

MAY 10TH TO 12TH

Global ABS Project

ABS

TO DATE
AND

FINAL
WORKSHOP

TOMORROW

“MAKING ABS

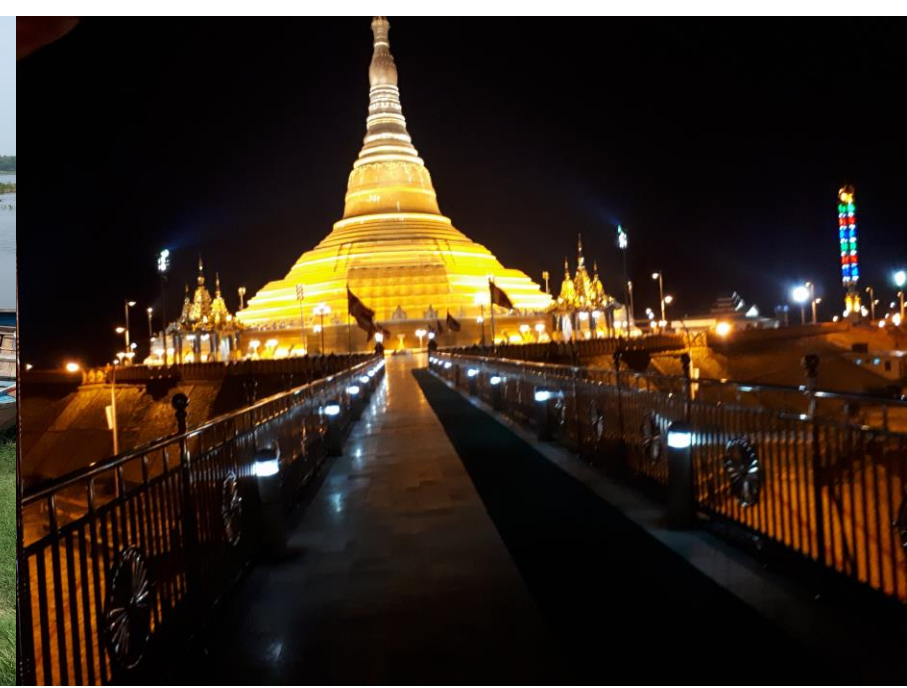
WORK

#ABSworkforAll



FOR ALL”

Myanmar



Myanmar – Burma

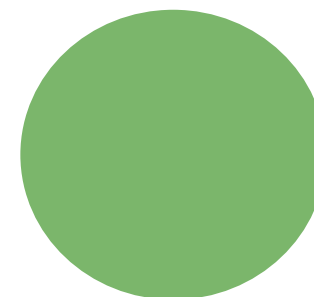
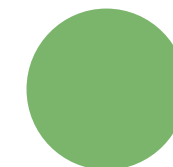
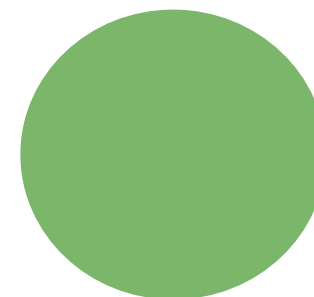
- 676,575 km² with about 54 million people
- At least 10 main ethnic groups
- A ‘mega-diverse country owing to its location and geography – “Indo-Burma Hotspot”
- Current political situation – a tragedy



COMPONENT 1: ACHIEVEMENTS IN DEVELOPING NATIONAL ABS FRAMEWORK - *Myanmar*



ABS Component	Before project	After project
Level of awareness	Very low	Improved for government, university, and key industries (400 trained); but low for ILCs (11 communities, 338 people).
ABS Law	None	None – But a pending GEF project
ABS Policy	None	Under development – Framework Document with draft policy was provided
National focal point	1 person	A division with 2 directors and 4 assistants
CNAs	0	9
Legal analysis	None	Completed with recommendations
TK Guidelines, Ethical Code of Conduct, ABS guidelines, Model agreements/clauses, IPR manual, Biodiscovery report	None	All completed and translated
TK database	None	Format completed – some entries done
ABS website and clearinghouse	None	Completed – in 2 languages
Biocommunity Protocol	None	2 completed



Key challenges in project delivery:

