Bamboo Forest Management Plan

for

Umtung Village

Ribhoi District, Meghalaya

(in partial fulfillment of the application for FSC Forest Management Certification)





prepared by Umtung BFMC with the assistance from

Centre of Excellence
for
Natural Resource Management & Sustainable Livelihoods

Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA)
Government of Meghalaya

Bamboo Forest Management Plan

for

Umtung Village

Ribhoi District, Meghalaya

(in partial fulfillment of the application for FSC Forest Management Certification)

prepared by Umtung BFMC with the assistance from

Centre of Excellence
for
Natural Resource Management & Sustainable Livelihoods

Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA)
Government of Meghalaya

Table of Contents

1. Introduction 1
1.1. Location Map 1
1.2. Scope of Bamboo Forest Management Plan 2
1.3. Demography 2
1.4. Socio-economic Conditions of Umtung Village 2
1.5. Tribes 3
2. Forest cover in the village 3
3. Bamboo Forest in Umtung Village and it's management 6
3.1. Bamboo Resource Inventory 6
3.1.1. Clump density in the forest 6
3.1.2. Sustainably Harvestable Bamboo 7
3.1.3. Silvicultural System 7
3.1.4. Guidelines for Harvesting of Bamboo 8
3.1.5. Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) for Environmental Impact Assessment (EI) 9
3.1.6. Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) for assessing High Conservation Value (HCV) 12
3.1.7. Evidence that no deforestation in the forest has taken place after 1994 20
3.1.8. Other Management Prescriptions 21
3.2. Bamboo Forest Area Distribution among Group Members 22
3.3. Bamboo Forest Health 22
3.4. Invasive Species 22
3.5. Soil 23
3.6. Water Quality/ Riparian Habitat 23
3.7. Biodiversity 23
3.8 Wildlife Habitat 23
3.9 Forest Fire Protection 24
3.10 Environmental Protection 24
3.11 Site Access, Road & Trails 24
3.12 Diversifying Bamboo based Economy 24
4. Monitoring 25
4.1 Management activities and condition of management units 25
4.2 Social & Environmental Impacts 25
5. Periodic Revision of the Management Plan 26
6. Roles and Responsibilities 26
6.1. Group Entity: Centre of Excellence (NRM & SL), MBMA 27
6.3 Group Member 28

6.4 President 29
6.5 Secretary 29
6.6 Treasurer 30
6.7 Maps 31
Annexure– I Self-Declaration of Commitment to FSC Principle 35
Annexure– II Judicial System in Khasi and Jaintia Districts 40
Annexure– III Meghalaya Societies Registration Act, 1983 41
Annexure – IV Sample Plot Data 42
Annexure– V Trainings 45
Annexure– VI Control Form for Regulating Bamboo Yield 47
Annexure– VII Self-Declaration on the Conservation and Restoration 48
Annexure– VIII Self-Declaration on the Protection of Native Species 53
Annexure – IX List of Animals, Birds, Tree Species, NTFPs present in Umtung 58
Annexure - X List of BFMC Members 59
Annexure - XI Transect Survey Form 60
Annexure - XII Non-Conversion of Natural Forest 61
Annexure - XIII Stakeholder Consultation 62
Annexure - XIV Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) 68
Annexure – XV Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) High Conservation Value (HCV) 72
Annexure - XVI Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) Environment Impact (EI) 76
Annexure – XVII Photos of Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) fieldwork for High Conservation Value (HCV) 79

List Of Table

Table 1: Demography....2
Table 2:Bamboo Resource Inventory Results....6
Table 3:Clump density in the forest....6
Table 4:Sustainably harvestable yield....7
Table 5:Projected sustainably harvestable yield after the improved stocking....7
Table 6:Contact details of Wildlife Officials....24
Table 7:Monitoring of management activities....25
Table 8:Monitoring of Social & Environmental Impacts....25
Table 9:Record Keeping of all the FSC Products Sold....25

List Of Figures

Figure 1:Location map of Umtung village....1
Figure 2:Forest cover map of Umtung village....5
Figure 3:Horse-shoe system of harvesting....8
Figure 4:Transect Survey Map of the Bamboo Forest Area of Umtung Village....11
Figure 5:Boundary Map of Umtung Village Showing the Bamboo Forest Area Proposed for Certification....18
Figure 6:Earmarked Native Vegetation Map of Umtung Village....19
Figure 7:Satellite Imagery Showing Forest cover map of Umtung village....20
Figure 8:Bamboo Forest Area Distribution Map for Group Members of Umtung Village....22
Figure 9:Structure of the Organisation....26
Figure 10:Satellite image overlaid with boundary of bamboo forest....31
Figure 11:Bamboo Forest map showing the location of sample plots....32
Figure 12:Drainage Map of Umtung Village....33
Figure 13:Bamboo resource inventory exercise at Umtung village....34

ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

BFMC	Bamboo Forest Management Committee
CoE (NRM&SL)	Centre of Excellence for Natural Resources Management and Sustainable Livelihoods
CF	Clump Forming
DFO	Divisional Forest Officer
FM	Forest Management
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
ha	hectare
MBDA	Meghalaya Basin Management Agency
NCF	Non-Clump Forming
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Product
PCCF	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
PPS	Probability Proportional to Size
RFSS	Regional Forest Stewardship Standard
SHG	Self-Help Groups
VBMC	Village Bamboo Management Committee
VCF	Village Community Facilitators
WP Act	Wildlife Protection Act

Bamboo Forest Management Plan for Umtung Village, Ri-Bhoi District, Meghalaya

1. Introduction

Umtung, is a small Khasi village situated in the southern part of the Ri-Bhoi District of Meghalaya, sustains itself primarily through bamboo cultivation, farming, and the utilization of small-scale forest resources. Governance and collective decision-making are rooted in traditional customary practices under the Village Council headed by the Rangbah Shnong, which is responsible for resource management, conflict resolution, and community welfare. The village places high value on cooperation, sustainability, and cultural heritage. Women actively contribute to both household responsibilities and community institutions such as Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Bamboo, in particular, plays a vital role not only as a source of livelihood but also as a material integral to housing, farming practices, and cultural activities.

1.1. Location Map

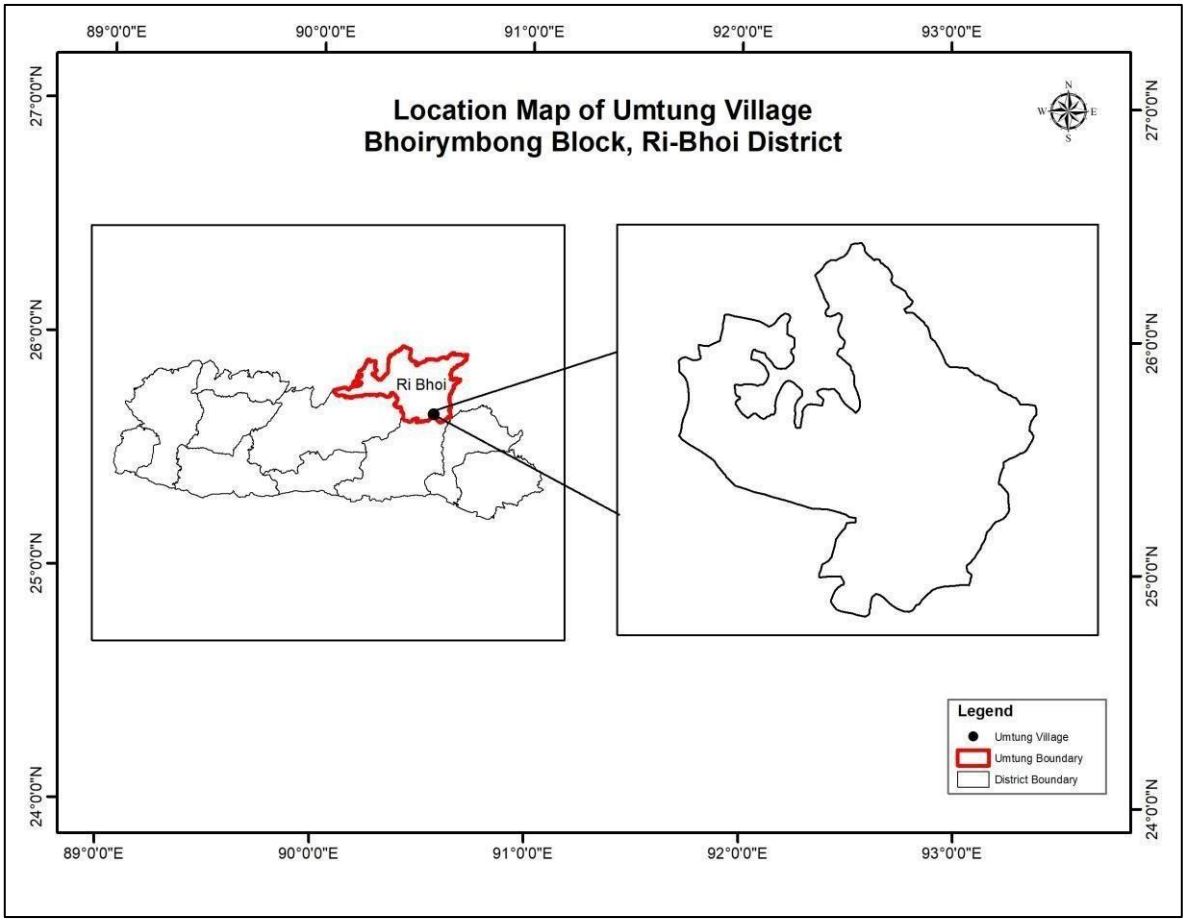


Figure 1:Location map of Umtung village

1.2. Scope of Bamboo Forest Management Plan

This manual describes the management system for the Bamboo Forests under the Umtung Village Council which adheres to the principles laid down under the RFSS standards of FSC. (Annexure I). The applicable standards upon which this management plan is based are

- FSC-STD-30-005 V2-0 FM Groups Standard
- FSC-STD-IND-RAP-V1.0-2022_Small Holder_ Plantations EN_ The FSC Forest Stewardship Standard for Smallholders in India
- FSC-STD-50-001 V2-1 EN Requirements for use of the FSC trademarks

This manual is a controlled document, owned by the Umtung Village Council.

1.3. Demography

The total population in Umtung was 797. Out of this, 413 are males while the female count is 384. The female literacy rate in the village is 92.39%, whereas the male literacy rate is 96.87%. The overall literacy rate stands at 94.74%. Literacy plays an important role in the development of the village.

Table 1: Demography

Demography of Population	Number
Number of Female	384
Number of Male	413
Total Population	797
Total Number of Families	139

Literacy Category	Literacy percent (%)
Female Literacy Rate	92.39%
Male Literacy Rate	96.87%
Overall Literacy Rate	94.74%

Source: Meglife, Bhoirymbong Block

1.4. Socio-economic Conditions of Umtung Village

Umtung Village, situated under Bhoirymbong C&RD Block of Ri Bhoi District, Meghalaya, approximately 42 km from Shillong and 70 km from Nongpoh, is a predominantly Khasi Scheduled Tribe settlement governed under the traditional Khasi administrative system of Raid Madan Kyrdem. The village follows a strong community-based natural resource management system through the Village Dorbar and Bamboo Forest Management Committee (BFMC), with agriculture, forestry, and livestock rearing forming the backbone of the local economy. Comprising approximately 145 households with a population of around 773 people, the village has a relatively young and economically active workforce, with women playing a significant role in household decision-making and economic activities under the matrilineal Khasi social system. The primary livelihood activities include farming and livestock rearing, while forests provide bamboo, fuelwood, medicinal plants, fodder, wild edible plants, and other non-timber forest products (NTFPs) that supplement household

incomes. Additional income is generated through government employment, private sector jobs, teaching, small businesses, wage labour, and government welfare programmes, with income levels varying according to land ownership, crop productivity, market access, and seasonal employment opportunities. Land ownership follows the customary Khasi tenure system comprising community forests, clan-owned land, private land, with community forests managed collectively under customary institutions to ensure sustainable resource use. The village has access to basic infrastructure including roads, electricity, schools, drinking water, sanitation facilities, mobile connectivity, healthcare services, and government welfare schemes, although residents rely on nearby towns for higher education, specialized healthcare, banking, and larger markets. Strong local institutions such as the Village Dorbar, Rangbah Shnong, BFMC, Village Executive Committee, Self-Help Groups, and youth and women's organizations support community governance, conflict resolution, forest conservation, and implementation of development programmes. Despite challenges such as small and fragmented landholdings, dependence on rain-fed agriculture, limited market access, inadequate post-harvest infrastructure, restricted access to finance and modern technologies, climate variability, and limited value addition to bamboo products, Umtung has good potential to improve livelihoods through bamboo certification, bamboo-based enterprises, biochar production, agroforestry, medicinal plant cultivation, beekeeping, community nurseries, eco-tourism, climate-smart agriculture, skill development, and women-led enterprises. The implementation of the Bamboo Forest Management Plan (BFMP) and Group Management System (GMS) is therefore expected to strengthen sustainable bamboo management, diversify livelihood opportunities, improve household incomes, enhance climate resilience, and ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable utilization of the village's bamboo forest resources

1.5. Tribes

The people of Umtung belong to the Khasi tribe, one of the major indigenous tribes of Meghalaya. The Khasi community follows a matrilineal system, where family lineage and inheritance pass through the mother’s line. Traditional governance is exercised through the Rangbah Shnong (Head of Village Council), which manages community affairs, land resources including forest and conflict resolution. The tribe maintains a close relationship with nature, and bamboo plays an important role in their livelihood, culture, and daily life. (Annexure II & III).

2. Forest cover in the village

The total geographical area of the village is 140.41 ha which comprises 62.67 ha of forest cover. The forest in the village supports diverse plant and animal life. The forest village has a patch of 10 ha which is rich in bamboo species. In addition to bamboo, the forests of Umtung Village, located in Bhoirymbong C&RD Block of Ri Bhoi District, Meghalaya,

comprise a combination of community, and private forests. These forests are managed under customary institutions and village regulations, which restrict indiscriminate extraction of timber and promote conservation of biodiversity and water sources.

The vegetation is characterized by native tree species *Schima wallichii* (Dieng Ngan), *Emblica officinalis* (Dieng Soh mylleng), *Castanopsis spp.* (Dieng sohot.), *Toona ciliata* (Dieng Sali), *Erythrina indica* (Deing Song), *Michelia champaca* (Dieng Rai), *Rhus javanica* (Dieng Sohma), *Ficus spp* (Dieng Jri), *Pinus kesaya* (Dieng Kseh), *Citrus reticulata* (Dieng Syiem), *Gmelina arborea* (Dieng Laphiang), *Albizzia odoratissima* (Dieng Kreit), *Quercus serrata* (Dieng Rting**),** *Quercus derbata* (DiengSai), *Macaranga denticulata* (Dienglatar), *Callicarpa arborea* (DiengLakhit), *Sterculia villlosa* (DiengTluh) alongwith naturally occurring Bamboo, wild fruit species. The understorey supports numerous shrubs, climbers, ferns, medicinal plants, and dense bamboo thickets. Common bamboo species that provide an important source of raw material for household use and livelihoods.

The forests also serve as important habitats for wildlife such as Bulbul, Sparrow, Hoopoe, Minivet, Woodpecker, Rapati, Lara, Owl, Jungle fowl, Monkey, Wildcat, Rabbit, Jackal, Squirrel, Rodent, Yellow throated marten, snake, Gecko and diverse insect fauna. The CLLMP resource assessment reported no major degraded forest areas, indicating that the forests remain relatively intact due to active community protection and sustainable management practices.

Forest management activities include assisted natural regeneration, enrichment planting, forest fire control lines, boundary demarcation, nursery development, and in-situ and ex-situ conservation of rare and endangered plant species, if any. These interventions have strengthened forest health, improved ecosystem resilience, and enhanced the long-term sustainability of the village's forest resources.

The village council has decided to apply for FSC Forest Management Certification for the bamboo forest with an extend of 10 ha. This combination of bamboo, trees, grasses and wildlife highlights the ecological richness and biodiversity value of the village froest. There are pure patches of bamboo as well as bamboo occurs in interspersed manner along with other tree species. The bamboo species in the forests include *Dendrocalamus hamiltonii, Bambusa jaintiana and Bambusa tulda*.

