

Strengthening SFM Standards and Timber Legality Framework in Myanmar

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ABOUT MFCC

MFCC serves as the National Governing Body (NGB) for forest and timber certification schemes in Myanmar. A core component of its mandate is to develop, administer, and oversee forest and timber certification systems, while creating an enabling environment that supports the sustainability, conservation, and responsible utilization of Myanmar's forest resources.

In addition, MFCC seeks to facilitate and promote international market access for Myanmar forest products by aligning national certification and legality frameworks with internationally recognized standards and requirements.

MFCC's activities encompass the full spectrum of forest resources and forest products, covering both forest management and downstream timber processing. In this capacity, MFCC is empowered to coordinate, implement, and manage all processes related to forest and timber certification within Myanmar.

For more information please visit: <http://mfcc.org.mm>

MFCC'S VISION

"A sustainable country where forest resources are conserved and contribute towards global sustainability."

MFCC'S MISSION

"To advocate the forest ecosystems and forest conservation through Sustainable Forest Management practices and timber legality certification in Myanmar and develop the international market through sustainable timber industry."



Transparency



Third Party Verification



Certification



Partnership

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY, MFCC



As this ITTO project reaches its final stage, I would like—on behalf of the Myanmar Forest Certification Committee (MFCC)—to reflect briefly on its achievements and lasting significance.

The project was implemented during a period of considerable constraint for Myanmar’s forestry sector. Nevertheless, it remained firmly focused on its technical mandate: strengthening institutional capacity, system readiness, and professional understanding related to sustainable forest management and timber legality assurance. In this respect, the project has successfully delivered meaningful and forward-looking results.

Key activities undertaken during the project included the development and refinement of technical frameworks, targeted capacity-building for relevant stakeholders, and structured engagement with national institutions and professionals involved in forest management, timber traceability, and conformity assessment. Through these efforts, the project contributed to improved understanding of internationally aligned concepts such as Due Diligence Systems (DDS), Chain of Custody, and legality verification, while ensuring that these concepts were interpreted realistically within Myanmar’s national context.

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Importantly, this project was conceived as part of a stepwise and long-term process rather than a standalone intervention. The outputs produced—technical guidance, knowledge resources, and institutional linkages—form a solid foundation for future initiatives. They will remain relevant and usable beyond the project’s formal completion, particularly when conditions permit further advancement of forest certification and legality assurance systems.

Project sustainability has therefore been a central consideration. MFCC is committed to maintaining the momentum generated by this project through continued technical engagement, knowledge retention, and coordination with relevant stakeholders. Preserving system readiness is essential not only to safeguard past investments, but also to ensure that Myanmar remains prepared to respond credibly to evolving international requirements in the future.

I would like to express sincere appreciation to the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) for its continued support, as well as to all national experts and stakeholders who contributed their expertise and commitment throughout the project. Their collective efforts have reinforced the importance of professionalism, consistency, and collaboration in building sound and resilient systems.

As this project concludes, its legacy will endure through strengthened capacity, shared understanding, and sustained technical readiness. MFCC remains committed to advancing these principles and to contributing, in a professional and impartial manner, to the sustainable management and responsible use of Myanmar’s forest resources.

Brief of the MFCC-ITTO Project Completion Workshop

The MFCC–ITTO project was implemented over the period from February 2021 to March 2024. The project completion workshop was held on 29 March 2024 at the Wyndham Grand Hotel, with approximately 70 participants representing the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC), DRI , the private sector, international and national non-governmental organizations (INGOs and NGOs).

The project closing workshop provided an important platform for engagement with key stakeholders and aimed to ensure a shared understanding of the Myanmar Forest Certification Scheme (MFCS), the Myanmar Timber Legality Assurance System (MTLAS), and the Digitalized Timber Tracking System (DTTS), as well as the project’s achievements and implementation challenges.

In addition, the workshop facilitated the evaluation of overall project results, supported the identification and resolution of any outstanding issues, and enabled the collection of stakeholder feedback and practical experiences to inform future actions and improvements.



