

UNION OF MYANMAR

MYANMAR FOREST POLICY

1995

MINISTRY OF FORESTRY

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Myanmar Forest Policy, 1995

Abstract

Forest resources in Myanmar make a substantial contribution to the national economy. Recognizing the importance of the forestry sector, this policy document has been prepared to provide for policy intervention needed to keep pace with the changing socio-economic environment and to ensure that the benefits from forests are available to posterity in perpetuity.

The policy document formalises the commitment and intent of the Government in ensuring sustainable development of the forest resource both for environmental and economic purposes.

The document identifies six imperatives, namely Protection, Sustainability, Basic Needs, Efficiency, Participation, and Public Awareness. These are called imperatives because without the attainment of each of these, the broader national goals and objectives would be jeopardized. Therefore, each of them must receive the highest government priority.

However, the attainment of these imperatives if constrained by several issues would in turn have impaired the development of the forestry sector and its contribution to the national development. Inter alia, the main issues identified are: inadequate information and planning; adhocism in land use and low productivity; shifting cultivation; inefficient wood processing; inappropriate pricing policy; inconsistent policies and policy conflicts; inadequate budgetary resources; and inadequate institutional structure. The impact of these issues on forestry development has been highlighted and a set of objects derived to overcome these issues in order to achieve the imperatives.

The objectives identified are:

- Land Use
- Protection and Management
- Forest Regeneration and Afforestation
- Forest Industry, Marketing and Trade
- Forest Research
- Forestry Planning
- Intersectoral Coordination
- Institutional Strengthening
- Budget and Finance
- People's Participation and Public Awareness.

The objectives identified collectively focus on minimizing or overcoming the aforementioned constraints as well as the need for sustainable forest development.

The achievement of these objectives is dependent on a series of policy measures and the adoption of identified strategies/actions in the short, medium and long terms. Most urgent among these relate to preparation of a land use policy; reclassification of unclassed forests as forest reserves and protected areas system; introduction of environment pricing based on the "polluter pays" principle; establishment of plantation cooperatives; abolishing of concessional pricing and price control; promotion of private investment in wood-based industries; and strengthening of forestry institutions.

In a nutshell, the thrust of the forest policy for Myanmar is on sustainable and intensive forest management for environmental and economic prosperity of the people of Myanmar as well as to contribute to the amelioration of global environmental issues which have been one of the guiding principles in the formulation of this policy document.

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MYANMAR FOREST POLICY

1995

1. Preamble

Any development is a change but the change has to be in consonance with the needs and aspirations of the people. Policy interventions as an instrument of change need to keep pace with these changes so as to adequately address the socio-economic and political dictates of the environment in which the policy operates. In Myanmar, it has long been realized that the existing forest policy approach is outdated and that in the face of a dynamic population and a rapidly changing socio-economic and political environment, there is a need for an explicit forest policy to address the change. It has also been recognized that new policy interventions are needed for calibrating a fit between forestry plans and programmes, the forest resources base and the people. There is also the need for ensuring ecological balance, environmental stability and enhancing the contribution of the forestry sector towards socio-economic development of Myanmar in a sustainable manner.

About half of the total land area of Myanmar is forested. Forest resources make a substantial contribution to the subsistence as well as the monetized sector of the economy both directly and indirectly. Directly, it provides the largest earning in foreign exchange through export of logs and processed timber and contributes significantly to meeting the forest product needs of the country. In addition, it provides fuelwood which is a major source of energy for the majority of the rural population.

Among the intangible, its contribution takes a number of forms, viz. protection of slopes and water catchments, control of soil erosion and siltation thereby protecting downstream agriculture, as also the streams, rivers and lakes that comprise Myanmar's rich aquatic environment.

It is in this context that the Government had emphasized with a sense of urgency the need for formulating a forest policy to, inter alia, take cognizance of the need for controlling deforestation; strengthening scientific and sustainable management of forest resources; reducing logging/harvesting wastage and promoting primary, secondary and tertiary processing industries; improving their economic efficiency; biodiversity conservation and the conservation of plant and animal genetic resources; promoting forestry and forest product research; strengthening forestry institutions for coping with the growing multi-facet challenges confronting the forestry sector; promoting participatory forestry and ensuring multidisciplinary approach and intersectoral coordination.

The forest policy paves the way for prudent use and enhanced benefit from the forest with benefit sharing based on a principle of equity. In a nutshell, the policy offers a fresh prospect for forestry and forest-based industry with the expectation that the policy achievements will contribute to the amelioration of the national socio-economic environment.

2. Guiding Principles

The forest policy has been formulated keeping in view the Forestry Principles adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), Rio de Janeiro which suggest a holistic and balanced approach in the formulation of forest policy and programme within the overall context of the environment and development, taking into consideration the multiple functions and uses of forests as well as the potential for development that sustainable forest management can offer. In addition, it is based on the political statements made in Myanmar by way of commitment towards the conservation and development of natural resources and the fundamental principles enunciated in the major national policies related to socio-economic and technical development as well as environmental conservation.

3. Policy Imperatives

Six imperatives for the forestry sector in Myanmar have been derived in accordance with the forestry principles adopted at the UNCED and the political commitments and statement of the goals and objectives of the national development policy. These are called imperatives because without the attainment of each of these, the broader national goals and objectives would be jeopardized. Therefore, each of them must receive the highest Government priority. These are:

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| 3.1 Protection | Safeguarding soils, water catchments, ecosystems, |
|-----------------------|---|

biodiversity and plant and animal genetic resources, scenic reserves and national heritage sites.

- 3.2 Sustainability** Managing the forests to ensure in perpetuity the level of benefit both tangible and intangible for the present and future generations. It also implies the maintenance and rational use and enhancement of the forest resources base to ensure ecological resilience and its contribution to socio-economic growth on a continuous basis.
- 3.3 Basic Needs** Providing fuel, water, fodder shelter, food and recreation from the forest.
- 3.4 Efficiency** Harnessing the full economic potential of the forest through increased productivity, income tax revenue, foreign exchange earnings, employment and other benefits while controlling the socio-environmentally unacceptable side effects and encouraging domestic processing.
- 3.5 Participation** Enlisting people's participation in forestry, wildlife and national park activities so that the community becomes actively involved in appropriate ways in national and

local efforts towards forest conservation and development, and in raising trees for meeting their needs and increasing non-farm incomes through adoption of community forestry/ agroforestry practices.

3.6 Public Awareness Educating the community generally and more particularly the politicians, decision makers and other moulders of public opinion about the vital role of trees and woody vegetation, wildlife and national parks in national socio-economic development and the importance of forests in conservation of the biological capital of soil and water which constitute the life supporting system on this planet earth.

