

# REPORT OF THE NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ITTO GUIDELINES FOR THE RESTORATION, MANAGEMENT AND REHABILITATION OF DEGRADED AND SECONDARY TROPICAL FORESTS

## I. INTRODUCTION

The National Workshop on ITTO Guidelines for the Restoration, Management and Rehabilitation of Degraded and Secondary Tropical Forests was held on 28 – 31 August 2006 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The Workshop was jointly organized by the Forest Department, the Ministry of Forestry of Myanmar and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), in collaboration with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the Swiss Organization for Development and International Cooperation (Intercooperation).

The main objective of the Workshop is to further promote the implementation of the *ITTO Guidelines for the Restoration, Management and Rehabilitation of Degraded and Secondary Tropical Forests* and to introduce the principles of Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR).

The Workshop was attended by 25 participants from various Divisions and Institutions being actively involved in the forest restoration activities in Myanmar. The list of participants appears as **Annex 1**.

The participants at the Workshop took part in plenary sessions, group works and a field trip focusing on understanding the concept of FLR and FLR through the participation of stakeholders, particularly local communities. The agenda of the Workshop appears as **Annex 2**.

## II. OPENING SESSION

H. E. Brigadier General Thein Aung, the Minister, Ministry of Forestry officially opened the Workshop on the 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2006. In his opening address, the Minister expressed his appreciation to the ITTO for the support provided in organizing the Workshop and stressed the role of degraded and secondary forests in the tropical regions. He pointed out that the ITTO Guidelines provide objectives, principles and recommended actions in an international reference scale and a framework for the development of specific guidelines at national and local levels. He further noted that the technical approach alone may not be adequate to cope with the issue and it needs to be addressed through stakeholder participation. In closing, the Minister expressed his gratitude to ITTO, IUCN and Dr. James K. Gasana for their initiatives and contribution to the Workshop, and he wished all participants much success in their deliberations.

Dr. James K. Gasana, the international facilitator, thereafter delivered opening remarks on the Workshop on behalf of his own organization, Intercooperation, as well as of the ITTO. After a brief introduction of ITTO and Intercooperation, he highlighted the issue of deforestation and forest degradation in tropical region and rapidly growing interest in the forest restoration all over the region. He introduced the concept of “*the Forest Landscape Restoration (or FLR)*” and past activities and accomplishments relating to FLR. Dr. Gasana further elaborated the pragmatic nature of FLR which considers from the larger perspective of the landscape involving the active participation of a wide range of stakeholders, particularly the local communities. He pointed out that the ITTO, mandated by the ITTC, has organized nine national workshops in selected producer countries to further promote the implementation of FLR and the ITTO guidelines at the country level. Dr. Gasana expressed hope that the workshop, being designed as an interactive learning process, would produce interesting discussions on how FLR can be implemented in Myanmar, what the main restoration needs and challenges for the country are, and how the content and presentation of the guidelines and the manual can be improved further.

Opening address of H. E. Brigadier General Thein Aung and opening remarks of Dr. James K. Gasana appear as **Annex 3**.

### III. INTRODUCTION TO THE WORKSHOP AND INTRODUCTION OF THE PARTICIPANTS

The technical sessions started with the introduction of the Workshop. Dr. James K. Gasana, the international facilitator, welcomed the participants and presented on the objectives, topics of discussion and expected results of the Workshop. The overall objective of the Workshop was to discuss main needs, challenges and possible means for the FLR implementation in Myanmar, and to make recommendations for the improvement of the content and presentation of the ITTO Guidelines and the ITTO/ IUCN Manual. The specific objectives are:

- To learn about the main concepts of FLR;
- To gain a common understanding of the state of forests and the current status of FLR in Myanmar;
- To receive feedback on the existing 'tools' (ITTO Guidelines and the FLR Manual);
- To understand what else is needed for FLR implementation in Myanmar; and
- To develop ideas and project concepts for FLR implementation in Myanmar using the existing tools.

