

ICIMOD

HI-LIFE MYANMAR

Community Information Resource Centre

An enabling institutional mechanism for
communities to contribute to sustainable
development and biodiversity conservation



What is the CIRC?

The Community Information Resource Centre (CIRC) is a self-sustaining community-based institutional model in Wa San Dam Village in Putao District of Kachin State. It unites the communities from nine villages – Wa San Dam, Namru Htu, Namro, Awa Dam, Ziya Dam, Wang Hlaing Dam, Sawlawdi, Longna Dam, and Khalan – to contribute to the protection of the Hponkanrazi Landscape, a high-priority conservation area.

The CIRC serves as a platform for communities and visitors to increase their awareness and understanding of the value of the immense biodiversity and rich culture in the landscape. It comprises integrated components that foster biodiversity conservation and sustainable development actions in the landscape.

The CIRC is also a platform for other stakeholders to connect and engage with communities for conservation and development actions.

The CIRC serves a dual purpose: for the government to make communities an active part of conservation actions, and for communities to derive economic benefits from innovative, conservation-linked livelihood options.

Four integrated components of the CIRC

These CIRC components provide learning-by-doing experience to communities.

Information facility

This facility is a hub for community interaction and information sharing. It will host facilities such as a community library, visitors' information centre, and meeting room with audio-visual facilities. Community representatives will also provide interpretation services for a greater exchange of information and knowledge.

Demonstration site

The demonstration facility will exhibit low-cost, sustainable, and easily replicable soil, water, and land management practices and technologies. The communities will have visual references to the demonstrated technologies, including training opportunities to enhance their capacities to use the technologies.

Creates opportunities
for social learning

Promotes biodiversity
conservation actions

Builds technical
capacities for sustainable
land management



Homotel facility

This home-like motel facility for visitors and communities will offer basic board and lodging facilities. It will provide communities with an opportunity to manage ecotourism facilities and understand how economic benefits can be enhanced through conservation-oriented livelihoods.

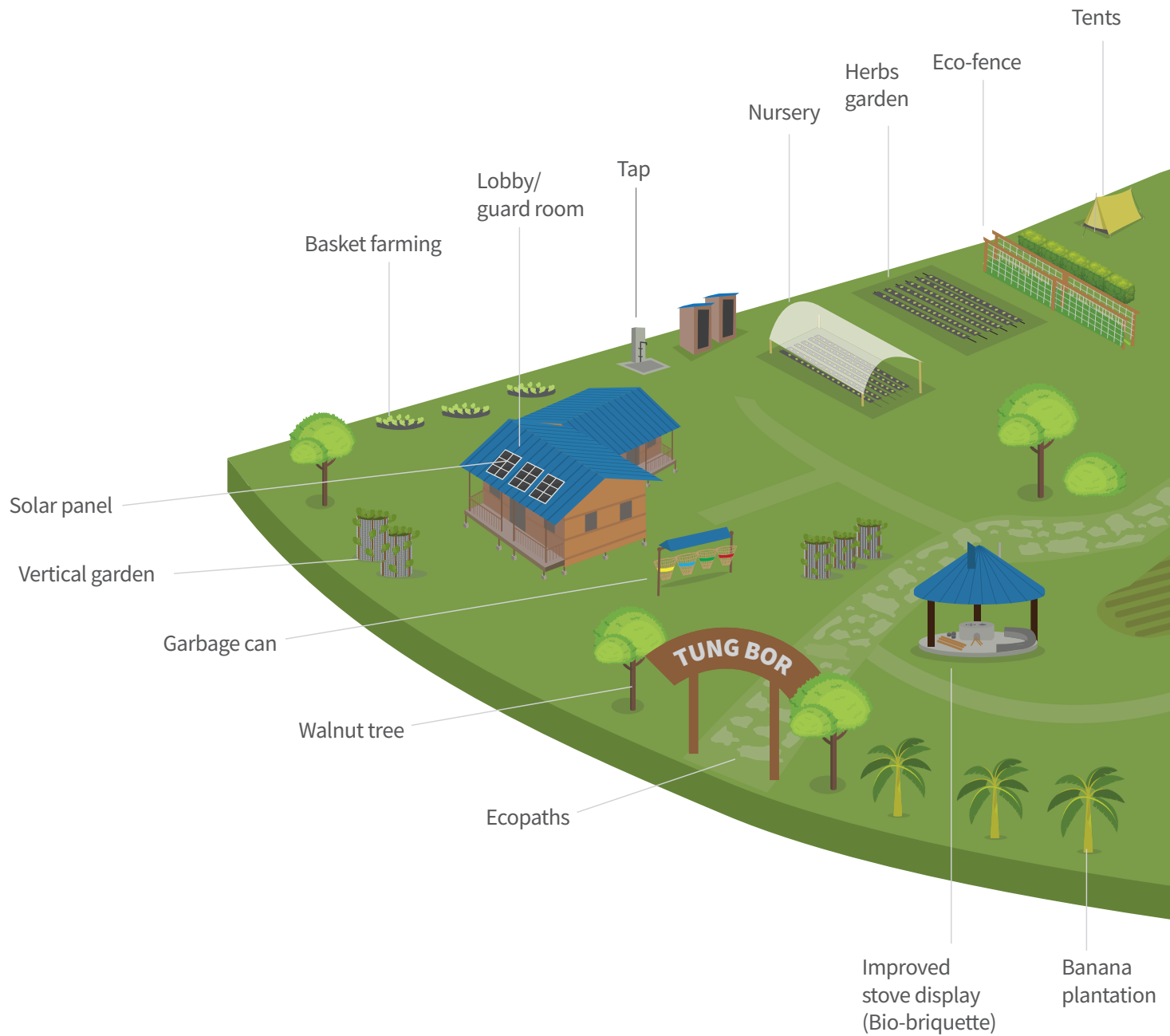
Engages in
nature-culture
based enterprise
development

