

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

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**Recommendation**

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

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

The part of linear project area 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= 17.085km) which falls under the Baghmara Reserve Forest is the main life-line road which connects from Baghmara to Moheshkola and to other parts of Khasi Hills region. The road is also very important as people used it for transportation of agriculture, horticulture and other farm products to Baghmara, which is the District head quarter of South Garo Hills. Except Baghmara Reserve Gittim Forest village, there are no other villages found throughout the stretches of this Reserve Forest where as it may not be affected as per the road alignment and hence FRA does not arise.

Since the existing road will be upgraded to 2 lane road, trees which are on the road side will be affected and need to be cut down. 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 as double the area (say 55.212 ha) for Compensatory Afforestation in degraded forest land in Jaintia Hills under Saipung Reserve Forest.

The proposed road project also lies in the Baghmara – Siju Elephant corridor. Thus, as per the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) recommendations, the Eco-friendly measures to mitigate impacts of linear infrastructure on wildlife shall be adapted by User agency along with other recommendations in order to reduce the Elephant deaths due to accidents and to facilitate the free movement of Elephants.

The User Agency must also provide either new Thar or Bolero for DFO (SF&T) Division for monitoring purposes as this office facing shortage of vehicle. Whatever vehicle we are using is very old and unreliable and hence new vehicle is required. Other estimates which are enclosed as per submitted by the DFO(T), Jowai and DFO, SF&T, Baghmara is very essential and required and hence these should be provided.

In view of the importance of this road project in improving the living conditions of the people of these area and on the condition that, with requisite approvals with regard to Eco Sensitive Zone and compliance with regard to wildlife safety measures, provided that they follow all the norms and paid for Compensatory Afforestation etc. including Net Present Value, the Forest Clearance for the diversion of 27.606 Ha of forest land in Baghmara RF may kindly be granted.



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