Dr. Gasana then presented on the main learning methods of the Workshop, daily objectives and daily work, and ground rules adopted by the Workshop. He asked the participants to reflect on the Workshop's contents, activities, individual participation, time keeping and facilitation in daily evaluations. The participants were also urged to evaluate whether the objectives each day were met and to make recommendations in the evaluations. He stressed the role of the participants' suggestions and recommendations in the evaluations. The evaluation of the participants, Dr. Gasana said, would be useful input for the consultative report to the forthcoming ITTC session which will convene in November 2006. The presentation of Dr. Gasana appears as **Annex 4**.

The presentation was followed by the introduction of the individual participants. The participants also mentioned their expectations from the Workshop. Commonly expressed expectations include, among others, to learn concepts and principles of the subject from experienced resource persons, to obtain up-to-date information and knowledge, and to share experiences. One participant specified his expectation that appropriate restoration measures for particular types of forest in Myanmar be brought about by the Workshop through open discussions and exchange of experiences and views. Emphasizing the link of the Workshop's outcomes to the future FLR initiatives in Myanmar, the national facilitator requested the participants to make special efforts towards outlining a draft profile of a future FLR implementation action plan. Dr Gasana, reiterating the importance of the views of the participants, asked them to take part in and contribute to the decision-making process of ITTO by providing feedback on the guidelines and making recommendations for future actions.

### IV PRESENTATIONS

**Presentation 1: Overview of forests in Myanmar – their current status, functions, problems and challenges** by U Saw Eh Dah, Director, Training and Research Development Division, Forest Department

Presentation of Mr. Saw Eh Dah addressed three topics, namely, status of the forest resource, forest management, and challenges and remedial Measures in forest sector in Myanmar. He briefly reported about the nationwide appraisals of forest cover in the past, present forest cover given by the latest forest assessment FRA 2005, the extent of major forest types, the status of permanent forest estate (PFE), and periodic change of forest cover over three decades. In regard with forest management, Mr. Saw Eh Dah gave a short account of the silvicultural system of Myanmar known as "*Myanmar Selection System (MSS)*". He described the system as "*exploitation-cum-cultural system*" which characterizes: adoption of a felling cycle of 30 years; regulation of yield by area and tree number check using prescription of exploitable sizes of trees; fixing of annual allowable cuts (AAC); enumeration of future yield trees; and carrying out cultural operations of remaining stand.

Mr. Dah continued to touch upon the role of plantation forestry, special teak plantations programme, and development and main features of community forestry in Myanmar. He reported encroachment in the forestland for agriculture and other purposes, shifting cultivation, illicit logging and wood fuel crises, among others, as major threats to the forest resources in Myanmar. To address the issue, the following remedial measures are being undertaken:

- Control of timber harvesting under MSS;
- Initiatives towards a proper land use policy;
- Efforts to increase PFE;
- Forest protection through legislative means as well as participatory approach;
- Promoting the establishment of community-owned fuelwood plantations, and efficient use and substitution of wood fuel;
- Improved utilization of forest resources; and
- Improving down-stream processing and promotion of marketing of value added products.

The full text of Mr. Saw Eh Dah's paper appears as **Annex 5**.

The plenary discussed on: (i) Inconsistency in forest cover estimates caused by different definitions and methods used in different appraisals; (ii) Calculation of AAC based on up-to-date pre-harvesting inventory data; (iii) Two basic requirements for the successful implementation of MSS, namely, strict compliance with the instructions on the ground and further modification for improvement; and (iv) Incorporation of previously established village supply forest plantations within the framework of community forestry.

**Presentation 2: Forest Landscape Restoration in Myanmar – Current status, efforts and the way forward**” by Dr. Myint Oo (National Facilitator), Assistant Director, Forest Department

The presentation aimed to describe two main themes regarding FLR in Myanmar, namely, framework and efforts that are already in place, and the way forward. After distinguishing differences between the traditional restoration approach and FLR, the national facilitator highlighted imperatives and strategic objectives adopted by Forest Policy, and principles stated in the Forest Law which have special relevance to restoration, rehabilitation and reforestation. He then summarized main features of the Community Forestry Instructions of Forest Department and current forest restoration efforts.

