



# Gap Analysis of the National REDD+ Readiness Process in Shan State, Myanmar

REDD+ Himalayas: Developing and using  
Experience in Implementing REDD+ in the Himalaya





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Director – Forest Research Institute, Myanmar

# Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAS	Asia Air Survey
CBD	Convention on Biological diversity
CFDTC	Central Forestry Development Training Centre
ECD	Environmental Conservation Department
FFPRI	Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FREL	Forest Reference Emission Level
FRI	Forest Research Institute
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
INGOs	International Non-Government Organizations
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
KFS	Korea Forest Service
MCCSAP	Myanmar Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan
MONREC	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
MRRP	Myanmar Forest Reforestation and Rehabilitation Programme
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NECCCCC	National Environmental Conservation Committee and Climate Change Central Committee
NFMS	National Forest Monitoring System
NSAP	National Strategy and Action Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
RECOFTC	The Center for People and Forests
REDD+	Reduced Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Carbon Enhancement
SALT	Sloping Agriculture Land Technology
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change







# Gap Analysis of the National REDD+ Readiness Process in Shan State

## Background

To implement REDD+, Myanmar joined as a partner country of the UN-REDD Programme in December 2011 and has quickly taken steps to start implementing REDD+ Readiness activities. With financial support from the Norwegian government, the Myanmar REDD+ Readiness Roadmap was successfully developed in June 2013 through a series of national and regional multistakeholder workshops in Bago Region, Sagaing Region, Ayeyarwaddy Region and Shan State. The Myanmar REDD+ Roadmap is comprised of six components setting out how Myanmar will implement its REDD+ Readiness activities:

- Management of REDD+ Readiness
- Stakeholder consultation and participation
- Development and selection of REDD+ strategies
- Implementation of framework and safeguards
- National forest reference emission level and forest reference level
- National forest monitoring system

To achieve REDD+ Readiness, three phases are identified: Preparation (Phase 1), Implementation and results-based demonstration activities (Phase 2) and full implementation with reporting and verification of performance (Phase 3). Currently, Myanmar REDD+ implementation is in Phase 1.

With support from the UN-REDD Programme, action plans for the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) have been developed with contributions from the respective technical working groups. REDD+ national strategies are being developed and are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2016. The Safeguard Information System has not yet been started. However, criteria and indicators for environmental and social safeguards for REDD+ have been developed at the subnational level with support from the ITTO-REDD+ Capacity Building Project.

To fulfill the requirements for REDD+ Readiness, Myanmar has been collaborating with international organizations including UN-REDD, Korea Forest Service (KFS), The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Asia Air Survey (AAS) Co., Ltd, the Centre for People and Forests (RECOFTC, Myanmar), Forestry and Forest Products Recourse Institute (FFPRI), the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and local NGOs and CSOs. The gap analysis framework forms the basis for a desk study and a field-based assessment of REDD+.

This gap analysis was conducted by the REDD+ Core Unit of the Forest Department and the Project Management Unit of the REDD+ Himalaya Project, with technical guidance from ICIMOD and financial contributions from the German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).

## Rationale

This gap analysis is built on the work of UNREDD at the national level. There is a need to inform subnational actors and vice versa. The national REDD Readiness process analysis, in terms of institutional capacity and setup, will be replicated at the state level for Shan State.

The technical REDD requirements for state level need to be analyzed so that processes for REDD+ move from project to subnational level and eventually to national level. Pilot site experiences and subnational approaches are limited in Myanmar. Given wide differences in social and environmental conditions, deforestation rates and

technical capacities, tailoring at the subnational level will be important for Myanmar's overall REDD+ success.

The development of national institutions for reference levels (RLs) and measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) covers the full scope of REDD+, allowing for a fast start. Nonetheless, development needs to take into account capacity building at subnational level, in this case Shan State, before a gradual expansion to other states.

Moreover, as deforestation and forest degradation are often quite local in nature, different regions and even micro-regions require local implementation of the response measures. Local implementation allows for interventions customized to a particular region and often produce far more successful results than uniform implementation of a national intervention. Therefore, this REDD+ gap analysis looks at the feasibility needs of Shan State to kickstart the local level REDD+ process.

## Objectives

1. To review forest legislation and institutional arrangements including policies, laws, action plans, acts, strategies, rules, regulations, operating procedures and other activities pertinent to REDD+ Readiness in Shan State.
2. To compile information on activities being undertaken by government agencies, NGOs and civil society, with or without external donor support, that may be relevant to the gap analysis in Shan State.
3. To analyse and identify gaps and provide recommendations to address the identified gaps across the process of REDD+ Readiness in Shan State based on information compiled for the above two objectives.
4. To estimate the time and financial resources required to fill each identified gap.
5. To broaden stakeholder consultation and build consensus around the findings before submitting the final report.

## Methodology

A core group was formed to provide input and guidance to the assessment and to contribute and participate in research activities for the gap analysis. The members of the core group are from the REDD+ Core Unit of the Forest Department and the Project Management Unit of the Himalayan REDD+ project. A series of wider consultative meetings was held to provide additional inputs to the findings of the core group.

The gap analysis includes elements of existing policies, laws, plans and project activities of the REDD+ Readiness process. Secondary data collection, a desk study, field observations, semi-structured interviews, and focus group discussions were carried out to achieve the objectives. A series of meetings with stakeholders from Shan State was carried out during the course of this study. Building an understanding within the core group on central issues and



providing additional inputs to the identification of potential gaps paved the way forward for REDD+. The following table shows the consultation meetings held for the gap analysis.





