



MEGHALAYA BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MBDA)

C/o Meghalaya State Housing Financing Cooperative Society, Upper Nongrim Hills,
Behind Bethany Hospital, Shillong, East Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya - 793003

(Reg No. SR/MBDA - 4/11 OF 2011)

Phone: +91-364- 2522921/2522992

Website: www.mbda.gov.in, E-mail: admin.mbda@gov.in

MBDA-3(2)/2013(vol-5)/ 1147

Dated Shillong, 5th March, 2024

From

To

Shri Augustus Suting
Public Information Officer (PIO)
Meghalaya Basin Development Authority
(MBDA)

Shri Bernard N Marak
MDC TURA, Garo Hills Autonomous District
Council

Subject: Information sought under RTI Act, 2005

Ref: No .DC/EGH/RTI-/VOL-VI/2023

Dated Baghmara, the 15th February 2024

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above please find enclosed herewith the required information sought under RTI Act 2005 for your kind information.

Encl:A/a

Your faithfully

Shri Augustus Suting
Public Information Officer
Meghalaya Basin Development Authority

Copy to:

1. Chief Executive Officer, MBDA
2. Executive Officer, MBDA/MBMA
3. Chief Financial Officer, MBDA/MBMA
4. APIO, MBDA/MBMA

Response to Request for Information under the RTI Act, 2005

Filed by: Shri. Bernard N. Marak, MDC Tura, GHADC

Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA)

1. Is MBDA a registered/ legal body? Please provide a copy of registration, constitution, notification, and validity of term.

Meghalaya Basin Development Authority is a registered Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 with Registrar of Societies, Meghalaya on 31.03.2011. Copy of Registration Certificate enclosed in **Annexure-1**.

2. How many projects/missions were taken up by MBDA in the last 5 years and in which areas? Please provide details

Works undertaken in the last 5 years are centered on sustainable entrepreneurship, community-led natural resource management, catchment area protection, and knowledge services, done via EAPs and state programs to advance rural development, create opportunities for improved livelihoods, and facilitate sustained growth at the grassroots. Each project and program cover respective blocks and districts, including those in the Garo Hills region of Meghalaya.

Brief of each EAP and program is as follows:

Project for Community Based Forest Management and Livelihoods Improvement in Meghalaya (MegLIFE)

Project for Community-based Forest Management and Livelihoods Improvement in Meghalaya (MegLIFE) is a JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) assisted Project being implemented in the State of Meghalaya. The objective of the Project is to restore and conserve natural resources within the villages by sustainable forest management, livelihood improvement, and institutional strengthening, thereby contributing to the conservation of the environment, biodiversity, and uplifting of socio-economic conditions of people in the State of Meghalaya. MegLIFE is being executed by the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA). The Project period is 2020 to 2030.

The Project is in line with "Meghalaya Vision 2030" issued by the State Government and aims at sustainable community forest management through participatory planning and inclusive growth development along with capacity development for people and institutions concerned. It will contribute to achieving the objectives of North Eastern Region Vision 2020 which aims to alleviate poverty and emphasized inclusive sustainable development through sustainable community forest management, grassroots planning by adopting participatory development approach. The Project will also contribute to achieving the objective of "Green India Mission" under the National Action Plan on Climate Change. The interventions include rejuvenation of springs/water streams, restoration of the degraded community forests, promotion of livelihoods, etc.

Coverage is in 500 villages with involvement of 39,810 households and 100,072 beneficiaries. The Project envisages to raise 22,50 ha plantations, 8 permanent nurseries, 426 community nurseries, 1,07,500 ha terracing and check dam, 5000 other soil and water conservation structures; entry point activities for 500 villages, microplanning for 500 villages, capacity development of staff and community, and income generating activities for 1000 Self Help Groups.

Project components are (1) Sustainable Forest Management, which includes planning and implementation of core forestry operations Major sub-components includes grass-root planning of forestry operations; implementation of forest working plans for individual forests units; planning and development of village level community nurseries and nurseries management by Forest and Environment Department and Autonomous District Council; soil and water conservation measures; fire

management in fire-vulnerable forest areas; development of critical infrastructure for forest management; (2) Community Development and Livelihood, which supports forest-based livelihoods and enterprise development for enhanced incomes of communities from forest management. This component is designed to provide sufficient incentives for community participation in sustainable land and water management; and (3) Institutional Strengthening, which addresses institutional capacity gaps of the implementing agencies with assessment, reforms, training and capacity building, supply of equipment, hardware and software, provision for professional support, development and implementation of social and environmental framework, knowledge management and communication, etc.