The presentation concluded with suggestions on the way forward relating to future FLR initiatives in Myanmar. To create enabling conditions for successful implementation, the following initiatives at policy level are advised:

- Accurate and reliable assessment of degraded forests;
- Land evaluation and holistic approach towards proper land use planning;
- Establishment of more effective participation mechanism; and
- Establishment of cross-sector problem solving mechanism.

Suggested site-level initiatives include research studies for better understanding of various aspects of restoring degraded forests; incorporation of practical and realistic short-term economic opportunities into the existing community forestry establishment; awareness raising and educational programs for the local communities as well as for the government staff; and cooperation and partnership among international organizations, government organizations, non-governmental organizations and community based organizations. The full text appears as **Annex 6**.

Plenary discussion touched upon land capability-based land use planning and the necessity of holistic approach in land use planning in which issues outside the forestry sector should also be taken into account.

**Presentation 3: Introduction to the concept of Forest Landscape Restoration** by Dr. James K. Gasana, International Facilitator

Dr. Gasana presented an overview of the concept of FLR (**Annex 7**). The purpose of the presentation, he said, was to give some methods and tools to the participants so that they could consider Myanmar's own situation, and find out possible solutions to the problems that they had identified and analyzed.

The presentation started with the background history the ITTO guidelines and the ITTO/ IUCN manual which were used as basic documents for the Workshop. After the ITTC had adopted the ITTO guidelines in November 2002, six international workshops had been organized to further disseminate the document. The recommendations of those workshops brought about more practical and action-oriented manual that was jointly development by ITTO and IUCN. Whereas the ITTO guidelines are widely regarded as a useful policy instrument, the manual is considered to be a practitioners' tool. Both documents are, thus linked and complementary to each other. Dr. Gasana also urged the participants to elaborate whether Myanmar needs a country-specific manual and, if so, to identify how ITTO and IUCN can help to develop the manual.

In his presentation, Dr. Gasana pointed out three key words included in the definition of FLR. The first key word is the *process* which means that there is no single and ready-made solution in FLR. During the course of the process people learn, adapt their activities to changing situation and improve the process to obtain their needs in the end. Two other key words are *ecological integrity* and *human well-being* which are also two main pillars of sustainable development. FLR is, therefore, putting the forestry activities in line with two basic dimensions of sustainable development: maintaining environmental integrity and stability, and enhancing human well-being. Dr. Gasana further elaborated main features of FLR. He explained that FLR was different from current restoration approaches because:

- It does not aim to return the landscapes to their original state but focuses on restoring forest functionality;
- Site-base activities are considered within a broader landscape context – FLR does not seek to increase productivity at specific site but restores services at landscape level;
- Local needs are addressed and balance alongside national-level priorities, making local stakeholders involvement in planning management options;
- Application of *Double Filter* – every action to take must be put to the test using two filters: human well-being is not traded-off against ecological integrity, or vice versa;
- It is a learning processes involving adaptive management, and thus requires monitoring, learning and adaptation;
- Single-solution approach is seldom adequate and a package of tools is generally required; and
- Supportive local and national frameworks over the long term are also required.

Dr. Gasana concluded the presentation with some interesting FLR examples in Kenya and Sabah, Malaysia.

In plenary, one participant made comments on the link between adaptive management and monitoring, and stakeholder participation in evaluation process. Dr. Gasana, in response to the comments, further elaborated the nature of adaptive management in which stakeholders plan, implement and evaluate together, and re-plan for the future activities. He also referred to the Chapter 14 of ITTO/ IUCN manual. Plenary discussions also included access and property rights of local communities. He gave an example in Tanzania where more active participation of local people in FLR activities was achieved once local stakeholders were convinced that their rights had been secured.