The six imperatives stated above constitute the nucleus of the forest policy in Myanmar and establish a firm foundation for defining its aims/objectives and for formulating strategies to achieve these objectives. However, the achievement of these imperatives is confronted with several constraints which need to be overcome.

4. Constraints

Constraints which have a direct bearing on the above-mentioned imperatives and consequently the development of the forestry sector and its contribution to the national development are stated below:

4.1 Inadequate Information and Planning

Forestry today is required to fulfil several obligations - environmental, social, economic, recreational, etc. in addition to the supply of forest products. This new role of forestry calls for a modified or new planning approach and therefore also a modified and strong database. Forestry data now has to be necessarily related to demographic, social, economic and environmental data to a much more greater extent than in the past. However, in Myanmar, there has been a failure to produce the right database and the available data other than the source data are diverse, scanty and inadequate for effective recommendations. One can only utilize these data to make rough estimates.

It is pertinent to mention that production of data is meaningless if there is no demand for it and if it is not continuously adapted to the demand. This implies that there has to be a strong and resourceful planning unit within the forestry department with the knowledge and capability to influence data collection and ensure that data are presented in a useful way.

Presently, there is a lack of a need-based working system that is a strong and demanding unit which could ensure linkages between land use capability, land carrying capacities, resource production, forest industries and marketing, and integration of the forestry sector with the other related sectors of the economy so that forestry contributes effectively to the overall planning process of the Government. Strategic plan for forestry sector development is wanting though the Government has recently embarked on the preparation of a four-year development plan which includes forestry.

4.2 Adhocism in Land Use and Low Productivity

Given the importance of the forestry sector in the national economy, the fullest possible sustainable utilization of the forest resources is not only desirable but also necessary. The present low productivity does not allow for cost effective management or utilization of the resources nor does it remain comparable socially and economically with other land use alternatives and this in turn results in low priority in allocation of public expenditure. It is understood that the mean annual increment of the forests in the country is much below their potential productivity. There is scope for increasing productivity and consequently enhanced contribution to the gross domestic product. Infrastructure is lacking in semi- and inaccessible forests in order to tap the full potential of the existing natural resources without causing

unacceptable environmental damage. There is no gainsaying that long-term increase in the productivity of the forest land could be achieved by establishing plantations in denuded/degraded forest land and through tending/silvicultural operations in natural stands of teak and other commercially exploitable species.

4.3 Shifting Cultivation

The mannerism in which the use and development of forest land in Myanmar is planned is a matter of great significance for the future of the country. It is therefore no surprise that the problem of shifting cultivation has been engaging the attention of administrators, foresters, agronomists and diverse specialists. About 2 million families practise shifting cultivation in an area of about 2.43 million hectares which constitute mostly the unclassed and degraded forests. It is not the intention to condemn shifting cultivation as a curse to be ashamed of, or a vandalism to be decried as shifting cultivation is a cultural practice evolved as a reflex to the physiographical character of the land, or how else could this system of land use have continued and thrived for thousands of years. However, with the passage of time and the rapidly growing population in this cultivation area, there has been a major increase in the frequency at which the shifting cultivation blocks are being cultivated. This has led to changes in the vegetation structure of the forests being transformed into degraded

secondary shrubs without any production potential. This fact is more vivid in coastal, eastern and north eastern Myanmar which bear ample testimony to the damage to soil and vegetation. Since shifting cultivation is no longer remunerative in the existing areas, there are attempts to overcome the loss in productivity through expansion of shifting cultivation areas.

It is now being recognized that any further expansion of shifting cultivation on forest land would be at the cost of environmental and ecological stability. However, little efforts have been made to establish a well-defined tenure system to serve as an incentive for the shifting cultivators to improve the productivity of the land nor agricultural inputs like fertilizers, pesticides, seeds, made accessible within the affordability level of the shifting cultivators to promote modern agricultural systems by way of an in-situ development approach.

It will be pertinent to mention that in the absence of concerted efforts to rehabilitate both the shifting cultivators and the shifting cultivation areas, these areas would be rendered unproductive and lost forever. It may also imply the loss of forest cover in perpetuity which the country can ill afford, particularly in view of the very important role of forests in the national economy.

4.4 Inefficient Wood Processing and Utilization of the Resource

With the object of increasing value added to the product, upgrading the level of skills and providing increased levels of employment, the Government has embarked on a programme for promoting wood-based industries. The Myanma Timber Enterprise (MTE) with its 89 sawmills and 5 plywood and veneer mills undertakes the bulk of processing in the country, while the private sector continues to be in a formative stage with the exception of a few which are capable of producing processed timber for export. In general, the industry is plagued with problems of inadequate infrastructure, inappropriate investments, outdated technology, shortage of skilled labor, inefficiency, and high transport costs. Private industries in addition to these limitations are confronted with uncertainty in the availability of raw materials supplies as MTE, which has the first charge on the logs produced, exports the round logs, and only the surplus is made available to the industry. The absence of assured log supply has not only discouraged investment for processing but also intensified the reluctance of saw mills and others to upgrade processing in order to contain the wasteful use of the timber resource. Due to inefficient facilities, the average unit value of lumber export when converted to the corresponding log input is lower than those of

unprocessed logs. With the export of logs is exported the development potential of the forestry sector. Presently most of the processing units operate at 50 per cent of the installed capacity, implying that 50 per cent of investment lies idle and thereby adding to costs. This together with low recovery rates and poor labour productivity makes the industry less attractive profit-wise and handicaps it price-wise in the world market.

There is no gainsaying that forest industry development in Myanmar has to be pursued with greater vigour than ever before and unless the wood-based industry is transformed into a larger resource-based industry, the contribution of the forestry sector to the economy would be jeopardized.

4.5 Inappropriate Pricing Policy

Myanmar's economy is heavily dependent on trade, and forest products are a major component of total exports in terms of value. Forest product export accounts for approximately 35 per cent of all export earnings. However, the forest development revenues constitute only about 1.5 per cent of all Government revenues. The revenue collection is based on royalties, licence fees and other levies. In comparison to export earning, the revenue realization is unrealistically low. The anomaly can easily be attributed to the present policy of pricing and royalties for forest products which lack a sound foundation in either equity or efficiency criteria.

As the royalties and prices of logs and lumber are determined by administrative decisions on an ad hoc basis, it does not correctly measure the value input or the value of the final products leading to distortion in the information that should be routinely guiding production and consumption decisions.

The artificially determined, unrealistically low prices have encouraged waste of the timber resource, excessive consumption, inefficiency and otherwise misguided allocation decisions. The pricing system adopted for fuelwood also encourages wastefulness and increased consumption while at the same time rendering participatory forestry non-remunerative.

