

Current State of the Development and Implementation of the National Code of Harvesting Practices in Myanmar

(A country paper presented by U Khin Zaw, Deputy General Manager (Planning), Myanma Timber Enterprise, Ministry of Forestry, Union of Myanmar at the International Expert Meeting on the Development and Implementation of National Codes of Practice for Forest Harvesting – Issues and Options, 17-20 November 2003, Chiba, Japan)

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Introduction

The Union of Myanmar, mostly a tropical country, with a total area of 676,553 km² is a country rich in forest resources. All forest lands in Myanmar are under the State ownership since the days of Myanmar kings. Systematic management of natural forests in Myanmar dates back to the year 1856 adopted under the British, known as Myanma Selection System (MSS). The system involves adoption of a felling cycle of 30 years, prescription of exploitable trees, thinning of congested stands, removal of other trees interfering with growth of valuable trees, enumeration of trees left for the next felling cycle, performing special silvicultural operations and fixing annual yield.

In the forestry sector of Myanmar there are two main governmental institutions among others. The Forest Department (FD) undertakes conservation and management of forests, whereas the Myanma Timber Enterprise (MTE) undertakes extraction and utilization of forests.

To date, Myanma Timber Enterprise is the only organization that can extract timber out of the forests in Myanmar, exercising the Myanma Selection System (MSS) adopted by the FD. The FD specifies the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) determined by its inventory of trees and its growing stock. MTE complies its own Extraction Manual (1948), Standing Orders for Extraction Staff (1970) and Departmental Instructions No.1 to 120 (1957 to 1986) in performing timber harvesting works up to the present, and the National Code of Forest Harvesting Practices in Myanmar (2000) is soon to be implemented.

Myanma Timber Enterprise

Myanma Timber Enterprise, the State owned commercial enterprise in the forestry sector was established in 5th April 1948 as the State Timber Board under the Government Notification No 135 of the same date. The Board was established for the purpose of managing and controlling the extraction, conversion and marketing of forest produce in the Union of Myanmar. The Board became a statutory board under the State Timber Board Act promulgated in the year 1950.

The State Timber Board was empowered to undertake commercial exploitation of teakwood starting from extraction to processing and marketing in all forms. For non-teak hardwood, established private Myanmar timber businessmen were granted licenses to extract under contract. In milling and processing of hardwoods, local sawmillers were issued permits for operating on yearly basis. In 1963, hardwood marketing was brought under state control and in 1964, all private owned sawmills were nationalized under the socialist economic system. In 1974, the State Timber Board was reorganized under the socialist economy and renamed Timber Corporation (TC). The organization was enlarged under this system and direct control of the functions of the four major departments of TC viz. Extraction, Milling/Marketing, Engineering and Accounts were delegated to 14 States and Divisions. Milling and Marketing of teak and export business were retained by the headquarters in Yangon.

In 1989, with decentralisation and change to the market oriented economy, the name of the organization was changed to the Myanma Timber Enterprise (MTE), and reformed to be compatible with the present market oriented economic policy.

MTE currently extracts about 360,000 m³ of teak and 1,710,000 m³ of other hardwood logs per year from Myanmar forests. Of these, some are exported in log form and some are processed into sawn timber and finished products. The major portion of teak sawn timber and teak finished products are exported, whereas hardwood timber products, mostly sawn timber are distributed locally for construction work and for use as railway sleepers.

MTE is a major contributor to the national economy and yet it is conservative in its use of raw material available from the natural forests. The modest goal of the Enterprise is to obtain a turnover around kyats 3,600 million from domestic sales and approximately US \$ 200 million from annual export of wood and wood products. MTE does not intend to expand its upstream activities by increased extraction of logs from the forests, but to develop its downstream wood based industries for more value added products to augment its earnings and contribute more to the national economy.

MTE employs a combination of animal and mechanical power for timber extraction work. Animal skidding has proven to be the most economical and environmentally friendly method of extraction which precludes the construction of costly and easily eroded roads into the forest or up steep, hilly terrains. Moreover, animal skidding prevents possible destruction of valuable unfelled trees. Stumping (felling/logging) and skidding are done mainly by elephants and in some flat areas water buffaloes are employed. MTE employs about 3,000 elephants, of which about 1,600 are MTE owned and the rest hired from private elephant owners on contract basis. All buffaloes, about 650 pairs per year used for dragging are hired. Extracted logs are transported to terminal depots in Yangon or sawmills in local areas by means of river floating in rafts or by barges; or by rail or by trucks.