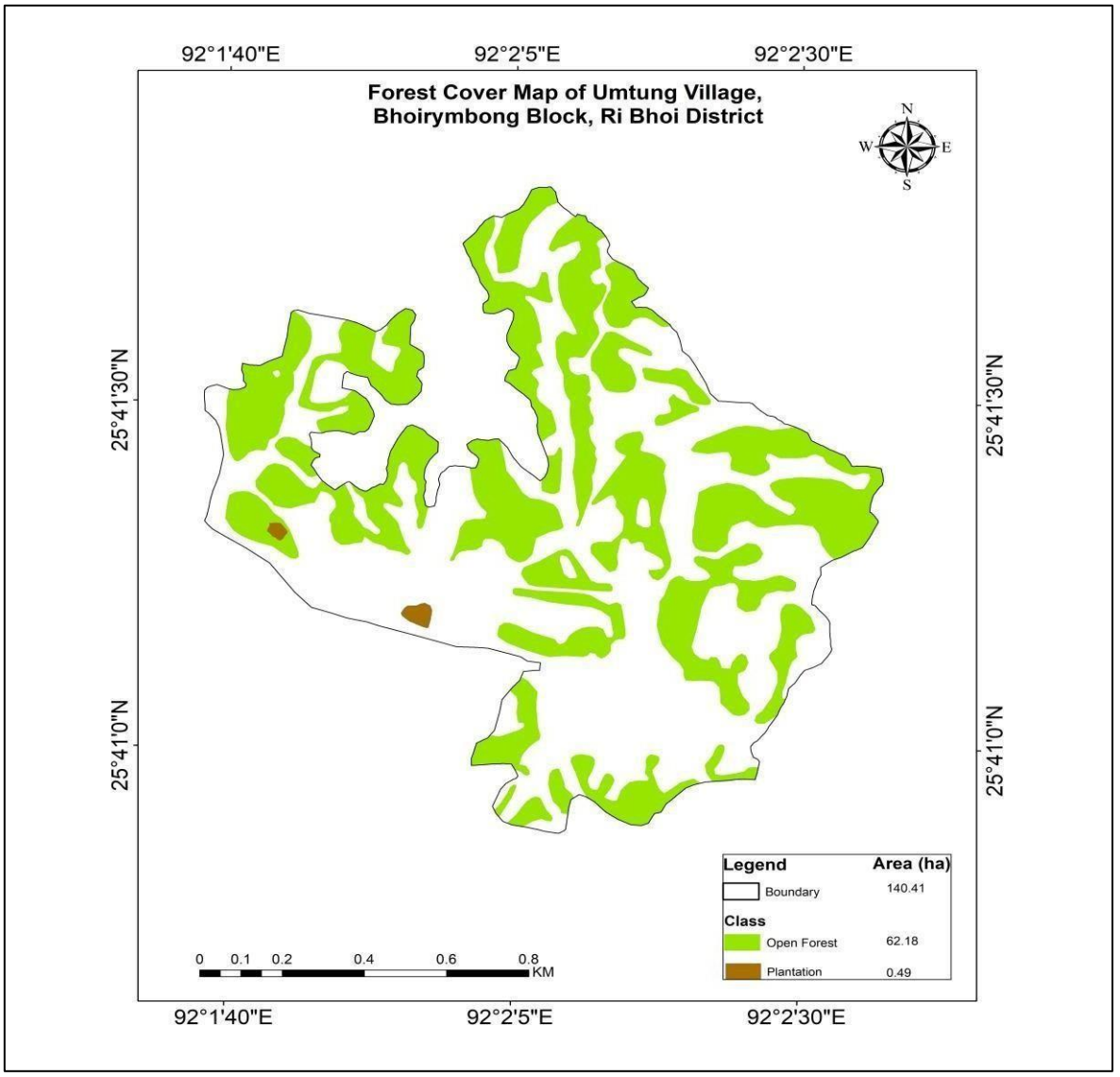


Figure 2:Forest cover map of Umtung village

3. Bamboo Forest in Umtung Village and it's management

3.1. Bamboo Resource Inventory

The bamboo inventory in Umtung village was conducted to assess the available bamboo resources and inform sustainable harvesting plans. The process began with the identification of bamboo forest boundaries by Village Community Facilitators (VCFs), followed by the preparation of GIS-based maps. Using a stratified random sampling method and Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) approach, 30m x 30m sample plots were established across bamboo-dense areas. Trained VCFs collected data from these plots, including the number of clumps and culms, culm age and diameter, species identification, and green biomass measurements. Only mature culms (typically 3 - 4 years old) were considered for sustainable harvest estimates. The collected data was validated and analyzed by district and state-level teams to determine the sustainably harvestable yield and prepare a village-level bamboo resource inventory. This inventory forms the scientific basis for the management and harvesting guidelines outlined in the forest management plan. (Annexure IV). This data will guide sustainable harvesting and ongoing management.

Table 2:Bamboo Resource Inventory Results

Sl. No.	Name of Bamboo Species	Estimated Number of Culms	Green Weight (in tonnes)	Dry Weight (in tonnes)
1	*Bambusa jaintiana*	379	2	1
2	*Bambusa tulda*	156	1	1
3	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	7958	109	58
	Total	**8493**	**111**	**59**

3.1.1. Clump density in the forest

Table 3:Clump density in the forest

1	Estimated Number of Clumps in the forest	385
2	Number of clumps per ha	39
3	Average size of clumps (Sq m)	4.80
4	Average spacing between the clumps (m)	16.09

As evident from the above tables the clump density per hectare is low (only 39 per ha). Therefore, there is a scope for planting more bamboo seedlings in the inter clump spaces, for improving the stocking and overall yield. It is proposed that the number of clumps in the forest will be increased by 1996 in the next 3 years by planting approximately 537 bamboo seedlings per year. Clump density after improved stocking will then rise to nearly 200 clumps per hectare.

3.1.2. Sustainably Harvestable Bamboo

Based on bamboo resource inventory data, the quantity of harvestable bamboo is estimated by considering the maturity of culms, the harvesting cycle and conservation factor taking into account uncertainty in the future yield. As given in the table below, the quantity of sustainably harvestable bamboo from the bamboo forest of Umtung Village is 22 tonnes per year. Normally, 3 - 4 years old culms are selected for harvest to ensure sustainability and regeneration. Estimation of sustainably harvestable yield has been done taking harvesting cycle as 4 years. A conservation factor of 0.8 has also been used to make allowance for unforeseen events like fire, damage due to storms etc.

Table 4:Sustainably harvestable yield

Current Harvestable yield (annually)	22 tonnes per year

As mentioned in the foregoing section, the existing clump density in the forest is much below the optimum density which the forest can support. Presently the clump density is at 39 per ha. Considering various factors into account like cost, improved productivity from the forest, increased carbon sequestration resulting into the possibility of increased revenues from carbon credits. It has been proposed to increase the clump density to 200 clumps/ ha in 3 years. The table below presents the increased yield after the improved stocking.

Table 5:Projected sustainably harvestable yield after the improved stocking

Harvested Yield (Calculated after planting of 200 seedlings per ha to increase stocking)	115 tonnes per year

3.1.3. Silvicultural System

The silvicultural system for bamboo in Umtung follows a clump management approach focused on selective culm harvesting to promote healthy regeneration. Only mature culms (3–4 years old) are harvested, retaining younger ones to support growth. The horse-shoe method has been prescribed for extraction of culm which also ensures regular cleaning of dead or congested culms and thus ensures clump vitality. This system enhances natural regeneration, improves yield, and supports long-term sustainability aligned with the FSC standards.

3.1.4. Guidelines for Harvesting of Bamboo

Species such as *Dendrocalamus hamiltonii, Bambusa jaintiana* and *Bambusa tulda* is monitored for density, and culm condition. Only 3 - 4 years old culms are harvested for sustainability.

(i) Harvesting must follow the "Horse-shoe" method, starting from the inner part of the clump and moving outward as depicted in Fig.3

(ii) Only mature culms (3 - 4 years old) should be harvested; younger culms and those under 4 cm in diameter should be retained.

(iii) Retain at least 6 culms per clump for regeneration, and avoid removing more than 50% of culms in one go.

(iv) Diseased or drying culms must be removed to prevent fire hazard.

(v) Culms must be cut low from the ground just above the first node (30 cm above ground) to avoid rot.

(vi) Cutting around the periphery is discouraged to prevent imbalance in clump growth.

(vii) Use sharp tools, and consider introducing thin-bladed saws for clean cuts.

(viii) Avoid harvesting during the rainy season to protect emerging shoots.

(ix) While harvesting the culms, the persons engaged in the task should use appropriate protective gears like helmets, thick rubber gloves, gumboots etc.

(x) Care should be taken while extracting culm in such a way that rhizome structure is not be damaged.

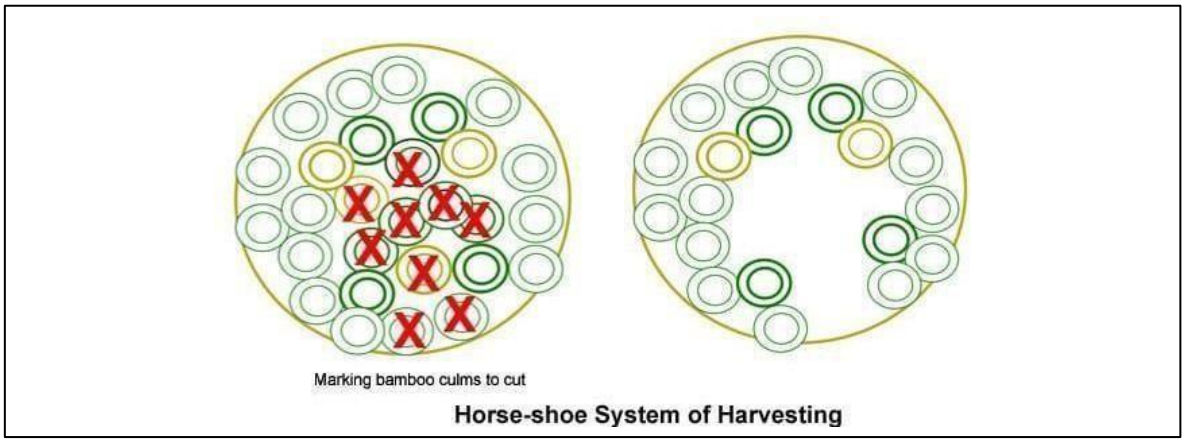


Figure 3:Horse-shoe system of harvesting

This method involves cutting select culms in a semi-circular pattern within the clump while retaining support culms on the periphery, ensuring structural balance and regeneration support. (Annexure V)

3.1.5. Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) for Environmental Impact Assessment (EI)

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was conducted in the village Umtung on the 24th July 2026 following two methods:

i. Transect survey cum sample plots-based observation

ii. Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)

Environmental Impact Assessment based on above two methods has revealed that shifting cultivation practice is the only potential cause of environmental damage in the village. Shifting cultivation is a traditional farm of agriculture practice being followed by the tribal people in the village since ages. Previously shifting cultivation in the village used to be practiced with long fallow cycle of 10-12 years. But with rise in population and fragmentation of families the rotation cycle of shifting cultivation has reduced 1-2 years. With the long fallow cycle shifting cultivation is not environmental degrading agriculture practice as it allows adequate time for the forest to regrow on the abundant agriculture land after 2-3 years of agriculture cultivation.

However, with the reduced cycle the jhum land becomes prone to soil erosion, loss of fertility, weed infestation, reduced water percolation. Thus, shifting cultivation is a potential problem of environmental degradation.

Guidelines for checking environmental degradation in Umtung village

i. Environmental awareness campaign: The BFMC of the village has been advised to conduct environment awareness campaign 2-3 times in a year. In the campaign, the villagers are sensitized on the environmental issues like forest fires, soil erosion, water conservation, climate change etc.

ii. The village practicing shifting cultivation are also persuaded to switch over to a settled form of agriculture and agroforestry and horticulture plantation.

iii. It has also been planned to onboard these community persons who adopt settled form of cultivation under Agroforestry models to the Agroforestry carbon initiative already landed in the State.

iv. Landslides: Because of factors such as felling of trees, forest fires, shifting cultivation and also due to development activities like rod construction, dam construction, some hills have become denuded and thus they are prone to landslides. Landslides not only lead to massive soil loss but they also create major disturbance in the ecology and socio-economic life of the people. In Umtung village few instances of soil erosion occurs during heavy rainfall have been observed. The BFMC has been sensitized to take lead in landslide stabilization works also even though it may not be directly linked to Bamboo

Forest Management practices. If the community decides these BFMC may take up the landslide affected area in the village for stabilizing it by planting bamboo.

v. Soil erosion: Environment issue of soil erosion has been observed in Umtung village. BFMC with the involvement of community may take the lead in treating such soil erosion affected areas. Measure for controlling soil erosion include contour trenching, gully plugging, bunding and planting native species known for soil binding properties. Planting of grasses like vetiver, lemon grass is also recommended.

vi. Forest fire: The BFMC members will ensure that the bamboo forest is well protected from forest fires. The community members will take due care especially in the fire season by patrolling and creating fire lines, removing inflammable dry biomass from the forest floor. Clearance of dry biomass on the periphery will be undertaken before the onset of fire season, i.e. November and December. The BFMC will also create awareness in the whole village for taking all precautions to prevent forest fires.

At the time of the field work for growing stock assessment of bamboo forest in the Umtung village, a rapid assessment of environmental condition and likely impacts of bamboo forest management activities in the State was also carried out using transect survey.

Based on community discussions, each environmental issue was assessed and ranked according to its level of impact (High, Medium, Low, or None). This prioritization helped to identify the most significant environmental threats requiring management attention and resource allocation. Besides shifting cultivation practiced at a low scale, the rest of the issues on,mining and quarrying were absent.

Transect survey was done using diagonal line as shown in the following map (**Figure 4**). In these transect survey visual observation were taken 20m strip (either side).

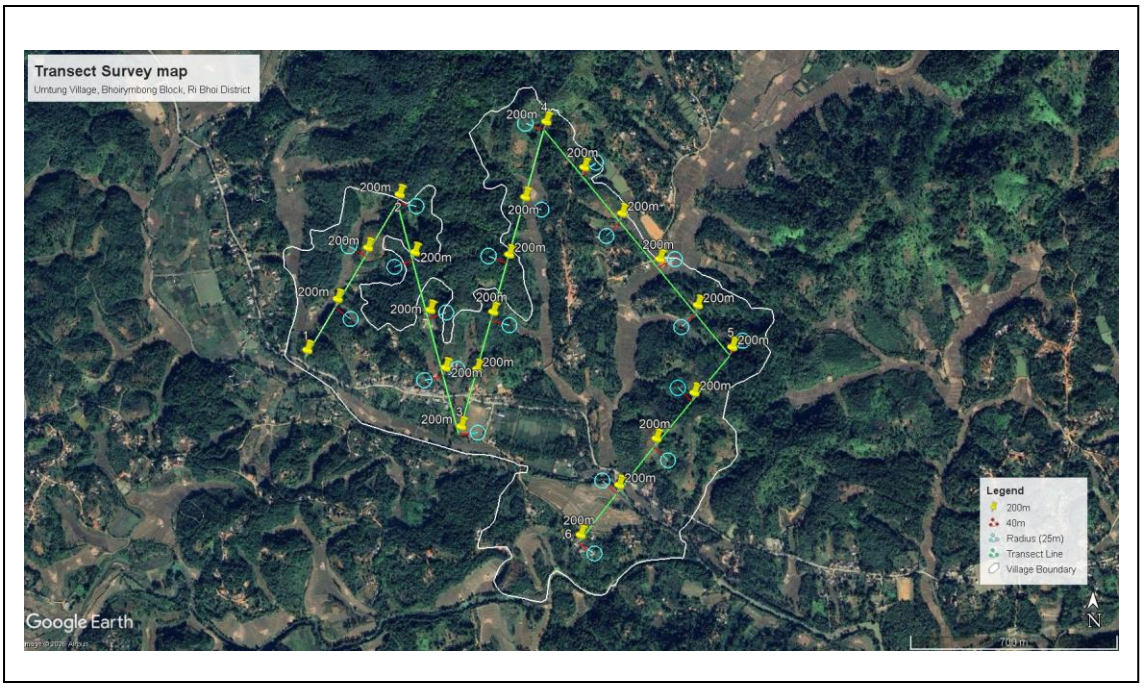


Figure 4:Transect Survey Map of the Village Forest Area of Umtung Village

3.1.6. Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) for assessing High Conservation Value (HCV)

Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) for High Conservation Value (HCV) exercise was carried out in Umtung Village, Bhoi-Rymbong Block, Ri Bhoi District. The questionnaire covers information about biodiversity, cultural value sites, water resources, invasive species, NTFPs, hunting, environmental concerns, and community conservation practices. The assessment was carried out by group consultation with community members using a questionnaire for facilitating discussion. The PRA aimed to capture local traditional knowledge, cultural values, and community perception to support sustainable forest management. In all, 5 community members participated.

Objectives

The objectives of the PRA were to:

(i) Identify areas and natural resources with High Conservation Values.
(ii) Document traditional ecological knowledge related to forests and bamboo.
(iii) Identify ecological, cultural, and social values requiring protection.
(iv) Understand community conservation practices and forest use

Methodology

The PRA was conducted through village meetings and focused group discussion involving community members. Information was collected using questionnaire for facilitating covering biodiversity, rare species, wildlife, cultural heritage, water resources, invasive species, non-timber forest products (NTFPs), hunting, environmental concerns, and existing conservation practices. Field observations and participatory discussions were used to verify the information provided by the participants.

The methodology for the transect survey is as follows;

As shown in the map, the coordinates of end points of each segment of the transect line were generated from the GIS layer and with the help of GPS navigation along the transect line was ensured. As shown in the map sample observation points on either side of the transect line at an interval of 200 m were taken. Specific observations were taken on the sample points. The observations were taken in a structured format. A copy of which is given in Annexure XV.

The PRA involved representatives from different sections of the community, including:

(i) Village Council members
(ii) Traditional leaders
(iii) Elders and traditional knowledge holders
(iv) Women representatives
(v) Bamboo growers

(vi) Farmers.

(vii)Youth representatives

The following are the findings:

A. Rare, Endangered, Threatened Plant Species

Rare, endangered or threatened plant species are absent in the village forest or its vicinity. The common plants found in the area are as follows

Trees:

Schima wallichii (Dieng Ngan), *Emblica officinalis* (Dieng Soh mylleng), *Castanopsis spp.* (Dieng sohot.), *Toona ciliata* (Dieng Sali), *Erythrina indica* (Deing Song), *Michelia champaca* (Dieng Rai), *Rhus javanica* (Dieng Sohma), *Ficus spp* (Dieng Jri), *Pinus kesiya* (Dieng Kseh), *Citrus reticulata* (Dieng Syiem), *Gmelina arborea* (Dieng Laphiang), *Albizzia odoratissima* (Dieng Kreit), *Quercus derbata (Dieng Sai), Macaranga denticulata* (Dieng latar), *Callicarpa arborea* (Dieng Lakhit), *Sterculia villlosa* (DiengTluh)

Shrubs/ Herbs:

According to community observations, overall plant species diversity in the area has declined over the past few decades. Notably, the region hosts rare orchid species, such as *Rhynchostylis retusa* (Tdongmiaw). Furthermore, community members highlighted that a local medicinal rhizome, Sying khmoh (wild ginger), has experienced a significant decline in availability primarily due to over-exploitation.

