



# PV CLIMATE

## PROJECT IDEA NOTE

# REDD+ Project for Indigenous Tribal Communities, Northeast India

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## Phase I: Manipur & Nagaland

PIN Version 3.0  
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## Overview

<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>REDD+ Project for Indigenous Tribal Communities, Northeast India.</b>
<b>Location:</b>	The project spans across <b>4</b> districts of <b>Manipur</b> and <b>2</b> districts of <b>Nagaland</b> in Northeastern province of <b>India</b> . Districts are as follows, - Ukhrol, Kamjong, Tamenglong & Senapati (Manipur) - Zünheboto and Kiphire <sup>1</sup> (Nagaland)
<b>Project Coordinator:</b>	<b>Organization – Mirin Climate Centre Private Limited</b> Founder & Director – Dr. Phungmayo Horam Contact: +49 17620941564
<b>Project Area:</b>	The project area is approximately <b>20,063.21</b> hectares of land showing matrices of degradation and deforestation. Of this, 19,353.86 hectares in Manipur and 709.35 hectares in Nagaland, forms the current credit accounting boundary. The project sustains room for subsequent inclusion of more land areas showing a gradual decline in forest areas and requiring appropriate interventions. Additionally, the project also includes land areas with relatively stable forest cover and ‘at-risk’ forest areas of approximately <b>49,000</b> hectares land.
<b>Project Participants:</b>	The proposed REDD+ project will initially engage around 2,500 households from the tribal community in Manipur and Nagaland which corresponds to over 10,000 individuals being engaged by the project.
<b>Project Intervention(s):</b>	The proposed project interventions are structured under two key components: <b>Restoration</b> , which includes implementing assisted natural regeneration to support the natural growth of forest tree seeds, along with enrichment planting of native and/or fruit-bearing trees to restore degraded areas and enhance forest cover; and, <b>Protection</b> , which involves conducting regular patrols and forest monitoring to detect & mitigate fire incidences and curb illegal logging and other drivers of deforestation and degradation, strengthening the capacity of village communities through plantation drives and training programs to improve forest protection enforcement, and promoting alternative livelihoods such as the production of fruits and other non-timber forest produce to reduce dependence on forest exploitation.
<b>Expected Benefits:</b>	The project aims to generate significant carbon, ecosystem and livelihood benefits by restoring approximately 20,000 hectares of degraded and fallow land across Manipur and Nagaland. It contributes to climate change mitigation by reducing deforestation and forest degradation, enhancing carbon sequestration through assisted natural regeneration, enrichment planting, and forest monitoring. Ecosystem benefits include ameliorating forest health, soil stability, groundwater recharge, and improving biodiversity through the plantation of native species and restoration of degraded habitats.

<sup>1</sup> Kiphire district is subject to feasibility assessments and strategic considerations. Once a final decision is taken regarding its inclusion, we intend to initiate the acknowledgment process with the competent authority formally and undertake the required stakeholder consultation process. The project will duly update Plan Vivo Foundation with developments through proper communication channel.

	On the livelihood front, the project promotes food and nutritional security by planting native fruit-bearing trees, creating additional income opportunities, and empowering local communities through capacity building for sustainable forest management, ensuring long-term resilience and sustainability.
<b>Methodology:</b>	The project shall follow Plan-Vivo approved methodology “PM001 Agriculture and Forestry Carbon Benefit Assessment Methodology V1.0” and “PT002 Estimation of carbon benefits from REDD in community managed forest V2.0”
<b>PIN Version:</b>	1.0 (PIN Template version 1.3)
<b>Date Approved:</b>	18-March-2026

## 1 General Information

### 1.1 Project Interventions

**Table 1.1 – Project Interventions**

<b>Intervention Type</b>	<b>Project Intervention</b>	<b>Expected Benefits</b>
<b>Forest Restoration</b> through formation of Community-Based Forest Protection (CBFP) groups	The project will establish Forest Protection Groups (FPGs) with equal representation of men and women to lead forest conservation efforts. The FPGs will guide local planning, protection, and monitoring activities under the CBFP framework, ensuring inclusive participation.	The intervention aims to slow, halt, and reverse forest loss and degradation by promoting the natural regrowth of native tree species, enhancing the survival of trees, shrubs, and understory vegetation. The project anticipates a significant reduction in forest dependency as well.
<b>Forest Protection</b> by building program management and local governance	The project spans multiple villages and community lands where population pressure, economic needs, and governance gaps have led to forest degradation. To address this, 'Resource Management Units' are being formed—integrating community participation with sustainable economic use within ecological limits. This model is being developed through consultations with Local communities to embed traditional multispecies knowledge, scientists to integrate technological and ecological innovations, and policymakers to align with the 2030 UN SDGs.	The RMUs will oversee the planning, coordination of strategies, and distribution of financial returns. It will develop a region-specific resource management plan/manual. Moreover, it has the potential to initiate and implement mitigation and livelihood activities. The unit will also disseminate REDD+ project activities to neighboring community members and villages.
Enrichment Plantation	Carefully selected native fruit-bearing tree species are planted across degraded lands, community lands, and agricultural field boundaries. These species are chosen aligning to indigenous tribal knowledge ensuring both ecological appropriateness and community ownership. Plantation efforts are designed not only to support carbon	Expected outcomes include increased species diversity, enhanced carbon sinks, and improved ecological resilience. A critical assumption is that the use of native species—as opposed to non-native or monoculture plantations—will support long-term biodiversity and ecosystem stability. This approach is informed by scientific findings <sup>2</sup> , which

<sup>2</sup> <https://sci-hub.se/10.1111/j.1755-263X.2010.00143.x>

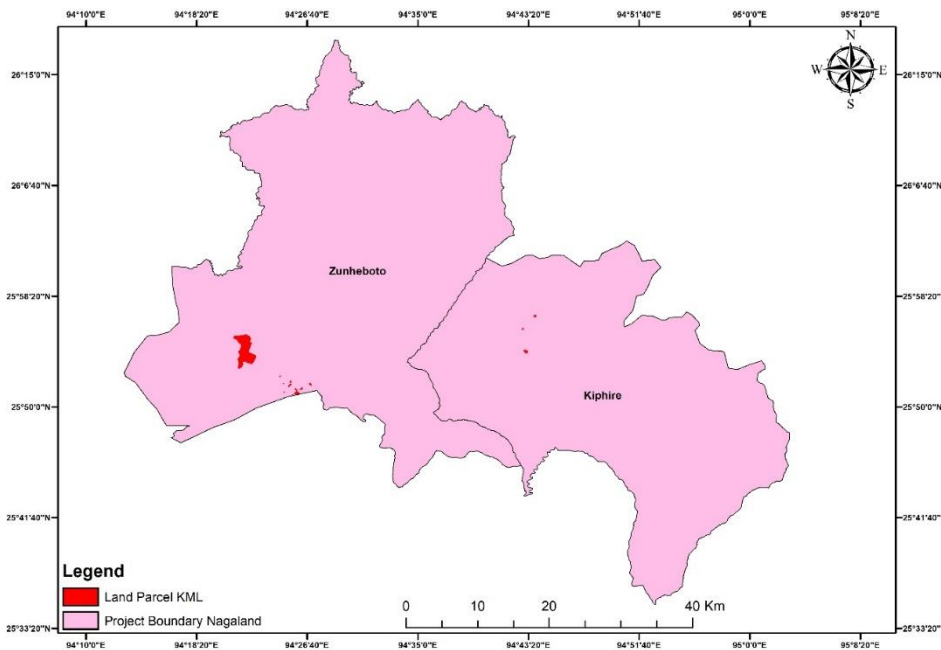
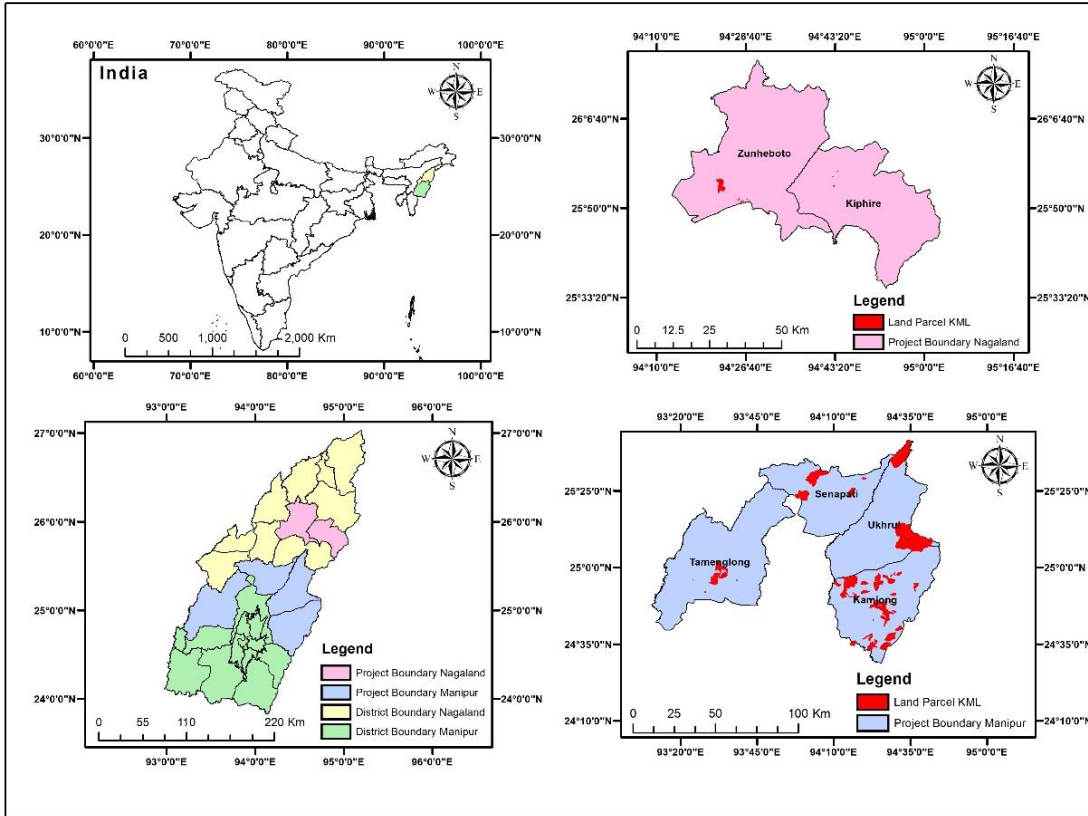
	sequestration but also to provide livelihood and nutritional co-benefits to local households.	highlight that loss of certain species due to selective timber extraction necessitates targeted restoration efforts.
Assisted Natural Regeneration	ANR is a key ecological restoration strategy employed in the project, focusing on the protection and facilitation of natural forest regrowth. This involves the systematic removal of invasive weeds and competitive vegetation that hinder the regeneration of native seedlings, saplings, and rootstock.	ANR is expected to enhance natural regeneration processes, improve biodiversity, and accelerate ecosystem recovery by supporting existing native vegetation. However, its success may be challenged by physical inaccessibility in remote or rugged terrain, making regular weed removal and site maintenance difficult. Additionally, it assumes that there will be sustained community involvement and institutional support throughout the project lifecycle.

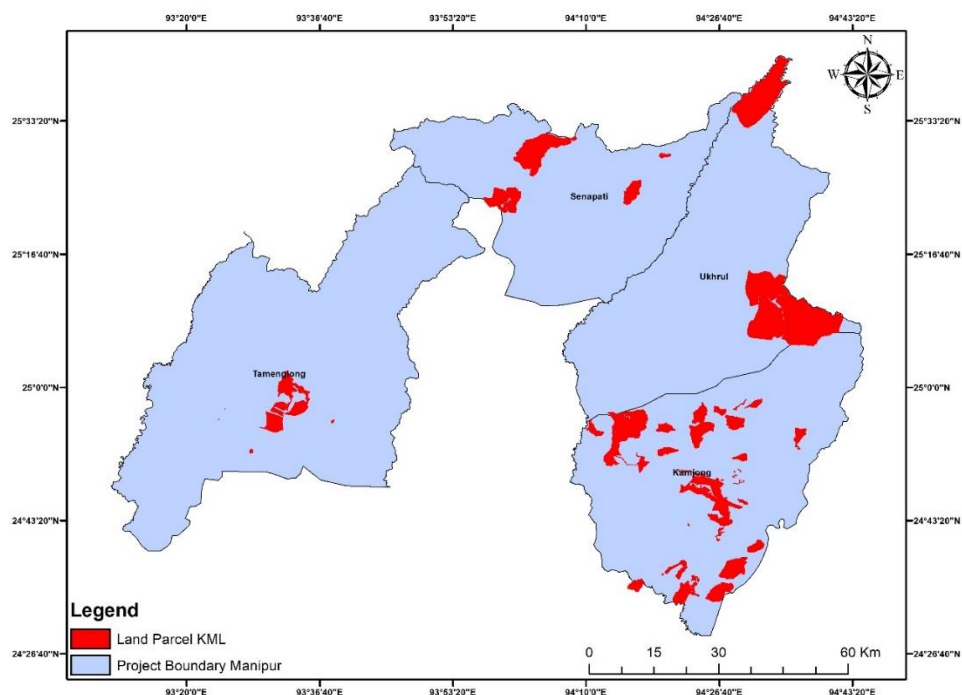
## 1.2 Project Boundaries

**Table 1.2 Project Boundaries**

<b>Location:</b>	Country: India Region: Northeast India (2 target states for Phase I) <b>Manipur:</b> Ukhrul, Kamjong, Tamenglong, Senapati districts <b>Nagaland:</b> Zünheboto and Kiphire district (the district Kiphire is under discussion)
<b>Project Region(s):</b>	The ambitious project is present in one discrete geographical region encompassing two administrative regions of the states of Manipur and Nagaland. Given below in this section are the maps of project boundary and project villages of separately Manipur and Nagaland.
<b>Project Area(s):</b>	The Project Region represents the broader landscape delineated for the implementation of project interventions. Within this, the pilot project area has been restricted to land parcels requiring urgent intervention and comprehensive management measures. These parcels are primarily characterized by a consistent decline in forest cover over the past decade. At the regional scale, the landscape also comprises forests with relatively stable cover, forested parcels exhibiting alternating trends of gain and loss, and zones with a sustained decline in tree cover. In addition, several parcels with stable canopy cover but high susceptibility to anthropogenic pressures—particularly those adjacent to community settlements—have been included. These are designated as “ <b>at-risk forests</b> ” and fall within the REDD+ project boundary for targeted monitoring and protection, but are excluded from the present carbon credit accounting framework. Based on the current analysis, the <b>total project area under accounting</b> amounts to <b>20,063 hectares</b> , with <b>19,353 hectares in Manipur</b> and <b>709 hectares in Nagaland</b> . This area spans

	more than <b>35 villages</b> across the two states, reflecting both ecological diversity and community representation.
<b>Protected Areas:</b>	Not Identified, as there are no protected areas in the regions designated under the project.





### 1.3 Land and Carbon Rights

**Manipur:** The project area operates under customary land tenure systems practiced by tribal communities, where land ownership, user rights, and resource governance are regulated through traditional norms and institutions. Land is generally held collectively by the village or clan, and access is granted to households through lineage-based arrangements overseen by village authorities. Within the formal governance structure of the Manipur (Hill Areas) District Councils Act, 1971, the Autonomous District Councils exercise specific powers relevant to land and natural resource management, including the allotment and use of land for agriculture, grazing, and other community purposes, the management of community forests (excluding reserved forests), the regulation of shifting cultivation, and the preservation and reclamation of soil. These functions align directly with key REDD+ considerations related to land allocation, forest use, and sustainable resource governance. Project participants continue to operate fully within these customary and statutory frameworks. Village-level decision-making, including land allocation and natural resource rights, remains under the authority of the village headman in accordance with established practices. Acknowledgement letters were obtained from the respective District Councils, and signed consent forms were secured from the village chiefs, confirming their approval and consent to participate in the project. It has also been clearly communicated that all land rights remain entirely with the community, and only the carbon benefits generated from the protected areas will be transferred to MCC in accordance with agreed project terms.

**Nagaland:** In Nagaland, land tenure is governed by customary law and is constitutionally protected under Article 371A, whereby ownership of land and its natural resources rests with individuals, clans, or communities rather than the State. Consequently, carbon rights associated with land and forest resources are held by the respective customary landowners, and any carbon project requires the free, prior, and informed consent of these rights holders. In Zunheboto district, the majority of land is under community ownership and land transfer is permitted only within members of the local tribal community in accordance with customary practices. Land administration, dispute resolution,

and consent for land and resource use are exercised at the village level through Village Councils constituted under the Nagaland Village and Area Councils Act, 1978, with Village Chiefs or Headmen serving as the recognized customary authorities responsible for representing the community in matters related to land, forests, and carbon-related agreements.

**Land dispute and overlapping claims:** The project villages are free from land disputes or overlapping claims. The ground implementation teams, along with the project coordinator, Mirin Climate Centre Pvt. Ltd., conducted a detailed land demarcation exercise through extensive consultations with village chiefs and community leaders. Project land parcels were finalized only after a unanimous agreement was reached. During the project design phase, community members were participatorily involved in consultations to confirm the absence of land-related disputes and to identify whether any other carbon projects were ongoing in the project area. Through these consultations, it was confirmed that no parallel carbon projects are operating within the project region and that no disputes related to land tenure or land-use rights exist within the participating communities and villages. Subsequently, No Objection Certificates (NOCs) were formally requested and obtained from the participating villages. A detailed analysis report for all the villages will be shared in PDD stage.

**Carbon rights transfer:** It is also clearly communicated to all project participants that land rights remain entirely with the community, and only the carbon benefits generated from the protected areas will be transferred to the MCC.

## 2 Stakeholder Engagement

### 2.1 Stakeholder Identification

Stakeholder identification formed a core early activity, with the project initiating multiple multi-stakeholder meetings across key locations. Before the formal consultation sessions, Mirin Climate Centre Pvt. Ltd. (MCC), Infinite Environmental Solutions Limited (IESL), Holistic Life Transforming & Empowering Society (HLTEC), Recognize Rise & Empower Association (RREA), Go Green Club (GCC) facilitated several focused group discussions. Village chiefs and leaders were invited in the focal group meetings primarily. The meetings were designed to be gender-inclusive and culturally grounded, helping to map out the relevant stakeholders, understand their interests, define their representation, and determine capacity-building needs. The discussions were held in accessible venues such as administrative buildings and designated meeting spaces to ensure meaningful participation from women and student communities.

Ensuring women's participation is an integral component of the project design. The project applies Participatory Toolkit 1 of the Plan Vivo Standard to systematically identify all stakeholders and assess their respective levels of influence and stake in the project. Through this process, women were identified as local stakeholders with high dependence on forest resources and high stakes in project outcomes, but comparatively lower influence in formal decision-making structures. In response, the project has adopted targeted measures to support and strengthen women's participation, including engagement with women-led groups, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and village-level leaders. Women participants have been actively involved in stakeholder consultations and decision-making processes related to project activities, benefit-sharing mechanisms, and implementation planning, ensuring their perspectives are meaningfully incorporated and their participation is sustained throughout the project lifecycle.

The participation and involvement of women stakeholders were ensured through the following measures. While these steps were applied uniformly to all stakeholders, particular emphasis was placed on facilitating and encouraging the active participation of women. Given below key features of stakeholder consultations to incorporate inclusivity in the project.

1. Identification of Women groups: The project coordinators and founders, who belong to indigenous Naga communities and have long-standing experience working in the project geography, conducted detailed discussions with village chiefs and community leaders to identify key stakeholder groups. Through this process, several significant groups were identified, including women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs), youth groups, students' groups and other community-based collectives, their roles and active involvement in local livelihoods, forest use, and local governance.

2. Invitation for stakeholder consultation meetings: Culturally appropriate approaches were used to invite all identified stakeholders, with particular attention given to facilitating women's participation. Consultations were organized at times and venues that were convenient, accessible, and familiar to the various stakeholder groups. Information was shared through multiple communication channels, including direct in-person outreach, WhatsApp messages, and written notices provided in both the local language and English, to ensure inclusive engagement. In addition, several focused group discussions were conducted with women facilitators and speakers to further support meaningful participation (refer to figures given below). During the meeting individuals and groups were asked to come forward and identify key stakeholders or stakeholder groups.

3. Assessing stakes, participation roles and governance of women communities: During stakeholder meetings, structured participatory discussions were conducted to assess the specific stakes, roles, and governance-related aspects of women's participation in the project. Women will be actively involved in nursery management, sapling distribution, plantation activities, and assisted natural regeneration (ANR) operations. In addition, women will participate in key decision-making processes, including the selection of species, plantation design, and ANR planning. These roles and responsibilities have been formally discussed and documented in the minutes of stakeholder meetings, and the outcomes have informed the project's approach to inclusive participation, benefit sharing, and community-based governance. Women are involved in project activities that are implemented under the oversight of village chiefs and customary governance structures. Their participation is voluntary and integrated within existing community decision-making frameworks to ensure cultural appropriateness and local legitimacy. In addition, women are included in equitable benefit-sharing arrangements, ensuring that they have fair access to wages, livelihood opportunities, and a share of project benefits alongside other community members.

Young professionals from the local communities, particularly those trained in forestry and natural resource management, were actively involved in the stakeholder identification process. Their participation paved the way for their representation in the formal consultation meetings and their continued engagement throughout the project.







Figure 1: Stakeholder consultation meetings at different project villages

**Tribal Composition of Identified Stakeholders in the Project Area:**

**Manipur:** During the stakeholder identification process, it was observed that the four project districts —Ukhrul, Kamjong, Tamenglong, and Senapati—are characterized by distinct tribal compositions that significantly influence local socio-cultural dynamics. Ukhrul and Kamjong districts are predominantly inhabited by the Tangkhul Naga community, Tamenglong district is largely home to the Zeliangrong Nagas, while Senapati district is mainly inhabited by Mao and Poumai Naga groups. A clear understanding of these ethnic identities and their customary practices is critical for effective project design, stakeholder engagement, and implementation.

**Nagaland:** In Nagaland, stakeholder identification carried out in Kilomi village, located in Zunheboto district, indicates that the majority of identified stakeholders belong to the Sumi and Angami Naga community.

Other than Naga tribal groups, stakeholders also belong to other tribal groups like Hmar, Kuki and Kabui communities.

