

PLAN VIVO PROJECT IDEA NOTE

# Ri Bhoi Community REDD+ Project

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## Meghalaya, India

Version 1.3  
13 September 2025

Developed by:

**Ka Synjuk Ki Hima Arliang Wah Umiam, Mawphlang Welfare Society,  
Mawphlang Meghalaya, India**



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## Overview

<b>Project Title:</b>	Ri Bhoi Community REDD+ Project
<b>Location:</b>	Ri Bhoi District, Meghalaya, India
<b>Project Coordinator:</b>	Ka Synjuk Ki Hima Arliang Wah Umiam – Mawphlang Welfare Society: Mawphlang, Meghalaya, India
<b>Project Area:</b>	The size of the proposed project area covers about 1, 729 hectares of REDD forest and 20ha of area under ANR (increasing each year). The area has the potential to increase as more communities may want to join the project.
<b>Project Participants:</b>	The people of Ri Bhoi, often called “Bhois”, are a sub-group of the main Khasi tribe in Meghalaya and are the main cultural group within the project area. The initial number of villages is 27 with a total population of 19,289 people (9,971 female and 9,948 male). Nearly 3,600 families will benefit from this project initially.
<b>Project Intervention(s):</b>	<p>REDD+</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Program management and institution building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Awareness raising</li> <li>-Participatory planning</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Forest protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Forest fire prevention and control</li> <li>-Transition from grazing to stall fed livestock</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Energy transition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Reduced fuelwood consumption by providing alternatives</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Income generation to benefit livelihoods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Sustainable agricultural, horticultural, and animal husbandry systems to be introduced, decreasing deforestation</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>ANR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Forest regeneration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Protection of native species</li> <li>-Silviculture treatment</li> <li>-Enrichment planting</li> <li>-Restriction of forest use for grazing, agriculture, etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Income generation to benefit livelihoods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Home-based nurseries</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<b>Expected Benefits:</b>	Through forest protection, sustainable agriculture promotion, assisted natural regeneration (ANR), and better fuelwood plans, the project aims to protect existing dense forests and allow for open forests to increase in cover as over 40% of the project area is currently open forest and just under 8% is moderately dense forest. This will not only result in carbon credits that will benefit the project participants monetarily, but will also create habitat and build wildlife corridors for migratory and endangered animals, increase biodiversity of flora, fauna, and fungi, and provide alternative livelihoods and income generating activities for the project participants who currently rely on jhum cultivation and an average annual income of Rs. 84,000 (USD\$ 1,100 or \$3/day). The project also aims to increase the production of native food and dye producing trees which provide an income, increase tree cover, and revive cultural traditions.
<b>Methodology:</b>	REDD intervention: The carbon benefits will be estimated according to the requirements of the Plan Vivo Carbon Standard (PV Climate) and the core methodology, module, and tool PM001, PU002, and PT002.

	ANR intervention: Methodology – PM001; Modules – PU001, PU004, PU005; Tools – AR-TOOL02, AR-TOOL04
<b>PIN Version:</b>	Plan Vivo Standard 5
<b>Date Approved:</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> September 2025

# 1 General Information

## 1.1 Project Interventions

**Table 1.1 – Project Interventions**

Intervention type	Project activity	Description	Expected benefits
REDD+	Forest protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preventing and controlling forest fires</li> <li>Sustainable fuelwood harvesting and consumption</li> <li></li> </ul>	Community groups will benefit from carbon credits/storage. Fuelwood harvesting will be more sustainable once plans are in place. Habitat creation will allow for more biodiversity. Forest cover will cool the air, stabilize soil, and provide cleaner water as wetlands are protected.
REDD+	Institution building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Institutional strengthening, establishing a common approach to forest protection and management by all participating communities</li> <li>Forest management planning</li> <li>Lower Working Committees (LWC) facilitate Natural Resource Management (NRM) planning</li> <li>Training and employment for community NRM team</li> </ul>	Communities will have more power and better communication regarding natural resource management and will also earn income for their work in the project. Training will also increase the skill sets of the people.
REDD+	Energy transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distribution of fuel-efficient stoves</li> <li>Fuelwood monitoring</li> <li>Alternatives to cooking food for livestock</li> <li>Solar dryers to replace fuelwood for drying crops/products</li> </ul>	Households will benefit from saving time of harvesting fuelwood and will have cleaner air providing healthier living conditions. Reducing fuelwood consumption will also increase carbon storage.
REDD+	Income generation for low-income households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Animal husbandry projects</li> <li>Eco-tourism</li> <li>Sustainable farming systems</li> </ul>	Self-help Groups and Farmers' Clubs, and individuals will earn income from alternative livelihoods. Forests will be protected from burning for agricultural land, from grazing, and from fuelwood collection thereby increasing carbon storage. Sustainable agriculture activities will help reduce deforestation by keeping remaining forests intact and using existing agricultural

			land in more sustainable and perennial plantation sites. Training will provide increased skill sets.
Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR)	ANR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enrichment planting</li> <li>• Protection of natural regeneration of native species</li> <li>• Restriction of forest areas (through forest management plans) to allow for forest growth</li> <li>• Silviculture activities performed on regenerating open forests</li> </ul>	Community groups will benefit from carbon credits/storage. Fuelwood harvesting will be more sustainable once plans are in place. Habitat creation will allow for more biodiversity. Forest cover will cool the air, stabilize soil, and provide cleaner water as wetlands are protected.
ANR	Income generation for low-income households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home-based nursery management</li> </ul>	Home-based nurseries are a form of livelihood as the saplings that are raised can be sold to replantation projects, organizations, and individuals. This is a practice which can utilize existing garden or agricultural land to increase carbon stocks in other assisted natural regeneration or fire recovery projects. This will increase carbon stocks by both planting new perennial tree crops and by allowing forests to continue to grow. Carbon emissions would also be reduced as the need for burning agricultural lands for annual production would be decreased.



## 1.2 Project Boundaries

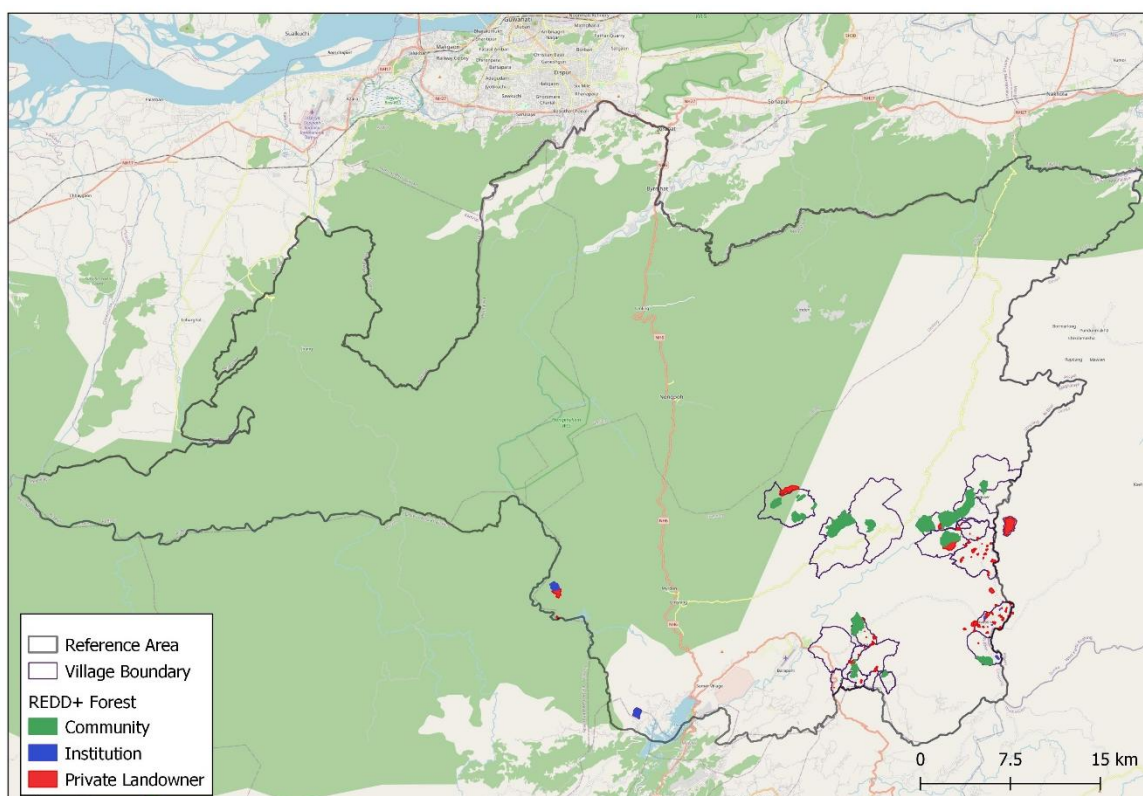


Figure 1. Map showing Reference Area and REDD+ Forest Boundaries

The proposed project is located in the Ri Bhoi District of Meghalaya, India. Ri Bhoi District came into existence and assumed the hierarchical status of the district on the 4th June 1992 by upgrading the former Civil Sub-Division. The district was carved out from the East Khasi Hills District and holds its headquarters in Nongpoh which is located 53 km from Meghalaya's state capital, Shillong, and 50 km from Assam's capital, Guwahati. The district lies between North Latitudes 25 15' and 26 15' and between East Longitudes 91 45' and 92 15'. There are currently 27 villages ready to participate in the project. The average elevation of the district is 587m ASL with the elevation in the district ranging from 38m to 1,958m. The climate of Ri Bhoi District ranges from tropical in the areas bordering Assam to temperate where the district adjoins the East Khasi Hills District. The areas bordering Assam experience hot and humid weather during the summer seasons (May to July) with an average temperature of 30°C. The average annual rainfall in the district is 2935 mm. The maximum and minimum rainfalls of the district were recorded during the years 2004 and 1998, respectively. The district falls within the Eastern Himalayan Global Biodiversity Hot Spot. There is one designated conservation area within Ri Bhoi District area<sup>1</sup>. The Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary is 2,900 hectares within Ri Bhoi District and houses thousands of species of plants, 30 species of mammals that are listed in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act of 1972, and has recorded over 400 species of birds.<sup>2</sup> This area is removed from the project and reference area as there is no threat to deforestation in this area because it is a protected sanctuary.

<sup>1</sup> UNEP-WCMC (2022). Protected Area Profile for India from the World Database of Protected Areas, May 2022. Available at: [www.protectedplanet.net](http://www.protectedplanet.net)

<sup>2</sup> Meghalaya Forests and Environment Department. National Parks and Sanctuaries (Last updated 10 November 2021). Available at: [https://megforest.gov.in/wildlife\\_parks.html#A4](https://megforest.gov.in/wildlife_parks.html#A4)



**Table 1.2 Project Boundaries**

<b>Location:</b>	Ri Bhoi District, Meghalaya, India
<b>Project Region(s):</b>	237, 079 hectares
<b>Project Area(s):</b>	1,729 hectares REDD+ and 20 hectares ANR
<b>Protected Areas:</b>	There are no legally designated conservation areas currently existing in the proposed project area or proposed reference area. As noted above Nongkhyllem Wildlife Sanctuary is not included in the reference or project areas.

### 1.3 Land and Carbon Rights

The land holding system in Ri Bhoi is in a hierarchy of the leader of the *Raid* (cluster of villages) which is then followed by the village Headman and the council (Dorbar) for community forests. The major decision-making lies in the village Headman and the Dorbar . The village Headman is elected among village elders for a certain period of time (minimum of 3 years).

The clan forest is under the control of the clan in which a village Headman or council has no administrative and least judicial power. The clan has its own leader elected from the clan council; the clan council relays the activities in the clan land and forest.

Private forest is under the control of the private landowner.

Institutional lands are under certain institutions which have no affiliation to the village Headman and council.

All these lands of clan, private and institutional fall under a certain village in the district. The community forest is part of the community land which has been conserved for ethical purposes and use of natural resources. All stakeholders have certain access rights depending on the type of land and which jurisdiction it falls under. The village council or clan council may grant special permissions to a family depending on their needs. For example, the council may grant access to timber from specified forest land to enable poorer families to build a house. Every village creates their own plan for land resource management, including land for agriculture, forest use, or reserved forest. This is shared with the project during the PRA. All land belongs to the village or clan but may be used by individual households as appointed by the council. If a parcel of land is not managed by the individual for five years, it returns to the council to be designated for use in the future.

Similarly, land is allocated to institutions and private landholders by the councils under specific conditions. For institutions, the land remains in their possession as long as they actively manage it. The institution has full authority over how the land is utilized, but it cannot transfer ownership. If the institution is unable to use or manage the land as proposed, it must be returned to the council. In the case of private ownership, land may either be granted or purchased. This typically occurs when a community member starts a new family or when a family moves into the area. Like institutional landholders, private landholders have control over how their land is used and managed. However, any portion of the land that had granted and remains unused or managed must be returned to the council. Purchased land of private landholders can be used without restriction.

In all cases, if the landholder has agreed to take part in this REDD+ and ANR project and has allocated the land to the project, it must remain as forest and managed as per the associated land management plan outlined in the signed agreement.

The Government of India makes some special provisions for safeguarding the interests of tribal people of the State of Meghalaya under the Constitution's Articles 244(2), also known as the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India. This provides local tribal elected bodies the power to oversee all matters affecting land, water, forests, and tribal customs. In the project area, land tenure and natural resource management take place under the traditional oversight of the Raid (cluster of villages). Within the State's administrative groups, provision has been made for a District Council and four Community and Rural Development Blocks within Ri Bhoi District which maintain law and order, oversee revenue administration, and promote economic development.

