



ORGANIZATION PROFILE

1. Name of the NGO

KA SYNJUK KI HIMA ARLIANG WAH -UMIAM MAWPHLANG WELFARE SOCIETY

(Literally means: “The Federation of Indigenous Traditional Institutions on River Umiyam Sub-Watershed Welfare Society”)

2. Acronym

KSKHAW-UMWS

3. Contact Person

Mr. Tambor Lyngdoh, Secretary/Chief Community Facilitator

4. Registered Address

Head Quarter: Mawphlang,

P.O. Mawphlang, East Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya, 793121. (India)

5. Communication Address:

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Fax : Nil.

6. Founders

- a. Mr. Tambor Lyngdoh, (Former Secretary of Hima Mawphlang Lyngdohship 1996-2011) as a Secretary of Hima Mawphlang Lyngdohship convened and initiated series of meetings with the Indigenous Traditional Heads in the area of the Sub-watershed, creating the joint protection group on Forest Conservation in the Umiyam Sub-Watershed pursuant for REDD+. This has resulted in the establishment of the Federation of indigenous traditional institutions who collaborate to protect the environment and raise the socio-economic livelihood of the participating communities.
- b. Mr. N. K.Lyngdoh, Lyngdoh (Traditional Head) of Hima Mawphlang.

The Federation is registered under the name of ‘**Ka Synjuk Ki Hima Arliang Wah- Umiyam Mawphlang Welfare Society**’ (KSKHAW-UMWS), a non-government, non-profit and charitable organization. With its headquarters at Mawphlang, KSKHAW-UMWS is a Federation of ten (10) indigenous traditional institutions (*Synjuk Hima*), pursuing payments for ecosystem services (PES) including forest carbon sales and carbon credits through the United Nations climate change strategy, *Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD)*. The project is registered and certified through Plan Vivo, UK in 2013 as the Khasi Hills REDD+ Project, Meghalaya, India. It is the 1st community-based REDD project in the North Eastern states and of India as well.

The Synjuk (Federation) consists of the representatives of 10 Hima (i.e. Syiem, Lyngdoh, and Sirdar) and two (2) representatives each from each Hima to form the Executive Committee, including Office bearers. The 10 Hima are – Mawphlang Lyngdohship, Lyngiong Lyngdohship, Sohra Syiemship, Myllem Syiemship, Nongspung Syiemship, Nongkhlaw Syiemship, Nonglwai Sirdarship, Pamsanngut Sirdarship, Mawbeh Sirdarship and Laitkroh Sirdarship. The General Committee consists of all the Headmen, Matabor and Sordar from all the 62 Villages, including few selected women and youths from each Hima.

7. Year of Establishment

15th June, 2011

8. Registration Number

E.16/5/of 2010/274

9. Mission

KSKHAW-UMWS mission is: “To improve forest conservation and management, helping increase family and community socio-economic livelihoods through community participation and leadership.”

10. Vision: “United the minds of the Indigenous Traditional Institution heads for better governance toward sustainable Natural Resources management and better livelihood approach to the community and household level through convergence.”

A. Forestry: The following activities have been carried out:

- i. Preservation of bio-diversity through rehabilitation of epiphytes, critical and endangered amphibians in the Sacred Forests, etc.
- ii. Fire control in the Community Forest Areas through controlled burning (traditional Khasi method of fire control burning known as **(Sain Ding)**, creation of fire lines and erection of sign boards.
- iii. Afforestation through public participation in the private and community degraded areas.
- iv. Control of stone quarrying, fuel wood collection, charcoal making, grazing and mining.
- v. Awareness of (a) forest protection and conservation (b) socio-economic and income generating activities (c) convergence of GOI (government of India) schemes and projects.
- vi. Revival of Sacred Forests and Community Forests in different indigenous tradition institutions of the Khasi Hills through awareness and campaign.

