


## Justification for locating the project in forest area:-

**Name of Project :- Rock Carving at Devipahara Yangang, South Sikkim**

The State Government of Sikkim has envisaged many theme based projects in the State at potential places to ender multiple visitor's option. One of the top tourism priorities of the Government is to create Rock Art tourism product with relief sculpture portraying diverse ethnic communities of Sikkim in their traditional attire carved on the rock-face with figures multiples of life size. The project mission is to preserve, promote and disseminate the unique culture and tradition of indigenous people of Sikkim and at the same time making it great attraction for the tourists. The place identified for the purpose is the massive rock outcrop at a place called Yangang in South Sikkim. The State Government proposes to execute this mega project on mission mode with implementation timeline. This project would be unique and one of a kind sites to attract the interest of tourists which has substantially increased over a period of time and has grow to be one of the main source of income for the local stake holders and the State Government.

The land identified for the project is at Devipahara at Yangang which falls under the fringe of Reserved Forest area and not on its core belt. The Rock face of the Devipahara is almost barren rock with some small trees and vegetation on it, as such there will be minimum felling of trees and little impact to the Forest. Further there is no alternate site or place in Sikkim where a project of such magnitude and nature can be implemented. As such, this is site specific iconic project with minimum interference with nature and environment.

  
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