

Presentation on Chapter 1: Overview of Status, Trend and Threats to Biodiversity

at

**Capacity Development Workshop for
South, South-East and East Asia on the
Preparation of the Fourth National Report**

Tsukuba, Japan, 2 - 4 December 2008

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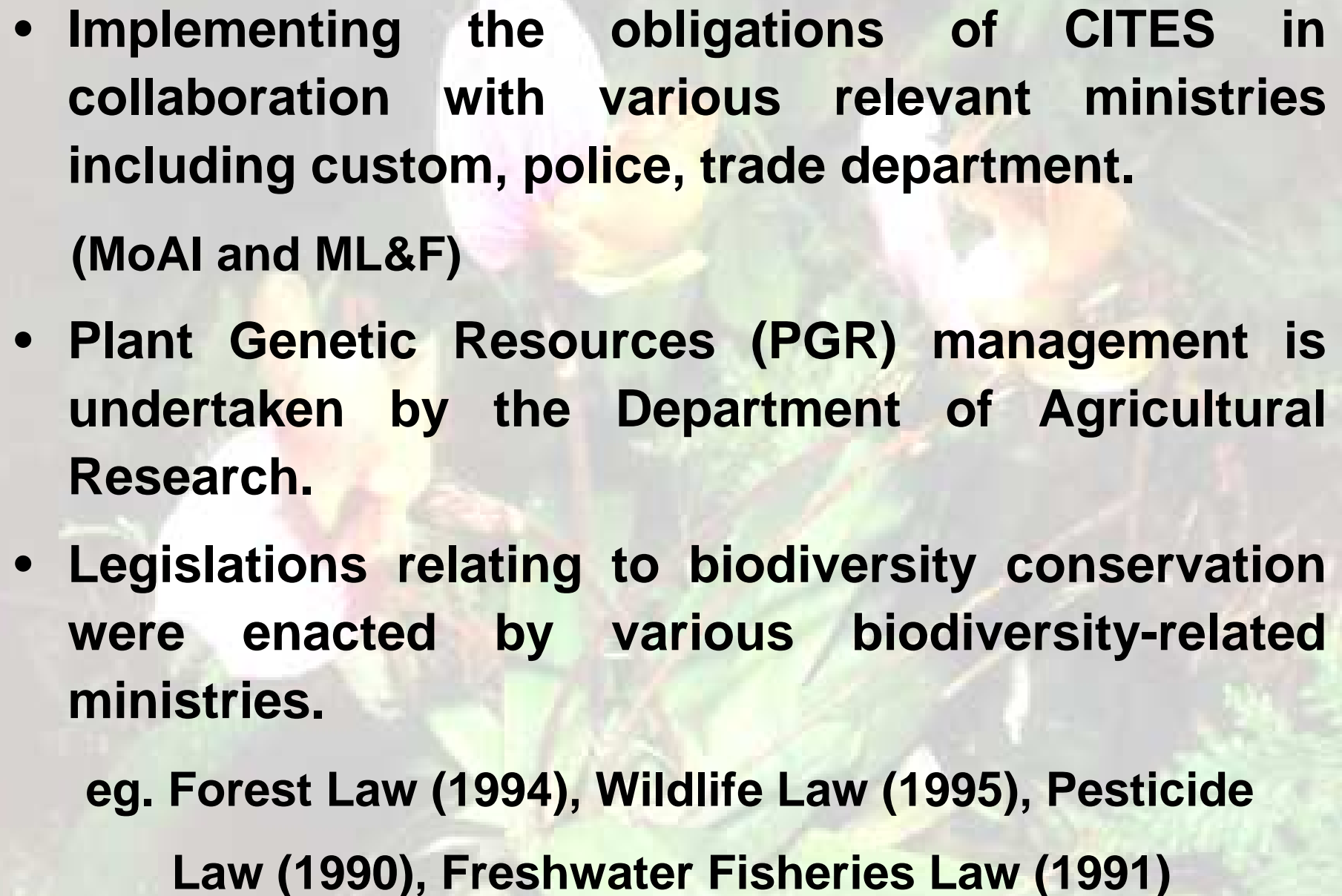
Introduction