B. Wildlife and Biodiversity

The community reported the occurrence of various mammals, birds, reptiles, and other wildlife within the village forests. With the exception of birds' nests and scats, no other evidence of animal sightings through footprints, burrows, and feeding signs were reported.

The local forest habitats support a variety of resident, rare, and migratory bird species that include common birds such as Bulbul, Sparrow (Sim phriat), Hoopoe (Sim sohphoh), Minivet (Sim syiem), Woodpecker (Sim puhdieng), Owl (Dkhoh), Jungle Fowl (Syiar khlaw), alongside local species locally referred to as Rapati (a green-plumaged bird) and Lara. Rare local sightings include the Kingfisher and Kite (Kbeit), while migratory Eagles seasonal perform stop overs in the forest area.

A range of wild mammals inhabits the forest areas, though some face conservation threats. These include monkeys, wildcats, jackals, squirrels, common rodents, and the Yellow-throated Marten (*Martes flavigula*/ Phyllad).

Reptiles form an integral component of the local forest floor ecosystem. Venomous species include Vipers and Cobras, alongside native species locally identified as Bsein Sawryndang (red-necked keelback) and Bsein Jyrngam (green snake species). Local gecko species known locally as Khniangap-ing, are commonly recorded.

C. Cultural and Historical Sites

The PRA revealed that there are no sacred forests, sacred groves or sacred trees present in the village or its vicinity. However, the presence of a Catholic Church and school viz. Holy Innocents Govt. L.P School located within the same premises that was established in 1970, reflects the area's historical, cultural, and educational significance and serves as an important landmark in the community

D. Water Resources

The village's water sources comprises eight perennial springs— Khlieh Diengsai, Jrisohtungkhong, Lum Matlang, Wahnup, Khlieh kroh Ski Khlieh, Pynthor Lyngdoh, Weikulai, Jingtongum Umtung. Additionally, two rivers (Wah Umlew, Wahumtung) and three streams (Shka Umket - Sohliya, Wahduid kroh Ski, Mawlong) are also present in the village.

It was also noted that none of the springs have dried up and there is no existing water scarcity in the village.

E. Invasive Alein Species

Community members identified several invasive plant species within the village forests, including *Lantana camara* (Lantana saw), *Chromolaena odorata* (Lantana lieh), and *Mikania* sp. (Repuji) and a locally named species called Synrow eitksew

Despite their presence, the community members noted that these invasive species currently do not adversely impact bamboo growth or natural forest regeneration.

F. Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs)

PRA documented key Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) harvested by the community for household consumption, traditional practices, and income generation. The primary NTFPs collected include honey, bamboo, wild banana, wild mushrooms, *Colocasia*, *Castanopsis indica* (*Soh-Ot*), and *Emblica officinalis* (gooseberry / *Sohmylleng*).

During the PRA, the community members responded that several Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) are harvested by the community for household consumption, traditional practices, and income generation. These include Bamboo, wild mushroom, *Emblica officinalis* (Goose berries/ Sohmylleng), *Myrica esculenta* (Bayberry/ Sohphie), Bamboo shoot (Lungsiej), Cinnamon, wild banana, *Rhus chinensis* (Soh Ma), *Meyna laxiflora* (Sohmatan-Medicinal), Jack fruit (Sohphan), *Castanopsis indica* (Soh-ot rit), Silver berry (Sohshang), Carambola (Sohpyrshong). Among these, wild mushrooms, Silver berry, Carambola (Sohpyrshong) and *Emblica officinalis* (Goose berries/ Sohmylleng), serve as the primary drivers of NTFP-based household income.

G. Hunting and Wildlife Pressure

Hunting is strictly prohibited within the village to protect local fauna and support forest regeneration. The Village Council enforces strict hunting regulations and maintains community compliance through a multi-channel governance strategy. This includes the installation of prominent informational signboards along forest boundaries and entry routes, targeted awareness discussions during routine village council (Dorbar Shnong) meetings, and periodic broadcasts over the public address (PA) system to keep all residents continuously informed.

H. Additional Environmental Concerns

The community members informed that environmental stability across the village is generally positive, with minimal land degradation reported. Overall, instances of landslides, gullies, illegal logging, and mining impacts remain absent; however, minor soil erosion occurs along riverbanks during heavy seasonal rainfall. On forest productivity, bamboo regeneration remains highly satisfactory, indicating a healthy natural recovery process and strong ecological resilience within local forest stands.

I. Community Conservation Practices

The village actively protects designated forest areas, with conservation measures regularly monitored and enforced by Village Council members in collaboration with the community.

The village has formally designated specific forest patches as protected conservation areas to safeguard local biodiversity and ecosystem services. Management responsibility is shared directly between the local leadership and the broader community. Strategic protection measures focus on preserving core canopy cover, preventing habitat fragmentation, and maintaining critical environmental buffers, particularly around local watersheds and spring recharge zones.

To ensure long-term environmental sustainability, the village operates under a strict, community-agreed code of resource management. Key prohibitions and regulations include.

i. Strict limits on logging, restricting timber extraction exclusively to designated community-use zones under prior approval.

ii. A total ban on hunting local wildlife to allow native fauna populations to regenerate and thrive.

iii. Prohibitions against dumping waste, disturbing vegetation, or engaging in destructive activities near natural springs, streams, and rivers.

Enforcement of this regulation relies on a blend of traditional authority, collective decision-making and proactive community outreach which is achieved through the concerted efforts of

i. The Village Headman (*Rangbah Shnong*) and the Village Council (Dorbar Shnong) that hold primary executive oversight, regularly monitoring forest areas and addressing non-compliance or boundary encroachments. The active participation of the community members has been crucial in accomplishing the objective of conservation.

ii. Governance rules are periodically reviewed, adapted, and reinforced during general village council meetings, ensuring community consensus and shared ownership over conservation goals.

iii. To minimize accidental infractions and build widespread awareness, regulations are continuously communicated through:

iv. Prominently placed at key village transit points and forest entry routes.

v. Periodic announcements made directly to residents.

The findings of the PRA were incorporated into the Bamboo Forest Management Plan and Group Management System. The information was used to identify High Conservation Values, develop sustainable harvesting guidelines, formulate biodiversity conservation measures, protect cultural and water resources, and establish monitoring indicators. The PRA also serves as a baseline for future monitoring and adaptive management of the forest.

The PRA demonstrated that the community possesses extensive traditional knowledge of its forest resources and actively participates in their conservation and sustainable use. The integration of community knowledge with scientific assessment has strengthened the identification and management of High Conservation Values, ensuring that ecological, cultural, and livelihood values are maintained while supporting sustainable bamboo management under FSC certification.

Management guidelines for conservation of HVCs observed in Umtung village

For objective identification of HCV's, mainly HCV 1, HCV 4 and HCV 5 in Umtung village and its vicinity, are detailed two-fold/ track exercises were undertaken. One, the transect survey-based observations on a sampling basis. A transect survey map was prepared using GIS. The map is shown in the figure. A field survey team comprising two technical staff from Centre of Excellence (CoE) and two members from the village community carried out the field survey along the transect line.

The guidelines for conservation of the HVC's are as follows

Floral

i. The BFMC will also make an effort to create a small nursery/ garden for preserving these plants within the village as an in-situ conservation practice.

ii. The BFMC will also conduct plantation drive during rainy season, i.e. May to August involving community members particularly children. In such drives, degraded areas, areas prone to landslides and areas prone to soil erosion. Fruit trees will also be included in the plantation activity.

iii. In case it comes to notice of BFMC that there is an incidence of any disease or insect attack on the plant species than they will take suitable measure for controlling the nearest forest department office.

Faunal

i. BFMC will conduct regular programmes at least annually for sensitizing the community members about the importance of protecting wildlife found in the village and it's vicinity in any form, including birds, reptiles, insects and mammals

ii. No wild animals will be killed for meat or food consumption

iii. BFMC will organise and educate the community member to remain vigilant about any wildlife hunting attempt by outside people. In case they get any intimation about any unlawful activity in this respect they will immediately inform the Wildlife wing of the Forest Department (Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife Contact Number: 0364-2226375; Email ID: wildlifemegh@yahoo.com

iv. In case any offspring of wild animal is found abundant then BFMC members will make every effort to hand over the same to the Wildlife division of the Forest Department

Cultural and Historical Site

i. The BFMC along with the community members should encourage collaborative upkeep between the Village Council (Dorbar Shnong), school management (if it is still functioning), and church authorities to ensure periodic maintenance, structural safety, and aesthetic cleanliness of the grounds

ii. The landmark may also be used as a focal point for community awareness programs, youth activities and civic gatherings, to reinforce its role in local social development.

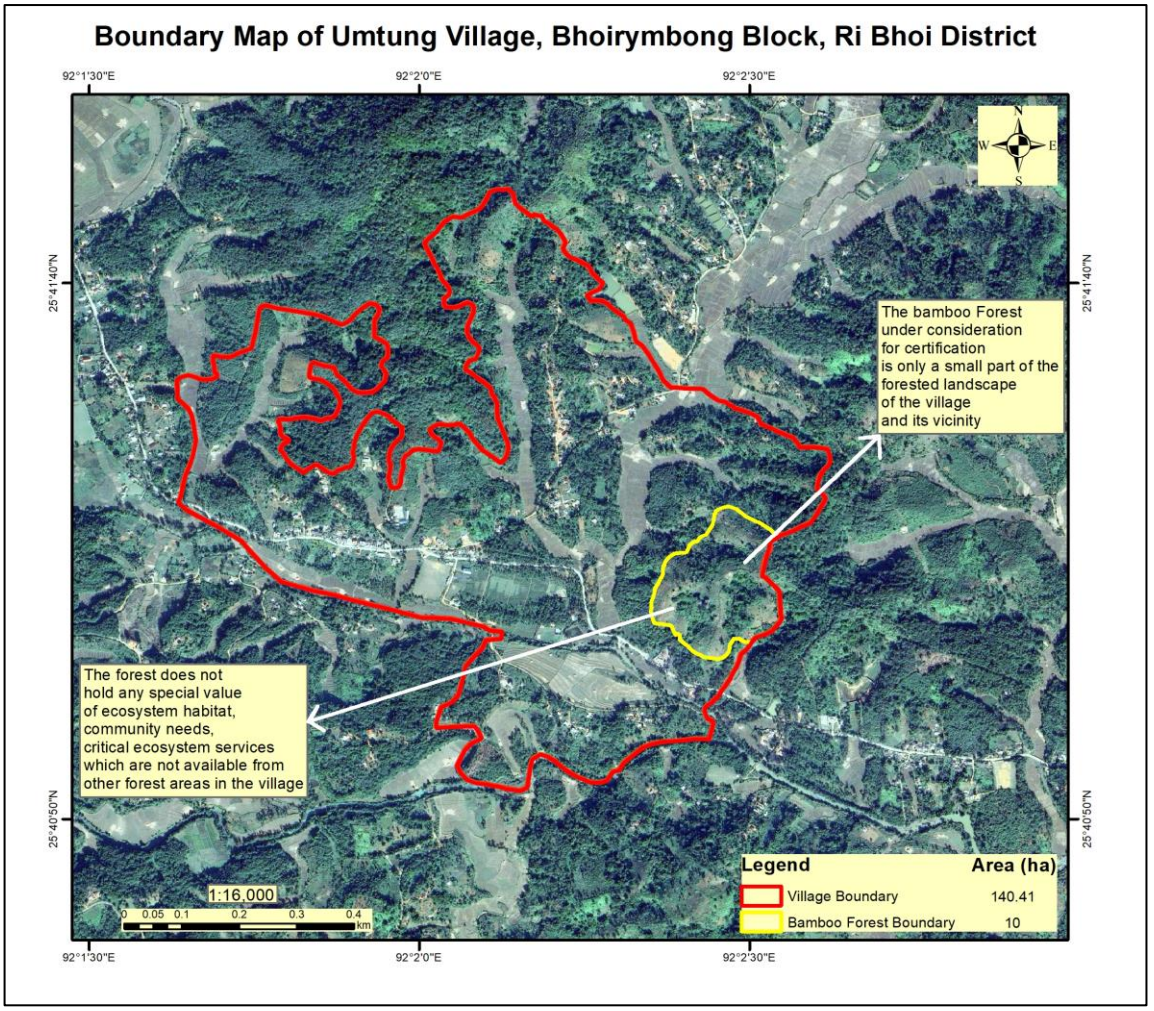


Figure 5:Boundary Map of Umtung Village Showing the Bamboo Forest Area

The following native vegetation map **(Fig 6)** further illustrates this point, distinguishing the earmarked native forest cover (9.5 ha, shown in green) from the Bamboo Forest Management Area boundary (10 ha, shown in red) within the total village boundary of 140.41 ha:

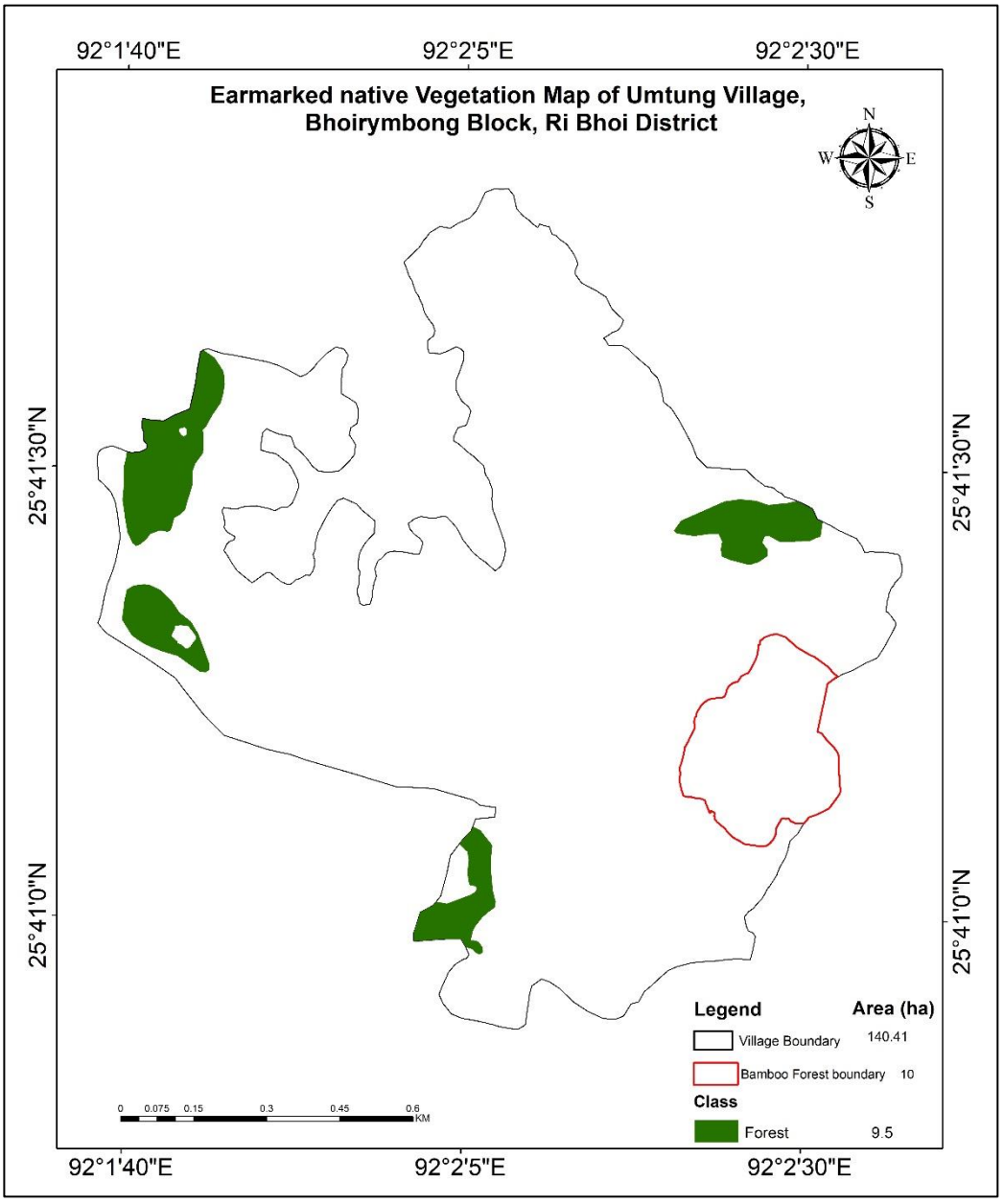


Figure 6:Earmarked Native Vegetation Map of Umtung Village

3.1.7. Evidence that no deforestation in the forest has taken place after 1994

The following satellite image of the Bamboo Forest of the period 1994 clearly shows and the map shown in the (**Figure 7**) which is of the current period clearly shows that the forest has remain intact. Since the year 1994 and no deforestation of felling of trees has taken place in the forest. This fact was also corroborated by the community member during the consultative meeting held with them on 19th May 2026 (Annexure XII).