Overview of MegLIFE

Implementing Agency	Meghalaya Basin Development Authority
Funding Agency	Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
Project Aim	To restore and conserve natural resources within the villages through sustainable forest management, livelihood improvement, and institutional strengthening, thereby contributing to the conservation of the environment, biodiversity, and uplifting of socio-economic conditions of people of Meghalaya
Project Period	2020-2030
Project Coverage	500 villages in 12 Districts
Project Cost	INR 838.16 Cr

Key initiatives of MegLIFE across the 500 project villages include the following:

- a. **Participatory Land Use Planning-** Before developing a microplan, which includes a forest management plan and a livelihood improvement plan, a framework for a land use plan is established to designate specific areas within the village for various purposes, covering the entire village area. In essence, land use zoning at the village level is determined prior to microplan development. This land use planning process is carried out through participatory methods involving both men and women from the community. Consequently, this initiative is referred to as Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP).
- b. **Restoration of Degraded Forest Areas-** To achieve the project objective, degraded forest areas are restored through forest operations, including assisted natural regeneration (ANR) and artificial regeneration (AR). Given that most forests in the state are owned by communities or individuals, these operations will be carried out by communities with support from either the FEDs or the Forest Departments of the Autonomous District Councils (ADCs). The Village Participatory Implementation Committee (VPIC) is responsible for preparing a forest management plan including utilization.
- c. **Forestry Nursery-** To meet the demand for seedlings required for forest restoration or afforestation through ANR and AR, new permanent forestry nurseries are established under the management of the ADCs and the SWC department. Further, existing permanent nurseries managed by the FED are improved. In accordance with the policy of utilizing quality planting materials (QPM) by the FED, seedlings of a certain quality are produced at the permanent nurseries managed by the SWC and the ADCs to ensure a high survival rate and vigorous growth of seedlings after being planted in the field. However, due to challenges in procuring all necessary seedlings from the permanent nurseries and transporting them to all plantation sites, community nurseries are also established near plantation sites where feasible.
- d. **Conservation of Forests in Good Conditions-** In order to achieve the project objective, it is imperative to conserve forests in good condition while also planting trees in degraded forests or barren lands to restore forest vegetation. Given that more than 90% of forests in the state are owned by communities or individuals, the activities must include appropriate measures for the conservation of forests in good condition.
- e. **Forest Research-** To effectively restore forest vegetation and conserve forest biodiversity, it is essential to strengthen research and thematic studies while developing new technologies in forest

management. Numerous potential themes, such as the inventory of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) including medicinal plants, value addition of NTFPs, efficient charcoal-making methods, and bamboo charcoal production, are currently being looked at for project funding.

- f. **Soil and Water Conservation for Forest Management-** Meghalaya State has extremely erosive soil with intensive rainfall. Soil erosion is deemed as one of the most contributing factors of forest degradation and sediment disasters in streams and rivers. Therefore, intensive countermeasures for the soil and water conservation are required in addition to the sustainable forest management activities in the Project.

Protection of Vulnerable Catchment Areas in Meghalaya (MegARISE)

To address issues of water security and sustainable management of water resources the Government of Meghalaya enunciated its Water Policy in 2019, emphasizing the creation of Water Resources Councils at village, block, district and State levels for preparation and implementation of water security, micro-watershed, and catchment plans. In response, the Government of Meghalaya has formulated the Protection of Vulnerable Catchment Area in Meghalaya (MegARISE).

The project is expected to also help adaptation to climate change by measurable and concrete results ensuring water, food, income, and livelihood security besides increasing forest cover and agricultural productivity. The project will be implemented over a period of 7 years with a total budget of Euro 41 million (INR 34,440 lakhs).

1. Measurable and concrete contributions to the target indicators of the Climate Change Adaptation Programme in the Himalaya viz., reduced forest degradation (constant or even increased crown closure of woody vegetation on the project areas)
2. Promotion of forest restoration and adaptation to climate change in India

In line with the above program, KfW will support the Government of Meghalaya in financing a project in selected landscapes in Meghalaya for improved management and conservation of watersheds and biodiversity, while supporting forest dependent communities for their livelihoods. The Government of Meghalaya has identified two catchments viz., Umieiv Catchment in East Khasi Hills (EKH) district and Ganol Catchment in West Garo Hills (WGH) district which supply water to the two most populated cities of Meghalaya i.e., Shillong and Tura respectively.

