



भारतसरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
एक्षेत्रीय कार्यालय
REGIONAL OFFICE
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F. No. 3 MG C 017/2022-SHI 313-14

1st May, 2025

To,

✓ Shri Ramesh Pandey, IFS,
Inspector General of Forests (FC),
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 110 003.

Sub : Joint inspection and verification of 11.09 hectare Compensatory Afforestation Land at Nongumiang transferred to Government of Meghalaya Forest Department by M/s Green Valliey Industries Limited.

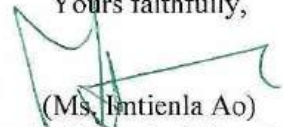
Ref : Stage-I / In principle approval granted by MoEF&CC (FC Division) vide letter dated 30.09.2024 for non-forest use of 11.09 ha of deemed forest land for Opencast Limestone mining Project of M/s Green Valliey Industries Limited.

Sir,

In inviting a kind reference to the subject and In principle approval dated 30.09.2024 cited above, the Joint inspection and verification of 11.09 hectare Compensatory Afforestation Land transferred to Government of Meghalaya Forest Department in compliance to stipulated condition in IPA at 2 (v) by MoEF&CC (FC Division) vide letter dated 30.09.2024 was undertaken by Mrs. L. J. Syiemiong, DIGF (C) on 28th February, 2025 with officers from State Forest Department along with representatives from M/s Green Valliey Industries Limited.

The Joint inspection and verification is enclosed for your kind information.

Yours faithfully,


(Ms. Intienla Ao)

Deputy Director General of Forests (C)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Govt of Meghalaya, Department of Forests & Environment, Sylvan House, Lower Lachumiere, Shillong- 793001.

वनउपमहानिरीक्षक (केंद्रीय) /Deputy Director General of Forests (C)

JOINT INSPECTION REPORT

Joint inspection and verification of 11.09 Hectares Compensatory Afforestation Land at Nongumiang transferred to Government of Meghalaya Forest Department by M/s Green Valliey Industries Limited.

In compliance to condition No.(v) of the In-Principle Approval of the Ministry letter dated 01.10.2024, a joint inspection was conducted on 28.02.2025 for the verification of 11.09 Ha Compensatory Afforestation Land at Nongumiang transferred to Government of Meghalaya Forest Department by M/s Green Valliey Industries Limited in lieu of the forest land diversion proposal of 11.09 Ha for Limestone Mining Project at Madan Pyrda (Block-II) Limestone Deposit located at Chiehruphi East Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya by a team of officers from Regional Office and State Forest Department led by DIGF(C) MoEFCC, Regional Office Shillong along with representatives from Green Valliey Industries Limited.

The officials and representatives present during the inspection are as follows:-

1. Smt. L. J. Syiemiong, IFS, DIGF(C), MoEFCC, Regional Office, Shillong
2. Smt. B. Laitthma, Sc 'C', MoEFCC, Regional Office, Shillong
3. Smt. M.J.A Sangma, IFS, DCF (FC&CAMPA), Meghalaya Forest Deptt., Shillong.
4. Shri. F.S Wann, MFS, DFO, Social Forestry and Territorial Division, West & South West Khasi Hills, Nongstoin.
5. Dr. S. Diengngan, MFS, ACF, Nongstoin Range Forest Office
6. Shri. K. Nongrum, Forester-II, Nongstoin Range Forest Office
7. Shri. Pawan Kumar Joshi, Vice President, M/s Green Valliey Industries Limited
8. Shri. Jogi Agarwal, Manager, Green Valliey Industries Limited
9. Shri. Jaydeep Yadav, Geologist, Green Valliey Industries Limited

Observations:

1. The proposed area for compensatory afforestation, measuring 11.09 hectares, is located adjacent to the Nongumiang Reserve Forest of 31 ha. It is bounded on the Western and Northern sides by land allotted to M/s Green Valley Industries Limited, and on the Eastern and Southern sides by land allotted to M/s Lafarge Umiam.
2. The 11.09 hectares patch of land for compensatory afforestation is part of a 31.14 hectares plot allotted to M/s Green Valley Industries Limited, which has been transferred to the State Forest Department of Meghalaya via DFO, Social Forestry and Territorial Division, West & South West Khasi Hills, Nongstoin on the 22.10.2024.

