

Mitigation of Climate Change Impacts through Restoration of Degraded Forests and REDD+ Activities in BagoYoma Region, Myanmar

Project Duration March 2013 to February 2014

Project Budget USD 100,000

► Overview

The project "Mitigation of Climate Change Impact through Restoration of Degraded Forest and REDD+ Activities in Bago Yoma Region, Myanmar" was a one-year project developed by the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry of Myanmar with financial support from Korea Forest Service. The Implementation Agreement was signed on 28 December 2012.

The project composed of three major components, namely, restoration of degraded forests as a REDD+ demonstration plot, measuring of baseline carbon stock in the selected site and subsequent research, capacity building and raising of awareness about REDD+. It is essential all relevant stakeholders for effective management on climate change and REDD+ as well as the development of the rural community as other benefits of REDD+. Myanmar recognized the importance to increase REDD+ readiness through capacity building and awareness-raising among stakeholders that include the government, local communities and non-governmental organizations. In this regard, the project aimed to engage relevant stakeholders in meetings, trainings and workshops that served as a platform for information sharing. At the same time, the project would raise awareness on

climate change and the importance of REDD+ by using various print and electronic media.

► Objectives

The project aimed to restore the ecological functions of natural forests to mitigate climate change in the Bago Yoma Region of Myanmar.

The specific objectives of the project are to:

- Improve the institutional and technical capacity for national coordination to manage REDD+ activities in Myanmar;
- Improve awareness raising about climate change and REDD+ for all relevant stakeholders; and
- Promote the livelihoods of local communities through participation in REDD+ activities.

► What have been done!

- Improved institutional and technical capacities
- Improved awareness raising about climate change and REDD+
- Improvement of livelihoods of local communities



Training on forest resource inventory for field level staff, organized on 19-22 January 2014 in Letpankhone Seed Orchard of the Forest Research Institute, Otwin Township, Toungoo District.



► The Result

This project was a pioneer project that introduced REDD+ demonstration activities, including the establishment of demonstration plots, awareness raising and capacity building so that the project's demonstration activities were a model for all stakeholders within the context of REDD+, SFM and Participatory approach. All the project activities, including reforestation, forest conservation, capacity building, extension and rural development program, were designed to be in line with the national forest management plan and the REDD+ Readiness Roadmap.

Therefore, the project activities, particularly the conservation and protection of demonstration sites, would be continuously maintained by the Forest Department with the participation of the local community.

During the project period, all the proposed activities were implemented successfully in accordance with the work plan. Different activities, covering public talks for awareness raising, capacity building, stakeholder consultations, REDD+ demonstration, publications, livelihood improvement, school gardening, rural development and study tour abroad, were implemented during the project.

Field level staff members were trained through a series of training courses on REDD+ related subjects.

Based on the experiences of the project activities, the following recommendations were made for the successful implementation of REDD+:

- Promote capacity building and awareness raising activities for all relevant stakeholders such as government staff from Ministries, NGOs, CSOs, local communities etc.
- Exercise the Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) for the REDD+ readiness in the potential project sites

- Scale up stakeholder engagement and consultation process at different levels such as community, sub-national and national level depending on the issues
- Integrate income generation, livelihood improvement and rural development activities as a part of REDD+ and the activities can be considered as benefit distribution of the Project (REDD+)
- Establish REDD+ pilot sites that can reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation as well as can increase removal from atmosphere through the enhancement of forest carbon stock.

► The Future

Model for community forests - the participatory approach in the management of community forests in this project is very similar to the Saemaul Undong of the Republic of Korea. It is recommended that a model community forest to be developed through this Project not only to promote the success of such an activity towards sustainable management of forests, but also to improve the livelihood of those involved. Such information and experiences by Myanmar and the Forest Department can then be shared with other members of AFoCo as an exemplary success model of Saemaul Undong to be further developed and practiced by other countries.

Development of capacity building – it is suggested that a regional project be developed to enhance capacity building not only for the country, but also for the benefit of forestry personnel or officials from other countries.

The ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation (AFoCo) is a regional cooperation mechanism in the forest sector between ASEAN Member States and the Republic of Korea. It was formalized by the "Agreement between the Governments of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Republic of Korea on Forest Cooperation", which was entered into force in August 2012. The AFoCo aims to tackle the issue of deforestation and forest conservation in the context of sustainable development, and broaden the scope to other Asian countries.