**Presentation 4: Introduction of what is already available to help FLR implementation in Myanmar – ITTO Restoration Guidelines and ITTO/ IUCN Manual on FLR** by Dr. James K. Gasana, International Facilitator

Dr. Gasana highlighted main features of the two documents – ITTO Restoration Guidelines and ITTO/ IUCN Manual on FLR that he had introduced in his previous presentation (**Annex 8**). The purpose of the presentation, he said, was not to elaborate the contents of the documents in detail, but to introduce their usefulness to the participants in order that they can effectively use the documents within the context of Myanmar's own FLR situation.

Targeting primarily towards policy makers and aiming to be an international reference standard, the guidelines were published by ITTO in 2002. After touching briefly upon the scope, structure and definitions used, Dr. Gasana distinguished three different but intertwined management strategies, namely, restoration of degraded primary forests, management of secondary forests, and rehabilitation of degraded forest lands. He then mentioned principles and recommended actions provided by the guidelines to help forest managers decide necessary actions at policy-planning and site levels. He summarized key messages of the guidelines as follows:

- Degraded forests are an important element of the tropical landscape;
- Livelihoods of rural poor rely on degraded forests;
- Collaborative approaches are most promising;
- Degraded forests offer potential for promoting multiple-uses;
- Restoration and rehabilitation are less 'controversial' forest issues; and
- It is an investment that can deliver large dividends for society.

He continued to present the background history, significant points, and the structure of the ITTO/ IUCN manual. Repeating the request to the participants to make suggestions whether country-specific guidelines and manual for Myanmar are required, he mentioned the key message, stressing that the framework and knowledge for FLR implementation are now available. Limiting factors such as inadequate understanding of FLR approach can be overcome by conducting local level workshops. He also pointed out the influence of land use policy outside forest sector on the land use dynamics of degraded forest landscape. If there is favourable policy in place, he suggested, FLR activities can be planned and implemented. The forest managers should also provide the decision-makers necessary information to let them know how to handle with the land use and restoration issues.

During the presentation, a special attention was paid to the understanding the landscape mosaic (Chapter 5), analysis of a forest landscape dynamics (Chapter 6), and monitoring and evaluation system (Chapter 14). Practical tips and tools included in the manual are:

- Use of maps/ sketches to illustrate landscapes and cross-check information;
- Scenarios for different site-level options;
- Species for improved fallows; and
- How to monitor and evaluate the FLR activity.

Dr. Gasana informed the participants that the agricultural expansion was one of the most critical issues in forest sector with which about 70% of tropical developing nations had been facing. Agroforestry may be one of the most promising solutions to this problem. He also noted that the "consensus" at village meetings does not necessarily mean agreement by all individual participants of the meeting. In conclusion the participants were invited to make comments for further improvement of the two documents.

The plenary further elaborated on the double-filter. The first filter, Dr. Gasana explained, is to consider whether the initiatives to be taken are environmentally sound and sustainable, i.e., to examine the possible impacts on biodiversity, soils, water, etc. The second filter is to judge

whether they improve well-being of local communities and whether they refuse or limit access and property rights. In response to the question how these two dimensions should be weighted and/or adjusted, Dr. Gasana said that two filters have to be paid same priority at the landscape level.

Mentioning frequently encountered unwilling and passive participation of local communities in the forestry development activities, one participant raised the question how to achieve real and active participation of stakeholders, in particular of the local people. The very first step towards the solution to a problem, Dr. Gasana replied, is the fact that all key stakeholders are convinced the existence of the problem and clearly understand the nature of the problem. The problem, its causes and possible solution(s), therefore, need to be identified with the consultation of the stakeholders. The forest managers have to be equipped with skill to properly communicate to other stakeholders, especially to the decision-makers, who may have different frames of reference and thus different views on the issue.

**Presentation 5: Introduction to the ITTO project cycle and project formulation process**  
by Dr. James K. Gasana, International Facilitator

The purpose of the presentation (**Annex 9**), Dr. Gasana said, was not to elaborate the process in detail but to share information. It therefore aimed to provide the participants with some essential information on the ITTO project cycle so as to properly formulate the potential FLR projects and submit them to the ITTO. Dr. Gasana shared the information that project proposals concerning the implementation of any aspects covered by the two documents may be formulated and submitted to the ITTO for financing.