**Statutory and customary rights for indigenous peoples:**

**Manipur:** Indigenous communities in the hill areas of Manipur exercise customary land and forest rights that are protected through a combination of constitutional provisions, state legislation, and judicial recognition. Under Article 371C of the Constitution of India, matters affecting tribal customs, land, and social practices fall within the advisory domain of the Hill Areas Committee of the Manipur Legislative Assembly. The Manipur Land Revenue and Land Reforms Act, 1960 does not extend to the hill areas, thereby allowing tribal customary land laws to remain in force and preventing the application of individual land titling systems common in the valley. Further, the Manipur (Hill Areas) District Councils Act, 1971 recognizes Autonomous District Councils with powers relating to land, forests, and local governance. Within this framework, land and forest tenure among indigenous groups, including various Naga clans, is largely collective and regulated by village councils or traditional village chiefs, with customary laws governing land allocation, resource use, inheritance, and village administration. These customary practices are also acknowledged by courts, provided they do not contravene fundamental rights, reinforcing their continued legal and social legitimacy.

**Nagaland:** Indigenous communities in Nagaland exercise statutory and customary rights over land, resources, and local governance through a robust legal framework rooted in constitutional protection and state legislation. Article 371A of the Constitution of India, inserted by the 13th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1962, provides that no Act of Parliament concerning Naga religious and social practices, customary law, administration of civil and criminal justice, or ownership and transfer of land and its resources shall apply to Nagaland unless approved by the Nagaland Legislative Assembly, thereby constitutionally safeguarding customary governance and community control over land and natural resources. This protection is operationalized through the Nagaland Village and Area Councils Act, 1978, subsequently renamed the Nagaland Village & Tribal Councils Act, 1978 by the Nagaland Village Councils (Fourth Amendment) Act, 2009, which formally recognizes Village Councils as traditional governing institutions empowered to administer village affairs, enforce customary laws, and support local development in accordance with Naga customs and traditions. Further, the Nagaland Jhum Land Act, 1970 regulates and secures customary rights over jhum land while permitting the State, subject to compensation, to acquire such land for declaration as protected forest areas for environmental conservation purposes. Together, these legal instruments institutionalize customary land tenure, traditional governance, and community-based resource management in Nagaland while maintaining constitutional supremacy and environmental safeguards.

The project aims at involving local community members who are directly associated with the forest and forestry resources. The table here shows the overall stakeholders who are involved in the project:

Stakeholders or Stakeholder groups	Key stake	Category	Influence/Interest matrix
Mirin Climate Centre Pvt. Ltd. (MCC)	Project Coordinator and Owner	Primary	Designing project, technical and marketing support, project scrutiny

			and monitoring, fundraising
Infinite Environmental Solutions Limited (IESL)	Carbon Consultant and Project Developer	Primary	Providing technical assistance, developing project and project documentation, carbon benefit calculation, allocation of buyers and trade of Plan Vivo Certificates
1. Holistic Life Transforming and Empowering Community (HLTEC) 2. Recognize Rise and Empower Association (RREA) 3. Faith Welfare Society (FWS) 4. Go Green Club (GGC)	Local NGO partners	Primary	Implement and administer project, management planning, primary grievance redressal institutions, propagation of associated livelihood programs
Project groups like Forest Protection Groups (FPGs) and Resource Management Units (RMUs)	Indigenous community members	Primary	Community based management, project implementing and maintenance, distribution of funds and subsequent disbursement of Plan Vivo Benefits
Different coordinated Student Union groups like, Raphei Katamnao Long Student Union (Ukhrul) and others	Members from indigenous communities	Primary	The student groups shall be involved in tree plantation activities, project vigilance and overall management of activities. They have strong representation among the communities, targeted through the project interventions, enabling a steady transition of project phases.
Different local and regional agencies and officials	Administrative partners	Secondary	Providing technical support, assisting in smooth implementation of project
Scientific community and different academic institutions	Field Experts	Secondary	Providing technical support, knowledge and suggesting best practices regarding successful completion of REDD+ Project

## 2.2 Project Coordination and Management

Mirin Climate Centre Private Limited is the Key Project Coordinator overseeing project planning and coordination, managing community relations, implementation and defining agreements and operational arrangements. It also handles relations with government, both nationally, regionally and locally. MCC believes that successful conservation is about collaborative and supportive relationships. The project is developed in collaboration with Infinite Environmental Solutions Limited (IESL), Holistic Life Transforming & Empowering Society (HLTEC), Recognize Rise & Empower Association (RREA), Go Green Club (GCC) and FAITH Welfare Society (FWS).

Registration certificate of project coordinator is attached as annex separately.

As the project developer, Infinite Environmental Solutions Limited (IESL) brings more than 12 years of specialized experience in the forestry and carbon sectors. Its team comprises skilled professionals with extensive backgrounds in ecosystem restoration, afforestation, and carbon offset initiatives. IESL has successfully executed a wide range of projects across diverse ecological landscapes and is well-versed in international carbon frameworks such as the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS), Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), and Gold Standard (GS4GG). These standards ensure precision in establishing baselines, monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) processes. By integrating advanced carbon quantification techniques and geospatial analytics with participatory, community-based models, IESL plays dual role both as technical consultant and on-field monitors, assisting MCC and local implementing NGOs in delivering scientifically robust, climate-resilient plantation projects anchored in both technical excellence and local collaboration.

**Authorization:** IESL has received a signed authorization letter from the Project Coordinator (refer to annex 2), Mirin Climate Centre Private Limited, permitting IESL's engagement in the preparation of the Project Idea Note (PIN) and Project Design Document (PDD), their submission to Plan Vivo, and ongoing coordination and communication with Plan Vivo.

### **Project implementation partners:**

#### **Manipur:**

**Holistic Life Transforming & Empowering Society (HLTEC)** is a community-driven organisation working across Northeast India on participatory development initiatives. The organisation implements projects in plantation, wildlife conservation, and ecosystem restoration, with strong community involvement. HLTEC also focuses on women's education and empowerment, promoting inclusive and sustainable development at the grassroots level.

**Recognize Rise & Empower Association (RREA)** working with the mission to empower marginalized and at-risk communities in Northeast India, through sustainable growth in environment and forests, education & literacy, health and family welfare, tribal affairs, women's development and empowerment. RREA which operates locally, is the project implementation partner for project areas in the state of Manipur.

#### **Nagaland:**

**FAITH Welfare Society (FWS)** is a registered welfare society based in Nagaland, working at the grassroots level to support community development and livelihood initiatives. The organisation is actively involved in project implementation activities in Kilomi village, the identified project area in Zunheboto district of Nagaland. The organization supports the process of informed consent through

facilitation of consent form signing, explains benefit-sharing mechanisms, and ensures community understanding of project objectives and processes. Additionally, FWS assists in risk mitigation and functions as a primary interface for grievance addressing and redressal, supporting transparent, inclusive, and community-driven project implementation.

**Go Green Club (GGC)** is grassroots, environmentally conscious community institution established as an outcome of project implementation. It will support on-ground execution of project activities and strengthen the project’s outreach at the community level. The club will also facilitate knowledge sharing, awareness building, and continuous dialogue with community members for Kilomi village in Nagaland.

**Table 2.2 Responsibility for Project Coordination and Management Functions**

<b>Project Coordination and Management Function</b>	<b>Responsible Party/Parties</b>
Stakeholder engagement during project development and implementation	1. MCC 2. IESL 3. RREA 4. HLTEC 5. FWS 6. GGC
Ensuring conformance with the Plan Vivo Carbon Standard (PV Climate) and compliance with applicable policies, laws and regulations	IESL
Developing technical specifications, land management plans and project agreements with project participants	1. MCC 2. IESL 3. RREA 4. FWS 5. GGC
Ensuring that the PDD is updated with any changes to the project	1. IESL 2. MCC
Registration and recording of land management plans, project agreements, monitoring results, and sales agreements	1. MCC 2. HLTEC 3. RREA 4. FWS 5. GGC
Managing project finances and dispersal of income to project participants as described by the benefit sharing mechanism	MCC
Managing Plan Vivo Certificates in the Plan Vivo Registry	1. MCC 2. IESL
Preparing annual reports and coordinating validation and verification events	IESL
Securing certificate sales and other means of funding the project	1. MCC 2. IESL
Assisting Project Participants to secure any legal or regulatory permissions required to carry out the project	MCC
Providing technical assistance and capacity building required for project participants to implement project interventions	MCC
Monitoring progress indicators, livelihood indicators and ecosystem indicators and providing ongoing support to project participants	MCC
Measurement, reporting and verification of carbon benefits	IESL

## 2.3 Project Participants

In this section, we outline the project participants for the two project states:

**Manipur:** In Manipur, all project participants are residents of forest-dependent tribal villages located in the hill districts, where land and forest resources are managed under customary community ownership systems with oversight by traditional village councils. Household livelihoods are closely linked to subsistence agriculture and forest resource use, including practices such as shifting cultivation, piggery, and duck poultry farming across fragmented hill landscapes. Project participants include smallholder farmers engaged in subsistence cultivation, often combined with agroforestry on community-managed lands, as well as collectors of Non-Timber and Minor Forest Products (NTFPs/MFPs), particularly bamboo, medicinal plants, wild fruits, fuelwood, and other forest produce used for household consumption and local trade. Women constitute a significant share of NTFP/MFP collectors and play a central role in the collection, processing, and household-level use of these resources.

The project includes participants from a total of 34 villages across four districts of Manipur, comprising 20 villages in Kamjong district, 2 villages in Senapati district, 3 villages in Tamenglong district, and 9 villages in Ukhrul district. Project participants belong to indigenous tribal communities traditionally inhabiting the hill districts where the project is implemented, including Naga tribes and other tribal groups. Specifically, Mao communities are primarily represented in the project villages of Senapati district, Tangkhul communities in the project villages of Ukhrul and Kamjong districts, and Kabui communities in the project villages of Tamenglong district, with Hmar and Kuki communities present in select project villages.

**Nagaland:** In Nagaland, the project focuses on Kilomi village in Zunheboto district, comprising approximately 137 households. All project participants are residents of the village, which is predominantly inhabited by the Sumi Naga tribal group, known for their traditional festival, Tuluni. Kilomi village is governed under strong customary institutions, where land and forest resources are traditionally owned and regulated at the village or clan level. The village has a well-defined boundary and a structured community decision-making system through the Village Council, which oversees land and resource management. Household livelihoods are primarily based on jhum (shifting) cultivation, a labour-intensive traditional farming method, with both men and women actively participating. Crops cultivated include ginger, large cardamom, kiwi, and jhum paddy. Project participants also include smallholder farmers engaged in subsistence agriculture and collectors of Non-Timber and Minor Forest Products (NTFPs/MFPs), with youth engaged in agricultural labor and related activities forming an integral part of the participant base.

**Project Participant Engagement:** The project participants are residents of the project area who rely on land and natural resources within the project boundaries. It should be noted that as per project requirements, the project does not structurally depend on year-long hired labor for land or natural resource management activities. All project activities, such as forest monitoring, nursery management, plantation, assisted natural regeneration (ANR) activities, assisting in carbon stock estimation exercises, and others, will be undertaken by local residents of the project area in lieu of daily wages provided by the project coordinator. The project does not include any alternative participants as described in the project requirements.

The proposed project areas and their demographic profiles, including household distribution, are presented in the table below. The villages listed here represent a portion of the overall project landscape; the complete list of participating villages will be finalised and submitted with the PDD. A significant share of households constitutes the core participant base, reflecting a community-

centred approach rooted in traditional knowledge, local governance, and shared responsibility for long-term forest stewardship. NOCs have already been secured from the majority of participating village chiefs, while the remaining villages are in the final stages of issuing their approvals.

A representative NOC is included here for reference (please refer to annex 7). The complete set of signed NOC documents is maintained by the project proponents and can be submitted to Plan Vivo at any time, if required.

State	District	Name of villages	# households	Population
Manipur	Kamjong	Alang	59	270
		Bungpa Khullen	422	2716
		Bungpa Khunou	45	309
		Chahong Khullen	119	545
		Chahong Khunou	28	145
		Chatric	142	854
		Hankaw	66	312
		Kangkum	98	371
		Kangpat Khullen	58	353
		Kasom Khullen	178	1018
		Kasom Khunou	47	204
		Khamasom	388	1996
		Khambi	112	642
		Kumram		
		Nambashi	41	164
		Nambashi Khullen	157	884
		Ningchou	71	419
		Ningthi	175	926
		Pushing	151	904
		Sorathen	33	152
	Senapati	Chakha	150	862
		Lonshak	49	251
	Tamenglong	Bamgaijang	83	565
		Sangrungpang	120	733
		Irang Khun	51	284
	Ukhrul	Apong	50	229
		Chungkai	57	266
		Patbung	39	191
		Loushing	39	160
		Tusom (East Tusom falls under the project area)	60	271
		Thoyee	335	~2000 <sup>3</sup>
		Maku	126	635
		Phungyar	204	953

		TM Kasom	103	570
Nagaland	Zunheboto	Kilomi	137	649

## 2.4 Participatory Design

The proposed REDD+ project adopts an inclusive, community-driven participatory design process to ensure that local stakeholders are actively involved and engaged in deepening and greening the forest cover further, among other things. MCC, as the project proponent, intervenes and attempts to bridge the gaps between governance and participation. MCC critically engage with policy formulations and implementations and, simultaneously, suggest policy recommendations for effective, incisive and inclusive policy interventions. MCC also engage with people and communities, and provide handholding support whenever required. Technological innovations, knowledge dissemination, community participation and provision of livelihood alternatives are meticulously woven together to:

1. Reinvigorate the collective spirit of taking ownership and responsibilities; social, cultural and moral obligations more than economic and ecological necessities and incentives [Signed consent forms shall be provided to PV/VVBs whenever required].
2. Supplement and complement the sustainable traditional knowledge and modern scientific-technological innovations.
3. Cater to the needs and requirements of the local population and contribute to the global market demands within the permissible and regeneration capacity for economic, social and environmental sustainability.

### 1. Initial Consultations and Stakeholder Mapping:

The first step of the participatory process was mapping the stakeholders, including local forest communities, indigenous groups, local government bodies, community-based organisations, local NGOs (MCC and HLTEC), and other relevant actors in the project area. Special focus was given on engaging indigenous peoples (such as the Naga), women, and marginalised groups such as youth and elderly people, to ensure that their perspectives and priorities are fully understood.





Figure 2: Proposed project activity demonstration by Dr. Phungmayo Horam and Mr. Pratik Tambe representatives of Mirin Climate Centre Pvt. Ltd. and Infinite Environmental Solutions Limited respectively at Nambashi Khullen, Kamjong, Manipur

## 2. Community Consultations and Knowledge Exchange:

A series of community consultations were held in the project area of Manipur, including in remote areas where local populations might be excluded from decision-making processes. These consultations provided a platform for local communities to raise and discuss their concerns about deforestation, land degradation, and climate change impacts. Focus group discussions (FGDs) were organised to facilitate dialogue on forest management, regeneration strategies, afforestation programmes and other activities, such as species selection, land preparation, and maintenance), ensuring that traditional knowledge and community practices are integrated into the project design.





Figure 3: Village resource mapping by village representatives during LSC meetings at Senapati and Tamenglong respectively, Manipur

### 3. Co-designing REDD+ Interventions:

Local stakeholders played an active role in co-designing the REDD+ plantation activities. These included deciding on the types of native tree species for afforestation and reforestation that support both carbon sequestration and community livelihoods. The project incorporated local knowledge about land management practices and the traditional uses of forest resources, ensuring that interventions respect cultural norms and align with community needs.

### 4. Building Local Capacity:

Training and skill development were provided to stakeholders on various aspects of REDD+ implementation, such as carbon accounting, sustainable forest management, and monitoring forest health. This helps to empower community members to manage plantation activities and track progress. Capacity-building sessions for women and youth were held, ensuring that these groups are given equal opportunities to participate in the project.

### Ensuring the Inclusion of Marginalised Groups

The project is committed to ensuring that marginalised groups, including women, elderly people, youth, and indigenous minorities, are actively involved in the project from the start. Specific actions were taken to guarantee that these groups have a voice in both the design and implementation of plantation activities.

#### 1. Gender Equity and Empowerment:

Women in Manipur often play a significant role in forest-based livelihoods, and the project ensured that they are equally included in the design and implementation phases. This involved organising women-only focus group discussions (FGDs) and ensuring women's participation in the REDD+ decision-making processes. Efforts were also made to provide gender-sensitive training on tree planting techniques and forest management, as well as ensuring that benefit-sharing mechanisms recognise the contributions of women in managing forest resources.

#### 2. Engaging Youth and Elderly Populations:

Youth in the project area are often the most affected by climate change and deforestation, yet they are rarely included in the decision-making processes. The project actively engaged young people

through REDD+ awareness programs. The elderly population, many of whom hold valuable traditional knowledge about forest ecosystems and conservation practices, was also consulted, ensuring that their wisdom and insights are integrated into project planning.

### **3. Ensuring Accessible and Transparent Communication:**

MCC and HLTEC have provided detailed information about the project, including REDD+ mechanisms and the benefits of forest protection and conservation. Manipuri and English served as the common language for communication. Various channels, such as community gatherings and informal discussions, are used to reach remote communities, ensuring that no group is excluded from the process.

### **Continuous Dialogue and Feedback Mechanisms:**

To ensure that marginalised groups remain involved throughout the project lifecycle, a feedback mechanism was implemented. This allowed community members to express concerns or suggest improvements useful during the implementation of plantation activities.

#### **1. Grievance Redressal Mechanism:**

A transparent grievance redressal system was put in place, where community members can submit concerns related to project activities, ensuring that any issues, particularly those affecting marginalised groups, are promptly addressed.

#### **2. Ongoing Consultations and Adaptive Management:**

The project included regular monitoring and consultation sessions with all stakeholders, especially marginalised groups, to ensure that the interventions remain relevant and responsive to community needs. These feedback loops enabled the project to adapt and refine interventions over time, ensuring continuous inclusivity and alignment with the aspirations of local communities. The participants have been provided with communication details of key representatives of all the organisations involved.



Fig 4: Local Stakeholder Consultation meeting, Songsong village, Mao-Maram division, Senapati district, Manipur



Fig 5: Local Stakeholder Consultation meeting, Ghokimi village, Pughoboto Circle, Zünheboto district, Nagaland



Fig 6: Local Stakeholder Consultation meeting, Kilomi village, Ghathashi Circle, Zünheboto district, Nagaland

## 2.5 FPIC Process

A uniform FPIC process was adopted for both states, with identical steps implemented across all project regions in Manipur and Nagaland.

The process is given below in details,

**The process:** The project has been designed using a participatory approach, integrating inputs from farmers and local tribal communities through community meetings, socio-economic surveys, focused group discussions, and expert interviews. Local communities have been engaged from the project design phase to support long-term continuation of project activities beyond the crediting period and to ensure permanence. Consultation approaches were tailored to the capacity and cultural context of stakeholders. Information was shared through in-person meetings, WhatsApp communication, and written notices provided in both local languages and English. Consultations were held at

accessible and familiar venues and scheduled at convenient times, with specific efforts made to ensure the participation of women and tribal groups. Community-level consultations and trainings were conducted regularly between December 2024 and July 2025 across all project districts. Detailed mechanism of consultation has been also outlined in section 2.1. These included REDD+ awareness workshops and project design–focused sessions, with active participation from youth representatives, women participants, and students from forest and environmental studies backgrounds belonging to local tribal communities. During these consultations, the project design, implementation framework, monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV), risk assessment, and stakeholder roles were clearly explained to participating communities. Project-related documents, summaries of the project, potential impacts, and expected positive outcomes were shared with participants in both English and local languages. The project planning and design were also presented and discussed during a session of the Sub-Divisional Planning and Development Board (SDPDB) held in June at Pughoboto, Zunheboto District, Nagaland. This engagement reflects institutional-level consultation undertaken during the project design phase and demonstrates efforts to engage a broader stakeholder base and relevant administrative bodies. The discussion formed part of the project’s due diligence process to support informed participation, regional coordination, and overall consent for project implementation. All parties involved with the project are provided with comprehensive information about the proposed project, including its potential environmental, social and economic impacts. Before starting the deliberation or meeting, the facilitator (in most cases, one of the community leaders) asks for consent (FPIC) from the participants by reading the meeting rules such as everyone present has the right to express their opinions freely, each person's opinion should not be influenced by the opinions of other participants, each person can express their opinions within their knowledge capacity.

**Obtaining consent:** The property and land use rights of the local stakeholders have not been violated and free prior and informed consent has been obtained from the enrolled stakeholders in the form of stakeholders’ agreement. The village chiefs representing stakeholders have signed consent form with the project proponent that the proponent would have the sole right to generate the credits from the project. The consent process followed a mutually agreed timeline of 14 days from the date of consultation, allowing sufficient time for internal deliberations in accordance with community-defined decision-making processes. During this period, community members, including women representatives and tribal leaders, discussed the project internally before providing consent. Under the agreement, the project participants would have the end-to-end responsibility to enable verification, audit, and issuance. The landowner commits to not have sold in the past, to not sell in the future, any GHG reductions or removals from community-based forestry projects to any party other than the proponent, and has agreed to provide all its legal rights under Plan Vivo requirements.

**Benefit sharing mechanism:** As part of the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) process, benefit-sharing discussions were conducted with relevant stakeholders, with an emphasis on equitable distribution of project benefits. During stakeholder consultations, carbon revenue sharing and associated benefits were discussed with beneficiaries in alignment with the requirements of the Plan Vivo Standard. Based on the outcomes of these consultations, benefit-sharing provisions were incorporated into the project documentation and formally agreed upon with participating stakeholders through signed consent forms and agreements. The detailed benefit-sharing model, including revenue-sharing ratios, is commercially sensitive and is documented within the consent forms. These details will be shared separately with the Plan Vivo Standard body and the validation and verification bodies (VVBs) at the appropriate stages of the project cycle.

**Grievance Address and redressal mechanism:** Grievances related to the project may be raised through multiple accessible channels and will be addressed in a timely, transparent, and culturally appropriate manner. Village chiefs and recognized tribal leaders form an integral part of the grievance lodging, documentation, and redressal process and work in close coordination with the implementing partners. At the first point of engagement, grievances are typically lodged through village councils and traditional authorities and are reviewed through discussions involving village chiefs, tribal leaders, and representatives of the implementing partners. **For project activities in Nagaland, grievances from Kilomi village are addressed by FAITH Welfare Society and Go Green Club, while grievances from project villages in Manipur are addressed by Recognize Rise and Empower Association (RREA).** Resolution at this stage is pursued through dialogue, mediation, and reference to customary practices. Designated focal persons for ground-level dissemination and grievance redressal include **Mr. Anito Swu (Go Green Club), Mrs. Hokhuli Sema (FAITH Welfare Society), and Dr. Pamreihor Khashimwo (RREA).** These focal persons, in coordination with village chiefs and tribal leaders, are responsible for receiving, recording, and responding to grievances at the field level. Where grievances cannot be resolved through initial engagement, they are escalated for further review and resolution under the coordination of **Dr. Phungmayo Horam (Mirin Climate Centre Pvt. Ltd.) and Mr. Jimmy Sah (Infinite Environmental Solutions Limited).** Carbon-related grievances, queries, and concerns are reviewed and addressed by **Dr. Anurag Jain and Dr. Indu Dwivedi Pant from Infinite Environmental Solutions Limited,** ensuring technical clarity and closure. Grievances may be lodged directly with any of the above-mentioned focal persons. Contact details, including phone numbers and email addresses, have been shared with project participants and village councils. Grievance registers are maintained with the implementing partners, at village council offices, and with Infinite Environmental Solutions Limited to ensure proper documentation and traceability. The initial grievance redressal process is expected to be completed within 15–30 days of receipt. Where escalation is required, the complete grievance resolution process, including higher-level review, is expected to be concluded within 30–45 days, depending on the nature and complexity of the grievance.