Table 1: Gap analysis consultation meetings

No.	Date	Main discussion points	Participants
1	28-08-2017	Content of report, methodology and review of other reports, assignment of responsibilities	REDD+ core unit members and researchers of FRI, focal persons from REDD+ projects
2	07-09-2017	Consultation on progress by gap analysis team and human resources and capacity development gaps	Gap analysis team members, REDD+ core unit members and researchers of FRI, focal persons from REDD+ projects
3	26-09-2017	Policy and legislations gaps	REDD+ core unit and researchers of FRI
	31-10-2017	Strategic, planning and technical gaps	REDD+ core unit members and researchers of FRI
4	08-11-2017	Institutional and information gaps	REDD+ core unit members and researchers of FRI
	29-12-2017	Consultation on the gap analysis draft report	Gap analysis team members, REDD+ core unit members and researchers of FRI, focal persons from REDD+ projects
5	22-02-2018	Consultation on draft gap analysis report at regional workshop on the role of REDD+ in supporting SDGs and NDCs	REDD+ core unit members, representatives of line ministries, private sector, NGOs, CSOs, country representatives from REDD+ Himalayas project
6	22-03-2018	Consultation on REDD+ gap analysis report	REDD+ core unit members, representatives of line ministries, private sector, NGOs, CSOs

Note: Meetings of gap analysis team members on the progress of the analysis was also conducted at two-week intervals and based on progress.





# Findings of the Gap Analysis

In the forestry and environment sectors, policies and legislation which directly support REDD+ are:

- Forest Policy (1995)
- Land Use Policy (2016)
- Environmental Conservation Policy (1992)
- Climate Change Policy (Draft, 2017)
- National Environmental Policy (Draft, 2017)
- Forest Law (1992) and Forest Rules (1995)
- Protection of Wildlife and Wild Plants and Conservation of Natural Areas Law (1994) and Rules (2002)
- Environmental Conservation Law (2012) and Rules (2016)
- Myanmar Agenda 21 (1997)
- Community Forestry Instruction (1995, 2016)
- National Code of Practice for Forest Harvesting





## Policy gaps and possible solutions

Table 2: Gaps and solutions (policy)

No.	Policy	Link to REDD+ (supporting REDD+)	Gaps	Possible solutions
1.	Land Use Policy (2016)	<p><b>Objectives:</b> Provide sustainable land use management with land tenure rights and security and protection of natural resources together with livelihoods improvement and food security for all through promoting people's participation and gender involvement.</p> <p><b>Section 70 and 71 of Part 8:</b> Recognizing reclassification, formal recognition and registration of customary land use rights relating to rotating and shifting cultivation that exists on farmland, forestland, vacant land, fallow land, or virgin land in the new national land law and giving technical, financial and infrastructure support.</p> <p><b>Section 24, Chapter 2, Part 3</b> Based on land use information, the District Land Use Committee may define land use zones.</p>	<p>Lack of land tenure rights in REDD+ project areas, especially on vacant land or village land.</p> <p>Weakness in the involvement of all stakeholders and decision makers from relevant departments.</p>	<p>Register and record the REDD+ project area to avoid land disputes among villagers, local communities and government departments.</p> <p>Awareness raising of authorized persons from related departments.</p>
2.	Agriculture Policy (Draft, 2017)	<p><b>Output No. 3: Water use and management</b> Exploring underground water resources without adversely affecting the natural environment and water resources.</p> <p><b>Output No. 3: Environmental conservation and climate change resilience:</b> Conserve and utilize natural resources and ecological systems in a sustainable manner.</p> <p><b>Output No. 9: Land use and management strategic thrust:</b> Systematic records on shifting cultivation, support the development of hilly rice land, and introduction of sloping agriculture land technology.</p>	<p>Weak involvement of stakeholders, especially decision makers from relevant government departments.</p> <p>Lack of mutual understanding among departments or lack of contact.</p> <p>Lack of legal right to compensate for loss of project sites.</p>	<p>Awareness raising of authorized persons from relevant departments, especially environmental conservation, environmental impact assessment and social impact assessment.</p> <p>Law enforcement to be in line with EIA.</p> <p>Negotiate with government departments over land conflicts.</p> <p>Register the project site. Formulate instructions for REDD+ to be recognized by government departments as a community forest under forestry policy.</p>
3.	National Energy Policy (2014)	<p><b>Objective:</b> To provide energy security for economic development of the country and energy supply to people living in remote areas and to integrate social and environmental considerations into national energy planning and in the complete cycle of energy development.</p> <p><b>No. 3 and 6, Section a) of No. 21 of oil and gas sector and No. 3, Section b) of No. 21 of electricity sector:</b> To promote energy efficiency and conversion and to review and systematically manage electric power generation systems and transmission systems with minimized environmental and social impact.</p> <p><b>No. 4 and 7, Section a) of No. 21 of oil and gas sector; No. 3 and 4 Section c), No. 21 of electric power generation from water reservoirs and canals; No. 4 Section d) of No. 21 of coal sector; and No. 1, 4 and 6, Section f), No. 21 of renewable energy sector</b> To promote alternative energy uses, renewable energy resources, energy from biomass and animal waste, and advance use of coal to prevent deforestation.</p>	<p>Weak involvement of all stakeholders, especially decision makers from relevant departments.</p> <p>Lack of mutual understanding among departments or lack of formal contracts. The objectives of both sectors are for development and thus a negotiation mechanism should be developed.</p> <p>Lack of legal rights to compensate for loss of project sites.</p>	<p>Awareness raising of authorized persons from relevant departments, especially environmental conservation, environmental impact assessment and social impact assessment. Law enforcement to be in line with environmental impact assessment.</p> <p>Negotiate with related departments when facing land conflicts.</p> <p>Register the project site. Formulate instructions for REDD+ to be recognized by government departments as CFI under forest policy.</p>