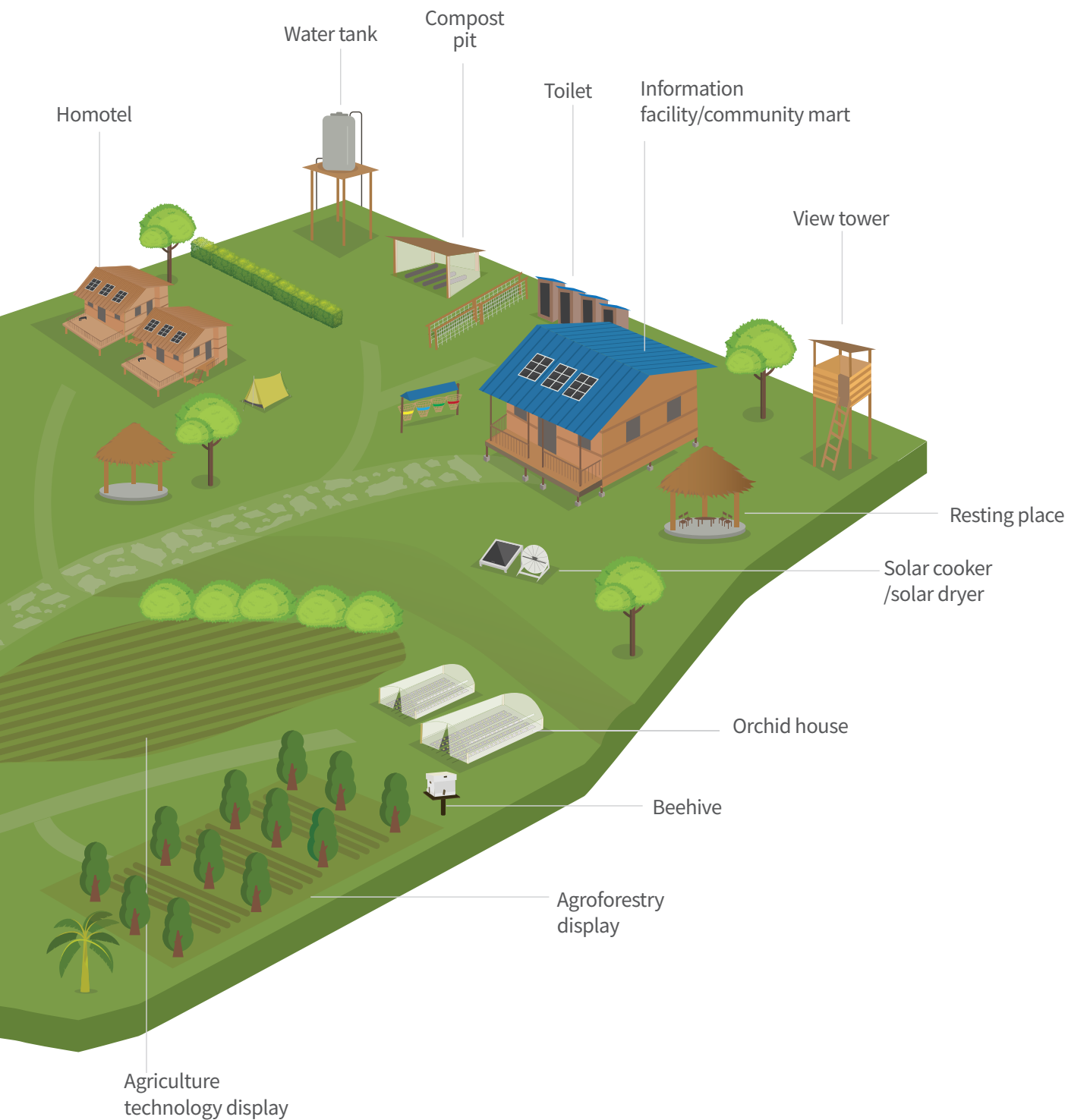
Community mart

The community mart will act as a market space where communities can showcase and sell local crafts and commodities, including traditional medicines, costumes, and locally produced fruits and vegetables. This will enhance the communities' skills for enterprise development.

Conceptual model of the CIRC

This is a conceptual model of the CIRC at Wa San Dam village. It highlights different elements of the CIRC, envisioning how the four CIRC components can be integrated in the village.





The CIRC’s uses for communities

Communities and other stakeholders can use the CIRC in many different ways.



Host meetings and events

- Conduct community meetings to expand peer learning
- Host traditional events to promote cultural harmony
- Organize diversity and seed fairs to promote agrobiodiversity conservation
- Invite other stakeholders to share their knowledge
- Host meetings and programmes of other institutions



Conduct trainings

- Conduct trainings to build capacities of community members
- Host educational resources for communities
