

Proposed Acquisition of Land for Compensatory afforestation in respect to National Highway at Nongumiang Village, West Khasi Hills District.

Social Impact Assessment Study



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ABOUT MEGHALAYA INSTITUTE OF GOVERNANCE

The Meghalaya Institute of Governance was created as one of the institutional support mechanisms of the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA) to promote good governance in the state. In exercise of powers conferred by the Sub Section (1) of Section 4 of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency, Rehabilitation And Resettlement Act, 2013 (No. 30 of 2013), the Government of Meghalaya has notified the Meghalaya Institute of Governance as the State Social Impact Assessment Unit for carrying out Social Impact Assessment Study vide Notification No. RDA. 67/2013/120 dated 24th June, 2015.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Meghalaya Institute of Governance, Shillong was created as an institutional support mechanism under Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA) to carry out Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Study for the proposed acquisition of land for Compensatory Afforestation in respect of National Highway at Nongumiang Village in West Khasi Hills District, Nongstoin. The objective of this study is to understand the social condition of the village by carrying out baseline survey, identifying the potential impacts and drawing out mitigation measure to address the likely impacts. After which a Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) will be developed.

Compensatory Afforestation is one of the most important conditions stipulated by the central government while approving proposal for diversion of forest land for non-forest uses. As per the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, and the Rules and Guidelines made thereunder, whenever a forest land is to be diverted for non- forestry purposes, the equivalent non forest land has to be identified for Compensatory Afforestation and funds for raising compensatory afforestation are to be imposed. In this case the 2 laning of NH 44E Shillong-Nongstoin-Tura road under SARDP-NE has borne the cost of creating the compensatory forest.

With the request from the Executive Engineer, PWD (Roads) National Highway Division, Shillong to acquire land measuring 51.199 hectares, a plot adjacent to the Government Catchment Forest at Nongumiang Village of West Khasi Hills District was identified for the purpose of Compensatory Afforestation in respect of National Highway. As such, government Notification No.RDA. 73/2016/7 under Revenue & Disaster Management Department of Meghalaya has requested for conducting the Social Impact Assessment Study under section 4(1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (No.30 of 2013).

From the survey and official records, the land to be acquired belonging to Shri Sailen Nongrum, a resident of New Nongstoin village, is located at Nongumiang Village, 25 Kms away from Nongstoin on Nongstoin-Mawait PWD road. The total area requested for the acquisition is 5,11,900.00 Sq. m.

Nongumiang village is located in Nongstoin block of West Khasi Hills. As per Population Census 2011, Nongumiang has a total population of 127 of which 70 are males

while 57 are females, all of which belong to the scheduled tribe. There are about 20 households in the village. The average family size of Nongumiang village is between 8-10 persons. In 2011, the literacy rate in the village is 59.84%, which is higher than the overall literacy rate of the state. Out of the total population, 22.83 % of the people are cultivators, 11.02 % are agricultural workers, 1.57 % are household workers and 3.14 % are other workers.

The approach adopted for this study is a Qualitative research where in-depth group discussion has been taken up with the concerned stakeholder using research tools like checklist and semi- structured interview scheduled.

Consultations has been held on the 03rd of March, 2017 where 21 participants from Nongumiang village attended the consultation. From this consultation, the community said that the proposed compensatory afforestation will benefit the ecosystem of the village, create awareness on the importance of afforestation, provided potential benefit like employment opportunities during the project phase. There was a sense of gratitude and pride among the people over the proposed acquisition which will provide a sustainable growth for the generation to come.

Public hearing has been held on the 5th April, 2017 in Nongumiang Lower Primary School in the presence of Shri V. Swer, Block Development Officer (Nongstoin), Shri ABS Swer, OSD (MIG), Officials from Revenue Department (Nongstoin), SIA Team from Meghalaya Institute of Governance, Headman of Nongumiang Village, NGOs and media person from T7 News. There were 47 participants from Nongumiang village. From the hearing, the community members have no objection to the proposed compensatory afforestation as they feel that the purpose of this afforestation will improve the environment as well as the living condition of the community.

The Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) has been included towards the end of the report which draws out preventive measures to be kept in mind while implementing the proposed compensatory afforestation.

Part A:

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Compensatory Afforestation (CA) refers to afforestation and regeneration activities carried out as a way of compensating for forest land diverted to non-forest purpose. Here, non-forest purpose means the breaking up or clearing of any forest land for or portion thereof for construction of power project, railways, roads, cultivation of tea, coffee, spices, etc .

Compensatory Afforestation is one of the most important conditions stipulated by the central government while approving proposal for diversion of forest land for non- forest uses. As per the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, and the Rules and Guidelines made thereunder, whenever a forest land is to be diverted for non- forestry purposes, the equivalent non forest land has to be identified for Compensatory Afforestation and funds for raising compensatory afforestation are to be imposed.

The need for new infrastructural development activities has caused diversion of forest land to non-forestry purposes. In this case, the 2 laning of Shillong- Nongstoin- Tura road under SARDP-NE. As a result of this developmental activities, the developing body has borne the cost of creating the compensatory Forest.

1.2 Land Acquisition

The Deputy Commissioner, West Khasi Hills District vide letter No.RDA/ LA-RF-1/2016/4 dated Nongstoin the 17th August, 2016 has requested the initiation of Social Impact Assessment study with relation to the Executive Engineer, PWD (Roads) National Highway Division, Shillong proposal to acquire a plot of land measuring 51.199 hectares adjacent to the Government Catchment Forest at Nongumiang Village of West Khasi Hills District for the purpose of Compensatory Afforestation in respect of National Highway.

The Government of Meghalaya (Notification No. RDA.67/2013/120) has notified the Meghalaya Institute of Governance (MIG) as the State Social Impact Assessment Unit for conducting Social Impact Assessment Study in Meghalaya under section 4(1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (No.30 of 2013).

Government Notification No.RDA. 73/2016/7 under Revenue & Disaster Management Department of Meghalaya has instructed the conduct of Social Impact

Assessment Study to be taken up by the Meghalaya Institute of Governance, Shillong at the earliest. **(Annexure 1 & 2)**

1.3 Objective of the study:

- Baseline study on the social condition of the area directly and indirectly impacted during/ after Compensatory Afforestation implementation phase
- Carry out social impact analysis
- Develop effective measure to address potential impact.

