

Strengthened drought and flood management through improved science-based information availability and management in Myanmar

Deliverable 6 (activity 3.3) Workshop Note

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ACCRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

CTCN	Climate Technology Centre & Network
DDM	Department of Disaster Management
DHI	www.dhigroup.com
DMH	Department of Meteorology and Hydrology
DOA	Department of Agriculture
ECD	Environmental Conservation Department
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GHG	Green House Gases
MIMU	Myanmar Information Management Unit
MOALI	Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Irrigation
MOC	Ministry of Construction
MOEE	Ministry of Electricity and Energy
MONREC	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
MOTC	Ministry of Transport and Communication
MSWRR	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
NDA	National Designated Authority

1 Background

This note is delivered under Activity 3.3 of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) technical assistance to Myanmar entitled ‘*Strengthened drought and flood management through improved science-based information availability and management*’ (reference number 201600035). It is funded by Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness and preparatory support funding.

This technical assistance is implemented by DHI in cooperation with the Climate Change Division of the Environmental Conservation Department (ECD), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC). The ECD is the National Designated Authority (NDA) of the GCF. Figure 1.1 presents a diagram and timeline of project activities.

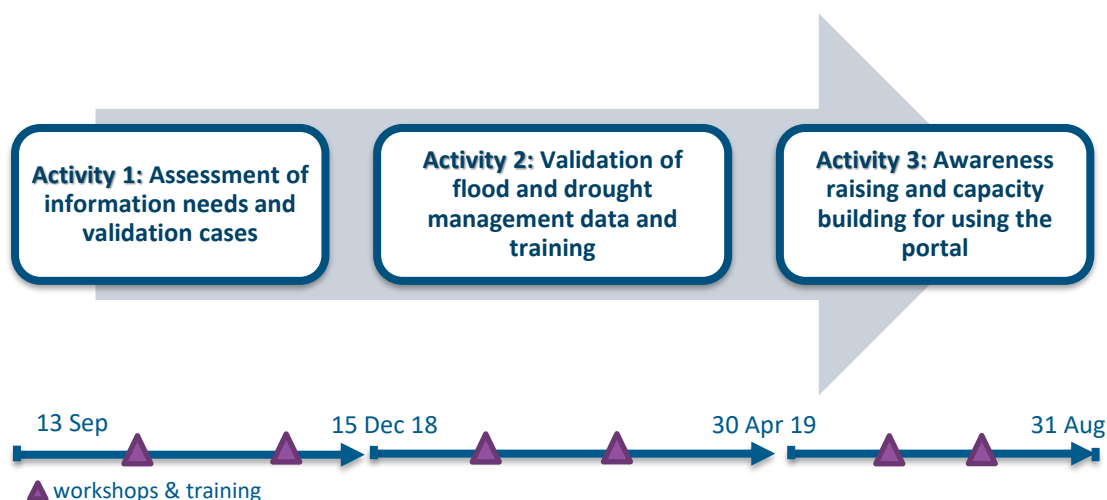


Figure 1.1 Diagram of the Activities of this technical assistance, timeline and key events.

A web portal developed by DHI has been set up for Myanmar providing free and easy access to data and information for flood and drought management, water resources and water related sectors (www.flooddroughtmonitor.com/myanmar). DHI will keep the system running for the period of 5 years and is responsible for its maintenance.

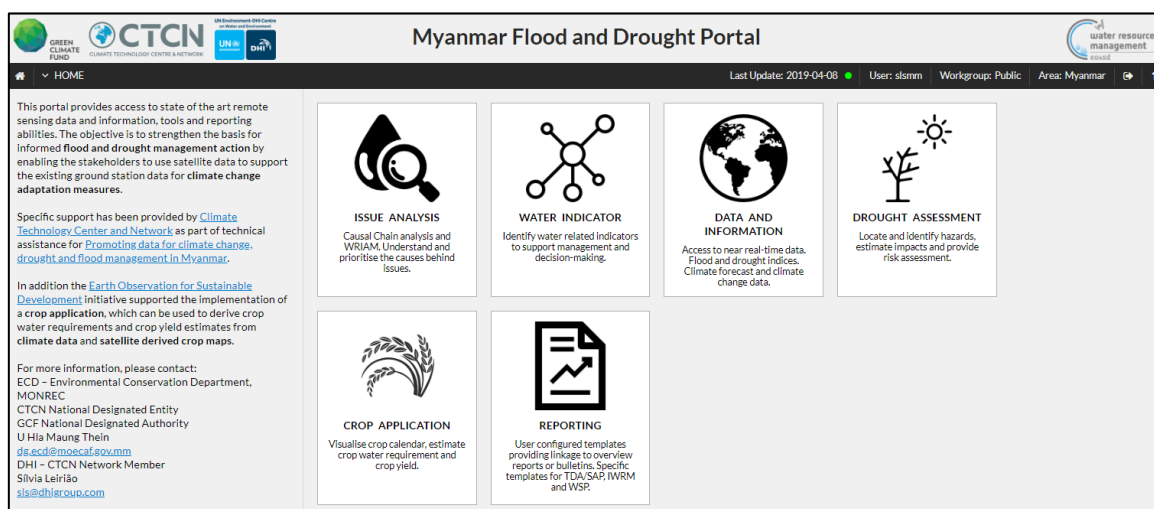


Figure 1.2 Screenshot of the home page of the Myanmar Flood and Drought portal.

