REDD+ for Results-based-payment and supporting Sustainable Development in Myanmar

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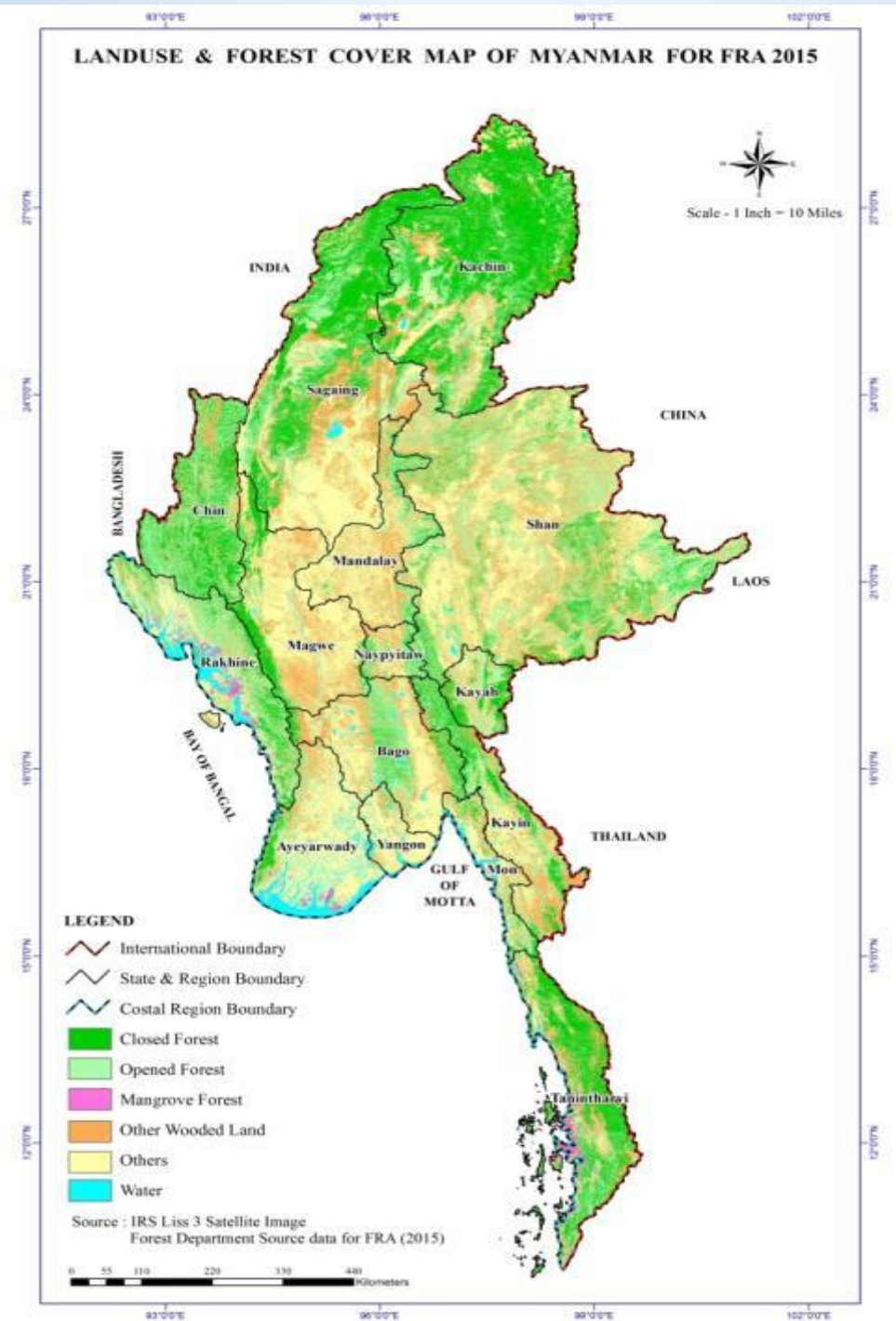# Introduction to Myanmar

- Myanmar is the largest country in mainland S.E Asia and ranks 4th in Asia in terms of total forest area (after China, Indonesia and India; 29 million ha)

- Enormous range of forest types from **sub-alpine** in northern Kachin to **humid tropical lowland forests** in the south