No.	Policy	Link to REDD+ (supporting REDD+)	Gaps	Possible solutions
3 cont		<p><b>No. 8 of Section d) of No.21 of coal sector:</b></p> <p>To coordinate with other ministries in Myanmar and ASEAN member countries for the conduct of EIA studies on coal projects.</p>	<p>Lack of financial support for energy supply programs or effective energy supply programs in the REDD+ implementation activities.</p> <p>Lack of awareness in local communities about sustainable energy use in REDD+ implementation activities.</p>	<p>To collaborate with departments or NGOs to promote alternative energy sources such as efficient stoves, solar and biogas. To draw energy support and utilization as one of the activities of REDD+ implementation.</p> <p>Arrange training programs and public talks and carbon inventory training to promote public awareness and people's participation in sustainable use of energy and encourage efficient use of energy through solar or fuel-efficient stoves.</p>
4.	Climate Change Policy (Draft, 2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote sustainable natural resource management, protect biodiversity and enhance the resilience of ecosystem services.</li> <li>Adopt environmentally sound technologies and good management practices.</li> <li>Decouple Myanmar's continued growth from increasing greenhouse gas emissions; contribute to the global climate change mitigation effort through sustainable low carbon energy, transport and industrial systems while ensuring that Myanmar's social and economic development needs are met.</li> <li>Strengthen current partnerships and build new partnerships among ministries and between government and the private sector and civil society and academia, at the global, regional, national and local levels for the effective implementation of climate action in Myanmar.</li> </ul>	<p>Lack of specific targets for reduction of GHG emission levels.</p> <p>Weak sectoral policy for reduction of GHG emissions.</p> <p>Lack of institutional capacity for monitoring the impacts of climate change policy.</p>	
5.	National Environmental Policy (Draft, 2017)	<p><b>National environmental policy principles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Myanmar's ecosystems are to be protected and managed in sustainable ways.</li> <li>Protect the rights of indigenous people and ethnic nationalities to their lands, territories, resources and spiritual heritage and their contributions to the larger society.</li> <li>Myanmar's economic and social development strategies will prioritize low carbon and green economy pathways.</li> <li>Sustainable and renewable energy for all Myanmar will be achieved through the use of existing technology and innovations in the generation, storage and supply of energy.</li> <li>Climate smart approaches to development, including resilience, risk management and climate change mitigation strategies will be aligned.</li> <li>Environmental decision making at all levels will be inclusive, transparent and accountable to stakeholders, with communities and citizens having the right to access information that could affect their lives and property.</li> </ul>	<p>The role of land use, land use change and forestry in climate change mitigation and adaptation is not yet mentioned.</p>	<p>Identification and implementation of suitable forest rehabilitation techniques for areas affected by deforestation and forest degradation could be developed to support the action plan for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.</p>
	Myanmar Forest Policy (1995)	Six policy imperatives provide many enabling conditions for the preparation of REDD+ Readiness.	Specific plans are needed to implement policy measures.	

No.	Policy	Link to REDD+ (supporting REDD+)	Gaps	Possible solutions
5. cont			Forest policy allows communities to collect fuel, water, fodder, shelter and food for their basic needs and enjoy recreational activities in the forest. If all access to forests is restricted for the REDD+ project, the participation of communities will decline.	There should be alternative forest areas for fulfilling basic needs and those areas should be monitored and managed in a sustainable manner.
		<b>Participation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enlisting people's participation in promoting trees for meeting their needs and increasing non-farm income through adoption of community forestry and agroforestry practices.</li> </ul>		Develop and initiate awareness raising programs to help communities understand that conserving forests can also produce income from results-based payments.
		<b>Land use</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To evolve a system of balanced and complementary land use under which land is only diverted to uses where it would produce the most and deteriorate least.</li> <li>To phase out existing practices incompatible with sound land management and which create adverse environmental consequences.</li> </ul>	Lack of land tenure security for implementing the REDD+ project.	An instruction like CFI should be developed to legally recognize land tenure and register legitimate land tenure rights for local people in REDD+ implementation areas.
		<b>Forest regeneration and afforestation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To pursue sound programmes of forest development through regeneration and rehabilitation operations to optimize productivity from natural forests.</li> <li>To encourage planting of fast growing multipurpose tree species in degraded forests and farm lands to meet industrial and domestic demand and restore ecological balance.</li> </ul> <b>Policy measures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reforest 30,000 hectares annually for rehabilitation of degraded lands and for meeting rural needs.</li> <li>Rehabilitate and protect denuded coastal areas.</li> </ul>		
		<b>Intersectoral coordination</b> Establish more effective coordination and cooperation among sectors of the economy having an influence on forestry including international agencies and institutions concerned with forestry development.		

## Legislation gaps and possible solutions

Table 3: Gaps and solutions (legislation)

