



## IDU MISHMI CULTURAL & LITERARY SOCIETY (IMCLS)

Apex body of Mishmi (Idu) community

Roing - 792110, Lower Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh

Registration no: SR/ITA/122 dt. 27/10/1987

Unique identifier of NGO Darpan, NITI Aayog Portal: AR/2018/0218419

www.imcls.org email: [imclsroing@gmail.com](mailto:imclsroing@gmail.com)

To  
The Deputy Commissioner cum member Empowered Committee  
Roing, Lower Dibang Valley District,  
Arunachal Pradesh

Dated Roing 2<sup>9</sup><sup>th</sup> August 2023

**Sub: Submission of proposal for realignment of Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary and parts of Dibang Forest Division**

Ref: Order No. FOR.51/Cons/2021/4301-310 dated 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Madam,

With reference to the aforementioned order number on above cited subject issued by Department of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, government of Arunachal Pradesh to examine and file interlocutory application with respect to the proposals for de-reservation of forest land in the state of Arunachal Pradesh, we therefore submit our proposal for your kind perusal.

A copy of the order no. FOR.51/Cons/2021/4301-310 dated 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023 is attached herewith as **Annexure I**.

Madam, the indigenous Idu Mishmi Community of Lower Dibang Valley and Dibang Valley have been facing historical issues by virtue of their ancestral land being notified as Reserve Forests and Protected Areas (Wildlife Sanctuaries).

Appreciating the timely initiative and intervention of the government of Arunachal Pradesh, the undersigned representatives would like to convey your good office that a joint memorandum was already submitted to the honourable Chief Minister, Shri Pema Khandu, Government of Arunachal Pradesh expressing redrawing of Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary (MWS) vide letter dated 14/02/2017.

A copy of the letter dated 14/02/2017 is attached herewith as **Annexure II**.

Thereafter, the honourable Chief Minister forwarded the same letter before the office of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) (WL&BD), Itanagar vide letter dated 14/02/2017 which was received by the PCCF vide receipt number 3938 dated 17/02/2017. In accordance with the instruction of PCCF dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017, the then DFO, Roing also responded back to PCCF, Itanagar submitting complete proposal vide Memo No. MWS/04/93/737-3 dated Roing 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017. However, there has been no outcome till date.

A copy of the CM's letter dated 14/02/2017, and report of DFO, Roing, Lower Dibang Valley are attached herewith as **Annexure III** and **IV** respectively.

That reiterating the same concern as stated in the above letter to CM we submit that nine (9) villages and four (4) blocks falls within (the core zone) of MWS, arbitrarily notified on 15<sup>th</sup> December 1980 without due legal process and compliance

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for Deputy Commissioner  
ROING



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of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 especially with regard to the rights of local communities and tribal people from the affected area.

A copy of an official Gazette Notification of MWS, above stated villages falling within MWS and a copy of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 are attached herewith as **Annexure V, VI and VII** respectively.

That the draft gazette notification of the Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of MWS was published on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 to determine the ESZ. The ESZ may only be declared once core area of the MWS is legally complied with and notified. As stated, the MWS was not legally complied with and arbitrarily notified. Therefore, we submit that now is the appropriate time to undo the historical wrong by considering practical difficulties being faced on the ground by local communities as well as interests of the government of Arunachal Pradesh. Honourable Supreme Court has already adjudicated that there can be no uniform territorial extent of one (1) km as a base line for deciding ESZ.

A copy of the draft gazette notification of MWS ESZ and honourable Supreme Court's Order are attached herewith as **Annexure VIII and IX** respectively.

That the proposed dereservation area of MWS is sought for western and south western part of it that includes heavy human population density, with no scope to expand for their basic needs.

A copy of the proposed dereserve area of MWS ESZ is attached herewith as **Annexure X**

That we would also like to appraise that office record of the department of forest, government of Arunachal Pradesh indicates several villages not just under MWS but also under the Dibang Forest Division, Lower Dibang Valley district. The Dibang Forest Division encompass Roing Reserve Forest (Plot A and B), Deopani Reserve Forest, Digaru Forest Reserve, Senzen Reserve Forest, Sirki Reserve Forest, Koronu Forest Range and Hunli Forest Range. Over several decades people have resided over these places even before the North East Frontier Agency was in its nascent stage of attaining statehood and thus have become *faith accompli*.