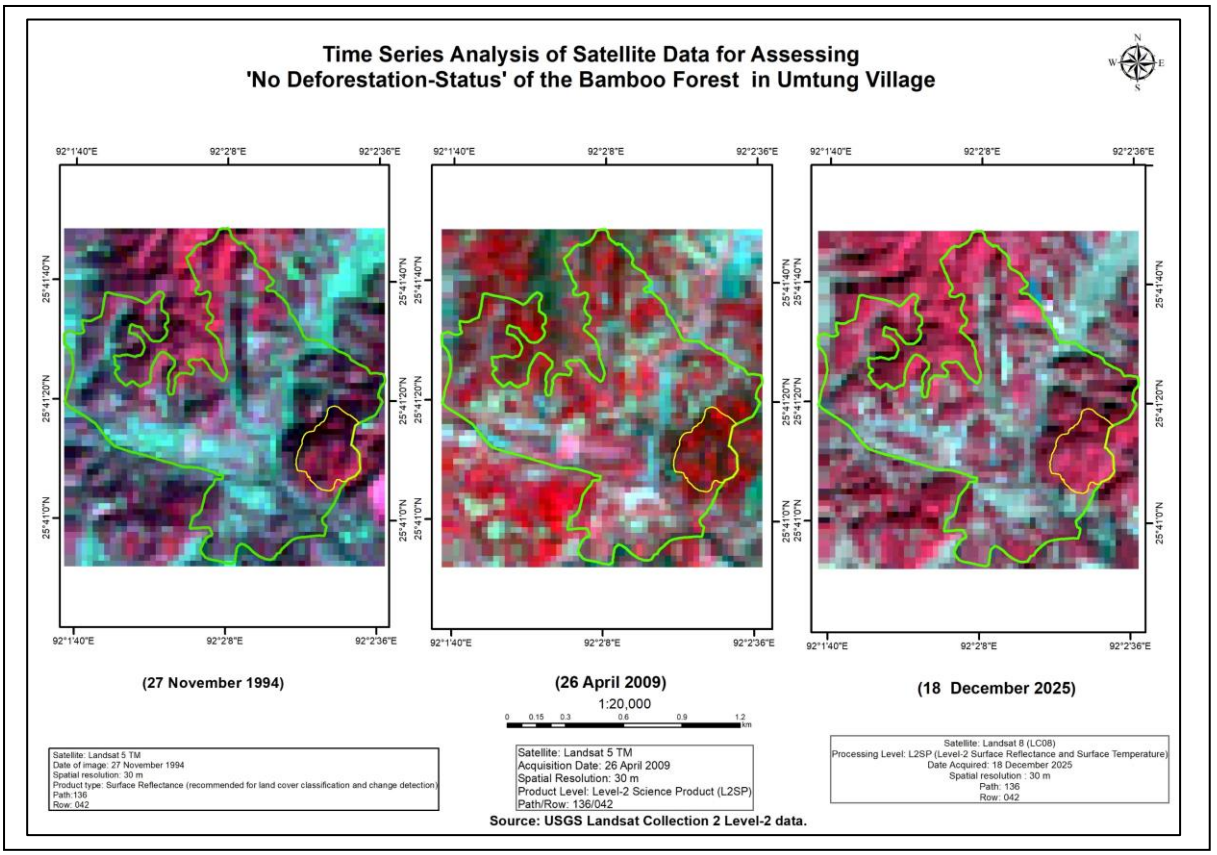


Figure 7:Satellite Imagery Showing Forest cover map of Umtung village

3.1.8. Other Management Prescriptions

(i) Community members will maintain a record of bamboo harvesting done from the forest in a Bamboo control form given at the Annexure VI.

(ii) When bamboo is harvested, care should be taken that the cut and bundled culms are removed in such a manner that the extraction process does not cause any damage to the soil or biodiversity at large. The culms should preferably be removed by carrying manually on shoulder or small wheeled carts.

(iii) The progress of the implementation of the Bamboo Forest Management Plan will be monitored in terms of the following parameters.

Sl. No.	Parameters/Observation	Periodicity
a.	Occurrence of forest fire	six monthly
b.	Number of culms harvested	quarterly
c.	Number of bamboo seedling planted	six monthly
d.	Weeding/cleaning carried out in the forest	six monthly

(iv) For the purpose of adaptive management observations on certain parameters will be recorded.

Sl. No.	Parameters/Observation	Periodicity
a.	Any pathological infestation	six monthly
b.	Any entomological infestation	six monthly
c.	Premature dying/splitting of bamboo culms	quarterly

(v) The resource inventory information presented in the section 3.1 shows that clump density in the forest is 39 per hectare only which is low. To improve the stocking of bamboo in the forest, it is proposed to carry out planting of Bamboo seedlings of species like *Bambusa jaintiana, Bambusa tulda* and *Dendrocalamus hamiltonii* in the inter-clump spacing. It is proposed to plant 1996 bamboo seedlings in the next 3 years.

(vi) It is prescribed that in case a genetically modified species or plants will not be used for the encrichment planting.

(vii) Use of chemical fertilizers should be avoided. In the rare circumstances even if it has to be used, only the bare minimum quantity of any chemical fertilizers should be used.

(viii) However organic fertilizers and bio-pesticides maybe used in the plantations/ forest as and when required.

(ix) Use of Biological Control Agents should be avoided. In the rare circumstances even if it has to be used, only the bare minimum quantity of any biological control agents should be used.

(x) Only native species of bamboo will be planted for regeneration and improving standing of the bamboo clumps (Annexure VII).

3.2. Bamboo Forest Area Distribution among Group Members

The bamboo forest proposed for sustainable management and certification is distributed among the members of the Bamboo Forest Management Committee (BFMC). The distribution of the bamboo forest area for each group member is shown in **(Fig.8).**

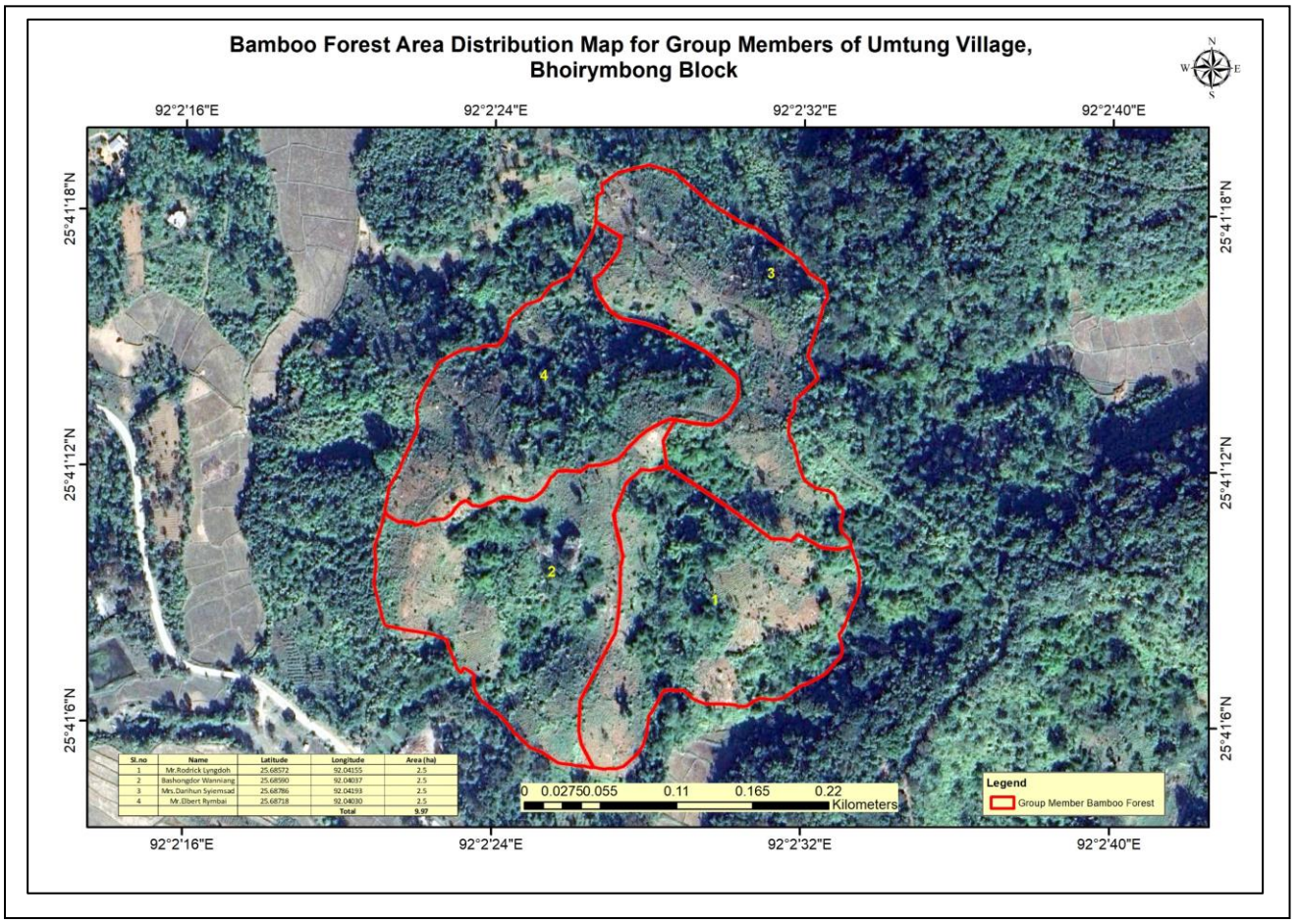


Figure 8:Bamboo Forest Area Distribution Map for Group Members of Umtung Village

3.3. Bamboo Forest Health

Regular observations will be undertaken to detect any insects or fungal infections on the bamboo clumps. In case such infections are noticed, spray of suitable insecticides /Fungicides preferably the herbal preparations will be done and affected culm will be removed. The BFMC should contact nearest Forest Department Office for appropriate treatment of the disease, BFMC members may also contact DFO, Silviculture Division, in Shillong for this purpose.

3.4. Invasive Species

Invasive species have a tendency to encroach bamboo forest lands and by doing so they suppress growth and regeneration of the native species in early stages. Spread of invasive species is damaging to Bamboo Forest and biodiversity. Dried biomass of invasive species

becomes fire hazard. The BFMC therefore will organize drives for eradication of such invasive plants by uprooting or cutting them by involving community members, at least twice in a year. The invasive species present in the area are *Chromolaena odorata, Mikania micrantha, Bidens pilosa, Ageratum conyzoides, Lantana camara*.

3.5. Soil

The bamboo plantation area in Umtung village has loamy soil, which is well- drained, moderately fertile, and suitable for bamboo growth. To maintain soil health, organic matter will be added regularly, mulching will be practiced to retain moisture, and erosion control measures such as contour planting will be applied on slopes. Periodic soil monitoring will guide nutrient management to ensure sustainable bamboo production. (Annexure VIII)

3.6. Water Quality/ Riparian Habitat

There are no springs, streams, or rivers within the bamboo forest area. However, two perennial rivers are present within Umtung Village and serve as important water resources for the local community and surrounding ecosystem. The water quality of these rivers is generally good, with no visible signs of contamination. Regular monitoring is recommended to ensure their continued quality and sustainability. The BFMC will take all necessary measures to protect the existing water bodies within the village and their associated habitats. Riparian zones along the rivers will be conserved and protected from any form of degradation. Care will be taken not to disturb course of water in the streams and rivers passing through the village (Annexure VIII). Within a buffer zone of 30 meters on either side of the rivers, group members will ensure that vegetation is not uprooted or damaged. The group member will also ensure that the bank of the rivers/ streams are not eroded. The Drainage Map of Umtung Village is provided in Fig. 12.

3.7. Biodiversity

BFMC members will ensure that the existing biodiversity in the forest is fully protected Special care will be taken of rare, endangered and threatened plants. Areas where suchplants are growing will be delineated by way of small bamboo fencing. The BFMC will also ensure that no damage is done to the native ecosystem by any practice prescribed for bamboo management. (Annexure VIII)

3.8 Wildlife Habitat

Only stray incidence of small animals like foxes and civet cats are reported. The bamboo forest otherwise does not have others wild animals. Among the bird species, the common one’s found in the forest are myna, eagles. It is recommended that all the wildlife species as scheduled under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, should be preserved. Being protected under the law, killing and harming them is punishable offence under the WP Act, 1972. It should be collective responsibility of the villagers under the watch of the BFMC (Bamboo Forest Management Committee) members to monitor all wildlife species including Birds,

Reptiles, Mammals. In case BFMC comes to know about any persons having committed any offence by killing or harming the wild animals, then it is the duty of the BFMC to immediately report the matter to the nearest Forest Department official. The BFMC should be particularly watchful for the hunters/poachers from outside the village. Contact numbers of the concerned F&E Department officials are given in the table below:

Table 6:Contact details of Wildlife Officials

Designation	Contact Number	Email ID
PCCF (Biodiversity & Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Shillong	0364-2227311 (F), 0364-2226460	wildlifeinfoeghlt@yahoo.com pccfmegh@gmail.com
Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife	0364-2226375	wildlifemegh@yahoo.com

3.9 Forest Fire Protection

The BFMC members will ensure that the bamboo forest is well protected from forest fires. The community members will take due care specially in the fire season by patrolling and creating fire lines, removing inflammable dry biomass from the forest floor. Clearance of dry biomass on the periphery will be undertaken before the onset of fire season i.e. November - December. BFMC will also create awareness in the whole village for taking all precautions to prevent forest fires.

3.10 Environmental Protection

The Bamboo Forest Management Plan (BFMP) will also take care of other environmental concern. It will be ensured that activities under BFMP do not cause adverse environmental impacts in the land and water bodies in the vicinity of bamboo forest. Fire protection measures like creations and maintenance of fire line, removal of inflammable dry biomass and patrolling in the sensitive areas, will be part of the BFMP duties. BFMC will also organized awareness campaigned for environmental protection and fire risk reduction. Environmental Protection activities will also include prevention of river/ stream pollution, plastic pollution and soil erosion.

3.11 Site Access, Road & Trails

Current access is via earthen road from the village. Trails are narrow and steep. Improvement of trails through graveling and culvert installations will be undertaken in due course of time to ensures year-round access to the forest for harvesting while preventing erosion and waterlogging.

3.12 Diversifying Bamboo based Economy

Initially the focus of the bamboo forest management will be on producing bamboo culms in a sustainable and environment friendly manner. Gradually steps will also be taken to diversify bamboo-based enterprises in the village by procuring basic bamboo processing

machines and imparting training to the bamboo craftsmen. This will generate more income to the community members by selling value added products like slivers, agarbatti sticks, treated culms etc.

4. Monitoring

4.1 Management activities and condition of management units

BFMC will be responsible for management activities as per the following tables:

Table 7:Monitoring of management activities

Sl. No	Monitoring	Frequency	Remarks
1	Growing stock	Annual	Measurement of volume, density, and growth compared to previous data.
2	Protection from forest fire	Annual	By recording incident of fire and area burnt
3	Survival percentage of seedlings planted	Annual	By actual count
4	Soil health	Annual	Visual observation
5	Invasive species	Annual	Identifying invasive species in any area affected by them.

4.2 Social & Environmental Impacts

The bamboo forest Committee (BFMC) will record and review these indicators periodically to ensure equity and sustainable livelihood benefits for the community as per the following tables:

Table 8:Monitoring of Social & Environmental Impacts

Sl. No	Monitoring	Frequency	Remarks
1	Income generated from bamboo and related activities	Annual	Average annual income
2	Employment opportunities created for community members	Annual	Actual number
3	Participation of local stakeholders, including women and SHGs, in forest management activities	Annual	Actual number
4	Safety	Annual	Incidence of injury, if any
5	Disturbance to biodiversity	Annual	Observation by transect survey
6	Plastic pollution	Annual	Number of plastic materials observed during transect survey

Table 9:Record Keeping of all the FSC Products Sold

Sl. No	Bamboo culms number		Date of sale	Name of Purchaser	Address of Purchaser	Remarks
	Species	Number				

5. Periodic Revision of the Management Plan

The Bamboo Forest Management Plan (BFMP) shall be revised periodically after every five (5) years to ensure its continued relevance, effectiveness, and alignment with the prevailing ecological, social, and economic conditions.

The objectives of periodic revision are as follows:
a) Updating of resource inventory based on field assessments and monitoring data.
b) Determination of sustainable yield as per the latest status of bamboo resources.
c) Revision of management prescriptions considering emerging challenges, environmental changes, and community requirements, if any.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

The Group Entity acts as the central administrative body holding the group certificate on behalf of the Resource Management Units (RMUs), responsible for ensuring all group members comply with FSC Forest Management standards.

Resource Management Unit (RMU)/ Bamboo Forest Management Committee (BFMC) acts as body that has ownership rights over the bamboo forest(s) and is also responsible for managing the overall resource for the process of certification. The highest level of decision-making in the village is the Rangbah Shnong (Headman), heading the Village Council. For bamboo forest management activities, the Village Council will form a Bamboo Forest Management Committee (BFMC).

A Group Member in the FSC certification scheme is an individual who is part of a larger group holding a single, shared certificate. The individual member retains specific responsibilities to ensure compliance with FSC principles

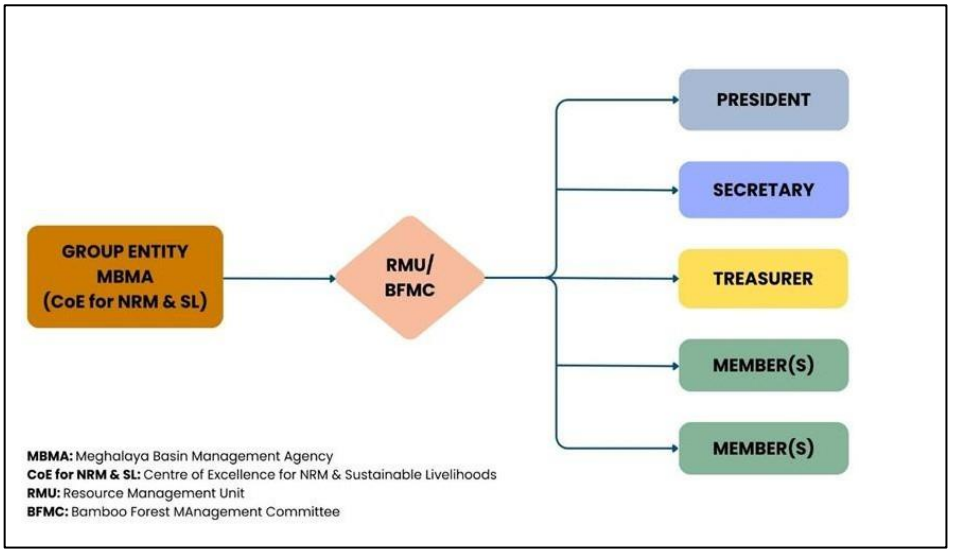


Figure 9:Structure of the Organisation

6.1. Group Entity: Centre of Excellence (NRM & SL), MBMA

Key responsibilities of the Group Entity include:

(i) Develop the framework and maintain written procedures for membership, covering organizational structure, eligibility, and withdrawal/ suspension.