1.4 Outline of the Chapter:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Project Description describe the project objective, location, etc.

Chapter 3: Approach and Methodology adopted for conducting the Social Impact Assessment Study.

Chapter 4: Village Demographic Profile describing the social condition of the Nongumiang village in which the proposed compensatory afforestation will be implemented.

Chapter 5: Stakeholder Consultation describing the consultation done with different stakeholder to understand their perception/ ideas/ opinions on the likely impact from the proposed compensatory afforestation.

Chapter 6: Major Finding and Conclusion describing the key findings from the Public consultation.

Chapter 7: Public Hearing describing the testimony put forth by person of interest.

Chapter 8: Social Impact Management Plan describing the mitigation measures to decrease the impact likely to come up from the project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Project Objectives

Land acquisition for the purpose of Compensatory Afforestation in respect of National Highway NH44E (Shillong-Nongstoin-Tura Road) at Nongumiang, West Khasi Hills District.

2.2 Project Location

The land proposed to be acquired belong to Shri Sailen Nongrum of New Nongstoin village and located at Nongumiang Village, Nongstoin Syiemship of West Khasi Hills District under the jurisdiction of Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council. The distance of the proposed land to be acquired is 25 Kms from Nongstoin on Nongstoin-Mawait PWD road and 4 Kms jungle road from Nongsba village existing on the above road.

2.3 Land to be acquired

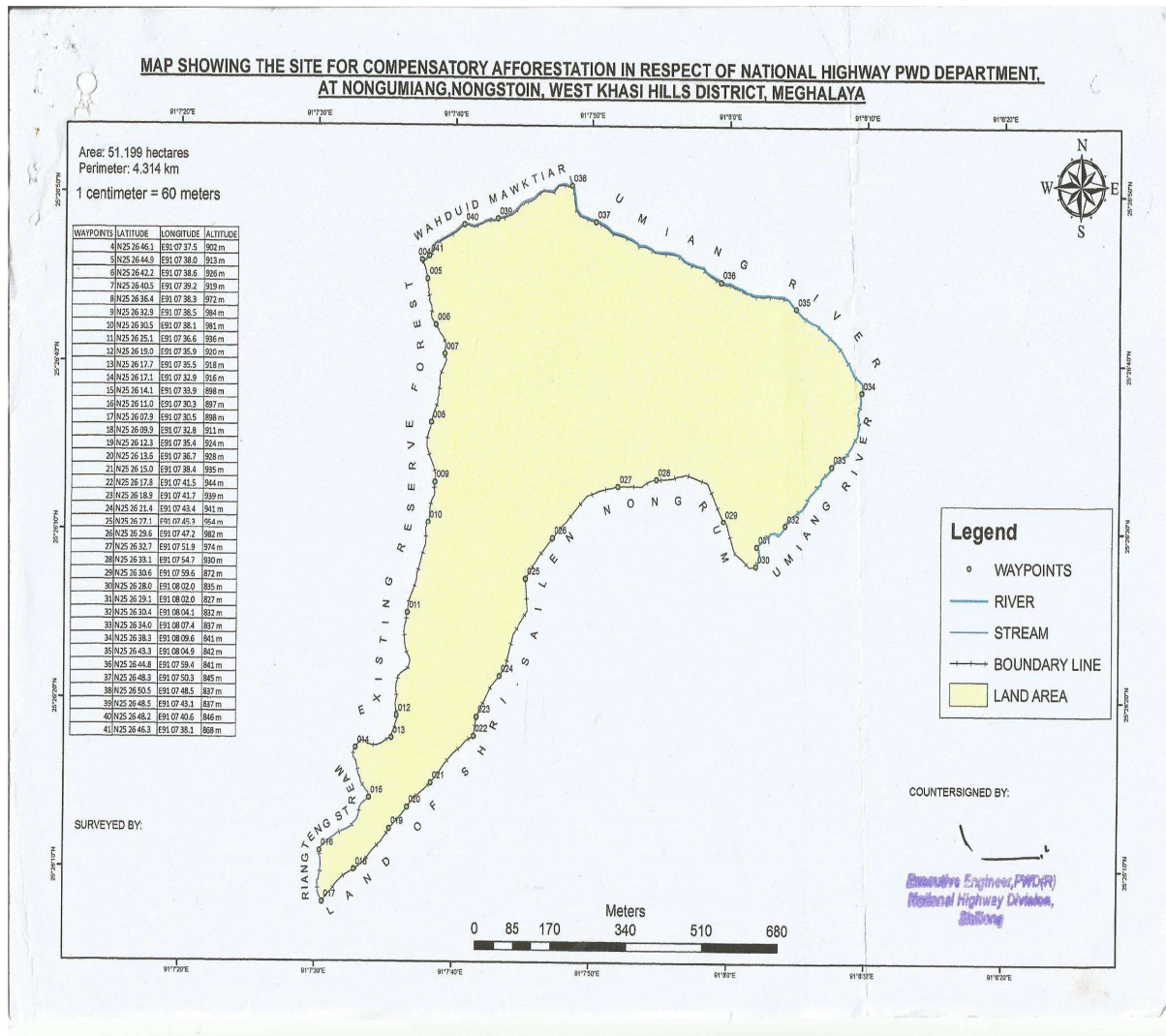
The total area requested for the acquisition is 5,11,900.00 Sq. m. The boundaries of the area to be acquired are North: Wahduid Mawktiar and Umiang; South: land of Shri Sailen Nongrum; East: Umiang river and land of Shri Sailen Nongrum; and West: Existing Reservoir Forest and Riangteng Stream. **(Annexure 3)**



Figure 1: Project Location showing the site proposed to be acquired

2.4 Maps and illustration

Placed below is the survey map conducted by the Revenue Branch, Nongstoin.



APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The approach adopted for this study is a qualitative study where data is collected, analysed and interpreted according to the observation and interaction made with the people. Qualitative method brings out a deeper understanding on the people's view, perceptions, ideas and opinions on the proposed construction project.

3.1 Research tool:

The tools used for data collection are Checklist and Semi-Structured Interviews schedule which was used for the Group Discussion at the village level Consultation. Consultation with the land owner also covers in-depth discussion on key concern likely to come up from the land acquisition.