Now that Myanmar has adopted an open-market approach, it is necessary that a free market price mechanism should be allowed to operate in order to ensure a competitive environment for the domestic processing industries, both within Myanmar as well as the overseas markets. The subsidies on forest products provided by the Government particularly in relation to logs have failed to stimulate the desired development of value-added production within the country and if the present approach is continued, the full potential of forestry sector in contributing to the economic development of the country will never be realized.

4.6 Inconsistent Policies and Policy Conflicts

Inconsistent policies and policy conflicts both within and among ex-sectoral policies have been the bane of forest conservation and development in Myanmar. The ex-sectoral policy conflicts often occur because of inadequate consultation between responsible agencies like agriculture, mining, etc. as little or no effort has been made for harmonization of ex-sectoral policies which have significant interfaces. In fact, there is a lack of sectoral policies and an overall development policy which could form the basis for this harmonization. Needless to mention that considering the multi-faceted nature of forestry, its interface with other sectoral policies is significant. However, little cognizance has been taken of the ex-sectoral policy spill-overs which negatively affect the forest resources. For example, in the drive for promoting agricultural development, dams and reservoirs are being constructed at a rapid rate. This, in turn, has brought under submergence of large forest areas, thereby adversely affecting forest and biodiversity conservation.

Within forestry, the objective relating to sustainability of forest resources involves conflicts as the use of forest resources gratis give rise to conflicts which, when left unresolved, diffuse the impacts of strategies identified for forest conservation and development. Example of such conflict is the use of forests for biodiversity conservation on one hand and log production on the other.

Inconsistencies in policy relate to macro-economic policies vis-a-vis forestry. Policies on investment, finance and trade are the core of all economic policies in the country and include banking, tax, tariff, monetary, etc. While forest policy objectives strongly focus on value-added processing in the country, economic policies continue to strongly affect the provisions of capital goods and also production equipment.

From the foregoing, it is clear that forest sector development and its long-term sustainability is constrained due to lack of close interaction with other sectors of the economy and the lack of a holistic vision which takes cognizance of sustainable development as an imperative in all policies and the resource conservation as a major goal along with provision of employment, income and food security.

4.7 Inadequate Budgetary Resources

While forests constitute about 50% of the total land surface area in Myanmar, budgetary allocation accounts for only 10% to 15% of the revenue generated at current prices. In real terms it may be well below 5%. It is argued that though forestry is by far the largest revenue generating sector in Myanmar's economy, it is slow growing and consequently there is a problem in terms of maximization of economic surplus necessary for capital formation and future growth. Accordingly the

general premise in the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and the Ministry of Finance and Revenue is that if the best use of the scarce resources is to be ensured for economic development, then there has to be greater transfer of the resources to more productive sectors like manufacturing/processing. Ironically, due to heavy subsidized forest produce, the real value of the forestry sector is overlooked as these subsidies are not included in the national accounting system while computing the sector's contribution to the gross domestic product. Nor has any attempt ever been made to quantify the intangible benefits from the forests in terms of protection of downstream agriculture, critical watersheds, soil erosion, etc. Thus the forestry sector was and is even now considered as residuary in budgetary allocation. The present budgetary allocation severely limits forest management as also efforts towards conservation of the resource base.

4.8 Inadequate Institutional Framework

The importance of institutional support as a means and mechanism for policy implementation has been well recognized. However, institutional weakness is beset with problems of both the number and skilled manpower available for coping with the multifarious activities which require diverse expertise within the forestry sector. Institutional weaknesses needing priority attention include strategic planning and policy analysis, resource

management, environmental impact assessments, biological and economic research, forestry extension and establishment of inter-sectoral linkages. While general recognition prevails that investment in human resource capital to produce quantitatively measurable rates of return is of paramount importance, yet necessary investment has been overlooked and temporary solutions have been sought through reorganization as against restructuring of the forestry institutions to meet the new challenges.

5. Objectives

The strategic objectives identified collectively focus on minimizing or overcoming the aforementioned constraints as well as the need for sustainable development of the forestry sector. While the partial achievement of the objectives would be through a series of policy measures, the rest would be through adoption of strategies/actions in the short, medium and long terms.

The objectives identified are:

5.1 Land Use

- To evolve a system of balanced and complementary land use under which land is only diverted to uses where it would produce most and deteriorate least;
- To phase out existing practices which are incompatible with sound land management and which support adverse environmental

consequences; and

- To discourage shifting cultivation practices causing extensive damage to the forests through adoption of improved practices for better food production and a better quality of life for shifting cultivators.

5.2 Protection and Management

- To dedicate unclassed and protected public forest areas strategically located in the country to extend existing areas under forest reserves and the protected areas system in order to ensure sustainable forest management with the object of maximizing social and environmental benefits for the country and its population; restoration of ecological balance and biodiversity conservation as well as checking soil erosion and the denudation of catchments to safeguard water supplies and the premature siltation of reservoirs; and
- To strengthen wildlife management through establishment of a network of national parks, nature reserves and wildlife sanctuaries;

5.3 Forest Regeneration and Afforestation

- To pursue sound programmes of forest development through regeneration and rehabilitation operations to optimize productivity from natural forests; and

- To encourage planting of fast growing multipurpose tree species in degraded forests and farm lands, to meet industrial and domestic demand, and restore ecological balance.

5.4 Forest Industry, Marketing and Trade

- To promote efficient harvesting and sustainable utilization of all forms of forest produce;
- To upgrade and diversify appropriate wood-based industries with determined capacities commensurate with the resource flow to achieve high level of efficiency and to minimize waste of forest resources;
- To promote the export of value-added forest products and encourage use of under-utilized species;
- To ensure that domestic requirement of all forms of processed timber is adequately met through domestic processing;
- To secure a sizeable share of overseas wood product market through aggressive marketing including promotional measures; and
- To develop and exploit the potential of non-wood forest products for meeting local needs and supporting small-scale rural forest-based industries for providing employment and off-farm income to the rural population

5.5 Forest Research

- To determine the dynamics and functions of the components of natural forests and plantations of both indigenous and exotic species for the effective conservation and management of the forest resources to optimize productivity; and
- To promote problem-oriented forestry/forestry products and socio-economic research to support sustainable forestry development.

5.6 Forestry Planning

- To initiate development planning for the forestry sector to achieve sustainable development in resource production, processing and marketing, biodiversity conservation and restoration of ecological balance.

5.7 Intersectoral Coordination

- To establish an adequate and effective coordination/cooperation among all related sectors of the economy having influence on forestry including international agencies and institutions concerned with forestry development.

