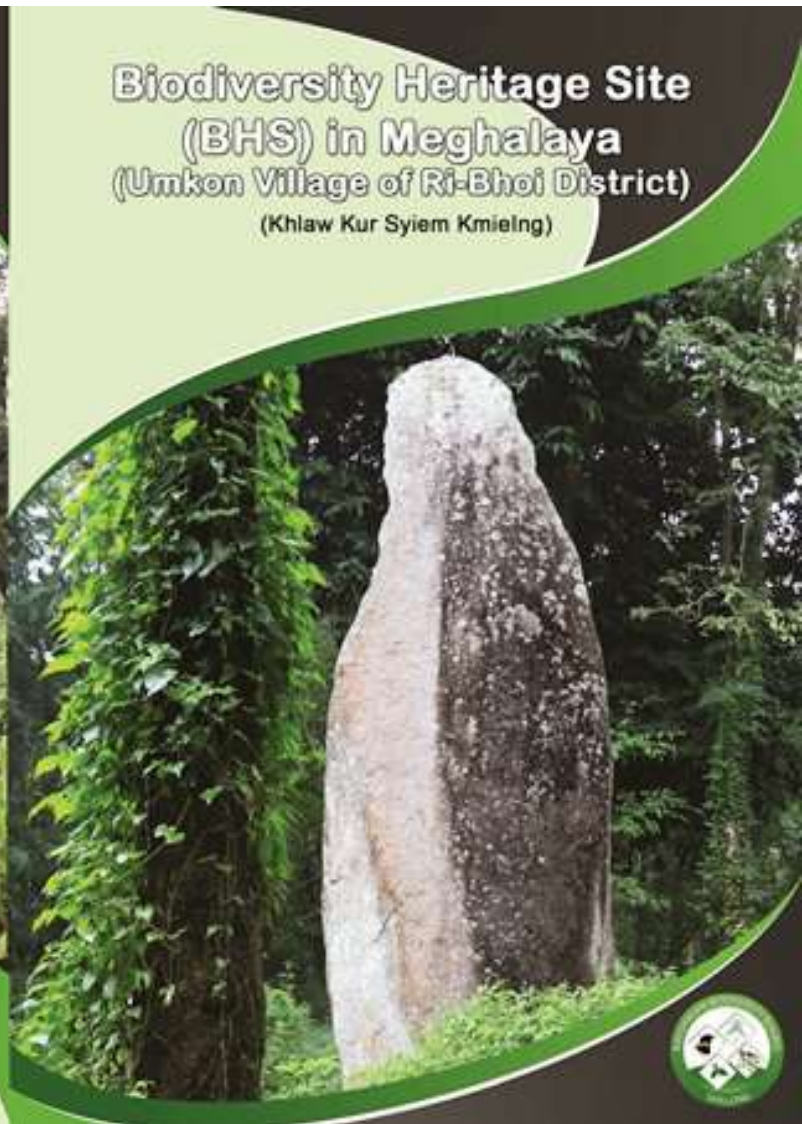


**Biodiversity Heritage Site
(BHS) in Meghalaya
(Umkon Village of Ri-Bhoi District)**
(Khlaw Kur Syiem Kmieing)



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First 'Biodiversity Heritage Site' (BHS) of Meghalaya

Khlaw Kur Syiem Kmieing has been notified by the Government of Meghalaya as Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) vide Notification No. FOR_53/2018/59 dated 13th December, 2018. The site is situated in Umkon village, Umting Block of Ri-Bhoi District. This is the first biodiversity rich site consisting of 16.05 Ha area declared as BHS in Meghalaya under sub-section (1) of section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act (2002).

The Khlaw Kur Syiem Kmieing BHS is a hilly area of thick tropical deciduous forest land rich in diversity of flora and fauna consisting of numerous medicinal plants, a good butterfly population, Hoolock gibbon etc.

India awards Biodiversity Heritage tags under the Biological Diversity Act of 2002. The tags are a way to boost biodiversity conservation and encourage local participation in protecting unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems with a rich variety of rare or threatened species, species of evolutionary significance, and evidence of biological components from the past such as fossil beds. The Biodiversity Heritage tag is valuable as it gives an impetus to conservation efforts by the government and civil society groups.

Meghalaya Biodiversity Board would like to thank the Durbar of Kur Syiem Raid Nongtluh Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) for taking the initiative in declaring Khlaw Kur Syiem Kmieing as BHS and dedicating their community land for conservation and protection of biodiversity for the future generations.



An Appeal

Meghalaya Biodiversity Board appeals to the local communities of Meghalaya for declaring suitable biodiversity rich areas under their control as BHS. Declaration of BHS does not change the land ownership. It brings in deserving recognition to the conservation ethics and efforts of local communities. BHS tag ensures immediate recognition and attraction at the national as well as international level. It helps bringing in the much needed finances for conservation and associated community development. By declaring an area as BHS, the communities set voluntary standards for conservation of biodiversity and for management of the bio resources therein, ensuring fair and equitable sharing of benefits. People in Meghalaya are welcome to form Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) in their villages and propose constitution of BHS through these BMCs. The Meghalaya Biodiversity Board will be pleased to assist them.

