

Promotion of Membership Relations by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Organizational Structure of Forest Department

Forest Department of Myanmar is under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation which is responsible for sustainable management of forest resources and climate change mitigation and adaptation. In the current context, Forest Department has expanded its organizational structure to work more efficient and effective. As this new structure, Director General takes the role of leader and under the supervision of Director General, three Deputy Directors Generals collectively oversee the works. Forest Department is currently structured with 12 Division in Headquarter, 15 State and Regional Offices, 50 District Offices, 218 Township Offices, and 103 Associated-Township Offices. A total of 6,499 forest officers and office staffs are currently working under Forest Department.

Policies, Laws, Strategies and Action Plans

Forest Department (FD) is responsible for protection and conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of forest resources of the country. **Myanmar Forest Policy (1995)** has been formulated in a holistic and balanced manner with the overall context of the environment and sustainable development taking full cognizance of the forestry principles. It formalizes the commitment and intent of the Government to ensure the sustainable development of forest resources for social, environmental and economic purposes. The policy paves the way for prudent use and enhanced benefit from the forest while maintaining ecosystem integrity and environmental balance. Six imperatives identified in the policy are: (1) Protection of soil, water, wildlife, biodiversity and the entire environment; (2) Sustainability of forest resources to ensure perpetual supply of both tangible and intangible benefits accrued from the forests for the present and future generations; (3) Basic needs of the people for fuel, shelter, food and recreation; (4) Efficiency to harness, in the socio-environmentally friendly manner, the full economic potential of the forest resources; (5) Participation of the people in the conservation and utilization of forests; and (6) Public awareness about the vital role of forests in the well-being and socioeconomic development of the nation.

National Land Use Policy was launched in 2016 and it aims at implementing, managing and carrying out land use and tenure rights in the country systematically and successfully, including both urban and rural areas, in accordance with the objectives of the Policy. It shall be the guide for the development and enactment of a **National Land Law**, including harmonization and implementation of the existing laws related to land, and issues to be decided by all relevant departments and organizations relating to land use and tenure rights.

Myanmar Climate Change Policy was adopted in 2019 with a vision of “to be a climate resilient, low-carbon society that is sustainable, prosperous and inclusive, for the well-being of present and future generations”.

The old Forest Law (1992) was repealed by the new Forest Law enacted in 2018. The basic principle, management of forest land, conservation and protection, administrative actions, and offences and penalties were revised and updated in the new **Forest Law (2018)**.

Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Areas Law was adopted in May 2018 to enable a much greater role for local communities while promoting co-management, support international obligations such as Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and increase penalties for legal infringements.

Environmental Conservation Law was enacted in 2012 and it aims at implementing the Myanmar National Environmental Policy, laying down the basic principles and giving guidance for systematic integration of the matters of environmental conservation in the sustainable development process and enabling to emerge a healthy and clean environment and enabling to conserve natural and cultural heritage for the benefit of present and future generations etc.

In Forest Department, **Myanmar Forest Policy (1995)** stipulates to designate up to 30 percent of the total land area as Reserved Forest (RF) and Protected Public Forest (PPF) and 10 percent of the total land area as Protected Area Systems (PAS). These ambitious targets are supported by a strong legal and policy framework, including the Forest Policy of 1995, the updated Forest Law of 2018, and the long-term 30-year National Forestry Master Plan. Additionally, the master plan is then broken down into operational District Forest Management Plans, which are periodically updated to guide on-the-ground activities in different parts of the country. Alongside this, the Forestry Sector Comprehensive Development Plan is implemented in 5- year phases to ensure steady progress and adaptation.

Furthermore, the following plans and programmes have been developed to achieve the sustainable forest management as well as biodiversity conservation in Myanmar:

- 30 years Forest Management Master Plan
- District Forest Management Plan
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015-2020)
- National REDD+ Strategy
- Myanmar Reforestation and Rehabilitation Programme (2017-18 to 2026-27)
- Re-establishing Natural Habitats Programme (2019-20 to 2028-29)
- Inlay Lake Sustainable Development and Environmental Conservation Action Plan (2015-20)
- National Wetland Policy and Strategic Actions