The project implementors are in communication with several organisations and agencies who are up to date on the policies related to NDC. At this time, there is no plan that has been implemented regarding NDC. The project implementors have been advised that this project will not conflict with the carbon plans of the Indian Government.

The table below summarizes the ownership, tenure, and user or management rights of the project participants.

Project Area	Ownership and user rights status	Carbon rights	Evidence
Community	Land use and natural resources are distributed to community members by the village headman and the village council. They determine how the land may be used for agriculture, building, fuel-wood collection, mining, etc. The community also maintain community forests and sacred groves under the direction of the headman and village council.	The carbon rights belong to the community under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India.	NOC certificate
Private	Private landowners hold all rights to their land under the law. They may use the land and the natural resources however they deem fit.	The carbon rights belong to the private landowner.	Land deed registered to the village or DC
Institutional	These lands have no affiliation to the village headman or the village council and are used as the institution sees fit.	The carbon rights belong to the institution as they are similar to private landowners.	Land deed registered to the village or DC.

Clan	The clan forest is under the control of the clan in which a village Headman or council has no administrative and least judicial power. The clan has its own leader elected from the clan council; the clan council relays the activities in the clan land and forest.	The carbon rights belong to the clan.	Land deed registered to the village or DC.
<i>Raid</i> (cluster of villages)	Land tenure and natural resource management take place under the traditional oversight of the <i>Raid</i> (cluster of villages). This includes watersheds which connect the various villages within the <i>Raid</i> .	The Sordar of the <i>Raid</i> decide how the rights will be distributed.	Written constitution of <i>Raid</i> land use and management.

## 2 Stakeholder Engagement

### 2.1 Stakeholder Identification

The Project aims to protect the existing community forest in the region as well as endeavouring private landowners who have come forward to work on protecting the forest habitat. The types of forest in the area can be divided into four types: i. Community Forest, ii. Clan Forest, iii. Private Forest, and iv. Institutional land (information provided through Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)). The description of each is type of land holding system is provided above.

The village sizes vary from 36 households to 353 households, with an average of 5 members in each family. The average annual household income within the project area is approximately Rs.84,000 (or USD993) and the average landholding size is 0.25 acres per household as found through surveys conducted by the socio-economic team. The sources of drinking water for the communities in Ri Bhoi are ponds and water tanks. Poultry, piggery and cattle are the main animals reared in Ri Bhoi District. For private landholders in the project area, the average land size is 3.5 hectares (8.6 acres) with the same average household income and household size of 6 people. Institutions within the project area have an average landholding size of 15 hectares (37.6 acres).

The communities consist of different groups such as women's wings, sport club groups, youth clubs, community volunteer groups, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and village organisation groups. The women's

groups and SHGs will benefit from the introduction of alternative livelihoods to increase their economic stability. The youth clubs and community volunteer groups will benefit from training and learning conservation techniques that can be used in future work and passed on to future generations. Both women and men will be equally represented in the project, performing duties as Community Facilitators (CFs) and involved in the Lower Working Committee (LWC) which will be set up as part of the project governance structures. The project will also promote Farmers Clubs to strengthen the bargaining power of farmers for better prices and access to markets. This aims to uplift the subsistence farmers to earn additional income while promoting sustainable agriculture and reducing pressure on forests. Another method that will benefit farmers is through organic certification, by increasing the value of the products sold. The Khasi people of Ri Bhoi are community oriented and will further benefit from working together toward a goal of reducing deforestation and degradation and strengthening traditional local institutions.

The table below identifies and describes the main stakeholder groups that could influence or be affected by the project.

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder Type	Impact	Influence	Engagement
Community	Local stakeholder	The level of impact is high. The communities will be positively impacted by the project in that they will receive community benefits funded by the project, such as better access to clean water, improved air quality, access to alternatives to fuel wood, aid in developing natural resource management plans, capacity building, micro-loans, assistance in Self-help Group building, and eco-tourism development.	The level of influence is high. The communities will positively influence the project. They are the main stakeholders and directly maintain the forests and resources. The headmen and the village council also influence the natural resource management plans and have the power to determine the use of the land.	The communities will be engaged during all stages of the project. The headmen and the village councils are first introduced to the project through an interactive awareness program. Following all information is provided to them and the community members (men, women, youth, elderly, private landholders, and institutions) a consensus is taken as to whether or not they want to participate in the project. Community members are engaged in workshops to

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder Type	Impact	Influence	Engagement
				determine the factors in deforestation and the activities that could be implemented to reduce the rates of deforestation.
Clan	Local Stakeholder	Same as "Community"	Same as "Community" where the clan leader and clan council would influence the land management plans and have the power to determine the use of the land.	Same as "Community" where clan leader and clan council take the role of the village headman and village council.
Institution	Local Stakeholder	Same as "Community"	Same as "Community"	Same as "Community"
Private landholder	Local Stakeholder	Same as "Community"	Same as "Community"	Same as "Community"
SHGs (Self-help Groups)	Local stakeholder	The level of impact is moderate. The project's socio-economic program will have the most impact on the SHGs as it will positively benefit the groups in terms of micro-loans, start-up distributions for sustainable agriculture production, market assistance, and training.	The level of influence is moderate. SHGs will positively influence the project by helping to determine which livelihood programs will work in the project area. They also assist in functions that are held by the project to promote conservation.	The SHGs will carry out alternative livelihood activities which will help to conserve the forests. Some of these activities are mushroom production, vermicompost production, and sustainable agriculture.
Women	Local stakeholder	The level of impact is high. Women in the project area will	The level of influence is high. Women will positively	Women will carry out alternative livelihood

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder Type	Impact	Influence	Engagement
		be positively benefited as they are introduced to alternative livelihood benefits, training, access to LPG which will reduce smoke inhalation and provide ease of cooking, as well as assistance in forming SHGs.	influence the project by providing valuable information on alternatives to forest products. Women are highly regarded in the Khasi and Bhoi societies and often hold the role of money and land management for the families. They are able to influence the men who attend the village council meetings and are vital at spreading the message of conservation. Without their input, the project cannot function.	activities which will help conserve the forests. Some of these activities are mushroom production, vermicompost production, and sustainable agriculture. They are also involved from the beginning of the project to help promote the project as well as to voice any concerns or questions they may have about the project. They are involved throughout all phases of the project.
Youth	Local stakeholder	The level of impact is moderate. Youth will be positively impacted as they will gain training and skill sets that will enable them to conserve forests for future generations and also help them in their future careers.	The level of influence is low. Though the youth do not sit on the village council they are still a valuable part of society and are active in many of the physical aspects of maintaining the community and the resources.	The youth are involved from the beginning of the project to help spread awareness. They are also trained throughout the project period to assist in monitoring and gathering information for the project.
KHEPL	Local stakeholder	The level of impact is low. The KHEPL will be positively	The level of influence is moderate. The KHEPL will	The KHEPL is involved from the first interest in the project

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder Type	Impact	Influence	Engagement
		impacted if the project runs smoothly. It may be negatively impacted if payments for carbon reductions are not met.	positively influence the project by investing start up funds in order to proceed with validation and verification of the project.	through the entire project period to assist in financial matters.
Synjuk	Local stakeholder	The level of impact is moderate. The Synjuk organization will be positively impacted by the project as it becomes more well known and will be able to sell higher volumes of carbon to its buyers who have already shown interest in the project.	The level of influence is high. The Synjuk will positively influence the project in that it will help to train and empower local communities to conserve forests and reduce deforestation and degradation as laid out by the Plan Vivo Standard 5 as it has in the Khasi Hills Community REDD+ Project.	The Synjuk is involved from the development of the project through the implementation of the project. They provide all the stakeholder engagement programs, training, reporting, and as the implementing team, they monitor and oversee all project undertakings.
KHADC	Secondary stakeholder	The level of impact is low. The project will not likely affect the Autonomous District Council either positively or negatively.	The level of influence is low. The KHADC recognizes that the project is being implemented within its jurisdiction.	The KHADC has provided the project with a letter of approval for the REDD+ project in Ri Bhoi as long as the consent of the local village councils has been given.
Residents Below Poverty Line	Local stakeholder	The level of impact is high. They will be positively benefited as they are introduced to alternative	The level of influence is moderate as they are more likely to rely on forests for their livelihood. This is why the	Those below the poverty line are chosen first by community leaders to become beneficiaries of LPG distributions



Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder Type	Impact	Influence	Engagement
		livelihood benefits, training, access to LPG which will reduce smoke inhalation and provide ease of cooking, as well as assistance in forming SHGs to improve their economic status.	project aims to incorporate BPL residents early on in the livelihood programs and distributions.	as a means to reduce deforestation.
Charcoal producers	Local stakeholder	The level of impact is high as their livelihood would be directly affected by the protection of forests.	The level of influence is high as they are directly related in activities that could lead to deforestation.	The project aims to involve charcoal makers in the livelihood programs in order to help them transition away from charcoal making activities and reduce deforestation.

## 2.2 Project Coordination and Management

The Ka Synjuk Ki Hima Arliang Wah Umiam Mawphlang Welfare Society (also known as “Synjuk”) is applying for the project after the successful work of the Khasi Hills Community REDD+ Project<sup>3</sup>. The Synjuk is a federation of ten indigenous traditional institutions registered in the state of Meghalaya, India as a non-government, non-profit, and charitable organization. The Synjuk pursues payments for ecosystem services including forest carbon sales of its carbon credits through the United Nations climate change strategy and REDD. The long-term goals of the organization are to increase forest cover, improve forest management, and uplift family and community livelihoods through community participation and leadership. The first project of the Synjuk was registered and certified through Plan Vivo in 2013 as the Khasi Hills Community REDD+ Project. It was the first community-based REDD project in India. The Khasi Hills Community REDD+ Project now includes 86 villages and over 7,200 households where REDD and Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) activities take place. To date, over 470,000 Plan Vivo Certificates have been issued through the work of this project.

The Khasi Hills Ecosystem Private Limited (KHEPL) is the business entity associated with the project implementor and will manage the monetary aspects of the project implemented by the Synjuk as they have been doing so for the Khasi Hills Community REDD+ Project. The KHEPL and the Synjuk have signed an MOU with each other detailing their respective duties (see Annex 7).

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.planvivo.org/khasi-hills>

Technical support will be provided by The Landscapes and Livelihoods Group, UK in the scope of developing the technical specification and assistance with mapping. A GIS consultant based in Shillong provides Land Use Land Cover Maps for the project on an as needed basis. A technical advisory committee is made up of these parties as well as associated wildlife experts, carbon estimation specialists, forestry personnel, and others. A list of those involved in the technical advisory committee can be found in Annex 6.

**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	Synjuk
Ensuring conformance with the Plan Vivo Standard and compliance with applicable policies, laws and regulations	Synjuk
Developing technical specifications, land management plans and project agreements with project participants	Synjuk, TLLG
Ensuring that the PDD is updated with any changes to the project	Synjuk
Registration and recording of land management plans, project agreements, monitoring results, and sales agreements	Synjuk
Managing project finances and dispersal of income to project participants as described by the benefit sharing mechanism	KHEPL
Managing Plan Vivo Certificates in the Plan Vivo Registry	KHEPL
Preparing annual reports and coordinating validation and verification events	Synjuk
Securing certificate sales and other means of funding the project	KHEPL
Assisting Project Participants to secure any legal or regulatory permissions required to carry out the project	Synjuk
Providing technical assistance and capacity building required for project participants to implement project interventions	Synjuk, TLLG
Monitoring progress indicators, livelihood indicators and ecosystem indicators and providing ongoing support to project participants	Synjuk
Measurement, reporting and verification of carbon benefits	Synjuk

### 2.3 Project Participants

The people of Ri Bhoi, often called “Bhois”, are a sub-group of the main Khasi tribe in Meghalaya. The main language is Khasi with a number of dialects and local languages. They are closely linked to forests which provide a number of resources such as wild fruits and vegetables, dye for weaving materials, water, rich fertile soil, timber, and fuel wood. There is good road access to most of the villages within the project area which has provided a pathway for development to take place and for goods to be transported to and from the main city areas. LPG (Liquid Petroleum Gas) is available in the district but is used by less than 10% of the households in the project area. The use of fuelwood for cooking and heating is a common practice in Ri Bhoi where the average family uses 5kg of fuelwood per day. Charcoal is not produced in the proposed project area, but it is produced in other areas of Meghalaya and is used in the project area during the monsoon and winter for drying and heating.

The people of Ri Bhoi have traditional practices of conservation for forests as sacred groves and protected forests which restrict access to removal of any forest products or limit the use of forest products for certain use as determined by the village council and headman or the clan depending on the type of forest.

The livelihood activities carried by the villagers of Ri Bhoi project area are farming, masonry, shopkeeping, teaching, weaving, cattle rearing, etc. Of these, the major activity is agriculture where about 80% of the population are engaged. The major cash crops of the region are ginger, broom grass and rice. The cultivation of ginger causes loss of forest habitat as the cleared forest land is cultivated for 3-5 years and then the land is left fallow for a period of 5-10 years. Other crops and vegetables consist of chilli, cabbage, potato, pumpkin, squash, beans, bitter gourd, brinjal, cucumber, radish, yam, mushroom, mint, bamboo shoot, tomato, lettuce, *Colocasia* and other wild edible vegetables. Some of these crops also require a fallow period, but some are found in the wild, and others are interplanted amongst natural vegetation. Common fruit trees in Ri Bhoi District are mango, jack fruit, lemon, pomegranate, Valencia orange, litchi, guava, pineapple, passion fruit, chestnut, many types of citrus fruit, banana, gooseberry, papaya, and wild edible fruits. Animal husbandry and fishing provide secondary sources of income.

