



# MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY (MBMA)

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Dated Shillong, the 9<sup>th</sup> August '2022

## Request for Proposal: Advisor

### Location : Shillong Meghalaya

Meghalaya Basin Management Agency is in urgent need of an Advisor for UNESCO World Heritage Site Nomination of Jingkiengjri: Living Root bridge Cultural Landscape to oversee and guide UNESCO World Heritage Site Nomination Dossier preparation and assessment of the Jingkiengjri: Living Root Bridge Cultural Landscape at all levels.

**Terms of Reference:** UNESCO World Heritage Site Nomination of Jingkieng Jri: Living Root Bridge Cultural Landscape

### Background

Locally known as *Jingkieng Jri*, Living Root Bridges (LRB) are *Ficus*-based connectivity and livelihood solutions within dense subtropical moist broadleaf forest eco-region of Meghalaya in the eastern extension of Indian Peninsular Plateau. Grown by indigenous Khasi communities over centuries, these living plant-based public infrastructures perform a critical socio-economic-ecological role in an extreme environment. The underlying knowledge and skill has evolved through generations and reveals exceptional cooperation and reciprocity of an ancient culture. Today, as icons of human-nature harmony, LRB represent a resilient and sustainable vision for humanity.

As part of ongoing Meghalaya Community-Led Landscape Management Project (MCLLMP), Government of Meghalaya is nurturing a Community and Science-based Conservation, Research and Development plan for UNESCO World Heritage Site (UNESCO WHS) nomination of LRB. A preparatory field study and national research convention was organized in December 2021, and laid a base for a multidisciplinary approach to facilitate long-term conservation and responsible development of these sites. Under MCLLMP, *Mariang Jingkieng Jri* Cooperative Societies have been registered within a state level Federation for nurturing an equitable research-based development vision for all stakeholders. This is an important opportunity to combine lives and livelihoods with conservation and science for an integrated and inclusive approach.

In March 2022, *Jingkieng Jri: Living Root Bridge Cultural Landscapes* (LRBCL) was formally included in the tentative list of UNESCO WHS. This is an important milestone in the long-term vision and objective of recognizing these sites as UNESCO WHS and ensuring their protection for humanity.

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/6606/>

### UNESCO World Heritage Site Nomination Dossier Advisor

MBMA wishes to hire an advisor for overseeing and guiding UNESCO World Heritage Site Nomination dossier preparation and assessment of Jingkieng Jri: Living Root Bridge Cultural Landscapes at all levels.

Through CLLMP, MBMA has been supporting the Community-led Conservation and Responsible Development objective for *Jingkieng Jris* and this advisory role will focus on providing detailed periodic feedback and assistance on dossier progress by CLLMP *Jingkieng Jri* team via mail / audio-video call and field visits to Meghalaya as per requirement.

### Alignment with CLLMP

The key objective of this advisory role is to inform preparation of a comprehensive UNESCO World Heritage Dossier for Living Root Bridges, and guiding all aspects of the process including ensuring long-term protection and management of the Cultural Landscapes, which is one of key objectives of the ongoing Living Root Bridge project under CLLMP innovation component. The specific activities under this advisory role align with the following components under CLLMP:

***Component 1: Strengthening Knowledge and Capacity for Natural Resource Management***  
***1A. Promotion of Traditional Knowledge, Grassroots Innovations, and Communications***

The advisory role will inform strategic decisions and capacity development of the indigenous communities and CLLMP *Jingkieng Jri* team in facilitating a strong protection and management system of Living Root Bridge Cultural Landscapes through leveraging deep insights from conservation of similar UNESCO World Heritage Sites in other regions across the globe. In addition, in-depth dialogue at local, regional, national and international level will allow various stakeholders to appreciate traditional knowledge systems and value their relevance in contemporary context.

**Scope of Work**

This TOR will primarily focus on **Preparation of World Heritage nomination dossier in alignment with management plan.**

***Description and Process***

Preparation of UNESCO World Heritage Site nomination dossier for *Jingkieng Jri: Living Root Bridge Cultural Landscapes* will involve a rigorous stage-wise process involving various stakeholders at local, regional, national and international level. In order to facilitate this task a detailed timeline and a key milestones list is shared below. The overall process and methodology will involve overseeing and guiding the Nomination dossier preparation and assessment at all levels through remote periodic feedback and assistance to primary stakeholders including indigenous communities of Meghalaya, Living Root Bridge Cooperatives, CLLMP *Jingkieng Jri* Team, and Government of Meghalaya officials. Periodic field visits and training workshops - events are proposed for facilitating capacity building of all stakeholders.

**Qualifications required:** Doctorate and above in the relevant fields (Architecture/Landscape/History/Conservation Anthropology/Heritage/ Ethnography / Archaeology /Ethnobotany/Bridge Engineering/Vernacular Construction)

**Experience required:** The Consultant should have not less than 10 years experience in World UNESCO Heritage Nominations (Specific proficiency with Cultural Landscape nominations), and Credibility for successful inscriptions: advisory roles in nominations for State and Central Government, association with UNESCO Offices and/or Advisory bodies like ICOMOS, ICCROM, IUCN

**Appointment:**

The duration of the assignment is 6 (months) but may be extended on existing terms and conditions with mutual consent.

**Selection Process:**

For selection of the candidate  
80% weightage will be given to suitability of the candidate based on above parameters and  
20% weightage will be given to the remuneration sought by the candidate.

**Deployment:**

- Extensive travel within the State will be required
- The selected candidate would be paid a monthly compensation/consultant fees.
- Costs relating to official travel etc.(including lodging, fooding etc, travelling within or outside the State)or other related expenses will be borne by MBMA as admissible to category I staff at MBMA

**Submission of Offer:**

Offers for the position should include a detailed portfolio of relevant works highlighted the methodology, audience, impact and learning with supporting documents and expected compensation/consultant fees.

The offer must reach MBMA electronically ([recruitmentmbda21@gmail.com](mailto:recruitmentmbda21@gmail.com)) with the subject line Advisor for UNESCO World Heritage Site Nomination of Jingkiengjri;Living root Bridge Cultural Landscape.

**The last date of the application is 17<sup>th</sup> August'2022**

**For details please visit <http://www.mbda.gov.in>**

Sd/-  
**Additional Project Director**  
**CLLMP, MBMA**