

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.

Creates opportunities
for social learning

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.

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.

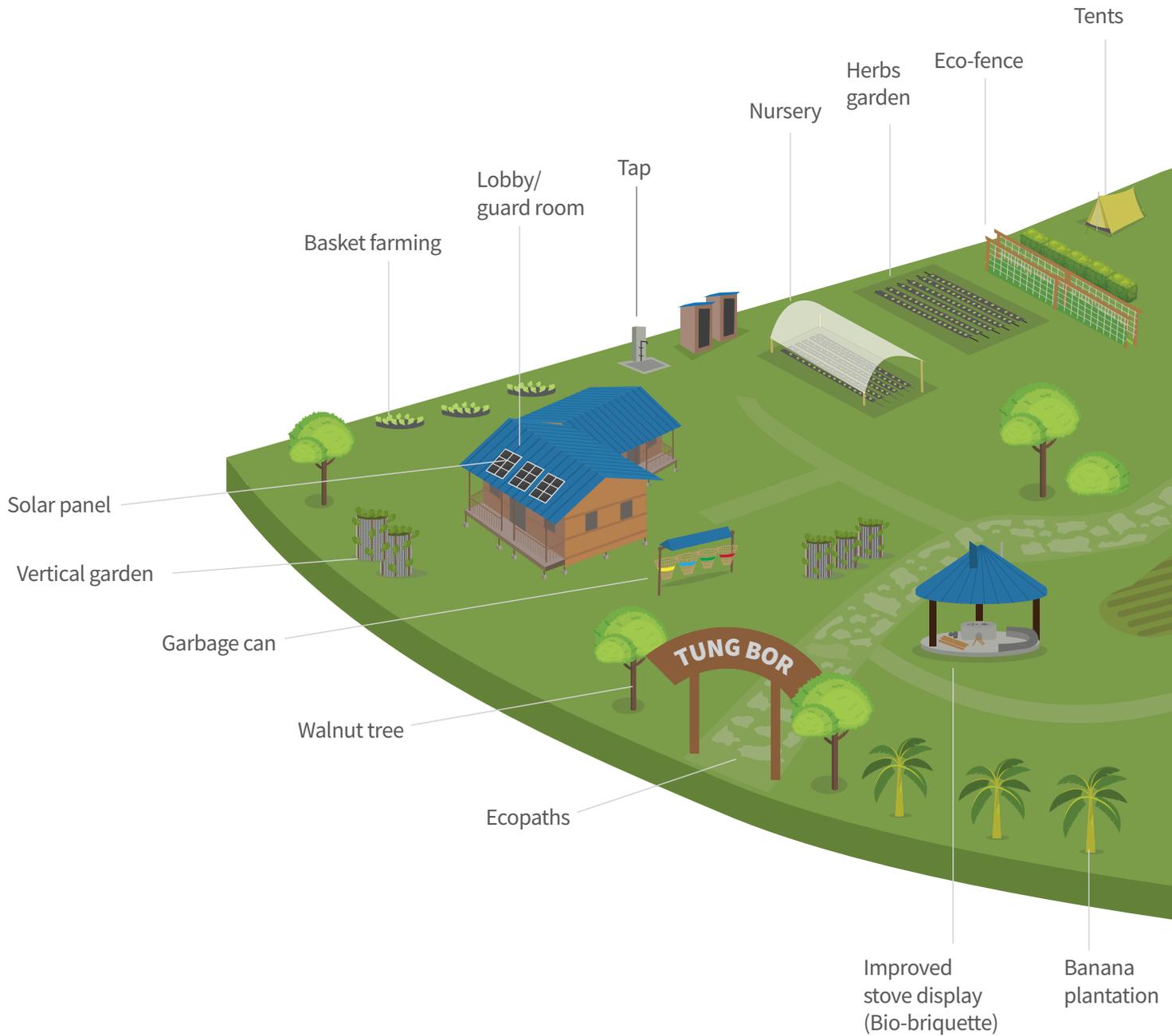
Engages in
nature-culture
based enterprise
development