The list of areas for the proposed project and the demographics are listed in the table below. The land ownership refers to the type of land that will be a part of the project area. The table also includes number of households (HH) per village, the population, number of female and male residents, and the household above poverty line (APL) and below poverty line (BPL) percentages of each village. . The area falling under private and institutional land ownership is approximately 400 ha, or about 23% of the total project area. However, these are participants that manage land or natural resources within the project area for small-scale production and do not hire year-round labour.

Sl.No	Name of Village	Land ownership	HH	Population	Female	Male	APL	BPL
1	Laiphewdiengngan	Community land	365	1650	832	818	10%	90%
2	Kdohhati	Community land	132	694	342	352	20%	80%
3	Raitong	Community land	320	1861	950	911	20%	80%
4	Mawrathud	Community land	85	501	240	261	10%	90%
5	Sohphoh	Community land	138	779	387	392	20%	80%
6	Ingsaw	Community land	206	1246	654	592		100%
7	Umtngam	Community land	139	764	318	446	20%	80%
8	Umrui	Private land (one individual)						
9	Birsiej	Raid Umtngam	114	711	364	347		100%
10	Tyrso	Private land	103	630	310	320	10%	90%
11	Mawtha	Raid Umtngam	55	359	179	180	10%	90%
12	Mawlasnai	Private Land	81	476	231	245	18%	82%
13	Khyndewso	Community and Private land	263	1456	716	740	20%	80%
14	Lumdiengngan	Private Land, Institution land						
15	Syngku	Community Land	365	2000	1100	900	20%	80%
16	Bhoiymbong	Private land (one individual)						
17	Mawtneng	Community land	205	1260	674	586	21%	79%
18	Palwi	Raid Umket	105	627	314	313	20%	80%

19	Umket	Raid Umket	225	1326	632	694	40%	60%
20	Nongtarian	Raid Umket	71	321	119	202	11%	89%
21	Nongtraw	Community land and Raid Umket	221	1214	612	602	0%	100%
22	Mawkyrdep	Community land	154	802	392	410	20%	80%
23	Mawdwar	Raid Umket	36	214	112	102	10%	90%
24	Umtung	Community Raid Umket	130	666	320	346	20%	80%
25	Bangla	Raid Umket	78	362	173	189	0%	100%
26	Umdiker	Private Land						
27	Mawshohroh	Institutional Land						
Total			3,591	19,289	9,971	9,948		

## 2.4 Participatory Design

The process for implementing the project starts with an awareness programme to all of the community members who reside in the proposed project area. This gives them a detailed synopsis of the project, how they can take part, and how they will be affected both through benefits and practices that will change as the project is implemented. This is an opportunity for members to play an active role in asking questions and informing their decision as to whether or not the village will be a part of the project or not. If there is a consensus among the people, the executive members, and the headman the project will move forward, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and PES agreement will be signed between the village and the Synjuk.

The next step is Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA). This activity involves the community members who wish to take part in order to take into account the resources within the village and surrounding area. The project coordinators work directly with the community leaders and community members to learn about the resources that are important to the community and how land is managed and maintained. This design process involves women groups, youth groups, elders, and the village councils to include all aspects of village social structure in the project goals and objectives. It also gives the community members a platform to voice any concerns they may have regarding implementing the project activities.

The project interventions that were proposed for this project were conveyed through the village headmen to the project coordinators upon gathering information from the project participants (community members). The project interventions were reviewed by the project coordinators who gave more options for project activities and who confirmed which project interventions were viable for the proposed project area. Due to the past interactions with these communities, participatory activities with community members have taken place in order to build the project around the interest and ownership of the communities.

## 2.5 FPIC Process

The project is seeking certification under PV Climate V5 and is in compliance with the protocols established under Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC). Project coordinators (the Synjuk) have conducted awareness programs in the proposed project areas with the advanced consent of the village headman. Through these programs project participants and stakeholders were given the details of the project and given time to ask questions about the project activities, benefits, and risks. Upon consensus among the people, village headman, and the village council, each participating village

signed an MOU with the Synjuk. Following, the village members then took part in Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) where they pointed out the natural resources, community facilities, and their uses that are important to the village. The project interventions are based off of these initial appraisals and the community members through Community Facilitators (CFs) will again participate in Natural Resource Management (NRM) plans which include the project interventions in the overall village plans. The project has also secured the approval of the Autonomous District Council (ADC), the level of government legally responsible for overseeing such activities.

### 3 Project Design

#### 3.1 Baseline Scenario - Drivers of Deforestation and Degradation

One of major contributors to landscape changes in the forest habitat of Ri Bhoi is increased cultivation. Fields are cultivated on a rotational basis, used for a period of years, and then left fallow for a number of years. As the population grows and land becomes more scarce, forested area is cleared for agriculture. The cultivation of ginger and broom grass, major cash crops of the area, have contributed to the decline in forest habitat, with 1,215 hectares in ginger cultivation and 2,111 hectares in broom grass cultivation as of the most recent land use land cover maps. Community members in the project area have indicated that 1-5 acres of land for ginger cultivation and 5-10 acres of land for broom cultivation may be cleared per year per farmer. The amount of land provided by the community, clan, or raid to each household for agricultural purposes may depend on the number of people per household, amount of land available, socio-economic status, etc. as determined by the land management plan under each authority. For private landholders this could account for the majority of their acreage (the average landholding size for private landholders in the project area is 8.6 acres).

Forest fires represent another cause of forest degradation and deforestation. Fire is often used as a tool during agricultural burning of crop residue or during the opening of a new plot from February to March. However, during the dry winter months, the fire sometimes escapes to neighbouring forests. Fires are also caused by human negligence, transformer sparks, or lightning. Forest fires will likely become a larger problem in the future as climate change causes a longer dry season with extended droughts. Currently, the frequency and community involvement of putting out fires varies from village to village.

Natural resources like drinking water, NTFPs and timber are on the decline as the need for more agricultural land to meet the demands of the market. The Project has identified these root causes of deforestation in the Ri Bhoi area and is looking to intervene these issues with specific activities that can promote livelihood and sustain the environment. The Ri Bhoi area can have agricultural models implemented to save the forest without compromising the soil efficiency for production. Activities like silkworm cultivation requires intact forest with mixed cropping of specific tree species for feeding the worms; with the high temperature and humidity, the region has high potential for coffee plantation which will keep the forest intact; plantation of trees used for dye of traditional weaving as well as plants used for medicine has sparked interest among community members as these species are becoming harder to find in the wild; animal/fish farms also have great potential in the region.

#### 3.2 Livelihood Baseline - Socioeconomic Status of Participants

The livelihood activities carried by the villagers of Ri Bhoi project area are farming, masonry, shopkeeping, teaching, weaving, cattle rearing, etc. Of these, the major activity is agriculture where about 80% of the population are engaged. The major cash crops of the region are ginger, broom grass

and rice. The cultivation of ginger causes loss of forest habitat as the cleared forest land is cultivated for 3-5 years and then the land is left fallow for a period of 5-10 years. Other crops and vegetables consist of chilli, cabbage, potato, pumpkin, squash, beans, bitter gourd, brinjal, cucumber, radish, yam, mushroom, mint, bamboo shoot, tomato, lettuce, *Colocasia* and other wild edible vegetables. Some of these crops also require a fallow period, but some are found in the wild, and others are interplanted amongst natural vegetation. Common fruit trees in Ri Bhoi District are mango, jack fruit, lemon, pomegranate, Valencia orange, litchi, guava, pineapple, passion fruit, chestnut, many types of citrus fruit, banana, gooseberry, papaya, and wild edible fruits. Within the proposed project area, there are about 2,240 hectares under plantation (early 2022).

The average annual household income within the project area is approximately Rs.60,000<sup>4</sup> (or USD709) and the average annual household income of private landholders in the project was Rs. 84,000 (or USD 1,120). Reports show various results for rural agricultural household income in Meghalaya, stating a range from Rs.25,000<sup>5</sup> to 352,000.<sup>6</sup> The socio-economic team found the average landholding size to be 0.25 acres per household for community member stakeholders and that of private landholders was found to be 8.6 acres (3.5 hectares). The private land area is slightly higher than the most recent Indian Agricultural Census (2015-2016) which puts the average national landholding size at 2.7 acres (1.1 hectares) and average Meghalaya landholding size at 3.2 acres (1.3 hectares). The average household income for both types of participants remains well below the national average of Rs.360,000 and below the average income of rural households of Rs.152,000.<sup>7</sup>

LPG (Liquid Petroleum Gas) is available in the district but is used by less than 10% of the households in the project area. The use of fuelwood for cooking and heating is a common practice in Ri Bhoi where the average family uses 5kg of fuelwood per day.

Stakeholder	Land Access and Use	Typical Assets	Income	Livelihood Activities
Community Members	The amount of land provided by the community, clan, or raid to each household for agricultural purposes may depend on the number of people per household, amount of land available, socio-economic status, etc. as determined by the land management	House, Community land,	Rs. 60,000 (USD 709)	Small-scale and subsistence agriculture, weaving, masonry, shopkeeping, teaching, handicrafts, animal husbandry

<sup>4</sup> <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s43621-025-01500-6/figures/5>

<sup>5</sup> <https://megsoil.gov.in/iwmp/2011-12/DPR%20IWMP%20VII%20RB.pdf>,

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1884228>

<sup>7</sup> <https://bfsi.economicstimes.indiatimes.com/news/industry/indias-rural-household-income-jumps-57-6-over-five-years-debt-rises-too-nabard-survey/114101542>

	plan under each authority.			
Institution	Private land used for educational facilities, housing, subsistence agriculture, and animal husbandry (Area associated with project is conserved forest land not applicable to these activities.)	Buildings, land	N/A	Student revenue, sponsors
Private Landholder	Private land used for housing, agriculture, and animal husbandry (area associated with project is conserved forest land not applicable to these activities).	House, land	Rs. 84,000 (USD 993)	Small-scale and subsistence agriculture, weaving, masonry, shopkeeping, teaching, handicrafts, animal husbandry
SHGs	The amount of land provided by the community, clan, or raid to each household for agricultural purposes may depend on the number of people per household, amount of land available, socio-economic status, etc. as determined by the land management plan under each authority.			
Women	Same as community or private land holder depending	Land ownership is passed down through the women, in	Same as community or private land holder depending	Same as community or private land holder depending



	on the participant.	families that practice the matrilineal	on the participant.	on the participant.
Youth	Same as community or private land holder depending on the participant.	Same as community or private land holder depending on the participant.	Same as community or private land holder depending on the participant.	Same as community or private land holder depending on the participant.
KHEPL	All land in the project is held by the communities, clans, raids, private landholders, and institutions.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Synjuk	All land in the project is held by the communities, clans, raids, private landholders, and institutions. The organization assists in making monitoring plots in forested area which has been provided by the appropriate landholder.	N/A	N/A	N/A
KHADC	Authorizes land-use.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Residents Below the Poverty Line	Same as community or private land holder depending on the participant. Note that depending on the village or clan land management plan special provisions may be given for BPL community members.	Same as community or private land holder depending on the participant.	Same as community or private land holder depending on the participant.	Same as community or private land holder depending on the participant.
Charcoal Producers	Most of these are private landholders and	Most of these are private landholders and	Most of these are private landholders and	Most of these are private landholders and

	can be categorized as such.	can be categorized as such.	can be categorized as such.	can be categorized as such.
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### 3.3 Ecosystem Baseline - Ecological Conditions

Ri Bhoi has a “Tropical Moist and Dry Deciduous Forest” which prominently covers a large part of Ri Bhoi District, especially in areas where the annual rainfall is less than 2000mm and the temperature is high. These forests are characterised by seasonal leaf shedding and profuse flowering. The dominant tree species that are valued economically are *Shorea robusta*, *Tectona grandis*, *Terminalia myriocarpa*, *Gmelina arborea*, *Artocarpus chapsala*, *Lagerstroemia parviflora*, *Maorus laevigata*, etc. Other associated species are *Schima wallichii*, *Toona ciliata*, *Albizia lebbeck*, *Dillenia pentagyna*, etc. The epiphytic flora are less in number, but orchids, ferns, and Asclepidaiceae members are often seen. Bamboo forests are not naturally occurring, but they exist in sporadic patches in jhum fallows. The common bamboo species are *Dendrocalamus hamiltonii* and *Melocanna bambusoides*. Some other species less frequently found are *Bambusa pallida*, *Bambusa tulda*, *Chimonobambusa khasiana*, etc. Forests cover a large part of the geographical area of Ri Bhoi District. However, there is a constant danger of denudation and deforestation due to the felling of trees for timber, use of firewood, occurrence of forest fire and removal of forest for cultivation.

