



## India Project – Khasi Hills

**Project Goal:** compensate more than 318,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>

**Location:** Umiam Watershed, Khasi • Hills District, Meghalaya, India

**Main aims of the project:** restoration and protection of wildlife along the Umiam River, which connects sacred forests; landscape forest regeneration.

**Duration of the project:** 2010 – 2021

*In the eastern Himalayas, between mountain clouds and natural pine forests, there is the Meghalaya Region, in India. A part of the region prides itself of the second recorded rainfall in the world. Despite the conversion of many indigenous Khasis to Christianity, many still retain animistic beliefs. Respect for the spirits of nature has contributed to preserving natural resources within designated areas such as sacred forests.*

*However, in recent decades, mining, fires, increased consumption of firewood and transformation of land for agriculture deteriorated much of the forest.*

*With the support of I/INGOs, in recent years, this fundamental spiritual value has been focussed on preserving nature. By combining new science with ancient beliefs, a Federation of 10 indigenous kingdoms has been created in the Khasi Hills to manage a long-term REDD + project. The project was certified in 2013 and is the first REDD + project in India.*

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