B. Socio-economic: The following activities have been carried out:

- (i) Formation and creation of women-run Self-Help Groups (SHGs).
- (ii) Formation and creation of Farmers Club
- (iii) Capacity building and training for bookkeeping and maintenance of accounts for Local Working Committees (LWCs) at cluster level, SHGs, Farmers Club.
- (iv) Profiling of 62 project villages.
- (v) Household Socio-economic survey.
- (vi) PRA exercises carried out in all 62 villages.

C. REDD+ or Carbon Sales: A brief summary of the REDD+ and Carbon Sale Project

- a. The Khasi Hills REDD+ Project is designed to slow, halt and hopefully reversed the loss of community forest cover in the project area by providing institutional, natural resource management and financial incentives. Furthermore, it represents a durable strategy to address the extreme poverty facing rural families through alternative sources of income and capacity building. It seeks to demonstrate how the Khasi people, coordinated by their own institutions can implement REDD+ activities that control drivers of deforestation and thereby restore forest cover, improve watershed hydrology and make a transition to more sustainable agricultural systems which are climate resilient.
- b. The project was certified under The Plan Vivo Foundation standards, a Scotland, UK- based carbon registry, March, 31st 2013 (see appendix 1) that addresses both environmental and socio-economic indicators and is recognized internationally.
- c. The 62 participating communities are coordinated by 22 Local Working Committees (LWCs). Each LWC supports natural resource management activities of 2 to 5 villages. The communities and LWC's are assisted by a trained village staff, who act as community facilitators, extension workers and youth volunteers, and by the community forestry Federation (Ka Synjuk Ki Hima Arliang Wah Umiam-Mawphlang Welfare Society), who oversee and coordinate the REDD+ project.

11. **Objectives:** To preserve forest and environment and to restore bio-diversity, etc. through:

- a) Assisted natural regeneration (ANR). Conservation of existing community forest.
- b) Protection and conservation of wildlife habitat.
- c) Soil and water conservation measures.
- d) Improvement of community living standards through income generating activities (IGAs).
- e) Awareness of environmental protection and sanitation, and to explore ways and means to upheld ecological balances.
- f) Holding meetings: youth conference, seminars, question and answer sessions, awareness campaigns, sports, etc. to highlight contemporary problems and issues that youth and the general public face today especially in the field of environment and ecology.
- g) Helping introduce and hold trainings on modern techniques of farming, horticulture, Silvi-culture, forestry management, etc.
- h) Find out ways and means to obtain funds from National & International NGOs, Companies or Government agencies in order to fund project activities.