3.2 Approach to the study:

The study has been carried out in the following stages:

- Collection of secondary data from Government department related to the project.
- Discussion with concerned state department and authority about the project.
- Review of related literature, laws and guidelines related to Compensatory Afforestation.
- Reconnaissance survey of the project location.
- Baseline study on the social condition of Nongumiang village where Compensatory Afforestation will be taken up.
- Interview with the land owners who is likely to be impact from the project.
- Public Consultation was held on March, 2017 to create a general awareness about the project as well as get an insight on the opinion and perception of the people on the proposed compensatory afforestation
- Interpretation and analysis of data collected from the field work, and drawing out mitigation measure to address potential impacts.
- Public hearing on the proposed Compensatory Afforestation at **Nongumiang, West Khasi Hills District** was held for persons of interest in the said project.
- Compilation of report and submission of Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) to the concerned Government departments.

Part B:

**SOCIAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT**

VILLAGE DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

This section describe the demographic profile and availability of developmental infrastructure within Nongumiang village where the proposed Compensatory Afforestation will be taken up.

4.1 Nongumiang village

Nongumiang village is located in Nongstoin block of West Khasi Hills district in Meghalaya, India. It is situated 25 km away from the district headquarter Nongstoin. There are three localities in the village, namely, Nongkyndait, Law Nongrim & Mawlynrew.

As per Population Census 2011, Nongumiang has a total population of 127 of which 70 are males while 57 are females which belong to the scheduled tribe. There are about 20 households in the village. The average family size of Nongumiang village is between 8-10 persons. In 2011, the literacy rate in the village is 59.84%, which is higher than the overall literacy rate of the state. Out of the total population, 22.83 % of the people are cultivators, 11.02 % are agricultural workers, 1.57 % are household workers and 3.14 % are other workers.

Table 1 Availability of Community infrastructure/public service in the village

Sl no.	Infrastructure/public service	Availability	Unit/ Comments
1.	Primary School (Lower)	Yes	Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.
2.	Secondary School	No	At Maweit (St. Mary's and Christian School)
3.	Higher Education	No	At Maweit (St. Mary's and Christian School)
4.	Anganwadi Centre	Yes	01
5.	Self Help Groups	No	--
6.	Public Distribution Centre	No	Nongsba
7.	Hospital	No	Maweit & Miangshang
8.	Public Health Centre	No	Miangshang
9.	Community Hall	No	--
10.	Library	No	--
11.	Youth Clubs	Yes	01(Sports Club)
12.	Traditional Healers	No	--
13.	Religious Institutions	Yes	01 (Roman Catholic)
14.	Accessibility to PHE water	No	--
15.	Accessibility to community well	No	--
16.	Road (Black top and Kutcha)	Yes	Kutcha

17.	Transportation	No	From Nongsba
18.	Community Forest	No	--
19.	Cremation/burial ground	Yes	02 (Nongkyndait)
20.	Playgrounds	Yes	01 (Near the school)
21.	Market	No	At Maweit
22.	NGO's	No	--
23.	Bank	No	At Maweit

The table above depicts the availability of community infrastructure/ public service available in Nongumiang village. From the above table, it can be said that the village has very poor or minimal facilities available. Though Nongumiang village has only one Lower Primary School within the village under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), it has other recreational and religious facilities like playground and graveyards. The community members of the village have their own agricultural land and/or forest land. Individual owning forest land range from 0.5 Acre to 1 Acre.

Since the village have poor or no facilities within the village, the residents of Nongumiang are dependent for their educational facilities, market accessibility and health facilities from Maweit village which is 2 kms more or less away from the village. To avail other public services, the residents uses available services/facilities from Nongsba village and Miangshang village.

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Stakeholder consultations were held to

- (i) understand the current scenario of the village that needs to be addressed during the project preparation and implementation;
- (ii) draw out social issue that need to be addressed during project phase;
- (iii) understand the perceived impacts from the project implementation, etc.

5.1 Consultation:

The aim for Consultation is to create a general public awareness among the potential beneficiaries about the proposed acquisition of land for Compensatory Afforestation in respect of National Highway at Nongumiang, West Khasi Hills District, Nongstoin.

Consultation at the village level was held on the 03rd of March, 2017 in the presence of the Villages Traditional Authority (Headman and the Secretary) along with the community members of the village. The village level consultation had 21 participants with 11 male and 10 female attending the consultation. Majority of the participants (both male and female) from the village were cultivators and farmers. **(Annexure 4)**

Table 2 Village level Consultation Participants

Village level Consultation Participants			
Description	Units		
Total Participation	21	Male	11
		Female	10
Age groups attending the Consultation	21 to 70 years	13 participants were between the age group of 21 to 35 years	
		8 participants were between the age group of 46 to 70 years	
Occupation	Out of 21 participants, 20 participants were Cultivators and Farmers while only the land Owner is a Businessman.		



Figure 2: Village Level Consultation at Nongumiang Village.

5.2 Discussion with the Land Owner:

The land falls under the sole ownership of Shri Sainen Nongrum (51 years), a resident of New Nongstoin Village. The land has been registered with the Nongstoin Syiemship and with the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council (KHADC) and Revenue Branch, Nongstoin. According to the land owner, the land has been bought during the year 2009 from Smt. Bina Kharbani a resident of Nongumiang. Shri Sainen Nongrum has a total land area of 300 Hectares and the proposed land to be acquired measures an area of 51.199 hectares or 5,11,900 Sq. metres



Figure 3: Interview with the Land Owner, Shri S. Nongrum

The land to be acquired does not have any residential area, cultivable land nor matured trees. It is an arable shrub area. However, this land is being used by the community members for *jhum* cultivation or shifting cultivation for growing paddy. The paddy grown is for self-consumption only. The land remains fallow most of the years. The community members does not have to pay any price for cultivating in that area. The land also have small patches of broomgrass plants which are used for domestic purpose only by the community members.

Shri Sailen Nongrum stated that, the acquisition will not affect him or the community members utilising the land since he has additional land adjacent to the land to be acquired which can be used by the community members. He feels that the acquisition for compensatory afforestation will preserve the forest, as most of the forest are being destroyed for human needs. He also stated the necessity for the land acquisition which will help increase the size of the existing Government Catchment Forest in Nongumiang village as this is the only reserve forest within the West Khasi Hills District. He quoted, “I alone cannot take care of the forest, but the government intervention will help grow a new forest and this will give the local people job during the implementation of plantation. If the government requires more land for afforestation, I will give more land without any hesitation”.