**3rd Party Independent arbitrator (if required):** The project provides for the engagement of Mrs. Soso Shaiza as an independent arbitrator under the Grievance Redressal Mechanism. Mrs. Shaiza is an eminent educationist from Ukhrul District, Manipur, with extensive experience in community engagement, education, gender equity, and social development initiatives. She has worked closely with local communities through programs focused on community mobilization, inclusive participation, and environmental awareness. Mrs. Shaiza is a former Member of the National Commission for Women (NCW) and is currently a member of the Advisory Committee of the NCW. Her background provides strong familiarity with local customary practices, socio-cultural dynamics, and community-level institutional relationships for both of the project states, i.e., Nagaland and Manipur. Mrs. Shaiza has no financial or managerial obligations with Mirin Climate Centre Pvt. Ltd., participating communities, investors, or implementing partners involved in the project, ensuring her independence and neutrality. Community participants and project stakeholders may directly approach the independent arbitrator, or submit grievances through the project-level grievance channels, for matters requiring impartial review and resolution.

Summarizing the process, no project activities will be undertaken in any area that is subject to an unresolved grievance or dispute related to land or resource rights. Information about the grievance redress mechanism, including contact persons and procedures, has been shared with all participating villages during stakeholder consultations and the FPIC process. The mechanism is free of charge, non-retaliatory, and does not impede access to customary or statutory legal remedies.

## 3 Project Design

### 3.1 Baseline Scenario

The project baseline is established for 2024, with plans for reassessment in 2028 and 2032 based on project requirements.

**Manipur:** The baseline focuses on areas dominated by dense forests and degraded open forests, which are managed by local communities. These community forests lack efficient management as they are subjected to significant anthropogenic resource use, which has contributed to forest degradation and deforestation. Activities such as firewood collection and land clearing for agriculture are common. However, some areas, like Senapati, have community-established regulations on firewood harvesting. In contrast, regions within Tamenglong and Ukhrul are affected by shifting cultivation, or Jhum, which leads to large fallows and patches, further exacerbating forest degradation and deforestation. Without a comprehensive, community-driven REDD+ initiative, there has been little to no progress in reversing this degradation.

**Nagaland:** Nagaland is among the Indian states most severely impacted by deforestation and forest degradation, with soil erosion emerging as a key driver. A significant share of this erosion is linked to high-velocity runoff and turbulent flow in jhum cultivation areas, where soil losses can reach up to 30.62 metric tonnes per hectare per year<sup>4</sup>. Current land use in the project area is characterized by continued jhum cultivation practices that are largely unsustainable<sup>5</sup>, with ongoing clearance of forest cover<sup>6</sup> and limited soil and water conservation measures. Historical research and long-term observations indicate that reckless and indiscriminate exploitation of forest resources, coupled with the rapid expansion of jhum activities, has already caused substantial degradation of this geodynamically sensitive and ecologically vulnerable mountain landscape. It should be mentioned here, one of our project regions, Zunheboto has been the hardest hit in environmental degradation (PEINDEX  $\geq 0.7$ )<sup>7</sup>.

Therefore, in the absence of the proposed project, the land use practices are expected to persist, leading to accelerated soil erosion, declining crop yields, loss of forest wealth, reduced soil fertility and biodiversity, and broader environmental degradation. The anticipated consequences include increased flood and landslide risks with downstream sedimentation, elevated nutrient runoff resulting in poorer water quality, reduced soil moisture retention and fertility, and diminishing discharge from springs and rivers.

### 3.2 Livelihood Baseline

Most of the population in the proposed area belongs to marginalised tribal groups and are small scale farmers engaged in subsistence agriculture for their livelihood. Since agriculture and allied activities are the backbone of community's livelihood<sup>8</sup>. It is worth noting that agriculture remains a key player in economic sustenance and livelihood<sup>9</sup>. Shifting cultivation, acid soil, steep slopes, no or

<sup>4</sup> <https://doi.org/10.32628/IJSRSET2310146>

<sup>5</sup> <https://snwc.nagaland.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Administrative-Report-2018-19.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/overseas/india/others/\\_icsFiles/afieldfile/2025/01/23/brochure\\_14.pdf](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/overseas/india/others/_icsFiles/afieldfile/2025/01/23/brochure_14.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> DOI: 10.13135/2704-9906/5753 - Published by University of Turin - <http://www.ojs.unito.it/index.php/ejsice/index>

<sup>8</sup> [North East Rural Livelihood Project](#)

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/371970829\\_Assessment\\_on\\_the\\_Socio-Economic\\_Status\\_of\\_Manipur\\_A\\_Study\\_base\\_on\\_Economic\\_Perspectives](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/371970829_Assessment_on_the_Socio-Economic_Status_of_Manipur_A_Study_base_on_Economic_Perspectives)

meagre use of fertilizers and manure, low yielding varieties/breeds of crop/livestock are the major constrains in agriculture.

**Manipur:** Manipur abounds with different ethnic populations, rich natural resources and agrarian economy. The population depends largely on agriculture and allied activities for their source of income and livelihoods. Agriculture sector is most vulnerable to climate change owing to over dependence on seasonal rain and exposed water stress besides the existence of large poorly equipped farmers<sup>10</sup>. The working population in the State is predominantly concentrated in Agriculture (35.7%); and Industry (25.3%), respectively in that order, as of 2022-23<sup>11</sup>. There is an increasing demand for income and foods to support growing population which is often met through the exploitation of additional resources like land, water and forests, etc, thereby adding stress on natural resources<sup>3</sup>.

Livestock forms an integral part of the farming system in Manipur. Buffalo, cow, poultry and pig were the major livestock reared by the farmers primarily for meat purpose. On an average, farmers earn about Rs 500- 3000/ year from livestock. Fish farming is done in a very limited way in the area<sup>12</sup>. The collection of plants and fruits from forest were an important works for the farmers in times of crops failure<sup>13</sup>. Year 2019, the village witness signs of crop failure due to irregular and uncertain rainfall pattern<sup>14</sup>.



Fig 7: A bamboo-shoot fermentation setup built along a mountain slope, photographed in Kamjong district of Manipur

**Nagaland:** Nagaland is predominantly a hilly state. All cultivation activities in the state are concentrated in kitchen gardens and *Jhum* land. Shifting cultivation (or *Jhum*) is a traditional farming method (of the Naga people) that typically involves cycles of burning and clearing forests, cropping for a short time, and subsequent abandonment of the site for vegetation regeneration. At present, there is considerable regional variation in agricultural practices and outputs since farming is

<sup>10</sup> [EAv67n1so.pdf](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Macro-and-Fiscal-Landscape-of-the-State-of-Manipur.pdf](#)

<sup>12</sup> [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/316998884\\_Livelihood\\_Improvement\\_and\\_Empowerment\\_of\\_Rural\\_Poor\\_through\\_Sustainable\\_Farming\\_Systems\\_in\\_North-East\\_India](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/316998884_Livelihood_Improvement_and_Empowerment_of_Rural_Poor_through_Sustainable_Farming_Systems_in_North-East_India)

<sup>13</sup> [consoleukhrulenvironmentalchange.pdf](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Livelihoods\\_and\\_climate\\_variability\\_in\\_Phalee\\_Khul\\_Ukhrul\\_By\\_Rahul\\_Ashem](#)

intensely dependent on climate, geography and technology<sup>15</sup>. The poor level of infrastructure has also limited the opportunities for the rural enterprises, employment and income generation. The food (grain) security provided by the *Jhum* cultivation practices is hardly for four to five months a year. In Nagaland the *Jhum* system covers 60% of the area under food grain cultivation, and about half of rural households are engaged in *Jhum* cultivation, with considerable extent of forest being cleared for cultivation each year. Rice is the staple food, and upland paddy is the main *Jhum* crop, grown mixed with other crops. *Jhum* land and forest-fallows also meet most community firewood and timber needs and are also sources of wild foods and medicinal plants, as well as catchment areas of local streams<sup>16</sup>. Nagaland has multiple dimensions in the rural areas of the state, namely in terms of access to basic services, connectivity and low incomes. It is closely associated with the agriculture and natural resources-based livelihoods of the rural households: the low productivity, the high inputs of family labour for agriculture, the limited options to diversify livelihoods.<sup>6</sup>

Tribal livelihoods are uniquely and intricately shaped by the social relations and norms of their society. Tribal societies are traditionally economies with simple production which is characterized by self-consumption and simple trade<sup>17</sup> Fragility and vulnerability to climate and other constraints imposed on subsistence-based economy in the hills and mountainous regions compel the farmers to seek for new opportunities and diversify their livelihood activities to suit the changing environment<sup>18</sup>. The northeastern Indian farmers increasingly commercialised forest resources.

**Expected Changes:** The major intervention of this project encompasses strategic forest restoration and protection through the plantation of native fruit bearing and NTFP bearing species (refer, table given below) in degraded lands, community lands and alongside agricultural lands. This initiative represents a transformative step, through integrating enrichment planting with both ecological and economical significance. By promoting assisted natural regeneration in forest areas and enrichment planting on private lands, the project not only contributes to ecosystem restoration but also support diversified income sources, enhanced food security and improved nutritional intake for the families involved. The integration of enrichment planting on community lands further strengthens biodiversity conservation and environmental sustainability, while enabling sustainable harvesting of timber and non-timber forest products. As a result, the project is expected to transform the livelihoods of the small-scale farmers and tribal communities by fostering economic resilience, ecological balance and long-term environmental stability. The holistic approach - combining native fruit trees plantation on private lands with reduced dependence on natural forest lands creates a sustainable model that strengthens livelihood of the residents and also fosters a harmonious relationship between the community and the environment.

Table showing tree species planned for plantation			
Vernacular Names	Scientific Names	Classification	Category
<i>Champra</i>	<i>Citrus limon</i>	Native <sup>19</sup>	Fruit bearing

<sup>15</sup>[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/364579405\\_A\\_Changing\\_Patterns\\_of\\_Livelihood\\_of\\_Tribes\\_A\\_Case\\_Study\\_of\\_Nagaland](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/364579405_A_Changing_Patterns_of_Livelihood_of_Tribes_A_Case_Study_of_Nagaland)

<sup>16</sup>[About Us | FOCUS-IFAD](#)

<sup>17</sup>[Tribal-Livelihoods-in-Transition-and-Social-Development-The-Konyak-Tribe-of-Nagaland.pdf](#)

<sup>18</sup>[Livelihood diversification as an adaptation approach to change in the pastoral Hindu-Kush Himalayan region | Journal of Mountain Science](#)

<sup>19</sup><https://www.biochemjournal.com/archives/2025/vol9issue7/PartC/9-7-43-838.pdf>

Uningthou (State tree of Manipur)	<i>Phoebe hainesia</i>	Endemic to Northeastern India <sup>20</sup>	NTFP
Gulmohar	<i>Delonix regia</i>	Exotic but adapted to local ecological conditions <sup>21</sup>	Aesthetic forestry
Jamun	<i>Syzygium cumini</i>	Native <sup>22</sup>	Fruit bearing
Tolhao	<i>Terminalia myriocarpa</i>	Native <sup>23</sup>	NTFP
Khasi Cherry	<i>Prunus nepalensis</i>	Indigenous to northeast <sup>24</sup>	Fruit bearing
Several species of Bamboo	Several species including <i>Bambusa tulda</i> <sup>25</sup>	Native <sup>26</sup> and are widely distributed resources of Northeastern India <sup>27</sup>	NTFP and aesthetic forestry

### 3.3 Ecosystem Baseline

The forests in Northeastern India have received national and international attention with respect to their climate change mitigation potential, resource generation and socio-cultural values. As per Champion & Seth classification, major forest areas of Manipur are classified as East Himalayan Sub-Tropical Wet Hill Forest, East Himalayan Moist Mixed Deciduous Forest, Cachar Semi-Evergreen Forest, comprising ~74% of forest cover. However, scientific studies have concluded that the state of Manipur has a decadal (2009-2019) deforestation rate<sup>28</sup> of ~0.39%.

#### Ecosystem baseline for Manipur:

##### Ukhrul District:

Before Kamjong was separated as a distinct district in 2016, Ukhrul was the second-largest district in Manipur. The district has a sub-tropical monsoon type climate, providing conducive ecological habitats for flora and fauna. Based on canopy cover classification, the geographical distribution of forest types has undergone notable changes between 2021 and 2023<sup>29</sup>. In 2021, Very Dense Forests spanned approximately 194.61 km<sup>2</sup>, which declined significantly to 113.87 km<sup>2</sup> by 2023. Moderately Dense Forests also saw a substantial reduction, decreasing from 1241.22 km<sup>2</sup> in 2021 to 492.48 km<sup>2</sup>

<sup>20</sup>

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/360121177 Ecology and Conservation status of Phoebe hainesia Brandis a data deficit but commercially significant timber species of Indo-Myanmar biodiversity hotspot in India](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/360121177_Ecology_and_Conservation_status_of_Phoebe_hainesia_Brandis_a_data_deficit_but_commercially_significant_timber_species_of_Indo-Myanmar_biodiversity_hotspot_in_India)

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.flowersofindia.net/catalog/slides/Gulmohar.html>

<sup>22</sup> [https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3550603/pdf/12298\\_2010\\_Article\\_16.pdf](https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3550603/pdf/12298_2010_Article_16.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> <https://cms.ctahr.hawaii.edu/forestry/Forestry-Agroforestry-Trees/Terminalia-myriocarpa>

<sup>24</sup>

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/350838127 Sohiong Prunus nepaliensis Serr Ka rukom pynmih tynrai](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/350838127_Sohiong_Prunus_nepaliensis_Serr_Ka_rukom_pynmih_tynrai)

<sup>25</sup> <https://bamboo-cane.kfri.res.in/bamboo-info.asp?id=13>

<sup>26</sup>

[https://books.google.co.in/books?id=wB\\_kqf5NzikC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs\\_ge\\_summary\\_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=true](https://books.google.co.in/books?id=wB_kqf5NzikC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=true)

<sup>27</sup> <chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnibpcjpcglclefindmkaj/https://fsi.nic.in/isfr-2021/chapter-8.pdf>

<sup>28</sup> <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13762-021-03712-5>

<sup>29</sup> <https://fsi.nic.in/forest-report-2023>

in 2023. Similarly, Open Forests covered 2187.92 km<sup>2</sup> in 2021 but shrank to 983.62 km<sup>2</sup> in 2023. These changes indicate a marked decline across all categories of forest density over the two-year period.

The project focuses on the villages of Hatha, Halang, and Khunthak in Ukhrul, a region known for its rich biodiversity and the presence of important ethnomedicinal plant species, which hold cultural significance for the local communities. The project area lies adjacent to the famous Shirui National Park, home to several endangered plant species such as *Artemisia nilagirica* (Mugwort) and *Bidens pilosa* (Hitch Hikers). Ukhrul is widely recognised for the **endemic** *Lilium mackliniae* (Shirui lily), adding to the ecological value of the region<sup>30</sup>. Some common trees **observed** are *Albizia lebbbeck* (*Siris*), *Castanopsis tribuloides* (*Chinkapin*), *Mesua ferrea*, *Mangifera indica* (Mango), *Pinus kesiya* (Khasi Pine/*Uchan*), *Phoebe hainesiana* (*Angaria*), and *Quercus* spp. (Oaks).

In Ukhrul, there has been a historical depletion<sup>31</sup> in open forest area from 1991-2020 corresponding to ~8 km<sup>2</sup>/year and an annual increase of human settlement of ~2 km<sup>2</sup>.

### **Kamjong District:**

Kamjong district was created in 2016 after being separated from Ukhrul district<sup>32</sup>. It is one of the 16 fully recognized districts in the Indian state of Manipur, with its district headquarters situated in Kamjong village. The Tangkhul communities of Manipur are largely concentrated in Ukhrul and Kamjong districts. Forests in this district are primarily categorized based on canopy cover. As per the 2023 data (refer, footnote 2), Very Dense Forests occupy an area of 79.48 km<sup>2</sup>, while Moderately Dense Forests cover approximately 823.63 km<sup>2</sup>. Open Forests account for the largest share, with a geographical coverage of 1,248.39 km<sup>2</sup>. This classification provides insight into the varying degrees of forest density across the district.

Vast project areas of Kamjong comprise of rainforests harbouring various significant ecological habitats. The entire region belongs to temperate to sub-tropical zone<sup>33</sup> producing home range of several indigenous bird species, including tragopans, Manipur birch quail (*Varha*), Mrs Hume's pheasant (*Tharik thara*), and Black-headed munia (*Huiri*).

However, there is pressure of unsustainable *Jhum* cultivation in this district leading to deforestation<sup>34</sup>. Other than *Jhum* cultivation, the readily available *Jhum* lands are also illicitly utilized for poppy cultivation causing serious socio-ecological crisis<sup>[35,36]</sup>.

The forested hills of the district are predominantly covered by Alder (*Alnus nepalensis*), a multipurpose tree species known for its extensive ecological benefits. Alder-based *Jhum*<sup>37</sup> is a common practice in the area, where, in the first year on the *Jhum* plot, alder trees are pollarded to waist height before or after the slash and burn operation, with the cut portions either sold or used

<sup>30</sup> <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10661-023-11553-7>

<sup>31</sup> <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10661-021-09548-3>

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.worldscientific.com/doi/abs/10.1142/S2717541323500018>

<sup>33</sup>

<https://www.nabard.org/auth/writereaddata/tender/3011185020Ukhrul%20and%20Kamjong%20PLP%202019-20.pdf>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2352938518303264>

<sup>35</sup> [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Kasturi-Chakraborty-3/publication/364994022\\_A\\_Tradition\\_inTransition\\_Jhuming\\_Cultivation/links/6361ffc62f4bca7fd024b84d/A-Tradition-inTransition-Jhuming-Cultivation.pdf#page=43](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Kasturi-Chakraborty-3/publication/364994022_A_Tradition_inTransition_Jhuming_Cultivation/links/6361ffc62f4bca7fd024b84d/A-Tradition-inTransition-Jhuming-Cultivation.pdf#page=43)

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09700161.2024.2369390>

<sup>37</sup> [https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-70388-1\\_5](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-70388-1_5)

as firewood. Alder trees have root nodules that improve soil fertility by fixing atmospheric nitrogen into the soil.

#### **Senapati District:**

The montane forests of Senapati district unfold as ecologically rich and structurally complex ecosystems, shaped by a dynamic interplay of elevation, moisture levels, and climatic variability. These forested landscapes are predominantly characterized by phanerophytes, as observed on the ground and corroborated by scientific literature<sup>[38,39]</sup>. According to the Champion and Seth classification, the region falls under subtropical mixed broad-leaved forests and temperate broadleaf forests, reflecting a unique ecological transition zone. Commonly tree species **observed** across these forest types include *Pinus kesiya*, *Quercus serrata*, *Quercus griffithii*, *Gmelina arborea*, and *Lyonia* spp., each adapted to specific microhabitats within the elevational range.

As per 2023 data (refer, footnote 2), the district's forests are classified by canopy density into three categories: Very Dense Forests span approximately 182.83 km<sup>2</sup>, Moderately Dense Forests cover around 427.00 km<sup>2</sup>, while Open Forests constitute the largest share, extending across 777.00 km<sup>2</sup>. This stratification not only highlights the district's rich biodiversity but also points to varying degrees of ecological pressure and forest health across the landscape.

A 2017 analysis states the forests of this district particularly face pressure of fragmentation alongside biotic anthropogenic disturbances<sup>40</sup>. The district, once<sup>41</sup>, ranked first for forest cover loss, primarily due to the increasing practice of *Jhum* cultivation. The current state of forests in Senapati district is under significant biotic pressure due to the rapid growth of the human population. This has led to biodiversity loss, deforestation, forest burning for shifting cultivation, commercialization of timber felling, and fuelwood collection. Additionally, a retrospective observation made in 2020 states<sup>42</sup>, the region is facing severe water erosion, ranking third after Churachandpur and Ukhrul. As a result, there is a general disruption in biodiversity, as well as a decline in the forests' ability to store and absorb carbon.

#### **Tamenglong District, land of the Hornbill (*Chareng*):**

As per ISFR 2023 (refer, footnote 2), Tamenglong district holds the highest geographical area under Very Dense Forest (VDF), corresponding to ~ 390.81 km<sup>2</sup>. The forests are mainly grouped as Tropical Evergreen Forest, Sub-tropical Forest and Bamboo Brakes<sup>43</sup>. The majority of the forests in this area are located within the Indo-Myanmar biodiversity hotspot, giving them critical ecological importance. The landscape is predominantly hilly, with a few flat areas such as Barak Bank, Khoupum Valley, and Kunphung. The forests are home to rare species, including the hornbill, hoolock gibbon, and slow loris<sup>44</sup>.

#### **Ecosystem baseline for Nagaland:**

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<sup>38</sup> <https://www.envirobiotechjournals.com/EEC/v27maysuppli2021/EEC-3.pdf>

<sup>39</sup> [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Asha-Gupta-6/publication/305875638\\_Life-forms\\_and\\_biological\\_spectrum\\_along\\_the\\_altitudinal\\_gradient\\_in\\_Montane\\_Forests\\_of\\_Senapati\\_district\\_of\\_Manipur\\_in\\_North-East\\_India/links/57a4479708ae3f4529290fb4/Life-forms-and-biological-spectrum-along-the-altitudinal-gradient-in-Montane-Forests-of-Senapati-district-of-Manipur-in-North-East-India.pdf](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Asha-Gupta-6/publication/305875638_Life-forms_and_biological_spectrum_along_the_altitudinal_gradient_in_Montane_Forests_of_Senapati_district_of_Manipur_in_North-East_India/links/57a4479708ae3f4529290fb4/Life-forms-and-biological-spectrum-along-the-altitudinal-gradient-in-Montane-Forests-of-Senapati-district-of-Manipur-in-North-East-India.pdf)

<sup>40</sup> <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10668-020-01059-4>

<sup>41</sup> [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=2487227](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2487227)

<sup>42</sup> <https://hrcak.srce.hr/file/354145>

<sup>43</sup> <https://ccmanipur.mn.gov.in/en/tamenglong/>

<sup>44</sup> <https://tamenglong.nic.in/about-district/>

### Zünheboto District:

Located in the heart of Nagaland, Zünheboto is the home to Sumi Nagas. The district is draped in evergreen mountains, sheltering stretches of untouched forest. The district’s total forest cover stands at 1,255 km<sup>2</sup>, marking a net depletion of 15.69 km<sup>2</sup> since 2021. According to a 2023 assessment<sup>45</sup>, the landscape is dominated by Open Forests and Moderately Dense Forests—both of which have shown a marked increase, underscoring the resilience of the ecosystem. The district reflects a mix of Jhum cultivation and terrace farming within the extensive range of Subtropical forests<sup>46</sup>, with the former being widely regarded as a primary driver of forest cover loss<sup>47</sup>. The entire region is a rich base of wild fodder plants (WFPs) sourced from the forests and successional fields<sup>48</sup>. These thick WFPs contribute towards the NDVI value of the district and also supports the main occupations of livestock rearing and piggery farming. Forest protection and conservation is important to safeguard the population of non-invasive WFP shrubs and herbs.