- Population (54 million) is still largely rural (70%) with many ethnic groups

- Deforestation rate remains high (nearly 400,000 ha/year), largely due to land conversion for unsustainable agriculture and other causes

- Forest degradation also significant (biomass fuels)

Putao in Myanmar

Humid lowland forest in Mergui Archipelago, Tanintharyi

Forest Cover Status –FRA 2015

Forest category	Area (,000 ha)	% of total country area
Closed forest	14,585	21.56
Open forest	14,456	21.36
Total forest	29,041	42.92
Other Wooded land	15,080	22.29
Others Land	21,634	31.98
Water body	1,903	2.81
Total	67,658	100

LANDUSE & FOREST COVER MAP OF MYANMAR FOR FRA 2015

Scale - 1 Inch = 10 Miles

LEGEND
- International Boundary
- State & Region Boundary
- Costal Region Boundary
- Closed Forest
- Opened Forest
- Mangrove Forest
- Other Wooded Land
- Others
- Water

Source : IRS Liss 3 Satellite Image
Forest Department Source data for FRA (2015)

Status of Permanent Forest Estate

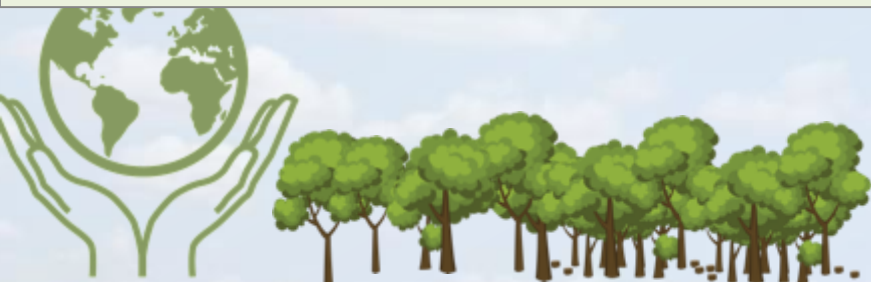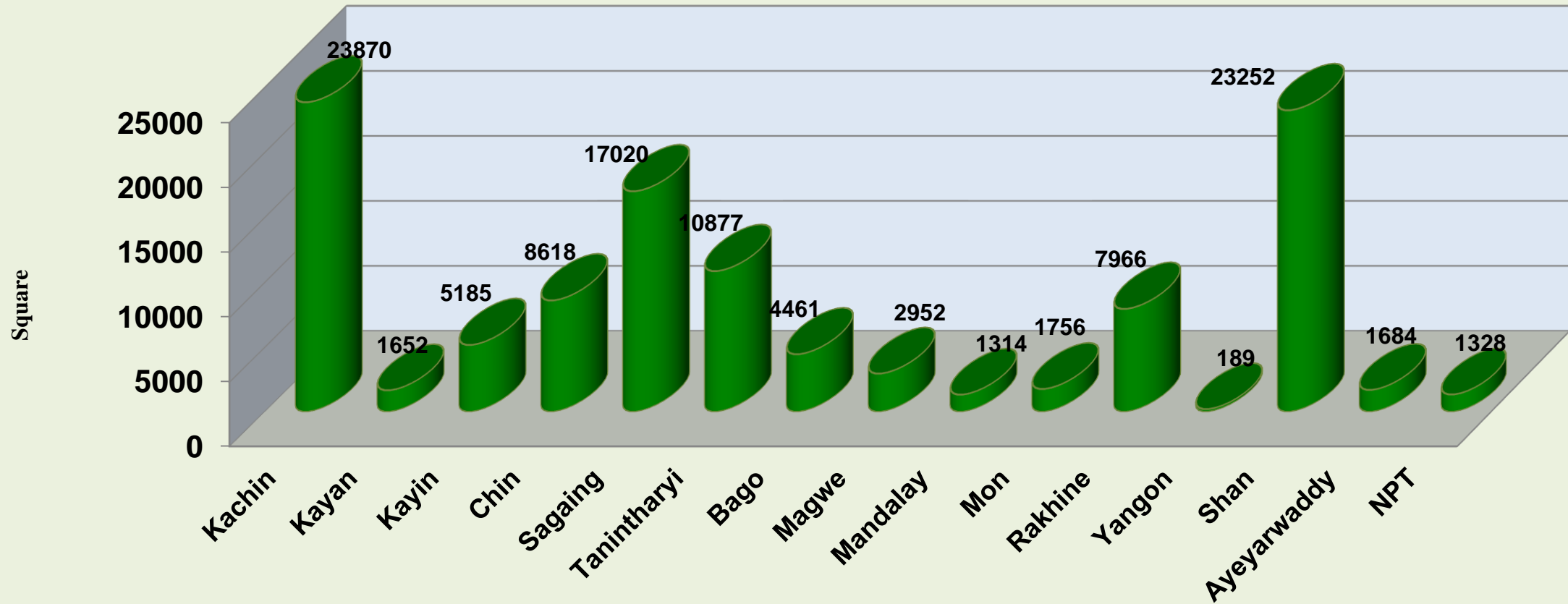| Legal classification	Area (Acre)	% of land area
Reserved Forest (RF)	29,707,424	17.77%
Protected Public Forest (PPF)	12,653,821	7.57%
	42,361,245	25.34%
Protected Area System (PAS)	9,783,609	5.85%