The technical assistance is also providing guidance for the drafting of a Concept Note proposal for the GCF, to upscale the outcomes of the Readiness funded project.

The purpose of this note is twofold:

- To document the high-level meeting for project upscaling on the morning of the 22nd of July 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw;
- To document the second Concept Note Workshop that took place from the 22nd to 23rd of July 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw.

2 Project upscaling meeting

On the 1st of April 2019 at the ECD's office at MONREC, Nay Pyi Taw, a meeting with high level technical experts from ECD, Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH), the Department of Disaster Management (DDM), the Survey Department and the Population Department was held to discuss the upscaling of the outcomes of this technical assistance.

The topic of discussion was the upscaling of the current portal and finding the overlap and synergies with existing platforms/portals in Myanmar.

The participants were asked about whether there are any links between their platforms and the Myanmar F&D portal. It was considered that a more in-depth analysis would be required from their side to reach a conclusive response. As next steps, each of the four institutions will refer to their respective DGs and return to the Climate Change Division with final conclusions.

On the 22nd of July 2019 the second and last meeting with same stakeholders (the DDM was not able to send any representatives) and with the addition of the Department of Agriculture (DOA) was held in Nay Pyi Taw. The purpose of the meeting was to follow up on the first meeting and heard from each institution their conclusions about their involvement in the drafting of the Concept Note and becoming an executing entity together with the ECD.

The DOA summarized and commented on the technological resources they currently have access to, namely:

- DSSAT¹ software: Decision Support System for Agrotechnology Transfer (DSSAT) is a software composed of crop models and tools such as database management programs for soil, weather, crop management and experimental data. The models simulate growth and yield as a function of the soil-plant-atmosphere dynamics;
- Plantation area/yield estimate/crop/ data used in indicators for monitoring purposes;
- Historical database for modelling for the Ayeyarwady region, being expanded to the whole country;
- Estimation of crop damage depending on extent and duration of flood, intended to be extended to all townships;
- Currently cannot apply digital tools in our planning due to need for institutional reform; planning is not emphasized;

¹ DSSAT from DSSAT Foundation Inc. <https://dssat.net/>

- Currently there is an inability to apply digital farming technology due to the need for capacity building such as: post-harvest technology, crop management technology.

The DOA was the only primary interested party in participating in the Concept Note drafting, also due to the focus on innovative agricultural practices the present scope encompasses.

The next step is the organization of the final workshop to provide guidance for drafting a Concept Note for submission to the GCF, and the DOA is to join the ECD.

3 Workshop Summary

This technical assistance is funded by GCF readiness funds and support to drafting a concept note of a larger project is being provided. The future project has as key element the scale up of use and ongoing management of the portal throughout the country; and its planning and operational support in key adaptive and resilient implementations in climate vulnerable areas of Myanmar.

On the 20th of February 2019 the first guidance session on how to draft a GCF Concept Note was held at the ECD office with ECD staff. Participants started out by going through a sequence of brainstorming exercises to define:

- the purpose of their projects,
- the outcomes,
- the specific objectives, and finally
- 4 activities/tasks to accomplish each objective

Three draft concept notes were initiated and a plan to merge these into one was set out under the guidance of Director General (DG) U Hla Maung Thein. It was concluded that the project conceptualized met all the GCF SAP Concept Note requirements:

- Ready for scaling up
- Potential for transformation
- Promoting a paradigm shift to low-emission and climate-resilient development
- Up to 10 million USD
- Minimal (to none) social risks and impacts

On the 22nd and 23rd of July 2019, a second workshop was organized for the Environmental Conservation Department (ECD), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC) by the technical assistance team. There was a total of 7 people (5 female and 2 male), in attendance across the two days (see Appendix C for attendance register).

The specific objectives of the workshop were:

- inform on the status of the ongoing CTCN technical assistance (see Figure 1.1 for overview);
- review the outcomes of the last Concept Note workshop; what a Concept Note, a Funding Proposal and the Simplified Approval Process (SAP) are; what are eligible projects for a SAP Concept Note process and how it works;
- brainstorming over the project concept, components, outputs and activities;
- consolidation into a project log frame; and
- work on responding to GCF investment criteria.

