

## **Making Climate Change a Priority in Myanmar**

Updates on the Implementation of The Myanmar Climate Change Alliance Programme

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The Myanmar Climate Change Alliance (MCCA) was launched in 2013 to serve, primarily, the Government of the Union of the Republic of My**anmar** to address the challenges posed by climate change, recognizing the large observed impact, and potential future effects of climate change on Myanmar society, people and economy.

The MCCA is an initiative of the Environmental Conservation Department (ECD) of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MoNREC).

It is funded by the European Union as part of the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA).

MCCA is implemented by the **United Nations** Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

An initiative of:



Implemented by: UN@HABITAT UN@

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## Myanmar **Climate Change** Alliance: **The Programme**

in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment).

MCCA main goal is **to mainstream climate** change into the Myanmar policy development and reform agenda.

In addition to implementing its workplan, MCCA also functions as a platform to support and cooperate with all on-going actions and activities on climate change from the national government, local authorities, NGOs, development partners, Civil Society and the private sector.

This recognizes that climate change can only be addressed by an alliance of partners, from local to global level. MCCA is the key platform for this in Myanmar.





The MCCA established a core Technical Unit within the Environmental Conservation Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MoNREC/ECD) and field offices in Labutta and Pakokku.

The core Unit is composed by one Chief Technical Advisor, one National Technical Advisor, one Programme Associate, one Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, and two Financial and Administration Officers. Field offices include Township Coordinators, Community Mobilizers, Engineers.

This Unit delivers resident technical assistance to ECD and is responsible to implement all activities of the MCCA programme: awareness and advocacy; policy, institutional and capacity strenghtening; local vulnerability assessments and adaptation.

MCCA works with its **Technical Working Group (TWG)**, and associated stakeholders, which include all line ministries, the three major cities, the civil society, the private sector, communities and development partners.

In addition, MCCA mobilizes more than twenty (20) among national and international experts and specialists, and more than seven (7) technical partners. It also makes use of expertise from the UN-Habitat Country in Yangon and Head Office in Nairobi, and the UN Environment Regional Office in Bangkok. Expertise mobilized includes:

> Climate change adaptation and mitigation Climate modeling and climate international law Disaster risk reduction Environment and eco-system adaptation analysis Urban and regional planning Architecture, engineering and water Socio-economic analysis Gender analysis GIS analysis Journalism, Media and communication IT, M&E, Finance & Administration

## Myanmar **Climate Change** Alliance: **How Do We Work**









MCCA's goal is to enable Myanmar to address climate change, the most challenging phenomenon of our times, taking into account the extreme vulnerability of the Country.

To do that, MCCA strives to achieve the following:

es, training and institutional support.

tional level projects.

tant results:

(1) Making Myanmar society aware of climate change

(2) Enabling policy-makers to address climate change in all sectors and actions through good policies, strong coordination, and reinforced technical capacities

(3) Helping local communities and townships to address climate change locally

## Myanmar Climate Change Alliance: What do We Do

- To strengthen the climate change institutional and policy environment through sharing of technical knowledge and best practic-
- To increase the resilience of climate vulnerable populations through evidence-based planning and policy making from sub-na-

MCCA works towards these objectives by achieving three impor-

# Myanmar **Climate Change** Alliance: **The Programme Steering Committee**

The **Programme Steering Committee** (PSC) of MCCA provides high level guidance to the programme implementation.

**Director and Deputy Director Generals are** part of the PSC from several ministries, city development committees, the private sector and the civil society.

The PSC meets every six months to **assess the** progress, adopt the workplan and make high level policy reccomendations on the activities.

In addition to approving the workplan, the PSC also validates or issues reccomandations on the selection of expertise, implementation of key activities and coordination of other on-going relevant sectoral actions.



# Myanmar **Climate Change** Alliance: **The Technical Working Group**

Formally established in March 2015, it meets in either plenary meetings, or in the six thematic working groups of the Myanmar Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2030 (MCCSAP)

The TWG is composed of all line ministries, the city development committee of Mandalay, Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw, the private sector and civil society representatives; the University; and representatives of the development partners.