3. The land documents and sale deed executed on 14/11/2019 between Shri. Sailen Nongrum and Green Valley Industries Limited, represented by its local director, Smt. Kyrmenlang Wahlang, are verified as accurate.
4. The boundary has been demarcated with concrete boundary pillars marked with numbers and DGPS coordinates.
5. All the DGPS Coordinates on the erected pillars has been verified.
6. The land is free from all encumbrances and is now legally Government property.
7. The proposed land is covered with invasive weeds such as Eupatorium, Mikania, Lantana, thatch grass, and few naturally regenerating forest trees. There are open patches such as swamp and open areas covered only with grass. The soil is fertile and has gentle slopes.
8. Trees species such as *Castanopsis purpurella*, *Schima wallichii*, *Camellia caudate*, *Elaeocarpus lanceifolius*, *Pterospermum lanceifolium*, *Macaranga denticulate*, *Triadicaco chinensis*, *Triadicaco chinensis*, *Cinnamomum cecicodaphne*, *Eurya japonica*, *Cinnamomum bejolghota*, *Myrica integrifolia* and shrubs species such as *Alangium chinense*, *Casearia glomerata*, *Croton caudatus*, *Symplocos hookeri*, *Persea odoratissima*, *Rhus chinensis*, *Triumfettar homboidea*, *Urena lobata*, *Zizyphus oenopolia*, *Zizyphus rugosaw* was seen during the Site Inspection in the CA land.
9. The staff accompanying the DFO, Nongstoin informed that they had spotted some wildlife during patrolling duties and some animals were recognized through sounds, pugmarks and droppings in the vicinity like Indian flying fox, Hoary-bellied squirrel, Common Hare, Small Indian Mongoose, Jungle cat, Leopard cat, Clouded leopard, Wild Dog, Common otter, Yellow throated Marten, Wild Boar, Indian Muntjac, Red Serow, Capped Langur, Rhesus macaque.
10. Photographs are enclosed in Annexure-I.

Positive Aspects of the Proposed CA land:

As per observation during the site Inspection, the proposed CA land having an area of 11.09 Ha is suitable for CA as the land is adjacent to the existing RF.i.e., namely Nongumiang RF which offers several benefits for natural Regeneration.

The adjacent RF can serve a source of seeds, facilitating natural regeneration on the proposed CA land.

The existing RF microclimate can positively influence the CA land, creating a favourable environment for plant growth.

The soil quantity on the CA land may benefit from the adjacent forest's ecosystem processes such as nutrient cycling and soil formation. The CA land's adjacent to the existing RF can also enhance ecological connectivity.

- I. The CA land can serve as a wildlife corridor connecting the RF to other habitat promoting biodiversity.
- II. The CA land may provide additional habitat for wildlife, expanding the existing RF ecological footprint.

Afforestation and Reforestation:

The proposed CA land offers opportunities for afforestation and reforestation. The CA land can be used to plant native species promoting biodiversity and ecosystem services. The CA land can also contribute to carbon sequestration efforts, mitigating climate change impacts.

The proposed CA land can also provide socio-economic benefits. It can create livelihood opportunities such as employment in forest management and Conservation.

The proposed CA land's proximity to the RF can support ecotourism initiatives, generating income for the local communities.

Recommendation:

The proposed CA land adjacent to the RF offers numerous benefits for natural regeneration, ecological connectivity afforestation and socio-economic development. By leveraging these opportunities, the proposed CA land can contribute to the biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services and sustainable development and in the light of the above the proposed CA land is suitable for Compensatory afforestation.


