

Activity Report of SEApeat Project (Myanmar Component)

Title of the activity: Peatland Assessment in Htu-In, Myanaung Township, Ayeyarwaddy Region

Objective of the activity

The objective of this activity was primarily to complete the peatland assessment and to observe the situation of peatland and peat soil in Htu-In of Htu Village Track, Myan Aung Township, Ayeyarwaddy region. The objective is 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: 2 to 9 May 2014

Location of the activity

Peat assessments were carried out by FREDA team in Htu-In, Myan Aung Township, Ayeyarwady Region.

Number of participants/stakeholders involved

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

Report

Peat Assessment in Ayeyarwaddy Region

Under the arrangement of FREDA, before traveling to Ayeyarwaddy Region, we discussed about the preparation of the Peatland Assessment in Ayeyarwaddy Division on 30 April at the FREDA office.

On 2 May the team headed by U Myint Aung and Daw Seint Sann Zaw leave for Hinthada by bus and on 9 May, the team went back to Yangon by bus.

The peatland assessment in Htu-In was started on 3 May 2014 and ended on 8 May 2014. Our team travelled along Htu-In by boat and collected 25 soil samples and measured the depth of the peatland. The thickest peat soil was 2m.

On 4 May, the team travelled to **Tayoke Gyaung Village (Myan Aung)** by car. From the village the team travelled to the center of Htu-In by boat. The team collected the soil samples from **The-Ngu Island, Ye-lal-ohn Island, Nabe Island and Tha-yet-phyu Island**. We collected 17 soil samples and measured the depth of the peatland. The thickest peat soil was 90cm and the thinnest was 15cm.

On 5 May, the team headed to the **Western part of Phayargyi Kyun (Zee-gone)** by car. Around this area, we collected 13 soil samples and measured the depth of the peatland. The thickest peat soil was 60cm and the thinnest was 15cm.

On 6 May, the team travelled to **Gam-kone village (the Western part of Phaung-Taw-Oo Pagoda)** by car and we collected 6 soil samples and measured the depth of the peatland. The thickest peat soil was 60cm and the thinnest was 15cm. After that the team headed to **Htu-In** by boat again and collected 25 plant specimens.

On 7 May, the team headed to **Myan Aung** by car. At Myan Aung Forest Department Office, the team discussed the situation of Peatland in Htu-In and the livelihood of local community who are depending their income on Htu-In with Township officers.

On 8 May, the team visited Hinthada District Forest Department office and collected data and maps.

Result and achievement of the activity

- During this Peat Assessment, the team collected 61 soil samples and measured the depth of the peatsoil along Htu-In, Myan Aung Township, Ayeyarwaddy Region. In Htu-In, the thickest of the peat soil was 2m and the thinnest was 15cm.
- We have found that there are 25 plant species, 20 kinds of fish species, 14 type of birds in Htuu Inn.
- The area of Htuu Inn is about 502 hectares.
- Most of the lake margin areas were transformed into paddy field and fish ponds.
- There were 7 villages situated along the margin of the Lake and 19 villages were depending their livelihood on the lake and nearby paddy fields and fish ponds

Recommendation

- Need more Best Management Practices on peatlands.
- Fire protection.
- Our survey noticed that there is only one drainage canal in the Lake. The productions of paddy farms along the drainage canal are depending on the canal. Based on the information of the local people, this drainage canal was dig more than a decade. However, there was not any water shortage problem in the lake even in dry season. This drainage canal could provide enough water for farming in dry season. However, it is necessary to give training and awareness campaign about wise use of pearland and the negative impact of drainage on peatland to this area.
- There are 19 villages (about 1.256 households) and they are totally depending their livelihood on lake margin paddy fields, fish ponds and the resources from Htu-In. So, it is necessary to think of their income generation activities when we think about the peatland conservation of Htu-In.

Report prepared by: Seint Sann Zaw, Field Manager, SEApeat Project (Myanmar Component)

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