

## **Annex-6: Implementing restoration and rehabilitation practices in order to assist with the recovery of ecosystem functions and services**

### **Narrative**

#### **Forestry**

Myanmar's Forest Department (FD) has practical experiences in program-based reforestation activities in the past. One of the remarkable reforestation programs was the 5 years East Paga Yoma Project (EPP) implemented during (1979-1984), with the financial support of World Bank. The ADB also jointly involved in the reforestation project with Forest Department later on in 1983.

After that, FD continued reforestation and afforestation activities by its national budget. Between 1981 and 2016, totally 885,638 ha (about 2.19 million acres) of different types of forest plantations (commercial plantation, village supply plantation, industrial plantation and watershed plantation) has been established from government sector by FD throughout the country. Establishing forest plantation by private entrepreneurs /companies has been begun since 2006-2007. As of May 2017, 56,104 ha (138,633 acres) of Teak plantations and 36,337 ha (89,790 acres) of other hardwood plantations have been established from the private sector.

Although, Myanmar has already developed a significant extent of forest plantations, inspections conducted in 2010 has revealed that 55.98 % of the established plantation failed due to various reasons. Moreover, FRA (2015) has reported that Myanmar is the third-most deforested country in the world.

In response to address deforestation and forest degradation issue, FD has developed and been implementing "**Myanmar Reforestation and Rehabilitation Programme**" with following objectives;

- To restore and rehabilitate the forest with the appropriate methods
- To strengthen the investment of large- and small scale private plantation
- To support the community forestry and agro-forestry practices
- To formulate the plantation policy through consultation with relevant stakeholders
- To encourage the participation of all relevant stakeholders in restoration and rehabilitation programme

This programme will be implemented in 6 designated plantation zones in two 5-year phases: Phase-I from 2017-18 to 2021-22 and Phase-II from 2022-23 to 2026-27. Among others, programme activities include development of plantation policy, assisted natural regeneration-ANR, conservation of remaining natural forests, enrichment planting, establishment of plantation by government and private sector, development of community forests, promoting agroforestry, distribution of seedlings to the public, forest reservation, establishment of seed orchards and seed production area-SPA, upgrading seed and seedling centers, special greening campaign etc. By the end of 10-year, the programme aims to achieve the following expected outputs:

- Formulation of Forest Plantation Policy
- Establishment of 352,438 acres of state-owned forest plantations
- Establishment of 285,104 acres of private plantations
- 818,538 acres of Assisted Natural Regeneration in the Production Forests
- Conservation of 500,000 acres of remaining natural forests in Central Dry Zone

- Establishment of 770,332 acres of Community Forests
- Reservation of 1610 square mile (6.19 5 % of country area) to fulfill the national target of 30% of PFE in accordance with Myanmar forest policy 1995.
- Supporting the development of the socio-economic condition of the local communities through the creation of job opportunities for the (0.25) million people annually.
- Building the capacity of the local people and staff members (about 38,120 people) through the reforestation programme
- Mitigating the impacts of climate change through the establishment of plantations, restoration of forests, reservation and protection of biodiversity with the active participation of people.

### **Sub-national Measure**

As a subnational level initiative, Dry Zone Greening Department (DZGD) was constituted in 1997 with a core objective of combating desertification, land degradation and draught in the central dry zone comprising the regions of Sagaing, Magwe and Mandalay. In fact, there are four main tasks in the DZGD for its objectives and out of these tasks, establishment of forest plantation and conservation of remaining natural forests are included.

In the practice of combating desertification, the conservation of natural resources and protection of ecological processes are the basic of balance within the environment that provides clean air and water and other ecological services. About 0.73 million ha of degraded forests and 1 million ha of forests affected by shifting cultivation have been identified as areas urgently need for protection in central Dry Zone of Myanmar. Degraded forests which can be rehabilitated naturally are, therefore, identified, demarcated and protected by DZGD.

DZGD also establish forest plantations to meet the following objectives in addition to achieve combating desertification.

- To improve climatic condition, soil condition of dry zone areas
- To counter check severe erosion on cultivated land
- To improve conservation of water, soil, biodiversity and environment
- To carry out simultaneous conservation of natural forest and establishment of forest plantations
- To contribution toward fuelwood requirement of the dry zone

In accordance with the comprehensive master plan, the total area of 0.8 million acres (0.32 million hectares) shall be afforested and reforested in central dry zone of Myanmar. Up to the year 2017-18, the DZGD had established (145,030.59hectares) of forest plantations in central dry zone to fulfill its special purposes. It includes the forest plantations established by the DZGD in cooperation with international organizations and NGOs. The forest plantations established in cooperation with international organizations and NGOs are about 2.85 % of total forest plantations established up to 2017-18. Therefore, the projects in cooperation with international organizations and NGOs are partially supporting the DZGD in order to fulfill its special purposes for greening of central dry zone of Myanmar.