The general land cover within the project region is represented by 39.6% of open forest, 17.3% of scrub land, 8.6% of moderately dense forest, and 0.5% of mixed plantation bamboo forest. The remaining area is made up of non-forest area (33.8%): plantation (9.9%), agricultural land (14.5%), settlement (8.8%), barren land (0.03%), and waterbodies (0.6%).<sup>8</sup>

Ri Bhoi has abundant endemic wildlife from carnivores to micro-fauna. Some of the species fall under the endangered category, such as the Hoolock gibbon and clouded leopard. The rich biodiversity includes a number of birds including hornbills, wild pheasants, eagles, and owls. A number of reptiles, primates, herbivores such as deer, omnivores such as fox, civets, and martens, and carnivorous leopard and wild cats can also be found in the state. Rejuvenation of the forest will also provide a nesting place and a wildlife corridor between Meghalaya and Assam.

### 3.4 Project Logic

**Table 3.4 Initial Project Logic**

<b>Aim</b> Deforestation rates are increasing as population growth and plantation of monocrops are driving rapid forest loss. The project aims to reduce the rate of deforestation and ultimately stabilize and restore degraded forests.		
	<b>Description</b>	<b>Assumptions/Risks</b>
<b>Outcomes – Intended overall project aim</b>		
Carbon Benefit	Through all of the three outputs listed below, the forested area will be better protected from damage that is caused by fire, fuelwood collection, grazing, and jhum cultivation. This will create an	It is assumed that major natural disasters may occur and may have an affect on the carbon storage capacity of forests. It is also assumed that there will be a transition time between which

<sup>8</sup> Information provided by GIS consultant, Norita Sohlang

	opportunity for higher carbon storage within the forested area.	these activities take place and results can be seen.
Livelihood Benefit	The communities will benefit from the ecosystem services provided by forests. They will also benefit from training in new agricultural and livestock rearing techniques. Not only will they earn income from alternative livelihoods, but will also receive benefits from the Community Development Funds linked to the carbon sales.	There is the risk that some community members may have been earning more from unsustainable practices then they would initially from the project activities and it may be difficult to introduce new ideas to some participants.
Ecosystem Benefit	The waterways will be better protected from erosion as forests are kept intact. Community NRM plans will help create connecting wildlife corridors to allow greater movement of animal species through the project area and increasing biodiversity. Water, air, and soil will also be protected as forest land is protected.	It is assumed that major natural disasters may occur which may affect the ecosystem outside of the projects control. A potential risk with habitat creation is that larger animals may become more common and plans will need to be made on how to adapt to this while minimizing hunting.
<b>Outputs</b>		
<b>Output 1</b>	Forest fire prevention and control. The number of fire watchers, awareness programs/trainings, and length of fire line will be measured each year in the project area.	Extended dry seasons and natural incidents outside of project control may pose risks to this output. They will be mitigated by creating fire lines, implementing pre-controlled burning, heighten awareness among village governments and people, and organize fire watchers to respond quickly.
<b>Output 2</b>	Reduced fuelwood consumption and alternative energy sources. The project will survey the amount of fuelwood consumed within the project area during the project period and will measure the number of alternative energy sources used/distributed in the project area.	There is the potential risk that LPG cylinders may be difficult to procure or that there will be some initial resistance to cooking with LPG. The project will work with various programs and awareness to the community to ensure successful transition.
<b>Output 3</b>	Sustainable agricultural, horticultural and animal husbandry systems. The project will maintain records of project participants involved in alternative livelihood activities as well as the transition from activities driving deforestation to those which maintain forest cover. The number of participants involved in alternative livelihood trainings will be well documented.	The potential risk to this output is the length and costs associated transition period and training needed to successfully implement it. The project will provide training and initial start-up costs to help participants transition smoothly.

### 3.5 Additionality

The project activities that are proposed will reduce deforestation and forest degradation compared to the baseline scenario which will be done through a land classification survey using LANDSAT and other remotely sensed data and will include assessments of the project and reference areas. The project is not a product of a legislative decree, or a commercial land-use initiative that would have been economically viable on its own. There have been reforestation projects within Ri Bhoi District (one is a subsidiary of the state government and the other is operated by Earth Tree, however, there are not any REDD+ projects within the project reference or project activity areas.

**Table 3.5 Initial Barrier Analysis**

Project Intervention	Main Barriers	Activities to Overcome Barriers
REDD+ and ANR	Financial barriers: Communities do not have sufficient financial resources to undertake the project on their own	Start-up funding is secured and ongoing project maintenance will be sought through payments for ecosystem services.
	Existing common practices: Shifting cultivation has put pressure on the existing forests	The project will provide training to encourage farmers to cultivate crops in a sustainable manner.
	Ecological barriers: Certain cash crops, like broom cultivation has caused clearance of forests	The introduction of alternative livelihood activities such as mushroom cultivation, home-based nursery management, and vermi-compost production, which provide income can help to transition farmers to a more sustainable practice.
	Technical and educational barriers: Community members are aware of conservation measures but will need advice on how to earn income and reduce fuelwood through sustainable measures.	The project will provide options for alternative livelihood activities as well as training. The project will also provide training on technical measures of monitoring the outcomes of which they are well versed from the Khasi Hills Community REDD+ Project.

### 3.6 Exclusion List

The project does not include any of the activities listed in the Plan Vivo Exclusion List (Annex 3).

### 3.7 Environmental and Social Screening

See complete Environmental and Social Screening Report in Annex 4.

**Table 3.7 Environmental and Social Risks**

Risk Area	Potential Risks
Vulnerable Groups	The project aims to work with all groups within the project area including elders, women, men, and youth. The project will work with those who depend on forest products for their

	livelihood in order to secure an alternative livelihood that does not rely on damaging forested area.
Gender Equality	There are no potential risks as equal numbers of men and women will be selected as Community Facilitators and Youth Volunteers.
Human Rights	There are no potential risks to human rights issues. The project will be implemented by a local organisation who has good standing with the local people.
Community, Health, Safety & Security	As the project gains exposure, develops eco-tourism practices, and earns income, the proposed project area may see an increase in visitors from outside the project area. This could pose a potential risk to cultural norms, biodiversity, and natural resources as areas are developed to accommodate more people. The project implementors will work with project participants and village authorities to prepare plans to manage these potential risks, such as designating certain areas for people to stay, hiking trails, and informing community members about expectations.
Labour and Working Conditions	The potential risks associated with working conditions are those which may take place in forested area. The project will train those who will be conducting activities within the forested area on best practices and common first aid.
Resource Efficiency, Pollution, Wastes, Chemicals and GHG emissions	There are no potential risks in this regard. No chemicals will be introduced to the project area for agricultural use and the project aims to reduce GHG emissions by reducing fuelwood usage.
Access Restrictions and Livelihoods	Under the project interventions certain areas may be closed to fuelwood collection, shifting agriculture, and animal grazing. This could be a potential risk to livelihoods as people depend on these areas for their daily needs. The project will work with communities provide alternatives to fuelwood, such as LPG cookstoves. The project will work with communities to locate areas for grazing and promote stall fed livestock rearing which would reduce pressure on the forests. Transitioning into new livelihood activities may take time and income from these activities may initially be less than the income that had been procured through previous means. The implementing organisation will work with communities to provide training on all activities in order to prepare project participants and provide them with the skills needed to succeed. The project will also provide in kind benefits as to ease participants into alternative livelihoods without them having to bear large start-up costs.
Cultural Heritage	See "Community, Health, Safety & Security"
Indigenous Peoples	See "Community, Health, Safety & Security"
Biodiversity and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources	Under the project interventions land use may be different than previously allotted which could potentially put more pressure on resources outside of the project area. The project implementing organisation will work directly with community members and village authorities to develop natural resource

	management plans which take into account sustainable use of resources and protection of biodiversity.
Land Tenure Conflicts	There is a potential risk that the state government may try to claim forested area, creating conflict. Currently this is against the law, as indigenous communities have the right to the land as written in the Constitution of India
Risk of Not Accounting for Climate Change	Climate change may affect the project area by increasing the dry season and the potential for more forest fires. The project aims to reduce the spread of potential forest fires by creating fire lines and employing fire watchers to quickly put out any fires affecting the project area.
Other – e.g. Cumulative Impacts	None

### 3.8 Double Counting

Three potential sources of double counting have been considered in the design of the project:

Potential Source	Description	Mitigation Measures
Within the project	If finance raised for biodiversity conservation or other types of ecosystem service payments were used to fund protection of the same area for which Plan Vivo certificates had been sold.	Taking into account any other government led environmental initiatives that may be present in the project area. Currently there are none.
With other carbon projects	If the community, or other parties, entered into agreements for the sale of emission reduction credits as part of a project or jurisdictional programme that covered the Plan Vivo project area	The communities are unable to enter other programmes with other standards or parties once they've signed an agreement with the project coordinator.. The project coordinator will maintain a dialogue with the Autonomous District Council to ensure they are made aware of and can lobby against any initiatives that could conflict with the project.
NDC	If Plan Vivo certificates are used to offset emissions from parties outside India, and the Government of India use those same emissions reductions to meet their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).	The Government of India's NDC includes emissions from forestry. To prevent double counting, emission reduction certificates sold to out of state parties for use as carbon offsets should therefore be excluded from the NDC. Mechanisms for addressing this are under development in India. If conflicts do arise, issuance of Plan Vivo certificates will be suspended until ensured that there is no potential for double counting of emission reductions.

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

	Yes/No/Unsure	Details
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<b>Is there a national registry for land-based carbon projects?</b>	No	
<b>Are carbon rights defined in national legislation?</b>	No	In the proposed project area communities retain strong forest ownership rights from a legal standpoint under Schedule 6 of the Constitution. Through this secure legal tenure, communities hold all rights to the forest's resources, including carbon.
<b>Are there any carbon pricing regulations existing or in development (e.g. emissions trading scheme or carbon tax)</b>	No	
<b>Does the country receive or plan to receive results-based climate finance through bilateral or multilateral programs?</b>	Yes	India is using results-based finance to help achieve their NDCs. In terms of carbon, the project is aware of this and closely monitors any areas that may be part of double counting.
<b>Are there any other relevant regulations, policies or instruments?</b>	No	

## 4 Governance and Administration

### 4.1 Governance Structure

The Ka Synjuk Ki Hima Arliang Wah Umiam Mawphlang Welfare Society (also known as "Synjuk") is a federation of ten indigenous traditional institutions. The Synjuk oversees the implementation of all project activities and all the staff. The Lower Working Committees (LWCs) are formed by the Synjuk and include the village headman, clan leader, or Raid leader, and private landholders, institutional landholders, and the Community Facilitators. The LWCs are the body that assists in the planning associated with the micro watershed that falls under the project and specifically to their cluster. They are answerable to all the Headmen and the Dorbar as well as to SYNJUK. The LWC members are selected through community participation during the awareness programmes or during community meetings where information is presented about the project and the need for equal representation in the LWCs. There is no application process, but the selection is done through village meetings specially called for this. The members of the village council or headman then inform the CF or the Synjuk on who has been selected for the LWC. It is the village Dorbar who has the final decision to select and nominate the LWC member to the LWC.

All private landholders and institutions are included in the LWC associated with their location. The Synjuk informs the village authority that they are part of the project and are putting their land into conservation. They are not appointed by the village, but are connected to the Synjuk through the CFs and have to renew their agreement with the project every three years.

The Community Facilitators are appointed by the village councils who conduct interviews to select these equal number of male, female, and youth representatives based on their understanding of the needs of the community members that they speak on behalf of. They are often active in the community and can communicate with the various stakeholders of the project area they work within.



The Khasi Hills Ecosystem Private Limited (KHEPL) will manage the monetary aspects of the project implemented by the Synjuk.

See the organizational chart below for a complete list of details.

#### **Plan Vivo**

1. Review project design documents
2. Certify project
3. Review annual reports
4. Permit issuance of carbon credits based on approved annual reports

#### **KHEPL**

1. Provides financing for the upfront costs of project development including team meetings, field work, consultants, registration fees, and validation and verification costs.
2. Contracts with the Synjuk team to act as project developer, providing funds based on an agreed upon budget submitted by the Synjuk.
3. Registers the project and manages credits with Markit.
4. Manages the “Revolving Project Development Fund” which proceeds will be used to support the development of additional projects in the future. Proceeds will come from a percentage of sales generated by the Ri Bhoi Community REDD+ Project.

