

# Community Information Resource Centre (CIRC)

A platform for community participation in biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihood development



Participatory natural resource management is good for biodiversity-dependent or conservation-linked livelihoods. A platform to bring stakeholders – the government, communities, and other landscape partners – together to strengthen the link between biodiversity conservation and livelihoods is essential.

**The Community Information Resource Centre (CIRC)** being established in Wa San Dum village in Putao district of Kachin state, Myanmar, will be such a platform. A portion of land from the Nam Palat Protected Public Forest has been allocated for this purpose. The CIRC will cater to the Hkakabo Razi Landscape, a high-priority conservation/watershed area rich in biodiversity. The landscape is also home to the Rawang and Lisu communities who have unique cultures and traditions.

### **CIRC Characteristics**

- Supported by the Putao District Government
- *Partnership-driven*: Relevant institutions can be part of the CIRC
- *Community-managed*: Run by nine village committees
- *People-centric*: For use by the public – community members, visitors/tourists, government officials, students, and researchers
- *Operational guidance*: Provided by an advisory committee, comprising the Putao government administration and other relevant stakeholders

Physical infrastructure will be built using eco-friendly engineering and architecture, and local materials. It will resemble a typical house of the Rawang or Lisu community, with modest, multipurpose facilities such as:

#### **1. Community and Visitors' Information Facility**

Helps promote conservation education and awareness

A physical repository of data, information resources, and educational material on the natural biodiversity and cultural assets of the region, particularly the Hkakabo Razi Landscape and conservation actions.

Wa San Dum Village, Myanmar



## 2. Homotel Facility

Engages local community in ecotourism enterprises

A community-managed homestay-like facility where visitors can stay and experience nature and the local traditions, cultures, cuisines, and hospitality of the Rawang and Lisu communities.

## 3. Demonstration Site

Promotes sustainable land and water management technologies

A plot where simple, low-cost soil and water management technologies and good practices that communities can replicate in their own villages are showcased.

## 4. Community Mart

Provides a market space for local produce and handicrafts

A market outlet to display and sell local produce and handicrafts to visitors and tourists will showcase the concept of value chain and enterprise development.

There will be four phases leading to the establishment of the CIRC:

**Infrastructure development**



**Capacity building**



**Operationalization**



**Self-sustainability**

Local innovation - water mill



The village head showing Rawang cultural artifact



Support is sought from partners in three key areas.

<b>Construction support</b>	<b>Training support</b>	<b>Material support</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Information facility</li><li>▪ Homotel</li><li>▪ Minimart</li><li>▪ Landscape design for the entire CIRC</li><li>▪ Herbal garden</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Tour guide training</li><li>▪ Training on hospitality and homotel management</li><li>▪ Value chain and product development</li><li>▪ Sustainable land management technology uptake and promotion</li><li>▪ Training on tourism product development</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Furniture/equipment for information facility</li><li>▪ Furniture/equipment for homotel facility</li><li>▪ Technologies and good practices for demonstration</li><li>▪ Provision of energy facilities (solar/micro-hydro)</li><li>▪ Water/sanitation</li><li>▪ Waste management</li><li>▪ Maps and environmental education materials</li><li>▪ Cultural artifacts</li></ul>

## **For further information contact**

*In Myanmar*

**Win Naing Thaw**

Forest Department, MONREC

nwcdfdmof@gmail.com

**Aung Maung**

Park Warden, Hkakabo Razi National Park

uaungmaung1@gmail.com

*In ICIMOD*

**Bandana Shakya**

bandana.shakya@icimod.org

**Yi Shaoliang**

yi.shaoliang@icimod.org

**Aung Thu Moe**

aung.moe@icimod.org

**Photos:** Aung Thu Moe, Gumring Jungkum, Bandana Shakya

ICIMOD gratefully acknowledges the support of its core donors: the Governments of Afghanistan, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Norway, Pakistan, Sweden, and Switzerland.

© ICIMOD 2018

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

GPO Box 3226, Kathmandu, Nepal

**Tel** +977-1-5245222 **Email** info@icimod.org

**Web** www.icimod.org/hi-life