(ii) Maintain written procedures for managing the group and a public policy of commitment to FSC Principles and Criteria.

(iii) Ensure sufficient human and technical resources to manage the group, including defining the maximum number of members.

(iv) Provide members with documentation, including the FSC standard, group rules, an explanation of the certification process, and cost structure.

(v) Identify training needs and provide training and communication strategies to help members implement FSC standards.

(vi) Act as the primary contact for the certification body, FSC, and ASI when required.

(vii) Implement a documented monitoring system to ensure continued compliance with FSC standards.

(viii) Conduct regular (at least annual) on-site monitoring visits to a sample of group members.

(ix) Issue corrective action for non-compliances identified during internal audits and monitor their implementation.

(x) Maintain up-to-date group records for at least five years, including member lists, consent forms, training records, maps, and monitoring reports.

(xi) Implement a system for tracking and tracing forest products from group members to ensure non- certified material is not mixed with FSC-certified products.

(xii) Provide consent for trading of bamboo when all criteria have been met by RMUs.

(xiii) Verify the credibility and authenticity of the buyer before issuing the consent.

(xiv) Approve use of the FSC trademark for RMUs working with the certification body.

(xv) Ensure invoices for FSC-certified material are issued correctly and filed by members.

(xvi) Evaluate every applicant to ensure compliance with standards before adding them to the group.

(xvii) Ensure all actors within the group understand their responsibilities.

(xviii) The group entity holds the certificate and ensures that no confusing or incorrect certificates are issued to members.

6.2 Resource Management Unit (RMU)/ Bamboo Forest Management Committee (BFMC)

A body that has ownership rights over the bamboo forest(s) and is also responsible for managing the overall resource.

(i) The primary responsibility of an RMU is to implement centralized, homogeneous, and sustainable forest management on behalf of members, ensuring compliance with FSC Principles and Criteria.

(ii) Ensure that their management units are not included in any other FSC certificate.

(iii) Implementing, and keeping up-to-date management plans for all units in the RMU/ BFMC.

(iv) The RMU must take control over key management activities, including harvesting, planting, and silvicultural practices, to ensure they meet FSC standards and are consistent with sustainable forest management practices.

(v) Implementing a documented, regular (annual) monitoring and internal audit system to verify that management units continue to comply with FSC requirements.

(vi) Establishing a tracking system to ensure that non-certified material is not mixed with FSC-certified material, and that all bamboo can be traced from the forest to the point of first sale.

(vii) Ensuring all forest workers and community members operating in the RMU receive necessary training, supervision, and safety protection.

(viii) Maintain records of forest management activities, including harvest volumes, planting, and sales of FSC-certified material, for at least five years.

(ix) Actively engaging with local communities and other affected parties to identify and resolve conflicts over tenure, use rights, and management impacts.

6.3 Group Member

A Group Member in the FSC certification scheme is an individual that is part of a larger group holding a single, shared certificate. The individual member retains specific responsibilities to ensure compliance with FSC principles (Annexure X).

The responsibilities of an FSC group member generally include:

(i) Implement the relevant FSC requirements within their own forest management unit.

(ii) Follow the written procedures, guidelines, and rules established by the Group Entity.

(iii) Sign a declaration of consent committing to FSC principles and authorizing the Group Entity to manage the certification on their behalf.

(iv) He/ She will be responsible for implementing all the prescriptions given in the Bamboo Forest Management Plan (BFMP).

(v) Utilize the tracking system defined by the Group Entity to ensure non-certified material is not mixed with FSC-certified material.

(vi) Participate in internal monitoring visits conducted by the Group Entity (usually annually).

(vii) Cooperate with the third-party certification body during their evaluation of the group, which includes allowing site access to auditors.

(viii) Implement necessary corrective actions for any non-conformities identified during internal or external audits.

(ix) Use of the FSC trademark and logo only with the prior approval of the Group Entity and the certification body.

(x) Ensure all sales invoices for FSC-certified material contain the required information (including the group certificate code).

(xi) Attend training activities and familiarize themselves with the FSC standards and group procedures provided by the group manager.

6.4 President

(i) The President has overall responsibility for ensuring conformity with forest management certification standards and group rules.

(ii) He/ She oversees all operational forest management activities (e.g., planting, harvesting) within the RMU to ensure they meet certification standards.

(iii) Maintains all necessary documentation, implements internal monitoring, and tracks conformance with the group certification standard.

(iv) The President identifies training needs and records/ closes out any non-conformities found during internal or external audits.

(v) He/ She serves as the key contact between group members, group auditors, and the certification body.

(vi) In some cases, he/ she will be responsible for training, evaluating, and supervising work within the group.

6.5 Secretary

(i) Maintains secure, organized records of all certification applications, assessments, and decisions, ensuring they are available for audits.

(ii) Files and manages all committee correspondence, reports, and official documents.

(iii) Liaises with the President to convene meetings, prepare agendas and schedules meetings well in advance.

(iv) Records accurate minutes, documenting discussions, motions, and decisions made

regarding certification.

(v) Circulates meeting materials, agenda items, and minutes to group members.

(vi) Ensures the RMUs/ BFMCs certification activities align with governing documents, legal requirements, and industry standards.

(vii) Responds to queries regarding the certification process, procedures, and status.

(viii) Prepares annual reports or updates on certification activities.

(ix) Communicates certification decisions to stakeholders and ensures follow-up actions are completed.

(x) Assists in auditing and verifying the accuracy of certification documents before final approval.

6.6 Treasurer

(i) Manage bank account of the RMU and ensure funds are deposited in the Bank correctly.

(ii) Provide regular, accurate financial updates to the committee regarding income, expenses, and cash flow, highlighting any budgetary deviations.

(iii) Maintain up-to-date, detailed financial records, including receipts, invoices, and bank statements, ensuring they are prepared for annual audits or legal requirements.

(iv) Authorization of payments whenever required.

(v) Asset management.

(vi) The Treasurer should have a grounded understanding of budgeting, accounting practices, and financial reporting.

6.7 Maps

Fig 10: Satellite image showing the bamboo forest boundary.

Fig 11: Distribution map of inventory sample plots.

Fig 12: Drainage map Umtung village.

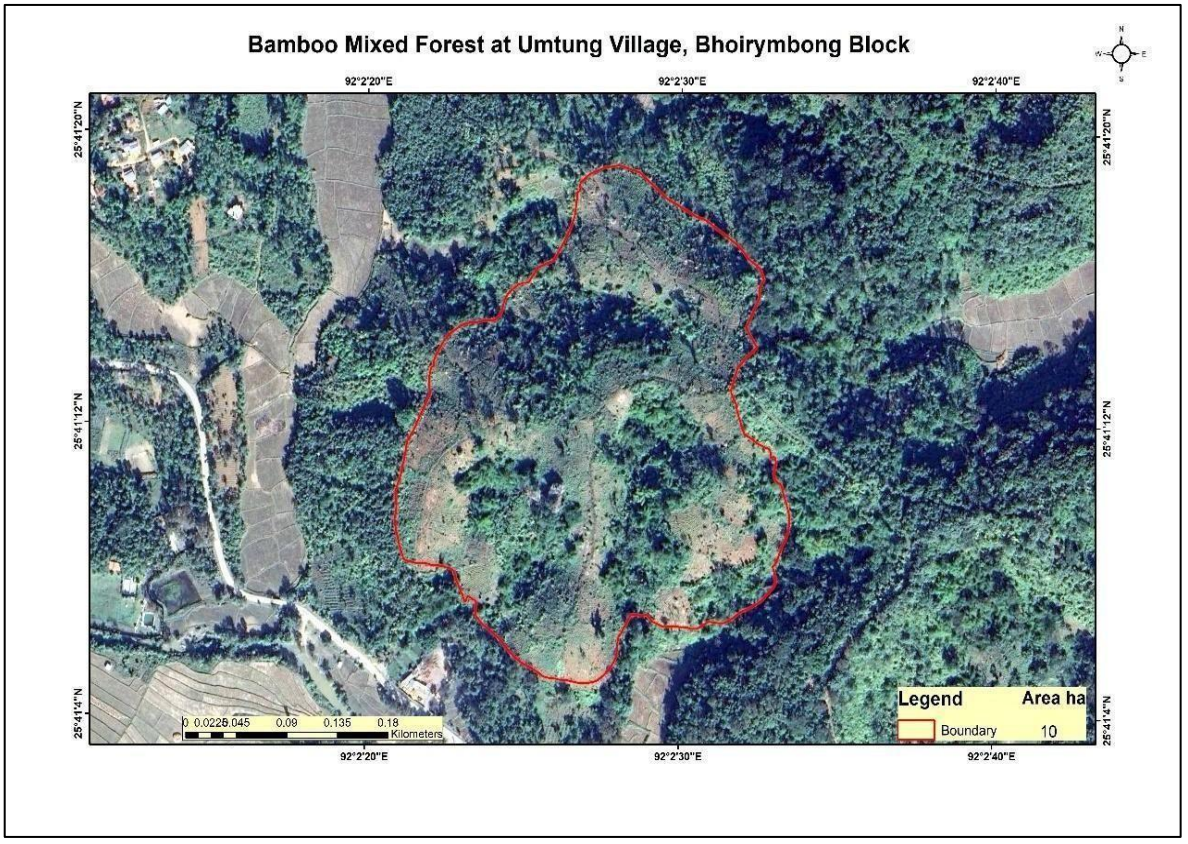


Figure 10:Satellite image overlaid with boundary of bamboo forest

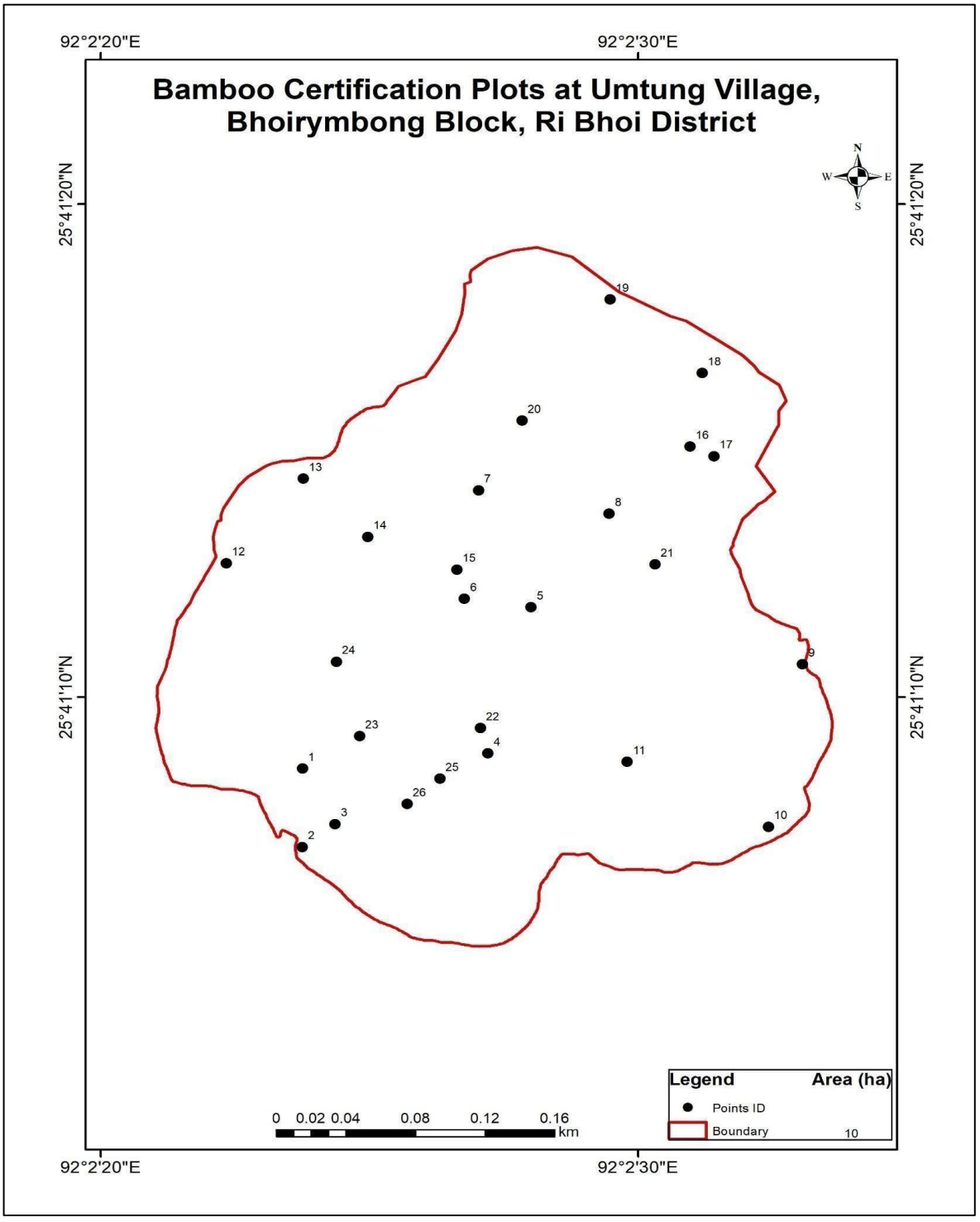


Figure 11:Bamboo Forest map showing the location of sample plots

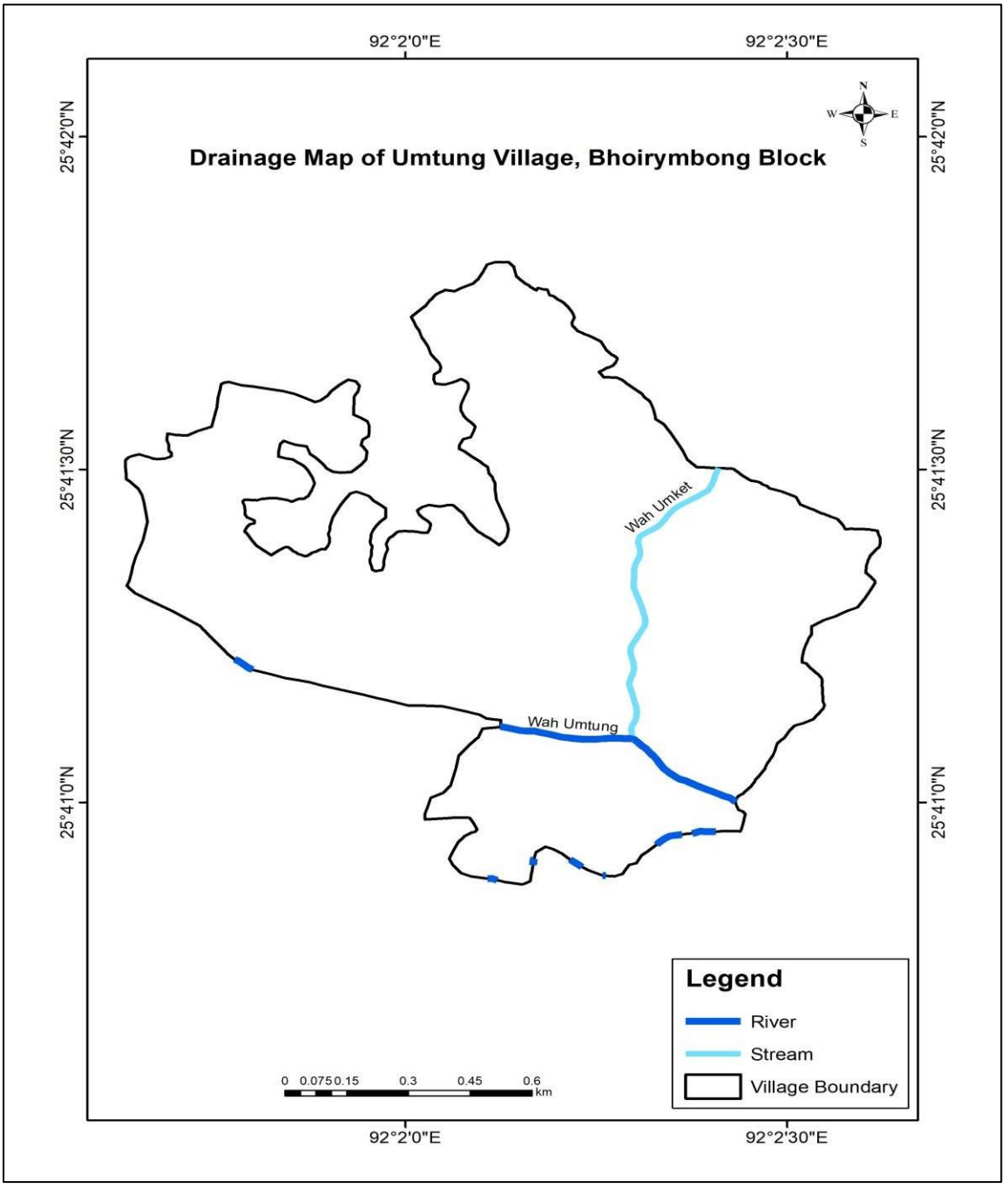


Figure 12:Drainage Map of Umtung Village



Figure 13:Bamboo resource inventory exercise at Umtung village

Annexure– I Self-Declaration of Commitment to FSC Principle

Annexure– I

SELF-DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT TO FSC PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA

I Banaribha Syiemsad, the undersigned smallholder, hereby declare my long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria, and to comply with the relevant FSC Policies and Standards within my Management Unit.

By voluntarily participating in the FSC certification process, I confirm my intent to manage my forest resources responsibly, in accordance with the values and guidelines set forth by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). This includes environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and economic viability as outlined in the FSC system.

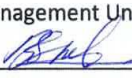
This commitment shall be documented in a publicly available format and made freely accessible to all stakeholders, including community members, regulatory agencies, and certifying bodies.