When using mechanical power for logging, elephants assist to drag logs from stump to wider drag paths or clearings just outside the extracting area. Further hauling or skidding is done by skidders up to the measuring point or forest car base. Then loading is done by wheel loaders onto timber hauling trucks. Cable logging is used in some logging sites but the usage is not significant. Most of the forest roads are of seasonal nature as the terrain is muddy during rainy season thus the trucking roads in the forest can only be used in dry weather.

Teak and hardwood logs are processed in sawmills and downstream industries of MTE for domestic as well as for export requirements. Most of the eighty three hardwood sawmills and three plywood factories are located in the districts and eight teak sawmills, two plywood factories, three furniture factories and three moulding factories are in Yangon.

Existing Extraction Manuals and Departmental Instructions

MTE adheres to its own Extraction Manual, Standing Orders and Departmental Instructions which are still valid, in all its timber harvesting activities. Extraction Manual includes eight parts, namely :-

1. Institutional :

- (a) Gazetted officers
- (b) Duties and responsibilities of extraction officials
- (c) Confidential reports on staff and sub-ordinates
- (d) Regulations for sub-ordinate staff and clerks
- (e) General provisions

2. Timber Extraction Methods :

- (a) Extraction procedures
- (b) Controlled extraction compartments
- (c) Rafting programmes
- (d) Neap counting and statistics
- (e) Railing of hardwood logs

3. Organisation and Departmental Instructions :

- (a) General
- (b) Correspondence (Staff Duty)

4. Elephants :

- (a) Working elephants
- (b) Baggage elephants
- (c) Annual rewards to elephant riders
- (d) Mahauts of dead elephants
- (e) Theft or loss of elephant
- (f) Branding departmental elephants
- (g) Anti-anthrax vaccination of elephants
- (h) Training of calves at heel
- (i) Transporting elephants across large water bodies such as big rivers
- (j) Taking blood samples of elephants
- (k) Elephant stud books
- (l) Registration of elephants
- (m) Medical treatment of elephants
- (n) Medicines for elephants

5. Communication and Buildings

- (a) Transport vehicles
- (b) Buildings and household furniture
- (c) House rent
- (d) Standard specifications for forest buildings

6. Reports and Returns

- (a) District monthly reports
- (b) Annual reports
- (c) Annual returns and final accounts
- (d) Work diaries

7. Accounting Procedures

- (a) Departmental instructions on book keeping
- (b) Coding system of stores

8. Appendices

The Standing Orders for Sub-ordinate Staff (SOS) includes twenty three chapters as below :-

1. General Provisions
2. Occupational principles and procedures
3. Work diaries
4. Pre-harvest plans
5. Felling commencement of teak trees and scaling
6. Extraction of logs
7. Measuring and custody of logs
8. Yeleiking (Facilitating smooth flow of dry teak logs in creeks), Aunging (Straightening of congested logs) and Neap-counting
9. Railing of logs
10. Rafting and management of main river depots
11. General timber extraction specifications
12. Issuance of departmental utensils and their maintenance
13. Extraction procedures of hardwood logs
14. Formation of elephant camps and classification of elephants according to load capacity
15. Inspection of elephants for health
16. Preparation and harnessing of elephants for work
17. Elephant logging procedures
18. Baggage elephant regulations
19. Specifications on elephant camp construction and camping
20. Birth of elephants and initial training
21. Mechanical Logging
22. Duties and responsibilities of mechanical logging staff
23. Appendices

The departmental Instructions, totalling 120 were circulated in the course of extraction management from 1957 to 1986. The following instructions which relates to the newly developed National Code of Harvesting Practices, are highlighted as below :

Instruction No:**Title**

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 | Focussing future yield |
| 4 | Reporting death of departmental elephants |
| 6 | Classification Hammers |