5.3 Group Discussion with the Community Members:



Figure 4: Village level Consultation in the presence of the Nongumiang headman

Accessibility to forest product: The community members stated that they collect fuel wood from nearby their houses and does not have to go and collect woods from the reservoir forest

or from the land of Shri Sailen Nongrum since both these area are located far away from the residential area. Individual land owner collect fuel wood from their Clan forest or Individual Forest land. The community members stated that they collect dead trees which are used for fuel wood, logging and making charcoal to add up to the individual household income generation. Certain trees like *Dieng Bei* and *Dieng Kyrbai* are not cut until they mature since these trees are of high market value.

Perception on the existing Government Catchment Forest in Nongumiang village: The Government Catchment Forest in Nongumiang Village is about 31 hectares and was formed in the 1980's by the Forest and Environment Department, Nongstoin. The existence of the reservoir forest have attracted a lot of animals and birds like deer, wild pig, elephant, bulbul, etc into the forest. The forest is watched and monitored by the 2 Forest Guards, residing in the nearby village, *Miangshang* Village, who visit the spot every time. Other Officials from Nongstoin, also come to visit the reservoir forest, as well as they have planted trees in the area from its inception. The reservoir forest, according to the community member, has become a dense forest and no plantation has happen over the past 6 to 7 years due to lack of space.

The people of the village have socially agreed upon themselves to not cut trees or allow any illegal logging from the reservoir forest even without the government asking them. There has not been any case of forest fire, illegal logging or killing of animals and birds in the reservoir forest.



Figure 5: Resident present at the Village level Consultation

Forest Conservation practices adopted by Nongumiang community members: The Headman of Nongumiang said that preservation of forest in the village has been practiced from time immemorial. The village has a verbal *adong shnong* or village law that prevents the community members from cutting or misusing the forest products in the existing Government Catchment Forest. So far, there has been no case of misconduct in the Government Catchment Forest. In cases of individual forest or clan forest, the community members does not plant trees after the trees has been cut for logging or charcoal making. It was stated that the trees naturally grow by itself within 6 to 7 years, so they did not feel the need to replant a tree.

Usage of land to be acquired by the community members: The community members does not use the land to be acquired frequently. However, only few individuals use the land for paddy cultivation. The land to be acquired is bordered by *Umiang* river, which is being used for fishing by the local people. Sometimes the community members are hired by the land owner to clean and prune the area. Some members use the forest to collect mushrooms, edible plants, etc



Figure 6: Village level Consultation, Nongumiang Village

Impact of the Compensatory afforestation: The community members feels that the extension of the Government Catchment Forest will have no or minimal impact on the community since the land to be acquired is not used by the community member except for jhum cultivation. Another main factor is the land belongs to an individual owner and he has the right to decide on what he want to do with this land.

However, the following are the potential impacts:

- The local people will be provided with employment opportunities during the implementation and operational phase of the Afforestation project.
- This initiative will create an identity and popularise the village due to the presence of the Government Catchment Forest, which is the only one in West Khasi Hills.
- It will promote tourism in the area, due to the scenic beauty created by River *Umiang* and River *Kynshi*. It will become an adventurous trekking spot since the village has waterfalls and small river sand beach in the area.
- It will increase the local ecosystem of the Village.

Not required for alternative land site: The community members feels that the land of Shri Sailen Nongrum in Nongumiang, adjacent to the Government Catchment Forest is a perfect location for the implementation of Compensatory Afforestation as the land belongs to only one owner and chance of project implementation will not be delayed. In most cases, the land in the village belong to different clan an acquiring land from the clan forest can cause conflict or disapproval among the clan member.

MAJOR FINDING AND CONCLUSION FROM THE STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

From the above stakeholder consultation, the following are the major finding:

- The land belong solely to Shri Sailen Nongrum which has been registered under the Nongstoin Syiemship under the jurisdiction of KHADC and does not fall under disputed/ contentious land.
- The land to be acquired falls under arable shrub. The land does not have any structure or public service facilities in place and is far from residential area.
- Only a small portion of the land is used for jhum cultivation, paddy cultivation. There are no matured trees within the land to be acquired, only small thickets were observed.
- The acquisition will not affect the land owner, as Shri Sailen Nongrum has an additional land of about 250 Hectares more or less adjacent to the land to be acquired.
- The local people through verbal *adong shnong* or village law encourages the protection of the reserve forest from illegal logging and other illegal activity.
- The local people has never taken up afforestation in the village. So the coming of this program in the village will create a general awareness on the importance of afforestation.
- The Compensatory Afforestation has no or minimal impact on the community members.
- The Compensatory Afforestation will provide employment opportunity for the local people during implementation and operation phase of the project.
- The compensatory afforestation will promote tourism as well as increase the local ecosystem in the area.

The findings above indicates that the Compensatory Afforestation is a boon in the village as this will provide the community members with employment opportunities during the project implementation phase. This will also increase the area of Government Catchment Forest within West Khasi Hills further attracting the growth of more species (both plants and animals) within the region.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearing on the proposed acquisition of land for Compensatory Afforestation with respect to National Highway in Nongumiang village, West Khasi Hills District was held on the 5th April, 2017 in Nongumiang Lower Primary School in the presence of Shri V. Swer, Block Development Officer (Nongstoin), Shri ABS Swer, OSD (MIG), Officials from Revenue Department (Nongstoin), SIA Team from Meghalaya Institute of Governance, Headman of Nongumiang Village, NGOs and media person from T7 News. **(Annexure 5)**



Figure 7: Public hearing at Nongumiang village

The meeting was attended by 47 participants from Nongumiang village, of which 28 were Males and 19 were Females. The participants attending the formal meeting were farmers, daily wage labourer, businessperson, teacher, aganwadi worker and member of FKJGP. **(Annexure 6)**

The following are the discussion:

The headman of Nongumiang village stated that the negative impact from the compensatory afforestation on the community will not be there as the land belong to an individual owner who has bought and sold this land under this own right. The compensatory afforestation will not create any disturbance to community members utilising the resources

(fishes) of river *Rishi* and river *Umiang* as the rivers lie in the border of the proposed land to be acquired. He said that the village has no objection to the proposed project. Rather, he feels that the compensatory afforestation is a blessing for improving the environment, increasing the species and providing the community members with employment opportunities. However, he feared that since the village is backward, outsiders may come and suppress the right of the local people. To address to his fear, it was informed that such case will not happen as the government will focus more on afforestation and will also include the local people where ever necessary.