5.8 Institutional Strengthening

- To ensure that the basic goals of forestry, environmental protection and increased economic benefits to be achieved from forests and forestry are reflected in the institutional structure; and

- To strengthen the forestry institutions in qualitative and quantitative terms to meet the changing needs.

5.9 Budget and Finance

- To maintain a level of funding and investment in the forestry sector, sufficient to achieve the goals and objectives of the national forest policy.

5.10 People's Participation and Public Awareness

- To enlist people's participation in forest sector development activities in order to provide "people-based development" as also create public awareness and mass motivation for protection and conservation of forests.

6. Policy Measures , Strategies and Actions

6.1 Land Use

6.1.1 Policy Measures

- Establish a land use advisory board with responsibilities to oversee and coordinate overall land utilization in the country;
- Regularize existing areas under shifting cultivation and encroachment in forest lands, and fully enforce the provisions of the Forestry Act in the eviction of any future encroachment and other forms of forest land misuse; and

- Rehabilitate shifting cultivation areas, based not only on extension and welfare but also on investment and development.

6.1.2 Strategies

- Prepare a land use plan to specify the ultimate purpose for which the lands should be used and to provide the kind of security that is badly needed for catchment protection and nature conservation since changes or loss of these lands are irreversible.

The plan should ensure (that):

- land is used for the purpose for which it is best suited; and
- harmonization of different land uses to provide for the most effective use of the total land area in the country and resolving of any potential conflicts before the resources are damaged.

6.1.3 Action

6.1.3.1 Immediate/Short Term

- Develop criteria and guidelines for land use classification;
- Undertake land use classification of all lands in the country; and

- Appoint a task force to work out in-situ development programmes for shifting cultivators and to integrate appropriate agroforestry practices into smallholders' farming activities.

6.1.3.2 Medium Term

- Prepare detailed land use maps based on land-use capability classification.

6.1.3.3 Long Term

- Upgrade country capacities in land use evaluation and mapping on a continuous basis.

6.2 Protection and Management

6.2.1 Policy Measures

- 30% of the total land area of the country should be gazetted as reserved forest and 5% under protected areas system;
- Safe minimum standards for environmental conservation should be defined and established in respect of all development activities and Environmental Impact Assessment (E.I.A.) of development projects made obligatory with related rules/regulations formulated and enforced;
- A system of environment pricing should be introduced based on the "polluter pays"

principle to compensate for environmental and ecological degradation; and

Mining on all forest lands should be prohibited/regulated.

6.2.2 Strategies

Select, establish and manage forest reserves and protected areas system for the permanent protection of natural vegetation, steep slopes, watersheds, habitat for wildlife and areas for production forestry;

Expand existing network of protected areas system and strengthen biodiversity, environmental and other related conservation issues;

Promote efficient harvesting and sustainable utilization of all forms of forest produce;

Prioritize and limit all forest uses to its aggregate carrying capacities;

Protect forest from fire, disease, insects and human impacts;

Intensify silviculture and management;

Intensify forest management research and strengthen mechanism for collection of data on growth and yield; and

Undertake continuous programme of operational studies to provide refinement to logging and silvicultural practices.

6.2.3 Action

6.2.3.1 Immediate/Short Term

- Establish a resource management information system within the Forestry Department to collect and analyze forest resource data;
- Develop criteria and guidelines for forest land evaluation programme;
- Prepare a base line ecological survey to evaluate the status of ecological resource as a basis for preparing a national environmental conservation plan and as a basis for redesignation of forest land for wildlife habitat conservation, biodiversity conservation, national parks, etc.;
- Survey, select and demarcate areas for biodiversity conservation, national parks and wildlife sanctuaries;
- Prepare an integrated multiple-use management plan for each management unit;
- Prepare logging plans prior to harvesting operations;
- Undertake equipment balancing analysis to determine optimum requirement of equipment for a given forest operation;

- Enforce regulations to improve logging practices, reduce damage and increase utilization;
- Ensure permanent protection of natural vegetation on steep slopes and unstable soils in watershed areas;
- Identify areas suitable for afforestation; and
- Using the design and methodology of the current inventory, undertake multi-phased sampling for more defined and detailed information to support forest management.

6.2.3.2 Medium Term

- Undertake one-fifth boundary demarcation of forest reserves and protected areas on an annual basis;
- Establish mechanisms for regular monitoring of the status of forest resources at national and provincial levels;
- Establish a pest and disease monitoring and control system;
- Furnish relevant information on monitoring and evaluation of forest resources to Government;
- Strengthen and train forest department staff in natural forest management; and

- Identify training and staffing needs for evaluation, inventory and mapping.

6.2.3.3 Long Term

- Evaluate results of forest management planning with regard to development of forest areas, biodiversity conservation, and other outputs;
- Continue to manage reserved forests and protected areas system according to approved plans;
- Undertake continuous programmes of operational strategies to provide refinement to logging and silvicultural practices; and
- Upgrade capabilities of forestry personnel in evaluation, inventory and mapping on a continuous basis.

6.3 Forest Regeneration and Afforestation

6.3.1 Policy Measures

- Establish plantation cooperatives and provide institutional finance for establishment of man-made forests on degraded/denuded lands;
- Recognize that plantation forestry is not a substitute for natural forest management. A combination of both should constitute the

most efficient use of forest resource base in the country;

- Reforest an annual area of 30,000 hectares for rehabilitation of degraded lands and for meeting rural needs; and
- Rehabilitate and protect denuded coastal areas.

6.3.2 Strategies

- A comprehensive programme of regeneration sampling intensified with the aim of determining the regenerating status, species composition and regeneration classes, and the silvicultural treatment prescriptions to be carried out;
- A comprehensive soil survey to be carried out with the aim of determining the optimal plantation sites and the choice of species to be planted;
- Appropriate plantation establishment programmes to be prepared taking into account site potentials and end use;
- Tree planting to be extended to farm lands, encroached forest lands, shifting cultivation areas, road sides, canal banks, etc.; and
- Determination of forest areas suitable for multiple-use and implementation of programmes to cater for the growing needs of non - wood forest products, and conservation of soil, water, flora and fauna.

6.3.3 Action

6.3.3.1 Immediate/Short Term

- Undertake restocking and enrichment planting on degraded forest lands;
- Undertake consumption surveys to estimate present and future demand by species, purpose and regional locations;
- Prepare a plantation management plan to include a schedule of plantation development on identified lands, a schedule for road development and maintenance and an estimate of cost, manpower, material and equipment; and
- Promote community forestry plantation on state lands through plantation cooperatives.

6.3.3.2 Medium/Long Term

- Intensive in-service training programmes to improve staff capabilities.