Overview of MegARISE

Implementing Agency	Meghalaya Basin Development Authority
Funding Agency	KfW Development Bank
Project Aim	Improved management and conservation of watersheds and biodiversity, while supporting forest dependent communities for their livelihoods
Project Period	2023-2029
Project Coverage	Ganol 258 & Umieiv 93 villages
Project Cost	INR 344.4 Cr

Further, under MegARISE, there is an entire component of Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) which will provide financial incentives to communities for forest protection. Like other projects and programs under MBDA and MBMA, this is community led and thus its implementation is expected to generate significant income in terms of wages for participating communities.

Smart Village Movement (SVM)

The project of Smart Village Movement (SVM) with the University of California, Berkeley aims to create a smart village ecosystem which began as a pilot in 50 villages in East Khasi Hills District in August 2020 and is now scaling to other districts of the state. The model is based on 'open innovation' coined by Prof. Henry Chesborough and the 'triple helix model' (Governments-Universities-Corporates) promulgated by the Centre for Growth Markets, UC Berkeley.

SVM Areas of Rural Development: Agriculture, Education, Healthcare, Household.

Brief Activities of SVM:

- a. Assisted telemedicine models for communities (26 Clinics)
- b. Drones in public healthcare system (1 pilot)
- c. AI enabled healthcare screening capabilities (1 block, 2500+ citizens)
- d. Alternative learning models using self-designed learning pathways and frontier technologies like STEM, 3D and electronics (24 centres)
- e. Drones for crop monitoring and farmer assistance (17 villages for pilot, 1 block)
- f. Machine learning and AI for marine solutions and waste management (1 week demo)
- g. Using sustainable construction materials for tourist cottages/homestays (A pilot for Tourism Policy)

3. How many beneficiaries are there under each project/ mission? Please provide details of beneficiaries with benefits they received in the last 5 years

MegLIFE

The MegLIFE Project is working in 500 villages, in which 39,810 households and 100,072 beneficiaries are involved. The Project envisages to raise 22,50 ha plantations, 8 permanent nurseries, 426 community nurseries, 1,07,500 ha terracing and check dam, 5000 other Soil and water conservation structures; Entry Point Activities for 500 Villages, microplanning for 500 villages, capacity development of staff and community, Income generation activities for 1000 Self Help Groups.

MegARISE

Since this project is in the 1st year of implementation, preparation and implementation of catchment area management and protection plans will be initiated only after the completion of project related preparatory works. Hence, there are no beneficiaries as of 22 February 2024.

Smart Village Movement (SVM)

There are three projects spread across 22 centres in Garo Hills in education and healthcare through the Meghalaya Digital Dispensaries, Gramin Healthcare Centres, and the Chief Minister's Youth Centres. A **total of 40,641 beneficiaries** have benefited from 2021 till ongoing Feb 2024. The benefits include access to primary healthcare services (with assisted telemedicine, diagnostic services, screening and improved medicine availability, specialty and super specialty services). Whereas the youth centres serve as alternative learning spaces for the youth to discover interests, learn a skill and explore entrepreneurial opportunities around it.

#	Project	Location	Beneficiaries	Benefits
1	Chief Minister's Youth Centres	1. Rongsak, Samanda Block, EGH 2. Rangmal Badim, Samanda, EGH 3. Sulguri, Betasing, SWGH 4. Babadam, Rongram, WGH 5. Dolwarigre, Samanda, EGH 6. Doldegre, Gambegre, WGH 7. Dadenggre, WGH 8. Chibra Agal, Rongram, WGH 9. Baljek Agal, Rongram, WGH 10. Silsotchigre, Rongram, WGH	Total: 1685	1. Promotion of Self Design Learning Models as supplements to existing systems 2. Interest driven learning to address early discovery for skill requirement and career pathways 3. Drive community ownership through open learning spaces with independent functions 4. Provisioning formalised learning in community centres to address dropouts and progressive learning environments
2	Gramin Health Centres	1. Chokchokia, Rajabala, 2. Bajengdoba, Bajengdoba,	Total-31,689 Note: Patient	1. Consultation services: The clinics provided consultation services from

