

Timber Legality Assurance System that will be agreed between all stakeholders.

We intend to show that **our forest management system is sustainable**.

- The international Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) is helping the Myanmar Forest Certification Committee (MFCC) to develop and implement a national forest certification system, which will be tested in our Forest Management Units (FMU) next year.

We will continue engaging with different partners at local, national and international level to combat illegal logging and enhance forest governance reform.

Khin Maung Yi
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For Union Minister
(Khin Maung Yi)
Permanent Secretary



THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

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STATEMENT OF FOREST GOVERNANCE REFORM PROGRESSES IN MYANMAR

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC) is committed to reforming forest governance and strengthening forest law enforcement in Myanmar. During the last six months we have made several progresses in the forest governance sector.

We are addressing the **European Union's concerns relating to performance of due diligence** by operators importing timber into the EU:

- We have assessed gaps in our Myanmar Timber Legality Assurance System and we are taking action to ensure all identified gaps are being addressed in timber extraction that is now taking place
- We have prohibited the export of timber products that include confiscated timber, timber from land clearing and timber from conflict areas.
- We are finalising a dossier that describes all legal controls in the timber supply chain carried out by MONREC and illustrates the documentation that demonstrates these steps have been properly carried out. The dossier will be published before the end of 2017.
- On request, we will provide documentation to buyers relating to the timber in each sale and allow buyers or their representatives to visit areas where forest and timber operations are being carried out in order to verify that documentation.

MONREC is strengthening law enforcement and increasing controls in cooperation with the Military, Myanmar Police and Customs for **stepping up efforts to enforce forest law and confiscate illegal timber.**

- During the fiscal year 2017-2018, a total of 28,506 tons of illegal timber have been seized, of which 8,944 in Southern Shan State, 5,713 in Sagaing Region, 2,724 in Northern Shan State, 1,298 in Kachin State and 493 in Yangon region.
- A total of 4,404 suspects were arrested as result of these operations.

We also encourage community-based monitoring and reporting system to contribute to our efforts.

We are working towards starting negotiation of a **Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA)** with the EU.

- The Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) is being formed. The MSG will guide Myanmar's VPA negotiations, thereby ensuring that the agreement is acceptable to all stakeholders in Myanmar's forest and timber sector
- An initial activity of this group will be to prepare a definition of legal timber, which incorporates all relevant laws and regulations and descriptions of the controls required to demonstrate compliance.
- The above immediate actions to address EUTR concerns will form the basis of a strengthened