

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

No. IMCLS/GOVT/MEET/RNG/10/2024/01

**Dated, 10th December 2024
Roing, LDV, A.P.**

To

Shri Wangki Lowang
The Hon'ble State Minister
Environment and Forest
Geology, Mining & Minerals
Development of Tirap, Changlang and Longding

Subject: Joint memorandum expressing serious concerns to proposed notifications Dibang Tiger Reserve, proposed National Park and rationalising of illegally notified Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary

Dear Sir,

Kindly accept our warm welcome to the Mishmi Hills. We, on behalf of the office of the Idu Mishmi Cultural and Literary Society (IMCLS), Zilla Parishad and All Idu Mishmi Students' Union (AIMSU) would like to take this opportunity to share and express their collective and serious concerns that entire Idu Mishmis face today which your predecessor the then Hon'ble State Forest Minister Shri Mama Natungji was appraised of and which the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF), Itanagar is also well aware of.

Sir, let us take this opportunity to share with you that on several occasions written correspondences were made to PCCF, Itanagar, DFOs sharing Idu Mishmi community's concerns on illegal notification of Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary (DWLS) and notification for proposed Dibang Tiger Reserve (DTR). One of the minutes of the meeting held along with officials of National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) of 16th October 2019 at Anini, Dibang Valley is enclosed herewith wherein it was clearly stated by the hon'ble MLA Dibang Valley that no issue of declaration of DTR to be taken up until finalisation of boundary issued of DWLS and complaint of people for survey of boundary needs to be taken up. Accordingly, the resolution passed was that the *matter of upgradation of DWLS as DTR will be placed before state government only after survey and demarcation of DWLS*

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BS to my (E)

This application contains 61 pages



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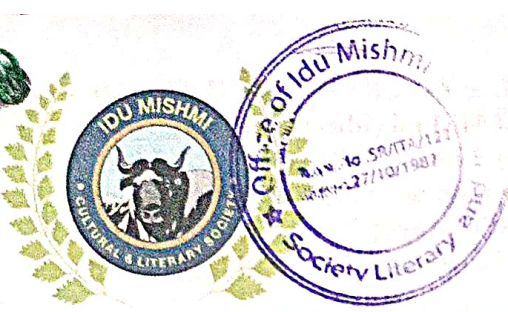
and addressing concerns of public. The notification of DWLS is in itself illegal wherein no determination of rights, resettlement carried out and compensation disbursed.

A copy of the Minutes of meeting enclosed as
Annexure I.

Sir, the critical analysis of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun based institute will show that it was and is a scientifically erroneous and in breach of ethical research practices. This faulty study was widely relied on by the NTCA and Government of Arunachal Pradesh including PCCF for proposed DTR for the reasons best known to them. The copy of objection to this study based on technical grounds was also issued to all central ministries as well as to the hon'ble state Chief Minister shri Pema Khanduji on 3rd April 2023 itself and to your predecessor's office (the then State Forest Minister).

A copy of the letter dated 23 June 2023 to hon'ble CM critiquing the WII study titled "*Establishing ecological baselines for long-term monitoring of tigers, co-predators and prey species in Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary and its adjoining landscape in Arunachal Pradesh*" is enclosed as **Annexure II.**

Sir, when PCCF, Itanagar and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) realised that the Idu Mishmi has been strongly opposing the proposed DTR, they have tried to resort to 'naming and shaming' tactics by maligning our entire community and tried to show that Idu Mishmi are not fit to customarily conserve tigers. Therefore, what they did is they tried to frame and bring entire Idu Mishmis under the ambit of tiger poachers by using the word '*local poachers*' and '*tiger was actually poached from Maliyane area of Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary*' in one of the local news media outlet namely MPL news. Whereas tigers were actually poached from Anjaw district area by non Idu Mishmi. In this



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regard a criminal case is pending before the court of law against the real accused named Tega Mapikam and others who are not Idu Mishmis and WCCB and PCCF is well aware of that. Infact, we have opposed such killing of tiger whom we consider brother and AIMSU has filed an FIR in that regard. We have verbally requested to Mr. Ngyilam Tam, Chief Wildlife Warden, PCCF to issues correct statement and reveal who the real culprit was but he choose not to cooperate.

