

**GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
OFFICE OF THE CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, WILDLIFE & TERRITORIAL
GARO HILLS REGION, TURA**

Recommendation

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

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

The up-gradation of two lane road from Panda to Baghmara (in South Garo Hills) i.e. from existing km 119.800 to 139.00 (design length= 17.085km) is very important for these area and this stretches falls under the Baghmara Reserve Forest. In South Garo Hills District, this is the main lifeline road which connects to Khasi Hills Region to Shillong and there is no alternative road in these areas, mainly due to land locked and hilly terrain and partly due to close to international boundary. The people of this region use this road for transportation of agriculture, horticulture, marketing and other farm products to Baghmara which is the District headquarter South Garo Hills. As this road passed through the Reserve Forest no other villages are found within the stretch except Reserve Gittim Forest village at Baghmara. As per the road alignment and marking of trees done by concerned Range Officer, the Reserve Gittim Forest Village shall not be affected and as such FRA does not arise.

There are about 1859 no. of trees shall be affected throughout this stretches from Panda to Baghmara and felling can be done in later stages after due approval from the competent authority. However, as this Reserve Forest forms an important Elephant habitat, wildlife mitigation and safety measures need to be adopted by the User Agency. As per report submitted by DFO, SF&T, Baghmara, Compensatory Afforestation (CA) shall be done under Saipung Reserve Forest in view of diversion of Forest Land of 27.606 ha.

With regard to CA Scheme, the User Agency must provide as submitted by the DFO (T), Jowai and DFO, SF&T, Baghmara, which is very essential and required in view of loss of pristine Forest although money cannot replace the nature.

Hence in view of the importance of this road project which shall improve the economic condition of these area and will be helpful for those travelling to the Shillong, the Capital city of Meghalaya and also for defence matters as the BSF regularly uses these roads for transportation of their personnel along with their equipments, these road project proposal asking for diversion of 27.606 ha of forest land may be granted provided that the User Agency followed wildlife safety measures, paid Compensatory Afforestation scheme etc.


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