- Develop entrepreneurship and business skills
- Develop institution management and coordination skills
- Develop interpretation and language skills



Facilitate community awareness

- Demonstrate various technologies and their applications
- Build partnerships with wider institutions and seek support
- Facilitate access to weather and market information
- Raise awareness on ecological and cultural resources of the landscape
- Organize community health campaigns



Promote conservation actions

- Help visitors understand biodiversity wealth around Hponkanrazi
- Use the CIRC as an aggregation centre for promoting local farm products
- Celebrate biodiversity, forests, and environment days
- Host biodiversity promotional materials
- Engage youth in conservation and monitoring

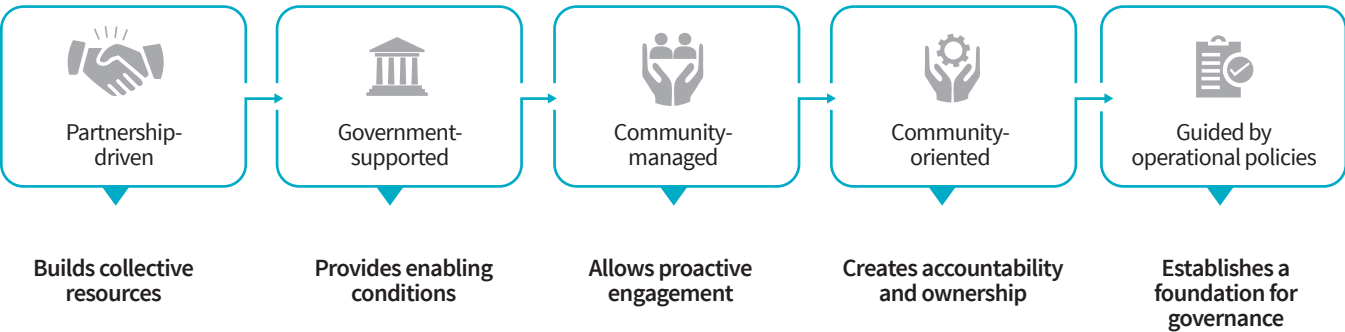


Promote ecotourism actions

- Engage in and experience ecotourism
- Highlight community knowledge, folk stories, culture, and traditions
- Host visitors and provide basic food and accommodation facilities
- Sell and promote local produce and artifacts
- Promote local food and cuisines

How is the CIRC operationalized?