Myanmar Forest Policy (1995) stipulates to designate up to

➤ **30% of the total land area as Reserved Forest and Protected Public Forest**

➤ **10% of the total land area as PAS**
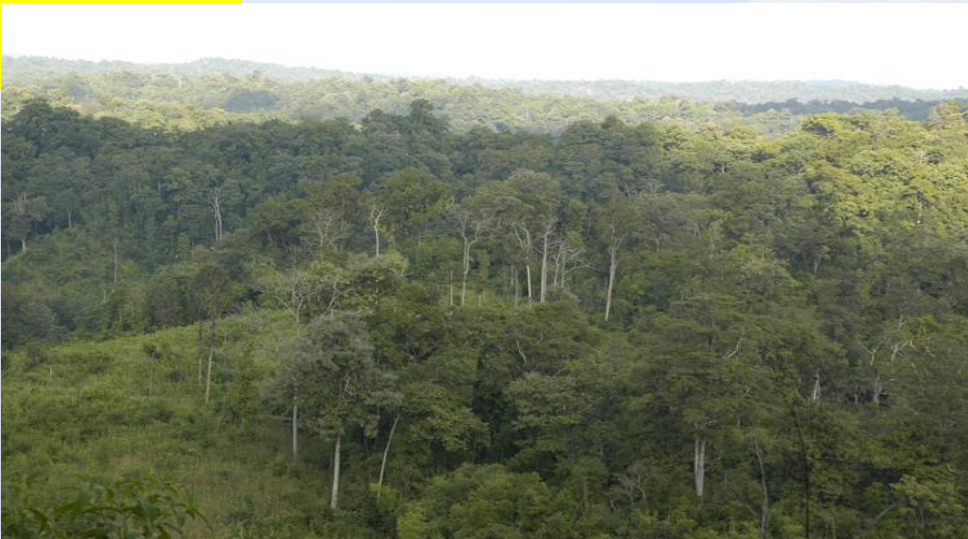
Forest Cover in States and Regions

Chart: Forest cover (Square) by State/Region

| State/Region	Value
Kachin	23870
Kayan	1652
Kayin	5185
Chin	8618
Sagaing	17020
Tanintharyi	10877
Bago	4461
Magwe	2952
Mandalay	1314
Mon	1756
Rakhine	7966
Yangon	189
Shan	23252
Ayeyarwaddy	1684
NPT	1328

