



# **Climate Change Adaptation Programme in the Himalayas, Component III**

Protection of Vulnerable Catchment Areas in Meghalaya

**German Financial Cooperation / KfW Development Bank**

BMZ Nos. 2015 67 643 (Loan) and 2015 67 650 (Grant)

## **VILLAGE REPORT OF MAWSAWA**

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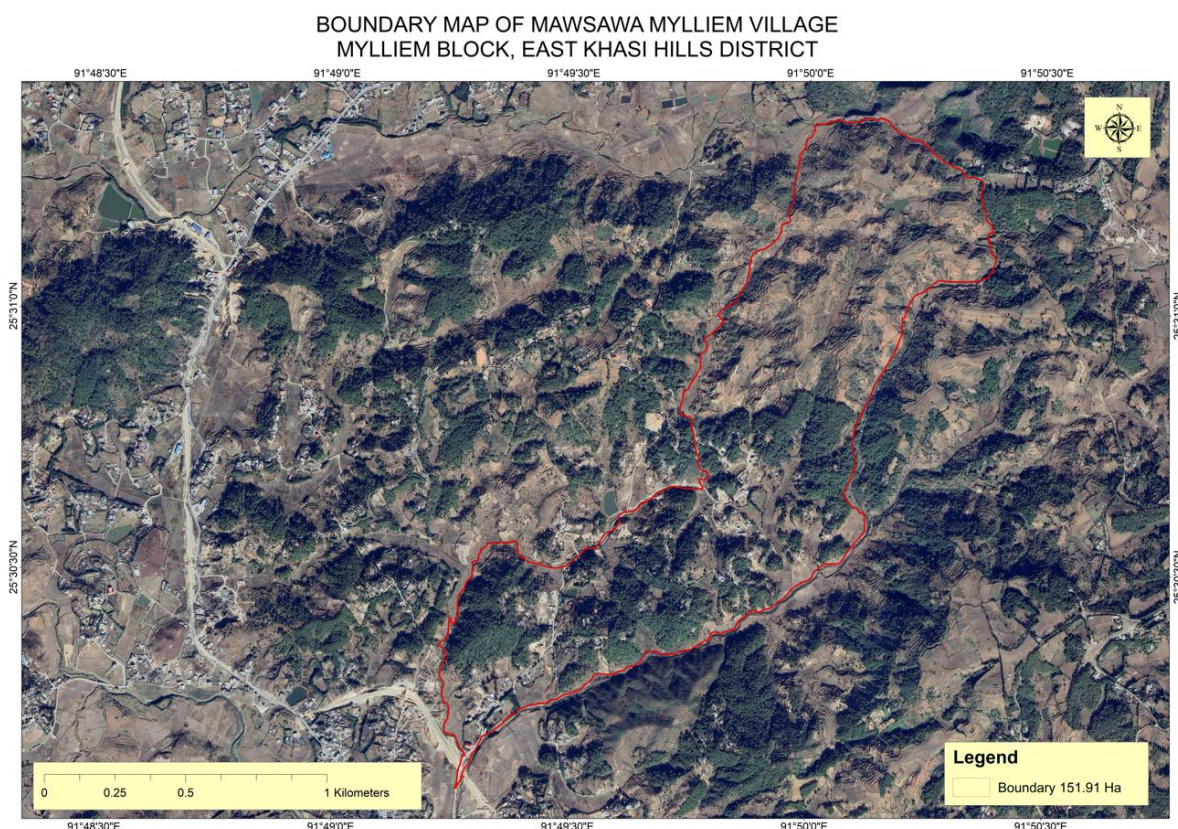
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## VILLAGE FORMATION

**Formation and Etymology** The village of Mawsawa derives its name from two Khasi words: *Maw*, meaning "stone," and *Sawa*, meaning "making sound." According to ancestral folklore, there were once stones in the village that echoed voices—when spoken to, they would seemingly respond. This mysterious phenomenon led to the village being named Mawsawa.