#### **Synjuk**

1. Implements the project
2. Hires and trains field staff
3. Organizes village meetings
4. Guides community resource management planning
5. Develops mitigation strategies to reduce forest degradation and deforestation
6. Implements socio-economic development activities
7. Monitors activities

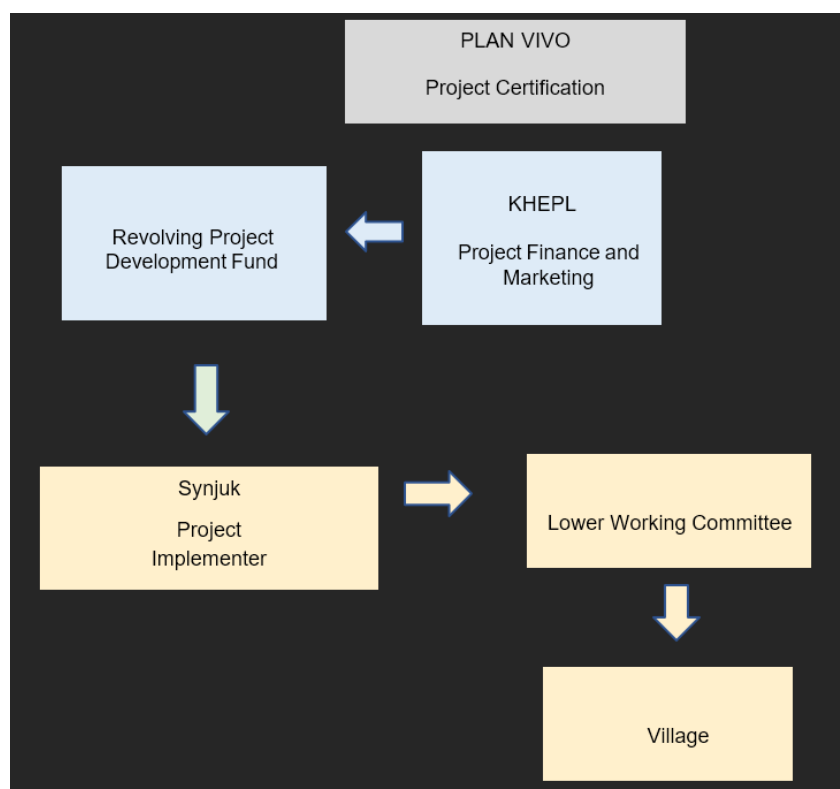
#### **LWC (Lower Working Committee)**

1. Community Facilitators (CFs) are appointed (1 male, 1 female)
2. CFs give trainings on all activities in connection with the technical and operational approach, with the monitoring reports handed over to the Synjuk every month during the CFs meeting
3. Includes the village Headman, clan leader, and/or Raid leader, and other male and female members representing the village, private landholders, and institutional landholders
4. Oversee the work and activities carried out in the village where they hold meetings thrice a year.
5. Create project proposals for use of Community Development Grants and monitor the progress
6. Creates and updates Village Management Plans

#### **Villages**

1. Village Headmen, Clan Leaders, and/or Raid Leaders oversee the land and management plans given for the project (depending on the jurisdiction of the land)
2. Hold meetings for men, women, and youth on project activities
3. Community Facilitators (CFs) and Youth Volunteers (YVs) update Village Knowledge Registers (VKR) and villagers participate in Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)
4. Villagers communicate with the CF and YV on any issues and if needed the CF brings the issue to the LWC to be resolved
5. Community members take part in plantation of trees, alternative livelihood activities, and other project-based incentives.

## Organizational Chart



## 4.2 Legal and Regulatory Compliance

The Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council has been notified by the Synjuk of the intentions of the project (see Annex 5). The headmen of the villages have agreed to participate in the project and will sign PES agreements upon implementing the project. An MOU has been signed between KHEPL and Synjuk on the implementation and financial arrangements of the project. All parties intend to comply with all relevant national and international regulations regarding the associated carbon and ecosystem services rights such as those listed below:

Policy, Law or Regulation	Relevance	Compliance Measures
State of Meghalaya, Section 37 of Biological Diversity Act (2002)	Some areas of the state are included as Biodiversity Heritage Sites. Under this Act, the State Government may frame rules for the management and conservation of the Biodiversity Heritage Site.	The project has been in compliance with these rules.
Meghalaya State Climate Change Action Plan (2014)	This plan focuses on reducing the dependency on natural resources and resilient ecosystems.	The project is involved in the State's adaptation pathway in agriculture by promoting sustainable agriculture, water harvesting, organic farming, diversification, and increasing

		perennial fruit crops. The project also seeks to carry out pathways for more resilient forestry systems by providing socio-economic alternatives, diversification of agri-forestry systems, and PES to increase forest cover and biodiversity.
Employment Laws: Code on Wages, 2019; Code on Social Security, 2020;	Ensures the timely payment of wages; sets regulations for insurance, compensation, and provident funds	The project complies with all laws and policies enforced by the Labour Commissioner and State regulations with regards to the welfare of all those working in organized and unorganized sectors.
The Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 and Rules	Children (under 14 years of age) cannot be employed, and adolescent labour (14-18 years old) is restricted.	The project does not include child labour or restricted adolescent labour in any of its activities.
UNDRIP	The project participants are indigenous people and will continue to maintain their cultures, traditions, and rights to land and resources throughout the project. They hold these rights and make decisions through their indigenous governing institutions.	The project implementers meet with community members to inform them of the proposed project activities and to receive feedback from the community members. The project does not move forward until there is a consensus among the village people that they want to partake in the project.
ILO 169	The project participants are indigenous people and have the right to maintain their cultures, traditions, and rights to land and resources throughout the project.	The project participants will be consulted through their representative institutions, they will be given the choice to freely participate in the project, and will be provided the resources needed to make their own decisions.
CBD9	The indigenous communities will be providing traditional knowledge on forest conservation and natural resource management. This voluntary guideline ensures that local communities obtain a fair share of benefits arising from the use of knowledge and prevents the unlawful access to traditional knowledge. The	The project will not include traditional knowledge on rare plant names and uses in public facing reports in order to help protect the biodiversity of the area and the natural resources that are valuable both economically and culturally to the project participants.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-18-en.pdf>

	project works with a number of traditional herbal practitioners and protects their knowledge on plant species and uses.	
Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India	This purpose of this amendment is to preserve tribal autonomy, cultures, and economic empowerment.	The project implementors work with local indigenous governing bodies who have the right to oversee their jurisdictions under Schedule Six.

The District Council makes laws to regulate and administer the allotment, occupation or use of land in the Khasi Hills Autonomous District (other than any land which is reserved forest) for the purposes of residency or agriculture.

The activities in this project are not part of any existing legal or regulatory requirement. The project therefore demonstrates that it goes beyond the regulatory framework with regards to land-use and land management in India.

The project is however involved in the State's adaptation pathway in agriculture by promoting sustainable agriculture, water harvesting, organic farming, diversification, increasing perennial fruit crops, and breeding stall fed livestock. Similarly, the project seeks to carry out pathways for more resilient forestry systems by providing socio economic alternatives, diversification of agri forestry systems, and PES to increase forest cover and biodiversity.

### 4.3 Financial Plan

KHEPL provides financing (\$50,000) for the upfront costs of project development including team meetings, field work, registration fees, and validation and verification costs. The KHEPL contracts with the Synjuk team to act as a project developer, providing funds based on an agreed upon budget submitted by the Synjuk. The initial budget proposal for the Ri Bhoi Community REDD+ Project is outlined below.

Ri-Bhoi Community REDD+ Project Budget							
	BUDGET HEAD	Description	Units	Units Cost	Amount INR	Amount \$	
1	Awareness Programme	Meeting with the community	27	3,000.00	81,000.00	1,012.50	Synjuk & KHEPL
2	PRA	Collection of village information	27	4,000.00	1,08,000.00	1,350.00	Synjuk & KHEPL
3	Site Selection	Selection of forest area	27	3,000.00	81,000.00	1,012.50	Synjuk & KHEPL
4	Mapping of Site	Mapping of forest area, village, GPS point Collection for landuse landcover	27	6,000.00	1,62,000.00	2,025.00	Synjuk & KHEPL
5	Making of Plot	Creation of forest inventory plots	50	4,000.00	2,00,000.00	2,500.00	Synjuk & KHEPL


6	Stakeholder Meeting	Meeting with various stakes	2	40,000.00	80,000.00	1,000.00	Synjuk & KHEPL
7	Consultant (TLLG)	Technical specifications and project review	1	3,50,000.00	3,50,000.00	4,375.00	Synjuk & KHEPL
8	PIN Cost	Planvivo review & submission	1	80,000.00	80,000.00	1,000.00	Synjuk & KHEPL
9	PDD Cost	Planvivo review & submission	1	1,20,000.00	1,20,000.00	1,500.00	Synjuk & KHEPL
10	Validation	Planvivo review and finalisation	1	80,000.00	80,000.00	1,000.00	Synjuk & KHEPL
11	Audits	Field validation/ verification	1	18,50,000.00	18,50,000.00	23,125.00	Synjuk & KHEPL
<b>Total</b>					<b>31,92,000.00</b>	<b>39,900.00</b>	

## Annexes

### Annex 1 – Project Boundaries

Geospatial data files for project region and project area boundaries are attached

Annex 2 –Registration Certificate

  
सत्यमेव जयते

**Certificate of Registration of Societies**  
ACT 12 OF 1983

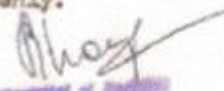
No. E.16/5/ of 2010/274

I hereby certify that Ka Synjuk Ki Hima Arilang Wah Union-  
Mawphlang Welfare Society, Mawphlang

has this day been registered under Meghalaya Societies Registration Act,  
12 of 1983.

Given under my hand at Shillong  
this 12th day of August  
Two thousand and eleven

Registration fee of Rs. Two hundred and fifty only.

  
Registrar of Societies,  
Meghalaya, Shillong.



### Annex 3 – Exclusion List

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
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.	No
Activities involving harmful or exploitative forms of forced labour [5] or harmful child labour [6].	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 consent of such peoples.	No
Production, use, sale or trade of pharmaceuticals, pesticides/herbicides, ozone layer depleting substances [7], and other toxic [8] or dangerous materials such as asbestos or products containing PCB's [9], 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 [10].	No
Any trade related to pornography or prostitution.	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 [11].	No
Any activity leading to an irreversible modification or significant displacement of an element of culturally critical heritage [12].	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] Forced labour means all work or service, not voluntarily performed, that is extracted from an individual under threat of force or penalty.

[6] 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.

[7] 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

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

[9] 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.

[10] 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.

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

[12] "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

SECTION A: PROJECT INFORMATION	
<b>Project title:</b>	Ri Bhoi Community REDD+ Project
<b>Project coordinator:</b>	Ka Synjuk Ki Hima Arliang Wah Umiam – Mawphlang Welfare Society (or “Synjuk”)
<b>Country:</b>	India
<b>Geography/ landscape:</b>	Tropical to temperate cloud forests within the Ri Bhoi District of Meghalaya India. The district lies between North Latitudes 25 15’ and 26 15’ and between East Longitudes 91 45’ and 92 15’.
<b>Project summary:</b>	<p><i>&lt;Provide a short summary of the project, including aim and objectives, expected outcomes, activities, the main project sites, and project partners&gt;</i></p> <p>The long-term goals of the organization are to increase forest cover, improve forest management, and uplift family and community livelihoods through community participation and leadership. This project will implement REDD+ activities to protect forest land under community management and provide alternative livelihood activities which enable community members to earn income independent of forest land use. The project currently is working with 27 communities and a handful of small landholders over 12,217.38 hectares in Ri Bhoi District, Meghalaya, India to protect the forest from deforestation and reduce emissions and aims to reach more communities within the district throughout the project period. The main project partners are the communities and Khasi Hills Ecosystem Private Limited (the business entity of Synjuk). The applicable government entities have been notified and have approved of the project.</p>
<b>Name and role of project coordinator staff member filling this questionnaire:</b>	Anne Lyngdoh, Consultant to “Synjuk”
<b>Confirm that the Plan Vivo Exclusion List is appended to this E&amp;S questionnaire:</b>	Yes, provided in Annex 3 of the PIN.

SECTION B: POTENTIAL E&S RISKS AND IMPACTS			
Topic	Question	Project coordinator response	E&S reviewer comments
E&S Risks and Impacts			
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?	Yes, there are lower income groups within the project area. The implementing organisation is well aware of their conditions and the needs that they require.	Agreed – the conditions and needs of the vulnerable groups to fully participate and engage in the project should be described in detail at PDD stage.
	Is there a risk that project activities disproportionately affect vulnerable groups, due to their vulnerability status?	No, the project works with local community facilitators, community leadership, and social-welfare groups to ensure all groups are accounted for.	Agreed
	Is there a risk that the project discriminates against vulnerable groups, for example regarding access to project services or benefits and decision-making?	No, the project works with local community facilitators and local social entities to ensure all groups are accounted for.	Agreed
<b>E&amp;S reviewer conclusions</b>  <i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 2 – Unlikely to occur due to project approaches; however, given the community context, it could still happen.</i>  <i>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 2 – There would be a low number of people affected, and impacts can be managed through project governance structures.</i>  <i>Risk significance: Low</i>			
	Is there a risk of adverse gender impacts due to the project/project activities, including for example discrimination or	No, equal number of men and women will be selected as	Agreed

Gender equality	creation/exacerbation or perpetuation of gender-related inequalities?	Community Facilitators and Youth Volunteers to assist with the specific needs of the people and livelihoods.	
	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?	No, as alternative livelihood activities are introduced, we have seen that women are often those who are most interested and benefit from such activities. In terms of restrictions to some areas of fuelwood usage, the project will work to supply alternative methods of fuel such as LPG.	Agreed
	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.	No. This is a community initiated project and local community members recommended by local leadership are involved in the project activities of monitoring and surveying. All project staff and partners involved in the project have policies and systems in place to address SEAH and have been made aware of these policies. Any reports of SEAH cases will be managed through the grievance mechanism.	Agreed
<b>E&amp;S reviewer conclusions</b>			

*Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) & justification: 2 – Not expected to occur due to the project’s participatory design and the developer’s understanding of the local context.*

*Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) & justification: 3 – Impacts are of medium magnitude but can be avoided and mitigated by incorporating gender-sensitive approaches into the project design to ensure women are not overlooked.*

*Risk significance: Moderate*

Human Rights	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?	The project provides alternative livelihood options to those who have previously earned from activities which may lead to deforestation and works to ensure that medicinal plants, non-timber forest products, and ecosystem benefits are provided as part of the project.	Agreed
	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?	No, the project will work with all community members willing to participate and holds regular community meetings regarding project activities.	Agreed
	Are you aware of any severe human rights violations linked to project partners in the last 5 years?	No	Ok

