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PROGRAMME



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# 2020-2021 Technical Assistance for REDD+ Implementation: Integrating Mangroves into REDD+ Implementation in Myanmar

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UN-REDD PROGRAMME

EXECUTIVE BOARD

INTERSESSIONAL DECISION 2/2020

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25 August 2020

UN organizations	
<p><i>Name of Representative :</i> Mette Løyche Wilkie Director, Forestry Division, FAO</p> <p><i>Signature</i> _____</p> <p><i>Name of Organization:</i> <b>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</b></p> <p><i>Date &amp; Seal</i></p>	
<p><i>Name of Representative:</i> Pradeep Kurukulasuriya <i>Title:</i> Director – Nature, Climate and Energy Executive Coordinator- Environmental Finance Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS)/ Global Policy Network</p> <p><i>Signature</i> _____</p> <p><i>Name of Organization:</i> <b>United Nations Development Programme</b></p> <p><i>Date &amp; Seal</i> 07-Sep-2020</p>	
<p><i>Name of Representative:</i> Susan Gardner <i>Title:</i> Director, Ecosystems Division</p> <p><i>Signature</i> _____</p> <p><i>Name of Organization:</i> <b>United Nations Environment Programme</b></p> <p><i>Date &amp; Seal</i></p>	

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UN organizations	
<p><b>Name of Representative :</b> Mette Løyche Wilkie  <b>Director, Forestry Division, FAO</b></p> <p><b>Signature</b> _____</p> <p><b>Name of Organization:</b> Food and Agriculture Organization  <b>of the United Nations</b></p> <p><b>Date &amp; Seal</b>  07.09.2020</p>	
<p><b>Name of Representative:</b> Pradeep Kurukulasuriya  <b>Title:</b> Executive Coordinator &amp; Director- Global  Environmental Finance &amp; Head, Natural Capital and the  Environment  Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS)/  Global Policy Network</p> <p><b>Signature</b> _____</p> <p><b>Name of Organization:</b> United Nations Development  Programme</p> <p><b>Date &amp; Seal</b></p>	
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## UN-REDD Executive Board Intersessional Decision 2/2020

On 25 August 2020, the UN-REDD Executive Board approved on a no-objection basis the budget of US\$2,013,443 for Technical Assistance for REDD+ Implementation: Integrating mangroves sustainable management, restoration and conservation into REDD+ Implementation in Myanmar.

The Government of Norway has made funds available to address the integration of mangroves' sustainable management, restoration and conservation into REDD+ implementation in Myanmar. Integrating a mangroves component in the global UN-REDD technical assistance will contribute to the achievement of the overall goals of the national REDD+ strategy, in terms of emissions reductions and enhanced livelihoods of local communities in six districts (covering 56% of national mangrove cover).

Additional information is provided in the sections below.

### Context

The UN-REDD Programme supports countries to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. In this context, the government of Norway has requested the UN-REDD Programme to develop a proposal – within the framework of the current UN-REDD Global Technical Assistance – to integrate mangroves into REDD+ implementation in Myanmar.

The Myanmar UN-REDD National Programme was initiated in November 2016 with a budget of US\$5.55 million and a duration of four years. Thanks to this cooperation, Myanmar has made rapid progress towards completing the REDD+ readiness phase through the elements of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+, including drafting of the REDD+ strategy taking particular account of the complex situation with regard to conflict and ethnic diversity, the design of the safeguards information systems, submission of the Forest Reference Emission Level, and strengthening of the national forest monitoring system.

New investments in strategic areas of opportunity could boost the potential of Myanmar to achieve emission reductions and enhancement of removals, as the country moves into Phase 2 (implementation) of REDD+ through the implementation of the forest and land-use actions identified in the REDD+ strategy, specifically targeted technical assistance and further strengthening of national capacities.

In 2017, the Norway International Climate Forest Initiative (NICFI) invited the Mangroves for the Future initiative and IUCN to submit a regional proposal for Indonesia, Myanmar and Viet Nam for the incorporation of mangrove ecosystems in these countries into national REDD+ strategy implementation. This proposal was prepared in collaboration with the UN-REDD regional team for Asia-Pacific and submitted in mid-2018. While the regional proposal could not proceed for a number of reasons, NICFI recognized the Myanmar component as technically strong and therefore requested, in February 2019, the UN-REDD Programme to further advance with the preparation and submission of a specific national proposal for Myanmar.

The UN-REDD Programme, with a combination of national, regional and headquarters-based technical experts, submitted the document **“Integrating Mangroves into REDD+ Implementation in Myanmar”** to NICFI, and received confirmation in June 2020 of the allocation of the funds necessary to meet the budget estimate of US\$2,013,443 for a two-year programme of activities.