CONCLUSION:


As per the inspection of 11.09 hectares Compensatory Afforestation Land at Nongumiang transferred to Government of Meghalaya Forest Department by M/s Green Valliey Industries Limited in lieu of the forest land diversion proposal of 11.09 Ha for Limestone Mining Project at Madan Pyrda (Block-II) Limestone Deposit located at Chiehruphi East Jaintia Hills District, the observation is hereby summarised as follows:-


1. Land was degraded during handing and taking over.
2. Land is fertile and suitable to carry out Compensatory afforestation works with Assisted Natural Regeneration.
3. Land is free from all encumbrances.


4. Even though this is a non-forest area but the vegetation, animals / wildlife present, making this is an ideal area as a Land Bank to conserve which is very far from human habitation which will increase / supplement the very meagre 4% of recognized Government Forest land unique only to the State of Meghalaya.


The Land is to be notified as 'Reserved Forest' prior to submission of APO for Compensatory Afforestation.

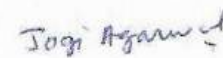

(Smt. L. J. Syiemiong, IFS)
DIGF (C), MoEFCC,
Regional Office, Shillong


(Smt. B.S. Laitthma)
Scientist 'C'
Regional Office, Shillong


(Smt. M. J. A. Sangma, IFS)
DCF (FC&CAMPA)
Shillong


Shri. F. S. Wann, MFS
DFO (WSWKHSF&TD) Nongstoin


Pawan Kumar Joshi
Vice President
M/s Green Valliey Industries Limited)


(Shri. Jogi Agarwal),
Manager,
M/s Green Valliey Industries Limited

Annexure-I

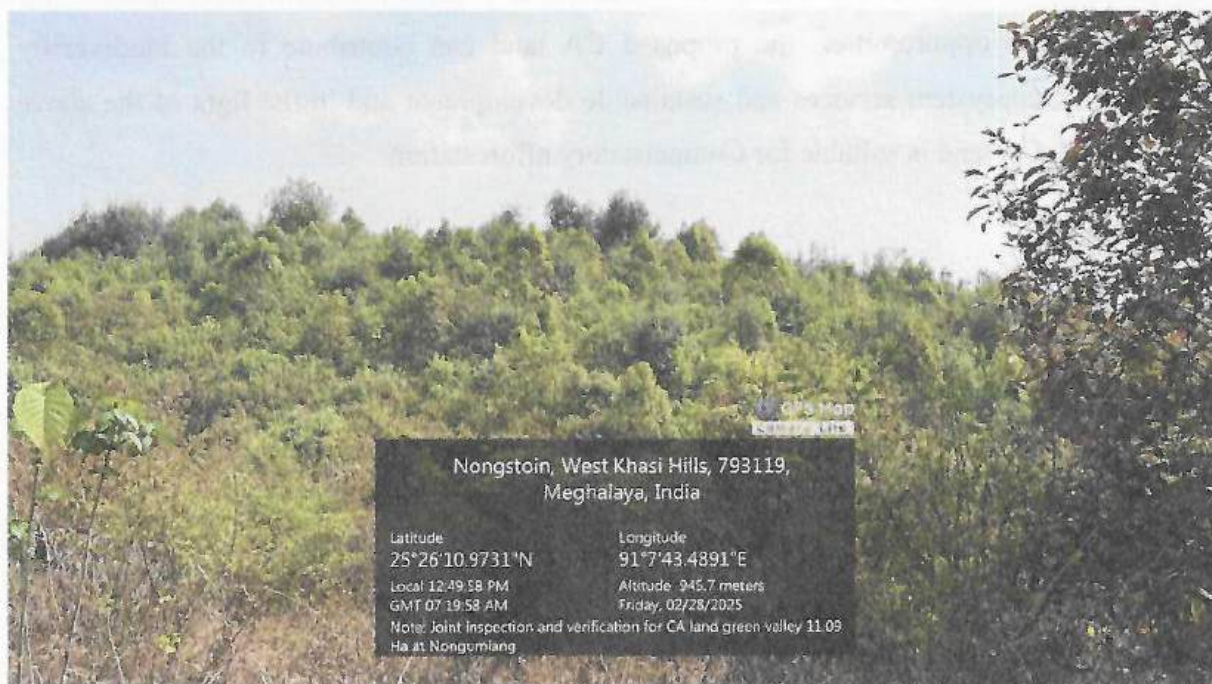


Figure 1:



Fig 2: Visit to verify the 11.09 Ha CA at Nongumiang by Joint Inspection Team comprising of MoEFCC-IR, Shillong, M/s Green Valliey Pvt Ltd and Meghalaya State Forest Department





Fig 3: Boundary Pillar FD No. 24. Verification of boundary pillars on the CA land 31 Ha (in which 11.09 Ha is part of the 31 Ha) by the Joint Inspection Team

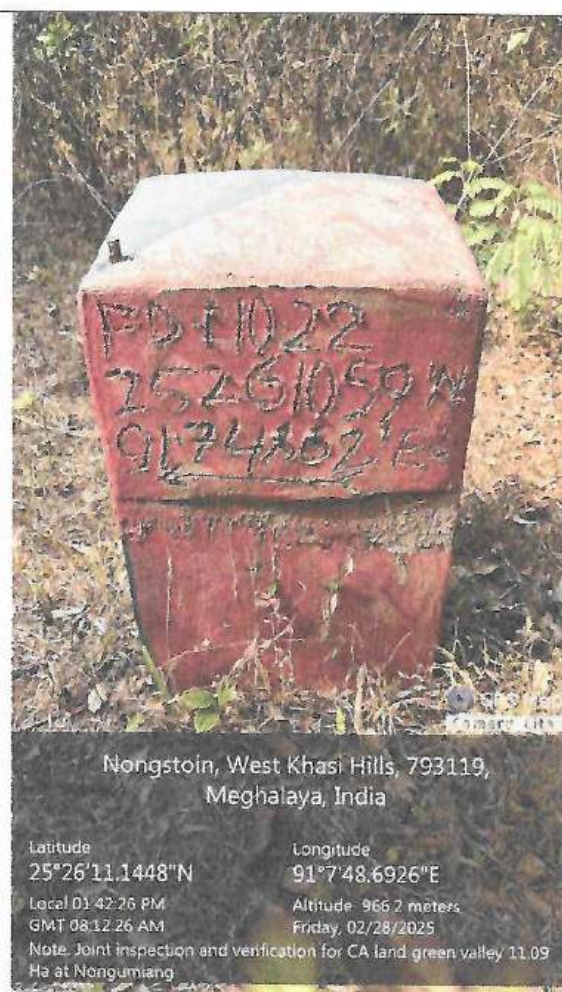
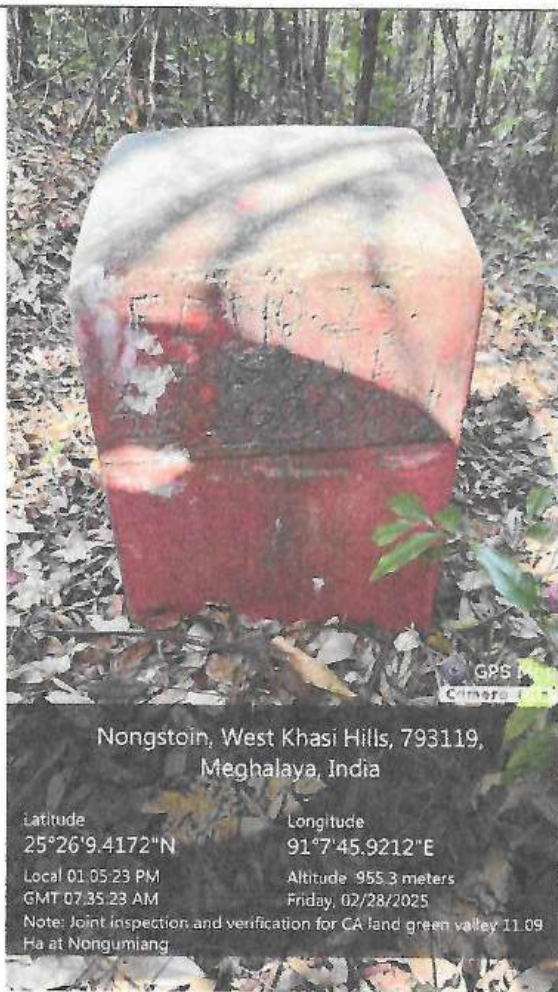