The TWG has already delivered the **Myanmar Climate Change** Strategy and Action Plan (MCCSAP), the Intended National Determined Contribution (INDC), and is currently developing the Myanmar Climate Change Policy (MCCP)

In addition, the TWG works in both plenary and thematic meetings with the MCCA on a range of thematic and substantive issues, such as: formulating training modules on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction; discussing new science and studies on, for instance, the new projections of climate change in Myanmar, the university curricula on agriculture and climate change, and the methodologies for assessing vulnerabilities to climate change at the local level, amongst others.

Working groups are: 1) Food Security; 2) Eco-system and natural resources; 3) Energy, Transport and Industry; 4) Human Settlements; 5) Health and disaster risk reduction; 6) Education

It is an important achievement that the TWG of MCCA has delivered well beyond its mandate and expectations: it has progressively become the first climate change coordination and cooperation platform in the country, which could be now institutionalized under the Myanmar Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, and work to support the National Environmental Conservation and Climate Change Committee

### The Technical Working Group (TWG) of MCCA is the essential technical, policy and consultation body of MCCA.

# "climate change is the single most important threat to development in Myanmar"...

Myanmar INDC 2015

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WORLD ENVIRONMENT

MCCA Staff he Union of the Republic of M ae and MCCA's e MCCA (5 June 2016). Credits: Sukun/MCCA, 2016

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# MCCA Results: (1) Awareness On CC Impact & Its **Implications Are Increased**

MCCA's first expected result to increase awareness of the implications of climate change in Myanmar is under way. From the start, MCCA has engaged hundreds of policy-makers, community members, citizens, through the Media, meetings, and community consultations discussing the basics of climate change, and their implications. This some of our work and results so far:

- Firstly, MCCA conducted the "Raising Awareness on Climate Change In Myanmar" analysis to orient work by targeting five (5) key major groups: (1) the Policy Makers, for they have the role and responsibility to plan, act and champion the work on climate change; (2) the Media, for their capacities to influence public opinion; (3) the Civil Society Organizations; for they organize and mobilize active citizens; (4) The Youth and Children, for their enthusiasm and capacity to disseminate messages; (5) and the Private Sector, for their role in sustainable and resilient development.
- Through the www.myanmarccalliance.org website, in both Myanmar and English, people have access to information, and also to an on-line dictionary that translates concepts of disaster risk reduction and climate change in Myanmar language, to help journalists, policy-makers and interested people. The basics of **climate change** are also described here and serve to publicly request comments on the Climate Change Strategy and other documents. The www.facebook.com/ myanmarccalliance account is also lively and posts, depending on the topic, may engage up to 20,000 individual visits so far and growing.
- In addition to the IT channels, MCCA also particularly focused on Policy Makers with more than twenty (20) meetings at national and local level where the implications of climate change have been discussed over the course of two (2) years. Through the TWG, and with Townships, MCCA has monitored an increased understanding of the issues related to climate change in the different sectors. Dedicated fora and meetings, such as the ASEAN Forum on Agriculture and Climate Change or the World Environment Day have involved hundreds of policy makers in the different sectors both at the highest institutional level and technical level.
- MCCA particularly emphazises working with the Media, engaging with Myanmar and English speaking press and television, with regular coverage of the climate change events at national and local level and more than twenty-five (25) long and short articles, TV reports and interviews. MCCA has worked with over sixty (60) journalists and video-makers (Press, video, radio, movie-Making) so far, directly or participating in BRACED, the World Wide Foundation (WWF) and the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) events.

We started to see the effects of climate change in the year 2000 [...] before we could plant two crops per year. Now we can only plant one"...