The existing Government Catchment Forest is about 30 Ha more or less and he has no objection towards Shri S. Nongrum, land owners, for giving away his land for a good cause. He further stated that proper land boundary should be provided to prevent any encroachment by the local people utilities the natural facilities surrounding the proposed land to be acquired.



Figure 8: Elders presenting his view at the public hearing.

President of FKJGP, Maweit Circle stated that after hearing the report read out by the SIA team, he was convinced that the project will work towards conserving and preserving the environment. He feels that the location proposed for the compensatory afforestation is ideal as the area nearby has a lot of human activities like mine area, charcoal making, logging etc which lead to environmental degradation. He said that the organisation has no objection to environmental development. However, if such development threatened the safety and security

of the local people, we will not support it. He also put up queries on the disturbance of utilities of river sources for fishing by the local people; accessibility to the Government Catchment Forest and restriction on usage of dead plants and non-timber products; and any other hidden purpose for the acquisition.



Figure 9: President of FKJGP, Maweit Circle at the Public Hearing.

Shri ABS Swer, OSD of MIG after listening to all queries stated that according to the map proposed for the acquisition, the rivers will not fall under the Government Catchment Forest as they surround and form the boundary of the proposed land. Utilising the dead plants in the Government Catchment Forest will cause a disturbance on the new plants and microorganisms of that particular ecosystem which depends on these dead plants for manure. The main purpose of this acquisition is for conserving the environment as some portion of forest land has been converted to non- forest land for road development. This conservation will bring a sustainable growth in the environment and our future generation.

An elder from the village stated that the project needs to prioritise the local people first and provide them with employment opportunities during the project implementation. It was put forth that local resource person should be appointed to monitor the operational phase on the Government Catchment Forest.

An elder from the village stated that the presence of a forest will attract wild animals into the villages and chances where the village livestock will be attacked. At present only a few small animals and birds are seen in the Government Catchment Forest and so far no

human- animal conflict or attack on the livestock has happen. The villagers use the Government Catchment Forest to collect non-timber forest products like mushrooms, bamboos, local edible plants, etc and they hope that restriction will not be imposed on these utilities. Since the village practice jhum cultivation they feel that giving up such practices will affect their food security.



Figure 10: Elders present his views at the Public Hearing.

Shri V. Swer, BDO, Nongstoin stated that this exercise for conducting SIA study was part of the new Land Acquisition Act, 2013. He was satisfied with the proceeding of the public hearing and appreciated the transparency in delivery the whole process.

After hearing to the opinions and perceptions of the community members, the people present in the meeting were asked to vote by raising their hand if they approved or not to the proposed land acquisition of Compensatory Afforestation in Nongumiang village, West Khasi Hills. All of the community members in the meeting approved to the proposed acquisition.

Part C:
**SOCIAL IMPACT
MANAGEMENT PLAN
(SIMP)**

SOCIAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Land acquisition has been proposed by the PWD (Roads) National Highway Division, Shillong measures on an area of 51.199 Hectares adjacent to the government catchment forest at Nongumiang, West Khasi Hills District for the purpose of Compensatory Afforestation in respect of National Highway 44E (Shillong-Nongstoin-Tura Road).

From the stakeholder consultation and public hearing held in Nongumiang village, it was put forth that the proposed compensatory afforestation will not have any adverse impact on the community members of the village. The land to be acquired has small thicket of trees, shrubs and bamboos with no infrastructural or public service facilities. The community members feel that the compensatory afforestation will help improve and conserve the environment as well as bring additional benefits to the community in the form of employment, increase in biodiversity species and promoting ecotourism.

The following are some of the points that needs to be kept in mind while implementing the proposed Compensatory Afforestation:

- The competent authority should continue to allow access to the land by the community members of Nongumiang village.
- Avoid restriction on the use of Non Timber Forest products like mushrooms, local edible plants, medicinal plants, bamboo etc which are used for household sustenance.
- Avoid plantation of exotic plants/ trees and promote the growth of local indigenous plants.
- Employment opportunities preference should be given to the local people during the implementation phase (like digging of soil, planting of trees, establishment of nurseries, etc) and operational phase (like monitoring and keeping tract on the survival rate of the plants, pruning, etc) of the Compensatory Afforestation.
- The village people can be involved in the protection and prevention of forest fires.
- Cutting and logging of trees should be strictly prohibited.

From the survey conducted, it can be concluded that the proposed Compensatory Afforestation does not have any adverse impact on the community and no objection has been raised from the residents of Nongumiang and others.

ANNEXURE:

Annexure 1. Notification for conducting Social Impact Assessment Study.

R. 06/02/2017

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GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
REVENUE & DISASTER MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

No.RDA.73/2016/7

Dated Shillong, the 31st January, 2017.

From Shri. B. Hajong, MCS,
Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya
Revenue & Disaster Management Department.

To The Deputy Commissioner,
West Khasi Hills District, Nongstoin.

Subject **Acquisition of land for compensatory afforestation in respect of National Highway at Nongumiang, West Khasi Hills Nongstoin.**

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith the Notification Under Section 4(2) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 bearing No.RDA.73/2016/8, dt. 31.01.2017 in both English and Khasi in respect of the above mentioned land for favour of publication both in English and Khasi Newspapers respectively in circulation in the locality without waiting for the publication in the Meghalaya Gazette.

In this connection, I am also to request you to keep a regular watch on the publication of the same promptly. The Publisher may also be instructed to submit a copy of the newspaper clipping carrying the Notification to this Department.

Further you are also to kindly make necessary steps to display in the strategic locations/affected areas as prescribe in the Act for wide publicity.

Yours faithfully,

Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya
Revenue & Disaster Management Department.

Memo. No.RDA. 73/2016/7-A

Dated Shillong, the 31st January, 2017.