Individual steps of the cycle were illustrated, the essence of the logical framework was briefly elaborated and the format of an ITTO project proposal was described. The logical framework, Dr. Gasana explained, is the ITTO's standard of project elaboration in which problem and solutions are analyzed, and the whole project is designed according to the objectives defined. For detail information he referred to the ITTO manual for project formulation. He also informed that the manual was under revision and the revised edition would be available next year. According to new capacity building programme of the ITTO, Myanmar, as a member country, may request ITTO to provide special training on new ITTO manual for project formulation.

The discussions include the project evaluation process of ITTO and defining the project objectives. To the question how to define the objectives in line with principles and criteria adopted by ITTO, Dr. Gasana said that the specific objectives particularly must correspond to the needs of the stakeholders. Another requirement is that the objectives must be in compliance with objectives of ITTA and current action plan of the ITTO.

**Presentation 6: Global partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration – Investing in people and nature** by Dr. James K. Gasana, International Facilitator

As the last presentation of the Workshop, the participants were introduced to the Global Partnership on FLR (**Annex 10**). Dr. Gasana presented the background, objectives and development of the programme followed by who the partners at present are, and how a partner can participate and be benefited. He went on reporting the approach and activities of Phase 1 (2003-2006), results obtained so far, the approach of Phase 2 (2006-2009). He also informed how Myanmar can participate in the programme and referred to some websites for further information.

## V GROUP WORK

**Facilitators:** (1) Dr. James K. Gasana, International Facilitator  
(2) Dr. Myint Oo, National Facilitator

### **Group Work 1: Key Problems, direct and underlying causes and possible solutions of forest sector in Myanmar**

The purpose of this group work was to gain a shared understanding of the state of the forests and forest sector in Myanmar. Participants broke up into three working groups to identify:

- The key problems facing the forest sector in Myanmar;
- The direct and underlying causes of these problems; and
- Possible solutions.

Group representatives presented the results of the group discussion to the plenary for further elaboration and synthesizing of the results. During the plenary discussion, participants reviewed, and made comments and suggestions on the reported results of each group. Dr. Gasana suggested that the elaborations and analyses of problems, causes and possible solutions in forest sector would serve as a basis in forthcoming group discussions to make recommendations for FLR implementation in Myanmar and to outline a draft profile of future action plan.

The national facilitator synthesized the discussions of each group and the combined results were then reported to the plenary for approval. The synthesis of group work discussion appears as **Annex 11**.

### **Group Work 2: Stakeholders, constraints and needs for FLR in Myanmar, and Feedback on the documents**

In order to understand current status of FLR and to discuss implementation FLR in Myanmar, and to gain a common understanding and provide feedback on the ITTO guidelines and FLR manual, the groups:

- Identified stakeholders, constraints and needs for FLR implementation in Myanmar;
- Reviewed the documents and examined its relevancy to the Myanmar's own situation;
- Evaluated strength and weaknesses of the structure, format, contents and usefulness of the documents; and
- Pinpointed what is missing and made suggestions for improvement.

The groups then reported the results of their work to the plenary. The synthesis of group work discussions appears as **Annex 12**.

In plenary Dr. Gasana pointed out that the terms "*relevant organizations*" and "*relevant private companies*" are vague and too general, and definite and most relevant stakeholders should be specified. He also clarified that the "*needs*" to be identified in the group work mean ways and means, and inputs such as human and financial resources needed to implement FLR plans and activities.

The Director General of the FD also shared his views on stakeholders, constraints and needs for FLR. He suggested that FLR efforts should address the issue of poverty alleviation, and the well-being of the local poor and forest dwellers be paid special attention. Concerning the constraints for the participation of local communities, he pinpointed the ignorance as one of the most prominent obstacles and thus called for education, extension and capacity building for these people.