6.4 Forest Industry, Marketing and Trade

6.4.1 Policy Measures

6.4.1.1 Forest Industry

- Ensure a rational balance between national forest industry processing capacity and resource availability;

- Establish an incentive structure for forest-based industries for improved conversion efficiency, minimizing log wastage, residue utilization and modernization of wood processing technology;
- Establishment of integrated processing zones should be brought under the purview of existing legislation to ensure horizontal and vertical integration of the wood-processing industries;
- Forest product grading rules should be introduced with the requirement that all civil works funded directly or indirectly, in whole or in part by the Government must use lumber that has been graded in accordance with the grading rules;
- The role of MTE as producer and processor should be redefined to entrust responsibility for not only harvesting, marketing and trade of forest products on a commission basis. The responsibility should also include market intelligence and research to facilitate market information, coordination, analysis, synthesis and dissemination of information to traders as well as wood-processing industries;
- MTE should be assigned an autonomous status so that it runs on a business

enterprise basis with capability to make on the spot decisions;

- Processing units owned by MTE should be privatized through appropriate institutional arrangements for increasing efficiency and improved returns over investment. Obsolete and outdated sawmills should be phased out;
- Liberalize foreign exchange facilities for processing industries to facilitate import of equipments/spare parts and operating supplies needed for efficiency in conversion and utilization of timber; and
- Recognize the socio-economic importance of non-wood forest products in the list of priorities for forest development.

6.4.1.2 Pricing

- Abolish concessional pricing of forest produce. The interplay of market forces and competition should drive forest product prices to effectively reflect real economic value; and
- Abolish price controls except for consideration of social equity, e.g. providing basic needs at affordable prices with provision for the subsidy being reflected in national accounting in order to determine the realistic contribution of the forestry sector to the gross domestic product.

6.4.1.3 Marketing and Trade

- **Impose an export assessment tax inversely proportional to the value added content of the forest products in order to offset manipulation in tender/auction sales as well as support the development of value-added industries within Myanmar;**
- **Commercialize all forest produce in an appropriately phased manner;**
- **Liberalize trade and tariff policies and ensure reasonable stability of the declared policies;**
- **Market promotion for timber and timber products should be supported through promotional campaigns by trade offices overseas and through incentives; and**
- **Official tours should be organized to all potential markets so as to establish contact with importers, agents and end-users as well as to attract investors including joint ventures for downstream manufacturing.**

6.4.2 Strategies

- **Promote private investment in wood-processing industry by providing easy access to credit facilities and through fiscal and non-fiscal incentives;**

- New investment into industry to be directed into production units which are designed as nucleus growth points and equipped to optimally utilize raw material in a manner which will ensure product competitiveness in the international market;
- Export of round logs will be gradually phased out, and each licensed mill assured sufficient quota to match capacity through a forest management licence providing for appended forest management responsibilities; the forest agreement licence will have statutory support and further extension of the licence to be predicated on a satisfactory performance of the licence holder;
- Lesser known species will be promoted through incentives like reduced royalty, tax exemption, export financing, remissions, etc.;
- Promotion of lesser known species will be directed at the most commonly occurring species and only thereafter on those species or species group with the potential to be economically viable for harvesting and utilization;
- Develop product quality control standards and system and the promotion of operating systems that will maximize value recovery;

- Set pollution control standards and measures to enforce it;
- Priority will be assigned to the urgent construction of export infrastructure to the extent required to attract major capital investments;
- Observance of all worker safety rules and regulations as also the development of supplementary rules and regulations as appropriate;
- MTE will liaise with the industry and the traders association to facilitate closer working relationship and to provide support in the market;

Vocational training facilities will be oriented to meet practical requirements of the wood-based industries in such essential expertise as machine operators, electricians, welders, blacksmiths, millwrights and heavy duty mechanics;

The existing knowledge for various non-wood forest products will be assembled, synthesized and documented to attract the attention of the developing and funding agencies;

Promote the development of location specific small-scale forest-based industries;

- Strengthen marketing intelligence and research and the sources for the collection of information diversified in order to effectively monitor market trends and developments; and
- Capabilities of staff in MTE will be upgraded through training in marketing information management, analysis and planning.

6.4.3 Action

6.4.3.1 Immediate/Medium Term

- Prepare a 10-year forecast of log flow by State/Division to provide a database for indicative planning on industrial relocation, consolidation and development;
- Prepare a blueprint on sustainable industrial capacity, taking into account known socio-economic factors and the resource base;
- Involve the private sector in forest product research and development;
- Coordinate with relevant environmental regulation agencies in the implementation of pollution control standards and measures relating to timber harvesting and processing;

- Ensure product quality control for exports;
- Inventory the non-wood forest resources and manage these for improved and sustained production;
- Establish small-scale rural forest-based industries and provide scientific and technical support as well as joint marketing of small-scale forest-based products;
- Establish market profiles of importing countries and promote differentiated marketing as against the present approach of undifferentiated marketing;
- Establish contacts with forestry authorities in the region in regard to exchange of information both on market demand and supply of forest products; and
- Establish training facilities for upgrading skills to meet the requirement of wood-based industries and training in marketing information management, analysis and planning.

6.4.3.2 Long Term

- Undertake feasibility study for manufacturing and trade of diversified products to promote value-added processing and optimal utilization of the

resource base; and

- Undertake and promote vocational training and training in market information management, analysis and planning on a continuous basis.

6.5 Forest Research

6.5.1 Policy Measures

- Recognize the pivotal role of forest and forest products research in support of successful forest conservation and development programmes;
- Assign the Forest Research Institute an independent status with its own staff of dedicated researchers; and
- Establish a flexible system for complimenting the promotion of research staff in their field of specialization to ensure continuity of research.

6.5.2 Strategies

Effective silvicultural management systems developed for the natural forests based on the principle of sustained yield and the optimization of production potential; these systems will consider not only studies on the ecological and silvicultural feasibilities but also acceptable cost-benefit criteria;

- Afforestation research implemented for establishment of plantations of both long and short fibre indigenous and exotic species;

- Management practices developed to minimize the adverse impact of forest harvesting on environmental stability and quality;

Problem - oriented research intensified to solve technological problems associated with wood processing industries to improve efficiency;

- Product development research implemented to accelerate the development of secondary and tertiary processing industries, with emphasis on the use of harvesting and industrial residues;

- Undertake feasibility study of introducing major and minor forest produce in agroforestry programmes;

Undertake field trials to develop techniques of rehabilitating degraded and denuded lands

as well as the conversion of poor forests into high value forests; and

- A national coordinated research programme implemented based on priorities determined by the National Research Advisory Committee.

6.5.3 Action

6.5.3.1 Immediate/Short Term

- Develop existing research facilities into a dynamic research institution, with sufficient manpower and facilities to carry out its functions effectively;
- Undertake manpower development and training for strengthening research capabilities; and
- Strengthen coordination and cooperation between research institutions, universities and other agencies in order to avoid duplication of effort.