**E&S reviewer conclusions**

*Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) & justification: 1 – Very unlikely to occur due to the project’s FPIC processes.*

*Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) & justification: 4 – If this risk were to occur, it would have a significant impact on a large number of people.*

*Risk significance: Low*



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.	If there is a conflict between local and state governments over land and natural resources, the project aims to strengthen local indigenous governing agencies to remediate any conflict smoothly.	Ok – a description of the relevant governing agencies and how the project plans to manage these conflicts should be included in the PDD.
	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.	Ok
	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.	The project has considered increased human-wildlife conflict and is working with project communities to develop plans and large wildlife corridors to make their movement easier.	Ok
<p><b>E&amp;S reviewer conclusions</b></p> <p><i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 2 – Unlikely to occur at this stage of project development, as MoUs have already been signed, conflicts or tensions around resources may be experienced in the project period, but management provisions and good understanding of local government structures mean this risk is unlikely to occur.</i></p> <p><i>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 2 – Small area and low number of people affected</i></p> <p><i>Risk significance: Low</i></p>			
	Is there a risk that the project, including project partners, would lead to working conditions for project workers that are not	No, the project will comply with The Child and Adolescent Labour	Ok

Labour and working conditions	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.)?	(Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986; Rules and Employment Laws: Code on Wages, 2019; Code on Social Security, 2020; and ILO Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. Participants will be onboarded accordingly. The project will not discriminate based on gender, sexuality, class, race, ethnicity, or cultural heritage. 'Equal opportunity' principles will be upheld by the project coordinators.	
	Is there an occupational health and safety risk to project workers while completing project activities?	Any occupational health and safety risks will be addressed and training will be provided prior to project activities.	Ok – a description of these risks should be provided here. Details on the training provided should be included in the PDD.
	Is there a risk that the project support or be linked to forced labour, harmful child labour, or any other damaging forms of labour?	No, the project will not compel participants into labour, will not engage in child labour, and will comply with national and ILO labour laws throughout the duration of the project.	Ok
<b>E&amp;S reviewer conclusions</b>  <i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 2 – There are unavoidable risks associated with working in forestry; however, these risks can be effectively managed by the project, as should be described at PDD stage.</i>			

<p><i>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 2 – Low number of people affected should this risk occur.</i></p> <p><i>Risk significance: Low</i></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, chemicals and hazardous materials are not part of the project activities.	Agreed
	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?	No, the monitored project area and the project team are localized within the state of Meghalaya. Irrigation is through natural rainfall.	Agreed
<p><b>E&amp;S reviewer conclusions</b></p> <p><i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 1 – Negligible, due to the nature of project activities.</i></p> <p><i>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 2 – Any impacts would be very small in scale.</i></p> <p><i>Risk significance: Low</i></p>			
Access restrictions and livelihoods	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 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).	Yes, this is a potential risk that the project has considered and works closely with communities to meet their needs through development of Natural Resource Management Plans.	Agreed – please provide detailed descriptions of the Natural Resource Management plans and how they aim to manage and mitigate this risk at PDD stage.

	Is there a risk that the access restrictions introduced /reinforced/ altered by the project will negatively affect peoples' livelihoods?	The project considers this in implementing project activities by providing alternatives to fuelwood and grazing areas.	Agreed – please provide details of these alternatives at PDD stage. Please also ensure that the impacts of this risk and the associate management provisions are suited to the various groups involved in the project, for example if women or vulnerable groups are impacted different by access restrictions, the management provisions should be consulted on with these groups, and designed to protect them from this risk. This will be checked at PDD stage and during validation.
	Have strategies to avoid, minimise and compensate for these negative impacts been identified and planned?	Yes, see above.	Ok – as above.
<p><b>E&amp;S reviewer conclusions</b></p> <p><i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 2 – Not expected to occur due to the participatory approaches and agricultural land set aside for non-conservation activities.</i></p> <p><i>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 3 – If it were to occur, only a small area and a low number of people would be affected, as project activities will provide income and alternative livelihoods from carbon credits, mitigating any potential loss of commercial agricultural income.</i></p> <p><i>Risk significance: Moderate</i></p>			
Cultural heritage	Is the Project Area officially designated or proposed as a cultural site, including international and national designations?	No	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?	These sites may exist in the proposed project area, such as sacred groves, but they will not be negatively impacted by the project activities.	Ok – descriptions of these sacred groves within the project area and how they are being protected from project activities while still remaining accessible to participants where possible should be detailed 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.	No, the Ri Bhoi people will still maintain their sacred groves and they will not be affected by the project interventions.	Agreed
<p><b>E&amp;S reviewer conclusions</b></p> <p><i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 2 - Unlikely, since the project is led by the Bhois, for whom the sites are culturally significant, they will be well-managed and protected, to be further detailed at PDD stage.</i></p> <p><i>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 2 – Very small area affected.</i></p> <p><i>Risk significance: Low</i></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?	Yes, the Ri Bhoi people are the holders of the land within the project area.	Agreed
	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	Ok
	Is there a risk that there is inadequate consultation of Indigenous Peoples, and/or that the project does not seek the	No, the project seeks FPIC.	Agreed – thanks for the detail included in section 2.4 of the PIN, please ensure the FPIC-relevant

	FPIC of Indigenous Peoples, for example leading to lack of benefits or inappropriate activities?		sections of the PDD are filled out in detail once the project design process has been completed.
<p><b>E&amp;S reviewer conclusions</b></p> <p><i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 2 – Unlikely, as the project is managed by indigenous communities through existing local governance structures.</i></p> <p><i>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 2 - if this risk should occur it would be limited in scale and can easily be avoided through an already shown participatory approach during project design</i></p> <p><i>Risk significance: Low</i></p>			
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 a slight risk that areas outside of the project area could be initially affected as some areas have restricted access. The project will work to ensure this does not happen by providing alternatives and sustainable fuelwood harvesting practices.	Agreed
	Is there a risk that the project will introduce non-native species or invasive species?	No, the project may only introduce temperate fruit trees to existing agricultural areas that do not pose a threat to forested land or native land.	Agreed
	Is there a risk that the project will lead to the unsustainable use of natural resources? Consider for example projects promoting value chains and natural resource-based livelihoods.	No, this is not a risk posed by the project.	Agreed

<b>E&amp;S reviewer conclusions</b>  <i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 2 – Not expected to occur, as the project aims to protect biodiversity; however, there is a risk of activity-shifting leakage.</i>  <i>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 2 – Very small area affected.</i>  <i>Risk significance: Low</i>			
Land tenure conflicts	Has the land tenure and use rights in the project area been assessed and understood?	Yes, it is well understood as the project implementing and developing organization is part of the community.	Agreed
	Is there a risk that project activities will exacerbate any existing land tenure conflicts, or lead to land tenure or use right conflicts?	The communities hold the rights to the land and a consensus to participate in the project is reached within the community prior to implementation.	Agreed – details of this engagement and consensus should be included at PDD stage.
<b>E&amp;S reviewer conclusions</b>  <i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 2 – not expected to occur as land tenure is well understood</i>  <i>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 2 – likely very small area affected, but this can be managed through project governance structures.</i>  <i>Risk significance: Low</i>			
Risk of not accounting for climate change	Have trends in climate variability in the project areas been assessed and understood?	Yes, the project developing and implementing organization is native to the area and understands the changes that have been taking place over the years.	Agreed



	Has the climate vulnerability of communities and particular social groups been assessed and understood?	Yes, the project developing and implementing organization is native to the area and understands the changes that have been taking place over the years.	Agreed
	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.	Yes, wildfires may become more severe with climate variability. Landslides may also occur in new areas as storms become more erratic.	Agreed
<b>E&amp;S reviewer conclusions</b>  <i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 3 – Could occur given the risks associated with climate change.</i>  <i>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 2 – A small but not insubstantial area would be affected; however, this may be managed and mitigated through project design measures such as firebreaks.</i>  <i>Risk significance: Moderate</i>			
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?	No, there will be a resource management plan to account for the risks and needs of the community.	Agreed
	Are there any other environmental and social risks worthy of note that are not covered by the topics and questions above?	No	Ok
<b>E&amp;S reviewer conclusions</b>  <i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 1 – no additional risks identified outside of those captured in this risk screening</i>			

<p><i>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) &amp; justification: 1 – no such risks identified</i></p> <p><i>Risk significance: Low</i></p>			
<b>SECTION C: SAFEGUARD PROVISIONS</b>			
Stakeholder engagement: requirements 2.1.1-2.1.3	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.	Yes, the stakeholder analysis has been conducted with the headmen of the villages, the village councils, and the community members within the villages.	Ok
	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.	Yes, it is written in the Constitution of India	Ok
	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.	Yes, this has been described above in the PIN.	Agreed
	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.	There are no known disputes in the proposed project area.	Ok
Stakeholder consultation: requirements 2.5.1 and 2.5.2	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.	Yes, this is part of the project agreement and MoU between each village and the project implementor.	Ok
	Has the Project Coordinator informed all stakeholders of the project, through providing relevant project information in an	Yes, awareness programmes have been conducted with all of	Ok

	accessible format, or does this still need to be completed? Please describe.	the participating villages and their governing bodies.	
Free, Prior and Informed Consent: requirements 2.6.1-2.6.4	Has the project analysed and understood national and international requirements for Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)? Please describe.	Yes, there isn't a project agreement unless the community, headman, and village council (durbar) are in consensus to participate in the project. The community is involved in developing the intervention/activities.	Ok
	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.	Yes, the entire project community is made up of indigenous people who have been part of the process to develop and implement the project.	Ok
	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 process has been conducted by people of the indigenous 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, this is documented in the project agreement between each village and the Synjuk.	Ok, include at PDD stage
Grievance Redress Mechanism:	Does the project already have a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), or is this still to be established? Please describe.	The project does have a grievance mechanism in place which is described in the project	Ok, include at PDD stage


requirements 3.16.1		agreement. The grievance mechanism was presented during community meetings agreed upon by those in attendance.	
	For projects with a GRM, is this accessible to project affected people? Please describe.	Yes, anyone can voice their grievance to the Community Facilitator (or via the headman) who will provide the grievance in writing during the monthly meeting to the project team and recorded in meeting notes. The team will discuss best methods to resolve the grievance and implement them.	As above
<p><b>E&amp;S reviewer conclusions for safeguard provisions</b></p> <p><i>Are the project Safeguard Provisions adequately addressed, or to be adequately addressed during the project design phase? - Yes</i></p> <p><i>What additional actions need to be conducted during the project design phase? - Environmental and Social Assessment should be conducted in the field. The assessment should focus on moderate risks identified in this screening report: Gender equality, access restrictions and livelihoods, and risk of not accounting for climate change.</i></p> <p><i>Any other comments? The E&amp;S Screening Report contains enough detail to assess the risk at this stage of project development, but updates to any of the risk factors should be reported to Plan Vivo at the PDD stage or through annual report submissions.</i></p>			
<p><b>SECTION D: SCREENING REPORT (NOT TO BE COMPLETED BY PROJECT: FOR USE OF PV E&amp;S REVIEWER)</b></p>			

<b>Name of E&amp;S reviewer</b>	<b>Hamish McGill</b>			
<b>Date of E&amp;S screening:</b>	<b>04.03.2025</b>			
<b>Project risk rating:</b>	<i>Low - The project carries a low overall risk of negative social impacts due to a strong FPIC process and effective governance within the local Indigenous community. Additionally, the project activities are expected to provide environmental benefits.</i>			
<b>Principle risks and impacts</b>	<i>Key risks in this project include the potential exclusion of vulnerable groups and women, which may arise from patriarchal influences. There is also a concern about infringing on access rights and livelihoods by restricting/limiting communities' access to forests. Furthermore, the project must take climate change into account, as severe weather events are likely to occur.</i>			
	<b>E&amp;S topic/ risk area</b>	<b>Likelihood (1-5)</b>	<b>Magnitude (1-5)</b>	<b>Significance (low, moderate, severe, high)</b>
	Vulnerable Groups	2	2	Low
	Gender equality	2	3	Moderate
	Human Rights	1	4	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	2	3	Moderate

	Cultural heritage	2	2	Low
	Indigenous Peoples	2	2	Low
	Biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources	2	2	Low
	Land tenure conflicts	2	2	Low
	Risk of not accounting for climate change	3	2	Moderate
	Other – e.g. cumulative impacts	1	1	Low
<b><i>E&amp;S assessment required</i></b>	<i>Risk assessment should focus on any risks rated moderate: Gender equality, access restrictions and livelihoods, and risk of not accounting for climate change. Guidance on how to conduct an environmental and social assessment can be found <a href="#">here</a></i>			
<b><i>Likely safeguard plans required</i></b>	<i>An Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) will be necessary in the PDD. This plan should outline safeguarding measures, including details about the grievance mechanism and how it will be made accessible to all participants. Other important elements include benefit-sharing arrangements, community consultation processes, strategies to avoid elite capture, etc.</i>			

## Annex 5 – Notification of Relevant Authorities

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
KHASI HILLS AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT COUNCIL  
SHILLONG**



**NO. DC.XIV (A) 16/2011-22/6 /467.** Dated Shillong, the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2022.

**From:** The Chief Forest Officer,  
Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council,  
Shillong.

**To:** The Founding Chairman/Secretary  
Ka Synjuk Ki Hima Arhang Wah Umiam Mawphlang Welfare Society

**Subject:** - **Community based Carbon Sequestration Project.**

**Ref:** - Your letter dated: 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

Sir,


I am directed to inform you that the Chief Executive Member, Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council welcomes the extension of the Pilot Project on Community based Carbon Sequestration Project in other district of the state with great interest and formally accord its approval for starting another Community Based Carbon Sequestration or REDD + project in Ri-Bhoi District under the name "Ri-Bhoi Community REDD + Project".

The Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council appreciates the efforts taken up by Ka Synjuk Ki Hima Arhang Wah Umiam Mawphlang Welfare Society (KSKHAW/UMWS) in promotion of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Sustainable Livelihood of Forest dependent Communities and has also taken notice of the good works undertaken by the Synjuk.

I would also like to inform you that the consent of the local village durburs is also required before implementing any project.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,

  
**Chief Forest Officer,**  
Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council,  
Shillong

**Memo. NO. DC.XIV (A) 16/2011-22/6(a)** Dated Shillong, the \_\_\_\_ August 2022.  
Copy for favour of information to:

1. The Chief Executive Member, KHADC, Shillong.
2. The Executive Member I/c Forest, KHADC, Shillong.
3. The Secretary to the Executive Committee, KHADC, Shillong.

**Chief Forest Officer,**  
Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council,  
Shillong



## Annex 6 – List of Advisory Committees

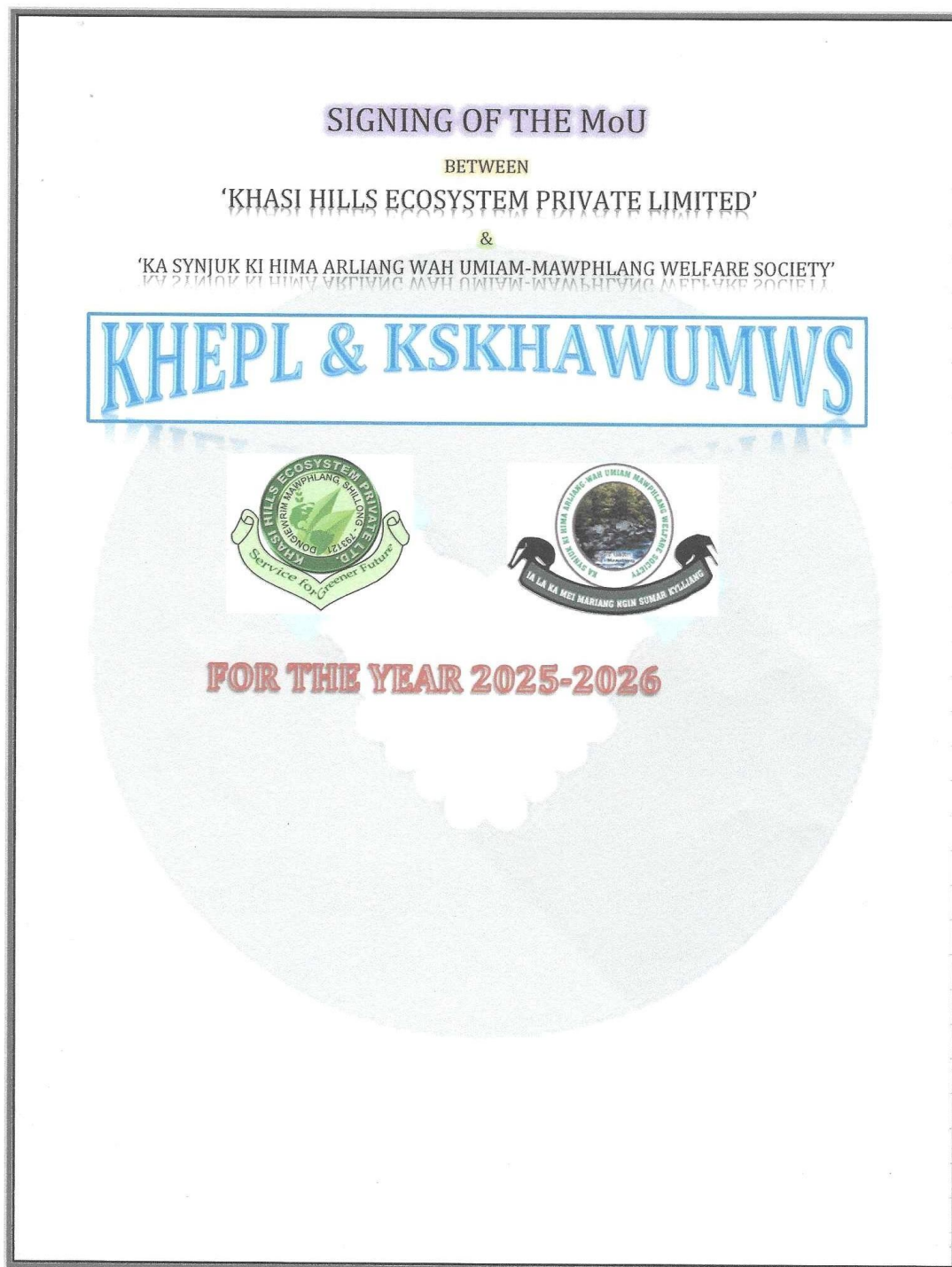
### Advisory Board to the Synjuk Federation

Dr. Kathryn Smith-Hanssen	Former Administrative Director, CFI, California USA
Dr. Mark Poffenberger	Former Executive Director CFI, California USA
Mr. Govindraj Michael	Director of Finance, Language & Learning Foundation New Delhi
Dr. Subhash Ashutosh	Co-Chair and Director, Center of Excellence, Natural Resource Management and Sustainable Livelihoods.
Mr. Tambor Lyngdoh	CCF. KSKHAWUMWS, Mawphlang.

### Technical Advisory Committee

Mr. Felix Pde	Forestry Team Leader, KSKHAWUMWS, Mawphlang
Ms. Rebecca Stedham	Natural Resource Management Specialist, The Landscapes and Livelihoods Group LLP, Devon UK
Ms. Anne Patrie Lyngdoh	Advisor, KSKHAWUMWS, Mawphlang
Ms. Norita Sohlang	GIS Specialist, Shillong
Mr. Shanme Marbaniang	Subject Matter Specialist, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Department of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, Gov't of Meghalaya
Shri. V.K. Mishra	Director ICAR, NEH, Umiam Ri-Bhoi District
Dr. B.K. Tiwari	Northeast Hill University (NEHU, Shillong)
Dr. Sanggai Leima	(Phd) Assistant Professor, SIRD, Shillong

Annex 7 – MoU and Service Contract between Synjuk and KHEPL



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (hereinafter referred to as the "MOU") is made to be with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April month 2025.

**BY AND BETWEEN**

**Khasi Hills Ecosystem Pvt Ltd**, registered as a private company under Indian Company Act 2013, Company Identity Number : U74999ML2017PTC013642 date: 28th August 2017 and holder of Income Tax PAN NO: AAGCK7390G, having its registered office at Dongiewrim Mawphlang, Shillong 793121, (hereinafter referred to as "KHE") which expression shall, unless repugnant to or inconsistent with the context or meaning thereof, be deemed to include its successors and assigns) represented by Hamphrey Lyngdoh Ryntathiang, Director, authorised representative of the **ONE PART**

**AND**

**Ka Synjuk Ki Hima Arliang Wah Umiam-Mawphlang Welfare Society (KSKHAWU-MWS)** known as **SYNJUK**; Indian non-profit organisation established under the Laws of India, having its office at Mawphlang, East Khasi Hills, hereby duly represented by Tambor Lyngdoh, (Founding Chairman), authorised representative of the **OTHER PART**

And **SYNJUK** shall hereinafter be referred to individually as a "**Party**" and collectively as the "**Parties**", as the case may be.

### Preamble

The Service Provider and KHE have a joint vision of a world where communities and nations sustainable manage their forests, landscapes and natural capital to mitigate climate change, enhance livelihoods, increase resilience and safeguard biodiversity.

### 1. Definition and rules of interpretation

1.1. For the purposes of THIS "MOU" and unless otherwise provided for in THIS "MOU"

- **MoU** means This "MOU" to restore project areas of the Khasi Hills and monitor the performance of the restoration activities
- **Annex** means an annex to This "MOU"; Annex are signed and agreed by both parties.
- **Day** means calendar day and does not include National Holidays as provided as in the gazette of India;
- **Fiscal year** is 1<sup>st</sup> of April to 31<sup>st</sup> of March of the calendar year.
- **Sub - Contractor** means a partner the service provider might choose to sub contract some of the work to meet the deliverables of THIS "MOU". In all circumstances the Service Provider always remains accountable for the obligations to KHE.
- **Management Plan** means the management plan made up by the Service Provider and approved by KHE. The Management plan shall be reviewed minimum 1 time per Fiscal year and updated according to the instructions of KHE. A copy of the original management plan is attached to This "MOU"s as Annex.

- **Planting Season** is organized during the months of May – August.
- **Planting year:** is defined April to March
- **Project Area** means a parcel of land defined in the management plan using geographic coordinates where trees subject to the MoU are planted or restored

1.2. A reference to a clause or a sub-clause is a reference to a clause or sub-clause of THIS "MOU"

1.3. The periods provided for in THIS "MOU" are determined as follows:

- 1.3.1. A period is calculated from midnight to midnight. It starts the day after the deed or event triggering the start of said period and includes all days of the week, including Saturdays, Sundays and the public holidays existing in India.
- 1.3.2. The last day of the period is included in the period. If the last day is a Saturday, Sunday or a public holiday in India, then the last day of the period will be the first Working Day.
- 1.3.3. A period determined in months or years will be calculated from such-and-such day of the month or year until the day before the such-and-such day.

## 2. Purpose and Scope

- 2.1. The Service Provider shall restore forest landscapes in the Khasi Hills and Ri-Bhoi District in Meghalaya, India for the account of KHE in the defined Areas, as per the obligation defined in This "MOU", and according to the management plan specified in annex 2.
- 2.2. The service Provider guarantees that trees restored in the Project Area under This "MOU" will be funded exclusively by KHE.
- 2.3. This "MOU" does not imply any transfer of rights of ownership of the Trees. The ownership of the Trees resides with the land owners of the Project Area
- 2.4. If deem necessary by the Service Provider, it will be the responsibility of the Service Provider to appoint a Sub -Contractor. It is hereby agreed that the Sub-Contractor shall be appointed email/ written approval of KHE.

## 3. Obligations of the Parties

- 3.1. **Project Management.** Both parties shall appoint and clearly communicate to the other party one key account responsible, for the smooth execution of This "MOU". The project manager of the Service Provider or its Sub-Contractor shall be competent to handle project management and should have knowledge about the logical framework approach to establish a sound Management Plan and implement the highest standards and continuously improved the project management. The persons will be identified in the Management Plan with all relevant contact details. In case the Project Management responsible changes, the other party shall be informed at the latest one week before the change will be made.

### 3.2. Deliverables.

- 3.1.1.1 **Management Plan.** The Service Provider shall implement a Management Plan according to its objectives and monitoring plan as set out in Annex 1 of this



contract, in accordance with its terms specified per order, and in good faith. The Service Provider will among others use the monitoring protocol provided for in the Management Plan attached and produce reports in the manner set forth in the Management Plan as approved by KHE. The Management plan shall be reviewed annually and at the latest by 30 November (every year). Changes to the Management Plan will have to be approved by KHE.

**3.1.1.2 Annual Planning.** At the start of each planting year, and latest by 30 November, the Service Provider shall provide KHE with a planning of the activities to be performed for the planting season(s) in the year to come. This Annual Planning shall be included in the Management Plan Next to the overall project activities, the planning should clearly identify for the annual forecasted orders confirmed by KHE in which month each order will be realized.

**3.1.1.3 Capacity reservation.** The Service Provider shall identify appropriate Project Areas according to the forecast of trees to be planted as mentioned in the Annual planning and confirmed by KHE. Project Partner will reserve this capacity for KHE. The Service Provider shall send tentative polygons (GPS coordinates) of the corresponding Project Areas to KHE at the latest 30 days after receipt of the annual planning.

**3.1.1.4 Project Activities.** The Service Provider is responsible for the proper and smooth execution of the project activities as set forth in the Management Plan. In case project activities are not performed according to the planning, the Project Partner shall promptly inform KHE and propose an alternative solution.

**3.1.1.5 Project Area:** upon establishment of each Project Area, the Service Provider will send definitive polygons (see 1.1.) of the Project Areas to KHE. Each Project Area will have a unique reference number, and physical marking in the field. A fixed point per Project Area will be identified to visualize the growth of the trees as defined in 3.2.3.2.

**3.1.1.6 Forest protocol and socio-economic protocol** will be established at the start of the project, with a description of methodology to accurately measure, monitor and report respectively the ecological and socio-economic status of the Project Area and its beneficiaries. The protocols will be added as an annex of this contract. If KHE notices that protocols are insufficient or inaccurate, it can propose changes to the protocol details. Upon finalisation of the said protocols by both parties in writing, no later than by 30/11/2018, the same shall constitute a part of This "MOU". When necessary, protocols deemed will be reviewed on a regular basis for coming to a mutually agreeable MoU for both KHE and Service Provider.

### **3.1.2 Progress updates.**

The Service Provider shall timely send all progress updates as mentioned to KHE and the assigned Resource person.

**3.1.2.1 Monthly update:** The Service Provider shall provide KHE with a monthly progress update latest by the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the following month.