Forest Cover Change

➢ **Inevitable deforestation at a very high rate**

➢ **Third highest deforestation rate in the world between 2010 and 2015 according to FRA 2015.**
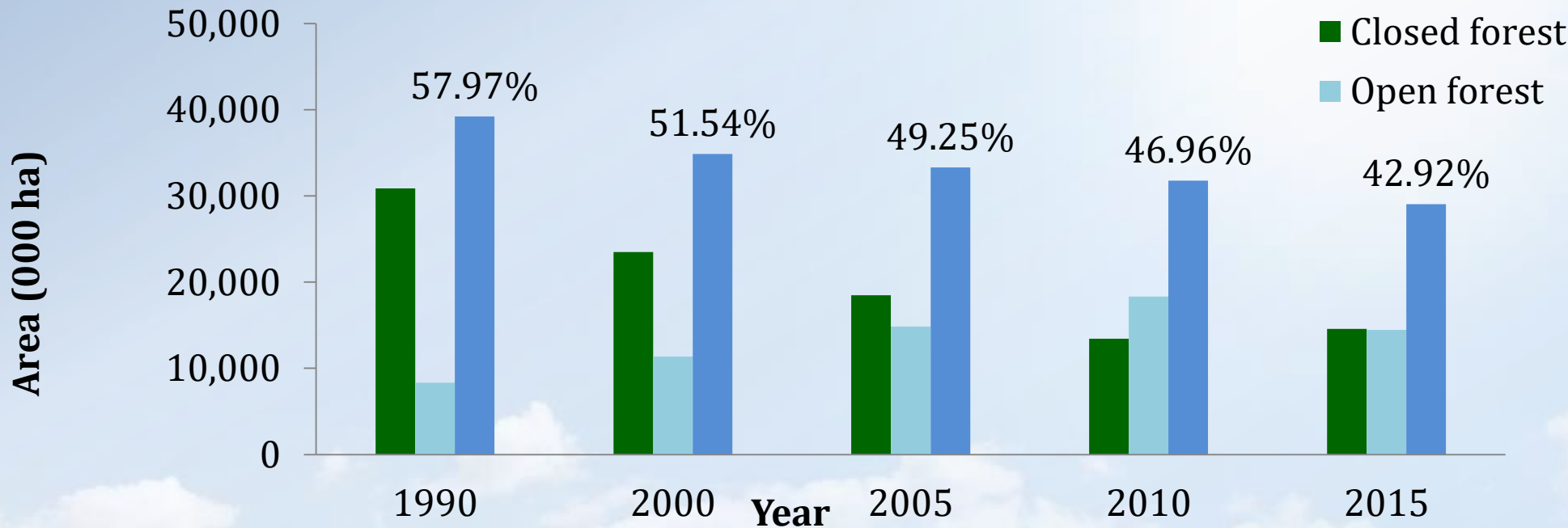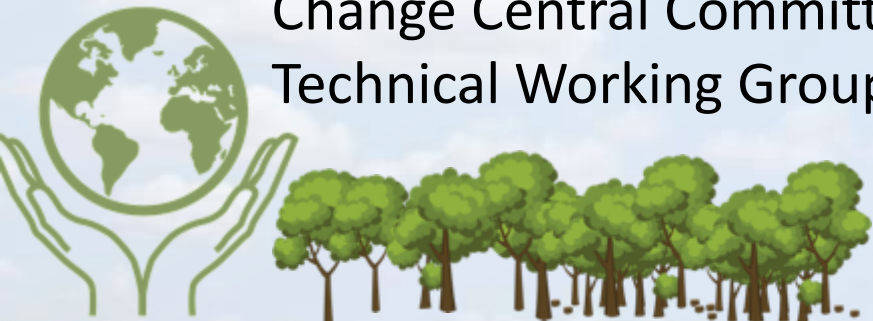

| Period	Annual deforested Area (ha)	Annual deforestation rate(%)
1990-2000	434,997.56	1.2
2000-2010	309,588.27	0.9
2010-2015	546,397.1	1.8
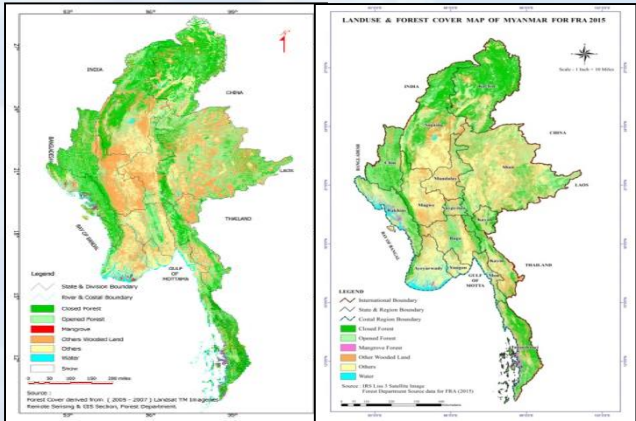
Overview of the REDD+ Programme Myanmar