6.5.3.2 Medium/Long Term

- Prepare a research development plan for identifying research priorities and programmes with short, medium and long term perspectives in accordance with their importance to forestry conservation and development programmes; and

- Establish technical cooperation arrangements with overseas research institutes.

6.6 Forestry Planning

6.6.1 Policy Measures

- An adequate system of planning and policy analyses be established in the Ministry and Department of Forestry and a 10-year perspective plan prepared for providing general guidelines and broad targets for sectoral development.

6.6.2 Strategies

- Prepare a national forestry action plan for forestry sector development on a rolling format to fully integrate forest development programmes with the national planning processes; and
- Strengthen the planning division of the Forest Department as well as the Ministry of Forestry to prepare strategic plans and monitor and evaluate plan implementation and results.

6.6.3 Action

6.6.3.1 Immediate/Short Term

- Undertake forest sector development planning with a 10-year perspective containing programmes/projects and flexible targets, areas for sites to be protected, areas to be reforested, estimates of demand and supply of forest products, felling and regeneration programmes, other related management and conservation activities and research priorities; and outline administrative arrangements and staff requirements for implementation of the plan together with estimates of costs and returns;
- Prepare a mid-term plan designed to achieve the objectives of the sectoral plan to coincide with the plan period of the Government;
- Analyze economic multiplier effects of forestry activities to influence decision making and win support of the national planning bodies and other related institutions;
- Prepare an annual plan of operations for achieving the targets proposed in the mid-term plan;
- Secure an effective level of staffing and expertise within the Forest Department and the Ministry of Forestry to prepare

sectoral plans and policy; and

- Undertake training of senior staff of the Forest Department in forest economics, forestry sector planning and forest policy analysis.

6.6.3.2 Medium Term

- Establish an information management system to provide qualitative and quantitative, socio-economic and resource data to facilitate the identification of policy options, planning and decision making; and
- Upgrade national capacity in the fields of forest policy formulation, analysis, impact assessment and sector planning on a continuous basis.

6.6.3.3 Long Term

- Evaluate plan implementation results and update strategic plans to keep pace with national development plans.

6.7 Intersectoral Coordination

6.7.1 Policy Measures

Establish a Forest Policy Advisory Board to be chaired by the Minister for Forestry to review forest policy implementation and establish coordination with other sectors including harmonization at policy interfaces.

6.7.2 Strategies

- Selected forest development strategies be adopted as a national commitment and programmes of other land-use related sectors coordinated to negate adverse ex-sectoral policy impacts; and
- Resolution of ex-sectoral policy conflicts at highest level of the Government.

6.7.3 Action

6.7.3.1 Immediate/Short Term

- Organize regular consultation and coordination with other ministries and departments to ensure that government decisions take account of the importance of the forestry sector;
- Identify possible areas of conflict within forest policy and other ex-sectoral policies and establish inter-sectoral task forces for resolution of conflicts and to make recommendations to the Policy Advisory Board; and
- Ensure inter-sectoral coordination/consultation during planning process.

6.7.3.2 Medium/Long Term

- Ensure follow-up of recommendations made by the Policy Advisory Board and present periodic reports to the Government for approval.

6.8 Institutional Strengthening

6.8.1 Strategies

- Quantitative and qualitative improvement in human resource for forestry by increasing the number of trained personnel at all levels and improvement of skills, specialization and professional ethics;
- Human resource management through rationalized recruitment and development with provision for motivation and incentive based on work performance audit;
- Appropriate ratios of professional staff to technical staff and technical to vocational staff at various levels be established to facilitate restructuring of the administration and organizational structures;
- Undertake a study to review and identify the tasks, organizational structure and staff requirement in relation to forest conservation and development, forestry research and forest industries development to facilitate restructuring of the administration and organizational structures;

- Prepare a manpower development plan to establish priorities for training and upgrading of country capacity; and
- Strengthen existing educational and training facilities to meet the needs of improved professional, technical and vocational manpower requirements for the forestry sector.

6.8.2 Action

6.8.2.1 Immediate/Short Term

- Strengthen the Forest Department with personnel to include economists, social scientists, wildlife biologists and other human resource and natural resource specialists;
- Revise and update existing forest manuals to serve as handbooks for all foresters;
- Organize refresher courses and in-service trainings to upgrade capabilities of staff in environmental and economic planning, research and extension;
- Develop training curricula for professional, technical and vocational staff to upgrade capabilities in community forestry and forestry extension;
- Improve the existing facilities for education in forestry including research

facilities for teaching staff, post graduate research, library, laboratories, etc.; and

- Update present curricula, teaching materials and facilities and provide adequate number of trained and motivated trainers.

6.8.2.2 Medium Term

- Increase capacity and quality of institutions providing technical and vocational trainings to meet the increasing manpower needs of the sector; and
- Develop and implement special training courses for middle and higher management staff as a means of promoting professional capabilities and leadership.

6.8.2.3 Long Term

- Establish a human resource development unit within the Ministry of Forestry to design, innovate and monitor all aspects of human resource development;
- Establish formal linkages between forestry educational institutions in Myanmar and foreign universities with regard to certain specializations needed in the country; and

- Develop a comprehensive in-service training programme for meeting the complex needs of the forestry sector.

6.9 Budget and Finance

6.9.1 Policy Measures

- Earmark at least 25% of the earning from forests for reforestation and other forest development efforts; and
- Increase investment in forest conservation and development through the establishment of a forest development fund with appropriate participation of financial institutions and other donors to be operated with a high degree of autonomy.

6.9.2 Strategies

- Allocate enhanced budgetary resources and ensure timely disbursement to operating units; and
- Tap variegated sources of development finance - international, private and agencies for supporting policy implementation.

6.9.3 Action

6.9.3.1 Immediate/Short Term

- Identify/justify pre-requisite financial and investment support;
- Explicitly establish forest sector priorities and budgetary requirements;
- Identify strategic donor-assisted programmes and projects; and
- Document forest revenues and intangible values as related to forest investment.

6.9.3.2 Medium Term

- Determine the real economic value of forests and tree resource base for allocation of appropriate level of resources for forest management and influencing decision makers in according priority to the sector commensurate with its real value; and
- Increase funding through cost-sharing with other sectors which benefit from forestry such as irrigation, fisheries, agriculture, tourism and energy.

6.9.3.3 Long Term

- Continuous financial support to strategic priorities identified in National Forest Policy.