### Kiphire District:

The project plans at expanding in another district of Nagaland, Kiphire. The district stands as one of Nagaland’s ecological powerhouses. Draped in rugged terrains and cloaked in lush, untamed forests, the district breathes with the pulse of indigenous traditions and a wilderness that feels almost primeval. Its 1,130 km<sup>2</sup> of forest cover is more than just green on a map—it is a sanctuary of rare life, where endemic flora and fauna thrive. Among its treasures, the forests cradle a wealth of medicinal plants<sup>49</sup>, including the potent *Holarrhena pubescens*, the aromatic *Kaempferia galangal* and *Laurus nobilis*.

*NB. As stated in **Overview** section of this document, this district is under feasibility assessment and strategic considerations. Once a final decision is taken regarding its inclusion, we intend to initiate the expansion of project in regions of Kiphire district.*

## 3.4 Project Logic

**Table 3.4 Initial Project Logic**

**Project Requirement and logic:** Dependence on forest resources for timber and non-timber forest products (NTFPs) is increasing across the project regions, contributing to ongoing biomass degradation. Historical datasets and existing research indicate a clear need for a regional, community-based REDD+ intervention to address these pressures. Northeastern India possesses strong indigenous knowledge systems and cultural traditions that place high value on forest ecosystems, supported by customary land governance and community-led stewardship mechanisms.

**Key assumption and basis of project logic:** The project logic is based on the following key assumptions: (i) that current trends of forest resource extraction would continue in the absence of a structured intervention; (ii) that customary institutions and village-level governance systems remain functional and capable of enforcing collective forest management decisions; (iii) that

<sup>45</sup> [https://www.cwejournal.org/pdf/Vol19No2/CWE\\_Vol19\\_No2\\_p\\_928-938.pdf](https://www.cwejournal.org/pdf/Vol19No2/CWE_Vol19_No2_p_928-938.pdf)

<sup>46</sup> <https://ap.ftc.org.tw/article/1592>

<sup>47</sup> 10.47856/ijaast.2021.v08i11.003

<sup>48</sup> <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10722-023-01650-4>

<sup>49</sup> <https://www.ijplantenviro.com/index.php/IJPE/article/view/2316>

<p>communities are willing to engage in long-term forest protection when appropriate incentives and benefit-sharing mechanisms are available; and (iv) that carbon finance provides a viable and necessary incentive to support sustained community participation in forest conservation activities. Under these assumptions, forest protection can unlock access to carbon finance only through a structured REDD+ framework; in the absence of the project, such finance streams would not be available, thereby establishing the project’s additionality. The overall objective of the project is to develop a resilient, community-driven REDD+ model that conserves forest biomass, strengthens local livelihoods, and reinforces traditional ecological practices.</p>		
	<b>Description</b>	<b>Assumptions/Risks</b>
<b>Outcomes – Intended overall project aim</b>		
Carbon Benefit	<p>Adoption of a community-based REDD+ approach for integrated ecosystem management in the project areas of Nagaland and Manipur aims to generate local, national, and global benefits. These include the restoration of degraded forest landscapes, enhanced carbon sequestration, climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enrichment of native tree population. Through strong community participation and traditional governance systems, the project seeks to strengthen ecosystem resilience, improve livelihoods, and enhance the adaptive capacity and income security of rural and forest-dependent communities.</p>	<p><b>Risk:</b> There is strong political and institutional commitment within the states toward climate action. Additionally, resources available at the Village Council level present an opportunity to support and scale up climate-resilient interventions under the REDD+ framework. However, fluctuations in the global carbon market pose a challenge to the predictability and stability of carbon-based financing mechanisms.</p> <p><b>Risk mitigation strategy:</b> To mitigate risks associated with volatility in global carbon markets, the project adopts conservative financial projections and a phased implementation approach, reducing dependence on short-term carbon price fluctuations. The project emphasizes non-carbon co-benefits and strengthened community forest governance to sustain long-term participation irrespective of market conditions.</p>
Livelihood Benefit	<p>Communities will secure tangible and recurring benefits from the forests they safeguard. This includes reliable seasonal employment and fair daily wages generated through plantation activities, assisted natural regeneration measures, and structured community-led patrolling and protection efforts. In addition to these livelihood opportunities, communities will also receive</p>	<p>No risk identified as the local community has expressed a strong willingness to actively participate in the restoration of degraded upland areas. They have also shown interest in adopting alternative livelihood options that can contribute to reversing</p>

	a defined share of the revenue generated from the sale of PVCs, ensuring long-term financial participation in the project's success.	outward migration. These initiatives are expected to provide sustainable income opportunities while enhancing the long-term ecological and socio-economic resilience of the region
Ecosystem Benefit	Efforts focus on habitat protection and expansion, creation of new habitats along with breeding and nesting grounds, community-based monitoring of species, and enhancing terrestrial connectivity to support biodiversity.	<p>The said project shall take into consideration documented scientific methods to quantify the net impact of ecological conservation through native enrichment plantations, biodiversity monitoring, and land-based surveys. Appropriate statistical experimentations shall be deployed to capture measurable positive outcomes. However, there remains a risk of inconsistent field data or community disengagement over time, which may affect the accuracy of impact assessments.</p> <p><b>Risk mitigation strategy:</b> This risk shall be mitigated through regular capacity building, community mobilization, and periodic third-party validation to ensure data reliability and sustained participation.</p>
<b>Outputs</b>		
<b>Output 1</b>	The planned activities are designed to reduce ongoing deforestation and degradation pressures, delivering an estimated 13,545.94 tCO <sub>2</sub> e in annual emission reductions	Several divisions within the project area, including some newly identified zones, face open grazing pressures along forest margins. This risk will be managed through the creation of designated grazing and fodder plots and the planting of fodder species to reduce reliance on natural forests.
<b>Output 2</b>	Reduced firewood uses and lower reliance on forest-based grazing are anticipated. A detailed plot-level assessment will be carried out to quantify current firewood consumption, and dedicated woodlots will be established to provide alternative biomass	Households may under-report firewood and grazing practices, which could affect the accuracy of plot-level assessments. This will be mitigated through thorough field cross-checks, GPS-tagged

	sources and further ease pressure on natural forests.	woodlots and control plots, and verification of utilisation patterns during monitoring. Field surveys may also be constrained by heavy rainfall and challenging terrain; to address this, a seasonal survey plan will be adopted and drone-based monitoring used where feasible. Furthermore, fodder plots and woodlots will be established on suitable, relatively level terrain to minimise risks associated with slope instability and difficult access.
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### 3.5 Additionality

The primary project intervention focuses on preventing unplanned deforestation and forest degradation, while enhancing forest carbon stocks through assisted natural regeneration and enrichment planting.

The project is implemented in a UNFCCC Non-Annex I country and is not mandated by any existing law, statute, or regulatory framework, nor are such activities systematically enforced. However, the project operates in full compliance with all applicable national and international laws and policies.

The project aligns with India’s National REDD+ Strategy (2018) and supports community-based forest protection, carbon stock enhancement, and environmental and social safeguards. It is consistent with the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, as it does not involve forest diversion, commercial logging, or land-use change, but instead strengthens conservation and regeneration efforts.

The project fully complies with the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, ensuring respect for customary land tenure and community forest resource rights, with Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) obtained from participating communities. Activities are also aligned with the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, as no interventions are undertaken in protected areas and only native, non-destructive restoration practices are applied.

The project further contributes to India’s commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) by enhancing biodiversity, restoring degraded habitats, and strengthening community stewardship.

At present, no existing regulations are expected to adversely affect project implementation. In the event of new or amended regulations during the project lifetime, the Project Proponent will ensure timely compliance and adapt implementation strategies as necessary, without compromising environmental integrity, social safeguards, or community rights.

The above provisions apply to all project interventions described herein.

**Table 3.5 Initial Barrier Analysis**

Project Intervention	Main Barriers	Activities to Overcome Barriers
<p><b>Restoration and Enrichment plantation-</b> Undertaking enrichment plantation by planting native and fruit bearing trees species.</p>	<p>A. The main barrier for the local communities to adopt <b>enrichment planting practices</b> are the <b>lack of financial resources to support plantation activities</b>. The communities are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood and income which is used for meeting their daily needs. Lack of resources and technological know-how to adopt this practice.</p> <p>B. <b>Lack of technical expertise and knowledge</b> to carry out plantation projects. The lack of awareness on the benefits that can be generated from enrichment plantation usually led to resistance among the community members involvement.</p> <p>C. <b>Traditional/ Cultural barrier</b> towards adopting new systems and models of plantation as for local communities shifting cultivation is the only viable way of farming on the steep slopes they inhabit and may also form an integral part of their cultural identity<sup>50</sup>.</p>	<p>A. The project proponent/ implementation partners will guarantee that a thorough planning and procedures are in place for plantation activities to be carried out. High quality tree planting material is provided free of cost to local communities to carry out the plantation drive.</p> <p>B. The project design encourages collaboration with local communities guarantees capacity building initiatives within the community, fostering a sustainable foundation for the project long term viability, combining technical expertise with the knowledge of forest practices in context of tree species plantation and land responses to climatic conditions.</p> <p>C. Proper communication channel has been built up for conducting meetings and local stakeholder consultations on intervals to enhance understanding for adoption of proposed project inventions.</p> <p>D. Additional income generated from reduced carbon emissions will make it easier to plant more trees by providing planting material, equipment's needed which will enhance soil and water quality and promote biodiversity.</p>
<p><b>Protection</b></p>	<p>A. Lack of regular patrolling and forest monitoring, lacks the involvement of relevant stakeholders or local</p>	<p>A. Conduct routine coordination with local communities or relevant stakeholders such as village</p>

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[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/359711758\\_SHIFTING\\_CULTIVATION\\_IN\\_NORTH\\_EAST\\_INDIA\\_SUSTAINABILITY\\_ISSUES\\_AND\\_STRATEGIES\\_FOR\\_IMPROVEMENT](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/359711758_SHIFTING_CULTIVATION_IN_NORTH_EAST_INDIA_SUSTAINABILITY_ISSUES_AND_STRATEGIES_FOR_IMPROVEMENT)

	<p>communities in forest monitoring.</p> <p>B. Lack of adequate facilities to support patrol and reporting activities.</p> <p>C. Felling of forest trees for domestic purpose<sup>51</sup></p>	<p>chief and locals in conducting forest patrols and monitoring.</p> <p>B. Procure patrol support facilities such as camera traps, GPS and other equipment.</p> <p>C. Empower local village councils and tribal institutions to ensure protection from illegal and unsustainable logging by forming supportive community forest management structure, creation of local forest protection committees. Restriction on felling in the notified project areas (e.g., hill slopes, biodiversity hotspots, sacred groves). Promotes native tree and other NTFP tree species plantation to support timber and other requirements. Awareness and capacity building programmes are conducted on the impacts on logging and timber harvesting to attain long term sustainable forest protection.</p> <p>D. Project activity aims speeding up regeneration of degraded forest areas which have good regenerative capacity. To support this process, the selected sites would be closed and protected from grazing activities.</p> <p>Overall, this project activity will provide carbon finance to pay village communities for ecosystem services and forest cover maintenance</p>
<p><b>Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR)</b> - The main intervention pertinent to ANR included removal of invasive shrub species to decrease biotic</p>	<p>A. Open Grazing Pressure: In many landscapes, free grazing damages young seedlings before they establish.</p>	<p>A. Community agreements on seasonal grazing regulation, temporary fencing of priority patches, and rotational grazing</p>

<sup>51</sup> [B019820816.pdf](#)

<p>competition and mulching along naturally established saplings.</p>	<p>B. Low Community Incentive in Early Years: Natural regeneration does not provide immediate visible returns, leading to weak participation.</p>	<p>systems developed through village consultations. B. ANR areas will be linked to future carbon revenue sharing mechanisms and short-term livelihood support through wage payments for protection, weeding, and soil and water conservation works. Community members engaged in ANR activities will be formally employed under the project and provided seasonal wages for carrying out regeneration, protection, and maintenance activities, ensuring immediate income support during the initial years.</p>
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### 3.6 Exclusion List

The project does not include and is not expected to include any activities listed in the Plan Vivo Exclusion List (Annex 3)

### 3.7 Environmental and Social Screening

There are no known past or ongoing disputes related to land or natural resources within the Project Area across Manipur and Nagaland. Project lands are held under customary tenure systems, with ownership and management rights vested in village councils or clan institutions, and access allocated to households under the oversight of traditional village authorities. The absence of land and resource-related disputes was verified through village-level stakeholder consultations conducted across all participating villages, review of customary land governance arrangements recognized by village authorities, and written consent letters and resolutions confirming that the identified project lands are undisputed and fall under customary jurisdiction. No competing claims, boundary disputes, or conflicts were identified during consultations or the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process.

The project does not involve any government agency or statutory body in monitoring, patrolling, or enforcement activities, and therefore no Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with government authorities is required. Monitoring and patrolling will be carried out by the Project Proponent in collaboration with the Project Implementation Partner and participating community institutions through trained, community-based monitoring groups. Carbon-related monitoring activities will be implemented in accordance with the Plan Vivo Standard and approved monitoring protocols, with adherence to all applicable environmental and social safeguards.

In the event of any future land or resource-related grievances, the project's grievance redress mechanism will be applied, and project activities will be suspended in the concerned area until the issue is formally resolved and renewed consent is obtained. Please refer to **Annex 4** for detailed documentation.

### 3.8 Double Counting

A double counting declaration (refer to annex 8) has been provided by the Project coordinator Mirin Climate Centre Pvt. Ltd. which states that there the land parcels does not overlap with boundary of another carbon credit based GHG removal program. The Project coordinator has investigated carbon standards operational in the project country, i.e., India like VERRA, Plan Vivo, GS4GG. In VERRA, under VCS one program is operational, by the name of 'THE NAGALAND 4 CHANGE REDD+ PROJECT'. The said project<sup>52</sup> is located in Peren District of Nagaland, which is **not spatially overlapping** with our project district i.e., Zunheboto. The Double counting declaration also clearly demonstrates that the project is not part of any government scheme or plantation program. No programs are operating in the same project region under pipeline published by Plan Vivo<sup>53</sup> and on impact registry of GS4GG<sup>54</sup>.

**Table 3.8 National Level Legislation, Policies and Instruments**

	Yes/No/Unsure	Details
<b>Is there a national registry for land-based carbon projects?</b>	No	At present, India does not have a dedicated national registry for land-based or forestry carbon projects. The regulatory framework that exists is the <b>Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)</b> , administered by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE). CCTS functions as the country's formal compliance carbon market mechanism. However, it is important to note that <b>forestry activities are not included within the current scope of CCTS</b> . The scheme presently covers specific industrial and energy-related sectors and does not provide methodologies or eligibility pathways for forestry-based carbon credit generation.
<b>Are carbon rights defined in national legislation?</b>	No	
<b>Are there any carbon pricing regulations existing or in development (e.g. emissions trading scheme or carbon tax)</b>	Yes	Central Government of India has notified Carbon Credit Trading System under compliance market. The Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2022 grants the Central Government the authority to "Specify a Carbon Trading Scheme" under Clause (w) of Section 14. The amendment also enables the issuance of carbon credit certificates by any agency designated by the Central Government. Each certificate issued will represent a reduction (or removal) of one ton of CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent (tCO <sub>2</sub> e) from the atmosphere. CCTS is expected to function from 2025 onwards.
<b>Does the country receive or plan to receive results-based</b>	Yes	India has been receiving results-based climate finance through various bilateral and

<sup>52</sup> <https://registry.verra.org/app/projectDetail/VCS/4540>

<sup>53</sup> <https://www.planvivo.org/pv-climate-pipeline>

<sup>54</sup> <https://www.goldstandard.org/project-developers/impact-registry>

<p><b>climate finance through bilateral or multilateral programs?</b></p>		<p>multilateral programs. Between 2010 and 2018, this financial support increased more than fourfold. Climate funds are already making a tangible impact by assisting developing countries in addressing policy, regulatory, and institutional barriers that hinder public and private investment in low-carbon and climate-resilient solutions. For instance, the GEF’s support for the technical groundwork that has facilitated the adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency policies in India is a notable example<sup>55</sup>.</p>
<p><b>Are there any other relevant regulations, policies or instruments?</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Recently on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, has published modalities for taking up restoration of degraded forest land under Green Credit Programme. However, these rules are strictly applicable on degraded lands under the jurisdiction/mapped by the Forest Departments and no REDD+ related specifications have been added.</p>

## 4 Governance and Administration

### 4.1 Governance Structure

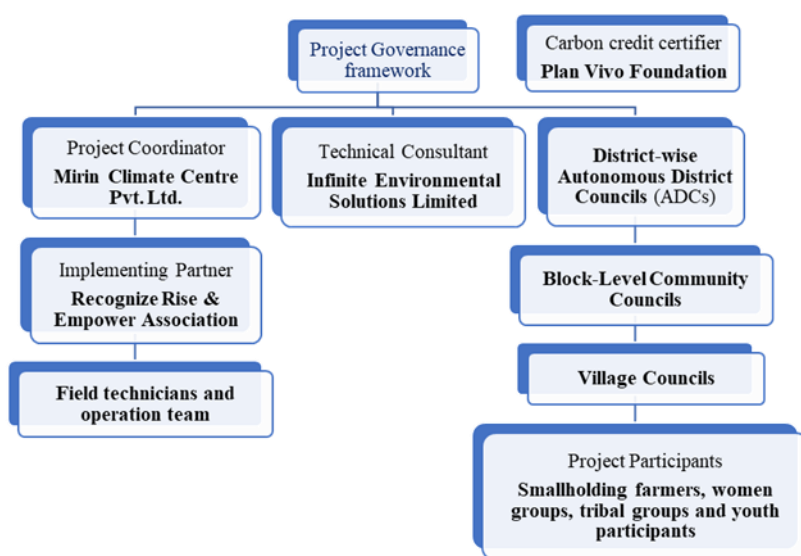
The overall project governance structure remains consistent, with specific modifications to address state-level requirements. Recognize Rise & Empower Association is engaged as the implementing partner for project activities in Manipur, while FAITH Welfare Society and Goo Green Club is engaged as the implementing partner for project activities in Nagaland. A detailed description for the project governance structure is provided below,

**Manipur:** Mirin Climate Centre Private Limited (MCC) acts as the Project Coordinator and project owner and is responsible for overall project design, finance, implementation oversight, compliance with applicable standards, maintenance of project documentation, benefit-sharing arrangements, and grievance redress mechanisms. MCC provides strategic direction and ensures coordination among all governance levels. Technical support is provided by Infinite Environmental Solutions Limited, which functions as technical consultant and provides methodological guidance, monitoring frameworks, and reporting support.

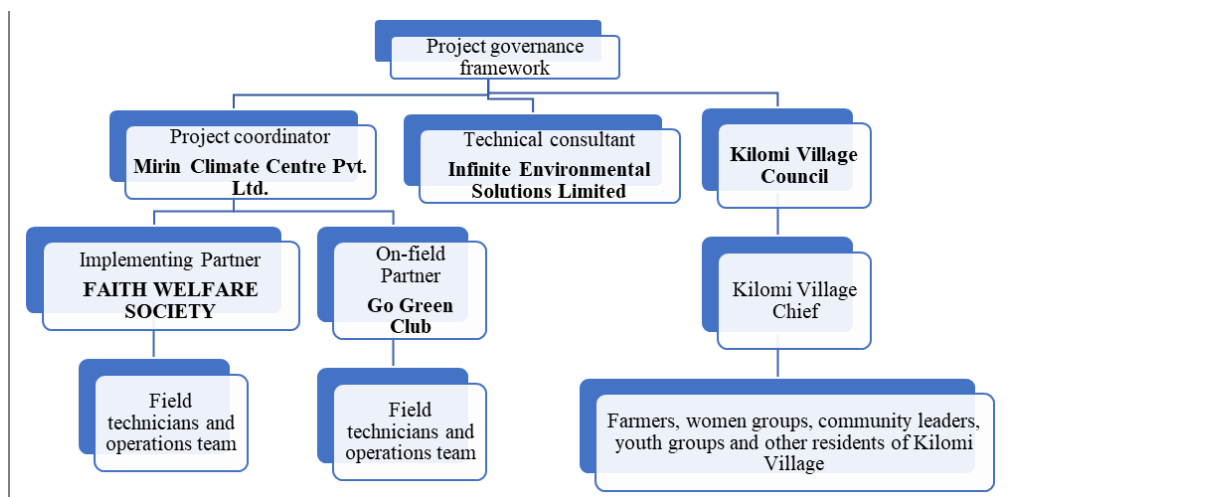
Recognize Rise & Empower Association (RREA) is the local implementing partner NGO operating under the supervision of MCC and in coordination with ADCs. RREA is responsible for on ground implementation of the project activities, community involvement, field-level monitoring, data collection and regular reporting to MCC. RREA also supports awareness generation and capacity building at community level. Autonomous District Councils or ADCs function as statutory administrative and oversight authority in the tribal project areas, in accordance with applicable state legislation. ADCs oversee land governance, facilitate administrative clearances where required, and

<sup>55</sup> <https://www.thegef.org/what-we-do/topics/renewable-energy-and-energy-access#:~:text=In%20India%2C%20where%20many%20people,better%20lighting%20conditions%2C%20for%20children.>

are responsible for the resolution of local disputes. The ADCs have been formally briefed on the project and acknowledge its implementation within their jurisdiction. Block-Level Community Councils (BLCCs) provide an intermediate coordination platform between villages and higher governance levels. BLCCs facilitate bi-monthly meetings among village representatives to review project progress, discuss challenges, and coordinate interventions. Information from these meetings is communicated upward through an established reporting mechanism. Village Councils, headed by elected Village Chiefs, are responsible for facilitating project implementation at the village level. They oversee land and resource-related activities, support monitoring of project interventions, and ensure participation of local households in project activities. Community participants, including youth representatives, tribal groups, women’s groups, and farmers, are engaged in field-level activities such as afforestation, Assisted Natural Regeneration, protection and maintenance of project areas, monitoring, and data collection. Their participation supports effective implementation and long-term sustainability of project outcomes.