- REDD+ Readiness Roadmap developed in 2013;

- UN-REDD support for implementation of the Roadmap began in 2015; and continues up to 2020;

- Draft National REDD+ Strategy undergoing broad consultation (7 line Ministries and with CSOs; sub-national consultations in all states/regions underway; public comments period early in 2018;

- First Forest Reference Level was submitted to UNFCCC before January 8th, 2018;

- Process overseen by National REDD+ Taskforce, reporting to National Environmental Conservation and Climate Change Central Committee, and supported by three Technical Working Groups.

The 1st Taskforce meeting

TWG Meetings on Stakeholders Engagement and Safeguards, & Drivers and Strategy for REDD+

Vision for Myanmar's REDD+:

Myanmar's forests play a leading role in contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation under the NDCs and, through the ecosystem services they provide, contribute to vibrant sustainable economic, particularly rural development, thus contributing to the achievement of many of the SDG targets in Myanmar

Mount Khakaborazi in northern Kachin
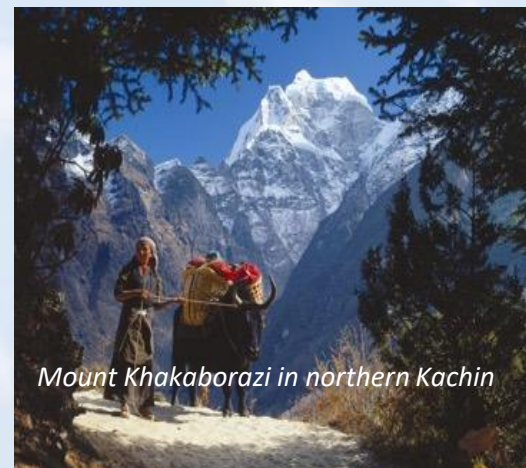
- **A phased approach to REDD+ implementation**

Phase 1: Readiness

Capacity building and developing systems
Develop National Strategy

Phase 2: Implementation / Piloting

Implement National Strategy

Test & refine methods, implement, further capacity building

Phase 3: Full National Implementation

Emissions reductions are measured → reported → verified
Results-based finance

- Scale
  - National Level
- Scope
  - Deforestation

Myanmar's Approach to REDD+

1. Align with the guidance of the UNFCCC.

2. Promote transformational changes in the way that the country approaches economic and land use development.

3. Ensure that policies and measures designed to address greenhouse gas emissions also generate non-carbon benefits.

4. Take immediate action on all REDD+ activities likely to have significant mitigation benefits but focus initially on reporting emissions and removals related to (1) reducing emissions from deforestation, and (2) the enhancement of forest carbon stocks through afforestation and reforestation.

5. Require any projects targeting sub-national actions, and those under other forest carbon mechanisms to follow guidelines linked to the national REDD+ development process and UNFCCC decisions and guidance, and to absorb the additional costs of reconciling carbon accounting and safeguards information.
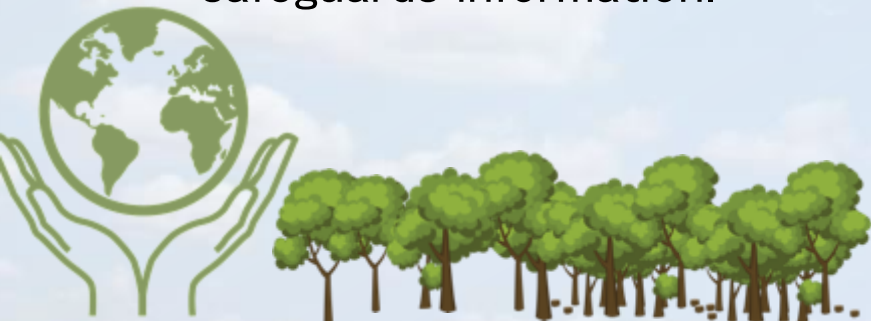
The Four REDD+ "Design" Elements

Myanmar has been preparing Warsaw Framework (Four REDD+ Design Elements) for **REDD+ Readiness**.

