

## Monthly Activity Report for August

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Township: De Maw So Township

Country: Myanmar

KEG conducted land and forest meeting with the township administrative members on August 5, 2019 in Dee Maw So township. The objectives of meeting are:

- To do land survey and written land instruction and rule
- To implement the process of forest policy for the administration

In the meeting discussion, there are many problems of land grabbing are rising up in the state and the governments do not recognize traditional land use management. Moreover, their lands are threatened by vacant, fallow and virgin law. Hence, to solve those problems we can bring those issues to peace process discussion. The township administrative members decided to do land survey and forest policy in order to implement and practice in their control area. It will use as a part of key discussion in peace process while the policy is come out.

For the forest issue, the communities have managed and protected their forest by traditionally. Then, forests are owned by indigenous people, communities and families. These rights were appropriated, however, the face of expansion of colonialism and imperialism in the last five centuries, until eventually almost all forest were claimed by state. Some forests of the Karenni State are still supporting water spring and wild Tiger, Bear, Rhino, Leopard, Ibex and other endangered species. The forest are also commercially valuable, are now increasing threat as by logging, mining and other development project interest their extend reach in to Karenni State. Some parts of Karenni communities are taken over forest resource for earning their income such as orchid, wild medicine plant and other endangered species. Traditionally, Karenni people also have protected land like other indigenous people. There are watersheds, forest land, Spiritual Mountain and other protected land. Those lands are now known as “Community Forest” land and it is no legal recognition and it faced many threats, such as logging, mining, slash and burning cultivation and mono plantation.

Community forestry management is the best way to reduce the problem of people facing on environment. If local people may not have ownership and control their forest and land; the community may not be interested in maintaining forest cover, preferring to clear it for agriculture or to make money; the local people will be facing more and more problem. Community forestry also offers opportunity that people can establish long-term source of income and nations have opportunity to develop a forest base industry which has widespread community support. The community forestry is importance of participation and benefit sharing. In addition, increasing of local involvement and increasing of responsibility for management of forest resources. Also, like sustainable development and it is learning experience for all involve parties.

For those issues, KEG decided to do land policy and forest policy in order to support of community land right.

In the meeting result, there were come out with draft of land instruction and rule and the work plan of township administrative members. Then, KEG will take responsibility of implementing forest policy. KEG has opportunity of contacting with Forest Trend to support forest policy process. Therefore, KEG will conduction forest policy workshop in October 2nd week with CSOs and the administration.