Objectives of the Project Final Workshop

1. To formally announce the end of the project and ensuring that all project deliverables have been accomplished.
2. To highlight the significant accomplishments of the “Strengthening SFM standards and Timber Legality Framework in Myanmar” (MFCC-ITTO Project)
3. To offer a chance to interact with stakeholders to make sure they are marking the project’s efforts.
4. To exchange ideas regarding Sustainability and future directions of Myanmar’s Certification sector.



DTTS FIELD TESTING

Timeline of Technical Consultations (2025)

- March 26: A strategic consultation was held with the Myanmar Timber Enterprise to discuss the extension of the Digitalised Timber Tracking System (DTTS). This phase utilizes remaining project resources to enhance end-to-end supply chain monitoring, focusing on tracking finished products through selected private-sector processing facilities. MTE played the major role of domestic CoC/Supply Chain.
- May 13: Technical coordination was conducted between the Extraction, Export, and Milling Department to finalize post-auction procedures. It is the follow-up activities to the site visit of the Teak Plantation, Shwedaung, Pyay District. MFCC acquired the logs from this site to assure the legal origin and legal compliance with the prescribed harvesting regulations, etc.
- August 20: A specialized knowledge-sharing session was held for 20 participants regarding the digital integration of production and sales data. The session focused on the application of QR-coded identification to ensure data integrity and the 5th stage of DTTS, the extraction department demonstrated how to incorporate essential data relevant to the Export Milling and Marketing Department.

PILOT TESTING

- Project Objective: On February 5, 2024, a pilot initiative was launched to upgrade the tracking framework to Real-Time Assessment. This was a collaborative effort involving Forest Department, Myanmar Timber Enterprise and MFCC together with the potential Certification Bodies.
- Source Material: 13 standing trees (yielding 33 logs) were selected from a 1987 teak plantation.
- Location: Shwedaung, Pyay District (Bago Region).
- Selection Criteria: Sites were prioritized based on logistical accessibility and the absence of irrigation-related environmental constraints.



DTTS PART 2: TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE

- This part focuses on the movement of logs from the forest to the depots and their eventual sale.
- Step 5: Yangon Timber Depot: This is a critical transition point involving the receipt of logs, selection, measurement, and grading (scaling).
- Sales and Auction: Logs are sold through a tender system. In the pilot, lots SPT-12 and SPT-13 were sold to a private company.
- Data Integration: During this step, QR codes are updated with sales data and export marketing information.





PART (3): INSIDE PROCESSING FACILITIES

- Procurement: Out of the 33 pilot logs, 27 were transferred to the Local Marketing Department.
- The remaining 6 logs in Lot SPT-13 and logs in Lot SPT-12 were successfully auctioned by UNITED WOOD INDUSTRIES CO., LTD.
- "MFCC intends to support the completion of DTTS Part (3) through a coordinated log purchase using residual project funds, in close cooperation with UNITED WOOD INDUSTRIES CO., LTD."
- An assessment of timber processing operations was also conducted against MTLAS in the context of collaborative DTTS pilot testing

What's Next? Goals

1. The Myanmar's timber supply chain successful setup of QR code with real-time tracking will enhance the traceability of Timber Supply Chain of Myanmar.
2. In contrast to project-based pilot testing, full scale DTTS implementation requires sufficient budget, appropriate hardwares, and competent human resources.



Private Exporters noted that QR Code-based data entry, while feasible during pilot testing, may encounter practical constraints in full scale application due to high volume and data confidentiality consideration

Knowledge sharing on the Role of Forest Certification in Myanmar at UFEEES



On September 11, 2025, a knowledge-sharing session focused on Myanmar’s Forest Certification and its significance in sustainable forest management was held at the University of Forestry and Environmental Science (Yezin). A total of 124 students from fourth-year and final-year students participated to gain a deeper understanding of the stakeholder landscape.



Awareness-Raising Workshop in Ayeyarwady Region



The Myanmar Forest Certification Committee (MFCC) organized an awareness-raising workshop on forest certification procedures for private plantation operators. The workshop was held on 12 November 2025 at Swen Hotel, Patheingyi.