**Nagaland:** The project governance structure in Nagaland is implemented through a clearly defined and functionally segregated institutional framework. Mirin Climate Centre Private Limited (MCC) acts as the Project Coordinator and project owner, with responsibility for overall project design, financial management, coordination, compliance with applicable standards, and implementation oversight. Technical support is provided by Infinite Environmental Solutions Limited, which functions as the Technical Consultant and provides methodological guidance, monitoring frameworks, and reporting support. Carbon credit certification is undertaken by the Plan Vivo Foundation, which serves as the independent carbon standard and certifying body. Field-level implementation is carried out by local implementing partners, including FAITH Welfare Society and Go Green Club, under the supervision of MCC. These implementing partners are responsible for on-ground execution of project activities, mobilization and engagement of local communities, coordination of field technicians and operations teams, and routine monitoring and data collection. At the community level, the Kilomi Village Council facilitates local coordination and supports community participation. Project participants, including farmers, women’s groups, tribal groups, youth participants, and other village residents, are directly involved in project implementation, monitoring, and maintenance of project activities. The implementing partners maintain direct and continuous operational engagement with project participants and serve as the primary interface between the community and the Project Coordinator. This structure ensures effective communication, timely implementation of interventions, systemic feedback from field, and consistent reporting across all governance levels.



## 4.2 Legal and Regulatory Compliance

The respective Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) have been formally notified by MCC about the project’s intent, and the project has received signed acknowledgements from the ADC offices (please refer to Annex 5).

Village heads have confirmed the participation of their villages and have issued NOCs to MCC. All parties involved, including MCC, IESL, RREA, HLTEC and the project participants, commit to adhering to all applicable national and international regulations governing ecosystem services, human rights, carbon rights and community rights.

Relevant policies, laws and regulations for the state of Manipur	Significance	Project compliance
The Manipur (Hill Areas) District Councils Act, 1971 <sup>56</sup>	The Act affirms the District Councils’ authority over forest management, irrespective of a forest’s reserved status. It further assigns them oversight of agriculture, animal husbandry, community development, social and tribal welfare, and village planning.	MCC has already notified the District Councils, held detailed discussions with them, and obtained formal signed acknowledgements supporting the implementation of the project.
Manipur State Action Plan on Climate Change, 2013 <sup>57</sup>	The Action Plan stresses mobilizing adaptation funds and engaging private actors through mechanisms like REDD+, voluntary market financing and technology transfer. It identifies carbon finance as a key pathway for afforestation, reforestation and forest restoration in the state.	The project aligns with this mandate by undertaking a REDD+ intervention under voluntary carbon mechanisms, implemented through the acclaimed Plan Vivo Standard.

<sup>56</sup> <https://forest.manipurforest.gov.in/act-rules-guidelines#:~:text=8-Manipur%20Hill%20District%20Councils%20Acts1971,-Act>

<sup>57</sup> [https://manervis.nic.in/writereaddata/Executive%20Summary\(5\).pdf](https://manervis.nic.in/writereaddata/Executive%20Summary(5).pdf)

<b>Relevant policies, laws and regulations for the state of Nagaland</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Project compliance</b>
Nagaland State Action Plan on Climate Change, 2012 <sup>58</sup> (Version 1) <sup>59</sup>	The Action Plan emphasizes on conducting research and developing baseline methodology on REDD+ for community-conserved areas and a policy for selection of these for posing in international markets.	The project aligns with the ambition of State Action Plan and aims at expanding REDD+ interventions in the state of Nagaland as well through participatory community-based approach.
Nagaland Village and Area Councils Act 1978, renamed Nagaland Village & Tribal Councils Act, 1978 through Nagaland Village Councils (4th Amendment) Act, 2009	The Act provides for the establishment of traditional governing bodies, known as Village Councils, in Nagaland. These councils are entrusted with local governance responsibilities and empowered to support village development while upholding and enforcing customary laws, rules, and practices in line with their respective traditions.	MCC is in continuous discussion with the Councils for written permissions and acknowledgment.
Nagaland Biodiversity Rules 2012 <sup>60</sup>	The Rules govern the conservation of biological diversity, the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from biological resources, and the sustainable use of those resources.	The project does not intend to impact on the local biodiversity, rather REDD+ interventions, upon implemented, shall reduce the burden on forest resource and safeguard natural habitat of local biodiversity.

<b>Relevant national policies, laws and regulations</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Project compliance</b>
The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 <sup>61</sup>	The Act is significant because it finally recognizes the historical tenure, access, and occupational rights of forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional communities who were excluded for generations. By granting both individual rights and powerful Community Forest Rights, the Act shifts forest governance toward the people who actually live in and depend on these landscapes. It empowers communities to protect,	The REDD+ project fully respects all indigenous and tribal rights, including historical land tenure and traditional livelihood rights. The project will not exercise any control over these rights, and only the carbon rights will be assigned to MCC. This has been clearly stated in the NOC, following detailed consultations with the communities. The project and its partners operate in

<sup>58</sup> <https://moef.gov.in/uploads/2017/09/Nagaland.pdf>

<sup>59</sup> [https://elementnagaland.in/storage/project\\_documentations/environmental-and-social-management-framework-\(esmf\).pdf](https://elementnagaland.in/storage/project_documentations/environmental-and-social-management-framework-(esmf).pdf)

<sup>60</sup> <https://nsbb.nagaland.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Nagaland-State-Biological-Diversity-Rules-2012.pdf>

<sup>61</sup> <https://moef.gov.in/uploads/2019/06/redd-bk1.pdf>

	regenerate, and manage their Community Forest Resources, strengthening conservation through local stewardship rather than top-down control.	complete compliance with all relevant regulations and safeguards.
The Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 and Rules <sup>62</sup>	Children below 14 years cannot be employed in any form of labour, and work by adolescents aged 14 to 18 is permitted only under strict restrictions.	The project does not include child labour or restricted adolescent labour in any of its activities.
Employment Laws: Code on Wages, 2019; Code on Social Security, 2020	Handles prompt payment of wages and lays down rules for insurance, compensation and provident funds.	The project adheres to all labour laws and policies issued by the Labour Commissioner and the State, ensuring the welfare and protection of workers across both organized and unorganized sectors.

### 4.3 Financial Plan

**Current shareholders of the project:** Mirin Climate Centre Pvt. Ltd. (MCC) is the sole Project Owner and legal proponent of the REDD+ project under the Plan Vivo Standard. MCC is responsible for project design, certification, registration, contractual aggregation of carbon rights, and the marketing and sale of Plan Vivo Certificates (PVCs). Participating community members are recognized as Project Participants and primary beneficiaries. Under agreements established through the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) process, participating communities are entitled to 70% of net revenues from the sale of PVCs, after deduction of applicable taxes, certification fees, registry fees, and other legally mandated charges. These agreements confer economic benefit and participation rights but do not constitute project ownership or shareholder status. MCC retains 30% of net revenues to meet costs related to project development, implementation, monitoring, certification, risk management, and long-term sustainability. Infinite Environmental Solutions Limited is engaged as a Carbon partner by MCC, providing funding support for Carbon credit related project development and implementation. Any returns or repayments are governed by a separate commercial agreement with MCC and are treated as project-related costs. The community benefit-sharing arrangement remains unaffected. Implementing and technical partners engaged in the project act solely as service providers contracted by MCC and do not hold ownership, shareholder status, carbon rights, or entitlement to revenues from the sale of PVCs.

**Financial Plan:** The project operates under a blended finance structure combining internal sponsor capital for early-stage de-risking, a revenue-share MRV partner to structure verification costs, impact and investment-based catalytic capital, forward carbon purchase agreements, and post-issuance reinvestment of carbon revenues. A detailed 30-year financial projection, including sensitivity analysis for price and volume scenarios, is under development and will be finalized in 2026.

Phase 1: Pre-Issuance (2026–2028) focuses on validation, implementation scale-up, MRV structuring, and investor onboarding. Capital during this stage supports field coordination, administration and compliance, plantation and livelihood activities, and baseline and MRV preparation. Funding is mobilized through active sponsor internal capital, a structured revenue-share MRV partner, impact

<sup>62</sup> [https://labour.gov.in/sites/default/files/2\\_rules.pdf](https://labour.gov.in/sites/default/files/2_rules.pdf)

investors and Climate funds under engagement, and discounted early-stage forward carbon purchase agreements. This phase is characterized by higher upfront implementation costs and limited revenue inflow prior to first issuance, with financial risk mitigated through the structured MRV revenue-sharing model.

Phase 2: Post-Issuance (2029 onwards) marks the transition to revenue-backed sustainability. The revenue base is derived from verified carbon credit sales across approximately 18,063 hectares, with an estimated sequestration rate of 0.9 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per hectare per year under conservative voluntary market pricing assumptions.

Ten percent of net carbon revenue is earmarked for project operations, expansion activities, and risk buffering to ensure long-term resilience. Additional diversification is planned through international voluntary carbon buyers, biodiversity credit pilots, eco-tourism-linked income, and strategic corporate climate partnerships.

This phase shifts the project from capital-dependent to revenue-sustained operations. The annual cost framework includes field coordination and NGO partnerships, administration and reporting, community-based climate interventions, and monitoring, reporting, verification, and issuance. MRV costs vary depending on the verification cycle year, with commercially sensitive line-item details retained internally.

In compliance with the 60% minimum equitable benefit-sharing requirement, the proposed allocation of net carbon revenue directs 70% to community beneficiaries, including 60% as direct household transfers and 10% to village development funds, while 20% supports project operations and 10% is reserved for risk buffering and reinvestment (from 30% MCC's share). This structure ensures community primacy, financial sustainability, and operational continuity without reliance on long-term grant dependency.

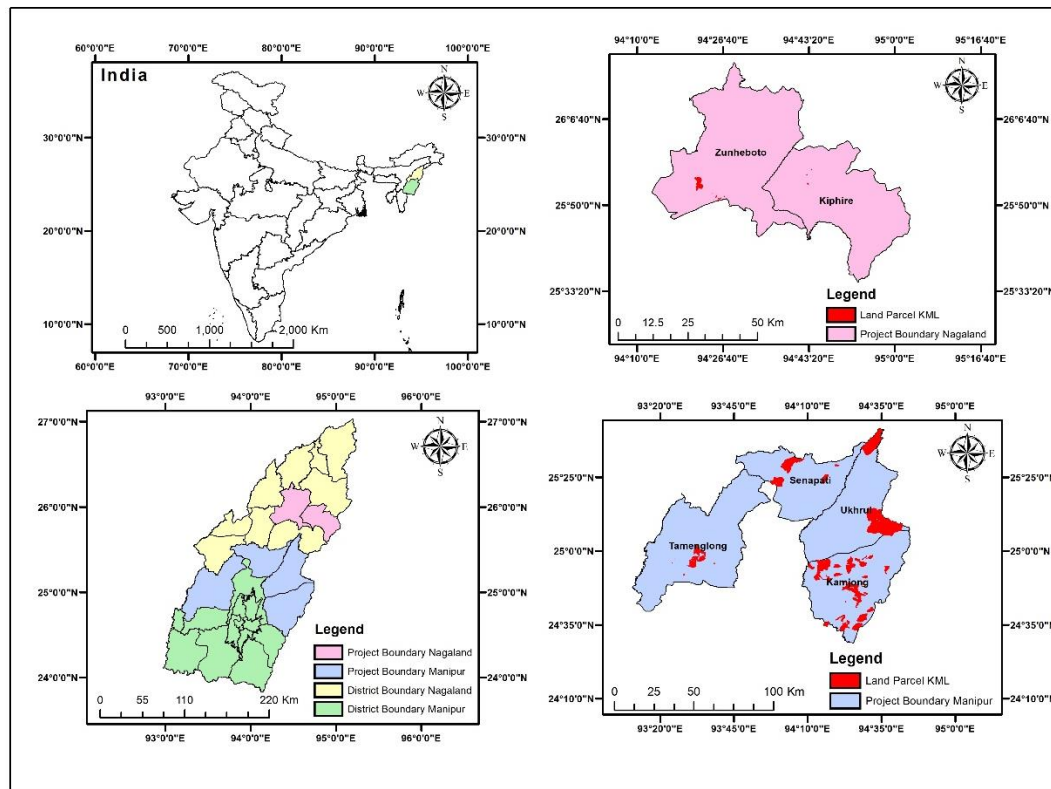
Strategic partners include a revenue-share MRV partner covering verification costs under a structured model, impact investors providing early-stage working capital, Climate funds supporting activity expansion, international carbon buyers engaging in forward purchase agreements, and institutional accelerators facilitating investor matchmaking through international climate platforms.

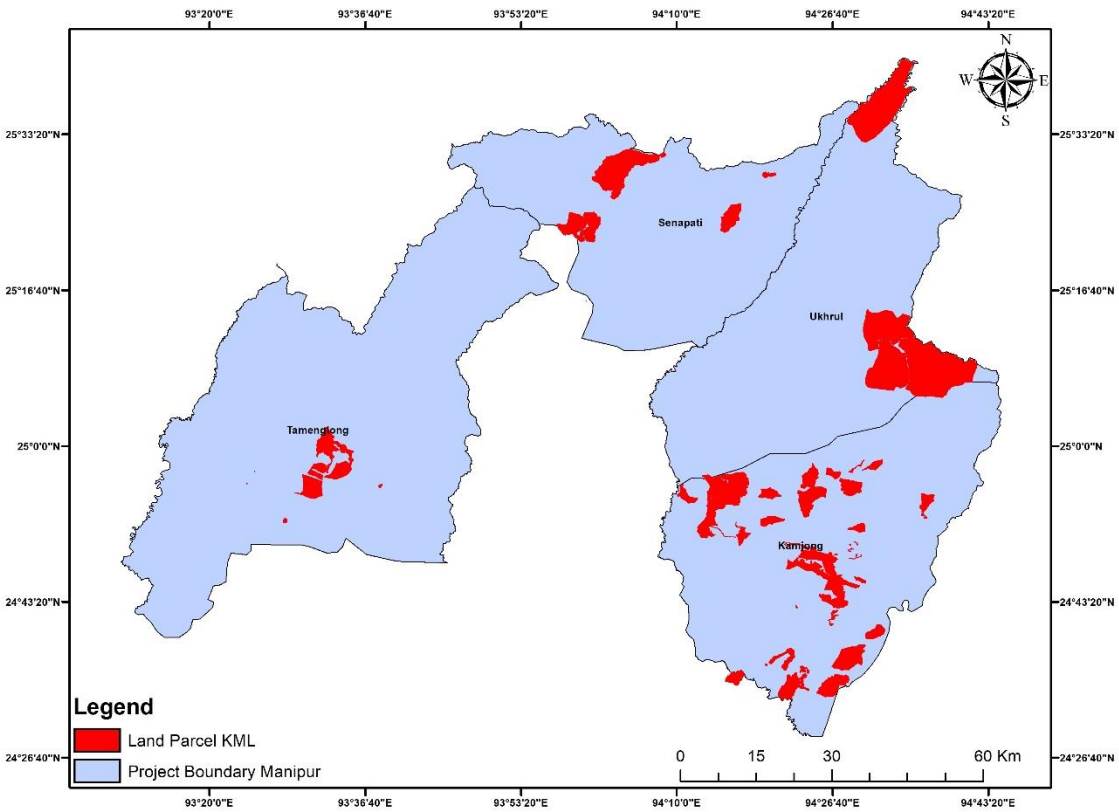
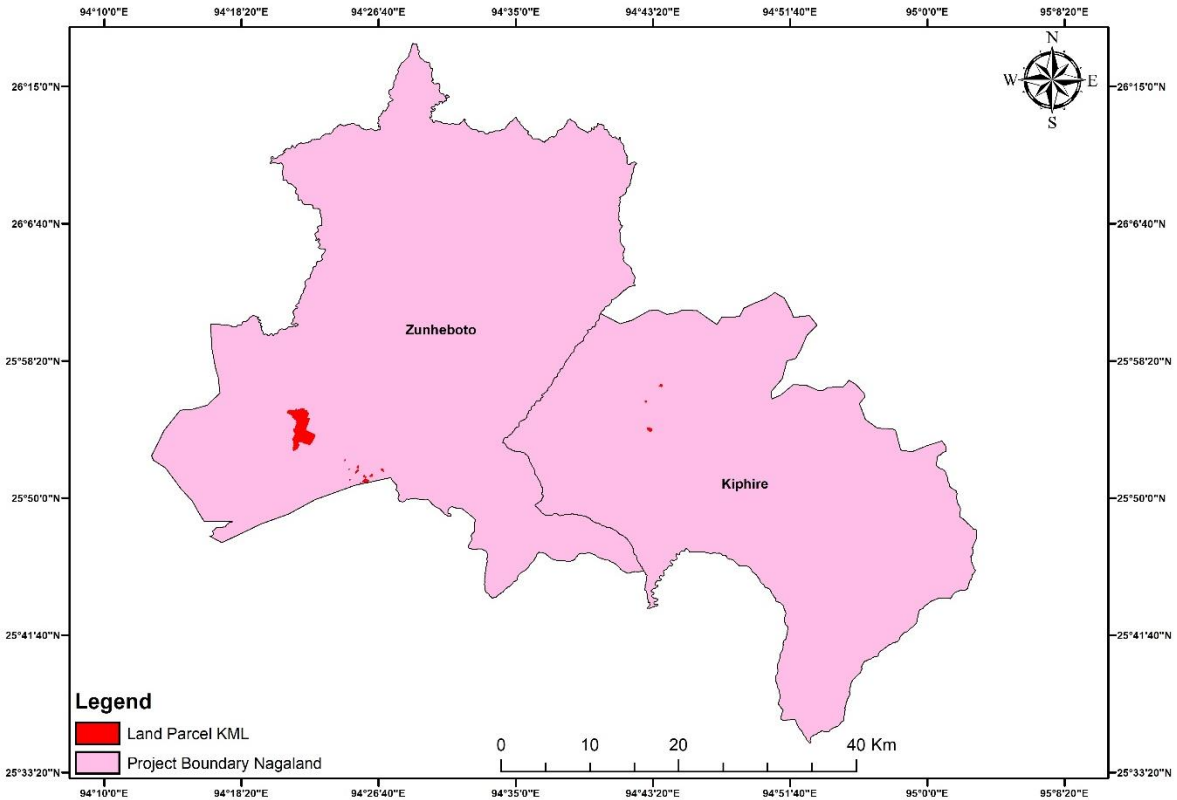
Key financial milestones include financial model finalization by Q3 2026, and first external capital closing in Q4 2026.

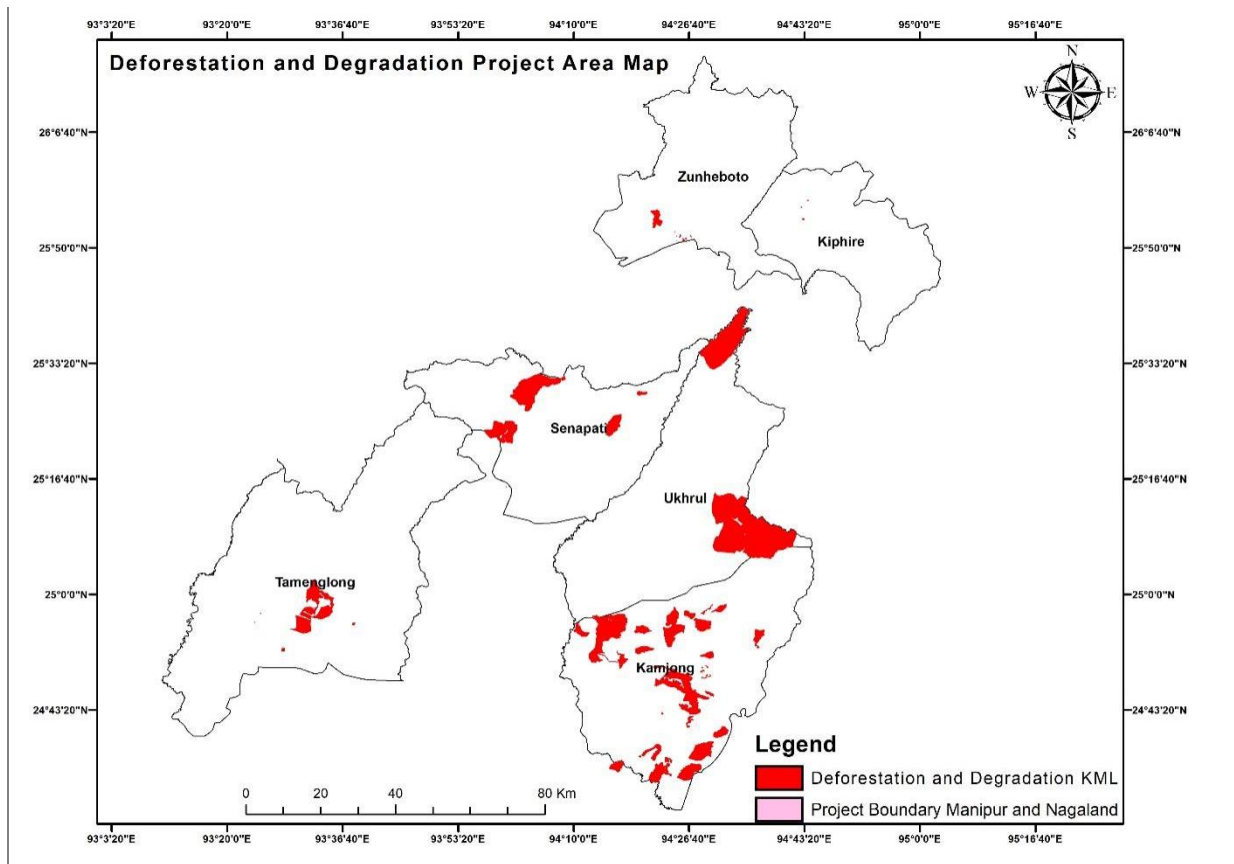
## Annexes

### Annex 1 – Project Boundaries



We provide the project boundary map along with the project areas showing decrease in the forest cover both with respect to degradation and deforestation.








