

Activity Report of SEApeat Project (Myanmar Component)

Title of the activity: Peatland Assessment in Tanintharyi Region

Objective of the activity

The objective of this activity was primarily to complete the peatland assessment and to observe the situation of potential peatlands in Tanintharyi region. The objective is also linked to the conservation of peatland forests in Southeast Asia by strengthening governance and developing incentives to promote integrated management, sustainable local livelihoods, reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions and conserve biodiversity.

Period: 18 to 31 March 2014

Location of the activity

Peat assessments were carried out by FREDA team and local Forest Department and Agricultural Department staff in Tanintharyi Region.

Number of participants/stakeholders involved

FREDA Team :

1. U Sann Lwin, Secretary (Finance), FREDA
2. U Myint Aung (Project Manager, SEApeat Project)
3. Daw Seint Sann Zaw (Field Manager, SEApeat Project)
4. U Naing Linn Oo (Field In-Charge, SEApeat Project)
5. U Ye WannaSoe (Forester, SEApeat Project)
6. U Chit Sann (Forester, SEApeat Project)

Report

Peat Assessment in Tanintharyi Region

Under the arrangement of FREDA, before travelling to Tanintharyi Region, we discussed the preparation of the Peatland Assessment in Tanintharyi Region during the first week of March at the FREDA office. The assessment team headed by U Naing Linn Oo (Field In-Charge) left for Dawei by bus in the evening of 18 March.

On 20 March, U Sann Lwin (team leader), U Myint Aung and Daw Seint Sann Zaw travelled to Dawei by flight and arrived at Dawei around noon. After that we prepared for the workshop which would hold on 21 March. On 21 March replicated training workshop was conducted by the team and 27 persons attended. In the last section of the training workshop, we discussed with local Forest Department staff and Agriculture Department staff and planned for peat assessment in Thanintharyi Region.

The peatland assessment began on 22 March 2014 and ended on 30 March 2014. On 22 March the team started the peatland assessment in Dawei Township by car: **Maung Ma Shaung, Taung Poe Village, Shama Twin Village and Kauk Maw**. In these above places, we collected one soil sample.

On 23 March, the team travelled to the **Long Lon** and **Ye Phyu townships** by car. The places visited were: Pann Tin Inn and Na Bu Le villages. At the above places, we collected three soil samples.

On 24 March the team headed to Myeik by flight. After that we discussed the peat assessment in **Myeik District** with the Forest Department Officials.

On 25 March, the team headed to **Pa Law** by car and visited a Kant Zaw swamp Forest near Myo Haung (Old City). We found soils which composed of high organic matter under the swamp forest. We collected nine soil samples and measured the depth. The thickest of soil was 2.7m and the thinnest was 25cm.

On 26 March, the team travelled to **Nattalinn Taung Reserved Forest in Myeik Township** by car. In **Nattalinn Taung Reserved Forest**, we collected six soil samples and measured the depth. The thickest of soil was 90cm and the thinnest was 5cm. U Sann Lwin, Secretary (Finance), left for Yangon by air.

On 27 March, the team headed to **Bok Pyin** by car in the morning and arrived Bok Pyin in the evening. After that, we prepared and discussed the peatland assessment in this region with Forest Department.

On 28 March, the team travelled to **Kawt Ye Island in Bok Pyin Township** by boat. In **Kawt Ye Island**, we collected thirteen soil samples and measured the depth of soil. The thickest of soil was 1.6m and the thinnest was 15cm.

On 29 March, the team headed to **Sa Tain Chaung in Bok Pyin Township** by car and measured the depth of peatland. In **Sa Tain Chaung**, we collected sixteen soil samples. The thickest of soil was 50cm and the thinnest was 10cm.

On 30 March, the team assessed the remaining area of **Bok Pyin Township, Tanintharyi Region : Aye Nyein Thar Yar Village**. At that place, we collected eighteen soil samples and measured the depth of soil. The thickest of soil was 1.92m and the thinnest was 15cm.

We finished our peatland assessment on 30 March and arrived back to the Yangon by flight on 31 March.

Result and achievement of the activity

During this Peat Assessment, the team collected 66 soil samples and measured the depth of the soil.

Recommendation

- Need to make more detailed assessment in Tanintharyi Region.
- Fire protection. Our survey noticed that forest fire occurred during dry season. Burnings threaten peatlands particularly those that have dried out.
- Must be given incentives to local communities under Best Management Practice of Peatland.

Reported prepared by: FREDA Team

Date: 28th April 2014