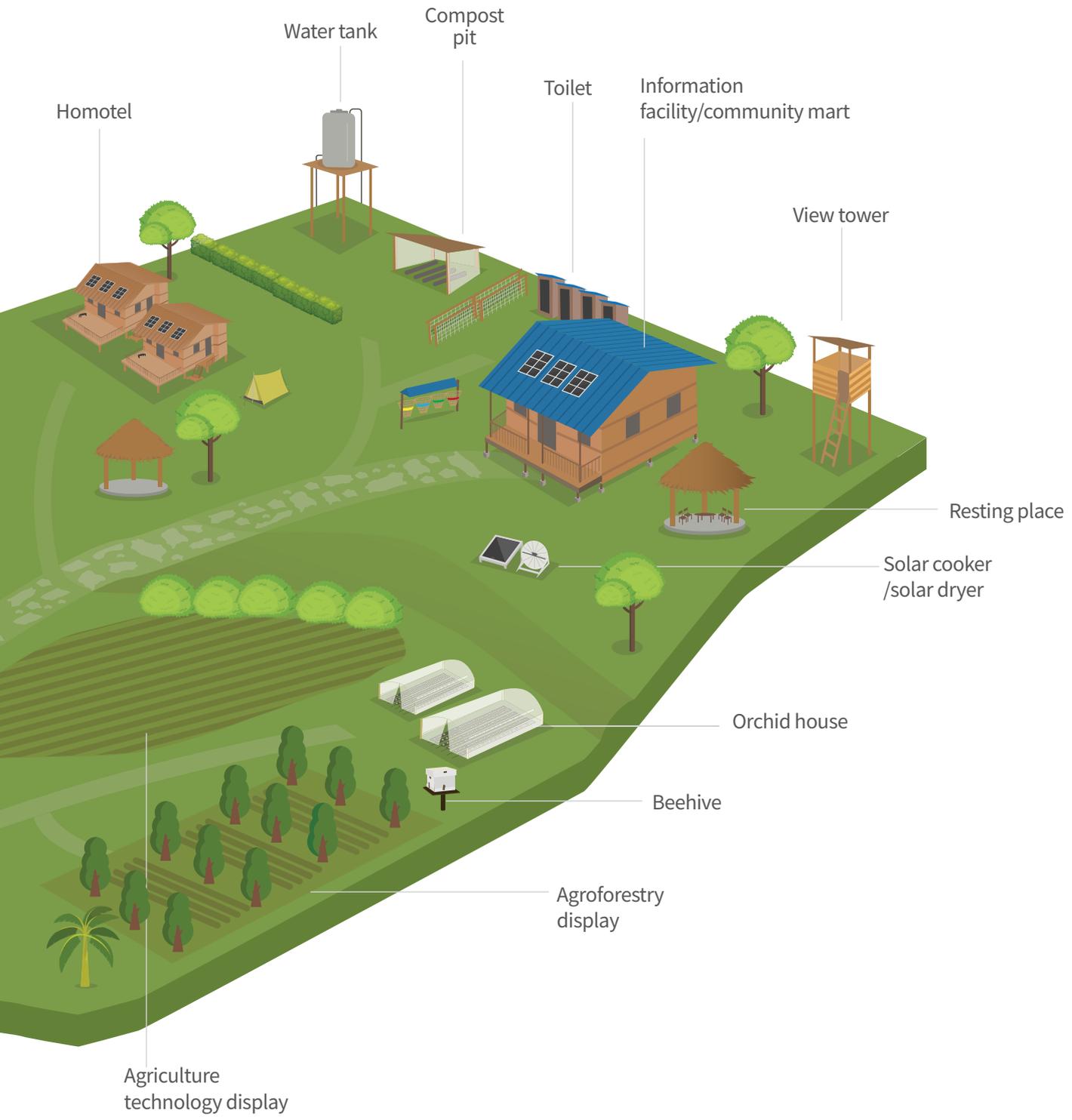
Community mart

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?

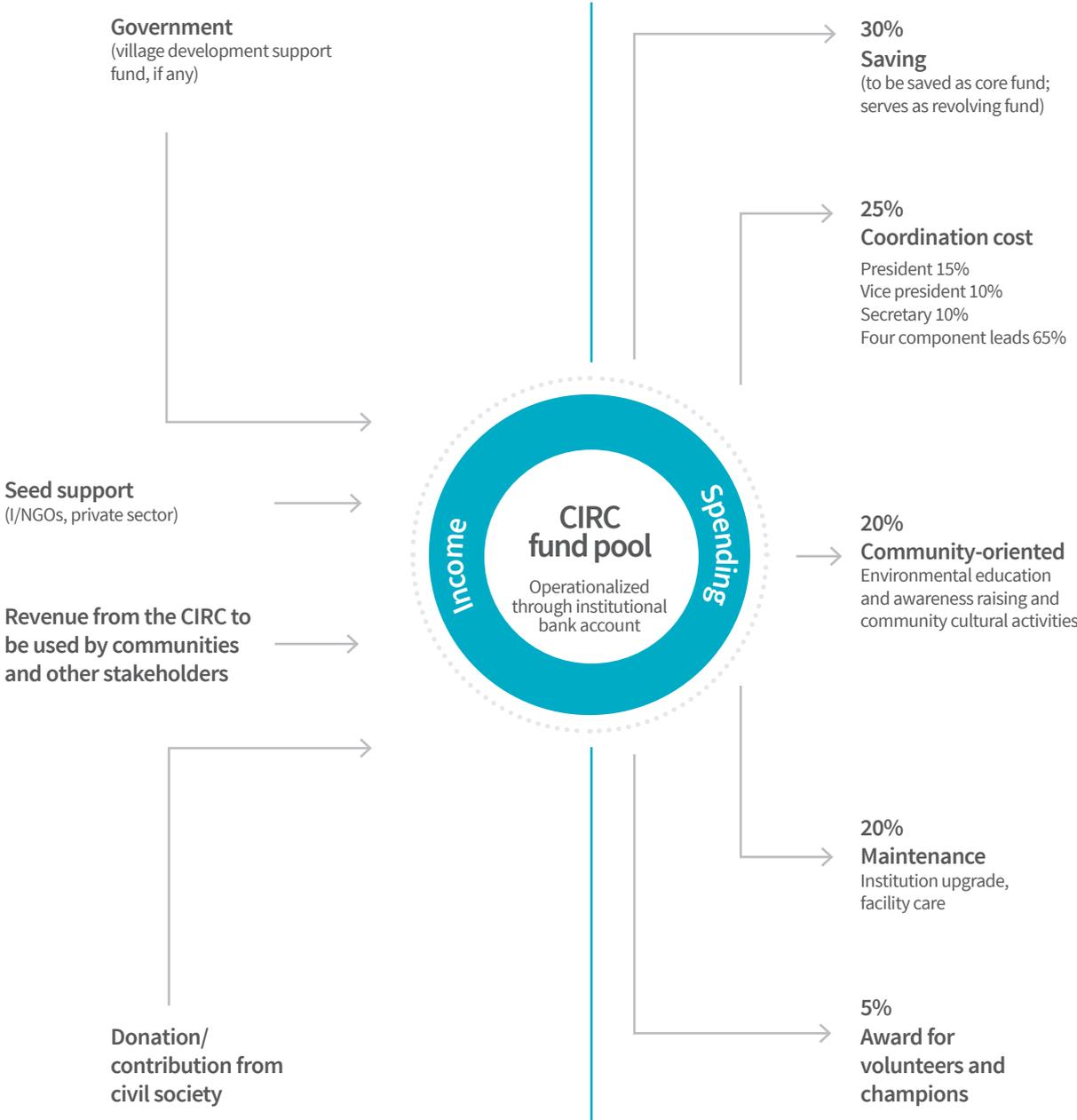
For the CIRC to be fully functional, it must be:



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

Use CIRC facilities while visiting the landscape

Engage communities for field research and knowledge co-production

Develop community-oriented knowledge products and share with the CIRC

Provide relevant environmental and cultural education material

Organize knowledge fairs for communities



I/NGOs

Support the CIRC's infrastructure development

Strengthen capacities of communities to effectively run the CIRC

Contribute to demonstrations and applications of appropriate, low-cost soil, land water, farm, and forest management technologies

Support community-driven environmental, health, education, socio-cultural events



Businesses

Support the CIRC's infrastructure development

CIRC facilities and engages communities for ecotourism

Support and promote CIRC-led community interventions and products

Provide support under corporate social responsibility interventions

Contribute to product development in the community mart and support enterprise development and value chain intervention



Community-based institutions

Use CIRC facilities for organizing food fairs, diversity fairs, and annual festivals

Organize interaction sessions among community members

Organize children-, youth-, and women-specific programmes and events

Volunteer for community-based activities and education campaigns



Civil society

Donate to the CIRC library

Donate to the CIRC community mart

Provide funds to improve the demonstration site

Contribute to the CIRC core fund

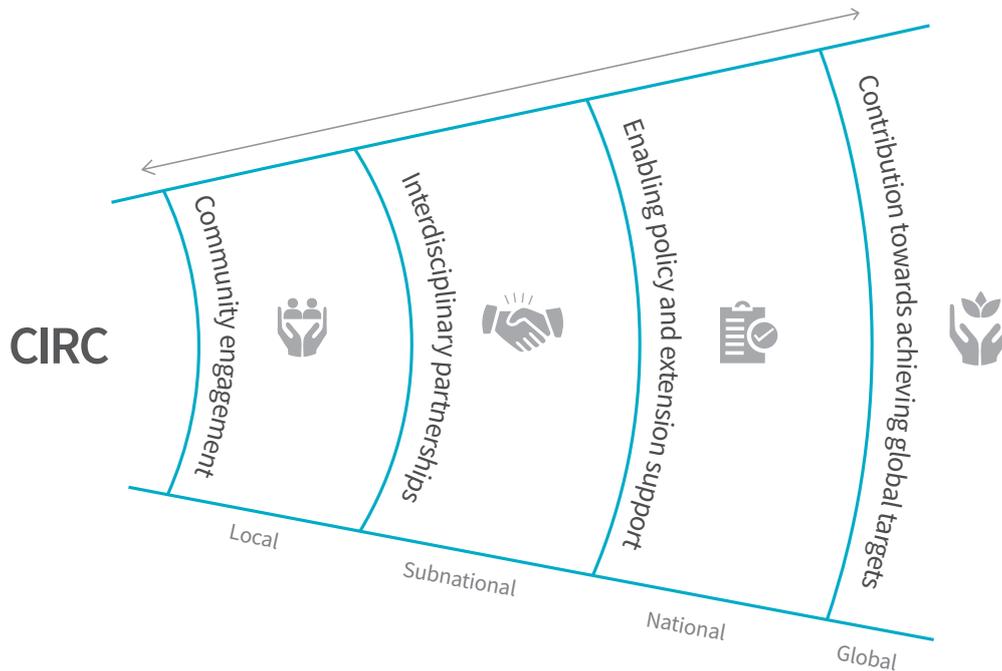
How can the government support the CIRC?

- 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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For further information

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