A copy of the MPL news clip is enclosed herewith as **Annexure III**.

Sir, thereafter a letter dated 03/04/2023 was written to and received by the office of the hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Arunachal Pradesh wherein IMCLS had expressed its serious concerns regarding proposed DTR. Thankfully, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, shri Pema Khanduji facilitated a meeting on 8th May 2023 that was held between the then Hon'ble State Forest Minister, shri Mama Natungji, hon'ble MLA Dibang Valley shri Mopi Mihuji, hon'ble MLA Lower Dibang Valley shri Mutchu Mithiji, IMCLS office bearers and AIMSU office bearers. During the meeting our written submission was also made.

Copy of the representation letter dated 03/04/2023 to hon'ble CM, letter dated 8th May 2023 to State Forest Minister & copy of entire team that met with hon'ble state Forest Minister are enclosed herewith as **Annexure IV (A) & (B)** respectively.

Sir, even after that PCCF has failed to act in good faith and distorted the minutes of the meeting and forwarded it to your predecessor's office for approval and kept pending for years. We have repeatedly objected to the distortion of the minutes of the meeting and asked for fresh one. Even after lapse of more than a year of the meeting of 8th May 2023 and four letters (three to the then state forest minister, one to PCCF) written, PCCF is yet to share with us the actual amended minutes of the meeting.

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Copies of the letters dated 29/05/2023, 11/09/2023 and 20/01/2024 respectively are enclosed herewith as **Annexure V (A), (B), (C) & (D)** series.

Sir, your good office by virtue of being the State Forest Minister and Vice Chairperson of the State Board for Wildlife (SBWL) for Arunachal Pradesh under section 6 (1) (b) of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (WLPA), you have the power and right to make selection of SBWL members as well as make indigenous community oriented policies and decisions including with regards to proposed Dibang Tiger Reserve (DTR), National Park, Community Reserves, Conservation Reserves and Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary (MWS). It was in the very SBWL meetings that the decision for upgradation of the DWLS to DTR was approved, apart from in-principal and final approval accorded by MoEFCC & NTCA.

Copies of the relevant section of WLPA, 1972 and SBWL meetings dated 18th April 2017 and 29th April 2022 respectively are enclosed herewith as **Annexure VI (A) & (B)** series. Copies of letters indicating in-principal & final approval for DTR are enclosed as **Annexure VII (A) & (B)** series.

Sir, despite of expressing our repeated serious concerns, our entire Idu Mishmi community are at the receiving end through proposals for protected areas such as National Parks, Community Reserves and Conservation Reserves. This increases the risks of prohibiting exercising community and customary land rights that we are facing in DWLS and other areas under WLPA, 1972 currently. Already much of our community's land are proposed and taken for mining, dams and wildlife sanctuaries, not to forget various other Village Forest Reserves under state laws. In recent past government of India has conveyed to notify for National Park or Community Reserve or Conservation



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which if declared would fall under the jurisdiction of state and district forest departments excluding legal individual and community rights. We are concerned about such developments without our consent.

A copy of the FAC communique and decisions to government of Arunachal Pradesh are enclosed herewith as **Annexure VIII (A), (B) & (C)** series.

Sir, we have also written vide letter dated 28th August 2023 about illegal notification of Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary (MWS) to the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Roing, Lower Dibang Valley district which was never processed to the competent higher authority. The issue of illegal notification of MWS and its pending rationalisation issue including rights of various voters inhabiting the region was also conveyed to the then hon'ble state forest minister shri Mama Natungji during his visit to Dambuk on 20th January 2024. It has borne no least result.

A copy of the letter dated 28th August 2024 and image of visit with the then state forest minister are enclosed herewith as **Annexure IX (A) & (B)** respectively.