### **Group Work 3: Ideas for potential FLR projects and Action plan for FLR implementation in Myanmar**

The purpose of the group work is to reflect on how to implement FLR in Myanmar and to suggest a draft profile of an action plan. After a brief introduction to the tasks to be accomplished, the groups discussed on:

- Ideas for potential FLR projects in Myanmar, using the ITTO Guidelines and Manual for reference as necessary; and
- An action-plan for FLR implementation in Myanmar.

Each group representative reported the outcomes of their work to the plenary for further elaboration and discussion. Group 1 focused on the principles and recommended actions for policy, planning, management, and site-level interventions. Group 2 identified objective and strategies of a FLR project, and illustrated step-by-step process of implementation whereas Group 3 concentrated on brainstorming ideas for a potential project. The results of each group appear as **Annex 13**.

During the plenary, the meaning of property rights and importance of recognizing and taking responsibility by stakeholders were further elaborated. Emphasizing the function of coordination among relevant sectors, Dr. Gasana advised the participants from the Ministry of Forestry to include stakeholders from other relating sectors in future capacity building activities. Referring a group's suggestion on legal actions, a participant raised a question regarding the role of law enforcement in FLR implementation. Dr. Gasana replied that the issue is concerned with policy and legal framework conditions. Within these frameworks, FLR should be implemented without constraints and contradiction. If the policy is properly promulgated in favour of society, he pointed out, the law as a tool of the policy would be positive. Regarding ITTO's support for follow-up activities of national FLR action plan, Dr. Gasana shared the information that ITTO may contribute to the components of a programme which are corresponding to its objectives.

In conclusion, Dr. Gasana noted that the combined results of all three groups would provide a comprehensive view of FLR implementation in Myanmar and these results would be very useful inputs for the next group work to consider the way forward and next immediate steps to take.

### **Group Work 4: The way forward for FLR implementation in Myanmar**

As the last group work of the Workshop, the groups discussed on:

- Prioritizing identified FLR project concepts in Myanmar;
- Fine-tuning the action plan; and
- Identifying team to move the action-plan forward.

All groups worked out the tasks mentioned above together through the plenary discussion using the results of previous group work as inputs. The outcome of the discussion appears as **Annex 14**.

## **VI FIELD TRIP**

**Facilitators:** (1) Dr. James K. Gasana, International Facilitator  
(2) Dr. Myint Oo, National Facilitator

Preparatory activities for the field trip took place in the afternoon sessions of Day 2 (Tuesday, 29 August 2006). The overall objective of the trip was to gain a common understanding of the concepts of FLR through conducting field exercises. The specific objectives were:

- To understand important features of a degraded forest landscape such as landscape mosaic composed of various land use types and landscape dynamics in which different stakeholders are being involved;
- To identify key stakeholders of the landscape to visit, and to study their interests and concerns;
- To identify real causes and impacts of forest degradation, and to envisage the landscape scenarios over time;
- To conduct problem analysis, and to find out possible solutions in consultation with local stakeholders; and
- To suggest site-level interventions, keeping the management of trade-off and double-filters in mind.

The participants were introduced to the field trip by Dr. Myint Oo, the national facilitator. In his presentation (**Annex 15**) he briefed about a short description of the overview of forest administration, general land cover of the field site, and the tour programme. Then the participants were informed how to apply the guidelines in the field. After the introduction, Dr. Gasana continued with the group work of the field visit (**Annex 16**) followed by the preparation of three working groups for the field work. The instructions given to the groups are as follow:

- Draw and describe the visited landscape and its individual land-use components.
- Identify the key stakeholders in the landscape and how they interact with one another?
- Identify the direct and underlying causes that have driven either forest degradation or restoration in the visited landscape.
- List the innovative land use practices that you have observed, if any (take photographs if possible).
- What do you think the landscape will look like (a) 5 years from now and (b) 20 years from now, and why?
- What interventions do you think need to be made to improve the overall situation in the landscape?
- What have you learnt on FLR from your field visit?
- What do you think needs further clarification?
- How useful did you find the guidelines and the manual – are they enough to get FLR started on the ground in Myanmar; if not what else is needed, and how can ITTO/IUCN help in this regard?