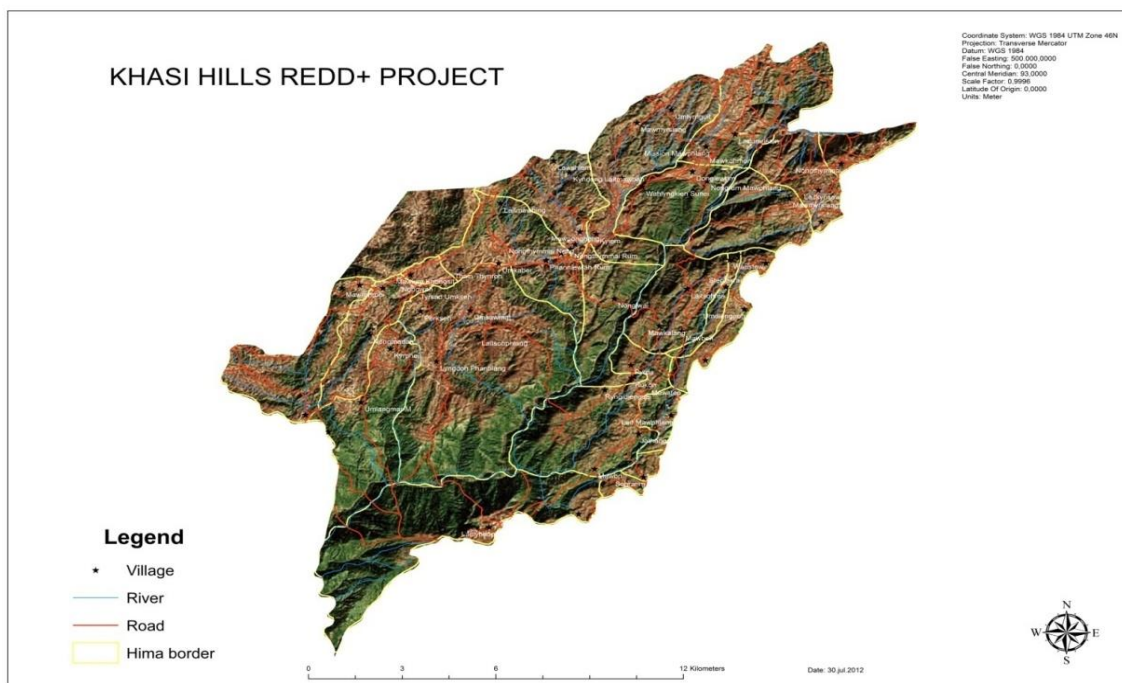
12. Area of Work

The project area is situated in the Sub-Watershed of Umiam River, East Khasi Hills District of Meghalaya, India. The project area largely covers the Umiam River sub-watershed, one of the major rivers of the state and an important water source for the state capital, Shillong. (see appendix 2.)The main objective of KSKHAW-UMWS is to protect and conserve the community forests and to improve the socio-economic livelihood of the community. The area of operation of the project is in the Sub-Watershed of Umiam Mawphlang River within the East Khasi Hills District of Meghalaya.

12. Khasi Hills REDD+ Project (KHRPP)

Brief History and Achievements

Forest initiatives began in 2007 as a payment for ecosystem services (PES) pilot project known as Wahlyngkien Mawphlang Pilot Project funded by Community Forestry International, (CFI) based in California, USA. This project was carried out to protect and conserve the forests of the clustered villages of Wahlyngkien Ramklang and Wahlyngkien Sunei in Hima Mawphlang Lyngdohship. With the successful implementation of the project in Mawphlang, other adjacent Hima also wanted to join in conserving the forests and natural resources. Therefore, this golden opportunity was taken into consideration, and through the enthusiastic and dynamic leadership of the present Secretary of the Society, Mr. Tambor Lyngdoh who is also the Chief Community Facilitator (CCF) a series of meetings were convened. Mr. Lyngdoh went to meet all Hima heads and holds meetings in Mawphlang, Mawngap, Mawjriong, Tyrsad and Sohrarim to describe the project and the possibility of expanding it to include other Hima through a new initiative under the United Nations' climate change program called REDD.



In 2011, Mr. Tambor Lyngdoh, as the Convener, organized a series of Awareness Programmes relating this new issue of conserving forests through REDD. The REDD concept was discussed at a series of village meetings in the Uiam Sub-Watershed between March – June, 2011. Photographs of regenerated forest area (see appendix 3.) were shown and success stories of the pilot project were described to all villages. As the project continued, it was decided to include the expertise from experienced persons to help in Livelihood as well as an NRM Specialist experience with Forest activities on Natural Resources and Forest Management.

Eventually, through consensus from the Heads of the 10 Hima, it was resolved to unite as a strong community federation to jointly conserve the natural resources and environment through mitigating activities and by uplifting the socio-economic and livelihood condition of the community. Therefore, a society was formed, officially established and registered on the 15th June, 2011. This federation of 10 Hima, Ka Synjuk Ki Hima Arliang Wah-Uiam Welfare Society (KKHAW-UMWS) is now very strong

and has been able to link various SHGs, Farmers Clubs and individuals for getting training and linkages with various departments for their livelihood. KSKHAW-UMWS focuses on a bottom -up approach, through preparation of Village Management Plans to avail funding through convergence with available Government Schemes and other funding agencies. Village Management plans, Cluster Management plan and Hima plans are drafted and ready for operation. To monitor and mobilized the project, KSKHAW-UMWS selected one member from each Hima to function as a Community Facilitator and one person from each Cluster to function as an Extension worker at the cluster level besides one Youth Volunteer from each village. The Secretary of the Society also functions as the Chief Community Facilitator.