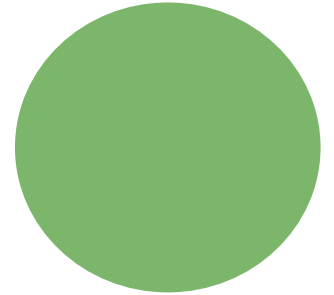
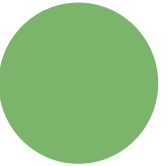
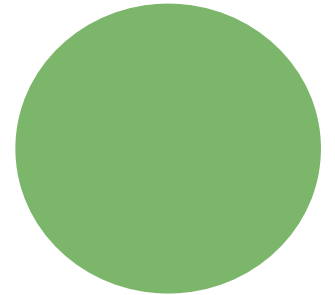
- Raising awareness – government, university, and industry better now (23 training sessions) but just 11 ILCs were contacted during the project year
 - Large and ethnically diverse country – will require considerable effort by government to raise local awareness
- Multiple agencies with responsibility – at least 12 government departments have interest and/or overlapping laws
- Early instability in key government department during project period – settled in final year of project and progress improved
- Slow start to project – but resolved, caught-up, and project fully delivered within 2019

Key challenges in future:

- Over-riding issue now is country instability – government now has other priorities; all progress will be lost in the absence of democracy

But, assuming new democracy, as promised, in 1 year:

- Raising awareness – government will have to develop a major programme to train and raise awareness in LCs
- Lingering distrust by ethnic groups – requires capacity-building
- Need an ABS law – There is a pending approved GEF project through UNEP
- Re-train staff and CNAs – time away will result in need for new training sessions many staff joined the CDM – clear future role for UNDP
- Need for policy in key areas – e.g., ABS, biotechnology, bio-trade, etc.



Perceptions among participants:

- Very positive among all participants – favourable to ABS process
- Research community hoping that ABS will be a framework for better government support and policies in the area of gene research
- Strong potential in Myanmar for a bio-products industry
- Prior to coup, very positive response from government to global processes including the NP

Tangible outcomes:

- Provided guidance to at least 4 requests for Myanmar GR use
 - Interim policy was under development
 - ABS website ready to go live
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COMPONENT 2: **ACHIEVEMENTS** IN BUILDING TRUST BETWEEN USERS AND PROVIDERS OF GR TOWARDS BIO-DISCOVERY EFFORTS

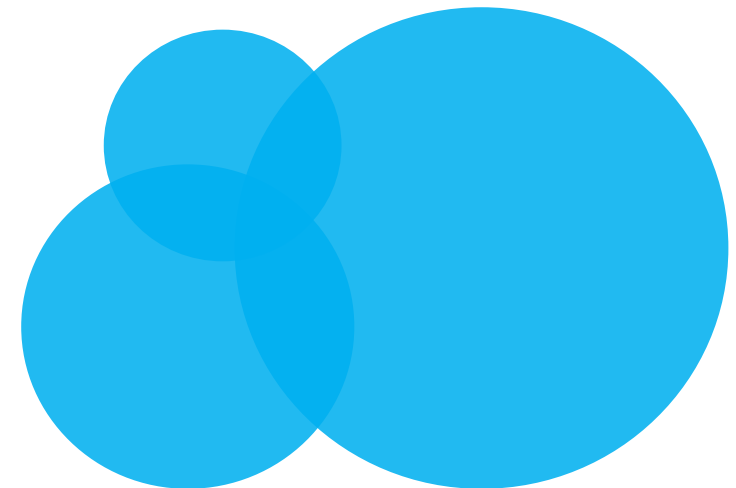
COMPONENT 3: **ACHIEVEMENTS** IN STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF IPLCs

- 2 Bio-cultural community protocols completed
- 11 villages trained (>330 people)
- All necessary tools are in place and translated
- Future needs:
 - hundreds of villages require training and guidance
 - capacity building needs will be ongoing – UN role
 - need to resolve greater problem of ethnic community distrust



- We made no use of the Global ABS online communities of practice platform during project delivery
- It may have value as a communications tool among practitioners
- At first glance – translation of all posted documents would be of value.

In closing – for your listening pleasure – I will not be singing any songs!





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THANK YOU



ABS is genetic resources for sustainable development
abs-sustainabledevelopment.net