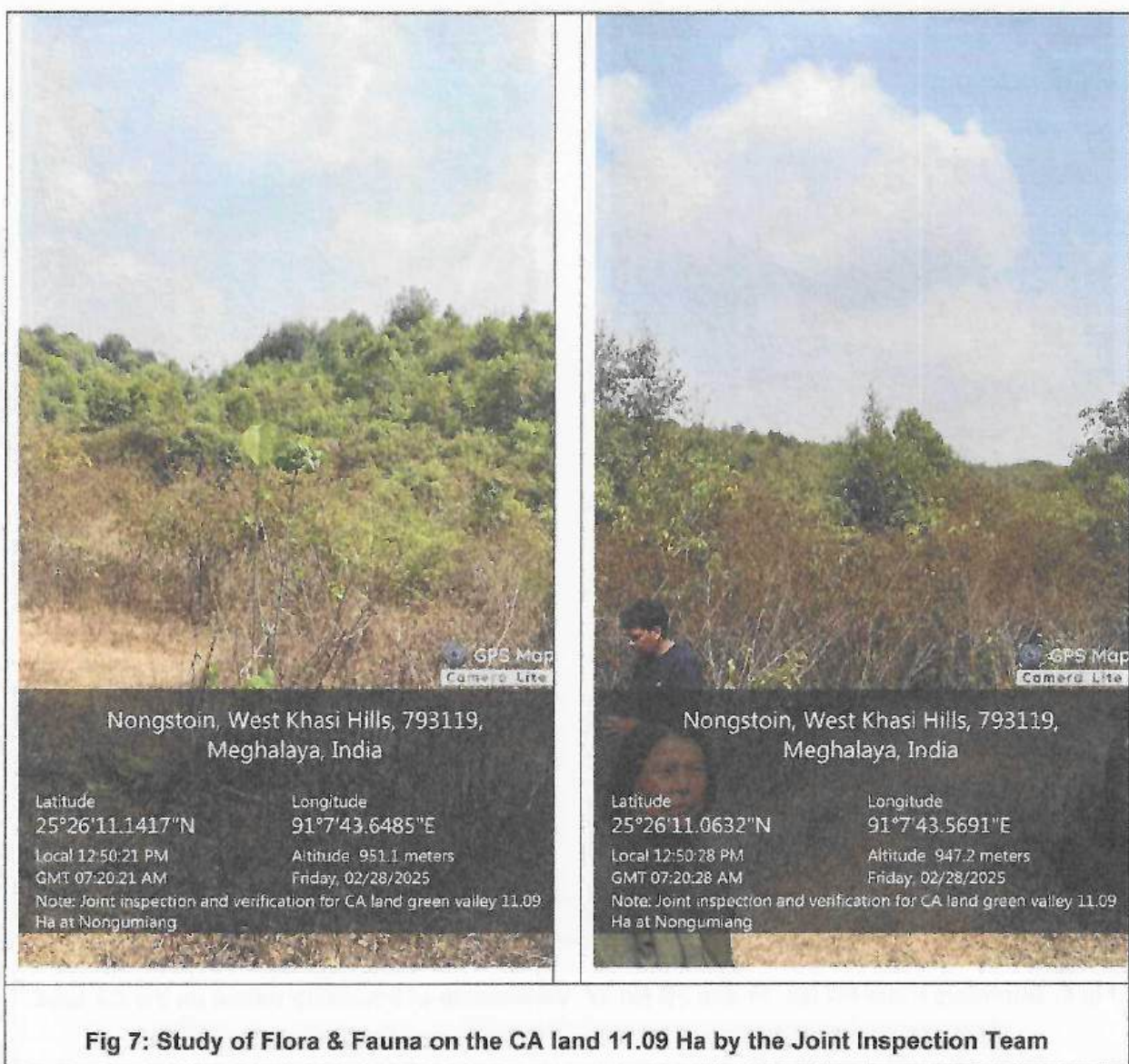
Fig 4: Boundary Pillar FD No. 22 and FD No 23. Verification of boundary pillars on the CA land 31 Ha (in which 11.09 Ha is part of the 31 Ha) by the Joint Inspection Team