Annex 2 –Registration Certificate

 सत्यमेव जयते
<b>GOVERNMENT OF INDIA</b> <b>MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS</b> Central Registration Centre <b>Certificate of Incorporation</b>
[Pursuant to sub-section (2) of section 7 and sub-section (1) of section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013) and rule 18 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014]
I hereby certify that MIRIN CLIMATE CENTRE PRIVATE LIMITED is incorporated on this TWENTY THIRD day of SEPTEMBER TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FOUR under the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013) and that the company is Company limited by shares
The Corporate Identity Number of the company is <b>U02400MN2024PTC015166</b>
The Permanent Account Number (PAN) of the company is <b>AASCM5315M*</b>
The Tax Deduction and Collection Account Number (TAN) of the company is <b>SHLM07537F*</b>
Given under my hand at Manesar this TWENTY THIRD day of SEPTEMBER TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FOUR
<b>Signature Not Verified</b> Digitally signed by DS MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS , CRC MANESAR 1 Date: 2024.09.23 11:51:15 IST
PRAMOD KUMAR Assistant Registrar of Companies/ Deputy Registrar of Companies/ Registrar of Companies For and on behalf of the Jurisdictional Registrar of Companies Registrar of Companies Central Registration Centre
<small>Disclaimer: This certificate only evidences incorporation of the company on the basis of documents and declarations of the applicant(s). This certificate is neither a license nor permission to conduct business or solicit deposits or funds from public. Permission of sector regulator is necessary wherever required. Registration status and other details of the company can be verified on <a href="http://mca.gov.in">mca.gov.in</a></small>
Mailing Address as per record available in Registrar of Companies office: MIRIN CLIMATE CENTRE PRIVATE LIMITED House No. 316, Seipet, Zingsho Phungreitang, Ukhrul, Ukhrul, ukhrul- 795142, Manipur *as issued by Income tax Department


Certificate of Incorporation for Mirin Climate Centre Private Limited

  
सत्यमेव जयते

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS**  
Central Registration Centre

**Certificate of Incorporation**

[Pursuant to sub-section (2) of section 7 and sub-section (1) of section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013) and rule 18 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014]

I hereby certify that INFINITE ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS LIMITED is incorporated on this FIFTH day of OCTOBER TWO THOUSAND TWENTY THREE under the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013) and that the company is Company limited by shares

The Corporate Identity Number of the company is **U72200MP2023PLC067992**  
The Permanent Account Number (PAN) of the company is **AAHC13370B\***  
The Tax Deduction and Collection Account Number (TAN) of the company is **BPLI02942C\***


Given under my hand at Manesar this FIFTH day of OCTOBER TWO THOUSAND TWENTY THREE

Signature **Not Verified**  
Digitally signed by  
DS MINISTRY OF CORPORATE  
AFFAIRS 10  
Date: 2023.10.05 15:36:40 IST

SHEETAL KUMARI  
Assistant Registrar of Companies/ Deputy Registrar of Companies/ Registrar of Companies  
For and on behalf of the Jurisdictional Registrar of Companies  
Registrar of Companies  
Central Registration Centre

Disclaimer: This certificate only evidences incorporation of the company on the basis of documents and declarations of the applicant(s). This certificate is neither a license nor permission to conduct business or solicit deposits or funds from public. Permission of sector regulator is necessary wherever required. Registration status and other details of the company can be verified on [mca.gov.in](http://mca.gov.in)

Mailing Address as per record available in Registrar of Companies office:  
INFINITE ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS LIMITED  
103, Sarmati Apartment, 42-B Sainath Colony, Indore Tilaknagar, Indore, Indore-452018, Madhya Pradesh  
\*as issued by Income tax Department



Certificate of Incorporation for Infinite Environmental Solutions Limited

**LETTER OF AUTHORISATION**

(For Submission of Project Idea Note and Project Design Document to Plan Vivo)

Date: 15 March 2025

To

Plan Vivo Foundation  
4 Gayfield Place Lane  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3NZ  
United Kingdom

**Subject: Letter of Authorization for Submission of Project Idea Note (PIN) and Project Design Document (PDD)**

Dear Madam/Sir,

We, Mirin Climate Centre Private Limited, a company incorporated under the laws of India (CIN: U02400MN2024PTC015166), hereby confirm that we are the Project Owner and Project Proponent of the project described below.

We hereby authorize Infinite Environmental Solutions Limited (CIN: U72200MP2023PLC067992) to act on our behalf for the purpose of preparing and submitting a Project Idea Note (PIN) and Project Design Document (PDD) to the Plan Vivo Foundation, and to liaise with Plan Vivo in relation to the assessment of the PIN and PDD in subsequent stages, including responding to requests for clarification or additional information.

**Project Details**

- Project Title: REDD+ project for indigenous tribal communities, North East India
- Project Location: Nagaland and Manipur, India
- Project Type: REDD+ / Nature-Based Solutions


We confirm that:

- We have full authority to propose this project to Plan Vivo;
- The information provided in the PIN submission is shared with our full knowledge and consent;
- Mirin Climate Centre Private Limited, as the project owner, retains exclusive ownership of all carbon credits generated under the project and holds full rights to their use, trade, and transfer.

This authorization shall remain valid unless withdrawn by us in writing.

Should you require any further information or confirmation, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,  
For and on behalf of  
Mirin Climate Centre Private Limited  
Name: Dr. Phungmayo Horam  
Title: Managing Director



Signature:  
Date: 15.03.2025

Letter of authorization from Mirin Climate Centre Pvt. Ltd. to Infinite Environmental Solutions Limited

### Annex 3 – Exclusion List

Complete the exclusion list by responding ‘Yes’ if the activity is included in the project and ‘No’ if the project does not include the activity.

Activities	Included in Project ('Yes' or 'No')
Any project activities leading to or requiring the destruction [1] of critical habitat [2] or any forestry project which does not implement a plan for improvement and/or sustainable management.	No
Any activity which could be associated with the significant impairment of areas particularly worthy of protection of cultural heritage (without adequate compensation in accordance with international standards).	No
Trade in animals, plants or any natural products not complying with the provisions of the CITES/Washington convention [3].	No
Illegal, harvesting or trading in any wildlife resources.	No
Destructive fishing methods or drift net fishing with a net more than 2.5 km in length, explosives and/or poison.	No
Large-scale commercial logging operations for use in primary tropical moist forest.	No
Production or trade in wood or other forestry products other than from sustainably managed forests [4].	No

Exploitation of diamond mines and marketing of diamonds where the host country has not adhered to the Kimberley Process, and exploitation of other conflict minerals [5]	No
Activities involving harmful or exploitative forms of forced labour, [6] harmful child labour [7], modern slavery and human trafficking [8].	No
Projects that include involuntary physical displacement and/or forced eviction.	No
Production or activities that encroach on lands owned, or claimed or occupied by Indigenous Peoples, without full documented Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of such peoples [9].	No
Harmful and unsafe production, use, sale or trade of pharmaceuticals, ozone layer depleting substances [10], and other toxic [11] or dangerous materials such as asbestos or products containing PCB's [12], wildlife or products regulated under CITES, including all products that are banned or are being progressively phased out internationally	No
Production or trade of arms, ammunition, weaponry, controversial weapons, or components thereof (e.g., nuclear weapons and radioactive ammunition, biological and chemical weapons of mass destruction, cluster bombs, anti -personnel mines, enriched uranium).	No
Procurement and use of firearms.	No
Provision of finances to military institutions involved in conservation or security activities.	No
Production or trade of strong alcohol intended for human consumption or other alcoholic beverages (excluding beer and wine).	No
Production or trade of tobacco and other drugs	No
Gambling, gaming establishments, casinos or any equivalent enterprises and undertaking [13].	No
Any trade related to pornography, prostitution or sexual exploitation of any form.	No
Production or trade in radioactive material. This does not apply to the procurement of medical equipment, quality control equipment or other application for which the radioactive source is insignificant and/or adequately shielded	No
Production or trade in unbound asbestos. This does not apply to the purchase or use of cement linings with bound asbestos and an asbestos content of less than 20%.	No
Production, trade, storage, or transport of significant volumes of hazardous chemicals, or commercial scale usage of hazardous chemicals. Hazardous chemicals include gasoline, kerosene, and other petroleum products.	No
Transboundary trade in wastes, except for those accepted by the Basel Convention and its underlying regulations [14].	No
Any activity leading to an irreversible modification or significant displacement of an element of culturally critical heritage [15].	No
Production and distribution, or investment in, media that are racist, antidemocratic or that advocate discrimination against a part of the population.	No
Projects involving the planting or introduction of invasive species	No
Projects that increase the dependency of primary participants and other stakeholders on fossil fuels.	No

Notes:

[1] Destruction means (1) the elimination or severe reduction in the integrity of a habitat/area caused by a major and long-term/prolonged change in land-use or water resources or (2) the modification of a habitat such that this habitat's ability to fulfil its function/ role is lost.

[2] The term critical habitat encompasses natural and modified habitats that deserve particular attention. This term includes (1) spaces with high biodiversity value as defined in the IUCN's classification criteria, including, in particular, habitats required for the survival of endangered species as defined by the IUCN's red list of threatened species or by any national legislation; (2) spaces with a particular importance for endemic species or whose geographical range is limited; (3) critical sites for the survival of migratory species; (4) spaces welcoming a significant number of individuals from congregatory species; (5) spaces presenting unique assemblages of species or containing species which are associated according to key evolution processes or which fulfil key ecosystem services; (6) and territories with socially, economically or culturally significant biodiversity for local communities. Primary forests or high conservation value forests must also be considered as critical habitats

[3] <https://cites.org/eng/disc/text.php>

[4] Sustainably managed forests are forests managed in a way that balances ecological, economic and socio-cultural needs.

[5] Conflict minerals, including tin, tungsten, tantalum and gold, can be used to finance armed groups, fuel forced labour and other human rights abuses, and support corruption and money laundering. See the EU Regulation on conflict minerals:

[https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/development-and-sustainability/conflict-minerals-regulation/regulation-explained\\_en](https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/development-and-sustainability/conflict-minerals-regulation/regulation-explained_en)

[6] Forced labour means all work or service, not voluntarily performed, that is extracted from an individual under threat of force or penalty.

[7] Harmful child labour means the employment of children that is economically exploitive, or is likely to be hazardous to, or to interfere with, the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health, or physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development. Employees must be at least 14 years of age, as defined in the ILO's Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (C138 – Minimum Age Convention, Article 2), unless local laws require compulsory school attendance or a minimum working age. In such circumstances, the highest age requirement must be used.

[8] Modern slavery is comprised two key components: forced labour and forced marriage. These refer to situations of exploitation that a person cannot leave or refuse due to threats, violence, deception or coercion. ([https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---ipec/documents/publication/wcms\\_854733.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---ipec/documents/publication/wcms_854733.pdf))

[9] <https://www.fao.org/indigenous-peoples/our-pillars/fpic/en/>

[10] Any chemical component which reacts with, and destroys, the stratospheric ozone layer leading to the formation of holes in this layer. The Montreal Protocol lists Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS), their reduction targets and deadlines for phasing them out.

[11] Including substances included under the Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention and WHO "Pharmaceuticals: Restrictions in Use and Availability".

[12] PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) are a group of highly toxic chemical products that may be found in oil-filled electrical transformers, capacitors and switchgear dating from 1950 to 1985.

[13] Any direct financing of these projects or activities involving them (for example, a hotel including a casino). Urban improvement plans which could subsequently incorporate such projects are not affected.

[14] Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their disposal (1989).

[15] "Critical cultural heritage" is considered as any heritage element recognised internationally or nationally as being of historical, social and/or cultural interest.

#### Annex 4 - Environmental and Social Screening

Complete the table below by answering each risk question. Where relevant include details of any activities that will be carried out to better understand or mitigate potential risks.

## Guidance on use

### Background

- The questionnaire includes questions aligned with the Plan Vivo Cabron Standard (PV Climate) Environmental and Social Safeguards (Section 3.9, V5.0) and other Safeguard Provisions that are embedded in PV Climate (namely Stakeholder Engagement, Stakeholder Consultation, Free Prior and Informed Consent, Grievance Mechanism).
- The questionnaire also draws from the Plan Vivo Environmental and Social Policy Framework (ESPF).
- The questionnaire is structured around the IUCN ESMS Questionnaire, which itself is designed to be aligned with the IUCN ESMS (2016), and the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (2017), including World Bank Standards 1-10.
- The number of questions has been limited in this version of the questionnaire to ensure that it is practical and user-friendly.
- The purpose of the questionnaire is to establish: 1) the project risk rating; 2) the significance of risks and impacts; 3) alignment with safeguard provisions; 4) the need for further E&S assessment during project design; 5) the likely safeguard plans that should be developed.
- Due to the early stage in project design, the questionnaire is not designed to assess alignment with PV Climate requirements, but rather prompt projects as to what will be expected regarding those requirements that relate to E&S safeguards.
- Any social and environmental risks must inform the design of the Project.

### Requirement

- As per PV Climate V5.0 every project must conduct a screening of environmental and social risks and impacts at the PIN stage of project design. The questionnaire and screening report are to be submitted alongside the PIN to the Plan Vivo Foundation.

### Process for use of the E&S questionnaire

- The Project Coordinator is to fill in the “Project coordinator response” section of the questionnaire. This is the column shaded light grey.
- Once completed by the Project Coordinator, the Plan Vivo Foundation Project Officer and E&S reviewer is to fill in the “E&S reviewer comments” section of the questionnaire. This includes filling in the “E&S reviewer conclusions”.
- The screening report is then completed at the end by the Plan Vivo Foundation E&S reviewer, and the results are shared and discussed with the Project Coordinator.

### Establishing significance of risks and impacts

**Table 1** illustrates how risk significance can be established based on an estimate of likelihood of something happening, and the impact should it occur. This likelihood-magnitude matrix can be used by the Project Officer and the E&S reviewer to estimate the risk and impact significance of the E&S risk areas

indicated in the E&S questionnaire **Section B**, below. Note that while the questionnaire focuses on key topics and issues that are common to natural resource management projects, the project coordinator should include other known E&S risks and impacts associated with the planned project.

**Likelihood** represents the possibility that a given risk event is expected to occur. The likelihood should be established using the following five ratings:

- Very unlikely to occur (1)
- Not expected to occur (2)
- Likely – could occur (3)
- Known to occur - almost certain (4)
- Common occurrence (5)

**Impact** (or consequence) refers to the extent to which a risk event might negatively affect environmental or social receptors – see below criteria distinguishing five levels of impacts:

Severe (5)	Adverse impacts on people and/or environment of <b>very high magnitude</b> , including <b>very large scale</b> and/or spatial extent (large geographic area, large number of people, transboundary impacts), cumulative, <b>long-term (permanent and irreversible)</b> ; <b>receptors</b> are considered <b>highly sensitive</b> ; examples are severe adverse impacts on areas with high biodiversity value; severe adverse impacts to lands, resources and territories of indigenous peoples; significant levels of displacement or resettlement with long-term consequences on peoples' livelihood; impacts give rise to severe and cumulative social conflicts with long-term consequences.
Major (4)	Adverse impacts on people and/or environment of <b>high magnitude</b> , including <b>large scale</b> and/or spatial extent (large geographic area, large number of people, transboundary impacts), of certain duration <b>but still reversible</b> if sufficient effort is provided for mitigation; receptors are considered sensitive; examples are adverse impacts on areas with high biodiversity value; adverse impacts to lands, resources and territories of indigenous peoples; significant levels of displacement or resettlement with temporary consequences on peoples' livelihood; impacts give rise to social conflicts which are expected to be of limited duration.
Medium (3)	Adverse impacts of <b>medium magnitude, limited in scale</b> (small area and low number of people affected), <b>limited in duration</b> (temporary), impacts are relatively predictable and can be avoided, managed and/or mitigated with known solutions and straight forward measures.
Minor (2)	Adverse impacts of <b>minor magnitude, very small scale</b> (e.g. very small affected area, very low number of people affected) and only short duration, may be easily avoided, managed, mitigated.
Negligible (1)	Negligible or no adverse impacts on communities, individuals, and/or on the environment.

Table 1: Rating significance of a risk area (Source: IUCN ESMS questionnaire, 2020)

		Likelihood of occurrence				
		Very unlikely to occur (1)	Not expected to occur (2)	Likely – could occur (3)	Known to occur - almost certain (4)	Common occurrence (5)
Magni tude	Severe (5)	Moderate	Substantial	High	High	High
	Major (4)	Low	Moderate	Substantial	Substantial	High
	Medium (3)	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Substantial
	Minor (2)	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
	Negligible (1)	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

### Establishing project risk category

The project risk category will be determined based on an understanding of the types of potential E&S risks and impacts associated with the project, and the availability of appropriate and known mitigation measures. Most Plan Vivo projects are thought to be of either low or moderate risk. If high risk projects are identified, the E&S impact assessment would look to understand the alternative project designs available to reduce the potential risks and impacts.

Table 2: Rating significance of a risk area (Source: IUCN ESMS questionnaire, 2020)

Risk Category	Definition
Low	Insignificant or low potential environmental and social risks and impacts have been identified. No additional management measures are required; no Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) section of the PDD required.
Moderate	Moderate and/or substantial potential adverse risks and impacts have been identified, in one or more risk areas. These risks and impacts can be mitigated through known mitigation measures, such as a Stakeholder

	Engagement Plan, livelihood restoration plan, or through the project's ESMP.	
High	High risks and impacts that are potentially diverse and irreversible, and for which standard solutions are not sufficient to manage, and for which specialist safeguard plans and expertise is required.	
<b>Alignment with safeguard provisions</b>		
<p>Section C of the questionnaire refers to PV Climate safeguard provisions which are integrated into the Standard. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder engagement and consultation</li> <li>• Free, Prior and Informed Consent</li> <li>• Grievance Redress Mechanism</li> </ul> <p>The project coordinator will answer the questions related to these provisions, and clarify the project's intentions to meet these Standard requirements during the project design phase.</p>		
<b>Environmental and Social Assessment</b>		
<p>The E&amp;S questionnaire should determine what E&amp;S assessment is required during the project design phase (PDD development). For low and moderate risk projects, a tailored E&amp;S assessment is required. For high-risk projects, an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) is required. The project coordinator should consider in responses what further assessment of risks and impacts is required, and the E&amp;S reviewer will comment on this and include a summary in the Screening Report section.</p>		
<b>Safeguard Plans</b>		
<p>The E&amp;S questionnaire should determine which Safeguard Plans are required by the project. For low risk projects, it is unlikely that an ESMP will be required. For moderate risk projects, an ESMP will be required. Projects will, according to the Standard, also require a mandatory Stakeholder Engagement Plan and a Grievance Redress Mechanism.</p> <p>Some projects might require specialist plans, such as an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) or a Livelihood Restoration Plan.</p>		
<b>SECTION A: PROJECT INFORMATION</b>		
<b>Project title:</b>	REDD+ Project for Indigenous Tribal Communities, Northeast India	
<b>Project coordinator:</b>	Mirin Climate Centre Private Limited	
<b>Country:</b>	India	

<b>Geography/ landscape:</b>	The project spans over Tropical Semi-Evergreen to Montane landscapes across 2 Northeastern states of Manipur and Nagaland. The entire project region covers different villages spanning from 24°29'48.49"N and 94°13'13.21"E to 25°55'13.45"N and 94°21'9.18"E.		
<b>Project summary:</b>	This community-based REDD+ project in Northeast India aims to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation while improving livelihoods, conserving biodiversity, and enhancing climate resilience. Covering approximately 69,000 hectares across the states of Manipur and Nagaland in Phase I, the project directly engages approximately 2,500 tribal households and benefits more than 10,000 individuals, primarily from the Naga communities. Key interventions include the formation of Forest Protection Groups and Resource Management Units, assisted natural regeneration, plantation of native species, sustainable fuelwood management, and community-led closure of degraded forest areas to promote ecological recovery. All activities are developed through extensive local consultations and are grounded in traditional land use practices and indigenous ecological knowledge. The project adheres to the Plan Vivo Standard using the PM001 methodology, with Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) obtained from all participating communities. It ensures the inclusive participation of women, youth, and marginalized groups, with transparent and equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms in place. There is no overlap with existing carbon initiatives, and the project complies fully with national and international regulations on carbon rights and emissions. With plans to scale into Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya in future phases, the project contributes to India's climate commitments and offers a replicable model for community-led forest conservation.		
<b>Name and role of project coordinator staff member filling this questionnaire:</b>	Name: Mr. Spandan Dasgupta Organization: Infinite Environmental Solutions Limited (Project Coordinator) Role: Analyst (Project documentation and carbon benefits assessment)		
<b>Confirm that the Plan Vivo Exclusion List is appended to this E&amp;S questionnaire:</b>	Yes		
<b>SECTION B: POTENTIAL E&amp;S RISKS AND IMPACTS</b>			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Project coordinator response</b>	<b>E&amp;S reviewer comments</b>
<b>E&amp;S Risks and Impacts</b>			
Vulnerable Groups	Are there vulnerable or disadvantaged groups or individuals, including people with disabilities (consider also landless groups, lower income groups less able to cope with livelihood shocks/ stresses) in the project area, and are their livelihood conditions well understood by the project?	No groups or individuals have been identified as vulnerable within the project area. However, some low-income households reliant on subsistence farming have been noted. The project	Indigenous and remote communities may face access or inclusion risks if not carefully managed; impacts are limited and manageable through participatory design.

		interventions are designed with sensitivity to their livelihood needs, ensuring that their activities are not displaced or adversely affected in any way.	
	Is there a risk that project activities disproportionately affect vulnerable groups, due to their vulnerability status?	The project takes into account holistic safeguarding mechanism while implementing the project activities. Additionally, any interventions made, shall come forth as a result of comprehensive community-based decision making. Thus, there happens to be no risk that shall disproportionately affect any such vulnerable groups due to their vulnerability status.	Ok – please include details and evidence of inclusive project design at PDD stage.
	Is there a risk that the project discriminates against vulnerable groups, for example regarding access to project services or benefits and decision-making?	There is no risk of discrimination against vulnerable groups, as the project’s benefits will be delivered through an established chain of command and hierarchical structures that ensure equal representation of all community members.	Ok – please include details and evidence of inclusive project design at PDD stage.
<p><b>E&amp;S reviewer conclusions</b>            Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 2 – the engagement and consultation of the project coordinators with the community so far mean this risk is unlikely to occur. More details to be provided at PDD stage.            Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 3 – should this risk occur it would affect a fairly large number of people.            Risk significance: Moderate</p>			
Gender equality	Is there a risk of adverse gender impacts due to the project/ project activities, including for example discrimination or	There are no risk of adverse gender impacts due to the project/project activities. Both	Ok – please include details and evidence of inclusive project design at PDD stage.