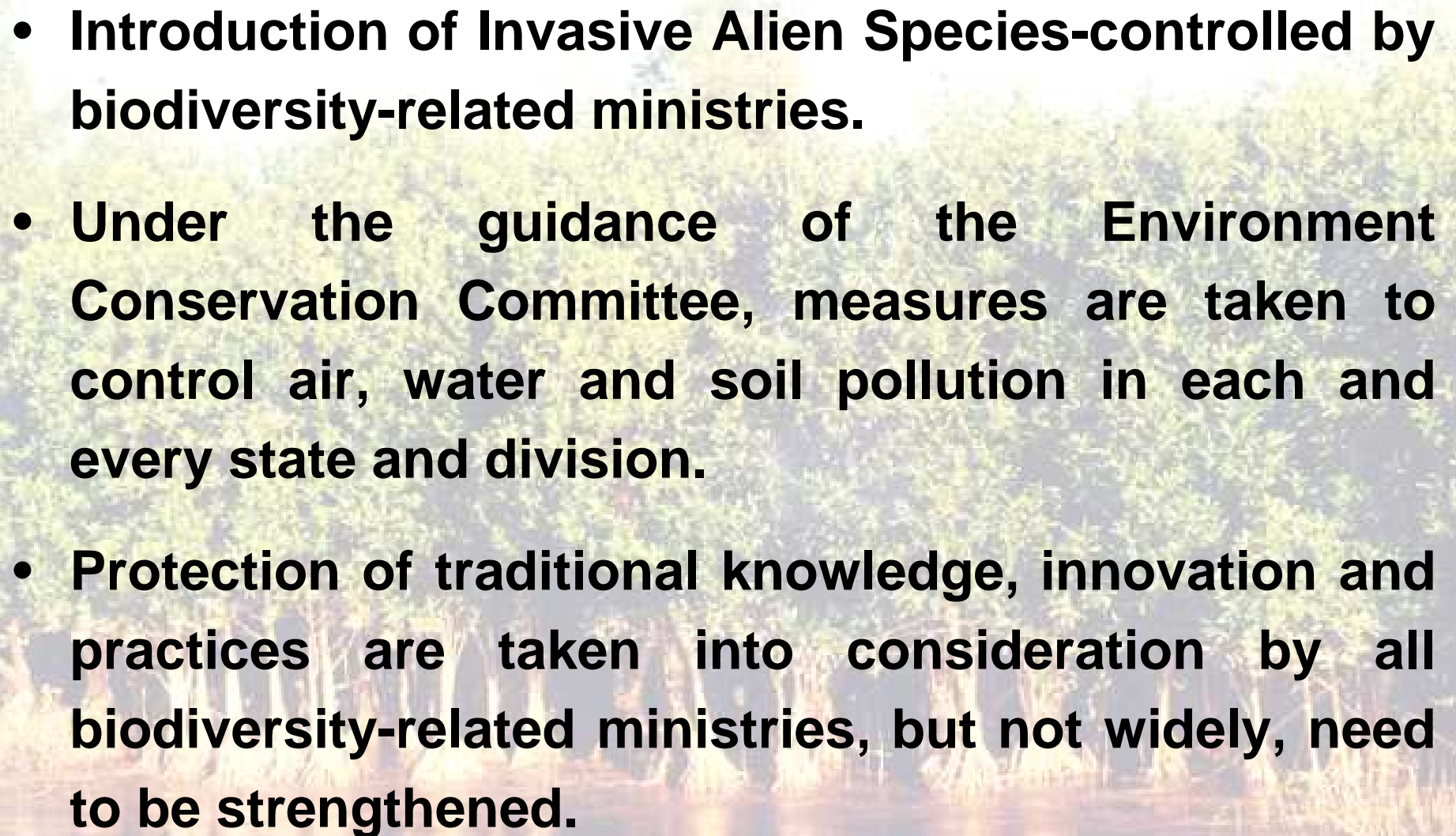


- **Total land area – 676577 Square km**
- **Wide range of topography, temperature and rainfall**
- **Biodiversity richness**
- **Major issues faced**
(Encroachment, deforestation, poaching, illegal wildlife trade, unsustainable land use practices, development of clear-cut land use policy, insufficient availability of financial and technical assistances, capacity building programme)