Experiences from community member consultations and aware shops in Pakokku, collected by J. Muddit/MCCA, 201



Other examples of this work include:

The Myanmar Journalism Institute (MJI) in partnership with MCCA is mentoring thirty (30) journalists and eight (8) trainers, with climate change training modules developed to report on climate change. The journalists (Television, Radio, Press) write short and long-stories, reportages and interviews on the subject of climate change for national and local Media outlets. Small grants will be delivered for the best professional project for longer features and videos.

MCCA also supports the production and dissemination of climate change science and information. With the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES) and the Department of Metereology and Hidrology (DMH), it organized the **Policy-makers dialogue** on climate change projections for Myanmar in 2016. Along with the Columbia University Center for Climate Systems Research (CCSR) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), and the the DMH, MCCA is also now publishing the "Climate **Risk Information for Myanmar**", which contains climate change projections, and possible impact on sectors and systems.

The Yangon Film School (YFS) is producing the **climate change documentary** 'The Rising Tide', which describes the observed impact and future scenarios of climate change with stories from the field. Students of the School, and other film-makers, have taken part to climate change awareness meetings to treat the topic.

The first Climate & Environment International Film Festival, organized with the Goethe Institute in Myanmar will screen international and national movies and award grants to video-makers presenting promising trailers judged by a jury with climate change experts and policy-makers.



#### What's next?

In the current and next phase, MCCA is focusing on tailored modules to illustrate the impact of climate change on sectors.

It will also now design **user-friendly** materials to illustrate climate change issues through brochures and drawings; disseminate the climate change studies; and continue to work with the Media.



The CTA of MCCA delivers a training on climate change at the ICIMOD journal ist training in Inlay Lake, Credits: MCCA, 2016



13 June 2016





Raising awareness of polivcy-makers and the public opinion through the Media. The Director General of DMH, Dr Harin Naing Tee Yam, explains to the press the latest sclimate change projections for Myanmar, developed by DMH with RIMES and presented with MCCA. Credits: May Thi Aye MCCA/2016



## Thingaha Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw

# Six Outcomes to Achieve a Resilient and Sustainable Future in Myanmar\*

Climate Smart Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock for Food Security

Sustainable Management of Natural Resources for Healthy Ecosystems

Resilient and Low-Carbon Energy, Transport and Industrial Systems for Sustainable Growth

Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Cities and Towns where People can Live and Thrive

Climate Risk Management for People's Health and Wellbeing

Education, Science and Technology for a **Resilient Society** 

> \* Strategic Sectoral Outcomes defined by the Myanmar Climate Change Strategy And Action Plan 2016-2030, Government of the Union of the Republic of Myanmar (2017)





# MCCA Results: (2) Policy, Institutional and **Technical Capacities to Address CC are Strengthened**

In two (2) years, ECD with MCCA has managed to build a stronger institutional coordination and cooperation on climate change; robust policy instruments; assessed capacity gaps, and is now engaging in technical capacities development.

The TWG comprises all line Ministries and Planning & Finance, City Councils of Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay, States and Regions, the Private Sector, the Civil Society and other partners which have thus access to a platform to coordinate and exchange on climate change, consistently.

The TWG performed beyond expectations. The consistent exposure and analysis of sectoral implications of climate change has enhanced awareness among policy-makers and increased information sharing between the civil society and the Government and with the development partners. It also works as a clearing house for several programmes and policy formulation activities of other partners and activities.

The Government of Myanmar in 2015 submitted its Intended National **Determined Contribution (INDC)** with the joint support from Ricardo-AEA (a UK-based energy and climate consultancy firm) and MCCA.

In 2015-2016, MCCA has supported the formulation of the Myanmar Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2030 (MCCSAP) consulting over three thousand (3000) people; five (5) states and regions; thirty-five (35) among sub-national, national and international departments and agencies, Non Governamental Organizations and Civil Society, meeting four (4) times at national level; and twenty plus (20+) in bilateral and focus thematic groups. The MCCSAP also includes detailed sectoral action plans, with activities identified by the TWG and partners to achieve the Strategic goal.

Institutional coordination and strenghtening. The TWG of MCCA, formally established, meets in plenary and in six (6) thematic working groups, aligned with the Myanmar Climate Change Strategy.