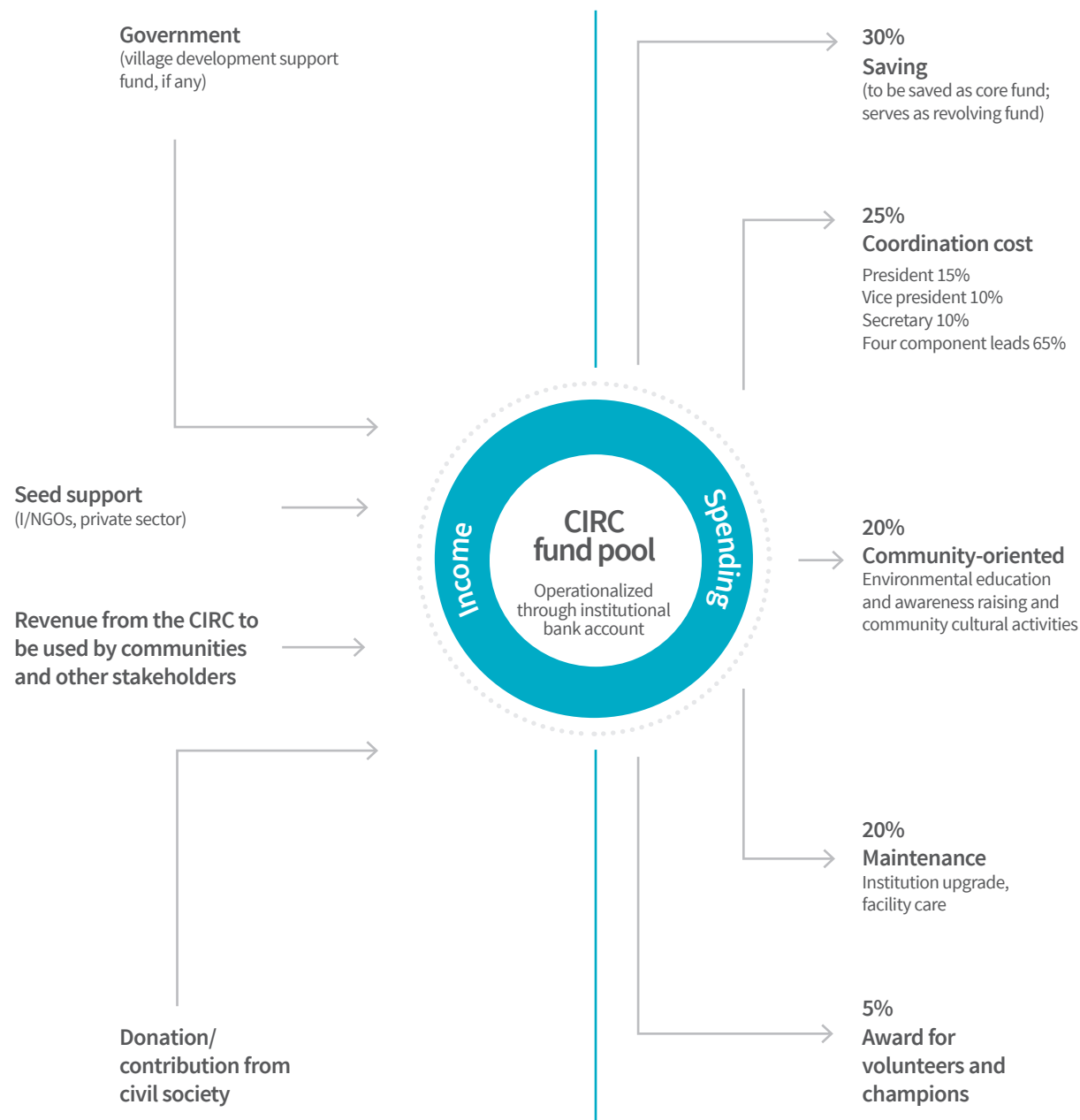
For the CIRC to be fully functional, it must be:



The CIRC’s governance structure








The CIRC's benefit-sharing structure



Note: The percentages are indicative. These need to be defined and approved by the CIRC Community Management Committee and approved by the Advisory Committee.

How can other stakeholders support the CIRC?

