



**FSC® Forest Management Certification Assessment of  
Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA)  
Nongrim Hills, behind Bethany Hospital, Shillong, East Khasi  
Hills District, Meghalaya 793003  
India**

**17 March 2026**

**Introduction** – Preferred by Nature is conducting an FSC Forest Management and Chain of Custody certification assessment of the Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA) located in Meghalaya 793003 India. The assessment will be implemented from 11 – 12 May 2026.

**Scope of the Certification assessment** – The Forest Management certification assessment will evaluate the environmental, silvicultural, and socioeconomic aspects of the forests managed by Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA), against the requirements of the FSC Forest Stewardship Standard for Smallholders in India FSC-STD-RAP-IND-01.1-2022 V(1-1); FSC-STD-30-005 V2-1 EN Forest management groups and Requirements for use of the FSC® Trademarks by Certificate Holders (FSC-STD-50-001 V2-1). To obtain a copy of the applicable guidelines or to make comments about these standards, please contact Preferred by Nature by telephone, email or website; see contact details below. Preferred by Nature is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC®) and this assessment process must follow approved procedures. The FSC FM Standard may be obtained from the FSC Document Centre here: <https://connect.fsc.org/document-centre/documents/resource/1328>

The forests under evaluation contain areas either identified as High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) or where high conservation values, as defined by FSC, may be found. Preferred by Nature evaluates the identification, management and protection of these High Conservation Values and invites relevant feedback from stakeholders.

**Assessment Team Composition** – The assessment will be led by Aadarsh Mohandass

**Assessment Steps and Schedule** – Following is a short description of the recertification process and a proposed agenda:

- ◆ **Assessment organisation** – Preferred by Nature auditor will assemble in Meghalaya, India on Sunday, 10 May 2026.
- ◆ **Field assessments** – The auditor will visit sites managed by Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA) from Monday 11 May to Tuesday 12 May 2026.
- ◆ **Stakeholder consultation** – Throughout the fieldwork, the auditor will contact local stakeholders regarding Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA)'s forest management in locations surrounding the forest area. This will include private interviews and discussions, and field visits as appropriate.
- ◆ **Final assessment briefing** – Prior to departure, the auditor will meet with the managers and other parties to finalise their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- ◆ **Draft report production** – The assessment auditor will produce a confidential draft report that will be provided for comment to Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA); with a planned timeframe of two (2) months from the Closing Meeting.



- ◆ Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA) 's forest managers – as well as input of other general stakeholder comments – Preferred by Nature will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur before mid-August 2026.

**Your Input Sought** – As a part of the forest certification assessment process, we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA)'s forest management in relation to conformance with the requirements of the forest management standard referenced above; as well as comments on the company's management and protection – as applicable – of High Conservation Values within the forests under evaluation. We welcome input, either public or confidential, in whatever form is easiest and most secure for you. Your input will be valuable at any stage of the assessment process, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior to the assessment or during the assessment, so that we can take your feedback into consideration in reaching a recertification decision. Your options for communicating your feedback to us are as follows:

1. Meet with a Preferred by Nature assessment auditor during or shortly after the fieldwork. See contact details below.
2. Call and give comments to Mr. Pratama Bagus Kurniaji, Preferred by Nature staff person responsible for coordinating this certification assessment.
3. Submit written comments by mail (details below) or email to [pkurniaji@preferredbynature.org](mailto:pkurniaji@preferredbynature.org). Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purpose of assessing Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA).

The source of any information provided will be kept confidential, available only to FSC and Preferred by Nature staff.

Stakeholders who wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can access Preferred by Nature's Dispute Resolution Policy at <https://preferredbynature.org/>.

#### Contacting Preferred by Nature

- ◆ Email: [pkurniaji@preferredbynature.org](mailto:pkurniaji@preferredbynature.org) or [cuho@preferredbynature.org](mailto:cuho@preferredbynature.org); or Audit Team Leader [amohandas@preferredbynature.org](mailto:amohandas@preferredbynature.org)
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