Copy to :-

1. The Commissioner & Secretary/ Director, Printing and Stationery, Meghalaya, Shillong. A typescript copy of the Notification No.RDA.73/2016/8, dt. 31.01.2017 is sent herewith for favour of publication in the extra ordinary issue of the Meghalaya Gazette and to supply 20 printed extra copies to this Department for necessary action and records.
2. The State Informatic Officer, NIC Shillong. A typescript copy of the Notification No.RDA. 73/2016/8, dt. 31.01.2017 is sent herewith with a request to kindly upload the said notification in this Department's Website www.megrevenueanddisastermanagement.gov.in for information of all concerned.
3. The Chief Engineer, PWD (Road) NH Shillong for information.
4. The Secretary, KHADC, East Khasi Hills District for information.
5. The Officer on Special Duty, MIG, Lumpyngngad Cottage, Bishop Cotton Road, Shillong, 793001 with a request to carry out the SIA study within the stipulated time.
6. The Deputy Secretary, Forest & Environment Department for information.

By order etc.,

Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya
Revenue & Disaster Management Department.

NOTIFICATION

Under Section 4 (2) of Right to Fair Compensation & Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.

No.RDA.73/2016/8,

Dated Shillong, the 27th January, 2017.

WHEREAS, acquisition of land area measuring 5,11,900.00 Sq.m at Nongumiang West Khasi Hills, Nongstoin for the purpose of land acquisition for compensatory afforestation in respect of National Highway (proposed project) to be constructed/developed by Government of Meghalaya is/are proposed.

WHEREAS, a social Impact Assessment team of the Meghalaya Institute of Governance (MIG) has been formed to consult, to survey and to take public hearing after publication of this Notification.


WHEREAS, the aforesaid team will fix and indicate the dates and venue for which all concerned will be requested to remain present with their claims/objections/suggestions, if any.

WHEREAS, the concerned land owner Shri. Sailen Nongrum himself or his representative the Headman of Nongumiang and the villagers may remain present for hearing for consent/approval for the project.

WHEREAS, the process must be completed and SIA report must be submitted along with the plan (SIMP) within the time specified as per RFCT-LARR Act, 2013.

WHEREAS, any attempt at coercion or threat against the process during the specified period will render the exercise null & void.

Now, therefore, if there is any requirement for information, anyone may contact the SIA Unit.


(Shri. B. Hajong, MCS)
Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya
Revenue & Disaster Management Department.

Annexure 2.
Khasi Hills.

Letter for Conducting SIA study from Deputy Commissioner of West

1/22/08/16

By Special Messengers. (14)

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WEST KHASI HILLS DISTRICT
NONGSTOIN.

No.NDR/LA-RF-1/2016/4 Dated Nongstoin the 17th August, 2016

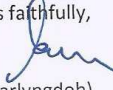
To
✓ Shri Aibor Swer,
Officer on Special Duty, Meghalaya Institute of Governance,
MEBDA Office, Lumpyngngad, Shillong near Chief Secretary's Residence.

Sub:- Proposed acquisition of land for compensatory Afforestation in respect of National Highway at Nongumiang, West Khasi Hills District.

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above I am to inform you that the Public Works Department vide letter No.NH/TB/1751/Pt-IV/2010/3654 dt.8-8-2016 received from the Executive Engineer, PWD(Roads) National Highway Division, Shillong (copy enclosed along with map of the land) proposed to acquire a plot of land measuring 51.199 hectares adjacent with the Government Catchment forest at Nongumiang village of West Khasi Hills District for the purpose of Compensatory Afforestation in respect of National Highway. The land proposed to be acquired belonged to Shri Sailen Nongrum of New-Nongstoin village and located at Nongumiang village, Nongstoin Syiemship of West Khasi Hills District under the jurisdiction of Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council. The distance of the proposed land to be acquired from Nongstoin is 25Kms on Nongstoin-Maweit PWD road and 4Kms jungle road from Nongsba a village existed on the above road.

Therefore, as entrusted by the Government of Meghalaya vide Notification No.RDA.67/2013/120 dt. 24-06-2015, I am to request you to kindly initiate proceedings for conduct of the Social Impact Assessment study for acquisition of the land at Nongumiang, as per the guidelines of the above notification and the provisions of section 4 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation & Resettlement Act, 2013. The proposed estimated social impact assessment fee may please be determined and intimated to the undersigned for further necessary action. The study is expected to be conducted from your end at the earliest, on placement of the fee by the requiring department with the Collector, West Khasi Hills District, Nongstoin.

Yours faithfully,

(S.Kharlyngdoh)
Deputy Commissioner,
West Khasi Hills District,
Nongstoin.

Contd- -2-

Annexure 3. Letter of Consent from KHADC for initiation of Acquisition

Rev ✓

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
KHASI HILLS AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT COUNCIL
SHILLONG

No.DC.RBF/XII/273/2016/2

Dated Shillong, the 28th November, 2016

To,

The Deputy Commissioner,
West Khasi Hills District,
Nongstoin.

Subject: - Consent for initiation of land acquisition proceedings for
compensatory Afforestation in respect of National Highway at Nongumiang,
West Khasi Hills District.

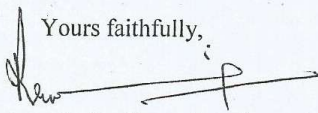
Reference:- No.NDR/LA-RF-1/2016/5 Dt. 20.09.2016

Sir,

The Executive Committee, Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council hereby
conveys its consent for initiation of land acquisition proceedings in respect of Acquisition of
51.199 hectares at Nonhumiang Village, Nongstoin Syiemship for compensatory
Afforestation in respect of National Highway at Nongumiang, West Khasi Hills District in
lieu of the diverted forest land in construction of NH44E- Shillong-Nongstoin-Tura Road
falling within the territorial jurisdiction of the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council.

The above certification is based on the information supplied by the administration
and this office may be intimated on completion of the acquisition proceedings or any dispute that
may arise.

Yours faithfully,



Joint Secretary to the Executive Committee
Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council,
Shillong.

Annexure 4. Attendance Sheet from the Public Consultation/ stakeholder consultation.