6.10 People's Participation and Public Awareness

6.10.1 Policy Measures

- Strengthen the extension capabilities of the Forest Department and develop mechanisms for greater public involvement in forestry programmes;
- Identify and publicize environmental, social and economic benefits of sustainable forestry development;
- Create an awareness of community forestry and significance of the problem it seeks to address; and
- Demonstrate the cost/benefit of community development programmes and also the mechanism for distribution of benefits to facilitate adoption of the programmes by the people.

6.10.2 Action

6.10.2.1 Immediate/Short Term

- Strengthen the extension division in the Forest Department to plan, implement and monitor forestry extension activities;
- Undertake organization building at the grassroot level to establish an effective recipient system which can safeguard the

interest of the community and promote participatory forestry development;

- Establish an Information Education and Communication (I.E.C.) library in the Forest Department headquarters and develop I.E.C. materials to strengthen field infrastructure;
- Train forestry extension workers in the use of I.E.C. materials and audio-visual equipment;
- Train forestry extension personnel on practical applications of technology in a climate which facilitates its application and allows for experimentation;
- Launch massive information campaigns using mass media and print media for communicating extension messages;
- Establish mechanisms for benefit sharing in community forestry programmes through preparation of statutory agreements and other legislative supports like grant of tree tenurial rights; and
- Abolish rules and regulations which discourage tree plantations on individual or communal lands.

6.10.2.2 Medium Term

- Establish demonstration centres to serve as learning centres for upgrading community capabilities in tree planting and agroforestry practices as also to demonstrate the economic benefits of community forestry programmes;
- Organize farmers training courses and cross farm visits; and
- Provide research support both biological and economic for implementing and promoting community forestry programmes.

6.10.2.3 Long Term

- Undertake research to identify tree species which provide wood for a multiplicity of end uses as well as minor forest produce including leaves for fodder and determine reliable information for tree species of interest;
- Develop techniques of cultural practices (land preparation, propagation, spacing, thinning, pruning, pollarding, etc.) and harvesting systems acceptable to local populace; and
- Prepare a forestry extension plan for field implementation.

Forest Policy Implementation Strategies

Myanmar forestry is in the process of reform to provide forest conservation and development and broadening of its

The policy reforms in forestry focus on an immediate change that besides biodiversity conservation, the forest resources are used and developed on a sustainable basis along with the economic development of the country.

The pre-requisites for effective implementation of the policy include appropriate organization, legislation, finance and active participation of every citizen of Myanmar.

Leadership, however, would have to emanate at the governmental level; i.e. decision makers at the highest level, through the administrative level, to the lowest functionary in the field. It may be relevant to mention that not all of the policy measures and strategies identified can be implemented simultaneously during the course of policy implementation; nevertheless some of them must become operational as scheduled while others may be delayed only until such time as is required to garner adequate manpower and financial support.

The following implementation strategies are recommended:

7.1 Organization

The existing forestry administration is a legacy of the colonial past. Despite the changing socio-economic and political environment within the country, the present system of administration continues with its concern focused mainly on exploitation of trees for revenue generation with

low input-output type of forest management and insufficient emphasis on restoration of ecological balance and biodiversity conservation. For successful implementation of the policy, the task requirements must match the organization capabilities. Consequently it is imperative that the work load in terms of the present day diversified role of forests is assessed and as an interim measure, a workable pattern evolved and the Forest Department restructured with forestry extension service expanded and strengthened on priority basis to ensure transfer of technology (from lab to land) as well as in creating awareness and motivating people towards their active participation in conservation and development as well as tree plantations.

7.2 Finance

The implementation of forest policy and execution of development programmes should be adequately funded and the pattern of funding support modified to ensure that prescriptions and targets envisaged in the forest policy are achieved. A policy measure in this direction would be the establishment of forest development fund to be made operative outside the realms of the normal government budgetary allocation procedures. Possibility should also be explored for increased financial flows and technical assistance available from international agencies for innovative activities, capacity building, research, education and training.

7.3 Legislation

Successful implementation of the forest policy will require support of legislation of new strategies/ approaches to forest protection and management which have been proposed. Accordingly, the existing legislation needs to be amended to provide credibility and consistency to policy goals and objectives and rules and regulations prepared under the Act for policy implementation.

7.4 Public Awareness and Information Campaign

Effective and successful implementation of the policy would largely depend not only upon its adoption by the Government but also by its being understood and adopted by the people. Massive information and extension campaigns should be organized to promote tree and forest conservation consciousness among all concerned. The focus of extension services and information campaigns will be not only to include the value of trees and forest in the day-to-day life but also to provide information on meeting one's own need in an environmentally sustainable way. The potential of mass media in this respect should be fully exploited. Introduction of elementary forestry in the curricula of primary and secondary schools needs consideration.

7.5 Intersectoral Linkages

In view of the fact that forest policy and programmes are closely linked with those of agriculture, environment, energy, mining, trade and industry, public works and social development, the Government should establish a binding consensus on policies and thereafter each ministry of the Government should issue guidelines under its control to conform with policy mandates. This may need new legislative measures to be adopted in order to ensure that all government interventions remain structured to achieve sustainable management of forests and restoration of ecological balance together with environmental amelioration.

8. Forest Policy Review and Impact Assessment

It needs to be recognized that with a dynamic population, forest policies cannot remain static. Therefore, forest policy should be reviewed and revised periodically to take cognizance of the changing socio-political environment as well as to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the strategies implemented in order to facilitate identification of future strategy options.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

MINISTRY OF FORESTRY

MYANMAR FOREST POLICY, 1995

POLICY STATEMENT

FEBRUARY 23, 1996

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The Government of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Forestry
Notification No.21/96

Yangon, the 6th Waxing Day of Tabaung, 1357 M.E
 (23rd February, 1996)

With the approval of the Cabinet Meeting (27/95) of the Government of the Union of Myanmar which was held on the 20th of July 1995, the Ministry of Forestry hereby issues the following Myanmar Forest Policy 1995, Policy Statement:-

1 PREAMBLE

In view of the importance of the Myanmar Forestry Sector in promoting national socio-economic development, and ensuring ecological balance and environmental stability, the Myanmar Forest Policy has been formulated in a holistic and balanced manner within the overall context of the environment and sustainable development taking full cognizance of the forestry principles adopted at the UNCED.

2 IMPERATIVES

The policy has indentified six imperatives which the Government must give the highest priority in order to achieve broader national goals and objectives. These are:

- A. PROTECTION of soil, water, wildlife, biodiversity and environment;
- B. SUSTAINABILITY of forest resources to ensure perpetual supply of both tangible and intangible benefits accrued from the forests for the present and future generations;

- C. BASIC NEEDS of the people for fuel, shelter, food and recreation;
- D. EFFICIENCY to harness, in the socio-environmentally friendly manner, the full economic potential of the forest resources;
- E. PARTICIPATION of the people in the conservation and utilization of the forests;
- F. PUBLIC AWARENESS about the vital role of the forests in the well being and socio-economic development of the nation.