	<p>creation/exacerbation or perpetuation of gender-related inequalities?</p>	<p>MCC and IESL have strong organizational gender anti-discriminatory policies and will be implemented on ground as well.</p>	
	<p>Is there a risk that project activities will result in adverse impacts on the situation of women or girls, including their rights and livelihoods? Consider for example where access restrictions disproportionately affect women and girls due to their roles and positions in accessing environmental goods and services?</p>	<p>The roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders and project participant groups are clearly defined, ensuring transparency and accountability. There is no discrimination in access to environmental goods and services, and all benefit-sharing mechanisms will be implemented in alignment with Plan Vivo principles. Documentation related to benefit sharing will be made available to Plan Vivo upon request.</p>	<p>Residual risk relates to implementation consistency rather than exclusion. Please include details of inclusive project design at PDD stage.</p>
	<p>Is there a risk that project activities could cause or contribute to gender-based violence, including risks of sexual exploitation, sexual abuse or sexual harassment (SEAH)? Consider partner and collaborating partner organizations and policies they have in place. Please describe.</p>	<p>There are no identified risks related to gender-based violence or Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (SEAH) within the project. Project coordinators have established and disseminated comprehensive POSH (Prevention of Sexual Harassment) policies at the community level. Additionally, the project has implemented clear anti-discrimination policies to ensure a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all participants.</p>	<p>Ok</p>

<p><b>E&amp;S reviewer conclusions</b>          Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 2          Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 2          Risk significance: Low</p>			
Human Rights	<p>Is there a risk that the project prevents peoples from fulfilling their economic or social rights, such as the right to life, the right to self-determination, cultural survival, health, work, water and adequate standard of living?</p>	<p>There is no risk that the project prevents people from fulfilling their economic, social, or procedural rights. The project has been designed through a participatory and inclusive approach that actively involves indigenous communities, including women, youth, and other marginalized groups, in both the planning and implementation phases. All interventions are aligned with customary land rights and community governance structures, ensuring that traditional livelihoods, cultural practices, and self-determination are respected and supported. Rather than restricting access to rights, the project aims to enhance them—by creating alternative livelihood opportunities, promoting food and nutritional security, supporting forest-based micro-enterprises, and improving community well-being through sustainable resource</p>	<p>Ok – looking forward to seeing details and evidence of the relevant FPIC processes at PDD stage.</p>

		<p>management. Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) has been obtained, and continuous feedback mechanisms and a transparent grievance redressal system are in place to ensure that all community members can participate in decision-making and express their concerns freely.</p>	
	<p>Is there a risk that the project prevents peoples from enjoying their procedural rights, for example through exclusion of individuals or groups from participating in decisions affecting them?</p>	<p>There is no risk of exclusion in decision-making. Equal representation of men and women, as well as active involvement of youth, elderly, and other marginalized groups, is embedded across all governance layers—from Forest Protection Groups (FPGs) and Resource Management Units (RMUs) at the village level, to local NGO facilitation and ongoing feedback mechanisms. The project explicitly strengthens procedural rights by enabling communities to make decisions about land use, forest management, and benefit-sharing through traditional and legally recognized frameworks. Moreover, a transparent grievance redressal system ensures any concerns are promptly addressed, preserving</p>	<p>Ok</p>

		equity and access throughout the project lifecycle.	
	Are you aware of any severe human rights violations linked to project partners in the last 5 years?	There are <b>no</b> human rights violations linked to project partners in the last 5 years.	No activities associated with forced labour, displacement, or coercion; community-driven model reduces risk.
<p><b>E&amp;S reviewer conclusions</b>  Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 1  Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 3  Risk significance: Low</p>			
Community, Health, Safety & Security	Is there a risk of exacerbating existing social and stakeholder conflicts through the implementation of project activities? Consider for example existing conflicts over land or natural resources, between communities and the state.	There is no risk of exacerbating existing conflicts. The project operates within customary land tenure systems practiced by tribal communities, where land is collectively owned and managed under traditional laws. Usage rights are granted by village authorities, and disputes are resolved through established customary mechanisms. The project aligns with these systems, respecting traditional leadership and ensuring activities are rooted in existing social structures, thereby minimizing the potential for conflict.	Ok
	Does the project provide support (technical, material, financial) to law enforcement activities? Consider support to government agencies and to Community Rangers or members conducting monitoring and patrolling. If so, is there a risk that these activities will harm communities or personnel involved in monitoring and patrolling?	No government agency or statutory body will be involved in project monitoring, patrolling, or enforcement activities. All monitoring and patrolling activities will be implemented	Ok – details of support and protection to be included at PDD stage.

		<p>directly by the Project Proponent in collaboration with the Project Implementation Partner and participating community institutions. Community-based monitoring and patrolling groups will be constituted and trained to support forest protection and ensure compliance with project rules and safeguards. Monitoring activities involving carbon, including biomass assessment, sampling, tree growth measurement, survival and replacement monitoring, and data management, will be conducted by the Infinite Environmental Solutions technical team in accordance with the Plan Vivo Standard and approved monitoring protocols. The project will adhere to Plan Vivo environmental and social safeguards throughout implementation, independent of government enforcement mechanisms.</p>	
	<p>Are there any other activities that could adversely affect community health and safety? Consider for example exacerbating human-wildlife conflict, affecting provisioning ecosystem services, and transmission of diseases.</p>	<p>There are no project activities that pose a risk to community health and safety. The project areas do not experience significant human-wildlife conflict, and the activities—</p>	<p>Activities are low-risk (forest monitoring, restoration); minor safety risks during field activities are manageable.</p>

		<p>focused on forest protection and conservation—do not contribute to disease transmission. Plantation efforts will involve native species, selected through careful scientific assessment. Furthermore, the project will not impair any provisioning or regulatory ecosystem services.</p>	
<p><b>E&amp;S reviewer conclusions</b>            Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 2            Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 3            Risk significance: Low</p>			
<p>Labour and working conditions</p>	<p>Is there a risk that the project, including project partners, would lead to working conditions for project workers that are not aligned with national labour laws or the International Labor Organization’s (ILO) Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (discriminatory working conditions, lack of equal opportunity, lack of clear employment terms, failure to prevent harassment or exploitation, failure to ensure freedom of association etc.)?</p>	<p>As per the report of New Labour Code for New India, Government of India, suitable working condition has been providing the safeguard to employer. Project coordinators follow the rule, regulation and law with freedom, safety and dignity of employer because it is Concern list of state government. Employees involved in the implementation and management of the project activity have respectable working conditions, equitable payment, and equal possibilities for growth and learning in an environment where people are free to voice their concerns and demand for better terms.</p>	<p>Ok – please include of these systems at PDD stage.</p>

	Is there an occupational health and safety risk to project workers while completing project activities?	No, there are no occupational health and safety risks related to project activities.	Mostly community participation rather than formal labour; risk limited to fair compensation and workload clarity.
	Is there a risk that the project support or be linked to forced labour, harmful child labour, or any other damaging forms of labour?	Project coordinator does not promote or engage in forced labor/ child labour or any other damaging forms of labour within or outside of the project boundary and is committed to not using victims of these practices now or in the future. There are no such events/ activities in project which represent victims of forced labor.	Ok
<p><b>E&amp;S reviewer conclusions</b>  Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 2  Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 2  Risk significance: Low</p>			
Resource efficiency, pollution, wastes, chemicals and GHG emissions	Is there a risk that project activities might lead to releasing pollutants to the environment, cause significant amounts of waste or hazardous waste or materials?	No development activity which harms the environment and stakeholders. There are no use of synthetic fertilizers and plant protectors in the project, ensuring a more natural approach to plantation. Additionally, it does not generate hazardous waste or materials, promoting a safer and more sustainable environment.	Ok

	<p>Is there a risk that the project will lead to significant consumption of energy, water or other resources, or lead to significant increases of greenhouse gases?</p>	<p>Rooted in nationally and internationally recognized REDD+ principles, this project is designed to protect and preserve natural ecosystems while strategically reducing emissions through Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR), grazing exclusion, and targeted enrichment plantations. Within the project boundary, there will be no new interventions that increase energy, water, or resource consumption. Instead, the focus is on low-impact, high-value restoration, with communities at the helm—actively reducing firewood dependence and safeguarding forests through sustainable, locally-driven solutions. Any project activity intervened shall lead to no significant GHG emissions.</p>	<p>Ok</p>
<p><b>E&amp;S reviewer conclusions</b>            Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 1 – project design and activities mean this risk is negligible.            Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 2 – if this risk were to occur it would have a minimal impact on a relatively small number of people.            Risk significance: Low</p>			
<p>Access restrictions and livelihoods</p>	<p>Will the project include activities that could restrict peoples' access to land or natural resources where they have recognised rights (customary, and legal)? Consider projects that introduce new access restrictions (e.g. creation of a community forest), reinforce existing access restrictions (e.g. improve management effectiveness and patrolling of a</p>	<p>The project is implemented within areas governed by customary land tenure systems, where rights to land and natural resources are collectively managed and respected. While</p>	<p>Forest protection measures could temporarily affect access to forest resources; mitigable through livelihood alternatives and FPIC. Please include detail of</p>

	<p>community forest), or alter the way that land and natural resource access restrictions are decided (e.g. through introducing formal management such as co-management).</p>	<p>the project promotes sustainable resource management practices—such as reduction in firewood harvesting through alternative livelihoods and establishment of patrolling teams to prevent forest degradation—these measures are community-driven and do not impose legal or physical restrictions on customary rights. Access to Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) remains unrestricted, ensuring continued support to local livelihoods. Though grazing closure is part of the assisted natural regeneration (ANR) strategy, it is implemented through community consensus in designated zones and does not affect overall grazing access across the landscape. The project strengthens traditional governance rather than overriding or formalizing it in ways that would restrict existing rights.</p>	<p>engagement and FPIC consultations at PDD stage.</p>
	<p>Is there a risk that the access restrictions introduced /reinforced/alterd by the project will negatively affect peoples’ livelihoods?</p>	<p>There will be no risk negatively affecting people’s livelihood.</p>	<p>Ok</p>
	<p>Have strategies to avoid, minimise and compensate for these negative impacts been identified and planned?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Ok – please expand on these at PDD stage.</p>
<p><b>E&amp;S reviewer conclusions</b></p>			

<p>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 3 – any access issues anticipated need to be mentioned and mitigated          Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 3 - this risk would have a substantial impact were it to occur.          Risk significance: Moderate</p>			
Cultural heritage	Is the Project Area officially designated or proposed as a cultural site, including international and national designations?	The project areas have not been designated or proposed as a cultural site including international and national designations	Ok
	Does the project site potentially include important physical cultural resources, including burial sites and monuments, or natural features or resources of cultural significance (e.g. sacred sites and species, ceremonial areas) and is there risk that the project will negatively impact this cultural heritage?	Any cultural resources including burial sites and monuments, or natural features or resources of cultural significance will be preserved and conserved with its originality and no project intervention intends to impose negative risk on the cultural heritage. Additionally, project team members, partners, and stakeholders underwent cultural sensitivity training to enhance their understanding and appreciation of the local community's customs, beliefs, and practices. Additionally, they established guidelines and protocols to ensure that project activities are carried out in a manner that respects cultural traditions and avoids disrupting sensitive locations.	No physical interventions affecting known cultural heritage sites; Indigenous governance reduces risk. Details to be included at PDD stage.

	Is there a risk that the project will negatively impact intangible cultural heritage? Consider for example cultural practices, social and cultural norms in relation to land and natural resources.	The project activities will not negatively impact the intangible cultural heritage. All the activities are community-driven with inclusion of traditional practices and indigenous knowledge.	Ok
<p><b>E&amp;S reviewer conclusions</b>            Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 1 – project design and consultations practices with indigenous groups mean this risk is negligible.            Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 2 – should this risk occur it would have a relatively low impact on project participants.            Risk significance: Low</p>			
Indigenous Peoples	Are there Indigenous Peoples living within the Project Area, using the land or natural resources within the project area, or with claims to land or territory within the Project Area?	The project areas support Indigenous Peoples using the land or natural resources within. Majority of the Indigenous Peoples belong to the Naga tribes.	Ok – please include details at PDD stage.
	Is there a risk that the project negatively affects Indigenous Peoples through economic displacement, negatively affects their rights (including right to FPIC), their self-determination, or any other social or cultural impacts?	No interventions will negatively impact the Indigenous Peoples through economic displacement and negatively affecting their rights. No project activities are targetter to affect their self-determination.	Project operates entirely on Indigenous lands; although rights-affirming, missteps could have significant impacts if FPIC is not fully implemented. Details of thorough and inclusive project design and engagement practices to be included at PDD stage.
	Is there a risk that there is inadequate consultation of Indigenous Peoples, and/or that the project does not seek the FPIC of Indigenous Peoples, for example leading to lack of benefits or inappropriate activities?	There is no risk related to inadequate consultation of Indigenous Peoples. All the steps of project interventions are meticulously carried out in a participatory approach.	Ok – please include details and evidence of inclusive project design at PDD stage.
<p><b>E&amp;S reviewer conclusions</b>            Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 3 – project is engaging well with the participants</p>			

Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) & justification: 3 – this risk would have a substantial impact were it to occur. Risk significance: Moderate			
Biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources	Is there a risk that project activities will cause adverse impacts on biodiversity (both in areas of high biodiversity value, and outside of these areas) or the functioning of ecosystems? Consider issues such as use of pesticides, construction, fencing, disturbance etc.	There is no risk that the project will cause adverse impacts on biodiversity or ecosystem functioning—this is a REDD+ project. The core activities, including assisted natural regeneration, enrichment plantation, and grazing closure, are specifically designed to restore degraded ecosystems, enhance native species diversity, and promote ecological resilience. The project avoids any use of harmful inputs like pesticides and involves no disruptive construction, fencing, or mechanized interventions. Instead, it creates conditions for biodiversity to thrive, establishing ecologically rich areas through community-driven restoration efforts. Far from threatening biodiversity, the project actively safeguards and regenerates it.	Ok
	Is there a risk that the project will introduce non-native species or invasive species?	The project does not introduce non-native or invasive species.	Positive net impacts expected; risk relates to implementation quality and invasive species management.
	Is there a risk that the project will lead to the unsustainable use of natural resources? Consider for example projects	The project sensitizes the exploitation of natural resources and because of the unsustainable	Ok

	promoting value chains and natural resource-based livelihoods.	practices happening, the project proponents have decided to develop a comprehensive REDD+ project. The project activity safeguards natural resources, along with developing supplementary resource base that would be utilised as alternate livelihood source, protecting and preserving the existing natural resources. Practices like unsustainable firewood extraction shall be dealt with the creation of separate woodlots where any form of harvest will be noted and a regular record shall be maintained.	
<p><b>E&amp;S reviewer conclusions</b>  Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 2 – the design of the project and its planting design mean this risk is unlikely to occur.  Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 3 – this risk would have a substantial impact were it to occur.  Risk significance: Moderate</p>			
Land tenure conflicts	Has the land tenure and use rights in the project area been assessed and understood?	Yes, the project coordinator has assessed and understood the land tenure and use rights.	Ok – details to be included at PDD stage.
	Is there a risk that project activities will exacerbate any existing land tenure conflicts, or lead to land tenure or use right conflicts?	There are no project activities that will potentially exacerbate any existing land tenure conflicts or lead to land tenure or use right conflicts.	No disputes identified, but customary systems can overlap; impacts could be significant if disputes emerge.
<p><b>E&amp;S reviewer conclusions</b>  Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 2 – no risks identified but details to be included in PDD</p>			

<p>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 4 – Given customary systems, magnitude is high, Mitigation plans to be included in the PDD and stakeholder engagement plan Risk significance: Moderate</p>			
Risk of not accounting for climate change	Have trends in climate variability in the project areas been assessed and understood?	The trends in climate variability in the project areas has been assessed and understood. The results have supported the need and decision of initiating an extensive community-based REDD+ project.	Climate variability could affect regeneration success; risks are manageable with adaptive management.
	Has the climate vulnerability of communities and particular social groups been assessed and understood?	Yes, thorough assessment has been done regarding vulnerability of communities and particular social groups.	Ok – details to be included at PDD stage.
	Is there a risk that climate variability and changes might influence the effectiveness of project activities (e.g. undermine project-supported livelihood activities) or increase community exposure to climate variation and hazards? Consider floods, droughts, wildfires, landslides, cyclones, etc.	The project areas are not particularly under tremendous stress of floods, droughts, landslides, wildfires and cyclone that could invariably lead to non-permeance of the project.	Ok – details to be included at PDD stage.
<p><b>E&amp;S reviewer conclusions</b> Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 2 – risks have been understood well and details and management plans should be included at PDD stage. Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 3 – should this risk occur, it would have a significant impact on the local communities and ecosystems. Risk significance: Moderate</p>			
Other – e.g. cumulative impacts	Is there a risk that the project will contribute cumulatively to existing environmental or social risks or impacts, for example through introducing new access restrictions in a landscape with existing restrictions and limited land availability?	Not applicable	Ok
	Are there any other environmental and social risks worthy of note that are not covered by the topics and questions above?	Not applicable	Ok
<p><b>E&amp;S reviewer conclusions</b> Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 1</p>			

<p>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 2 Risk significance: Low</p>			
<p><b>SECTION C: SAFEGUARD PROVISIONS</b></p>			
<p>Stakeholder engagement: requirements 2.1.1-2.1.3</p>	<p>Has a stakeholder analysis been conducted that has identified all stakeholders that could influence or be affected by the project, or is this still to be completed? Please describe.</p>	<p>A series of stakeholder analysis have been conducted to identify all stakeholders that could influence or be affected by the project. The mapping of potential stakeholders was initiated in the month of October-November, 2024 and detailed on-field consultation meetings were rolled out in the month of December (2024) and January (2025) in 4 districts of Manipur and in May-June (2025) in Nagaland. During the stakeholder meetings, several exercises were carried out, including:</p> <p>1. Village and resource mapping – Using a participatory approach, village representatives were engaged to map out local institutions, administrative bodies, natural resources, and geographical features, as well as to define the interrelationships among them. The process also captured the degree of influence or significance these elements held for the community members.</p>	<p>Ok</p>

		<p>2. Dissemination of non-technical summary of the project. It composed of primary objectives, project regions, activities, project personnels, expected benefits and outcomes and potential challenges.</p> <p>3. Feedback round was conducted to gather inputs from community members and stakeholders, ensuring their perspectives were integrated into the planning process. Following this, a detailed project timeline was developed, outlining key activities and milestones. Specific timeframes were allocated for the feedback phase to allow adequate reflection, discussion, and incorporation of suggestions before finalizing the project plan.</p>	
	<p>Are the local community and indigenous peoples statutory or customary rights to land or resources within the project area already clear and documented, or is further assessment required? Please describe.</p>	<p>Yes, the statutory and customary rights of the local community and indigenous peoples to land and resources within the project area are already clear and well-documented. These rights have been recognized through existing legal frameworks, community records, and traditional governance systems. As a result, no further assessment is required at this stage.</p>	<p>Ok</p>

	<p>Are local governance structures and decision-making processes described and understood (including details of the involvement of women and marginalized or vulnerable groups), or is further assessment required? Please describe.</p>	<p>Yes, the local governance structures and decision-making processes are well described and clearly understood. The project has taken care to ensure that these systems are inclusive and representative. Women representatives are actively involved in the decision-making process, with a strong presence across various village-level institutions. While there are no specifically identified vulnerable groups within the area, the approach ensures that all community members—marginalised or otherwise—have equal opportunities to participate and voice their opinions. The participatory process promotes transparency, inclusivity, and collective decision-making at every stage.</p>	<p>Ok – details to be included at PDD stage.</p>
	<p>Are past or ongoing disputes over land or resources in the project area known and documented, or is there need for further assessment? Please describe.</p>	<p>There are no known past or ongoing disputes over land or resources within the project area. The land tenure and resource rights are well-established and mutually respected by the community members. As such, no further assessment is required in this regard.</p>	

<p>Stakeholder consultation: requirements 2.5.1 and 2.5.2</p>	<p>Does the project have a Stakeholder Engagement Plan with clear measures to engage Vulnerable Groups, or is this plan still to be developed? Please describe.</p>	<p>Yes, the project has a comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan in place, which includes clear and actionable measures to engage all sections of the community, including Vulnerable Groups. The plan ensures inclusive participation through targeted outreach, regular consultations, and representation in decision-making forums. It prioritizes equitable access to project information and opportunities, ensuring that no group is left behind during the planning or implementation phases.</p>	<p>Ok –</p>
	<p>Has the Project Coordinator informed all stakeholders of the project, through providing relevant project information in an accessible format, or does this still need to be completed? Please describe.</p>	<p>The Project Coordinator has ensured that all stakeholders are well-informed by providing relevant project information in accessible formats. To enhance communication and outreach, separate WhatsApp groups have been created, and local information dissemination teams have been established. These platforms not only facilitate regular updates and engagement but also serve as the primary channels for receiving and addressing grievances from community members.</p>	<p>Ok – great work on these mechanisms! Looking forward to reviewing the details at PDD stage.</p>

<p>Free, Prior and Informed Consent: requirements 2.6.1-2.6.4</p>	<p>Has the project analysed and understood national and international requirements for Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)? Please describe.</p>	<p>Yes, the project has analyzed and understood both national and international requirements for Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). This understanding is reflected in the project’s design and stakeholder engagement strategy, which align with the principles laid out in international frameworks such as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), ILO Convention 169, and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). These frameworks collectively affirm the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to give or withhold consent to projects that may affect their lands, resources, and way of life.</p> <p>At the national level, the project adheres to guidelines provided by the Forest Rights Act (2006) and relevant guidelines, which reinforce the need for participatory decision-making, especially in areas inhabited by Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers.</p> <p>In practice, the project implements the six-step FPIC</p>	<p>Ok – details of future FPIC stages to be included at PDD stage.</p>
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		<p>process as outlined in the FAO Manual on FPIC. This includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Initial engagement and awareness building through culturally appropriate communication channels.</li><li>2. Participatory mapping and stakeholder identification, ensuring the inclusion of women, marginalized groups, and customary institutions.</li><li>3. Disclosure of project details in local languages and in an accessible manner.</li><li>4. Facilitating inclusive and documented community consultations where consent is discussed without coercion.</li><li>5. Institutionalizing grievance redress mechanisms that are community-driven and responsive.</li><li>6. Establishing monitoring and feedback loops to ensure that consent is ongoing and revocable.</li></ol> <p>Additionally, separate WhatsApp groups and community information hubs have been created to facilitate continuous dialogue and trust-building. The local outreach teams are trained not only in project dissemination</p>	
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	<p>but also in listening to concerns and ensuring communities are fully informed before any activity begins.</p> <p>This layered approach ensures that FPIC is not treated as a one-time administrative formality, but as a dynamic and continuous process rooted in mutual respect, transparency, and shared decision-making.</p>	
<p>Has the project identified potential FPIC rightsholders and potential representatives in local communities and among indigenous peoples, or is this still to be completed? Please describe.</p>	<p>Yes, the project has already identified the potential FPIC rightsholders as well as their legitimate representatives within the local communities and among Indigenous Peoples, wherever applicable. This was done through participatory methods, including village meetings, consultations with traditional governance systems, and engagement with community-based organizations. Efforts were made to ensure that representatives were chosen in accordance with customary practices, while also encouraging inclusive participation from women, youth, and other community members. These identified representatives are actively involved in ongoing</p>	<p>Ok – details to be included at PDD stage.</p>

		consultations, decision-making, and consent processes, ensuring that the voices of all relevant stakeholders are adequately heard and respected throughout the project cycle.	
	Has the project worked with rightsholders and representatives of local communities and indigenous peoples to understand the local decision-making process and timeline (ensuring involvement of women and vulnerable groups), or is this still to be completed? Please describe.	Yes, the project has actively engaged with rightsholders and local community representatives in Manipur, where customary village-level governance is followed. The project team consulted with traditional village authorities—such as village chiefs, elders, and council members—who hold decision-making roles within their respective communities. Efforts were made to understand and respect local decision-making timelines and protocols through these interactions. Women have been actively involved in the process, and although there are no formally identified vulnerable groups in the area, the project ensured inclusive participation and equal representation from all sections of the community.	Ok
	Has the project sought consent from communities to ‘consider the proposed Project’, and if so, where is this in principle consent documented? Please describe.	Yes, the project has duly sought consent from the communities to ‘consider the proposed Project’. In-principle consent has been	Ok