Project Activities

The main activities taken up by KSKHAW-UMWS through voluntary community participation are as follows:

a) Creation of fire lines and fire control burning (*Sainding*)

Fire lines were created around and across the potential ANR area. The main activity was to identify potential ANR areas for regeneration. Lumsophoh (160 ha) was selected by consensus because it has been basically barren for three years. It was decided to protect the area for 10 years to allow natural regeneration to occur. In this particular area, the community has undertaken the following mitigating activities: created fire-lines, coppicing, thinning, pruning, erected vegetative palisades in an area prone to landslides in the abandoned and regulated Quarry site and rehabilitated epiphytes in the Mawphlang sacred grove.

b) Awareness Programme

To ensure that this activity work properly, series of Awareness programs on forest fire hazards and forest conservation were held, , signboards on forest rules were erected, smokeless Chulas were also introduced for sustainable consumption of Fuel woods. SHGs were formed and sent for various training in RRTC, ICAR and Kyrdemkulai for various activities on poultry, piggery, dairy and various farming activities.

c) Identification of Drivers of Deforestation and adaptation of mitigating measures

Besides protection and conservation of forests in the project area, two other activities of KSKHAW-UMWS is to (1) Identify the main drivers of deforestation and its mitigating measures, especially in the catchment area of the existing Greater Shillong Water Supply Scheme (GSWSS) and the Proposed Hydel Project located downstream of River Umiam at Hima Lyngiong Lyngdohship and Sohra Syiemship. (2) Assist SHGs groups and Farmer's Clubs to establish linkages with NABARD, Integrated Basin Development Project, and other government schemes.

d) Exchange of livestock

One of the activities taken up to decrease forest degradation and destruction of root stock is to exchange of grazing livestock for stall-fed livestock that can be penned. The results from 9 families exchanging cows and 21 families exchanging goats for chickens and pigs have all been successful.

e) Convergence with Government schemes

Government institutions like ICAR and Horticulture, training, and awareness programs were piloted in the project area as well as introducing latest technology and new technique for paddy, potatoes, turmeric, temperate fruits plantation, rain water harvesting, etc.

d) Formation of SHGs and Farmers Clubs

At present, 52 SHGs and 10 Farmer's Clubs have been established within the project area and each village and cluster has drafted a management plan. It was decided to establish women SHGs for women who were below the poverty line to help increase women's empowerment and stabilize the local available resources through women-run livelihood groups.

e) PRA, Mapping and Socio- economic Plans

PRA and baseline survey of the Socio-economic livelihood of villagers in all 62 villages has been completed. Issues related to the socio-economic livelihood of the people, renovation and maintenance of drinking water sources, and identification of alternative livelihood activities of most forest dependent people have been identified.

f) Natural Management Plans & Maps

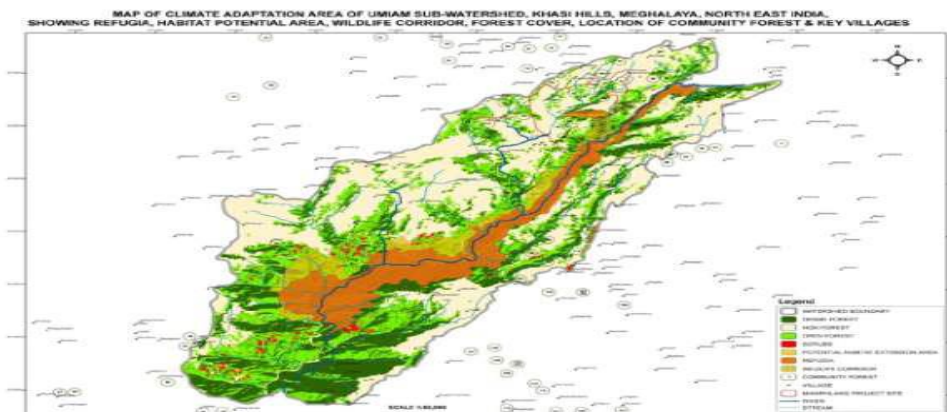
All 62 Village NRM plans and maps have been completed. All maps were done using GPS and all important land marks were demarcated with GPS, through the Community Facilitator, Extension Worker, Youth Volunteers in the presence of the Village headmen or representative. For forest conservation potential ANR area of 500.45 ha. For afforestation has been demarcated with GPS and is fully operational.