**3.1.2.2 Quarterly progress report:** The Service Provider shall provide KHE with a written quarterly progress report, latest 1 month after each quarter. Such report shall clearly indicate progress of the project based on facts and figures.

**3.1.2.3 Before and After visualisation per Project Area:** at the establishment of a new Project Area, a fixed point will be marked at the boundary of the Project Area and minimum 2 high resolution pictures will be taken before starting the tree planting or restoration activities. After every six months, two pictures from the same locations will be taken.

**3.1.2.4 Annual reporting:** The Service Provider shall provide KHE 1 time per year with following reports, and according to the specifications and agreed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), outcome and impact measurements in the Management Plan. The timing of the annual reporting shall be defined in the annual planning.

- Socio-economic survey: well documented survey with quantitative and qualitative data showing the socio-economic progress of direct and indirect beneficiaries within each Project Area.

### **3.2 Roles and Responsibilities of KHE & Synjuk**

**3.2.1** As the project is being implemented on lands owned by Synjuk members including the Hima governments and Village Durbar councils, no activities can be undertaken without the approval of the Synjuk council signed off by the Synjuk Secretary.

**3.2.2** KHE recognizes the Synjuk as the implementing organization for the Khasi Hills Community REDD+ project and authorizes the Synjuk secretary to retain signatory powers over all aspects of the project including: approval of carbon credit transactions, budgets, staff hiring and firing including contracts, annual work plans, etc.

**3.2.3 Forecast** KHE will give an annual written forecast of the number of trees it will possibly be ordering for each of the season in the coming year to allow the Service Provider to reserve capacity and identify new project sites, at latest 2 months before start planting year of the preceding year, according to article 4 of THIS "MOU"

**3.2.4 Order process** KHE will place Tree Purchase Orders according to the process as described in Article 4.2.

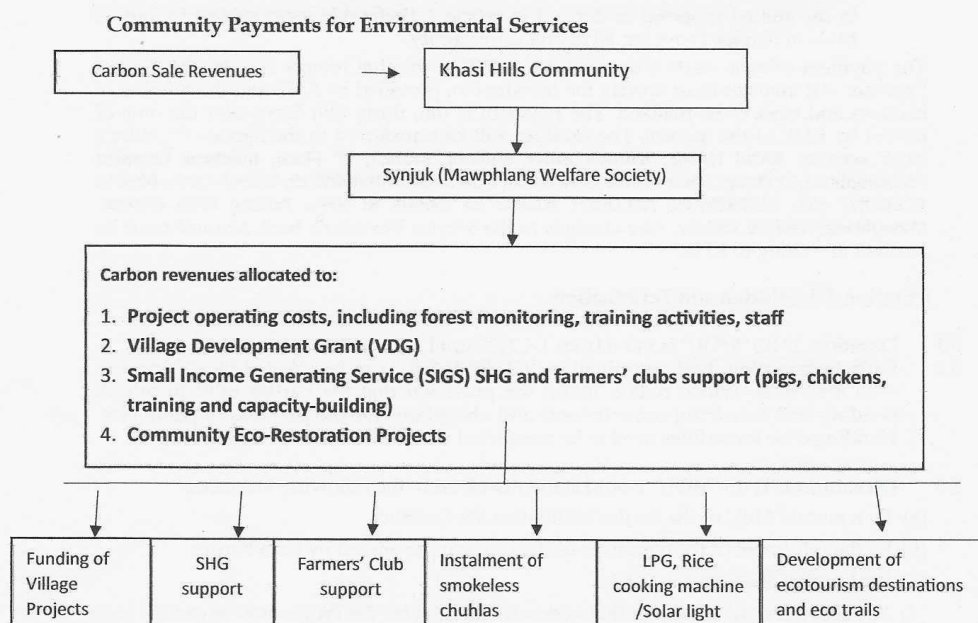
**3.2.5 Payment** KHE will pay its contributions in several contributions to the Service Provider according to the payment scheme as set forth in Article 4.3.

**3.2.6 Coordination** KHE has the right to appoint a resource person that will follow up on deliverables, timing and progress updates. Both parties select and train this resource person, who is reporting directly to project director and on an agreed timeline to KHE.

**3.3** Both parties shall act diligently and with care and shall use all reasonable efforts to perform their obligations under THIS "MOU" in accordance with generally accepted standards and practices.

## **4 Contributions**

**4.1 Total Contribution.** KHE shall pay contribution according to the budget agreed as per ANNEX I for the first year. Budget for the following year will be confirmed as per the management plan and the forecast as set out in Clause 4.2.1 of This "MOU".



The Khasi Hills Community REDD+ Project was formed by a Federation of 10 indigenous governments comprised of 86 villages. It is coordinated by the Synjuk or Mawphlang Welfare Society with a governing board representing the participating communities and senior project staff. The KHASI HILLS ECOSYSTEM PRIVATE LIMITED was incorporated on the Twenty-eighth day of August Two thousand seventeen under the Government of India's Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013).

This private company was formed to operate under the guidance of the board to facilitate the marketing of environmental services, especially carbon offsets. The revenues from the operation of the company are allocated to purpose of implementing the Khasi Hills Community REDD+ Project. The governing board of the Mawphlang Welfare Society has the right to suggest and recommend directors of KHELP as required to promote the operations of the company for the benefit of the project and the participating communities.

#### 4.2 Order Process.

- 4.2.1 Forecast:** KHE will give a written annual forecast of the number of Trees it will possibly be ordering for the coming season(s) in the year, to allow the service provider to reserve capacity and identify new Project Areas, at the latest by [2 months before start planting year. At latest 30 days after the date of sending the forecast, the Service Provider will confirm in writing the number of trees it can realize (during the different seasons) in the coming year(s). The Service Provider shall reserve this capacity exclusively for KHE during 1 year after its confirmation.
- 4.2.2 Project Areas:** KHE has the right to indicate preferable areas to be developed and the Service Provider shall incorporate these preferences up to a reasonable extent



in the annual proposal as defined in article 3. Preferable areas subject to mutual MoU of Service Provider, KHE and Community.

The payment scheme starts after receipt by KHE of the first invoice sent by the Service Provider. All invoices must specify the transfer No. provided by KHE and the number of hectares and trees to be realized. The payment is due thirty (30) Days after the date of receipt by KHE of the invoice. The funding will be transferred to the Service Provider's bank account **BANK NAME: INDIAN BANK Shillong Branch, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Rainbow Complex Wahthapbroo, Shillong; MICR CODE: 793019002, IFSC Code: IDIB000S019; Branch Code: 00S019 ACCOUNT NO: 6262988735; ACCOUNT NAME: Ka Synjuk Ki Hima Arliang Wah Umiam-Mawphlang Welfare Society.** Any changes to the Service Provider's bank account must be notified in writing to KHE.

## 5 Duration, Dissolution and Termination

- 5.1 Duration: THIS "MOU" is valid from 1.4.2025 until March 2026.
- 5.2 **Early termination.** Early termination of THIS "MOU" can be affected by either party with 6 months written notice, under the provision that the Parties fulfil in full all pending and remaining commitments and obligations for the past and ongoing Nos. Handing over formalities need to be completed within the notice period.
- 5.3 **Dissolution.** THIS "MOU" would stand dissolved in the following instances:
  - (a) By a mutual MoU of the Parties to dissolve the Contract
  - (b) By the fulfilment of the objectives of the Program, as agreed by both Parties
  - (c) Bankruptcy of any of the Parties
  - (d) The occurrence of any event that makes it unlawful for the Program to be carried on or for the Parties to conduct such programs by operation of law.

## 6 Governing law & Dispute resolution

- 6.1 THIS "MOU" shall be governed by the law of India.
- 6.2 The Parties shall attempt to resolve all disputes arising out of or in connection with THIS "MOU" amicably and without resort to legal proceedings.
- 6.3 All disputes arising out of or in connection with THIS "MOU" which cannot be resolved amicably shall be finally settled in accordance with the Indian Arbitration and conciliation Act 1996 as amended up to date.
- 6.4 The seat of the arbitration shall take place in Shillong. The language of the arbitration shall be English.

## 7 Records and audit

- 7.1 The Service Provider shall maintain throughout the term of THIS "MOU" and minimum 5 years after the end of the MoU full and accurate records relating to the services, and their related accounting.
- 7.2 The Service Provider shall maintain a copy of the records to KHE on request, and shall allow KHE or its authorized representative to inspect the records on reasonable notice on business days during usual business hours on no more than one occasion in each quarter.

- 7.3 If any audit or inspection reveals any overcharging or undercharging on any invoice sent by Service Provider, an appropriate correcting credit or debit (as appropriate) equivalent to the amount of the overcharge or undercharge plus interest shall be made within fourteen (14) days after which such overcharge or undercharge was identified by KHE or its representative. In case of an overcharge of more than 5 percent of contribution in the year in which such an overcharge has occurred, Service Provider shall bear the cost of the applicable audit or inspection. In all other cases, the cost of each audit shall be borne by KHE.

**8 Non-disclosure, non-circumvention and confidentiality**

- 8.1 **Non-disclosure.** The Parties agree not to disclose, reveal or make use of any information during discussion or observation regarding methods, concepts, ideas, specifications, product, services, or proposed new products or services, nor to do business with any of the disclosed Contacts without the written consent of the introducing party or parties.
- 8.2 **Exceptions.** The obligations of either party under this non-disclosure section will not apply to information that the receiving Party can demonstrate
- (i) was in its possession at the time of disclosure;
  - (ii) at the time of disclosure is generally available to the public or after disclosure becomes generally available to the public through no breach of MoU or other wrongful act by receiving Party;
  - (iii) has been received from a third party without restriction on disclosure and without breach of MoU by receiving Party; or
  - (iv) is independently developed by receiving Party without regard to the Confidential Information. In addition, the receiving Party may disclose Confidential Information as required to comply with binding orders of governmental entities that have jurisdiction over it; provided that receiving Party
    - (a) gives the disclosing Party reasonable written notice to allow the disclosing Party to seek a protective order or other appropriate remedy,
    - (b) discloses only such Confidential Information as is required by the governmental entity, and
    - (c) uses commercially reasonable efforts to obtain confidential treatment for any Confidential Information so disclosed.
- 8.3 **Contacts Deemed Exclusive and Valuable.** Because of THIS "MOU", the Parties involved in this transaction may learn from one another, or from principals, the names and contact details from donors, sponsors or various local forestry and tree planting related organizations, called contacts. The Parties acknowledge, accept and agree that the identities of the contacts will be respected by the other Party as exclusive and valuable contacts of the introducing Party and will remain so for the duration of THIS "MOU". The Parties agree to refrain from directly or indirectly contacting, communicating about, dealing with, negotiating or participating in any transactions with any of the contacts introduced by the other party without first requesting and receiving a written MoU of the Party who provided such contact.
- 8.4 **Confidentiality.** The Parties shall keep strictly confidential the names and any other identifying information of any Contacts introduced or revealed to the other party, and that their firm, company, associates, corporations, joint ventures, partnerships, divisions, subsidiaries, employees, agents, contractors, heirs, assigns, designees, or consultants will not contact, deal with, negotiate or participate in any transactions with any of the contacts without first entering into a written MoU with the Party who provided such contact, unless that Party gives prior written consent. Such confidentiality will include any

names, addresses, email addresses, telephone, telex, facsimile numbers, and/or other pertinent information disclosed or revealed to either Party.

**9     Deductions**

- 9.1 KHE may, at any time, deduct the amount owed by the Service Provider from the amount that it owes to the Service Provider.

**10    General provisions**

- 10.1 **Principal to Principal Relationship and Arms-Length Distance:** It is agreed that the parties will operate on a principal-to-principal relationship and there will be no relation of an agent or an employer between the parties.

- 10.2 **Severability.** When possible, each provision of This "MOU" will be interpreted in such manner as to be effective and valid under Applicable Law, but, if any provision of This "MOU" is held to be prohibited by or invalid under Applicable Law, such provision will be ineffective but only to the extent of such prohibition or invalidity, without invalidating the remainder of such provision or of This "MOU". The Parties will make a good faith effort to replace the invalid or unenforceable provision with a valid one which in its economic effect is most consistent with the invalid or unenforceable provision.

- 10.3 **Authority to act bind.** Upon execution of THIS "MOU" by signature below, the Parties agree that any individual, firm company, associates, corporations, joint ventures, partnerships, divisions, subsidiaries, employees, agents, heirs, assigns, designees or consultants of which the signee is an agent, officer, heir, successor, assign or designee is bound by the terms of THIS "MOU".

- 10.4 **Entire MoU.** THIS "MOU" contains the entire understanding between the Parties and any waiver, amendment or modification to THIS "MOU" will be subject to the above conditions and must be attached hereto.

In witness whereof, the Parties hereto have caused THIS "MOU" to be executed by their duly authorized representatives, as of the date first set forth above.

Made in two copies on [date of signature], each Party acknowledging having received an original.

The original copy of This "MOU" shall constitute a legal and binding instrument.

For: **Khasi Hills Ecosystem Pvt Ltd**, Mr. Humphrey Lyngdoh Ryntathiang, Director



Signature

1st April 2025  
Date



For: **Ka Synjuk Ki Hima Arliang Wah Umiam Mawphlang Welfare Society**, Tambor Lyngdoh,  
Founding Chairman.



Signature

1st April 2025  
Date

Witness:

- 1.
- 2.

Annexes:

Annex 1: Detailed budget  
Annex 2: The Management Plan