MYANMAR FORESTRY

Forest resources continue to be on the decline

From 1975 to 2010, forest cover declined to 29.388 million ha in 2015, 44% of the land cover. This represents a loss of 11.8 million ha in this period (between 1975 and 2015).

Primary drivers of deforestation

- Land use conversion (primarily for agriculture and mining), development of roads and other infrastructure
- Inconsistencies remain between policies and laws across different sectoral ministries in relationship to Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land

The rate of forest loss in Myanmar increased in the 2010-2015 period, making it the country with the third largest absolute forest loss globally during this period.

Primary drivers of forest degradation

- Unsustainable extraction of timber
- Illegal logging
- Production of fuelwood

Forest products and value chain issues

Until 2014, Myanmar had no restrictions on log exports, which made roundwood exports, especially teak, the dominant commercial forest product. At present, most of wood processing is undertaken by small and medium scale enterprises

Challenges to scale up community forestry initiatives

Community Forestry has been hampered by limited capacity and financial resources of local Forestry Department as well as local civil society staff related to awareness on CF rights and regulations

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Review Reserve Forest and Protected Public Forests, define how Production Forests should be managed, adapt district forest management plans

Address wood fuel as the major rural energy source and driver of forest degradation

Improve long-term management of state-owned plantations

Develop and implement Myanmar Industrial and Commercial Plantation Strategy in close cooperation with wood-based industry

Align definition and implementation of national certification standards with regional and international requirements

Reform Myanma Timber Enterprise, taking into account a strong regulatory, planning and control function of Forest Department

Improve enabling environment for small and medium-sized enterprises

Simplify approval process of Community Forestry establishment, develop efficient delivery mechanism for scaling up CF

Expand area under protection to meet national targets with increased focus on community-based conservation models and stakeholder engagement