				
Academia	I/NGOs	Businesses	Community-based institutions	Civil society
Use CIRC facilities while visiting the landscape	Support the CIRC's infrastructure development	Support the CIRC's infrastructure development	Use CIRC facilities for organizing food fairs, diversity fairs, and annual festivals	Donate to the CIRC library
Engage communities for field research and knowledge co-production	Strengthen capacities of communities to effectively run the CIRC	CIRC facilities and engages communities for ecotourism	Organize interaction sessions among community members	Donate to the CIRC community mart
Develop community-oriented knowledge products and share with the CIRC	Contribute to demonstrations and applications of appropriate, low-cost soil, land water, farm, and forest management technologies	Support and promote CIRC-led community interventions and products	Organize children-, youth-, and women-specific programmes and events	Provide funds to improve the demonstration site
Provide relevant environmental and cultural education material	Support community-driven environmental, health, education, socio-cultural events	Provide support under corporate social responsibility interventions	Volunteer for community-based activities and education campaigns	Contribute to the CIRC core fund
Organize knowledge fairs for communities		Contribute to product development in the community mart and support enterprise development and value chain intervention		

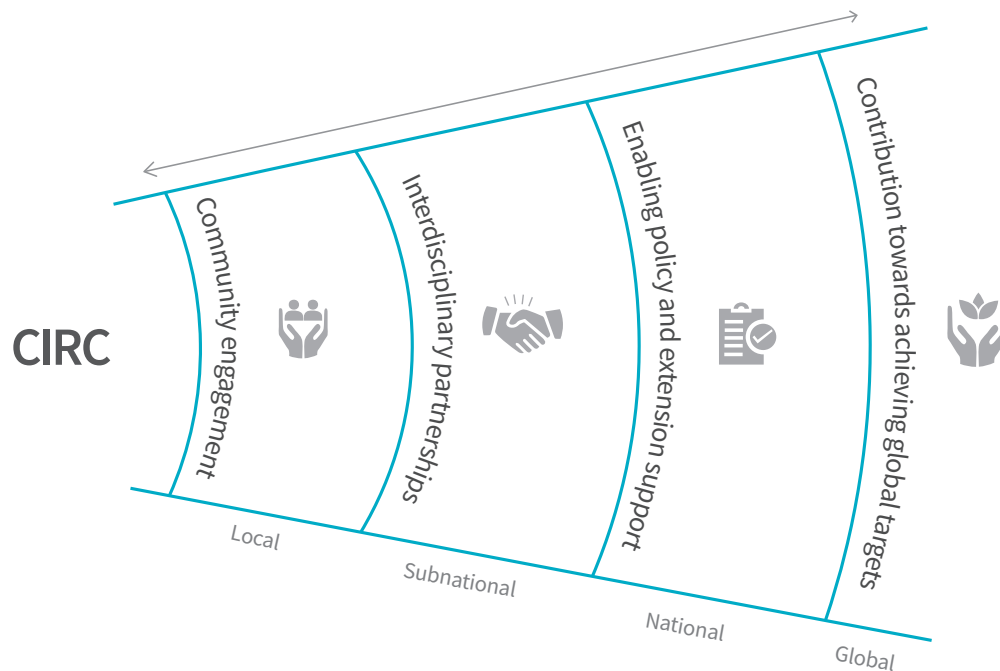
How can the government support the CIRC?

- Provide information about national rules and regulations
- Provide information on government programmes and schemes for the communities
- Use CIRC facilities to channelize community-based programmes and events
- Provide sectoral capacity-strengthening services
- Support certification and branding process for CIRC-based commodities
- Encourage other institutions to use CIRC facilities and contribute to its functioning and management
- Facilitate partnerships between different institutions to support components of the CIRC
- Demonstrate climate-smart farm and forest management technologies
- Facilitate access to renewable energy and energy efficient solutions
- Promote the CIRC's objective to wider communities for cross learning

The new Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Area Law passed by Myanmar's Union Parliament in May 2018 recognizes community-based conservation and the rights and role of indigenous communities and their institutions.

The CIRC is an institutional mechanism that will help

- Bring a range of stakeholders – the government, communities, and other partners – to collectively contribute to broader goals of sustainable development
- Build cultural harmony and capacities of women, men, and youth for landscape management
- Proactively engage communities for biodiversity conservation actions
- Raise awareness of the environmental and cultural value of a local landscape
- Implement sustainable practices needed to minimize landscape degradation and biodiversity loss
- Improve livelihoods through engagement in conservation-linked economic opportunities



Outcomes of CIRC actions for conservation and development at scale

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IN COLLABORATION WITH



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For further information

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