A copy of the Dibang Forest Division is attached herewith as **Annexure XI (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), (F), (G), (H), (I), (J) and (K)**.

That the early British expedition record in Mishmi Hills shows that Idu Mishmis had village settlement in Hunli, Desali, Elope and as far as Sissiri riverbank among others and carried out trade in Sadiya.

A copy of the Dibang Forest Division is attached herewith as **Annexure XII**.



## **IDU MISHMI CULTURAL & LITERARY SOCIETY (IMCLS)**

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That the 2011 census record yet to be updated shows that there are approximately more than Two Hundred Sixty One (261) villages with more than Seven Thousand One Hundred Seventy Three (7173) households both within MWS and Dibang Forest Division. These estimates are only partial information.

A copy of the Dibang Forest Division is attached herewith as **Annexure XIII**.

That accordingly there are also large number of voters who reside in the land falling within the MWS and Dibang Forest Division which most certainly has increased over a decade post 2011.

That instead today our community forest land have been entangled into court disputes with state over legal status of land arising out of arbitrary issuance of ejectment notice and with arbitrary demarcation of community land as state forest land thereby resulting in needless expenditure of state exchequer as well. Such matter can be addressed if historical land and livelihood rights are addressed at the earliest and arbitrary demarcation of state forest area is avoided.

Copies of documents indicating litigation in the court of law are attached herewith as **Annexure XIV**.

That we would also like to place a submission that Senzen, Sissiri, Sirki Reserve Forest was notified despite of strong opposition from Idu Mishmi community as their ancestral land was alienated against their will only to dereserve 134.20 sq.km area of land vide notification dated 25<sup>th</sup> August 2015. We request that our historical rights may kindly be addressed and such arbitrary decision making may kindly be avoided so as to dereserve other areas.

A copy of the protest letter of villagers and notification of Senzen Reserve Forest are attached herewith as **Annexure XV** and **XVI** respectively.

That the undersigned representatives and concerned stakeholders are willing to ensure consultation process to talk about land for land compensation in lieu of dereservation of western and south western part of MWS and some portions of Dibang Forest Division.

A copy of proposed land for land compensation is attached herewith as **Annexure XVII**.

Madam, in light of above stated facts, the undersigned representatives submits that for the long term social, cultural, economic, political and administrative interests *vis-à-vis* ecological concerns, the historical rights and practical difficulties being faced by the indigenous communities residing since decades be addressed when state government has also shown keen interest.

Therefore, we sincerely request you to kindly consider our submission and accordingly table it before the empower committee to file interlocutory application for de-reservation of following Reserved Forest/Protected Areas in Lower Dibang Valley District.



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1. Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary (MWS).
2. Roing Reserve Forest (Plot A and B).
3. Deopani Reserve Forest.
4. Digaru Reserve Forest.
5. Senzen Reserve Forest.
6. Koronu Forest Range
7. Hunli Forest Range.

This is for your kind consideration and necessary initiatives, please. Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Ista Pulu  
(President, IMCLS)

IDU MISHMI CULTURAL & LITERARY SOCIETY

Mr. Ere Lingi  
(General Secretary, IMCLS)

IDU MISHMI CULTURAL & LITERARY SOCIETY

Advocate Mr. Komji Lingi  
(ZPM, 2- Roing)

Komji Lingi  
Zilla Parishad Member, Roing  
Lower Dibang Valley Dist. (A.P)

Mr. Mama Miso  
(ZPM, 1- Hunli-Desali)  
Shri Mama Miso  
Z.P.M 1-Hunli-Desali  
L/Dibang Valley (A.P)

Enclosed:

Mr. Monti Linget  
(ZPM, 5- Koronu)  
Koronu CD Block  
L/Dibang Valley (A.P)

1. All Annexures from Annexure I to XVII as stated above.

Copy to:

1. The honourable MLA, Roing, Lower Dibang Valley district, Arunachal Pradesh
2. The DFO, Member of Empower Committee, Dibang Valley district, Arunachal Pradesh
3. Office copy.