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Gomaijhora, Demdema 4. Nidanpur, Tikrikilla 5. Gambegre, Gambegre 6. Purakhasia, Dalu 7. Boiragipara, Rerapara 8. Koinadubi, Barengapara 9. Mahendraganj 	<p>registrations repeat patient count in clinics- inclusive from 2022 till Feb 2024</p>	<p>Registered Medical Practitioners (RMPs) either physically or through telemedicine.</p> <p>2. Pharmaceutical Services: The clinics also facilitated the sale of pharmaceutical drugs at affordable prices, ensuring patients' access to necessary medications. Last-mile delivery services were implemented to directly deliver drugs to the homes of patients.</p> <p>3. Diagnostic / Pathology Services: The clinics provides basic diagnostic services using the latest medical equipment technology. For advanced diagnostic services, there is a third party collaboration for a portfolio of 700+ tests.</p>
3	Meghalaya Digital Dispensaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rongjeng 2. Darenggre 3. Tura 	Total: 7267	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to Tele Consultations – General Physician, Specialty, and Super Specialty (General Medicine, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Cardiology, Pediatrics, Orthopedics, Gastroenterology, Dermatology) & Psychology Counselling 2. Access to Tele-laboratory services 3. Access to a pharmacy with 85+ essential medicines 4. Screening for non-communicable diseases 5. Social Health Education (SHE)

4. Did MBDA take a “No Objection” from GHADC or the Nokmas for executing their projects/ missions?

Stakeholder consultations were conducted with all stakeholders during project designs. Further, mobilization, consultations, and awareness are done with community members, including village councils, and consent taken in the form of social agreements and grant agreements prior to implementation. All interventions of MBDA/MBMA are bottomup, demand driven, and community driven.

5. Was any FOCUS/ FOCUS+ funds dispersed through MBDA in the last 3 years? If yes, please provide the list of beneficiaries with amount, contact number, their application forms, and other details

No.

6. Provide the notification and amounts received under Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) and list of beneficiaries

No beneficiaries and amounts disbursed under Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) by MBDA.

7. Provide the notification and amounts received under JICA and list of works under it with necessary details

The MegLIFE Project, which is supported by JICA, is working in 500 villages, in which 39,810 households and 100,072 beneficiaries are involved. The Project envisages to raise 22,50 ha plantations, 8 permanent nurseries, 426 community nurseries, 1,07,500 ha terracing and check dam, 5000 other soil and water conservation structures; Entry Point Activities for 500 Villages, microplanning for 500 villages, capacity development of staff and community, Income generation activities for 1000 Self Help Groups.

MBDA does not receive funds directly from JICA. Funding for implementation of the activities is first allocated from the State Government and the expenditures made are then claimed for reimbursement with the central government which reimburses JICA funds to the State Government.

COMPONENTS		AMOUNT
1. Sustainable Forest Management		32,34,41,284
1.1	Participatory land use planning	59,34,421
1.2	Restoration of degraded forests	16,19,20,104
1.3	Forestry nurseries	9,41,66,038
1.6	Soil & Water Conservation for forest management	6,14,20,721
2. Community Development & Livelihood Improvement		58,40,02,225
2.1	Community mobilization & gender sensitization	81,05,471
2.2	Micro Planning	64,17,530
2.3	Entry Point Activities (EPAs)	56,53,04,388
2.4	SHG Activities	39,983
2.5	Soil & Water Conservation for Livelihood Improvement	41,34,853
3. Institutional Strengthening		15,30,17,460
3.1	Capacity Development	5,44,58,586
3.2	Monitoring and Evaluation	66,47,046
3.3	Infrastructure and Mobility	5,97,15,828
3.4	PR and Publicity	10,74,772
3.5	PMU establishment	3,11,21,228
TOTAL		106,04,60,969



Certificate of Registration of Societies

ACT XXI of 1860

NO. SR/MBDA-4/11 OF 2011


I hereby certify that "MEGHALAYA BASIN
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.

has this day been registered under the Meghalaya Societies Registration Act,
XII of 1983.

Given under my hand at Shillong

this THIRTY FIRST day of the month of MARCH Two
Thousand and ELEVEN.

Registration fee of Rs. 250/- paid.


(J. KHARKONGOR)
REGISTRAR OF SOCIETIES,
MEGHALAYA, SHILLONG