Policy formulation. Between 2015 and 2017, Myanmar has formulated all key national policies, plans and strategies to address climate change, with MCCA direct or technical support.



The MCCSAP was validated by the National Environmental Conservation and Climate Change Department and will be adopted by the Country in the first semester of 2017, along with the **Myanmar National Climate Change Policy** currently being formulated by Myanmar with support from MCCA and its TWG and PSC.

In addition, MCCA has engaged in the other policy formulation processes, to ensure that climate change is mainstreamed effectively. Among them, the National Environmental Policy, the National Urban Policy, the Green Economy Policy Framework and the MAPDRR.

MCCA is also **supporting ECD to participate in the global diplomacy effort** to curb global warming and foster adaptation. MCCA supported the Government delegation to participate in **COP21**, where they also presented the work of MCCA, and took part in the making of the historic Paris Agreement. Prior to COP21, MCCA also brokered a dialogue be-

tween the Civil Society and the Governmental Delegation, and also supported the participation in COP22.

 Capacity-building. The third important area of action within this expected result (in addition to institutional and policy strenghtening) is building capacities to implement the climate change priorities.

In 2015-16 MCCA conducted the Climate Change Capacity Development Need Assessment and, based on this, initiated trainings.

ECD and DMH Staff participate in the

Informed by the assessment, MCCA has designed sectoral capacity building programmes to start the implementation of the MCCSAP, and particularly:

- 1. Climate Smart Agriculture;
- 2. Healthy Eco-Systems
- 3. Resilient Architecture and Planning ;
- 4. Helping to set-up the ECD's Climate Change Division;
- 5. Mainstreaming CC in Planning and Finance.

MCCA is also developing the Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation Modules, to be taught at the Hintada National Disaster Management Center, in cooperation



with the Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD)

#### What's next?

s, Credits: May Thi Aye MCCA/2016

In terms of coordination, policy formulation and capacity building, MCCA will now work to implement the capacity-building activities on specific sectors; support the adoption of the MCCSAP and CC Policy; and help ECD in establishing the Climate Change Division. This will include strenghtening capacities on project cycle, climate finance, coordination and monitoring.

SCCA event in COP21, Paris, 2015. Credits: Sukun/MCCA 201

Mr Hal Maung The



# MCCA Results: (3) Communities and Local **Authorities Enabled to** Adapt to CC

Planning for adaptation. Based on the assessment • of the vulnerabilities against the current and projected climatic conditions, the Township and Village Administrators prepared plans for adaptation and resilience building over the mid to long-term. These plans are now in the process of being adopted. They include prioritized activities to build 1) A healthy eco-system; 2) A diversified and resilient economy; 3) Resilient and sustainable infrastructure.

MCCA aims at linking national level policies to local planning, as well as enabling communities and townships to adapt. To this end, the following results are achieved and processes on-going:

• Assessing Vulnerabilities. Vulnerabilities to climate change assessed in townships of two main eco-systems: Labutta in the Delta Area, Ayeyarwaddy Region and Pakokku, in the Dry Zone Area with advanced assessment methods. The assessment show high levels of environmental, socio-economic and infrastructure vulnerabilities to the current and future impact of climate change.

This included multiple Township Administration and Village Administrators consultations and participatory mapping; consultations with communities, including focussed gender-based analysis. All results were analyzed in GIS environment and a spatial Matrix of Function was established to understand current and future spatial structure of the township in the context of climate change. On this basis, the effects of climate change were projected on sectors and illustrated on maps. The scenarios thus built are used for adaptation planning. For the assessment the WWF and Columbia University Center for Climate Systems Research (CCSR) and the DMH prepared 'downscaled' projections at a 25km resolution for Pakokku and Labutta, to analyze potential effects.