| Instruction No: | Title |
|------------------------|--|
| 8 | Training of calves (young elephants) |
| 10 | Inspection of extraction range officies |
| 11 | Method of hammering marks on logs |
| 12 | Field inspection |
| 13 | Monthly reports |
| 18 | Classification of quality of teak logs (Star Classification) |
| 23 | Personal marking hammers of officials and staff |
| 29 | Diaries of extraction range officials |
| 32 | Undutiful officials |
| 38 | Branding departmental elephants |
| 39 | Procedures on appointing extraction sub-contractors and registration of contractors |
| 45 | Acceptance and measuring of logs at measuring points and delivery points |
| 46 | surprise checks along the rafting route |
| 49 | River transport of logs to Yangon |
| 56 | Rules of teak scaling (Logging rules of teak logs) |
| 57 | Balance of Girdling |
| 60 | Un-regularized logs |
| 62 | Forest works of range in-charges |
| 63 | Form(AA), annual extraction plan |
| 67 | fire protection of departmental logs |
| 68 | Contracting and forwarding of contracts |
| 83 | Anti-anthrex vaccination |
| 87 | Hardwoods other than teak to be extracted by MTE |
| 88 | Hardwood logs scaling |
| 89 | Record book for timber floating streams |
| 90 | Regulations on hardwood extraction |
| 94 | Departmental elephant work force |
| 103 | Rafting and floating |
| 104 | Reporting, recording and write-off procedure for lost and damaged logs |
| 105 | Tour notes of MTE staff |
| 106 | Forest rayalty payment procedure |
| 108 | Principles of capturing wild elephants |
| 111 | Settling workman compensation |
| 113 | Annual confidential reports of individual staff |
| 117 | Teak neap counting |
| 118 | Inspection of divisional offices |
| 120 | Systematic management of elephant camps |

National Code of Practice for Forest Harvesting

In line with the forest principles adopted at UNCED 1992 and other international obligations the new Myanmar Forest Policy was promulgated in 1995 and relevant regulations in forestry were either formulated anew or updated subsequently. UNCED 1992 made FAO to publish FAO Model Code of Practice for Forest Harvesting in 1996.

Asia Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) developed the Code of Practice for Forest Harvesting in Asia-Pacific in 1997-Myanmar has developed the National Code of Forest Harvesting Practices in the beginning of year 2000.

Newly developed National Code of Forest Harvesting Practices in Myanmar has the objectives to provide guidelines and prescriptions to all stakeholders so that the forest environment, particularly the remaining stands, forest soil and water are least disturbed during and after the course of forest harvesting, and to maximize economic returns from forests while maintaining the regenerative capacity and species diversity of forest, ensuring health and safety of forest workers and protecting culturally and biologically significant sites. The Code has the field level resource management image.

The Code's lay out opens with harvest planning strategy, setting planning levels, i.e. long-term, mid-term and yearly operational planning; staffing and training for planning; involvement of stakeholders such as FD and MTE personnel, sub-contractors, elephant owners, local communities, forest dependents and NGOs; and consensus and commitment to plans which should be respected by all parties. Management zoning is well defined in the Code to demarcate protected areas, harvesting areas, buffer strips and water courses, and over-logged areas. Tree selection and marking within the bounds of annual allowable cut (AAC) prescribed for each management planning unit, buffer zone demarcation, planning of forest infrastructure including forest roads, water course crossings, log depots and landings, harvesting camps, skid tracts planning and felling direction planning are detailed under the chapter on pre-harvest planning. Engineering works such as road construction, curves and drainage, watercourse crossing, road maintenance and quarry management are elaborated in the specific chapter. The main chapter on harvesting operation gives guidelines on felling methods and cautions to be taken in felling, loading and unloading, log transportation, preliminary post harvest assessment by MTE, harvest completion and report submission, post harvest assessment jointly by FD and MTE and social welfare services to be equipment maintenance and servicing; general hygiene standards of working environment; safety measures for harvesting operational works for the mechanical and animal skidding, and fire protection. Possible future harvesting systems such as heli-logging and harvesting of trees from home gardens and other non-forest areas are informed in the last chapter of the Code.

After the emergence of the Code in January 2000, MTE translated the Code with abridgement into Myanmar language in June the same year. Since then the Code became one of the essential subjects in the refresher training courses for MTE's extraction officials, especially the assistant managers and senior timber rangers, who are timber extraction range incharges. The Code has been briefed to more than 200 trainees of that category. Two special courses exclusively on the Code had also been given in the year 2000 to (63) assistant general managers and managers responsible for timber extraction agencies which are at the management unit level. The agency executives discussed quite a lot on the challenges in applying the Code in the field. Four batches of assistant director refresher course of FD totalling about 120 trainees had also been lectured on the Code by MTE at CFDTTC using translated version of MTE.

The Asia Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) developed a regional strategy for implementing the code of practice for forest harvesting in Asia-Pacific. Regional Strategies could be adapted to be used in the implementation programme of national Code which was based on the Regional Code in Asia Pacific. APFC's overall goal of the regional strategy is to optimise the benefits offered by the region's natural production

forests and to contribute to the sustainable development and management of these forests for the continuing benefit of the communities of the region.