A total of 29 participants attended, including 21 representatives from private plantation operators' associations, 4 officials from the Ayeyarwady Region Forest Department (regional and township levels), and 4 staff members from the MFCC.

During the workshop, a representative of the Private Plantation Association (PPA) presented and discussed the challenges faced by private forest plantation owners. Participants highlighted that pursuing certification individually involves high costs, while a Group Certification approach is more cost-effective. The importance of maintaining systematic plantation records in accordance with Forest Department regulations was emphasized as a key requirement for certification.

The workshop provided clarification on forest certification procedures, European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) compliance requirements, and cost-effective approaches such as group certification. It emphasized systematic record-keeping, regulatory approvals for domestic operations, certification requirements for export products, and the requirements for EUDR compliance.

Mr. Barber Cho, Secretary of MFCC, informed that the MFCC will provide technical assistance to all plantation operators regardless of plantation size in relation to forest certification. Regarding EUDR compliance, he also highlighted that voluntary actions and pre-assessment activities prior to certification are beneficial.



Knowledge sharing at AD Training Course (Batch 11)

On December 11, 2025, the Myanmar Forest Certification Committee (MFCC) held an extensive session on forest certification processes as part of the Forest Department’s Capacity-Building Training No. (11) for Assistant Directors in Nay Pyi Taw. The session aimed to enhance participants’ technical understanding of certification standards and procedures, emphasizing their crucial role in accomplishing sustainable forest management (SFM) objectives.





ACCREDITATION & INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

MFCC maintains a close partnership with Certification Bodies (CBs) and the National Accreditation Authority to align domestic timber products with global standards for legality and sustainability. Supporting these independent entities is a strategic priority to ensure the following:

International Credibility: Independent third-party audits by CBs, as required by international standards like PEFC, help Myanmar timber meet the trade regulations.

Capacity Building: MFCC provides training to assisting CBs in meeting professional standards.



Scheme Integrity: By supporting and monitoring CBs, to ensure that certificates are issued consistently and fairly across different forest management units.

Market Access: A network of supported CBs is essential for the Myanmar Forest Certification Scheme (MFCS) to produce marketable certificates, enhancing timber export potential.

Technical Capacity & Accreditation

- A core requirement for achieving formal accreditation for auditing entities is the completion of specialized international standardization trainings.
- To meet these criteria, the project facilitated a comprehensive two key technical training sessions:
 - MFCC, in cooperation with the Myanmar Accreditation Body (MAB), conducted ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 training for 13 participants from July 17 to 18, 2025.
 - An ISO/IEC 17065 training session from December 15 to 16, 2025 was attended by 10 participants.



The 10th ASEAN Regional Workshop on Timber Legality Assurance and Traceability (TLA-10) , 1 to 4 December 2025, Surabaya, Indonesia



- Over 130 representatives attended from around 20 ASEAN member countries, including ASEAN Member States, ASEAN+3 partners, Pacific nations, BMRC members, significant consumer markets, civil society, and the private sector.
- In Myanmar, MFCC secretary and (3) Staff Officers from Forest Department also participated in this workshop.
- The primary goal was to strengthen forest governance and refine traceability Systems.
- These systems ensure that timber can be tracked from the forest to the final consumer, proving it was harvested legally.

Key Highlights from the Workshop

- **A Shared Regional Vision:** The workshop highlighted the importance of strong legality systems, collaboration across the region and beyond. This shared approach aims to build trust in the market and support steady, predictable trade in legal and sustainable timber.
- **Traceability in Focus:** The discussions explored ways to connect forest activities with the final consumer through better tracking tools.
- **Inclusive Governance:** The workshop highlighted how the government, private sector, and civil society together to strengthen monitoring and compliance.





Myanmar Forest Certification Committee (MFCC)

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

CONTACT:

Myanmar Forest Certification Committee (MFCC)

Forest Department Compound, Bayintnaug Road,

West Gyogone, Insein Township , 11011, Yango, Myanmar

✉ info@myanmarforestcertification.org

🌐 <https://www.mfcc.org.mm>

<https://www.facebook.com/MFCCCommittee>

Contact person: Barber Cho

Secretary (MFCC)

secretary@myanmarforestcertification.org