Biodiversity Conservation in Myanmar

- **Forest coverage 50%**
- **Reserved forests / protected public forests are managed in accordance with SFM and its coverage is 24.01%**
- **PAS represents 7.31 % including notified and proposed protected areas**
- **One botanical garden-established in 1915**
- **Three zoological gardens-already established, out of which Yangon Zoological Garden-established in 1905**
- **Under the existing PAS, one Ramsar Site and six Asean Heritage Sites-already designated**

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- **Implementing the obligations of CITES in collaboration with various relevant ministries including custom, police, trade department.
(MoAI and ML&F)**
 - **Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) management is undertaken by the Department of Agricultural Research.**
 - **Legislations relating to biodiversity conservation were enacted by various biodiversity-related ministries.
eg. Forest Law (1994), Wildlife Law (1995), Pesticide Law (1990), Freshwater Fisheries Law (1991)**

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- **Introduction of Invasive Alien Species-controlled by biodiversity-related ministries.**
 - **Under the guidance of the Environment Conservation Committee, measures are taken to control air, water and soil pollution in each and every state and division.**
 - **Protection of traditional knowledge, innovation and practices are taken into consideration by all biodiversity-related ministries, but not widely, need to be strengthened.**

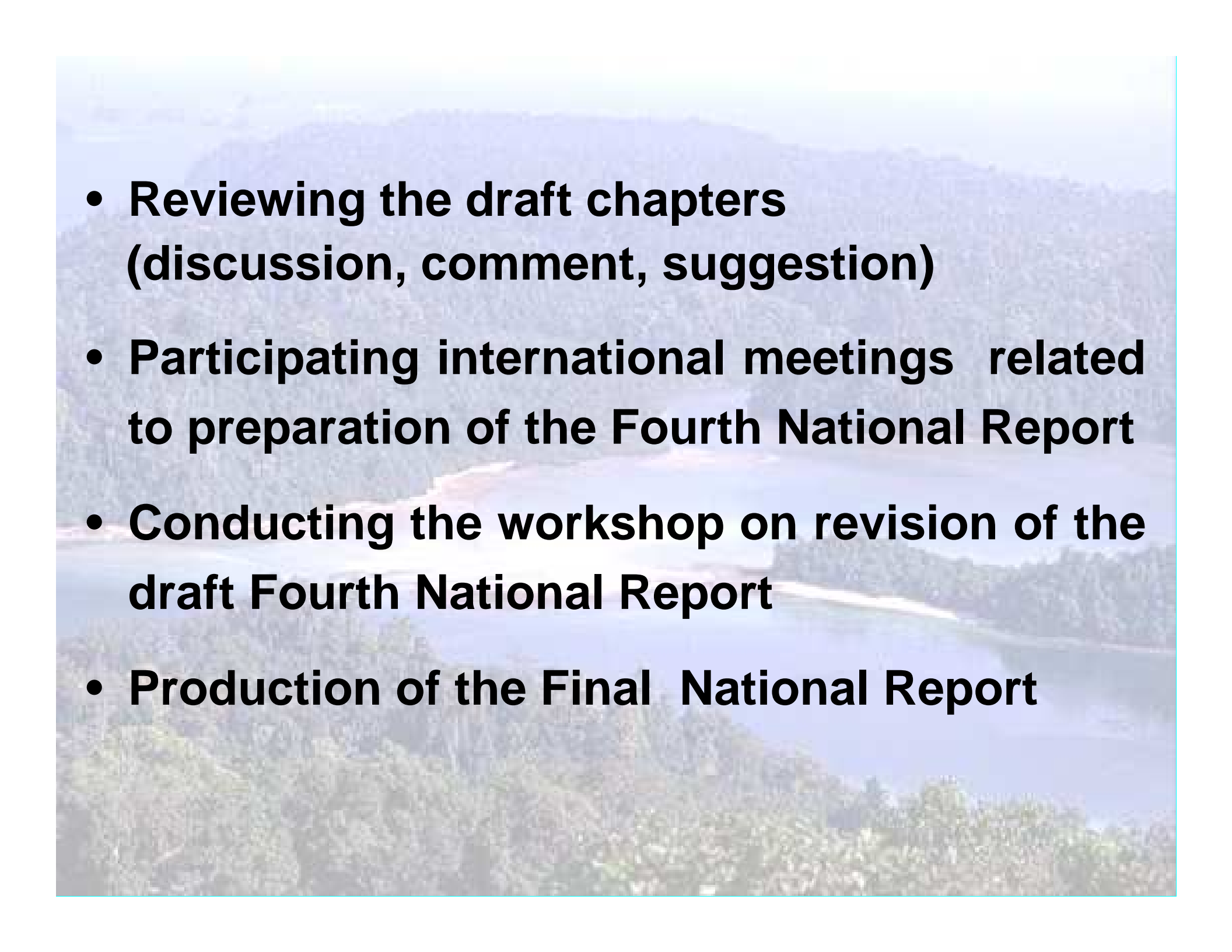
Preparation of the Fourth National Report