No.	Laws and regulations	Link to REDD+ (supporting REDD+)	Gaps	Possible solutions
1.	The Forest Law (1992)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The main principles (a, b, c, d, e and f) support the implementation of REDD+ by prioritizing forest conservation policy, environmental conservation policy, and implementation of international agreements.</li> <li>No. 13, 14 and 15 legally support the different kinds of plantations established inside and outside PFEs.</li> <li>According to No. 41, 42 and 43, legalized prohibitions and fixed penalties will become an asset by enhancing the legal protection of established REDD+ forests in PFEs.</li> <li>Inclusion of community forests as one of the main functions of the Forest Department could attract local people to a REDD+ program.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The REDD+ concept is not included in the law or in the principles.</li> <li>The Forest Law is enforced only in PFEs and not in all forested areas.</li> <li>No legal security for customary forest lands.</li> <li>No specific statement for prohibitions in REDD+ areas or how to punish offenders.</li> <li>No legal statement for ensuring a benefit sharing system from REDD+ forests.</li> <li>A lack of legal support for developing financing mechanisms for results-based payment of REDD+ forests.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The REDD+ concept or a legal mechanism should be developed and included in the law which strengthens the security of REDD+.</li> <li>Policy or procedures securing land tenure of REDD+ in customary forest lands and forested areas outside PFEs should be developed in coordination with line ministries.</li> <li>A legal statement for securing REDD+ activities, financing mechanisms and benefit sharing mechanisms should be developed.</li> </ul>
2	Forest Rules (1995)	<p>Enables forest officers to support REDD+ activities through the following means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In protected public forest areas, delegated forest officers have authority to prevent described destructive activities in forests and can punish offenders according to the rules.</li> <li>Rules on establishment of different kinds of plantations, extraction and revenue collection from plantations are set up for forest officers.</li> <li>Forest officers can allow extraction of forest produce by following the procedures in the forest rules and in accordance with the Forest Law (1992).</li> </ul>	<p>As the forest rules were issued in 1995, the REDD+ concept is absent especially in relation to the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No rules for establishing REDD+ plantations.</li> <li>No rules for implementing REDD+ activities.</li> <li>No rules for sharing benefits from REDD+ forests.</li> <li>No defined rules for implementing REDD+ for Forest Department staff.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up clear legally binding rules for forest officers to implement REDD+ activities.</li> </ul>
3	Environmental Conservation Law (2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formation of an Environmental Conservation Committee with responsibilities for supporting relevant departments will strengthen REDD+ activities, especially in safeguarding information systems and development.</li> <li>According to 18, 19 and 20, the Ministry must support the Forest Department for the conservation of forest resources as its main responsibility.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No REDD+ concept is embedded in the law.</li> <li>No legal support for getting benefits from emission reduction, especially in the forestry sector.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A legal mechanism securing benefits from emission reduction from REDD+ needs to be provided.</li> </ul>
4	Environmental Conservation Rules (2014)	<p>The rules support REDD+ by assigning the Environmental Conservation Department to focus on social and environmental safeguard development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental Conservation Committee is chaired by the Minister of MONREC, who can prepare and modify relevant policies for environmental conservation in coordination with line departments.</li> <li>The committee must promote an environmental education and awareness raising program.</li> <li>Before implementing a development project such as REDD+, the department must carry out social and environmental impact assessments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear rules on the role of ECD or MONREC in REDD+ implementation are missing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specific rules on roles of ECD or MONREC in REDD+ implementation should be formulated.</li> </ul>

No.	Laws and regulations	Link to REDD+ (supporting REDD+)	Gaps	Possible solutions
5	Protection of Wildlife and Wild Plants and Conservation of Natural Areas Law (1994)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The law supports REDD+ implementations by prohibiting the following destructive activities in forests without permission in either natural or protected forest areas:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Entering, trespassing, grazing, plucking or breaking any kind of wild plants and cultivated plants in a prohibited zone.</li> <li>Digging on the land.</li> <li>Cultivating or carrying out any work.</li> <li>Extracting collecting or injuring in any manner any kind of cultivated or wild plants.</li> <li>Destroying ecosystems or any natural state in a natural area.</li> <li>Altering, removing, destroying or obliterating any boundary and boundary marks of protected areas.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No special regulations for REDD+ activities.</li> <li>Space for REDD+ implementation and allowing REDD+ activities in protected areas is lacking.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A statement for REDD+ implementation activities should be included in the law. As an alternative, a legal document, policy or rules for implementation of REDD+ activities in protected areas should be adopted.</li> </ul>
6	Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law (2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The law secures REDD+ forests from encroachment and business activities such as agriculture, mining and livestock raising using the following means:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business activities are only allowed on land which is legally removed from reserved forest status.</li> <li>In cases where business activities for the purpose of the country's development are permitted, the administrative body must coordinate with MOECF to ensure the business does not destroy reserved forests, protected public forests, protected areas or watershed areas.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In unclassified forest land areas outside PFEs, REDD+ implementations in forested areas are neither favored nor secured by the law.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A legal document for securing and supporting REDD+ in unclassified forests should be developed.</li> </ul>
7	Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Rules	<p>In permanent forest estates (PFEs), the law ensures land tenure security of REDD+ forests by preventing business activities through the following regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Before issuing permission for business land use, the township department must carry out inspections on whether the applied vacant, fallow or virgin lands are free from other official land uses, land titles or projects.</li> <li>Approval of MONREC must be obtained on the bases that the business will not destroy a forest estate or existing environmental conditions.</li> <li>If REDD+ plantations are planned to be established in VFVL outside PFEs, an area from 5,000 acres to 50,000 acres can be designated as government projects of a central land administration body. If the land is granted, land tenure is secured for up to 30 years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The procedures are bureaucratic and time consuming.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specific rules should be issued describing procedures and how to facilitate them when applying for VFVL land for REDD+ implementation.</li> </ul>
8	Farm land law and farm land rules (2012)	<p>To prevent encroachment of farming in REDD+ implementing areas, the law creates the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Without legal approval from the relevant administrative body, no trespassing or agricultural activities are allowed.</li> <li>Relevant departments, including the Forest Department, can be a member of the administrative body of farm land management at different governance levels.</li> <li>The administrative body should guide and supervise shifting cultivation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of a verification process for proposed farm land use with forest land title or other land title before issuing legal documents permitting use.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For issuing legal documents and permission for farm land, an instruction should be added requiring the committee to inform and strengthen coordination with the local Forest Department to check the existing land title.</li> </ul>



## Strategic and planning gaps and possible solutions

REDD+ has direct links with the following strategies and plans which contribute substantially to REDD+ Readiness in Myanmar:

Table 4: Gaps and possible solutions (strategy and planning)