Theory to Practice

Trainings so far in Myanmar on the Nation Code of Practice are on theoretic nature. Although timber extraction officials and staff of MTE are well acquainted with timber harvesting techniques and procedures according to the manuals and instructions mentioned above, the New Code is a challenge to them to implement practically. District level timber extraction agency executive trainees, 63 in number, discussed the possibilities of implementing the Code and submitted a review paper during the training course in August 2000. Their findings, based on their at least 25 – years experience in timber extraction works in Myanmar in accordance with MTE's Extraction Manuals and Departmental Instructions are briefed here as below: -

1. **Code Chapter 3 - Forest Harvesting Planning :** *Aims and objectives are nearest to present procedures. Planning levels are in conformity with national planning strategy. The code specifies detailed operational planning for each compartment which needs new maps with metric scale which are not available in Myanmar yet. Metric scale maps, specification of bridges, culverts and humes and environmental guidelilnes are draw backs with present MTE procedures. Harvest plans have to be initially well formulated by the FD according to te Code, which involve location of wet and dry areas, water course crossings, skid track network, tree location and felling direction, tuture yield trees. training facilities of FD and MTE should upgrade their curricula for trainees to cope with the skills needed for the implementation of the Code, e.g., computer application and programming, use of RS/GIS/GPS in support of land management planning and silvicultural treatment in conformity with MSS.*
2. **Code Chapter 4- Management Zoing :** *New but a necessity for SFM. FD's thorough assessment and proper zoing of the area are prerequisites for the success of management zoing.*
3. **Code Chapter 5- Pre-harvest Planning :** *objectives are fairly complete in line with SFM principles. Trees selection marking is FD's present standard procedure. Management zoning should be introduced in existing manuals and DIs. Most timber hauling roads in Myanmar are dry weather roads, therefore the Code's standards are fairly high. Skid tracks are practically more of elephant skid tracks which are less disturbed to environment. The Code's specification is more emphasised on mechanical logging which is underdeveloped in Myanmar. Guidelines or more detailed specification on roads and skid track (sperately for mechanical and elephant logging) should be developed. Road alignment planning and marking should be followed to the Code. Design and constructiion of watercourse crossings should be defined specifically in manuals and DIs according to the Code guidelines. Logs depots and landings are in practice as per the Code. Harvesting camp planning in the Code is as per existing manuals. felling direction and skid tracks specifications of the Code are similar to par 6, para 48 and 49 of existing extraction manual.*

4. **Chapter 6- Engineering Works :** *Specifications of all weather roads and dry weather roads are well defined in the Code. Relevant manuals should be enriched with detailed specifications. As for skid tracks, conventional elephant skid tracks are conformed to the Code. Road drainage considerations should be up-graded to meet the Code expectation.*
5. **Chapter 7- Harvesting Operations:** *Although most of the directives laid down in the Code are familiar with extraction personel of MTE through the existing manuals and departmental instructions, the Code's specification should be comprehensively clarified to all levels of extraction staff and forest staff and respective duties to be performed should be concretely assigned to the individual ranks.*
6. **Chapter 8 - Machineries, Equipment Maintenance and Servicing :** *Except for environmental considerations stipulated in the Code, the rest are as per existing manuals and instructions.*
7. **Chapter 9- General Hygiene Standards of Working Environment :** *the Code is more specific than existing manuals and instructions and should be adhered to the Code.*
8. **Chapter 10 - Safety Measures :** *Code's specifications are more elaborate. Licensing of chainsaws and machineries are not in practice but the operators have to undergo trainings at MTE's training centres and pass the competency tests for eligibility. Safety measures for elephant staff are well defined in the existing manuals and instructions.*
9. **Chapter 11- Fire Protection Measures :** *Fire protection of logs are well defined in existing manuals, standing orders and instructions. The Code's speculation on public participation is the point to the realized.*
10. **Chapter 12 - Monitoring and Evaluation :** *This section is comprehensive and necessary for SFM achievement. Existing manuals and instructions should be enriched with detailed procedures pertaining to this section.*
11. **Chapter 13- Possible Future Harvesting Systems and Other Matters :** *Harvesting from plantations may become future propects. With existing system of harvesting using elephants can only extract about 650000 hoppus tons of logs annualty. According to National Forest Master Plan (30 years) MTE has to extract 1.45 million hoppus tons of logs in future, which indicates to reinforce with mechanical logging. Therefore reinforcement of logging machinery, trainings for mechanical logging and development of new instructions and guidelines for mechanical logging pertaining to the Code would be necessary.*