Institutional capacity

- The role of the Ministry of Forestry
- The Environment Conservation Committee (2004)
- The National Commission for Environmental Affairs (1992)
- Focal institution for Biodiversity Conservation in Myanmar (FD - NWCD)
- Other biodiversity-related ministries

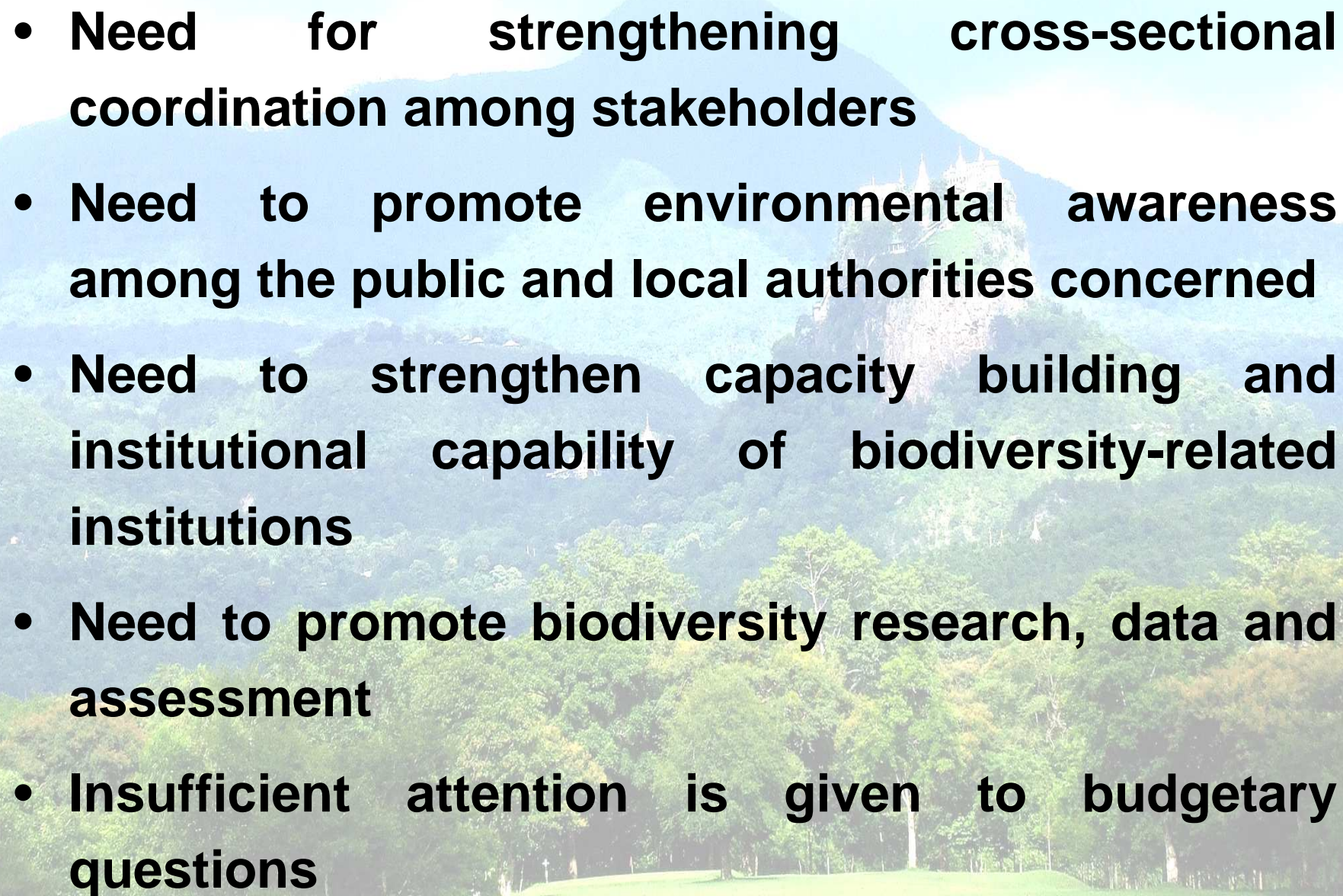
Approaches employed

- **The committee for preparing the Fourth National Report was formed in 2008**
- **Consists of 21 members from various biodiversity-related ministries, N.G.Os**
- **The mechanism for preparation of the Fourth National Report**
- **Compilation of data and information**
- **Drafting the chapters**

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- **Reviewing the draft chapters
(discussion, comment, suggestion)**
 - **Participating international meetings related
to preparation of the Fourth National Report**
 - **Conducting the workshop on revision of the
draft Fourth National Report**
 - **Production of the Final National Report**