SCALE

❖ REDD+ should be implemented at the national scale

❖ Countries can start by implementing at the subnational scale → with a view to transitioning to national scale

National Strategy &/or Action Plan

National Forest Monitoring System

Safeguards Information System

Forest Reference Level

Progress of REDD+ Readiness for Result-based Payment

National REDD+ Strategy

❖ National Consultation/Validation Workshop on REDD+ Strategies has been organized (10–11 September 2019). It will be adopted formally very soon. Forty Four Policies and Measures were identified in the National REDD+ Strategy.
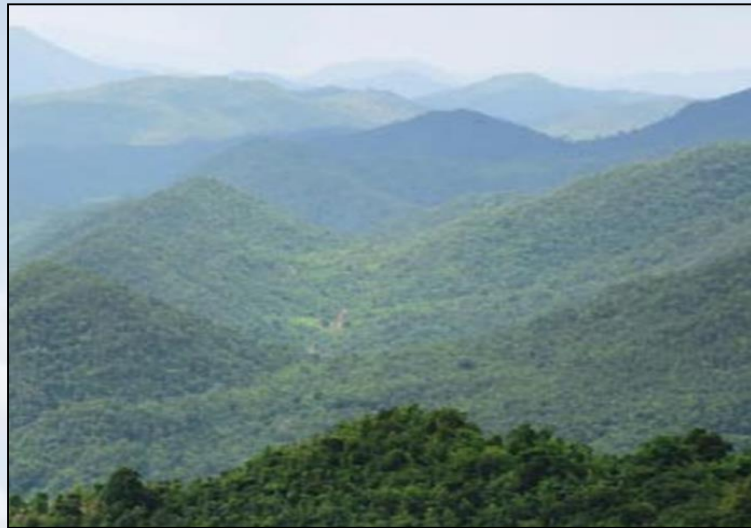
Forest Reference Emissions Level

❖ The Technical Assessment (TA) process of the FREL is completed and the FREL has been posted on the UNFCCC website (https://redd.unfccc.int/submissions.html?country=mmr).

❖ Plans have been developed for further improvement and refinement of the FREL.

Progress of REDD+ Readiness

National Forest Monitoring System

- ❖ NFI, design and sampling approaches developed, multi-stakeholder consultation on NFI design carried out and (technical) approaches agreed with key stakeholders;
- ❖ Field training for NFI methodology for field crews has been done in Feb 2019. Field testing in 6 districts: Bogalay, Myinchan, Pyinoolwin, Tharyarwaddy, Pinlaebu, Ywarngan were also done.
- ❖ Implementation of NFI will be started in 2020.

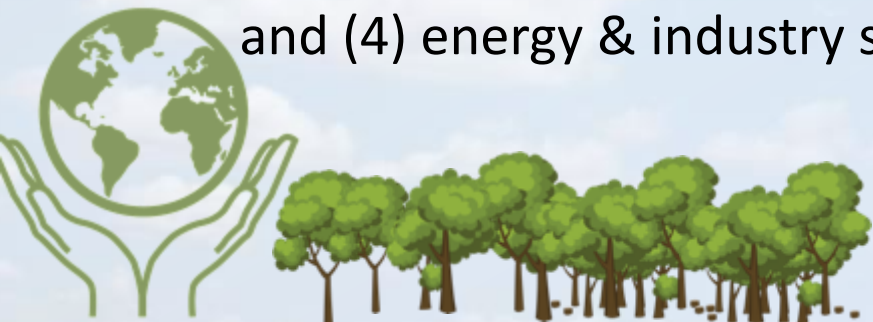**Safeguards Information System (SIS)**

- ❖ Plans have been developed to produce Myanmar's first "Summary of Information (SoI)" in 2019 and under process for recruiting national consultant for the development of SoI together with UN-Environment Regional Team.

REDD+
MYANMAR

REDD+ and the NDC

- The **Mitigation component** of Myanmar's (I)NDC encompasses two sectors: Forestry, and Energy;

- The **Forestry** target is that, by 2030, Myanmar's Reserved Forests and Protected Public Forests amount to 30% of total national land area; and Protected Areas cover 10% of total national land area, as set out in the 30-Year National Forestry Master Plan (2001-30);

- The **Energy** targets include the use of at least 30% renewable sources for rural electrification; and to distribute approx. 260,000 cookstoves between 2016-2031; and

  - The **Adaptation component** identifies 4 priority sectors: (1) agricultural resilience, including forest protection; (2) public health protection/water resource management; (3) coastal zone protection; and (4) energy & industry sectors, and biodiversity preservation.