Sir, while it was assured that without consent and consultation IMCLS and of Idu Mishmi community no proposals and notification would be made, we are aware of the fact that office of PCCF is undermining IMCLS's submission and position; and PCCF is processing all works and pushing for proposed DTR even without seriously reconsidering what we have repeatedly conveyed several times. Our and community member's mere presence in any official meeting many a times is considered as if attending meeting itself amount to our consent, which we believe is unethical and illegal.

Sir, recently PCCF vide public notice dated 14th November 2024, notice no. CWL/G//25/2024/2600-607 has called for two months claims and objections to draft Community Conservation (CCA) Guidelines which if finalised would in itself become a law. In paragraph 6.2 at

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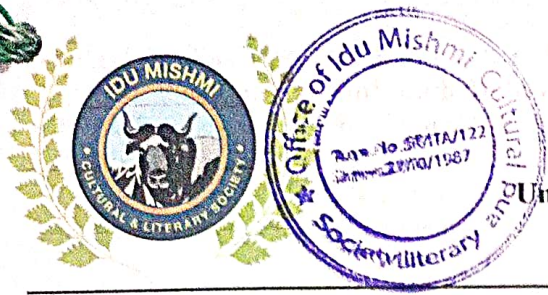
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page 9 it has provided for state government's power through Range Office and Panchayat for recognition of CCA. We appreciate that CCA has taken this great initiative. However, sir community oriented initiatives such as CCA would have no meaning if Range Forest office and forest department are given recognition power. This would defeat the very purpose of CCA.

Sir, in broader terms, may we submit before you that the state of Arunachal Pradesh do not have its own specific state centric forest laws in independent India that needs to be framed in consonance with central legislation like the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition Of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA) that would grant customary rights and individual and community land rights to do historical injustice and is contextual to the state indigenous communities. While most of the land in Arunachal Pradesh are claimed as community land by authorities, the *de facto* scenario is that due to many legal confusions communities are dragged to the court of law wherein community's rights are legally questioned. This has happened in case of Dibang Multipurpose Project (DMP) wherein NHPC has dragged Idu Mishmis to the high court to hoodwink entire indigenous communities in Arunachal Pradesh as a result. To avoid this kind of legal mischief and conflicts we request that State Government may kindly look into this issue. May we sincerely request you that a date and time may be fixed by your good office and IMCLS to conduct a state level workshop on FRA in coming days.

Therefore, the undersigned office submit this memorandum in good faith to your good office requesting your good office to kindly reconsider our grievances and concerns and may kindly direct appropriate office for necessary actions. We are ready to cooperate your office whenever requested. We hope that the consent and consultation of IMCLS and entire affected community members would be sought in letter and spirit without misleading any one in good faith. Therefore, we humbly pray for your kind support. This is for your kind consideration and necessary initiatives, please. Thank you.



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Sincere regards

**PRESIDENT
IDU MISHMI CULTURAL
& LITERARY SOCIETY**

Dr. Ista Pulu

**President
IMCLS**

Komji Lingi

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

**Mr. Komji Lingi
Zilla Parishad Member
Roing Block**

**GENERAL SECY
IDU MISHMI CULTURAL
& LITERARY SOCIETY**

Mr. Ere Lingi

**General Secretary
IMCLS**

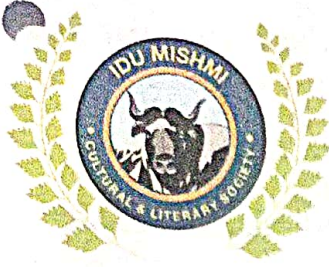
**Er. Drone Linggi
President
AIMSU - 2023-2026**

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President
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Enclosed:

- 1. As stated above



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Mr. Komji Lingi

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Roing Block

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& LITERARY SOCIETY**

Mr. Ere Lingi

General Secretary

IMCLS

**Er. Drone Linggi
President**

AIMSU, 2023-2026

Mr. Drone Linggi

President

AIMSU

Copy to:

1. The Office of the PCCF, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh
2. The President, Mishmi Welfare Society, Arunachal Pradesh
3. The IMCLS, Dibang Valley Unit, Arunachal Pradesh
4. The Arunachal Times and News Media outlets, Arunachal Pradesh
5. Office copy