### **Implementation of community-driven adaptive measures.** To demonstrate the value of adaptation measures, **MCCA initiated a com-**

measures, MCCA initiated a community grant system. Local committees are established, which take responsibility to implement adaptive measures that currently include:

Construction of Cyclone and Flood multi-purpose shelters, replantation of mangroves, flood mititation through drainage, improved water-harvesting facilities (tanks and improved ponds), vocational trainings, e.g carpentry for disaster resistant construction, evacuation routes and spatial planning.

## What's Next?

In this phase, MCCA focuses on three main aspects:

- 1. Implement current and additional adaptive measures prioritized by the townships, under the MCCA grant system
- 2. Document the Vulnerability Assessment methodology and ensure replication in Chin State (Mountain eco-system) in cooperation with ICIMOD
- **3.** Create capacities to replicate the assessments indipendently.











Pakokku respond to the Matrix of Functions survey for the vulnerability assessment Picture: Pakokku, MCCA)

Prioritization of adaptive measures with Township administrators and activities agreed with communities (Picture: Labutta, MCCA)

Local adaptation committee is established in the intervention area to implement activities (Picture: Pakokku, MCCA)

## 10 Key Findings of The 2050 Climate Change **Vulnerability Assessments\***

- **Climate change in the last decades has already had an impact** on productive sectors, especially agriculture, and increased the risks of disasters, affecting societies and accelerating migration patterns.
- 2. Township administrations will need to plan for projected changes that include a significant increase in both mean temperature and more hot days, shortening of the rainy season, likelihood of intensified rain during the wet season. These factors may result in heightened intensity of tropical storms and cyclones, and increased likelihood of floods. Sea is expected to raise up to 41cm by 2050 in Labutta, thus increasing salinization effects and risks of inundation.
- 3. Social and economic conditions (saved differences between the two townships studied) in general show an insufficiently diverse economy. Agriculture employs many yet it is highly exposed to loss of productivity due to climate change. Migrations trends are observed, in relation to reduced productivity. Because of lack of vocation trainings and technical skills, people migrating may struggle to secure adequate employment abroad or in Yangon or Mandalay.
- 4. Eco-system services largely benefit communities. However, trends of degradation from over-explotation and the combined effects of changes in climate result in the progressive loss of these services, and increased risks of hazards.
- 5. Infrastructure and connectivity are not sufficiently resilient to the occurrence of strong storms and cyclones and floods, and spatial planning is not consistently climate adequate. As a result more people will be at risk and assets could be lost.
- 6. The spatial structure and functioning of the township will be deeply altered by changes in climate.
- 7. In this context women are, and further will be, disproportionately affected by climate change as they already suffer from lower wages and lack of opportunities.
- 8. In a business as usual scenario, assuming no or little adaptation, by 2050 both the townships studied will not be able to provide for their inhabitants and protect them from increased risks of disasters.
- 9. Townships must strive to achieve a scenario in which resilience is built and development enabled by 2050. This may be possible by achieving the following outcomes: 1) Healthy eco-systems that continue to provide for people; 2) A diversified economy with smart agriculture and new opportunities; 3) A resilient infrastructure that protect people, and enable development
- **10.** Townships will need to plan ahead for this to happen, and obtain the support of District, Regional, National and International actors to achieve the resilience scenario.

..women are disproportionately affected by the effects of climate change ..."















Section of the cyclone shelter to be constructed in the Oo Yin Gone Village with MCCA grants, Labutta. Credit: MCCA/UN-Habitat Engineering team, 2016



 4"thk: Pent House Slab, 2layers-12mmØ Main Steel in both direction @6"c/c
4"thk: Roof Slab, 2layers-12mmØ Main Steel in both direction @6"c/c
5"thk: First Floor Slab, 2layers-12mmØ Main Steel in both direction @6"c/c
10mmØ Longitudinal Bar with 6"c/c Diagonal Bar for Window Lintel and Sill
All Stair Slabs with 2layers-12mmØ in both direction @6"c/c
(9"x9") and (9"x12") Interior Stair Beams with 6Nos-12mmØ with 10mmØ Stirrup @6"c/c 4-1/2"thk Parapet Wall -6"x6" Ca \*\*\* \*\*\* with 10mm/ stirrup @6"c/c (6"x6") Pent house Beam and Column, 4Nos. 12mm/ main steel with 10mm/ Stirrup @6"c/c -9"thk Brick 開 8572652570 amenikanana CONTRACTOR SAMESIAN