Attendance Sheet
Proposed Acquisition of land for Compensatory Afforestation in respect of National Highway
at Nongumiang, West Khasi Hills District

Date: 03.03.2017

Sl.no	Name	Age	Gender	Occupation	Village	Phone No	Signature
1.	Saiden Nongum	51	M	Business	Nongumiang	9836130329	[Signature]
2.	Kimborhon	49	M	Lyngkha	do	-	[Signature]
3.	Krispin Dkhar	62	M	Lyngkha	do	-	[Signature]
4.	Jovoni mus Pwain	65	M	Lyngkha	do	-	[Signature]
5.	Phronstar Mangar	46	M	Farmer	-do-	-	[Signature]
6.	Biyona Nongliang	70	F	-do-	-do-	-	[Signature]
7.	Brit Nongliang	35	F	-do-	-do-	-	[Signature]
8.	Albina Nongliang	35	F	-do-	-do-	-	[Signature]
9.	Darshana Dang Nongliang	21	F	-do-	-do-	-	[Signature]
10.	Michael Nongliang	29	F	-do-	-do-	-	[Signature]
11.	Karlene Nongliang	23	F	-do-	-do-	-	[Signature]
12.	Krolmox Nongliang	26	F	-do-	-do-	-	[Signature]
13.	Tildaris Nongliang	24	F	-do-	-do-	7422019674	[Signature]

Attendance Sheet
Proposed Acquisition of land for Compensatory Afforestation in respect of National Highway
at Nongumiang, West Khasi Hills District

Date: 03.03.2017

Sl.no	Name	Age	Gender	Occupation	Village	Phone No	Signature
14.	Serila Nongliang	51	F	Farmer	Nongumiang	9615877827	[Signature]
15.	Pigus Nongliang	21	M	-do-	-do-	-	[Signature]
16.	Blasius Pwain (Secretary)	35	M	-do-	-do-	8014339420	[Signature]
17.	Darshila Nongliang	52	F	-do-	-do-	-	[Signature]
18.	Daniel Pwain	23	M	-do-	-do-	-	[Signature]
19.	Toren Nongliang	26	M	-do-	-do-	7423849282	[Signature]
20.	Danvi Donald Pwain	23	M	-do-	-do-	-	[Signature]
21.	Rokar Sangliang (H/M)	63	M	-do-	-do-	-	[Signature]

Annexure 5. Public Notice for conducting Public Hearing on Setting up of
Facilitation Centre Entry and Exit Point.



Meghalaya Institute of Governance (MIG)
Lumpynggad Cottage, Bishop Cotton Road
Shillong- 793001, Meghalaya

Phone no: 0364- 2505977
No: MIG 183/2016-17/ 575

Email: migshillong@gmail.com
Dated: 10th March, 2017

Public Notice

The Meghalaya Institute of Governance has been notified as the State Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Unit to conduct Social Impact Assessment Study for acquisition of land measuring an area of approximately 5,11,900.00 Sq. metres at Nongumiang, West Khasi Hills District for the purposes of Compensatory Afforestation in respect to National Highway.

In connection with this, a Public Hearing will be held in R.C Lower Primary School, Nongumiang, West Khasi Hills District at 11:00 am on the 5th of April, 2017 (Wednesday).

All interested persons are invited to attend the said Public Hearing to express their claims/ objections/ suggestion, if any, on the proposal.

Dr. BDR Tiwari, IAS
Executive Director,
Meghalaya Institute of Governance,
Shillong.

No: MIG 183/2016-17/ 575

Dated: 10th March, 2017

Copy to:-

1. The Deputy Commissioner, West Khasi Hills District, Nongstoin
2. The Under Secretary, Govt. of Meghalaya, Revenue and Disaster Management Department.
3. The Deputy Secretary, Govt. of Meghalaya, Forest and Environment Department.
4. The Chief Engineer, PWD (Road) National Highway, Shillong.
5. The Superintendent of Police, West Khasi Hills District, Nongstoin.
6. The Block Development Officer, Nongstoin Block, West Khasi Hills District, Nongstoin.
7. The Directorate of Information and Public Relation, Shillong.
8. The C.E.M, Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council, Shillong.
9. The Sordar of Nongumiang village, West Khasi Hills District, Nongstoin.

Executive Director,
Meghalaya Institute of Governance,
Shillong.

Annexure 6. Attendance Sheet for Public hearing, held on the 5th April, 2017.

Attendance Sheet
Social Impact Assessment for Compensatory Afforestation in respect to
National Highway at Nongumiang Village, West Khasi Hills District.
 Date: 5 APRIL 2017 FOR OFFICE DEPTD

Sl.no	Name	Gender	Occupation	Phone No	Signature
1.	Aibon Swer.	M	Govt. Service	9436109181	
2	V. SWER	M	BDO Nongstoin	9436302952	
3	Edibert David Lyden	M	Handal (Gov. Office)	9774815547	
4	Shat Lyden	M	Enforcement Checker Khasi Nongstoin DE. Jha	98569 99450	

Attendance Sheet
Social Impact Assessment for Compensatory Afforestation in respect to
National Highway at Nongumiang Village, West Khasi Hills District.
 Date: 5 APRIL 2017

Sl.no	Name	Gender	Occupation	Phone No	Signature
1.	Rozar Gangrang	M	Rozar Gangrang	—	
2.	K. Marbanian	M	Business	—	
3	S. Nongrang	M	Business	9856130319	
4.	Smt. Felicitas Lyngkhei	F	Teaching	8575540305	
5	Wilfred Nongrang	M			
6.	Shri Bis Singh Lyntong	M		8575689451	
7	Debi Shon.	M	FARMER	—	
8	WANSOR DKHAR	M	—do—	—	
9	DONKI DONALD Pwlin	M	—do—	—	
10	Justina Nongrang	F	—do—	—	

Attendance Sheet

Social Impact Assessment for Compensatory Afforestation in respect to
National Highway at Nongumiang Village, West Khasi Hills District.

Date: 05 APRIL 2017

Sl.no	Name	Gender	Occupation	Phone No	Signature
11.	Jeromeil Pulin	M	FARMER	—	J. Pulin
12.	Kardinal Nongliang	M	— do —	—	K. Nongliang
13.	Kimberlin marthong	M	FARMER	—	Kimberlin
14.	Selestin Nongliang	M	Farmer	9615977540	Selestin
15.	USian Khoubani	M	Farmer	—	USian
16.	Daniel Pulin	M	— do —	—	D. Pulin
17.	P. Mavangar	M	Labour	—	P. Mavangar
18.	Marcus Sangriang	M	Farmer	—	M. Sangriang
19.	Phulbak Fyntong	M	Farmer	8014935882	Phulbak
20.	Kiespin Dkhar	M	Farmer	—	K. Dkhar

Attendance Sheet

Social Impact Assessment for Compensatory Afforestation in respect to
National Highway at Nongumiang Village, West Khasi Hills District.

