



# Working in partnership to bring sustainable management to Myanmar's forests

Project timeframe: May 2017– April 2020



**Funding partner:** Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation

**Lead applicant:** PEFC International

**Main project partner:** Myanmar Forest Certification Committee (MFCC)

**Additional project partners:** Ecosystem Conservation and Community Development Initiative (ECCDI), Flora & Fauna International (FFI), Myanmar Forest Association, trade associations, private sector enterprises, and others as the project advances

## Project description

This project is committed to support the ongoing reform process in Myanmar's forest sector with a clear focus on delivering a national forest certification system. By working in partnership with local organizations to develop and test tools that support legal, sustainable and transparent forest product trade, the project will build capacity while illustrating best practice. This approach will deliver tangible, small-scale impact in the short-term, but also greatly influence the longer-term reform process.

The project is designed to work within and between several of the projects and initiatives currently ongoing in the country. By increasing the coordination between the many related donor-funded projects and private sector activities, the project seeks to improve cross learning and support partners to collectively and effectively feed into the national certification system developments and the ongoing forest sector reform processes underway by the newly formed Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC).

The project also seeks to respond to the recognized need to give further attention to the development and roll-out of practical tools and pilot projects which can support forest sector actors to deliver forest conservation and sustainable forest management with supply chain verification in the immediate term.



## PROJECT COMPONENTS



1

### Strengthening the Myanmar Forest Certification Scheme – MFCS

MFCC will lead the process to fully develop the national forest certification system. MFCC will continue to convene stakeholders to build consensus on sustainable forest management requirements and establish a functional certification system which can provide a major contribution towards enabling sustainable forestry.

Forest certification will not solve all forest governance related issues. However it does provide an important tool that forest managers can utilize to demonstrate excellence and invite independent verification. It can also compliment and contribute to demonstrating what's possible, within the broader context of forest sector reform ongoing in the country. As the uptake of forest certification expands in Myanmar, it can evolve from providing flagship examples of best practice which stimulate policy development and build capacity, towards influencing the mainstream operations.

2

### Establishing a Knowledge Platform

Beyond establishing the national certification system, the project looks to support the MFCC in establishing a multi-stakeholder platform to facilitate better coordination and exchange amongst all forest sector actors. The platform will act as a central hub for partners to share experiences, project findings, tools and best practice, and explore synergies for addressing persistent issues. The platform will also provide a network for stakeholders to access technical support for testing certification solutions in the diverse contexts of the country.

3

### Demonstrating responsible practices through pilot projects

The project relies greatly on the involvement and collaboration of partner organizations in many different aspects. For example, existing or upcoming partner-led activities will serve as the basis for pilot projects and demonstration sites. By incorporating existing projects into the framework of this project, we can focus on developing and testing targeted certification and verification solutions in a range of contexts. This approach aspires to add value to partner-run activities while facilitating the exchange of lessons learnt.





## Pilot projects will focus on:

### Sustainable Forest Management

There is an urgent need to bring partners together to actively participate in establishing collaborative approaches to forest management and production. A series of forestry pilot projects, across four diverse contexts, will actively build solutions and create illustrative examples of best practice.

#### a) Natural Forest Management Units (FMU):

Support model FMUs to implement SFM activities and establish chain of custody systems for their supply chains.

#### b) Enhancing Community Forests Value Chains:

Production, processing and marketing skills need to be enhanced if the planned expansion of community forest is to alleviate poverty.

#### c) Existing Plantations:

To address persistent problems of land and community conflict the project will demonstrate best practice for environmental and social management programs and support building an association for transparency and resolution.

#### d) Future Plantations:

There is a high risk of deforestation and conflict within the planned plantation expansion. The project will bring responsible investors into the SFM framework to demonstrate the potential for utilizing existing tools addressing consent (FPIC), community facilitation, impact assessments, etc.

### Supply Chain Verification

Responsible producers and buyers of forest products are looking for additional tools to establish supply chain transparency to minimize the risk of association or exposure to controversial sources. The project will work with interested companies to support the implementation of the Myanmar Timber Legality Assurance System (MTLAS) and an eventual step wise approach towards 3rd party verified PEFC Chain of Custody certification.

GET INVOLVED!

For further information about how to join in the project as a partner or financial supporter, please contact the organizations below.

## Myanmar Forest Certification Committee (MFCC)

MFCC is set up to develop forest product standards to ensure the sustainable management of Myanmar's forest resources. It serves as the National Governing Body of the Myanmar Timber Legality Assurance System (MTLAS) and the Myanmar Forest Certification Scheme (MFCS). The MFCC Secretariat, guided by the MFCC Chairman and Committee Members, carries out the day-to-day activities of the Committee.

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## PEFC International

The Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) is an international non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) through independent third-party certification. PEFC is a membership based association registered in Geneva, Switzerland. It works by endorsing national forest certification systems developed through multi-stakeholder processes and tailored to local priorities and conditions. PEFC currently includes 46 national governing body members and recognizes 38 national certification systems. With over 300 million hectares of certified forest, PEFC is the world's largest forest certification system.

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