No.	Strategy or plan	Link to REDD+	Gaps	Possible solutions
1.	National REDD+ Strategies (2018, Draft)	<p>The goal of the Myanmar REDD+ strategy is to contribute to a climate resilient, low carbon and sustainable development path (MCCSAP goal) through transformational change in the land use and forestry sectors by reducing deforestation and forest degradation while enhancing livelihoods, sustainable growth and development. To achieve this goal, seven objectives are formulated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction of deforestation and the related carbon emissions by 30% by 2030.</li> <li>• Enhancement of forest carbon stocks by 24.56 million tonnes by 2030.</li> <li>• Reversal or reduction of forest degradation on overexploited and depleted forests.</li> <li>• Reduction of forest degradation from firewood extraction.</li> <li>• Stabilizing shifting cultivation and reducing pioneering encroachment in forests.</li> <li>• Reduction of forest fires.</li> <li>• Reduction of forest degradation caused by grazing and browsing of domestic animals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The financial investment requirements for implementing the policies and measures are not yet secured, except for the funding requirements of the 10-year Reforestation and Rehabilitation Programme.</li> <li>• Institutional arrangements should be strengthened. Subnational units in particular are required for effective implementation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• REDD+ investment plan needs to be developed and funding sources secured (e.g. Global Climate Fund).</li> <li>• Forming subnational REDD+ units.</li> </ul>
2	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NBSAP provides a comprehensive framework for planning biodiversity conservation, management and use in a sustainable manner and ensures the long-term survival of Myanmar's rich biodiversity. NBSAP set targets and priority actions to achieve Aichi Targets. For example:</li> <li>• Target 15.1: By 2020, there are over 130,000 hectares of forests under community forestry.</li> <li>• Target 15.2: By 2018, guidelines for the national forest restoration programme that incorporate best international practices are formally adopted by government and pilot projects are initiated.</li> <li>• Target 15.3: By 2020, the REDD+ Readiness Road Map is actively being implemented.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of integrated plans to address issues around climate change impacts and biodiversity loss.</li> <li>• Weak coordination and limited coordination mechanisms for climate change-related sectors and biodiversity conservation-related sectors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrated action plans should be developed for a win-win approach, especially for climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation.</li> </ul>
3	(Intended) Nationally Determined Contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reserved Forests and Protected Public Forests will be extended up to 30% of the country's total area of 50,025,402 acres.</li> <li>• Protected Areas will be extended up to 10% of the total area (16,708,678 acres).</li> <li>• Increase the number of energy efficient cooking stoves disseminated to reduce the amount of firewood used for cooking. Indicative goal: to distribute approximately 260,000 cook stoves between 2016 and 2031.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited staff and inputs for reservation processes.</li> <li>• Reservation processes take time.</li> <li>• Weak coordination and cooperation of some states and regional governments for reservation and establishment of protected areas.</li> <li>• Limited awareness and misunderstanding within local communities for expanding reserved forests, protected public forests and protected areas.</li> <li>• No international support or cooperation for the task of expanding reserved forests,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooperation among government, INGOs, NGOs, CSOs and local communities should be strengthened.</li> <li>• Negotiation and extension skills of Forest Department staff should be improved.</li> </ul>

No.	Strategy or plan	Link to REDD+	Gaps	Possible solutions
4	Myanmar Reforestation and Rehabilitation Program- MRRP (2016-17 to 2026-27)	<p>The main objective is to restore and rehabilitate the degraded forests and enhance ecosystem services. The indicative targets are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formulation of a forest plantation policy.</li> <li>• Establishment of 148,627 ha (352,438 acres) of forest plantations owned by the State.</li> <li>• Establishment of 115,427 ha (285,104 acres) of private plantations.</li> <li>• 331,392 ha (818,538 acres) of assisted natural regeneration in production forests.</li> <li>• Conservation of 202,429 ha (500,000 acres) of remaining natural forests in the central dry zone.</li> <li>• Establishment of 311,875 ha (770,332 acres) of community forests.</li> <li>• Reservation of 1,610 square miles (6.19 5% of country area) to fulfill the national target of 30% of PFEs in accordance with Myanmar forest policy, 1995.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weak systematic monitoring and evaluation for the implementation of MRRP linking to REDD+.</li> <li>• Limited or no studies on potential impacts of MRRP in terms of political, ecological, social and economic perspectives.</li> <li>• Limited consultations with stakeholders.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systematic monitoring and evaluation for implementation of MRRP linking to REDD+ should be carried out.</li> <li>• Since MRRP is a long-term programme, systematic studies should be conducted.</li> <li>• Stakeholder consultations should be taken into account for full and effective participation.</li> </ul>
5	30-Year Forest Management Plan 2001-2002 to 2030-2031	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Translating forest policy into practice is the backbone of a sustainable forest management and a long-term plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weak monitoring and evaluation.</li> <li>• Weak links with international commitments related to UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring and evaluation should be strengthened.</li> <li>• 30-year forest management plans should be developed and linked to international commitments.</li> </ul>
6	National Strategy and Action Plan for Mangroves 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NSAP is the backbone of mangrove reforestation and rehabilitation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited funding for mangrove conservation and reforestation in coastal areas.</li> <li>• Weak coordination among line ministries related to integrated coastal area management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mangrove conservation and reforestation activities should be linked to international multilateral funding sources, including Green Climate Fund, Global Environmental Facility and Disaster Risk Reduction and bilateral cooperation agreements.</li> <li>• Coordination mechanisms should be strengthened through the Coastal Area Management Central Committee.</li> </ul>
7	National Climate Change Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The strategies and action plans outline the pathways and the means to address climate change. Strategies and plans aim to achieve climate resilient development and pursue a low carbon development pathway by 2030 to support inclusive and sustainable development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no specific actions and funding for implementation is limited.</li> <li>• Limited or no sectoral strategies and action plans.</li> <li>• Limited capacities and facilities for implementation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding should be secured through national budgets or international multilateral funding mechanisms and bilateral cooperation.</li> <li>• Sectoral plans for relevant line ministries need to be developed and implemented as part of the National Action Plans.</li> <li>• Capacity building activities for each sector should be accelerated and the required facilities provided.</li> </ul>

## Capacity development gaps and possible solutions

Capacity development and institutional strengthening related to REDD+ are of crucial importance. Since REDD+ is a long-term process, it can only be achieved if stakeholder and institutional capacity development is well planned.