Date: 5 APRIL 2017

Sl.no	Name	Gender	Occupation	Phone No	Signature
21.	Teren Nongliang	M	Labour	—	T. N.
22.	Kwenes Nongliang	M	Farmer	9615440625	K. Nongliang
23.	Handing John Wohlang	M	— do —	—	H. John
24.	Pius Langvin	M	— do —	961543067	P. Langvin
25.	Chantor Dkhar	M	— do —	9615522726	C. Dkhar
26.	B. Pwain	M	— do —	—	B. Pwain
27.	Kuerlhen Rympon	M	Forest Worker	—	K. Rympon
28.	Pius Tynpau	M	Farmer	—	P. Tynpau
29.	Kwintina Nongliang	F	— do —	—	K. Nongliang
30.	Mondavil Langvin	F	— do —	—	M. Langvin

Attendance Sheet

**Social Impact Assessment for Compensatory Afforestation in respect to
National Highway at Nongumiang Village, West Khasi Hills District.**

Date: 5 APRIL 2017

Sl.no	Name	Gender	Occupation	Phone No	Signature
31.	Sukidia Langrin	F	Farmer	—	
32	Serina Nongliang	F	Farmer	—	Sig
33	Krolmevi Nongliang	F	-do-	—	K. Nongliang
34	Phynailin Lyrua	F	-do-	—	Phynailin
35.	Prohina Nongliang	F	-do-	9615227556	P. Nongliang
36.	Pina Nongliang	F	-do-	—	P. Nongliang
37	Dalin Mary Nongliang	F	-do-	—	D. Nongliang
38	Byonna Nongliang	F	-do-	—	
39	Drisila Nongliang	F	-do-	—	
40.	Albina Nongliang	F	-do-	—	A. Nongliang

Attendance Sheet

**Social Impact Assessment for Compensatory Afforestation in respect to
National Highway at Nongumiang Village, West Khasi Hills District.**

Date: 5 APRIL 2017

Sl.no	Name	Gender	Occupation	Phone No	Signature
41	Margaret Nongliang	F	Farmer	—	Margaret
42.	Rit Nongliang	F	-do-	—	Rit
43.	Tarina Langrin	F	-do-	—	Tarina Langrin
44.	Shal Davis Nongliang	F	Attended	—	Shal
45.	Lina Langrin	F	Farmer	—	L. Langrin
46.	Shri. Anthony Limong	M	pre- & HSDP project	9615986082	Shri
47	Shri. Susan Nongliach	M	Teacher - Limiang	9615860040	Shri

Annexure 7. Semi- Structured Interview for the Village Community Members.

Meghalaya Institute of Governance (MIG)
Proposed Acquisition of Land for Compensatory Afforestation in respect of National Highway at Nongumiang, West Khasi Hills, Nongstoin.

Assessment of the Village Area.

Date:

0.1. Settlement Demographic Survey

Distance of village to nearest urban area:

Distance of village to the nearest National Highway:

0.2. Land use pattern

Land & its Uses	Village total area	Agricultural area	Forest area	Barren area	Homestead	Community area
Area						
Condition						

0.3. Assessment

0.3.1. Land Assessment

Description	Details			
Location of the land required				
Total area of land required in acres				
Ownership of land	Government	Private	Community	Others
Land utility or land use details in project area	Commercial	Residential	Agriculture	Others
Determining the necessity for land acquisition				
Alternative, if any				

0.3.2. Socio-economic Assessment

Description	Details
-------------	---------

Name and numbers of localities in the project area					
Type of localities		Urban		Rural	
Total population		Male		Female	
Total household					
Social groups		SC	ST	OBC	General
Religion		Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Others
Literacy rate		Male		Female	
Occupation details	Farmers	Non-agri labourer	Business	Government service	Others
Income	BPL		APL		Others

0.3.3. Community Infrastructure/ public service

Sl.no	Infrastructure/ public service	Units	Condition
1.	Primary School		
2.	Secondary School		
3.	Higher Education		
4.	Anganwadi center		
5.	Self help groups		
6.	Public Distribution Centre		
7.	Hospital		
8.	Public Health Centre		
9.	Community Hall		
10.	Library		
11.	Youth clubs		
12.	Traditional healers		
13.	Religious institution		
14.	Accessibility to PHE water		
15.	Accessibility to community well		
16.	Road (Black top and Kutcha)		
17.	Transportation		
18.	Community Forests		
19.	Cremation/burial ground		
20.	Playgrounds		
21.	Market		
22.	NGOs		
23.	Bank		
24.	Others		

0.4. Assessment on the village issues

1. How do you make use of the forest products?
2. Use of non-timber forest products from the reservoir forest and in the village?
3. Change in pattern in the usage of forest products over the year?
4. How many people are dependent on forest products for their livelihood?
5. For what Purpose do the community member utilised the proposed land?
6. What is your perception and/or impact from the existing reserve forest in the village?
7. How often do the officials visit the catchment area?
8. Have there been any case where the local people has been supress by the officials visiting the area?
9. Impact from the increase in the reserve forest?
10. What are the mitigative measure to address the impacts likely to come up from the proposed compensatory afforestation?
11. What are the social concern likely to come up from this project?
12. What are your fear and aspiration from this project?
13. Do you feel the need for an alternative project location?

Thank you for your time.

Annexure 8. **Semi- Structured Interview for Land owners**

Meghalaya Institute of Governance (MIG)
Proposed Acquisition of Land for Compensatory Afforestation in respect of National Highway at Nongumiang, West Khasi Hills, Nongstoin.

Date:

Interview Schedule for the Land Owners:

1. Name of the land owner:
2. Age:
3. Village name:
4. Total people dependent on the land:
5. Land use pattern of the acquired land:
6. Usage of the land: Seasonally/ Annually
7. If fallow, for how many years? Why?
8. If on lease, for how many years? To whom? Rental fee (yearly) if any?
9. Willingness to give the land?
10. Impact on the individual and/or family?
11. Alternative land if any for the proposed Compensatory afforestation?