Additionally, two water sector experts from the GCF participated in the workshop, namely, Alastair Morrison and Farrukh Zaman. They presented on the challenges posed by floods and droughts and management solutions for both mitigation and adaptation. They also presented the GCF Water Sector Portfolio globally and examples of projects that have been funded.

The GCF experts also mentioned the key attention points for project selection of Concept Notes and Funding Proposals, listed in Table 3.1:

Table 3.1 GCF investment criteria and attention points for project selection

General Project management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the activities clearly defined? • Are the costs realistic? • Have pros and cons of different options been considered? • Why this project in this location?
Climate Impact Potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attribution - Is the linkage to climate change relevant, clear and strong? • Is the methodology to calculate emission reductions robust? • Is there a strong justification for increased resilience, based on evidence of climate impacts?
Viability and Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the proposal economically and financially sound? • Can results be sustained after GCF funding ends? • Is there a plan and budget for operations and maintenance?
Efficiency and effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact vs funding (e.g. \$/tCO₂) • Justification for proposed financial instrument and funding amount • Co-financing and crowd-in additional source of financing

The future project falls under two of the Strategic Priority Sectors for Potential Investments in Myanmar according to the GCF NDA:

“Climate-resilient productivity and climate-smart responses in the agriculture, fisheries and livestock sectors to support food security and livelihood strategies while also promoting resource – efficient and low-carbon practices”, and

“Strengthened education, awareness and technological systems that foster a climate-responsive society and human capital to design and implement climate-resilient and low-carbon development solutions for inclusive and sustainable development”.

The participants arrived at the following draft title for the project:

Improving flood and drought management and implementing innovative resilient extension services to adapt to climate change in Myanmar

It has a budget of approximately 10 Million USD with a period of up to 5 years implementation, and phased in three different components (C1, C2 and C3):

- C1 focusing on enabling environment: Climate Change Division continuously maintaining resources for water related, extreme event management and resilient practices
- C2 focusing on ground implementation: Co-creation, validation and implementation of water resources, extreme event management practices and innovative resilient practices in climate vulnerable States/Regions
- C3 focusing on capacity building, awareness and consultation: Capacity building for sustainability and dissemination of project outputs

Most of the workshop was spent in brainstorming sessions where participants laid out the outputs for each of their project components (captured in Figure 3.1).



Figure 3.1 Participants during groupwork on the first day, reviewing project Components and Outputs

Table 3.2 presents the project components and outputs as ideated during the workshop. Additionally, the ECD participants consolidated their work by outlining the project activities leading to each Output. These activities were elaborated and will be the subject of further written development support by the technical assistance team.

Table 3.2 Summary of project components and outputs

Component 1 (Outcome 1.) Climate Change Division continuously maintaining resources for water related, extreme event management and resilient practices	Output 1.1 Climate change division of the ECD sustainably equipped
	Output 1.2 Management, Monitoring and Evaluation of the project

Component 2 (Outcome 2.) Co-creation, validation and implementation of water resources, extreme event management practices and innovative resilient practices in climate vulnerable States/Regions	Output 2.1 Management practices within climate vulnerable States/Regions
	Output 2.2 Co-creation of data and tools for climate resilient practices and validation
	Output 2.3 Sustainable IMS implementation and integrating of existing Myanmar portal
Component 3 (Outcome 3.) Capacity building for sustainability and dissemination of project outputs	Output 3.1 Capacity building programme
	Output 3.2 Consultation process in climate vulnerable regions
	Output 3.3 Dissemination of project outputs and sustainability

Focus was placed on ground implementation of resilient management practices in climate vulnerable States/Regions of Myanmar under Component 2 and organized into: Delta regions, Mountainous areas, Flood prone areas, and Dry zones (captured in Figure 3.2).



Figure 3.2 Participants during groupwork on the second day, focusing on Component 2 for project implementation in climate vulnerable States and Regions

The GCF water experts' comments were mainly targeting Component 2 activities: larger emphasis on activities with direct impact on most vulnerable communities, direct impact on

livelihood improvement. A suggestion of inclusion of more tangible Integrated Water Resources Management output was offered.

They also emphasized that the GCF looks for strategic solution ideas instead of standalone investments, as well as proposals for projects implementing best options verified in feasibility studies.

Finally, proposals of projects using a wider range of financial instruments and with verified ability to pay Operation & Maintenance costs are very well positioned.

The final workshop is expected to take place during the last week of August 2019, which coincides with the end of this technical assistance. The expectation is that the ECD and DOA gear their project and Concept Note towards adaptive management capacity due to the portal and its successor, towards innovative technology for resilient agriculture and livelihood improvement.

4 Feedback from participants

The workshop was held in Nay Pyi Taw and had 7 participants, 5 females and 2 males. Six responded to the evaluation.