#### Detailed Information



## Myanmar **Climate Change** Alliance: **Our Partners**

In addition to cooperating and regularly coordinating with organizations such as ASEAN, sister UN agencies like UNDP and Unicef; NGOs including Action Aid and Oxfam; resilience consortium such as BRACED; and civil society organizations among others, MCCA to date directly partners with the following technical, educational and cultural organizations:

The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) . Supervised by MCCA (UN-Habitat and UN Environment) IIED has been instrumental in formulating the Myanmar Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (2016-2030) and the Myanmar Climate Change Policy

The World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) has cooperated with MCCA to assess vulnerabilities of the eco-system in Pakokku and Labutta and regularly coordinates with MCCA on policy formulation of the Myanmar Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan and the Green Economy Policy Framework.

The Columbia University Center for Climate Systems Research (CCSR) has developed the Climate Risk Information document for Myanmar within the AD-VANCE Project with WWF., co-published with MCCA. CCSR, with data from the Deparment of Metereology and Hidrology has also downscaled climate change projections for Pakokku and Labutta, where MCCA works.

The Yangon Film School (YFS) has a proven record of producing some of the most awarded documentaries in the country in recent years. With MCCA it has trained video-makers who want to produce films on the topic of climate change and is producing for MoNREC and MCCA the documentary: "The Rising Tide", to expose the challenges communities face as a result of climate change.

Despite being a young organization, the Myanmar Journalism Institute (MJI) is already recognized in the country as a key organization to form journalists from all Media: press, radio, and television. With MCCA, it mentors 30 journalists and 8 trainers to report effectively on climate change

The Myanmar Environment Research Network (MERN) is a key partner of MCCA. They have facilitated the consultations in states and regions for the Myanmar Climate Change Strategy and Action Plans, and are regularly involved in workshops, technical assistance and in mobilizing other civil society organizations

The Goethe Institut, the German cultural institute in Myanmar, is organizing the first Myanmar Environment and Climate International Film Festival in partnership with MCCA. The Film festival will screen important movies on climate change and will give Myanmar video-makers grants to produce movies on climate change and environment.



Center for Climate Systems Research EARTH INSTITUTE | COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY







In addition, as of 2016, more partners have already agreed to join hands and work with MCCA to deliver climate change actions.

Among them, there are:

The International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) partners with MCCA to develop vulnerability assessments to climate change in the mountainous regions bordering the Hindu Kush Himalaya in Myanmar

The Institute for Housing and Urban Management (IHS) of the University or Rotterdam in the Netherlands will partner with MCCA to implement part of the MCCSAP capacity-building actions. In particular, working with planner and members of the urbanization departments to integrate climate change.

In its current phase, MCCA is also deciding to work with other technical partners to build capacities in the country to implement the MCCSAP on planning and finance, environment and agriculture.

Other partners will join the action soon.



nate risk information trai lits: Sukun/MCCA, 2016





"Myanmar is at comparatively early stages of urbanisation and has the opportunity to steer the process towards achieving urban resilience."



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Updated in 2017 at Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. All pictures/maps are © of MCCA/UN-Habitat unless otherwise specified. Cover picture: top, women groups in Pakokku; bottom, soil in dry zone area, Chauk. Credits: Sukun/MCCA, 2016. Printed by UN-Habitat Myanmar.

## www.myanmarccalliance.org

## www.facebook.com/myanmarccalliance



The MCCA is a flaghsip partnership programme between UN-Habitat and UN Environment. The human settlements and environment programmes of the United Nations work together to support Myanmar in addressing climate change.



MCCA is funded by:



EUROPEAN UNION