Implementation of the Code necessitates establishment of demonstration areas or compartments and a set of guidelines for Code's each chapter. Fortunately, the Regional Project on Assistance for the Implementation of the Model Forest Approach for Sustainable Forest Management in the asia Pacific Region (GCP/RAS/177/JPN) provided a consultancy expert, Mr. Clynton Howard Wells (Australian) with the mission to work with officers of the Model Forest Natiional Project and MTE to :

- * Discuss and inspect the current harvesting planning and logging practices.
- * Inspect the pilot area and assess needs for the Code Implementation.
- * Propose guidelines for pilot introduction.
- * Provide a workshop/ training on introduction.
- * Provide a report of the visit and recommendations for follow up.

Mr. Wells, together with CTA Mr. Tang Hong Tat of Regional Model Forest Project met FD and MTE senior officials on 15 October, 2001 and explained his suggested approach of his mission. MTE selected compartments 16 and 17 of Mid-Nawin Reserved Forest, Bago West Forest Division in Paukkhaung Model Forest area as study areas for inspection of current harvesting planning and logging practices and for assessment of needs for Code implementation.

Mr. Wells, Khin Zaw (presenter of this paper) and Associate Professor Kyaw Tun, national project-manager of PKMF went to Pyay on 16 October 2001 and met with divisional officials of FD and MTE. On the next day meeting Mr. Wells discussed with FD and MTE officials at Deputy General Manager's office of MTE's Bago West Division using his prepared Code check. District (management unit) and township level officials of FD and MTE attended the meeting enthusiastically.

In the evening the group went up to a camp called Paw Lan Gyi, some 45 miles east of Pyay by cars. The next morning Mr Wells, Assistant General Manager U Han Soe of MTE who is Pyay district timber extraction head, Professor Kyaw Tun and I, together with some assistant managers of MTE and Staff officers of FD went up to the top ridges of Bago Yoma (Range), some 12 miles east of Paw Lan Gyi where the compartments for assessment and demonstration of current harvesting practices are selected. Mr Wells studied the timber harvesting activities in the compartments and 17 of Mid-Nawin reserved forest and discussed the Code's applicability and necessities for the improvement of the Code. Mr Wells prepared the preliminary report on his consultation and Myanmar Code check in a following few days.

A demonstration workshop on approaches for implementation of Code of Forest Harvesting Practices in Myanmar was conducted at MTE's West Bago Divisional office on 24 October 2001, followed by a field trip next day to Mid-Nawin compartments 16 and 17 on Bago Yoma Range. The short workshop was attended by 28 participants consisted of two deputy general managers and two assistant general managers of MTE, two deputy directors of FD, assistant managers, staff officers, senior timber rangers and forest rangers of FD and MTE.

At the end of the workshop it was concluded that :-

1. Myanmar is an advanced country exercising towards sustainable forest management (SAF) if compared to some South Pacific island countries that the implementation of the Code will find very little obstacles.
2. Institutional establishment is sound in Myanmar Forestry sector.
3. Both FD and MTE staff are well trained and well qualified in forestry works.
4. Cooperation between FD and MTE is very positive and have common goal for sustainable development in forestry.
5. The Ministry has established the essential policy framework on which sustainable forest management can be progressively built.
6. Current practices are well documented and generally sound.

7. The use of elephants provides a somewhat unique opportunity to demonstrate very low impact.
8. The initial Code is a basically sound document that only requires some upgrading to meet usual international standards and procedures.
9. Government endorsement would require to strongly authorise the Code.
10. MTE is under pressure to deliver a set annual volume of logs and this pressure should not be at the cost of sound sustainable forest development.
11. Roothing, while good in alignment, grade and width, requires effective drainage to avoid road wash out and soil erosion. If the road is well planned and structured, repair costs of following years can be reduced and trucking can be economical and effective.
12. Safety is an international expectation which should be progressively addressed.
13. Myanmar timber harvesting practices are closed to RIL standards. It would be desirable to present a Myanmar version of RIL guidelines.
14. Effective monitoring systems are import to demonstrate ownself and to others that prescribed practices are applied and achieve the stated outcomes.