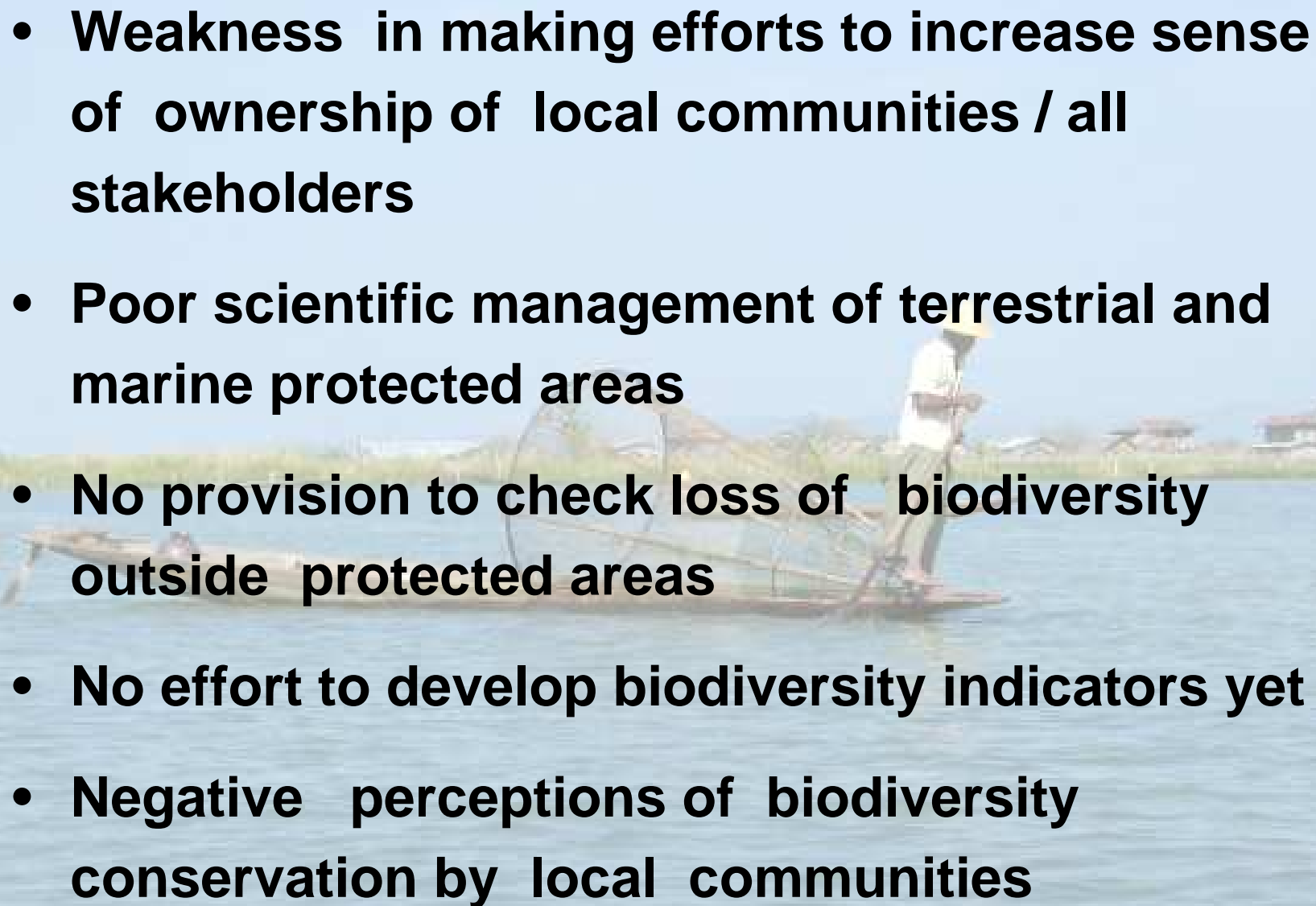
Key findings

- **Urgent need for development of NBSAP**
- **Requirement to adopt and implement an ecosystem approach**
- **Need for development of clear-cut land use policy**
- **Land Use conflicts (conservation aspect- given least priority)**
- **Scientific knowledge gaps in biodiversity conservation and management**

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- **Need for strengthening cross-sectional coordination among stakeholders**
 - **Need to promote environmental awareness among the public and local authorities concerned**
 - **Need to strengthen capacity building and institutional capability of biodiversity-related institutions**
 - **Need to promote biodiversity research, data and assessment**
 - **Insufficient attention is given to budgetary questions**

Challenges encountered

- **Outside agencies rarely provide technical and financial assistances considering Myanmar's internal affairs**
- **Not availability and reliability of data**
- **Inconsistent participation of appropriate resource persons**
- **Budget / Financial constraint**
- **No specialized units in the field of biodiversity conservation planning**
- **Weak coordination and inefficient to consider the situation of country's biodiversity and management in national scale**

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- **Weakness in making efforts to increase sense of ownership of local communities / all stakeholders**
 - **Poor scientific management of terrestrial and marine protected areas**
 - **No provision to check loss of biodiversity outside protected areas**
