

MYANMAR

BASIC FACTS ABOUT PEI MYANMAR

Timescale: Phase I (2013-2017).

Partners: Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development (MNPED), implemented as part of the UNDP Country Programme Action Plan, jointly with the UN Environment Programme.

Focus: Improving the quality of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in natural resources to maximize the social benefits and minimize the environmental impacts through strengthened national policies and capacity building.

MAINSTREAMING CONTEXT

Despite Myanmar's ideal geographic location, wealth of biodiversity and abundant natural resource base, Myanmar faces numerous development challenges such as: rampant poverty, high maternal mortality rates, malnutrition, and poor public infrastructure. The recent shift towards democratic governance and resulting reforms have made foreign direct investments in natural resource sectors an attractive strategy to liberalize key economic sectors, regulate income tax and encourage the creation of new jobs. As such, opportunities exist for private investment to contribute to poverty reduction, job creation and environmental sustainability especially because an overwhelming majority of the country's vulnerable population is directly dependent on natural resources for its livelihood. PEI support to DICA is on strategic collaboration with sector ministries to improve environmental protection standards of contracts, community involvement in decision-making, and transparency of investment processes.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Providing pro-poor natural resource management input into national comprehensive development plan.

Meeting DICA's request for capacity building support in understanding the content of international investment treaties and their implications for Myanmar's regulatory framework, as the government seeks to harmonize its ability to make policy choices in the public interest with the provision of rights and protections for foreign investors.

Facilitating international cooperation and exchange of information and best practices. For example, South-South learning exchange (with Lao PDR) to review national investment promotion incentives and investment monitoring in favor of pro-poor, pro-environment outcomes.

Supporting DICA to develop a strong monitoring and evaluation programme for quality investments.

Developing and utilizing a database for monitoring investor compliance with their agreements and identifying legal and other sanctions for non-compliance.

Assist Ministry of Mines to develop a financial model to enhance transparency and better structure financial payments by mining companies to the Government, as well as plan for environmental rehabilitation of mine sites and identify the potential use of mining revenues in social development funds.