities more collaboratively and partnership with Local Civil Societies and indigenous peoples organizations which do not have registration as organization

Discussion on future Engagement of Indigenous Peoples in terms of Forestry, Climate Change, Land and Communication during and after Covid-19

- Create Facebook page and upload the information on the page.
- Communicate via viber, phone, Facebook messenger and email.
- For the community difficult with internet connection, it should provide the information through post office/ special delivery.

#### 2019 National Level Workshop on REDD+ Program





Annex: Agenda (details) Date: 14th – 15th October 2020

Time: 10:00 - 12:00 - 2:00 - 4:00

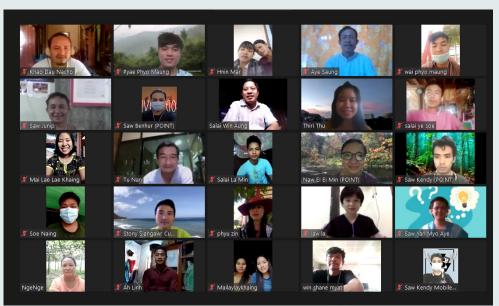
No	Time	Activity	Person
Day 1			
1.	10:00-10:05	Opening: Explain about objectives and Introduction	Naw Ei Ei Min
2.	10:05-12:00	<ul> <li>UNREDD</li> <li>Activities Update five overall (Related with Indigenous Peoples engagement, Shifting cultivation, FPIC guideline, Safeguard)</li> </ul>	UNREDD
3.	12:00- 1:00	Lunch Break	
4.	2:00-2:30	Timeline and Milestones (Conclusion)	Муо Ко Ко
5.	2:30-3:30	POINT's update Capacity Building -Leadership  Women Leadership Advocacy Update of Forest Law, BCPA Law, Land Law etc Mapping	Pyae Phyo Maung, Saw Benhur Naw Khin Moe Aye Hla Doi Saw Yang Myo Aye
6.	3:30-4:00	<ul> <li>Reflection</li> <li>How do you see the overall process of REDD+ throughout 5 years from your view?</li> <li>Preparation for the Questions for the Forest Department.</li> </ul>	



Group photo Online Zoom



No	Time	Activity	Person
Day 2			
7.	10:00-11:30	<ul> <li>Sharing by Forest Department on the update of the country preparation to engage result-based payment.</li> <li>Way forwards about Pilots project especially on Mangrove (Planning)</li> <li>CSOs and Ips Representatives Selection processes</li> <li>Other REDD+ related Project with ICIMOD, Japan and Korea Forest Service (KFS) etc</li> <li>Challenges related with engagement with Ips and CSO organizations during past five years</li> </ul>	Forest Department
8.	11:30- 12:00	Questions and Answers	
9.	12:00 - 2:00	Lunch Break	
10.	2:00- 4:00	<ol> <li>Group Work on Recommendation to:</li> <li>UNREDD+</li> <li>National Government</li> <li>CSOs and NGOs including POINT</li> <li>Future Engagement of Indigenous         Peoples in terms of Forestry, Climate         Change, Land and Communication         during and after Covid-19     </li> </ol>	



Group photo Online Zoom



### Photos of 2020 National Level Workshop on REDD+ Program and The Role of Indigenous Peoples in Myanmar with Zoom Application online