By choosing to participate in the FSC certification system, the smallholder confirms their conformity with the requirements of this criterion and their active role in supporting sustainable and responsible forest management.

This declaration affirms that I understand and accept the obligations and benefits of being part of the FSC system, and that I will continue to operate in conformity with its requirements.

Name of Smallholder: Banaribha Syiemsad

Location of Management Unit: Umtung

Signature: 

Contact Information: 9383052495.

ID Proof Details: 3110 1719 0216

Date: 19-05-2026

Annexure– I

SELF-DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT TO FSC PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA

I Bashongdar - Wanwiang, the undersigned smallholder, hereby declare my long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria, and to comply with the relevant FSC Policies and Standards within my Management Unit.

By voluntarily participating in the FSC certification process, I confirm my intent to manage my forest resources responsibly, in accordance with the values and guidelines set forth by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). This includes environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and economic viability as outlined in the FSC system.

This commitment shall be documented in a publicly available format and made freely accessible to all stakeholders, including community members, regulatory agencies, and certifying bodies.

By choosing to participate in the FSC certification system, the smallholder confirms their conformity with the requirements of this criterion and their active role in supporting sustainable and responsible forest management.

This declaration affirms that I understand and accept the obligations and benefits of being part of the FSC system, and that I will continue to operate in conformity with its requirements.

Name of Smallholder: Bashongdar. Wanwiang

Location of Management Unit: Umtung

Signature: Bij

Contact Information: 9366972973

ID Proof Details: ZRL00609417

Date: 19-05-2026

Annexure– I

SELF-DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT TO FSC PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA

I Darihun Sejemsad, the undersigned smallholder, hereby declare my long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria, and to comply with the relevant FSC Policies and Standards within my Management Unit.

By voluntarily participating in the FSC certification process, I confirm my intent to manage my forest resources responsibly, in accordance with the values and guidelines set forth by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). This includes environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and economic viability as outlined in the FSC system.

This commitment shall be documented in a publicly available format and made freely accessible to all stakeholders, including community members, regulatory agencies, and certifying bodies.

By choosing to participate in the FSC certification system, the smallholder confirms their conformity with the requirements of this criterion and their active role in supporting sustainable and responsible forest management.

This declaration affirms that I understand and accept the obligations and benefits of being part of the FSC system, and that I will continue to operate in conformity with its requirements.

Name of Smallholder: Darihun Sejemsad

Location of Management Unit: Umtung

Signature: Dad

Contact Information: 9233488711

ID Proof Details: ZRL0031047

Date: 19-05-2026

Annexure– I

SELF-DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT TO FSC PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA

I Elbert Rymbai, the undersigned smallholder, hereby declare my long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria, and to comply with the relevant FSC Policies and Standards within my Management Unit.

By voluntarily participating in the FSC certification process, I confirm my intent to manage my forest resources responsibly, in accordance with the values and guidelines set forth by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). This includes environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and economic viability as outlined in the FSC system.

This commitment shall be documented in a publicly available format and made freely accessible to all stakeholders, including community members, regulatory agencies, and certifying bodies.

By choosing to participate in the FSC certification system, the smallholder confirms their conformity with the requirements of this criterion and their active role in supporting sustainable and responsible forest management.

This declaration affirms that I understand and accept the obligations and benefits of being part of the FSC system, and that I will continue to operate in conformity with its requirements.

Name of Smallholder: Elbert Rymbai

Location of Management Unit: Umtlung

Signature: _____

Contact Information: 9612912637

ID Proof Details: DHJ0579623

Date: 19-05-2025

Annexure– I

SELF-DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT TO FSC PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA

I Rodrick. L. Nongkait, the undersigned smallholder, hereby declare my long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria, and to comply with the relevant FSC Policies and Standards within my Management Unit.

By voluntarily participating in the FSC certification process, I confirm my intent to manage my forest resources responsibly, in accordance with the values and guidelines set forth by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). This includes environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and economic viability as outlined in the FSC system.

This commitment shall be documented in a publicly available format and made freely accessible to all stakeholders, including community members, regulatory agencies, and certifying bodies.

By choosing to participate in the FSC certification system, the smallholder confirms their conformity with the requirements of this criterion and their active role in supporting sustainable and responsible forest management.

This declaration affirms that I understand and accept the obligations and benefits of being part of the FSC system, and that I will continue to operate in conformity with its requirements.

Name of Smallholder: Rodrick. L. Nongkait

Location of Management Unit: Umtung

Signature: R. Lyngdoh.

Contact Information: 8731957292

ID Proof Details: DHJ0574988

Date: 19-05-2026

CHAPTER 5

Judicial System in the Khasi and Jaintia Districts : The Rules of 1953

Detailed provisions as to the judicial system in the Khasi and Jaintia areas are to be found in the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills Autonomous District (Administration of Justice) Rules, 1953, hereinafter referred to as Rules. Topic-wise discussion follows.

Constitution of courts

There are three classes of courts[1] in the areas within the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills Autonomous District, to be constituted by the District Council, for the trial of suits and cases between the parties all of whom belong to a scheduled tribe or tribes, other than suits and cases to which the provisions of sub-paragraph (1) of paragraph 5 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution apply. These courts are—

(i) Village Courts.
(ii) Subordinate District Council Courts and Additional Subordinate District Council Courts.
(iii) District Council Court.

Village Courts

There is a Village Court for each village. Each Village Court shall be composed of—

(a) the recognised *dolloi, sirdar, siem raid (bhoi), basan, lyngdoh, lyngskor* or headman of the village ;
(b) not less than two, and not more than six, members as may be decided and elected by the majority of the village adults in an

1. Rule 4.

Annexure– III Meghalaya Societies Registration Act, 1983

Postal Registration No. N. E.—771/2006-2008



The Gazette of Meghalaya

EXTRAORDINARY

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

No. 49 Shillong, Friday, May 29, 2015, 8th Jyaistha, 1937 (S. E.)

PART-IV

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
LAW (B) DEPARTMENT
ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR

NOTIFICATION

The 29th May, 2015.

No.LL(B)39/2015/21.–The Meghalaya Local Administration (Empowerement of Traditional Institutions, Traditional Bodies and Headmen in Governance and Public Delivery System) Ordinance, 2015 is hereby published for general information.

MEGHALAYA ORDINANCE NO. 1 OF 2015.

Promulgated by the Governor on the 29th May, 2015.
Published in the Gazette of Meghalaya Extra-Ordinary issue dated 29th May, 2015.

THE MEGHALAYA LOCAL ADMINISTRATION (EMPOWERMENT OF TRADITIONAL INSTITUTIONS, TRADITIONAL BODIES AND HEADMEN IN GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC DELIVERY SYSTEM) ORDINANCE, 2015.

An

Ordinance

to provide for association of traditional institutions, traditional bodies and headmen in the Government developmental programmes and delivery of public services, wherever required and to the extent necessary, in the interest of public at large and for matters connected therewith.

Annexure – IV Sample Plot Data

Sl. No.	Plot ID	Latitude	Longitude	Type of Land	Approx. Size of Clump (m)	Species		Number of Culm in different Girth Classes			
						Local Name	Botanical Name	1-15 (cm)	15-30 (cm)	>30 (cm)	Total
1	1	25.685706	92.039931	Community	5.15	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	31	26	0	57
2	2	25.685263	92.03993	Community	4.6	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	19	16	0	35
3	3	25.685393	92.040099	Community	5.25	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	33	19	0	52
4	4	25.685792	92.040889	Community	5.8	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	16	0	0	16
5	5	25.686616	92.041112	Community	6.5	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	79	4	0	83
6	5	25.686616	92.041112	Community	3.75	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	22	8	0	30
7	5	25.686616	92.041112	Community	3.3	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	17	1	0	18
8	6	25.686664	92.040768	Community	5.4	Shken	*Bambusa jaintiana*	21	10	0	31
9	6	25.686664	92.040768	Community	4.75	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	11	15	0	26
10	6	25.686664	92.040768	Community	2.75	Shken	*Bambusa jaintiana*	11	2	0	13
11	7	25.687276	92.040841	Community	4.9	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	9	11	9	29
12	7	25.687276	92.040841	Community	3.85	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	18	27	5	50
13	8	25.687144	92.041516	Community	5.75	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	8	6	11	25
14	8	25.687144	92.041516	Community	4.95	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	13	8	6	27
15	8	25.687144	92.041516	Community	3.05	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	12	37	0	49
16	8	25.687144	92.041516	Community	2.05	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	14	2	0	16
17	8	25.687144	92.041516	Community	3.4	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	8	14	0	22
18	9	25.686294	92.042515	Community	5.5	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	26	29	8	63
19	9	25.686294	92.042515	Community	2.25	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	0	16	0	16
20	10	25.685378	92.042341	Community	5.15	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	0	13	8	21
21	11	25.685744	92.041609	Community	2.15	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	0	6	7	13
22	11	25.685744	92.041609	Community	2.7	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	0	9	6	15
23	11	25.685744	92.041609	Community	2.6	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	0	6	2	8
24	11	25.685744	92.041609	Community	3.1	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	0	17	2	19
25	13	25.687342	92.039936	Community	2.45	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	15	0	0	15
26	13	25.687342	92.039936	Community	0.62	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	7	0	0	7

27	13	25.687342	92.039936	Community	1.18	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	7	1	0	8
28	14	25.687013	92.040268	Community	3.25	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	4	11	0	15
29	14	25.687013	92.040268	Community	3.25	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	15	13	0	28
30	14	25.687013	92.040268	Community	1.95	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	8	8	0	16
31	14	25.687013	92.040268	Community	1.9	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	10	4	0	14
32	15	25.686828	92.040729	Community	4.55	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	32	22	0	54
33	15	25.686828	92.040729	Community	4.7	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	36	32	0	68
34	15	25.686828	92.040729	Community	4.35	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	0	51	0	51
35	15	25.686828	92.040729	Community	1.9	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	4	6	0	10
36	15	25.686828	92.040729	Community	1.45	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	8	4	0	12
37	15	25.686828	92.040729	Community	4.7	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	0	22	19	41
38	15	25.686828	92.040729	Community	3.7	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	0	12	10	22
39	15	25.686828	92.040729	Community	2.7	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	5	0	9	14
40	15	25.686828	92.040729	Community	3.95	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	0	28	0	28
41	15	25.686828	92.040729	Community	2.15	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	0	9	9	18
42	18	25.687938	92.041998	Community	3.05	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	21	33	0	54
43	18	25.687938	92.041998	Community	2.25	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	0	27	0	27
44	18	25.687938	92.041998	Community	1.6	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	29	0	0	29
45	18	25.687938	92.041998	Community	0.3	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	21	0	0	21
46	18	25.687938	92.041998	Community	0.85	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	7	2	0	9
47	18	25.687938	92.041998	Community	2.55	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	26	0	0	26
48	18	25.687938	92.041998	Community	3.35	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	15	30	2	47
49	18	25.687938	92.041998	Community	0.6	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	10	8	0	18
50	18	25.687938	92.041998	Community	3.45	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	22	0	0	22
51	18	25.687938	92.041998	Community	4.43	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	16	14	12	42
52	19	25.688353	92.041521	Community	0.7	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	17	0	0	17
53	19	25.688353	92.041521	Community	0.8	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	15	0	0	15
54	19	25.688353	92.041521	Community	3.2	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	27	8	0	35
55	20	25.687669	92.041067	Community	2.05	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	27	0	0	27

56	20	25.687669	92.041067	Community	3.2	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	31	0	0	31
57	20	25.687669	92.041067	Community	1.5	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	15	3	0	18
58	20	25.687669	92.041067	Community	3.4	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	0	20	8	28
59	20	25.687669	92.041067	Community	2.2	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	31	0	0	31
60	21	25.686858	92.041753	Community	3.5	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	25	18	0	43
61	21	25.686858	92.041753	Community	1.8	Rngai	*Bambusa tulda*	15	6	0	21
62	21	25.686858	92.041753	Community	2.1	Rngai	*Bambusa tulda*	12	6	0	18
63	22	25.685934	92.040852	Community	3.1	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	16	30	0	46
64	22	25.685934	92.040852	Community	2.7	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	9	7	0	16
65	23	25.685889	92.040226	Community	0.65	Shken	*Bambusa jaintiana*	10	0	0	10
66	23	25.685889	92.040226	Community	0.85	Shken	*Bambusa jaintiana*	19	0	0	19
67	23	25.685889	92.040226	Community	1.75	Shken	*Bambusa jaintiana*	22	0	0	22
68	24	25.686309	92.040106	Community	5.55	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	25	61	0	86
69	24	25.686309	92.040106	Community	3.4	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	22	32	0	54
70	24	25.686309	92.040106	Community	2.15	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	6	11	1	18
71	24	25.686309	92.040106	Community	4.65	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	31	26	0	57
72	24	25.686309	92.040106	Community	4.3	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	13	35	0	48
73	24	25.686309	92.040106	Community	2.2	Siej Khlaw	*Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*	0	17	0	17

Annexure– V Trainings

1. Health and safety practices to protect workers

1. The Organization shall implement health and safety practices to protect workers from occupational safety and health hazards. These practices shall, proportionate to scale, intensity and risk of management activities, meet or exceed the recommendations of the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work.
2. The smallholder and his or her temporary workers, employees, family members, business associates and volunteers have safe work practices.
3. The smallholder and his or her temporary workers, employees, family members, business associates and volunteers use appropriate safety equipment.
4. The smallholder or their named representative keeps a record of any accidents.
5. The smallholder changes practices that have caused, or will likely cause, accidents in the smallholder's forest.
6. If hunting or other dangerous activities are part of the forestry activities, the smallholder identifies the dangerous activities and implements safety measures to protect the public where hunting or other dangerous activities related to NTFP activities are carried out

2. Health and safety practices to effectively implement the Management Plan

1. The Organization shall demonstrate that workers have job-specific training and supervision to safely and effectively implement the Management Plan and all management activities.
2. The smallholder provides training and supervision so that temporary workers, employees, family members, business associates and volunteers can work safely and effectively in the tasks that they do.

3. Training on Implementation of the Bamboo Forest Management Plan (BFMP): Horseshoe Method

4. Training on Environmental Stewardship, covering key areas such as:

- Biodiversity Conservation
- Water Resource Management
- Soil Protection
- Forest Fire Prevention and Control

5. Training on the Management Plan

1. The Organization shall make publicly available a summary of the management plan free of charge. Excluding confidential information, other relevant components of the management plan shall be made available to affected stakeholders on request, and at cost of reproduction and handling.
2. If requested, the smallholder provides public information from the management plan to a person who requests it at no cost to the requestor.

6. Training of stakeholders for engaging in the Management Plan

1. The Organization shall, proportionate to scale, intensity and risk of management activities, proactively and transparently engage affected stakeholders in its management planning and monitoring processes, and shall engage interested stakeholders on request.
2. The smallholder informs affected and interested stakeholders about management planning and monitoring.
3. If requested, the smallholder carries out culturally appropriate consultation with affected and interested stakeholders.

7. Training on Monitoring Activities

1. The Organization Hall make publicly available a summary of the results of monitoring free of charge, excluding confidential information.
2. If requested, the smallholder provides results of monitoring to a person who requests them at no cost to the requestor.

Annexure– VI Control Form for Regulating Bamboo Yield

Control Form for Regulating Bamboo Yield								
Village Name: **Year:**		**Block:** **Area of Bamboo Forest: ha**			**District:**			
Sl. No	**Total prescribed yield for the whole year (Number of culms & weight)**	**Harvesting**					**Number of culms destroyed due to fire or illegal felling etc.**	**Remarks**
		Date	**Number of culms harvested**	**Cumulative number of culms harvested**	**Approximate weight of harvested culms**	**Total number of culms harvested in year & estimated weight**		
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								

Annexure– VII Self-Declaration on the Conservation and Restoration

Annexure– VII

SELF-DECLARATION ON THE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF NATIVE ECOSYSTEMS

I Banritha Syiemsad, the undersigned smallholder, hereby declare my commitment to the responsible management of forest resources within my Management Unit in alignment with the principles of conservation and ecosystem restoration.

In alignment with FSC requirements, I confirm that:

I support the identification and protection of representative sample areas of native ecosystems within the broader landscape in which my bamboo forest is situated.

However, I acknowledge that the area of my bamboo forest is relatively small and therefore cannot independently contain a representative native ecosystem. Despite this, I remain committed to participating in broader conservation initiatives as part of a collective effort.

This commitment reflects my dedication to sustainable forest management that maintains ecological balance, supports biodiversity, and upholds the long-term health of the environment.

Name of Smallholder: Banritha Syiemsad

Location of Management Unit: Umtung

Signature: Bsad

Contact Information: 9388052493

ID Proof Details: 3110 1719 0216

Date: 19-05-2026

Annexure– VII

SELF-DECLARATION ON THE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF NATIVE ECOSYSTEMS

I Bashongdar- Wanaiang, the undersigned smallholder, hereby declare my commitment to the responsible management of forest resources within my Management Unit in alignment with the principles of conservation and ecosystem restoration.

In alignment with FSC requirements, I confirm that:

I support the identification and protection of representative sample areas of native ecosystems within the broader landscape in which my bamboo forest is situated.

However, I acknowledge that the area of my bamboo forest is relatively small and therefore cannot independently contain a representative native ecosystem. Despite this, I remain committed to participating in broader conservation initiatives as part of a collective effort.

This commitment reflects my dedication to sustainable forest management that maintains ecological balance, supports biodiversity, and upholds the long-term health of the environment.

Name of Smallholder: Bashongdar- Wanaiang

Location of Management Unit: Umtung

Signature: Bij

Contact Information: 9366972973

ID Proof Details: ZRL0060947

Date: 19-05-2026

Annexure– VII

SELF-DECLARATION ON THE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF NATIVE ECOSYSTEMS

I Darihun Sjemsad, the undersigned smallholder, hereby declare my commitment to the responsible management of forest resources within my Management Unit in alignment with the principles of conservation and ecosystem restoration.