		<p>obtained from all villages through a participatory and transparent process. Signed consent forms documenting this agreement have been collected from each village, with community representatives and local leaders formally acknowledging their understanding and willingness to engage with the project. These signed consent forms are safely documented and maintained as part of the project records. They can be shared with relevant authorities, stakeholders, or verifying bodies as and when required.</p>	
<p>Grievance Redress Mechanism: requirements 3.16.1</p>	<p>Does the project already have a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), or is this still to be established? Please describe.</p>	<p>Grievances related to the project may be raised through multiple accessible channels and will be addressed in a timely, transparent, and culturally appropriate manner. Village chiefs and recognized tribal leaders form an integral part of the grievance lodging, documentation, and redressal process and work in close coordination with the implementing partners. At the first point of engagement, grievances are typically lodged through village councils and</p>	<p>Ok – details to be included at PDD stage.</p>

		<p>traditional authorities and are reviewed through discussions involving village chiefs, tribal leaders, and representatives of the implementing partners. For project activities in Nagaland, grievances from Kilomi village are addressed by FAITH Welfare Society and Go Green Club, while grievances from project villages in Manipur are addressed by Recognize Rise and Empower Association (RREA). Resolution at this stage is pursued through dialogue, mediation, and reference to customary practices. Designated focal persons for ground-level dissemination and grievance redressal include Mr. Anito Swu (Go Green Club), Mrs. Hokhuli Sema (FAITH Welfare Society), and Dr. Pamreihor Khashimwo (RREA). These focal persons, in coordination with village chiefs and tribal leaders, are responsible for receiving, recording, and responding to grievances at the field level. Where grievances cannot be resolved through initial engagement, they are escalated for further review and resolution under the coordination of Dr.</p>	
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		<p>Phungmayo Horam (Mirin Climate Centre Pvt. Ltd.) and Mr. Jimmy Sah (Infinite Environmental Solutions Limited). Carbon-related grievances, queries, and concerns are reviewed and addressed by Dr. Anurag Jain and Dr. Indu Dwivedi Pant from Infinite Environmental Solutions Limited, ensuring technical clarity and closure. Grievances may be lodged directly with any of the above-mentioned focal persons. Contact details, including phone numbers and email addresses, have been shared with project participants and village councils. Grievance registers are maintained with the implementing partners, at village council offices, and with Infinite Environmental Solutions Limited to ensure proper documentation and traceability. The initial grievance redressal process is expected to be completed within 15–30 days of receipt. Where escalation is required, the complete grievance resolution process, including higher-level review, is expected to be concluded within 30–45 days,</p>	
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		<p>depending on the nature and complexity of the grievance.</p> <p>3rd Party Independent arbitrator (if required): The project provides for the engagement of Mrs. Soso Shaiza as an independent arbitrator under the Grievance Redressal Mechanism. Mrs. Shaiza is an eminent educationist from Ukhrul District, Manipur, with extensive experience in community engagement, education, gender equity, and social development initiatives. She has worked closely with local communities through programs focused on community mobilization, inclusive participation, and environmental awareness. Mrs. Shaiza is a former Member of the National Commission for Women (NCW) and is currently a member of the Advisory Committee of the NCW. Her background provides strong familiarity with local customary practices, socio-cultural dynamics, and community-level institutional relationships for both of the project states, i.e., Nagaland and Manipur. Mrs. Shaiza has no financial or managerial obligations with Mirin</p>	
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	<p>Climate Centre Pvt. Ltd., participating communities, investors, or implementing partners involved in the project, ensuring her independence and neutrality. Community participants and project stakeholders may directly approach the independent arbitrator, or submit grievances through the project-level grievance channels, for matters requiring impartial review and resolution</p>	
<p>For projects with a GRM, is this accessible to project affected people? Please describe.</p>	<p>Yes, the GRM is designed to be accessible to project-affected people. Stakeholders can raise grievances through multiple channels including direct meetings with field staff, phone calls, community consultations, and eventually an online grievance submission platform (currently under development). The mechanism allows grievances to be recorded in the local language, is culturally inclusive, gender-neutral, and free of cost or retaliation. Field-level staffs serve as the first point of contact, providing guidance on how grievances can be lodged and addressed, with support and</p>	<p>Ok – details to be included at PDD stage.</p>

		<p>oversight from MCC and IESL. This multi-tiered approach ensures that all project-affected parties, including vulnerable populations, have clear, transparent, and safe avenues to express concerns and seek resolution.</p>	
<p><b>E&amp;S reviewer conclusions for safeguard provisions</b></p> <p><b>Are the project Safeguard Provisions adequately addressed, or to be adequately addressed during the project design phase?</b> Based on the information provided, the project has adequately addressed the core Safeguard Provisions at the PIN stage, including stakeholder engagement and consultation, Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), and the establishment of a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM).</p> <p>A stakeholder analysis has been conducted across all project areas, identifying relevant rightsholders and stakeholders through participatory mapping, consultations, and feedback processes. Statutory and customary land and resource rights are well understood, and local governance structures—including the participation of women—are described and functioning.</p> <p>FPIC requirements at both national and international levels have been analysed and are being applied through a structured, documented, and ongoing consent process. In-principle consent to consider the project has been obtained from participating communities, with documentation retained at village level.</p> <p>A Grievance Redress Mechanism is already established and operational, with multiple accessible entry points, culturally appropriate procedures, and safeguards against retaliation.</p> <p>While the overall safeguard framework is strong, several elements will need to be further formalised, consolidated, and documented during the project design (PDD) phase to ensure full alignment with PV Climate V5 requirements.</p> <p>What additional actions need to be conducted during the project design phase? During the PDD phase, the following actions should be undertaken to strengthen and formalise safeguard implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consolidate stakeholder engagement activities into a finalised Stakeholder Engagement Plan, clearly documenting engagement methods, responsibilities, timelines, and monitoring arrangements.</li> </ul>			

- Further document FPIC processes, including how consent will be maintained, monitored, and reaffirmed over time, particularly as project activities scale or expand geographically.
- Ensure that records of consultations, consent, and community decisions are systematically compiled and referenced within the PDD and ESMP.
- Finalise and operationalise the online component of the Grievance Redress Mechanism, and clearly describe escalation pathways, roles, and resolution timelines within project documentation.
- Integrate safeguard commitments, risk mitigation measures, and monitoring indicators into the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) section of the PDD.

These actions are considered proportionate and appropriate for a project of Moderate E&S risk and will ensure that safeguard provisions are fully embedded in project implementation.

Any other comments:

The project demonstrates a strong foundation in participatory design, rights recognition, and community-led governance, which aligns well with Plan Vivo Climate safeguard expectations. Early and proactive engagement with Indigenous Peoples, combined with an established FPIC process and accessible grievance mechanisms, significantly reduces the likelihood of adverse social impacts.

At the PIN stage, no material gaps in safeguard intent have been identified. The primary focus moving forward should be on formalisation, documentation, and ongoing monitoring, rather than the introduction of new safeguard processes. Continued attention should be paid to inclusive participation, particularly for women and lower-income households, as project activities are implemented and expanded.

**SECTION D: SCREENING REPORT (NOT TO BE COMPLETED BY PROJECT: FOR USE OF PV E&S REVIEWER)**

<b>Name of E&amp;S reviewer</b>	<b>Aish</b>
<b>Date of E&amp;S screening:</b>	<b>06.01.2025</b>
<b>Project risk rating:</b>	Moderate as the project involves activities implemented entirely within Indigenous Peoples' customary lands and therefore engages safeguard considerations related to Indigenous Peoples' rights, FPIC, access to natural resources, and livelihood impacts. While no high or irreversible risks have been identified, some moderate and substantial risks may arise if project implementation is not carefully managed, particularly in relation to access restrictions, Indigenous Peoples, and long-term climate variability.
<b>Principle risks and impacts</b>	<Include summary of key project risks & impacts> <Populate summary table with risk significance>

	E&S topic/ risk area	Likelihood (1-5)	Magnitude (1-5)	Significance (low, moderate, severe, high)
	Vulnerable Groups	2	3	Moderate
	Gender equality	1	2	Low
	Human Rights	1	3	Low
	Community, Health, Safety & Security	2	2	Low
	Labour and working conditions	2	2	Low
	Resource efficiency, pollution, wastes, chemicals and GHG emissions	1	2	Low
	Access restrictions and livelihoods	3	3	Moderate
	Cultural heritage	1	2	Low
	Indigenous Peoples	3	3	Moderate
	Biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources	2	3	Moderate
	Land tenure conflicts	2	4	Moderate
	Risk of not accounting for climate change	2	3	Moderate
	Other – e.g. cumulative impacts	1	2	Low
<b>E&amp;S assessment required</b>	Key areas of focus, for the E&S assessment should include risks related to IPLCs and implantation of FPIC, Livelihood impacts arising from access management measure within the project, Land tenure and governance arrangements under the customary systems, gender inclusions and participation and, managing climate variability and adaptive management measures.			
<b>Likely safeguard plans required</b>	Yes and the stakeholder Engagement plan and the Grievance Mechanism should address some of the risks outlined in the assessment above.			

### Annex 5 – Notification of Relevant Authorities

Enclosed are the signed acknowledgement letters from the relevant authorities across the four project districts of Manipur, presented sequentially from Senapati, Ukhrul & Kamjong, to Tamenglong & Noney. While Noney does not presently fall within the project boundary, the acknowledgement was obtained in recognition of the shared jurisdiction of the relevant authority and to accommodate the scope for future project expansion. The project has duly received letter of acknowledgment from Assistant Conservator Forests of Zunheboto Division, Nagaland.



David Kashungnao,  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Autonomous District Council,  
Ukhrul



Autonomous District Council Office  
Phungreitang, Ukhrul, Manipur  
Pin- 795142  
Mob: +917005404744

Ref No: .....

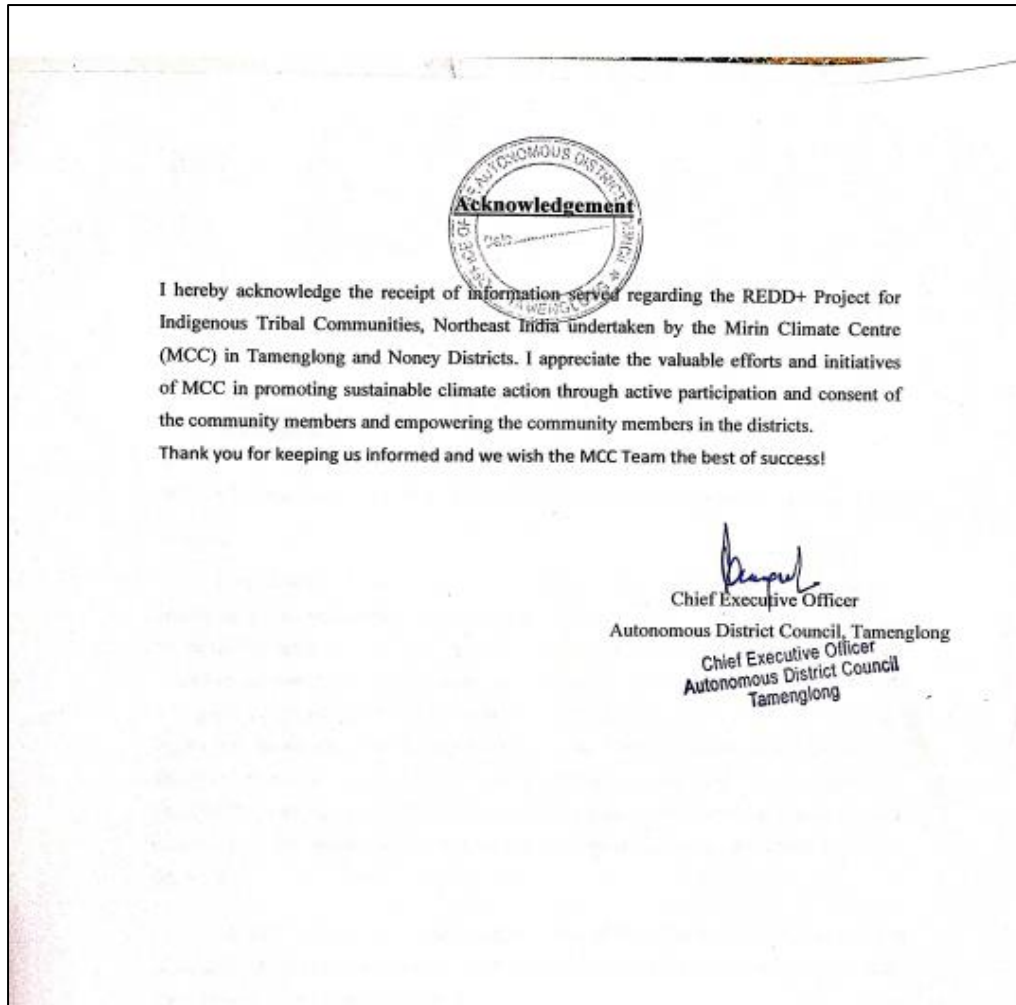
Dated: 03/02/2025

### Acknowledgement

I hereby acknowledge the receipt of information served regarding the REDD+ Project for indigenous Tribal Communities, Northeast India undertaken by the Mirin Climate Centre(MCC) in Ukhrul and Kamjong Districts. I appreciate the valuable efforts and initiatives of MCC in promoting sustainable climate action through active participation and consent of the community members and empowering the community members in the districts.

Thank you for keeping us informed and we wish the MCC Team the best of success!

Chief Executive Officer  
Autonomous District Council, Ukhrul.



### Assistant Conservator Forests Acknowledgement.

I hereby acknowledge the receipt information served regarding the REDD+ project for indigenous tribal communities, Northeast India undertaken by the (MCC) Mirin Climate Centre Pvt. Ltd. and Faith Welfare Society in collaboration with (RPRN) Reserve Preserve & Restore Nature. I appreciate the valuable efforts and initiatives in promoting sustainable climate action empowering community member in Nagaland.

Thank you for keeping us informed and we wish the team the best of success.



Asst. Conservator Forests  
Nagaland.

Asst. Conservator of Forest  
Zunheboto Division

#### Annex 6 – AI Tool use Disclosure

The Plan Vivo Foundation acknowledges the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in preparing Project documentation.

**Important Note:** The use of AI tools does not absolve the Project Coordinator of the ultimate responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, and full compliance of all submitted documentation. All AI-generated content must undergo strict human review and verification.

To ensure transparency, please complete the following:

#### Declaration of AI Tool use

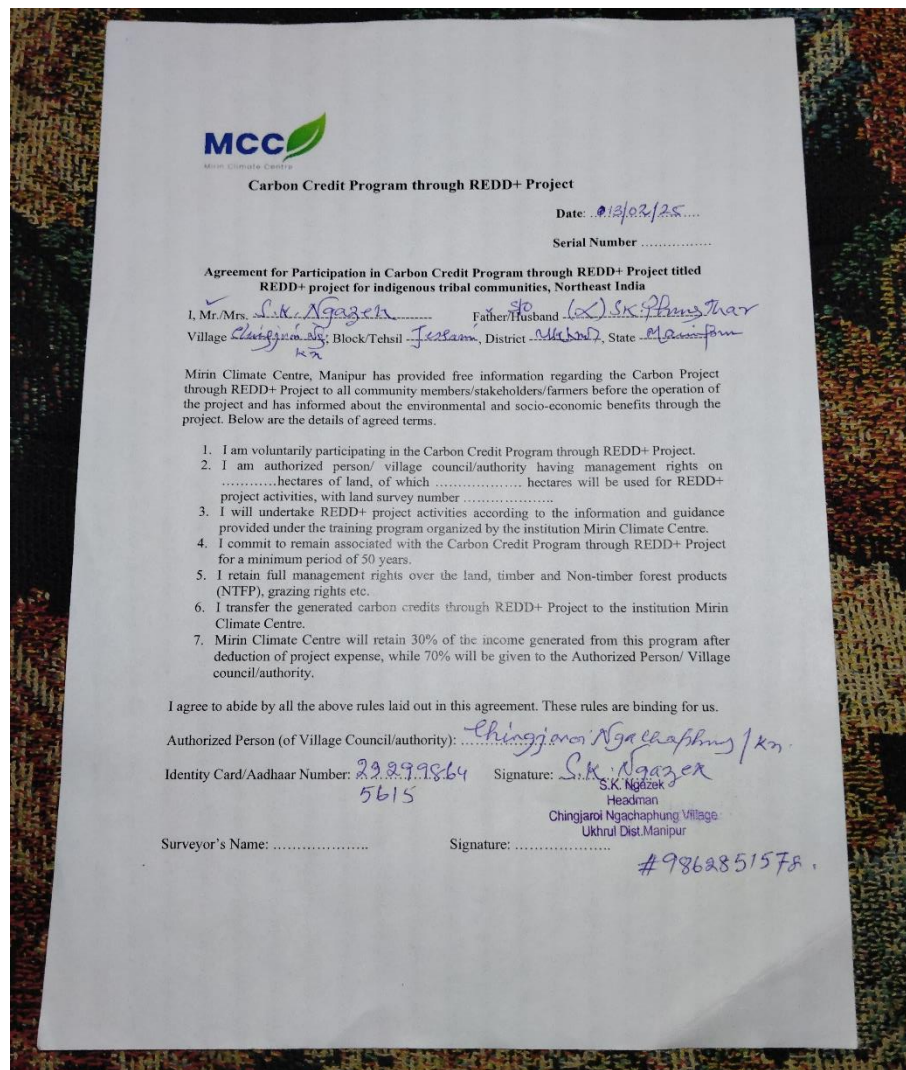
1. Have AI tools been used in the creation or presentation of information within this PIN?  
 Yes  
 No


2. If 'Yes' (to Question 1), please specify how these tools were used and in which sections of this document:

Section	Purpose of AI Tool Use	AI-Tools Used
Several sections of PIN document	AI tool has been utilized for summarizing text, modifying grammar, and performing spell-check. All activities presented in the PIN document accurately reflect planned on-ground interventions, and the assessment of benefits shall be undertaken using field data and established forestry metrics.	ChatGPT-4

### Annex 7 – Signed Consent Form

Given here are representative NOCs from village chiefs. The project has all the consent forms which can be shared if needed.





**REDD+ Project for Indigenous Tribal Communities, Northeast India**

Date: 31.05.2023.....  
 Serial Number .....

Agreement for Participation in Carbon Credit Program through REDD+ Project

I, Mr./Mrs. Alonzo Sheoi S/O Nitoko Sheoi  
 Village Mishilimi, Block/Tehsil RS. PBD, District ZBD, State NAGALAND

Mirin Climate Centre, Manipur has provided free information regarding the Carbon Project through REDD+ Project to all community members/stakeholders/farmers before the operation of the project and has informed about the environmental and socio-economic benefits through the project. Below are the details of agreed terms.

1. I am voluntarily participating in the Carbon Credit Program through REDD+ Project.
2. I am authorized person/ village council/authority having management rights on .....hectares of land, of which ..... hectares will be used for REDD+ project activities, with land survey number .....
3. I will undertake REDD+ project activities according to the information and guidance provided under the training program organized by the institution Mirin Climate Centre.
4. I commit to remain associated with the Carbon Credit Program through REDD+ Project for a minimum period of 50 years.
5. I retain full management rights over the land, timber and Non-timber forest products (NTFP), grazing rights etc.
6. I transfer the generated carbon credits through REDD+ Project to the institution Mirin Climate Centre.
7. 70% of the revenue generated from this program, after deduction project expenses, will be given to the Authorized Person/Village council/authority, while 30% will be used for remuneration of technical and local project partners by Mirin Climate Centre.

I agree to abide by all the above rules laid out in this agreement. These rules are binding for us.

<p><b><u>Authorized Person Detail</u></b>                  (Village Council/authority)</p> <p>Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>                  Chairman</p> <p>Name: <u>Mishilimi Village Council</u>  <u>GHUNAKA SHEOI</u></p> <p>Identity Card/Aadhaar No. <u>70203926311</u></p> <p>Mobile No. <u>9233496955</u></p> <p>Email: .....</p>	<p><b><u>Surveyor Detail</u></b></p> <p>Signature: <u>[Signature]</u></p> <p>Name: <u>Nitoko Sheoi</u></p>
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**Annex 8 – Double Counting Declaration**

Given here is a signed Double Counting Declaration from project coordinator Mirin Climate Centre Pvt. Ltd.

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

This declaration is in reference of the REDD+ project activity "REDD+ Project for Indigenous Tribal Communities, Northeast India, Phase I: Manipur & Nagaland" requesting project pipeline listing under Plan Vivo Foundation. This is a community-based REDD+ project aiming to target a total area of 69,000 hectares, with 20,063.21 hectares under degradation & deforestation and 49,000 hectares as 'at-risk' forest, in Manipur and Nagaland states of India. The project is focused on rehabilitating and restoring degrading forests in order to improve its overall condition, soil and ecological health. By implementing community-based REDD+ and other suitable measures, the project aims to reverse the degradation process and promote the regeneration of vegetation.

Mirin Climate Centre Pvt. Ltd. hereby declares that:

- Mirin Climate Centre Pvt. Ltd. (MCC) is the Project coordinator of the project activity.
- Monitoring period will not be used for compliance with any other emission trading program or to meet binding limits on GHG emission.
- Project has not been registered and is not seeking registration under any other GHG programs.
- Project has not been rejected by any other GHG programs.
- Project has neither sought nor received any other form of GHG related environmental credits.
- Project coordinator hereby confirms that there would not be double counting of credits for any monitoring period in any other GHG program.
- The project area does not spatially overlap with any other registered or ongoing GHG removal carbon credit programs under any recognized carbon standards, ensuring clear project boundaries and avoiding any risk of double counting of emission reductions or removals.
- Project activity is not involved in manufacturing and selling product to consumers and is not a part of the supply chain (scope 3) emission

For Mirin Climate Centre Pvt. Ltd. (MCC),



Authorized Signature

Dr. Phungmayo Horam

Founder & Managing Director