3. OBJECTIVES AND POLICY MEASURES

In this context, the Myanmar Forest Policy provides for, inter alia:

3.1. LAND USE:

Objectives

- To evolve a system of balanced and complimentary land use under which land is only diverted to uses where it would produce most and deteriorate least;
- To phase out existing practices which are incompatible with sound land management and which support adverse environmental consequences;

to discourage shifting cultivation practices causing extensive damage to forest through adoption of improved practices for better food production and a better quality of life for shifting cultivators.

Policy Measures

Establish a National Land Use Advisory Board with responsibilities to oversee and coordinate overall land utilization in the country;

Regularize existing areas under shifting cultivation and encroachment in forest lands, and fully enforce the provisions of the Forestry Act in the eviction of any future encroachment and other forms of forest land misuse;

Base rehabilitation of shifting cultivation areas not only on extension and welfare but also on investment and development.

I PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT:

Objectives

To dedicate unclassified and protected public forest areas strategically located in the country to extend existing areas under forest reserves and protected area system in order to ensure sustainable forest management with the object of maximizing social and environment benefits for the country and its population; restoration of ecological balance and biodiversity conservation as well as checking soil erosion and the deduction of river catchments to safeguard water supplies and the premature siltation of reservoirs;

- To strengthen wildlife management through establishment of a network of national parks, wildlife reserves and sanctuaries.

Policy Measures

- Gazette 30% of the total land area of the country as reserve forest and 5% under protected area system;
- Define and establish safe minimum standards for environment conservation in respect of all development activities and make Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of development projects obligatory with related rules/ regulation;
- Regulate a system of environment pricing based on the "polluter pays" principle to compensate for environmental and ecological degradation;
- Regulate mining on all forest lands.

3.3 FOREST REGENERATION AND AFFORESTATION:

Objectives

- To pursue sound programme of forest development through regeneration and rehabilitation operations to optimize productivity from natural forest;
- To encourage planting of fast growing multipurpose tree species in degraded forest lands, rebuilding forest and farm lands to meet industrial and domestic demand, as well as restore ecological balance.

Policy Measures

Establish plantation cooperatives and provide institution finance for establishment of man-made forests on degraded/denuded lands;

Recognize that plantation forestry is not a substitute for natural forest management. A combination of both should constitute the most efficient use of forest resource base in the country;

Reforest an area of 20,000 hectares annually to restore degraded lands and meet rural needs.

1.4 FOREST INDUSTRY, MARKETING AND TRADE:

Objectives

To promote efficient harvesting and sustainable utilization of all forms of forest produce;

To upgrade and diversify appropriate wood-based industries with determined capacities commensurate with the resource flow to achieve high level of efficiency and to minimize waste of forest resources;

To promote the export of value-added forest products and encourage use of under utilized species;

To ensure that domestic requirement of all forms of processed timber is adequately met through domestic processing;

- Liberalize trade and tariff policies and ensure reasonable stability of the declared policies;
- Promote market for timber and products through overseas trade offices and incentives;
- Organize official tours to all potential markets so as to establish contact with importers, agents and end-users as well as to attract investors including joint ventures for downstream manufacturing.

3.5 FOREST RESEARCH:

Objectives

- To determine the dynamics and functions of the components of natural forests and plantations of both indigenous and exotic species for the effective conservation and management of the forest resources to optimize productivity;
- To promote problem-oriented forestry/forest products and socio-economic research to support sustainable forestry development.

Policy Measures

- Recognize the pivotal role of forestry and forest product research in support of successful forest conservation and development programmes;
- Assign the Forest Research Institute an independent status with its own staff of dedicated researchers;

Establish a flexible complimenting system for promotion of research staff in their field of specialization to ensure continuity of research.

FORESTRY PLANNING:

Objective

To initiate development planning for the forestry sector to achieve sustainable development in resource production, processing and marketing, biodiversity conservation and restoration of ecological balance.

Policy Measures

Establish an adequate system of planning and policy analyses in the Ministry and Department of Forest;

Prepare a 10-years perspective plan for providing general guidelines and broad targets for sectoral development.

INTERSECTORAL COORDINATION:

Objective

To establish an adequate and effective coordination/cooperation among all related sectors of the economy having influence on forestry including international agencies and institutions concerned with forestry development.

Policy Measure

- Establish a National Forest Policy Advisory Board chaired by the Minister of Forestry to review forest policy implementation and establish coordination with other sectors including-harmonization at policy interfaces.

3.8 INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING:

Objective

- To ensure that the basic goals of forestry, environmental protection and increased economic benefits to be derived from forest and forestry are reflected in the institutional structure;
- To strengthen the forestry institutions in qualitative and quantitative terms to meet the changing needs.

Policy Measures

- Ensure human resource development both quantitatively and qualitatively;
- Strengthen educational and training facilities to cater for the above;
- Allocate appropriately professional, technical and vocational staff at various levels for efficient functioning and development of the forestry sector;

Institute human resource management and manpower development through reviewing the organizational structure and staffing essentially with professionally committed personnel, and introducing incentive mechanism and work performance audit to upgrade professional standards and national capacity of public forestry institutions.

BUDGET AND FINANCE

Objective

To maintain a level of funding and investment in the forestry sector, sufficient to achieve the goals and objectives of the National Forest Policy.

Measures

Allocate a reasonable portion of the earning from forests for adequate reforestation and other forest development efforts;

Increase investment in forest conservation and development and for supporting functions through the establishment of a forest development fund with appropriate participation of financial institutions and other donors, both national and international to be operated for development of the forestry sector, by the Ministry of Forestry, with a high degree of autonomy; within the budgetary and financial framework as laid down by the Ministry of Finance and Revenue.

3.10. PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS:

Objective

- To enlist people's participation in forestry sector development activities in order to provide "people-based development" and also create public awareness and mass motivation for protection and conservation of forests.

Policy Measures

- Strengthen the extension capabilities of the Forest Department and develop mechanisms for greater public involvement in forestry programmes;
- Identify and publicize environmental, social and economic benefits of sustainable forestry development;
- Create an awareness of community forestry and significance of the problem it seeks to address;
- Demonstrate the cost/benefit of community development programmes as also the mechanism for distribution of benefits to facilitate adoption of the programme by the people.

(Sd.) Lt-Gen Chit Shwe
Minister
Ministry of Forestry

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THE UNION OF MYANMAR
THE STATE LAW AND ORDER RESTORATION COUNCIL

သစ်တောဥပဒေ FOREST LAW

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(3rd November, 1992)