Table 5: Gaps and possible solutions for capacity development related to REDD+

No.	Capacity development and Institutions	Links REDD+	Gaps	Possible solutions
1	Human resource development plan, Forest Department	No links or specific actions for capacity development related to REDD+ and climate change mitigation.	No specific capacity programme for the development of REDD+.	Short- and long-term action plans for REDD+ capacity development for institutions should be prepared.
2	Central Forestry Development Training Centre (CFDTC)	Despite providing conventional forestry subjects, no links between training courses and REDD+ training.	No REDD+ or climate change mitigation and adaptation training programmes or lectures.	REDD+ and climate change courses should be included in regular training programmes.
3	Myanmar Forest School (MFS)	Despite providing conventional forestry subjects, no links between training courses and REDD+ training.	No REDD+ or climate change mitigation and adaptation training programme or lectures.	REDD+ and climate change courses should be included in regular training programmes.
4	Forest Research Institute (FRI)	Focal Institutions for REDD+ and FRI provide many REDD+ training courses in collaboration with international organizations including UN-REDD Programme, ICIMOD, KFS, IITO, and FFPRI.	Few resource persons and many researchers need to be trained. No links between REDD+ and ongoing research activities.	Training-of-trainers for REDD+ should be organized for FRI researchers and REDD+ working group members. FRI research projects should be designed to link with REDD+ and climate change mitigation.

## Institutional arrangement gaps and possible solutions

Table 6: Gaps and possible solutions for institutional arrangements for REDD+

No	Institutional arrangement	Link to REDD+	Gaps	Possible solutions
1.	National Environmental Conservation Committee and Climate Change Central Committee (NECCCCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take actions to prevent environmental damage and ensure environmental sustainability.</li> <li>Supervise and oversee rehabilitation activities in relevant areas based on the magnitude and intensity of impacts caused by government projects and activities or commercial and private activities.</li> <li>Participate in and promote actions toward international collaboration and cooperation relating to environmental conservation.</li> <li>Approve activities related to urban management planning.</li> <li>Facilitate and negotiate with government agencies and institutions to find solutions to environmental problems.</li> <li>Organize special task forces with terms of reference to implement conservation activities effectively and efficiently.</li> <li>Take actions on tasks and duties given by Cabinet.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no direct link between REDD+ Task Force and the NECCCCC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A regular reporting system for the progress of REDD+ to the NECCCCC should be created.</li> </ul>

No	Institutional arrangement	Link to REDD+	Gaps	Possible solutions
2	REDD+ Taskforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervise the implementation of all REDD+ Readiness activities including the development and monitoring of consolidated work plans and corresponding reporting by the technical working groups, the REDD+ Task Force Office and those involved in roadmap implementation.</li> <li>Coordinate and monitor all REDD+ initiatives in the country to ensure new initiatives or projects are integrated into the implementation of the REDD+ Readiness phase and contribute to the development of national REDD+ systems and approaches.</li> <li>Consolidate or validate technical reviews and proposals generated by technical working groups, the REDD+ Task Force Office, REDD+ projects or the national REDD+ Network and submit them to the NECCCCC for review and endorsement if required.</li> <li>Provide guidance on overall capacity building and adherence to safeguards under REDD+.</li> <li>Advise on issues brought to the attention of the task force by stakeholders through the technical working group, consultations and other channels.</li> <li>Ensure community concerns are heard and acted upon, that FPIC principles are applied, and that community partners are given due recognition in benefit sharing.</li> <li>Report to the NECCCCC and MONREC on resource mobilization for REDD+ Readiness implementation and piloting selected REDD+ strategies if required.</li> <li>Inform the NECCCCC about the latest international agreements and developments related to REDD+ implementation and offer feedback to the UNFCCC through the NECCCCC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no capacity building and awareness raising programme for task force members or decision makers.</li> <li>Task force members have limited capacity and awareness about REDD+.</li> <li>There is no regular mechanism for meeting and discussion with technical working groups of the REDD+ core unit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organize capacity building and awareness raising programme for TF members.</li> <li>A regular meeting should be created to report all progress by technical working groups, INGOs and NGOs.</li> </ul>
3	REDD+ core unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide technical support to REDD+ technical working groups.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no regular mechanism for meeting with technical working groups or the REDD+ core unit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A regular coordination mechanism should be established between national technical working groups and the REDD+ core unit of the Forest Department.</li> </ul>
4	National Technical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholder Engagement and Safeguards Technical Working Group.</li> <li>Establish a process for stakeholder engagement during the development of the roadmap and to set out a broad strategy for further stakeholder engagement during the preparation of a comprehensive national REDD+ strategy.</li> <li>Identify current measures in respect to the Cancun safeguards applying to forest management in Myanmar and propose measures to strengthen those safeguards.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no subnational technical working groups.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subnational REDD+ technical working groups should be formed to strengthen collaboration with the national technical working group.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MRV Technical Working Group.</li> <li>To assess baseline national technical capacities and institutional arrangements related to forest monitoring and measurement, reporting and verification functions of the national forest monitoring system (NFMS) for REDD+.</li> <li>Identify potential strategies for the development of Myanmar's forest RELs/RLs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no subnational technical working groups.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>REDD+ technical working groups should be formed to strengthen collaboration with the national technical working group.</li> </ul>
		<p>Drivers and strategies for technical working groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and quantify the major drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Myanmar and their underlying causes and identify potential strategies to address them.</li> </ul>	<p>There are no subnational technical working groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>REDD+ technical working groups should be formed to strengthen collaboration with the national technical working group.</li> </ul>
5	Informal REDD+ stakeholder network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An informal REDD+ multistakeholder network was established as part of the initial REDD+. Awareness raising and consultation activities were conducted in 2010–12. The current network consists of a</li> <li>mailing list of interested individuals, primarily from government and civil society organizations. This mailing list has so far been used to disseminate REDD+ information, to establish lists of invitees for REDD+ workshops and events (including the national roadmap consultation workshops) and to establish the membership of roadmap technical working groups. The network includes members of existing environmental networks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formal networking should be established.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Networking for REDD+ should be extended to government ministries, NGOs, CSOs, the private sector, local government and communities and ethnic groups.</li> </ul>