g) Revival of Sacred Groves: The Synjuk has taken an all-out effort to revive all existing Sacred groves in the project area and mobilized people to create more sacred grove in the near future by blending the Traditional concepts and Scientific facts and figures to preserve the biodiversity in a better way.

Project Summary

The present project area's size is 27,139 ha. and covers 10 indigenous traditional Khasi territories called *Hima*. It covers the entire East Khasi Hills District of Meghalaya. Within these kingdoms, the 62 participating villages are located. It is one of the first REDD+ projects in North East India, managed and implemented by indigenous communities.

- Total Project Area + Buffer Zone = 27,139 ha. In 2010
- Total Forest Cover = 15,217 ha.
- Dense forest = 9,270 ha
- Open forest = 5,947 ha



Project Target Beneficiaries

The target beneficiaries belong to the Khasi tribe which is a scheduled tribe of Meghalaya, as listed in the following table:

Male population	13,137
Female population	13,484
TOTAL POPULATION	26,621
Families-Above Poverty Line (APL)	1,544
Families-Below Poverty Line (BPL)	3,297
TOTAL NO. OF FAMILIES	4,841

Funds and activities over overseen by the project through the following organizational flow:

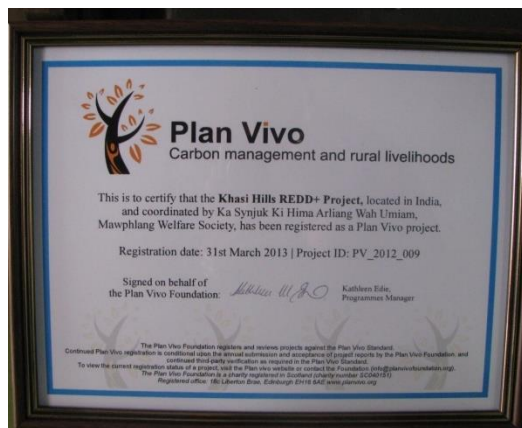
a) The Lower Working Committee or Clusters

The Project area was divided into 22 Clusters; 18 clusters or Lower Working Committee, (LWCs) representing from the Cluster of Villages sharing a common micro-watershed, numbering 2 – 5 villages in a Cluster. These are having 50% men and 50% women members representing villages under the Cluster. The LWC will oversee all assignments or funds given to Villages, SHGs and Farmer Club in their respective Clusters.

b) Four Special Package Clusters

These operate under the Special Community Facilitator. In this cluster, the same procedure for electing members as in LWCs but the activities vary alot as these are villages with big population but without any forest buffer-zone. The villages under the Special Package Clusters are overseen by their village Council under a headman, directly from the federation through the Special Community facilitator (SCF).

Appendix 1:Plan Vivo Certification. Appendix 2:Greater Shillong Water Supply Scheme:



Appendix 3: photo of Lumlaitsohphoh in the Pilot Project area.



Photo taken in May 2007



Photo taken on 1st May 2013

Photographs of a section of the Cultural Operation at Lumlaitsohphoh area taken during 2007 & 2009 showing change in vegetation (Note increase of Crown Cover)



Taken in May 2007 (N 25 26 50.7, E 91 43 59.9)



Taken in Oct 2009(N 25 26 50.7, E 91 43 59.9)

Photographs of quarrying area of the Project Site, before and after closure
(Note the resultant landslides edging towards the Sacred Grove above and subsequent stabilization of landslide area)



Taken in May 2007 (N 25 27 06.7, E 91 44 05.4)



Taken in October 2009

Ka Synjuk Ki Hima Arliang Wah - Umiam Mawphlang Welfare Society.