In order to obtain necessary information provided by the local stakeholders, Dr. Gasana proposed the participants to use the participatory rural appraisal (PRA). He further elaborated how to apply PRA to the field exercise and demonstrated how to conduct PRA with the examples from Côte d'Ivoire and Philippines Workshops.

On Day 3 (Wednesday, 30 August 2006) the participants visited to the field site located in Yedashe Township, Bago Division, approximately 80 km south of the Workshop venue. The field trip started with the visit to the Yedashe Township Forest Office where the participants were reported about the reforestation and restoration activities by the Director of the Bago Division (East) Forest Department and the Staff Officer of the Yedashe Township Forest Office.

The field trip then proceeded with the visit to the degraded forest landscape of the site and to the Forest Village located in the Compartment No. 73 of Saiya Reserved Forest. At the village the three groups carried out the field work together with three different social groups of the villagers, namely, women, elders and young members of the community. The participants also visited Pho Kyar Forest Resort (eco-tourism site), forest nursery and special teak plantation established in 1999-2000. After returning to the Workshop venue, the participants gathered again at 20:00 h to prepare group work presentations.

In the morning of Day 4, Thursday, 31 August, participants reconvened in plenary session to hear presentations on the outcomes of the field work. Representatives from each group reported the results of the group work (**Annex 17**). In plenary a participant remarked that the local communities were not lacking in the ideas regarding remedial measures for deforestation and forest degradation, and suggested that their indigenous knowledge should be taken into account.

Dr. Gasana also observed two important issues from the presentations of group work. The first one is the impact of development activities on the landscape and the society which calls for adaptation to the impact to reduce negative consequences. The second issue is the demand for cultivation land for the livelihoods of local population which also needs to be addressed properly. To determine the degree of usefulness and applicability of the guidelines and the manual to the Myanmar situation, a participant proposed a pilot project for demonstration purpose be formulated and implemented before laying down a national action plan. Dr. Gasana advised, in this regard, to select pilot area(s) and submit project proposal to ITTO for financing.

In response to the request of sharing more information on site-level interventions like enrichment planting techniques, Dr. Gasana shared his experience in Côte d'Ivoire where enrichment planting with combination of different methods had been experimented. The problem there, he explained, was not the technical one but the encroachment into the forest land for cultivation and cutting for domestic uses. Dr. Gasana thus advised, apart from concentrating on appropriate site-level silvicultural interventions, to look beyond the technical aspects and find solutions to the non-technical problems. To the request of providing more information on FLR case studies, he referred to the Global Partnership on FLR (see Presentation 6 and **Annex 10**) that had been conducting a global survey of all interesting FLR cases.

## VII WRAP-UP AND CLOSING

The Workshop had come to a close when the afternoon sessions of Day 4 had been completed. In a short plenary, the facilitators and the participants briefly reviewed what had been experienced, discussed, worked out and learned over the last four days. Then the overall evaluation of the Workshop was made by filling up the evaluation forms previously distributed to the participants. A summary of discussions, suggestions and recommendations of the Workshop appears as **Annex 18**.

On behalf of the Forest Department and the Ministry of Forestry of Myanmar, U Saw Er Dah, Director, Training and Research Development Division expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to the ITTO, IUCN and Intercooperation for the initiatives and assistance rendered for the Workshop, and to Dr. James K. Gasana for his inputs and contribution to the Workshop. Dr. Maung Maung Than from FREDA, on behalf of the participants, also thanked the funding and organizing institutions, and the international facilitator Dr. James K. Gasana in particular for their contributions to the Workshop. Dr. Gasana, in return, expressed vote of thanks to the Ministry of Forestry and local staff for hosting and successful organizing of the Workshop.

The Workshop was successfully held and completed after the certificates had been handed over to the participants by Dr. James K. Gasana, the international facilitator of the Workshop.

*Forest Research Institute, Yezin, Nay Pyi Taw, 25 September 2006*