## Budget

UNDG Harmonised Categories	2020				2021				Grand Total
	FAO	UNEP	UNDP	Total	FAO	UNEP	UNDP	Total	
Staff and other personnel costs	163,881	14,232	203,462	381,575	188,850	18,938	218,118	425,906	807,481
Travel	61,752	9,182	56,804	127,738	71,161	12,218	60,896	144,275	272,013
Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture	52,252		7,746	59,998	60,213		8,304	68,517	128,515
Transfers & Grants Counterparts	66,503	71,086	134,264	271,853	76,634	94,594	143,936	315,164	587,017
Supplies, Commodities, Materials	11,400		9,295	20,695	13,137		9,965	23,102	43,797
Gen Operating & Other direct costs	15,201		4,914	20,115	17,516		5,268	22,784	42,899
<b>Subtotal Direct Costs</b>	<b>370,989</b>	<b>94,500</b>	<b>416,485</b>	<b>881,974</b>	<b>427,511</b>	<b>125,750</b>	<b>446,487</b>	<b>999,748</b>	<b>1,881,722</b>
Indirect Support Costs	25,969	6,615	29,154	61,738	29,926	8,803	31,254	69,982	131,721
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>396,958</b>	<b>101,115</b>	<b>445,639</b>	<b>943,712</b>	<b>457,437</b>	<b>134,553</b>	<b>477,741</b>	<b>1,069,730</b>	<b>2,013,443</b>

## Annex

### 1.1 Mangrove specific interventions as emission reduction and livelihood opportunity

Mangroves are increasingly recognized as one of the most carbon-rich ecosystems in the world. International research has drawn attention to the large sequestration capacity of these ecosystems, with estimates indicating storages of 1,023 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) per ha vis-à-vis the 350t per ha of other tropical forests. This also takes into account the significant presence of methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) in mangroves ecosystems, a more potent Greenhouse Gas (GHG) than CO<sub>2</sub>. For mangrove-rich countries, investing in the conservation, sustainable management and restoration of these ecosystems is low-hanging fruit towards achieving national targets for emission reductions from the forestry and land-use sector, as expressed in Nationally-Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement and in national REDD+ strategies.

It is internationally recognized that Myanmar has one of the most extensive mangrove areas in the world (the third largest in Asia), and that it also suffers one of the highest rates of mangrove deforestation.

With the country now dedicating attention and efforts towards REDD+ implementation and achieving NDCs, planning, implementing and measuring the results of specific interventions in mangrove areas (conservation, sustainable management and restoration) offer a unique opportunity for the country to accelerate its contribution to climate change mitigation.

In addition to their value for climate change mitigation, healthy mangroves are also among the most productive ecosystems in the world, and provide various valuable services and benefits to communities living around them, including acting as a natural barrier to reduce the impact of natural hazards such as salinization, flooding and tsunamis.

### 1.2 Outcome, outputs and approach

The proposed work will support Myanmar in achieving its emissions' reductions targets as well as enhancing livelihoods of forest communities in ten districts in Ayeyarwady, Mon, Rakhine and Tanintharyi (covering 92% of national mangrove areas).

The outcome of the initiative, "Sustainable management, restoration and conservation of mangroves contribute to the achievement of the overall goals of the National REDD+ Strategy, in terms of emissions reductions and enhanced livelihoods of local communities", will be achieved through three main outputs. A more detailed inception plan (including refined indicators for the expected results) will be prepared for the implementation.

Output 1 will ensure that mangrove-related REDD+ actions are enabled through a strong enabling environment, ensuring sustainability and effectiveness of the anticipated Emission Reductions. Output 2 will improve the availability of mangrove-specific information and data, including on carbon stocks, area and area changes, values of non-extractive uses of mangroves, and improve access to this information by multiple stakeholders. Output 3 will introduce a tailored and targeted approach to planning and implementation of REDD+

interventions in mangrove areas, through a participatory, gender and conflict-sensitive integrated land-use planning mechanism building on ongoing land use policy reform.

The proposed work directly addresses barriers to the effective contribution of mangrove-related interventions to the goals of the National REDD+ Strategy, and broader development objectives of the Government of Myanmar. These are (1) a lack of modern, effective regulations governing mangrove management, combined with a lack of coordination among institutions; (2) a lack of accurate and adequate data to inform management decisions; (3) a lack of inclusive and participatory planning mechanisms; and (4) a lack of models for effective management under different circumstances.

Lastly, considering the whole work will be based on the District Forest Management Plans, the implementation of this proposal will also allow Myanmar to start-up a jurisdictional planning process for REDD+, similar to UN-REDD supported processes in Viet Nam and Nepal.