 - **No effort to develop biodiversity indicators yet**
 - **Negative perceptions of biodiversity conservation by local communities**

Possible areas for improvement

Improvement of :

- Capacity building program in PAs management
- Conducting scientific research, survey and monitoring
- Identifying constraints, opportunities and threats
- Networking biodiversity conservation activities
- Participatory mechanism to ensure indigenous and local communities involvement
- Identifying and Communicating the relationship between biodiversity and human development targets at all levels
- Technology transfer in biodiversity, biotechnology and biosafety
- Exercising International Regime on ABS

Conclusion

I would like to express my gratitude to the Ministry of the Environment of Japan for hosting this important workshop which gives me good opportunity to share and discuss the draft chapters we prepared. I do believe that what I have learnt from the workshop can help improve and polish our report.

The image features two pink orchids with prominent veining on their petals, set against a dark, muted background. The orchids are positioned diagonally, with one in the foreground and another slightly behind it. The stems are a reddish-brown color. In the lower portion of the image, the words "Thank you" are written in a large, bold, 3D-style font. The letters are a vibrant yellow-orange color with a dark orange shadow, giving them a three-dimensional appearance as if they are floating or resting on the surface. The overall composition is simple and elegant, focusing on the natural beauty of the flowers and the heartfelt message.

Thank you