**Hamlets** Mawsawa village comprises two hamlets:

- Mawsawa
- Pdengbri

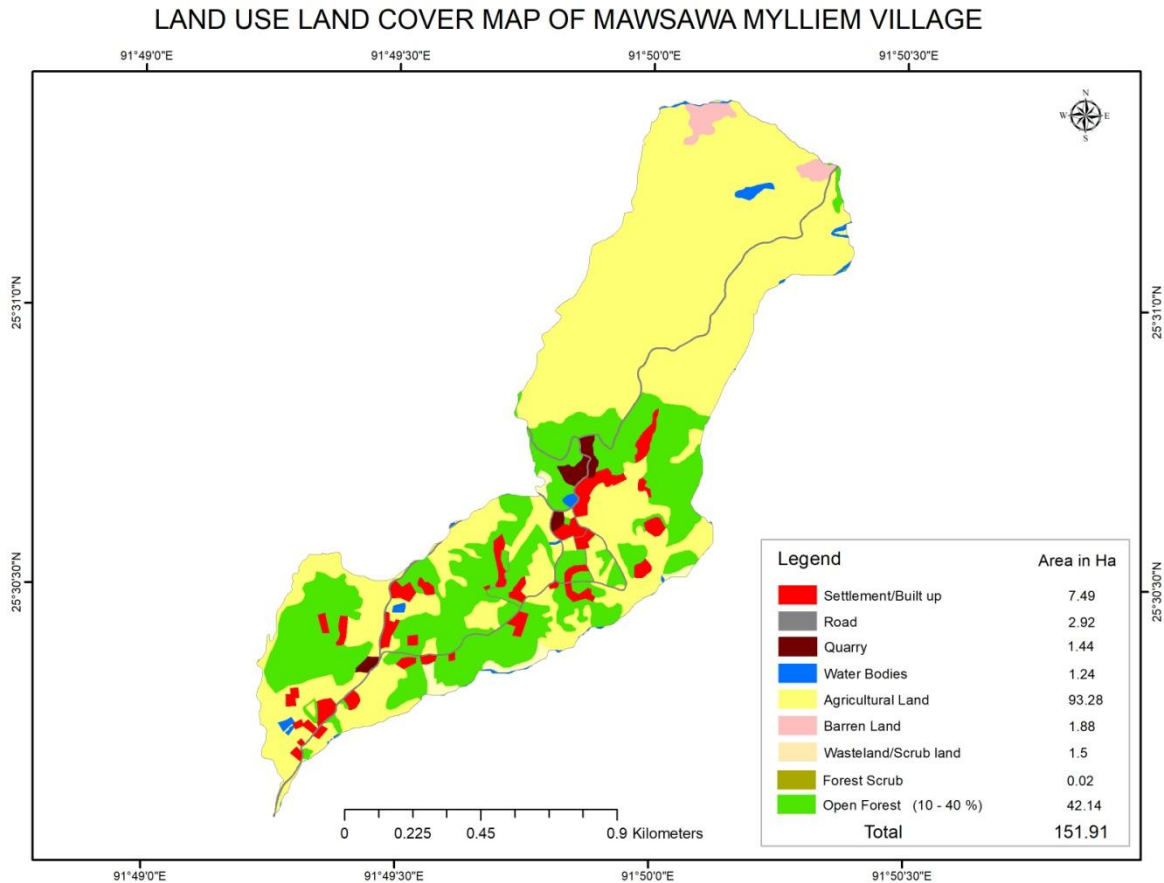
### Geographical Boundaries

- **North:** Bordered by Mawkhan
- **East:** Bordered by Mawri
- **South:** Bordered by Madan lingsyi
- **West:** Bordered by Ryngi

### LAND USE LAND COVER ( AREA IN HECTARES)

- Total Area: 151.91 ha
  - Settlement/Build-Up: 7.49 ha
  - Roads: 2.92 ha
  - Quarry: 1.44 ha
  - Water Bodies: 1.24 ha
  - Agricultural Land: 93.28 ha

- Barren Land: 1.88 ha
- Waste/Scrub Land: 1.5 ha
- Forest Scrub: 0.02 ha
- Open Forest (10-40% cover): 42.14 ha



## DEMOGRAPHICS

- Number of Households: 100
- Approximate Population: 400 individuals

**Livelihood and Income Sources** The primary sources of livelihood in Mawsawa include:

- Agriculture
- Livestock Rearing

**Future Prospects and Potential Interventions** To enhance water conservation, environmental sustainability, and community resilience, the village proposes the following interventions:

1. **Check Dam Construction:** Aids in water retention, prevents soil erosion, and enhances groundwater recharge to support sustainable agriculture.
2. **Spring Development:** Protects and improves natural springs to ensure a reliable drinking water supply for the village.



3. **Protection Wall Construction:** Prevents landslides, soil erosion, and water runoff, safeguarding agricultural lands and village infrastructure.
4. **Afforestation Initiatives:** Supports ecological restoration, improves air quality, and conserves biodiversity by planting native tree species.
5. **Water Harvesting Systems:** Captures and stores rainwater for irrigation and household consumption, addressing water scarcity issues.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- **Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) Date:** November 14, 2024
- **First Financial Participatory Approach (FPA) Contest Date:** January 30, 2025

### FPA 1 Results

#### Category 1 Winners

1. **First Place:** Pynshaiborlang Nongkhlaw
2. **Second Place:** Pynbhalang Nongkhlaw
3. **Third Place:** Affylinia Nongkhlaw

#### Category 2 Winners

1. **First Place:** Ayleen Nongkhlaw
2. **Second Place:** Shishalang Nongkhlaw
3. **Third Place:** Lawansuklin Nongkhlaw



## STORYTELLING COMPETITION

The winning story, narrated by Ayleen Nongkhlaw, recounted the rich history and transformation of Mawsawa. She described how the village, once home to only six scattered households, has grown significantly. The Nongkhlaw clan was the first to settle in the area. In earlier times, villagers relied on lanterns for light and had to traverse dense forests with no

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proper roads. Water sources, particularly *Pasir Spring*, played a crucial role in sustaining the community.

Today, Mawsawa has developed with improved roads, a school, and access to clean drinking water. However, Ayleen emphasized the importance of preserving the village's natural resources, particularly the *Pasir Spring*, which continues to be a lifeline for the community. She urged villagers to maintain conservation efforts for the benefit of future generations.

## **CONCLUSION**

Mawsawa village has a rich history and a strong community spirit. While its primary economy relies on agriculture and livestock, the proposed interventions highlight a forward-thinking approach to sustainability. The successful implementation of water conservation, afforestation, and infrastructure improvements will significantly enhance the village's resilience to environmental changes, ensuring a prosperous future for its residents.