In alignment with FSC requirements, I confirm that:

I support the identification and protection of representative sample areas of native ecosystems within the broader landscape in which my bamboo forest is situated.

However, I acknowledge that the area of my bamboo forest is relatively small and therefore cannot independently contain a representative native ecosystem. Despite this, I remain committed to participating in broader conservation initiatives as part of a collective effort.

This commitment reflects my dedication to sustainable forest management that maintains ecological balance, supports biodiversity, and upholds the long-term health of the environment.

Name of Smallholder: Darihun Sjemsad

Location of Management Unit: Umtung

Signature: Dsad

Contact Information: 9233488711

ID Proof Details: ZRL0031047

Date: 19-05-2026

Annexure– VII

SELF-DECLARATION ON THE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF NATIVE ECOSYSTEMS

I Elbert Rymbai, the undersigned smallholder, hereby declare my commitment to the responsible management of forest resources within my Management Unit in alignment with the principles of conservation and ecosystem restoration.

In alignment with FSC requirements, I confirm that:

I support the identification and protection of representative sample areas of native ecosystems within the broader landscape in which my bamboo forest is situated.

However, I acknowledge that the area of my bamboo forest is relatively small and therefore cannot independently contain a representative native ecosystem. Despite this, I remain committed to participating in broader conservation initiatives as part of a collective effort.

This commitment reflects my dedication to sustainable forest management that maintains ecological balance, supports biodiversity, and upholds the long-term health of the environment.

Name of Smallholder: Elbert Rymbai

Location of Management Unit: Umtung

Signature:

Contact Information: 9612912637

ID Proof Details: DHJ0579623

Date: 19-05-2026

Annexure– VII

SELF-DECLARATION ON THE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF NATIVE ECOSYSTEMS

I Rodrick L. Nongkait, the undersigned smallholder, hereby declare my commitment to the responsible management of forest resources within my Management Unit in alignment with the principles of conservation and ecosystem restoration.

In alignment with FSC requirements, I confirm that:

I support the identification and protection of representative sample areas of native ecosystems within the broader landscape in which my bamboo forest is situated.

However, I acknowledge that the area of my bamboo forest is relatively small and therefore cannot independently contain a representative native ecosystem. Despite this, I remain committed to participating in broader conservation initiatives as part of a collective effort.

This commitment reflects my dedication to sustainable forest management that maintains ecological balance, supports biodiversity, and upholds the long-term health of the environment.

Name of Smallholder: Rodrick L. Nongkait

Location of Management Unit: Umtung

Signature: R. Lyngdoh.

Contact Information: 8731957292

ID Proof Details: DHJ0574988

Date: 19-05-2026

Annexure– VIII Self-Declaration on the Protection of Native Species

Annexure– VIII

SELF-DECLARATION ON THE PROTECTION OF NATIVE SPECIES AND BIODIVERSITY

I Bamribha Syiemsad, the undersigned smallholder, affirm my commitment to the conservation of native species, their natural genotypes, and the overall biological diversity within my forest area.

In accordance with FSC requirements, I declare that:

I have implemented appropriate measures to control hunting, fishing, trapping, and collection activities within my forest area to prevent any harm to native species and their habitats.

These measures aim to ensure the continued existence of naturally occurring native species and to avoid any loss of biodiversity.

This declaration reflects my dedication to responsible and ecologically sound forest management that safeguards biodiversity for current and future generations.

Name of Smallholder: Bamribha Syiemsad

Location of Management Unit: Umtung

Signature: Bsad

Contact Information: 9883052493

ID Proof Details: 3110 1719 0216

Date: 19-05-2026

Annexure– VIII

SELF-DECLARATION ON THE PROTECTION OF NATIVE SPECIES AND BIODIVERSITY

I Bashongdar - Lowai the undersigned smallholder, affirm my commitment to the conservation of native species, their natural genotypes, and the overall biological diversity within my forest area.

In accordance with FSC requirements, I declare that:

I have implemented appropriate measures to control hunting, fishing, trapping, and collection activities within my forest area to prevent any harm to native species and their habitats.

These measures aim to ensure the continued existence of naturally occurring native species and to avoid any loss of biodiversity.

This declaration reflects my dedication to responsible and ecologically sound forest management that safeguards biodiversity for current and future generations.

Name of Smallholder: Bashongdar - Lowaiang

Location of Management Unit: Umtung

Signature: _____

Contact Information: 9366972973

ID Proof Details: ZRL0060947

Date: 19-05-2026

Annexure– VIII

SELF-DECLARATION ON THE PROTECTION OF NATIVE SPECIES AND BIODIVERSITY

I Darihun Sjamsad, the undersigned smallholder, affirm my commitment to the conservation of native species, their natural genotypes, and the overall biological diversity within my forest area.

In accordance with FSC requirements, I declare that:

I have implemented appropriate measures to control hunting, fishing, trapping, and collection activities within my forest area to prevent any harm to native species and their habitats.

These measures aim to ensure the continued existence of naturally occurring native species and to avoid any loss of biodiversity.

This declaration reflects my dedication to responsible and ecologically sound forest management that safeguards biodiversity for current and future generations.

Name of Smallholder: Darihun Sjamsad

Location of Management Unit: Untung

Signature: Dsad

Contact Information: 9233488711

ID Proof Details: ZRL0031047

Date: 19-05-2026

Annexure– VIII

SELF-DECLARATION ON THE PROTECTION OF NATIVE SPECIES AND BIODIVERSITY

I Elbert Rymbai, the undersigned smallholder, affirm my commitment to the conservation of native species, their natural genotypes, and the overall biological diversity within my forest area.

In accordance with FSC requirements, I declare that:

I have implemented appropriate measures to control hunting, fishing, trapping, and collection activities within my forest area to prevent any harm to native species and their habitats.

These measures aim to ensure the continued existence of naturally occurring native species and to avoid any loss of biodiversity.

This declaration reflects my dedication to responsible and ecologically sound forest management that safeguards biodiversity for current and future generations.

Name of Smallholder: Elbert Rymbai

Location of Management Unit: Untung

Signature: _____

Contact Information: 9612912637

ID Proof Details: DHJ0579823

Date: 19-05-2026

Annexure– VIII

SELF-DECLARATION ON THE PROTECTION OF NATIVE SPECIES AND BIODIVERSITY

I Rodziek L Nongkait, the undersigned smallholder, affirm my commitment to the conservation of native species, their natural genotypes, and the overall biological diversity within my forest area.

In accordance with FSC requirements, I declare that:

I have implemented appropriate measures to control hunting, fishing, trapping, and collection activities within my forest area to prevent any harm to native species and their habitats.

These measures aim to ensure the continued existence of naturally occurring native species and to avoid any loss of biodiversity.

This declaration reflects my dedication to responsible and ecologically sound forest management that safeguards biodiversity for current and future generations.

Name of Smallholder: Rodziek L Nongkait

Location of Management Unit: Umtung

Signature: R. Lyngdoh

Contact Information: 8731957292

ID Proof Details: DHJ0574988

Date: 19-05-2026

Annexure – IX List of Animals, Birds, Tree Species, NTFPs present in Umtung

List of Animals, Birds, Tree Species, NTFPs present in Umtung						
Sl. No.	**Animals**	**Sl. No.**	**Birds**	**Sl. No.**	**Name of Tree Species in Local Language**	**NTFPs**
1	Monkey	1	Bulbul	1	*Schima wallichii* (Dieng Ngan)	Bamboo
2	Wildcat	2	Sparrow (Sim phriat)	2	*Emblica officinalis (Dieng Soh mylleng)*	Mushroom
3	Rabbit	3	Hoopoe (Sim sohphoh)	3	*Castanopsis sp. (Dieng sohot.)*	*Emblica officinalis* (Goose berries/ Sohmylleng)
4	Jackal	4	Minivet (Sim syiem)	4	*Toona ciliata (Dieng Sali)*	*Myrica esculenta* (Bayberry/ Sohphie)
5	Bsong	5	Woodpecker (Sim puhdieng)	5	*Erythrina indica (Dieng Song)*	Bamboo shoot (Lungsiej)
6	Squirrel	6	Rapati (Green color)	6	*Michelia champaca (Dieng Rai)*	Cinnamon
7	Rodent (Common)	7	Lara	7	*Rhus javanica (Dieng Sohma)*	Wild Banana
8	Yellow throated marten (Phyllad)	8	Owl (Dkhoh)	8	*Ficus sp. (Dieng Jri)*	*Rhus chinensis* (Soh Ma)
9	Bsein Sawryndang, Bsein Jyrngam	9	Jungle fowl (Syiar khlaw)	9	*Pinus kesiya (Dieng Kseh)*	*Meyna laxiflora* (Sohmatan-Medicinal)
10	Viper, cobra			10	*Citrus reticulata (Dieng Syiem)*	Jack fruit (Sohphan)
11	Gecko (Khniangap-ing)			11	*Gmelina arborea (Dieng Laphiang)*	*Castanopsis indica* (Soh-Ot rit)
				12	*Albizzia odoratissima (Dieng Kreit)*	Silver berry (Sohshang)
				13	*(Dieng Rting)*	Carambola (Sohpyrshong)
				14	*Quercus derbata (DiengSai)*	
				15	*Macaranga denticulata (Dieng Latar)*	
				16	*Callicarpa arborea (DiengLakhit)*	
				17	*Sterculia villlosa (Dieng Tluh)*	

Annexure - X List of BFMC Members

LIST OF BMFC MEMBERS OF UMTUNG VILLAGE

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Area (ha)
1	Banribha Syiemsad	President	
2	Mr. Elbert Rymbai	Secretary	2.5
3	Mrs. Darihun Syiemsad	Treasurer	2.5
4	Mr. Rodrick Lyngdoh	Member	2.5
5	Bashongdor Wanniang	Member	2.5

Annexure - XI Transect Survey Form

Village …….. District ……

Date …….. Area of the Village ……

Sl No	Observation on Plastic Pollution	Burning of Solid Waste	Open Grazing	Manufacturing Units	Water Pollution	Unauthorized falling of trees	Rare threatened Endangered and Endemic Species	Soil Erosion	Sites of Cultural Importance
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									

Annexure - XII Non-Conversion of Natural Forest

Non-Conversion of Natural Forest

Resolution

Date: 19-05-2026
Village: Umtung Village
Block: Bhoirymbong Block
District: Ri Bhoi, Meghalaya

It is certified that no conversion of natural forest has taken place in the identified bamboo forest after November 1994. The forest has remained intact for the last 33 years.

Signatures

Headman (Village Authority):
Name: Banribha Syiemlieh
Signature: _____
Official Seal: _____ Rangbah Shnong Umtung, Raid Umket Khyrim Syiemship Ri Bhoi District

---

Members Present:

1. Name: Rodrick L. Nongrait
   Signature: _____
2. Name: Elbert Ryntathiang
   Signature: _____
3. Name: Bashalang Wahlang
   Signature: _____
4. Name: Darihun Syiemlieh
   Signature: _____
5. Name: Iohkynti Kharumnuid
   Signature: _____

Place: Umtung
Date: 19-05-2026

Annexure - XIII Stakeholder Consultation

Resolution

Date: 25th October 2025
Village: Umtung Village
Block: Bhoirymbong C & RD block
District: Ri-Bhoi District, Meghalaya

In a meeting held on 4th June 2025, the Village Council (Dorbar Shnong) along with other stakeholders discussed and passed the resolution in connection with sustainable bamboo forest management and certification which are as follows:

1. Formation of Bamboo Forest Management Committee (BFMC):

The Dorbar Shnong hereby expresses its willingness and commitment to manage bamboo forests sustainably by forming a **Bamboo Forest Management Committee (BFMC)**.

The VBMC will consist of 5 – 8 members:

- President
- Secretary
- Assistance Secretary
- And 4 Executive Members (including at least 2 female members)

Members will be representatives from the village households, Self Help Groups (SHGs), and bamboo-based enterprise if any.

The committee shall be entrusted with the responsibility to:

a) Ensure sustainable management of bamboo forest according to the approved Bamboo Forest Management Plan.

b) Oversee and coordinate all bamboo-related management and certification activities in the Village.

c) Collaborate & cooperate with the facilitating agency, government departments, and certification bodies.

d) Ensure transparent decision-making and equitable benefit-sharing from bamboo resources.

2. Commitment to Environmental Safeguard:

The Dorbar Shnong and BFMC commit to adhere to the principles of environmental and social safeguards, including:

i. Avoidance of adverse impacts on biodiversity, water sources, and ecological balance.

ii. Promotion of practices that align with **climate resilience, ecosystem restoration, and carbon sequestration goals.**

iii. Take all measures to prevent forest fires; if forest fires take place, then make all efforts to control the same at the earliest.

iv. Any bamboo-based enterprise/industry established in the Village should not cause air, water, or sound pollution. There should not be discharge of any harmful chemicals/substances to the water or soil.

3. Commitment to Social Safeguard:

i. Protection of traditional and cultural rights of all community members.

ii. Ensuring inclusive participation of **vulnerable groups like women, and people with disabilities** in decision-making and benefit-sharing.

iii. Women will be given equal representation in the activities of bamboo management, utilization enterprise etc.

iv. BFMC will ensure equitable sharing of benefits from bamboo forest or its utilization.

4. Creating Awareness

i. The BFMC will mobilise community members about the importance of bamboo management, rule and regulation laid out by them, certification, and its benefit in the village.

ii. Fire safety tips.

iii. Sustainable bamboo harvesting.

iv. Environmental and Ecology.

5. Free, prior and informed consent (EPIC)

All the community members of the Umtung village have been explained about the objectives and management activities including certification. All their queries have also been answered to their satisfaction. All this was done in the meeting held on the 25th October 2025at Umtung village. At the end of the meeting the community members offer their consent to the bamboo management initiatives in the village and also to the certification.

Signature	**Signature**	**Signature**
Headman	Secretary	Treasurer
Umtung *Dorbar Shnong*	Umtung *Dorbar Shnong*	Umtung *Dorbar Shnong*

Dorbah Shnong
Umtung, Raid Umket
Khyrim Syiemship
RI Bhoi District

Dorbah Shnong Umtung
Raid Umket
Khyrim Syiemship
RI-Bhoi District

1. Marcius Marwein - M.
2. Rodrick Lyngdoh - R. Lyngdoh.
3. Tyllibor Mukhim - T. mukhim
4. Flestar Makdoh - F makdoh
5. Rapbor Moksha - [illegible]
6. Trudella K. Ummuid - [illegible]
7. Darikum Syiem Sad - [illegible]
8. Bashongnia K. Mudai - B.K. Mudai
9. Sisimai K. Ummuid - [illegible]
10. Bashong dor Wanniang - [illegible]

DORBAR SHNONG UMTUNG

SHNAT RAID UMKET, KHYRIM SYIEMSHIP
Office address : Umtung, B.P.O. Bhoirymbong
Ri Bhoi District , Meghalaya, 793116
Email- dorbarumtung@ymail.com
Contact No. 8414926216,

DSU/RS/2024-27/

Date: 27/11/2025

KA JINGIATEH KULAR

Ka Dorbar Shnong Umtung ha ka jingialang ba lah long ha ka 27/11/2025,ha ing Dorbar jong ka Shnong, ka lah ioh ban jied bad sam bynta ia saw ngut ki nongshong shnong ia u khlaw jong ka Shnong, ban long kum ki trai ban peit ban khmih ia ka jing pyntreikam ha ka ba ia dei bad ka project thung bad sumar ia ki siej ba lah wan lyngba ka Bamboo Mission, ki ne ki saw ngut ki long 1-Darihun Syiemsad 2- Elbert Rymbai 3- Rodrick Lyngdoh 4- Bashongdor Wanniang.ki ne ki saw ngut ki hap ban bud ia kine ki kyndon ki ba ka Shnong ka lah buh na ka bynta ka ne ka project:-

1. Ki ne ki saw ngut kim lah ban kamtrai ia ka jaka ba lah ai bynta ia ki.
2. Ki no ki no ki jing mih na ka ne ka project kan long kat kum ka jing tip jong ka BFMC.
3. Yn siew bai nong ia ka sngi trei jong ki.
4. Kin long tang ki nong shah kyrteng, ban bud ia ki kyndon jong ka ne ka project.
5. Ka rai ba khatduh kan long hi ha ka Shnong bad ka BFMC.