No	Institutional arrangement	Link to REDD+	Gaps	Possible solutions
6	CFNWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop community forest and related policy, strategies and plans for the short- and long-term to achieve the objectives of community forests.</li> <li>Provide overall guidance for the development of community forestry targeted by nationally determined contributions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No coordination or formal communication between CFNWG, the REDD+ taskforce and technical working groups.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish formal lines of communication with CFNWG, national technical working groups and the REDD+ taskforce.</li> </ul>
7	CF Units (HQ, and regions) of the Forest Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor the progress of community forests across the country.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no links with the REDD+ taskforce and community forest units of the Forest Department.</li> <li>No coordination or formal communication between community forest units and the REDD+ taskforce and technical working groups.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish formal communication among CFNWG, National TWGs and REDD+ Taskforce.</li> </ul>
8	Settlement Unit of the Forest Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Constitute reserved forests, protected public forest and protected areas to meet the nationally determined contribution targets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no links between the REDD+ taskforce and the Settlement Unit.</li> <li>No coordination or formal communication between Settlement Unit and REDD+ taskforce and technical working groups.</li> </ul>	
9	FLEGT TWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Combat illegal logging to ensure timber legality and an assurance system.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no regular mechanism for meeting and sharing information.</li> </ul>	
10	National GHG Inventory Technical Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect emissions data from various sectors and prepare a national GHG report as a second communication to UNFCCC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no regular mechanism for meeting and sharing information.</li> <li>Limited capacity within line ministries.</li> </ul>	

## Technology

Two out of four elements of the REDD+ mechanism are directly related to REDD+ technology, the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and Forest Reference Emission Level/Forest Reference Level (FREL/FRL). In addition to technology, these elements need good facilities such as computers, high resolution satellite images, software and Internet access. Without these facilities, these elements cannot be achieved.



Table 7: Gaps and possible solutions related to the technology of REDD+ implementation

No.	Technology	Link to REDD+	Gaps	Possible solutions
1	Remote sensing and geographic information systems (RS/GIS)	Directly contribute to the FREL/FRL and the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS).	Limited availability of up-to-date satellite images on a regular basis. Limited availability of high resolution satellite images.	Provide up-to-date satellite images on a regular basis Provide high resolution satellite images ideally covering the whole country otherwise hotspot areas on a regular basis.
2	Forest Inventory	Directly link to NFMS and FREL/FRL.	Need appropriate NFI design to cover carbon accounting and calculation of sustained timber production (Annual Allowable Cut). Centralized NFI system and NFMS. It is necessary to build up staff capacity in State and Region Forest Departments.	NFI design should be developed to cover carbon accounting calculation of Annual Allowable Cut. State and Region Forest Departments should be encouraged to improve their capacities to conduct inventory and forest monitoring by themselves.
3	Carbon enhancement activities (Role of forest conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stock)	Directly contribute to REDD+	Limited technical know-how of carbon enhancement activities of private investors and forest dependent communities.	Appropriate technologies should be accelerated for carbon enhancement activities and locally controlled forest management systems and community-based forest management systems, from planning to marketing.

## Information sharing, awareness raising and stakeholder engagement

REDD+ implementation will fall within the responsibility of MONREC. The MoAI is another key REDD+ institution playing a major role in land use planning and management. However, several other line ministries have responsibilities that are relevant to the management of a REDD+ programme. It is, therefore, crucial to improve coordination among government ministries, State and Region governments, CSOs, NGOs, communities, the private sector (horizontal, vertical coordination), and international organizations.

Table 8: Gaps and possible solutions in terms of information sharing, awareness raising and stakeholder engagement

No.	Info. sharing, awareness and stakeholder engagement	Links to REDD+	Gaps	Possible solutions
1	Forest Department Website	All forestry-related information is published on their website, including REDD+ progress.	Limited articles and information about REDD+ progress.	REDD+ related articles and up-to-date information should be uploaded on a regular basis.
2	MONREC website	All forestry, forest products, environment and mining information from MONREC is published on the website, including REDD+ progress.	Limited articles and information about REDD+ progress.	There are many priorities to be uploaded. REDD+ related articles and up-to-date information should be uploaded on a regular basis.
3	FRI Facebook page	All forestry-related information from the Forest Department is published on the page, including REDD+ progress.	Only a little information about REDD+ events is published.	FRI should link to UNREDD (Myanmar) to publish more information and REDD+ and climate change articles.
4	UNREDD Programme (Myanmar) website and Facebook	All REDD+ information and progress is published on the website.	Only updated information and ongoing events are uploaded.	REDD+ related articles should be published and shared on a regular basis. UN-REDD should also publish in Myanmar language. UN-REDD Programme should publish a monthly or quarterly journal focusing on REDD+ progress and climate change.
5	Monthly journal (Thitaw Kyaemon) published by the Forest Department	All forestry-related information from the Forest Department is published on the website, including REDD+ progress.	Limited information and publications about REDD+.	REDD+ articles, REDD+ project progress from the Forest Department should be included in the journal on a regular basis.
6	Private sector, line ministries, State and Region governments	Success of REDD+ implementation depends on full and effective participation of stakeholders.	Limited awareness about REDD+, so their participation is still limited.	Awareness raising campaigns and capacity development training should continue to be organized on a regularly basis.