The overall impression of the workshop is very good, with 5 participants saying that their impression is good or excellent (one person did not answer the question). However, participants are not interested in recommending the course to others, with only one person saying that they would recommend the course and four people stating that they would not. One person did not answer.

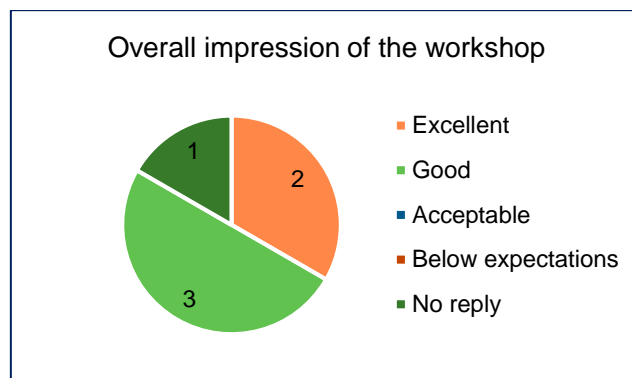


Figure 4.1 Overall satisfaction with the workshop. The values show the number of people for each topic

Regarding the course content, participants are satisfied with all aspects, either agreeing or strongly agreeing with the statements presented in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Satisfaction with different parts of the workshop. No participants chose "Neither/nor", "Disagree", or "Strongly disagree", and all participants answered

Course content	Strongly agree	Agree
Technical content of the course was satisfactory		6
Hands-on exercises were relevant and instructive	1	5
Workshop material was clear and comprehensive		6
The content will facilitate involving more members of my team in using the portal		6
The Myanmar F&D Portal will be helpful in my day to day activities	1	5

Course content	Strongly agree	Agree
Workshop execution	Strongly agree	Agree
Instructor(s) presented subject in an educational and interesting way		6
Instructor(s) had a good knowledge and understanding of the subject		6
Duration of the course was satisfactory		6
The support during hands-on was satisfactory	1	5
Workshop practicalities	Strongly agree	Agree
The venue was satisfactory	2	4
Lunch and refreshments were satisfactory	3	3
The workshop was well organised	2	4
I received practical information well in advance	1	5

Regarding the comments for the workshop, they are mostly statements of satisfaction with the workshop or calls for more information. One person asks for more information about data import, interpretation, and information sharing, while another wants to know more about the flood and drought portal and GCF readiness fund proposals.

In summary, participants were satisfied with the course, both the technical content, execution and practicalities. However, most participants would not recommend the course to others. This seems surprising, taking into account the general satisfaction with the course. It is possible that responders do not mean that the course is not worth recommending, but rather that they do not find it relevant for anyone else.

APPENDIX A

Agenda

Activity Agenda 22nd and 23rd July 2019

Kempinski Hotel Nay Pyi Taw

Time	Title	Entity
22th July 2019		
09.00 – 10.20	Follow up Meeting with DDM, DMH, Population and Survey Departments	ALL
10.20 – 10.40	Tea break	
10.40 – 12.00	Status of the SAP Concept Note and EES¹ Screening Checklist <i>Presentation of the SAP as reviewed by DHI. Review of the main project components and activities.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section A overview of key parameters Brief summary of the problem statement and climate rationale, objective and selected implementation approach. Outcome: Section A to B1 of Concept note draft reviewed.	ECD, GCF
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch	
13:00 – 15:00	SAP Concept Note Section B Project / Programme details <i>Work on draft Concept Note for selected example project.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Context and Baseline Project Outcomes and Components Outcome: Section B2 of Concept note draft reviewed.	ECD, GCF
23rd July 2019		
09.00 – 10.20	SAP Concept Note Section B Project / Programme details <i>Work on draft Concept Note for selected example project.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Outcomes and Components Outputs and Activities Outcome: Section B2 of Concept note draft reviewed.	ECD
10.20 – 10.40	Tea break	
10.40 – 11.40	Continuation of groupwork <i>Brainstorming for project conceptualization.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Outcomes and Components Outputs and Activities Outcome: Section B2 of Concept note draft reviewed.	ECD
11.40 – 12.30	Presentation of Flood and Drought Management	GCF
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch	
13:00 – 15:00	Continuation of groupwork <i>Consolidation of brainstorming on the Activities under each project Component.</i>	All
15:00 – 16:00	GCF investment criteria and Next steps <i>Presentation of the GCF investment criteria and preparation for the final concept note workshop.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expected project results aligned with the GCF investment criteria <i>Planning of next steps and recap of the submission process to the GCF.</i>	DHI

¹ Environmental and Social Screening (EES) Checklist is an annex to the SAP.

APPENDIX B

Attendance Registers

Follow up meeting with DDM, DMH, Population and Survey Departments

Kempinski Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw

22nd July 2019

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SAP concept note section C Indicative financing/ cost information

Kempinski Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw
22nd and 23rd July 2019

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