Putao in Myanmar

REDD+ and NDC

Sector	Intended contribution(s)	Supporting actions
Forestry	• **Reserved Forest (RF) and Protected Public Forest (PPF)** = 30% of total national land area • **Protected Area Systems** (PAS) = 10% of total national land area	• 30-Year National Forestry Master Plan (2001-30) • UN-REDD Programme • European Union's Forest Law Enforcement Governance Trade (FLEGT)
Renewables		
- Hydro	9.4 GW installed capacity by 2030	Long Term Energy Master Plan National Electrification Master Plan
- Rural electrification	Rural electrification through the use of at least 30% renewable sources.	Comprehensive Village Development Plan
- Industrial energy efficiency	20% energy saving by 2030 of the total forecast electricity consumption.	Partnership with Global Environment Facility to demonstrate possible economy wide savings
- Cookstoves	To distribute approximately 260,000 cookstoves between 2016 and 2031.	Comprehensive Plan for Dry Zone Greening (2001-31) programme

REDD+ related to Main SDG in Myanmar

For many of Myanmar's poor (26%), living in rural areas, forests are a source of income. Through REDD+ their capacity to increase incomes from the forests will be developed

1 NO POVERTY

2 NO HUNGER

Forests are a direct source of food but also support the productivity of agro-ecosystems

Many women are leaders of community forest groups, in contrast to the gender situation in most of the rest of society

5 GENDER EQUALITY

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Revitalizing forest industries, including the Myanmar Timber Enterprise, can provide work and contribute to economic growth

Many rural communities are marginalized; empowering them through REDD+ can reduce inequality

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

13 CLIMATE ACTION

Forests are central to Myanmar's (I)NDC

The underlying causes of threats to forests are often the same as those leading to conflict, including weak institutions. This is central to Myanmar's efforts to resolve internal conflicts

GOAL 15
15 LIFE ON LAND

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

REDD+ to Support SDGs

- Myanmar is well-advanced in developing a comprehensive policy framework in support of green development. Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP), which encompasses:
    - ✓ *Environmental Policy*
    - ✓ *Climate Policy*
    - ✓ *Land Use Policy*
    - ✓ *Waste Management Policy*
- ✓ Nature Based Solutions will be a key part of our mitigation and adaptation strategy.

Hkakaborazi Landscape's World Heritage journey

The Mergui's mangrove forests

Zwekabin mountain in Kayin state

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2020 (Final Draft)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

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Results/progress/achievements

- Myanmar has made dramatic advances from the incomplete and uncoordinated policy environment of a decade ago. Policy development is now much more inclusive – for example the Land Use Policy went through multiple rounds of extensive public consultation and inputs.

- The current government banned all logging for one year and in parts of Bago-Yoma for 10 years; annual allowable cuts (AAC) reduced to sustainable levels; implementation of 10-year Myanmar Reforestation and Rehabilitation Programme (MRRP), 10-year Re-introducing Natural Habitats (RNH), FLEG-T etc.

- Despite starting on REDD+ readiness later than many countries, Myanmar is rapidly catching up, and is looking towards RBP's by 2020.

Forests in Myanmar. Photo: REDD+ Myanmar

Forests in Myanmar. Photo: REDD+ Myanmar

Key Lessons

- REDD+ can be a catalyst not only for more sustainable forest management, but also for increased democratization of governance structures and conflict resolution – a very important issue in Myanmar.

- The REDD+ Readiness process in Myanmar has contributed to empowerment of many stakeholder groups, including those that have been historically marginalized (e.g., women, Indigenous People).

- Addressing indirect drivers of deforestation and forest degradation is, first and foremost, a policy issue – the policy environment needs to support on-the-ground actions.

  - Myanmar stands on the brink of major progress in reducing deforestation and forest degradation, but needs international cooperation and support.

Mergui Islands by Micheal Capaldi

Thank you very much!

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Learn more about us:
Website: http://www.myanmar-redd.org/
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