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Fig 5: Boundary Pillar FD No. 20 and FD No 19. Verification of boundary pillars on the CA land 31 Ha (in which 11.09 Ha is part of the 31 Ha) by the Joint Inspection Team





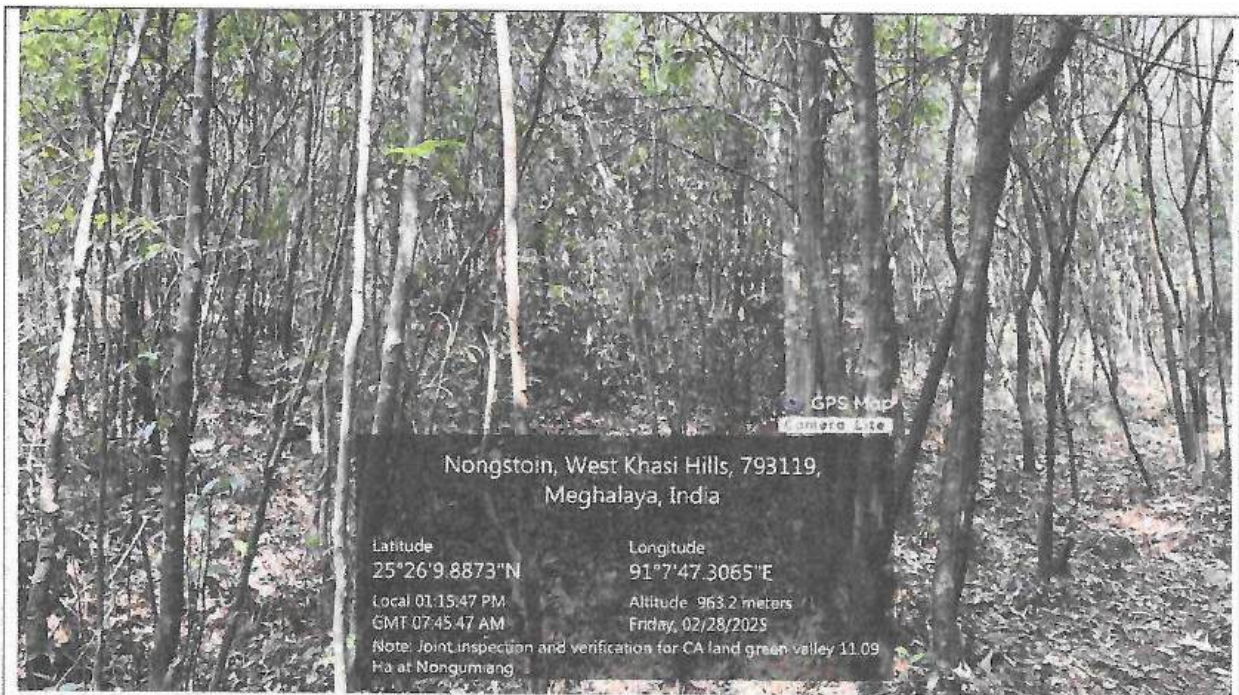


Fig 8: Study of Regeneration of vegetation on the CA land 11.09 Ha by the Joint Inspection Team