# Financing

Table 9: **Gaps and possible solutions (financing)**

No.	Financing mechanism	Links to REDD+	Gaps	Possible solutions
1	National budgeting system	Sets the budget for the Forest Department's activities, which includes reducing deforestation and forest degradation and enhancing carbon stocks as well as NFMS.	No specific budget allocation for REDD+ Readiness.	Mainstream REDD+ into the national budget system for annual allocation of funds.
2	Private sector financing	Private sector investing in teak and other hardwood forest plantations which contribute to REDD+.	No specific intention for REDD+ and climate change mitigation purposes.	Encourage the private sector to get involved, invest and contribute to REDD+ and climate change mitigation efforts.
3	Multilateral financing	Funding for REDD+ Readiness.	No long-term commitment to financing for REDD+.	Sustainable financing mechanisms should be developed in collaboration with appropriate international organizations (e.g. Green Climate Fund and others).
4	Bilateral financing	Funding for REDD+ Readiness and capacity building of government staff, CSOs, NGOs, communities and stakeholders.	Done on a project basis with no long-term commitment to REDD+.	Bilateral cooperation should be extended to secure funding for subnational or project level REDD+ activities.
5	Environmental Trust Fund	Can provide REDD+ Readiness and capacity building of government staff, CSO, NGOs, communities and stakeholders. Can provide for carbon enhancement activities.	No environmental trust fund in Myanmar.	Create an environmental trust fund for REDD+.
5	Payment for Environmental Services (PES)	Can provide REDD+ Readiness and enhance ecosystem services.	No legal background or PES practice in Myanmar.	PES should be initiated with the appropriate legal background.

## Identification of priority gaps

The conclusion from a series of consultation meetings, expert interviews and round-table discussions was that while many gaps need to be filled, it is not possible to fill them at once or even within a short time due to limited funding, expertise and experience. Therefore, based on expert consultations, priorities have been identified to estimate the cost of implementation. The following table lists the priorities and associated costs.

Table 10: Prioritized gaps and possible solutions

No.	Category	Gaps	Possible solutions and priorities
1	Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weak policy support for addressing drivers of deforestation, particularly substitution of firewood and charcoal.</li> <li>Land use policy (2016) is still inactive and many land-related issues were observed during field visits.</li> <li>Lack of supporting policy and mechanisms linking to forest conservation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify possible sources of energy including gas and electricity as well as energy efficiency measures such as efficient cook stoves.</li> </ul>
2	Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legal support for REDD+ implementation activities, land tenure and benefit sharing is lacking as a consequence of the absence of REDD+ concepts in laws.</li> <li>No legal support for REDD+ implementation in unclassified areas (outside PFEs).</li> <li>Rules and responsibilities for staff to implement REDD+ activities are not formulated in line departments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A legal instrument for REDD+ securing implementation activities, tenure and benefit sharing needs to be formulated by the Forest Department and coordinated with relevant ministries.</li> <li>A legal document for securing and supporting REDD+ in unclassified forest areas should be developed.</li> <li>Set up clear and legally binding rules for implementation through staff to conduct REDD+ activities.</li> </ul>
3	Strategies and plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The financial investments required for implementing REDD+ strategies, policies and measures are not yet secured, except the funding requirements for the 10-year Reforestation and Rehabilitation Programme.</li> <li>Regarding implementation of NDC, there are limited staff and inputs for reservation processes.</li> <li>Weak coordination and cooperation of some State and Region governments, communities for reservation and establishment of Protected Areas.</li> <li>Regarding NBSAP, there is a lack of integrated planning to address issues of climate change impacts and biodiversity loss.</li> <li>Weak coordination (limited coordination mechanism) for climate change sectors and biodiversity conservation sectors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A REDD+ investment plan needs to be developed and funding secured (e.g. GCF or other bilateral cooperation agreements).</li> <li>Cooperation among government, INGOs, NGOs, CSOs and communities should be strengthened.</li> <li>Negotiation and forestry extension skills of staff members of the Forest Department should be improved.</li> <li>An integrated action plan should be developed for a win-win approach, especially for climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation.</li> </ul>
4	Institutional capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no direct link between the REDD+ task force and the NECCCCC.</li> <li>There are no capacity building and awareness raising programmes for task force members or decision makers. Task force members have limited capacity and awareness of REDD+.</li> <li>There is no subnational technical working group.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A regular system for reporting REDD+ progress to the NECCCCC should be created.</li> <li>Organize capacity building and awareness raising programmes for task force members.</li> <li>A subnational technical working group should be formed and linked to the national technical working group.</li> </ul>
5	Institutional arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no direct link between the REDD+ task force and the NECCCCC for overall supervision.</li> <li>Lack of subnational REDD+ technical working group.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A regular reporting system and mechanism should be built between the REDD+ task force and the NECCCCC.</li> <li>A subnational REDD+ technical working group should be formed.</li> </ul>
6	Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited availability of up-to-date satellite images.</li> <li>Limited availability of high resolution satellite images.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide up-to-date satellite images on a regular basis.</li> <li>Provide high resolution satellite images covering the whole country or at least some hotspot areas on a regular basis.</li> </ul>
7	Information sharing, awareness raising and stakeholder engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited articles and information about REDD+ progress.</li> <li>Limited awareness about REDD+ so participation is still limited.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>REDD+ articles and up-to-date information should be uploaded on a regular basis.</li> </ul>
8	Financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No national budgeting for REDD+ readiness.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mainstream REDD+ into the national budgeting system.</li> </ul>

# The Way Forward for National Implementation of REDD+

Myanmar has been trying hard to launch a national implementation of REDD+ and access results-based payments through three phases: Phase I, which covers capacity building and preparation of four REDD+ design elements, including developing national strategies and action plans; Phase II, which is piloting subnational implementations to demonstrate emission reduction and carbon enhancement through policies and measures; and Phase III, the national implementation of REDD+ for results-based payment.

There have been over three years of REDD+ Readiness preparation since the UN-REDD National Programme began in Myanmar in 2015. Bilateral cooperation between the Forest Department and international organizations such as ITTO, KFS and AAS has implemented subnational and related REDD+ projects for capacity building of government staff and stakeholders to support REDD+ Readiness. However, Myanmar is classified as a Least Developed Country and there are many gaps that need to be filled for successful REDD+ Implementation and consequently access to result-based payments. A step-by-step process to address these gaps is the way to go for Myanmar.



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