Ban pynskhem ia ka ne ka jing ia kut kan long da ka ba ia soi kti lang ki ne ki saw ngut bad ki nong ia lam jong ka Committee kumne ha rum: -

1-Darihun Syiemsad **2-Elbert Rymbai** **3-Rodrick Lyngdoh** **4-Bashongdor Wanniang**

DORBAR SHNONG UMTUNG

SHNAT RAID UMKET, KHYRIM SYIEMSHIP

Office address : Umtung, B.P.O. Bhoirymbong
Ri Bhoi District , Meghalaya, 793116
Email- dorbarumtung@gmail.com
Contact No. 8414926216,

DSU/RS/2024-27/ **Date: 27/11/2025**

RESOLUTION

Ka Dorbar Shnong Umtung ha ka jing ialang ba lah long ha ka 27/11/2025,ha ing Dorbar Shnong, ka la thung ia ka wei ka Committee ban peit kyrpang ia ki Siej ki ba don ha khlaw Shnong, ka ta ka Committee ka dei ka Bamboo Forest management Committee(BFMC), la thung ia ka ne ka Committee ha dien ba lah ioh jing pynshai na ki briew ba dei peit ia ka ne ka bynta bad ruh da ka jingiarai bad mynjur lang jong u paidbah ba bun, ha shwa ban pynwai ia ka jingialang la jied ruh ia ki dkhot Committee ki ba long kumne ha rum :-

1-Banribha Syiemsad	President	-
2-Elbert Rymbai	Secretary	-
3-Bashongdor Wanniang	Treasurer	-
4-Rodrick Lyngdoh	Member	-
5-Darihun Syiemsad	Member	-
6-Denis Kharbani	Member	-
7-Darisha Lyngdoh	Member	-
8-Wanborlang Malngngiang	Member	-
9-Pius Lyngdoh	Member	-
10-Iohkynti Kharumnuid	Member	-
11-Lucas Sad	Member	-
12-Dalanstar Shadap	Member	-

List of participants present in the stakeholder meeting with Umtung Village Council held on the 25th October 2025

Sl. No.	Name	Male(M)/ Female(F)	Designation	Signature
1	Banribha Syiemsad	M	Rangbah Shnong	
2	Elbert Rymbai	M	Secretary Shnong	
3	Marius Marwein	M	Secretary VEC	
4	Rodrick L. Nonglait	M.		R. Lyngdoh
5	Lidia Lyngdoh	F		L. Lyngdoh
6	Honita Lanare	F		H. Lanare
7	Lucia Lyngdoh	F		L. Lyngdoh
8	Darihun Syiemsad	F		
9	Iohkynti Kharkrumuid	F		
10	Bashongdor Wanniang	F		
11	Trastela Kharumuid	F		
12	Sisimai Kharumuid	F		
13	Pasuklang Kharmudai	F		
14	Lucas Sad	M		L Sad
15	Dapbiang Kharmudai	F		D.K
16	Konida Lyngdoh	F		K. Lyngdoh
17	Bashongdor Kharmudai	F		
18	Bashongnia Kharmudai	F		B.K Mudai
19	Ekslar. mokdoh	M		E mokdoh
20	~~Dap~~ Rapborlang MOKSha	M		
21	Tyllisor Mukhim	M		Mukhim
22	Phibadahun Kumuid	F		
23	Kiewniti Kharmudai	F		
24	Baniing. Kharmudai.	F		B.K. mudai.



Stakeholder Consultation for bamboo Forest Management Plan in Umtung village 25th October 2025

Annexure - XIV Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
CoE (NRM & SL)-MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY (MBMA)
AND
BAMBOO FOREST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (BFMC) OF Umtung
VILLAGE FOR FSC CERTIFICATION OF BAMBOO FORESTS IN MEGHALAYA

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is made and entered into as of 19th May day of May 2026 ("Effective Date"):

BY AND BETWEEN

1. **Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA)-Centre of Excellence for NRM & Sustainable Livelihoods (CoE-NRM & SL)** referred to as the "Group Entity/ MBMA-CoE (NRM & SL)".

   AND

2. The **Bamboo Forest Management Committee (BFMC)**, also functioning as the Resource Management Unit (RMU) for the designated area of 10 ha, hereinafter referred to as the "BFMC/ RMU".

1. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Meghalaya is endowed with rich bamboo resources, covering a significant portion of its geographical area. This resource is deeply intertwined with the indigenous communities of the State and although it is a rapidly renewable resource, increasing market demands has led to unscientific harvesting, over-exploitation and supply chain fragmentation. In this context, it becomes essential for a globally recognized, community-aligned framework to validate sustainable management practices so that the resource may serve as a long-term benefit to the communities.

By introducing Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification to Meghalaya's bamboo sector, the State can systematically transition from unregulated extraction to a scientifically backed, traceable, and economically rewarding green value chain

The primary objective of this MoU is to establish a collaboration for achieving and maintaining FSC Certification for Bamboo Forests in Meghalaya. This agreement outlines the mandatory internal monitoring, audit protocols, and governance standards required to ensure strict compliance with FSC sustainability principles.

2. SCOPE OF COLLABORATION UNDER THE MOU

i. The Group Entity (GE) will guide, supervise, train and hand-hold the RMU in all matters related to FSC Certification and follow-up actions.

Rangbah Shnong
Umtung, Raid Umket
Khyrim Syiemship
Ri Bhoi District

ii. Conduct a routine internal monitoring audit of the BFMC/ RMU at least once every calendar year.

iii. Conducting comprehensive, district-wise resource mapping to identify key commercial bamboo species and estimate harvestable stock.

iv. Establish clear guidelines to align FSC requirements with community-centric land tenure systems, identifying community forests, clan lands and village council-managed areas.

v. Adapting the FSC Standard for India to the local socio-ecological context of Meghalaya, ensuring zero conversion of natural forests and the preservation of biodiversity.

vi. Mapping the custody chain from the bamboo forests to the transit point for collection by the vendors.

vii. Internal monitoring officials designated by CoE (NRM & SL)-MBMA will conduct comprehensive site visits to evaluate operational compliance.

3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1. CoE (NRM & SL)-MBMA/ Group Entity shall:

i. The GE acts as the body that officially holds and renew the Forest Management (FM) certificates on behalf of the Resource Management Units (RMUs).

ii. The GE is responsible for ensuring that all group members comply with FSC RFSS-Forest Management standards.

iii. It shall act as the liaison between the BFMC/ RMU, the certification body (FSC) and other outside agencies.

iv. Thoroughly conduct internal audits, document and report on the following parameters during their routine visit:

   a. Maintain written procedures for managing the group and a public policy of commitment to FSC Principles and Criteria.

   b. Verify whether all bamboo harvesting and forest management activities are strictly aligned with the approved management plan.

   c. Assess the implementation of all community rights protections, fair labour practices and occupational safety measures for forest workers.

   d. Inspect account books, vouchers and financial ledgers to ensure proper, transparent bookkeeping is actively maintained.

   e. Verify that biodiversity protection measures, soil and water conservation efforts and waste management practices are observed as prescribed.

Rangbah Shnong
Umtung, Raid Umket
Khyrim Syiemship
Ri Bhoi District

f. Review whether any complaints regarding malpractice (such as illegal felling of bamboo, financial discrepancies, unauthorized trade, etc.) have been received, and evaluate if the BFMC took timely, suitable corrective action.

g. Inspect general office registers, verify transit/ depot check-gate management workflows, and assess the implementation of training schedules for local communities.

h. Translates technical standard requirements into everyday language, training farmers on sustainable harvesting techniques, ecosystem preservation, and safety standards.

i. Help in formulating long-term forest management and environmental impact assessment strategies tailored to local bamboo species.

3.2. BFMC / RMU

To maintain eligibility within the FSC certification cluster, the BFMC/ RMU agrees to:

i. The RMU is expected to follow all the directions and advisories issued by CoE.

ii. The RMU is responsible to implement sustainable forest management practices on behalf of members, ensuring compliance with FSC Principles and Criteria.

iii. Ensure that their management units are not included in any other FSC certificate.

iv. Maintain updated registers for accounts, grievance logs, and daily forest operations.

v. Provide unrestricted access to forest sites, maintain administrative records and provide necessary support during internal audit by the GE.

vi. Act immediately on any non-compliance or corrective action requests issued by the GE.

vii. Implementing a documented, regular (annual) monitoring and internal audit system to verify that management units continue to comply with FSC requirements.

viii. Establishing a tracking system to ensure that non-certified material is not mixed with FSC-certified material, and that all bamboo can be traced from the forest to the point of first sale.

ix. Ensuring all forest workers and community members operating in the RMU receive necessary training, supervision, and safety protection.

x. Maintain records of forest management activities, including harvest volumes, planting, and sales of FSC-certified material, for at least five years.

xi. Actively engaging with local communities and other affected parties to identify and resolve conflicts over tenure, use rights, and management impacts.

Rangbah Shnong
Umtung, Raid Umket
Khyrim Syiemship
Ri Bhoi District

xii. Report every matter whenever deviations from the BFMP or any significant matter in connection with certification process.

4. BREACH AND MALPRACTICE CONSEQUENCES

If an internal audit reveals evidence of unaddressed malpractice—including but not limited to financial discrepancies, ecological damage or standard safety violations—the GE reserves the right to recommend corrective measures or even suspend the specific BFMC/ RMU from the FSC Certification Group until formal remediation is verified and in the extreme terminate the MoU.

5. VALIDITY AND AMENDMENTS

This MoU shall remain valid for a period of **10 (ten) years** from the date of signing. It may be amended, modified, or extended at any time by the mutual written consent of both Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have signed this Memorandum of Understanding on the day, month, and year first above written.

6. SIGNATURES AND WITNESSES

For the Group Entity (MBMA-CoE):

Name: Dr. Lavinia Mary Dkhar.

Designation: Technical Specialist, CoE, MBDA/MBMA

Signature: _____

For the BFMC/ RMU:

Name: Banribha Syiemsad

Designation: _____

Signature: _____

Rangbah Shnong
Umtung, Raid Umket
Khyrim Syiemship
Ri Bhoi District

In the presence of Witnesses:

In the presence of:

1. Banribha Syiemsad Bsad.
2. Iohkynti Kharkrumniid Ikhd

Annexure – XV Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) High Conservation Value (HCV)

PARTICIPATORY RURAL APPRAISAL (PRA)
HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE (HCV)

VILLAGE: UMTUNG **BLOCK: BHOI-RYMBONG**
DISTRICT: RI-BHOI DISTRICT **DATE: 24/07/26**
NO. OF PARTICIPANTS: 5

A. Rare, Endangered, Threatened Plant Species

1. Are there any rare or endangered plant species found in the village forest or its vicinity?
   No, the village does not have a rare or native plant species.
2. What are their local names?
   No
3. Where are these plants usually found?
   Not applicable
4. Are these plants becoming less common over time?
   Not applicable
5. Are there any rare orchid species in the forest?
   Orchid species found in the forest is *Rhynchostylis retusa* (Tdongmiaw, pink flowers)
6. Are there any medicinal plants that have become difficult to find over a period of time?
   Sying khmoh (Ginger)

B. Wildlife and Biodiversity

1. Which bird species are commonly found?
   Commonly found bird species include:
   i. Bulbul
   ii. Sparrow (Sim phriat)
   iii. Hoopoe (Sim sohphoh)
   iv. Minivet (Sim syiem)
   v. Woodpecker (Sim puhdieng)
   vi. Rapati (Green color)
   vii. Lara
   viii. Owl (Dkhoh)
   ix. Jungle fowl (Syiar khlaw)
2. Are there any rare or migratory birds?
   Rare or Migratory bird species include:
   i. Kingfisher (rare)
   ii. Eagle (migratory)
   iii. Kite (Kbeit, rare)
3. Which wild mammals occur in the forest?
   i. Monkey
   ii. Wildcat
   iii. Rabbit
   iv. Jackal
   v. Bsong
   vi. Squirrel

vii. Rodent (Common)
viii. Yellow throated marten (Phyllad)

4. Are snakes, monitor lizards, or geckos present?
   i. Bsein Sawryndang, Bsein Jyrngam
   ii. Viper, cobra
   iii. Gecko: Khniangap-ing
5. Have you sighted wildlife or observed footprints, scats, burrows, nests, or feeding signs?

Observed signs include:

i. Scats: Jungle cat (rarely)
ii. Nests: Lyngkhur, Lara)

6. Are there wildlife corridors or important habitats?
   No

C. Cultural and Historical Sites

1. Are there any sacred forests, sacred groves, or sacred trees? And how old these trees are?

Sacred forests, sacred groves, or sacred trees have not been reported to be present in the village.

2. Are there old churches, monuments, memorial stones, or traditional worship places or remains of them?

Monoliths are present in 4 places. These structures are an integral part of the indigenous religion of the Khasi community.

3. Approximately how old are these sites?

More than 100 years

D. Water Resources

1. Are there natural springs, streams, rivers, or wetlands?
   i. Springs (8): Khlieh Diengsai, Jrisohtungkhong, Lum Matlang, Wahnup, Khlieh kroh Ski Khlieh, Pynthor Lyngdoh, Weikulai, Jingtongum Umtung
   ii. Stream (3): Shka Umket (Sohliya), Wahduid kroh Ski, Mawlong
   iii. Rivers (2): Wah Umlew, Wahumtung
2. Are they perennial or seasonal?

Perennial

3. Have any springs dried up?

No scarcity

4. Are there water scarcity or water quality issues?

No scarcity

E. Invasive Alien Species

1. Are invasive plant species present?

Yes

2. Which invasive species are common?
   i. *Lantana camara* (Lantana saw)
   ii. *Mikania micrantha* (Kynbat ripuji)
   iii. *Chromolaena odorata* (Lantana lieh)

iv. Synrow eitksew

3. Do they affect bamboo growth or forest regeneration?
   No

F. Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs)

1. Which NTFPs are collected?
   i. Bamboo
   ii. Mushroom
   iii. *Emblica officinalis* (Goose berries/ Sohmylleng)
   iv. *Myrica esculenta* (Bayberry/ Sohphie)
   v. Bamboo shoot (Lungsiej)
   vi. Cinnamon
   vii. Wild Banana
   viii. *Rhus chinensis* (Soh Ma)
   ix. *Meyna laxiflora* (Sohmatan-Medicinal)
   x. Jack fruit (Sohphan)
   xi. *Castanopsis indica* (Soh-Ot rit)
   xii. Silver berry (Sohshang)
   xiii. Carambola (Sohpyrshong)
2. Which of them are most important for household income?
   i. Mushroom
   ii. Silver berry (Sohshang)
   iii. Carambola (Sohpyrshong)
   iv. *Emblica officinalis* (Goose berries/ Sohmylleng)
3. Has availability declined over time?
   The availability is dependent on the climate

G. Hunting and Wildlife Pressure

1. Does hunting occur in the village?

Hunting in the village has been prohibited.

2. Are there village regulations on hunting?

Yes, there are strict hunting regulations in place which have been made aware to the community members through signboards and general information/ awareness during village council meetings.

H. Additional Environmental Concerns

1. Are there landslides, soil erosion, gullies, illegal logging, or mining impacts?
   Minor soil erosion and landslide occurs in riverside during rainfall
2. Is bamboo regeneration satisfactory?
   Yes, bamboo regeneration is satisfactory.

I. Community Conservation Practices

1. Does the village protect certain forest areas?
   Yes. The village actively protects designated forest areas, with conservation measures regularly monitored and enforced by Village Council members in collaboration with the community.
2. Are there community conservation rules?
   Yes. There are strict hunting regulations in place, prohibition of illegal felling of timber, protection of water bodies, etc.
3. How are these rules enforced?
   These rules and regulations are actively enforced through the coordinated efforts of the community members and overseen by the Village Headman and the Village Council.

Regular community meetings have also served as a means for collective decision-making and enforcement.

The rules and regulations are made public through public notices, informational signboards, and routine awareness programs to ensure all community members are aware.

J. Community Conservation Practices (Pollution & Management)

1. Is there any kind of pollution in the village?
   No
2. If so, what are the causes?
   N/A
3. Do you see that Bamboo Forest Management in the village will cause any kind of Environmental damage in the village?
   No

Remarks:

Washing cars in water streams 5 years back was restricted by the Dorbar. Now it has stopped.

Annexure - XVI Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) Environment Impact (EI)

PARTICIPATORY RURAL APPRAISAL (PRA)

ENVIRONMENT IMPACT (EI)

VILLAGE: UMTUNG **BLOCK: BHOI-RYMBONG**

DISTRICT: RI-BHOI DISTRICT **DATE: 24/07/26**

NO. OF PARTICIPANTS: 5

A. Soil Erosion

1. Is soil erosion observed?

Yes. Soil erosion is observed, primarily during the monsoon season.

2. Main causes
   Heavy rainfall is the main cause of soil erosion.
3. Conservation measures
   NA

B. Mining/Quarrying

1. Mining/ quarrying present?
   Mining/ quarrying activities does not take place in the village.
2. Type
   NA
3. Environmental impacts
   NA
4. Legal/ Illegal
   NA

C. Forest Fire

1. Occurred in last 5 years?
   There were two occurrences of forest fires during 2024 – 2025.
2. Frequency
   2 times during the last 5 years
3. Area burnt
   No information.
4. Causes
   Accidental fire spread originating from neighbouring/adjacent forest lands.
5. Resources damaged
   No information.
6. Fire prevention measures
   Fire control lines

D. Landslide

1. Landslide occurrence
   Landslides were not reported to occur in the village
2. Frequency
   NA

3. Causes
   NA
4. Damage
   NA
5. Mitigation measures
   NA

E. Shifting Cultivation

1. Whether practiced?
   Shifting cultivation is practiced in the village.
2. Number of Households involved
   Approximate number of households that are engaged in Shifting Cultivation is below 10
3. Area (ha)
   Area covered under shifting cultivation is approximately 10,000 sq ft (Approx)

4. Current cycle in years
   2-3 years cycle.
5. Previous cycle
   NA
6. Environmental impacts
   No environmental impacts were reported by the community members.

F. Any Plant/Small-scale Industries

1. Type
   There are no small-scale industries in the village.
2. Industries
   NA
3. Employment
   NA
4. Environmental impacts
   NA

G. Charcoal Making

1. Whether practiced?
   Charcoal making is not practice in the village.
2. Households involved
   NA
3. People involved
   NA
4. Raw material source
   NA
5. Production
   NA
6. Market
   NA

7. Environmental impacts
   NA

H. Overall Environmental Impact Ranking

Issue	High	Medium	Low	None
Soil erosion			√	
Mining				√
Quarrying				√
Forest fire			√	
Landslide			√	
Shifting cultivation			√	
Small industries				√
Charcoal making				√

I. Community Recommendations

a. Major environmental problems
   Slash and burn
b. Suggested mitigation measures
   Transition to organic farming
c. Organizations to support
   MBDA, PHE (Swachh Bharat Mission)
d. Other suggestions
   No response

Annexure – XVII Photos of Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) fieldwork for High Conservation Value (HCV)








t3-4


t2-2

Water bodies in Umtung village



Khlieh diengsai (Spring)



Umtung Stream

The Centre of Excellence (CoE) for
Natural Resource Management & Sustainable
Livelihoods (NRM & SL) under the
Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA)
is an institution devoted for strengthening
Natural Resource Management (NRM)
in Meghalaya and beyond.

Visit us: https://coenrm.megplanning.gov.in/

email: coe.nrm.meg@gmail.com

Centre of Excellence
for NRM and
Sustainable Livelihoods

MBMA