MTE is planning to nominate at least one model timber extraction agency under each State or Divisional offices, altogether 14 in number to demonstrate pilot implementation of the Code and to test C & I's standard of performance.

The technical consultant Mr. Clynton Howard Wells prepared the proposed revision of the Code, example procedures for the proposed revised code and Code guides for elephant logging and mechanical logging in Myanmar, which are the invaluable documents for implementing the RIL oriented National Code. These were explained in detail by Mr. Clynton Wells, U Khin Zaw and Professor Kyaw Htun at the National Synthesis Workshop on Pauk Khaung Model Forest under Regional Model Forest Project (GCP / RAS / 177 / JPN) in Yangon on January 17, 2003. These documents are essential for pilot field application and fine tuning of the Code.

GCP / RAS / 179 / JPN : Enhancing Sustainable Forest Harvesting in Asia

In June 2002, Regional FAO (AP) sent Dr. Antonio Manila to Myanmar to assess possible requirement for assistance that might be provided by FAO in terms of technical matters, refining of the present National Code for Forest Harvesting Practices, or other topics that would be useful to Myanmar in the context of RIL implementation. The Myanma Timber Enterprise discussed in detail with Dr. Manila and explained the following topics: _

1. The Status of RIL implementation based on the existing National Code of Forest Harvesting Practices in Myanmar
2. Proposed refinements to the National Code
3. Training needs
4. Preferences and suggestions regarding workshops, training courses, exchange visits and study tours
5. Strategies to encourage public and political support for RIL implementation

Dr. Manila's visit was followed by Mr. Patrick Dugan's visit in August 2002. Discussions with Mr. Dugan, based on Dr. Manila's report led to the consideration of FAOR to launch a Regional Project in Support of Sustainable Forest Harvesting in Asia. The concept paper of the proposed project was responded by the MTE through the

Ministry of Forestry and Foreign Economic Relations Department (FERD) of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development to FAO that MTE would like to play a leading role in implementing the Project.

In August 2003, Mr. Patrick Dugan as the Regional Project Coordinator of the FAO Project GCP / RAS / 192 / JPN: Enhancing Sustainable Forest Harvesting in Asia visited Myanmar and met with officials of MTE with the permission of the Ministry of Forestry. Mr. Dugan explained about the Project to MTE and he was informed by MTE that the Lead Counterpart Agency for Myanmar for the Project in Myanmar would be MTE as assigned by the Ministry, and the National Project Counterpart would be appointed in due course.

The Foreign Affairs Policy Committee (FAPC) of the government generally approved of the participation of Myanmar as a project member country and to sign the contract. The Ministry of Forestry, complying standard formality of the State, is endeavouring to get the Cabinet's approval soonest, after which signing of the Project Document would be accomplished.

GCP / RAS / 192 / JPN Enhancing Sustainable Forest Harvesting in Asia is to support activities directed at improving forest harvesting in three countries of the Asia – Pacific region, namely Lao P.D.R., Myanmar and Vietnam. The Project will specifically assist in the project countries with :_

- (1) Building national consensus on practical and cost – effective approaches to sustainable forest management
- (2) developing and / or improving national codes of practice for forest harvesting;
- (3) developing and disseminating RIL guidelines;
- (4) establishing demonstration and training forests;
- (5) assisting in the implementation of national forest harvesting codes; and
- (6) supporting capacity building for those who are responsible for and / or engaged in forest harvesting practices.

Myanmar had developed the National Code of Practice for Forest Harvesting in the year 2000 ; had developed Code guidelines based on RIL practice ; disseminated the guidelines to some extent to staff engaged in harvesting operations through departmental trainings ; designated three forest compartments for the demonstration and training to implement the Code in Pauk Kaung Model Forest Area. The assistance to be extended by the Project in the implementation of National Code and supporting capacity building for those who are responsible for and / or engaged in forest harvesting are timely endeavours to fulfil the necessity of practically observing the Code.

Conclusion

Myanmar is endowed with rich forest resources which are crucial for her economy as well as environmental stability. Myanma Timber Enterprise, being an authentic user of forest resource in Myanmar never overlooked the importance of forest resources it relies upon for perpetual utilization and persistent protection of forests and environment. The commitment by the State, the Ministry of Forestry and its forestry organizations such as the Forest Department and Myanma Timber Enterprise for sustainable forest management would surely lead to the successful implementation of the National Code, taking into account the expected success of the Regional Project Enhancing Sustainable Forest Harvesting.