

**GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER::SOCIAL FORESTRY & TERRITORIAL DIVISION
SOUTH GARO HILLS, BAGHMARA.**

Site Inspection Report

(1) Proposal No.: FP/ML/ROAD/44918/2020

(2) State sl.no. of proposal: ML-05/2020

On 18th February, 2021, I have inspected the proposed project area along with the Range Officer and officers of National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL). The stretch of Reserve Forest starting from Simsang Bridge up to Panda Bridge which are under the Reserve Forest is required for up-gradation of existing road (single road) to 2(two) lane road as per the application and project report submitted by the NHIDCL. The diversion of Forest Land is necessary as per the project report of NHIDCL which requires up-gradation to 2 lane road from Panda to Baghmara (in Garo Hills region) i.e. from existing km 119.800 to 139.00 (design length= 17.085 km) which falls under the Baghmara Reserve Forest.

In South Garo Hills, this is the main life line road and it is not possible to avoid this road which passes through the stretch of Reserve Forest. As this is the single lane road, no other possibilities are observed to avoid this road because of land lock, hilly terrain and other land issues.

There are no villages or settlement found along the road side throughout the stretches of this Reserve Forest except Reserve Gittim Forest Village at Baghmara. However, as per their alignment of road, this village shall not be affected and hence there the FRA does not arise. However, Muck Disposal has not been marked or demarcated within the Reserve Forest. The Muck Disposal for dumping of soil and earth shall be done outside the RF in Panda area under Nokma A'king land but this need to be check in some stretches during construction through regular monitoring of their works. Since the existing road will be upgraded to 2 (two) lane road, trees which are on the road side will be affected and need to be cut down. This is also unavoidable and hence effected trees will be marked for felling to be carried out in later stages with due approval from the competent authorities. Regular monitoring of their works by the Range Officer and his staffs may required,

otherwise unmarked trees may also be cut down. The Panda Beat quarter cum office and one more quarter at Pilot Project area will be affected due to Upgradation to two lane roads. Before dismantling those quarters, some temporary house for the staffs need to be build by the User Agency. In later stages, some quarters shall be constructed after getting fund from the User Agency.

There is no protected archaeological or heritage site in this area and no nearby defence establishment is also found.

Some of the wild animals which are found in this Baghmara reserve Forest are Wild Elephants, Deer, common Langur, Leopard, Rhesus Macaque, wild Boar, Squirrel and birds like Hornbill, Hill myna, Common myna, Crow, Dove, Parakeet, etc. Among the animals, wild Elephant is commonly seen in this forest. During construction of road, disturbance may occur to Wild Elephants especially in Amphanggre village Junction road. The Forest guard quarter and toilet shall be affected at Panda. Another one more quarter shall also be affected at Pilot Project area. Mean while, as per the diversion of forest land required by the NHIDCL is about 27.606 ha and this diverted forest land shall be taken up for Compensatory Afforestation in degraded forest land in Jaintia Hills under the DFO(T) Jowai. In this regard, they have identified two patches of degraded forest land under Saipung Reserve Forest - 35 ha and 20.212 ha in Compartment no.8 and 7B respectively as per the working plan.



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