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PART I—Orders and Notifications by the Governor of West Bengal, the High Court, Government Treasury, etc.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Environment Department
Prani Sampad Bhawan, 5th Floor, LB-2, Sector-III,
Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 106

No. 506-EN/T-II-7/003-ii/2003

Date : 10.03.2023

NOTIFICATION

WHEREAS Namthing Pokhari is a Himalayan natural wetland (pond) with traditional belief, taboos covering an area of 11.91 Acre in Selpu Khasmahal, J.L. No. 62, Sittong III Gram Panchayat, Kurseong Block, District Darjeeling and offers refuge to Himalayan Salamander (*Tylototriton himalayanus* Khatiwada, Wang, Ghimire, Vasudevan, Paudel, Jiang, 2015) locally called as 'Goro/ Gora/ Pani Kukur' which is an evolutionary significant species endemic to Indo-Nepal Himalayan region and listed under Appendix II of CITES, Schedule I Part D of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022 and Vulnerable as per IUCN with decreasing population trend.

AND WHEREAS to strengthen the biodiversity conservation and to stem the habitat degradation in the pond, the State Government, upon recommendation of the West Bengal Biodiversity Board, has felt it necessary to declare Namthing Pokhari and surrounding area as Biodiversity Heritage Site.

AND WHEREAS the collection of species of plants, animals and microbes from the Namthing Pokhari and surrounding area requires to be regulated as per the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and West Bengal Biological Diversity Rules, 2005.

AND WHEREAS no-objection regarding declaration of Namthing Pokhari and surrounding area as Biodiversity Heritage Site has been issued by the office of the District Magistrate of Darjeeling.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under sub-section (1) of section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and sub-rule (2) of rule 20 of the West Bengal Biological Diversity Rules, 2005, the Governor is hereby pleased to declare Namthing Pokhari and surrounding area as Namthing Pokhari Biodiversity Heritage Site.

The details of the area and boundary of Namthing Pokhari Biodiversity Heritage Site is given below :-

NAMTHING POKHARI BIODIVERSITY HERITAGE SITE

The Area covered

Details of the Mouza	Khatian No.	Plot No.		Land classification	Area
		R.S.	L.R.		
Selpu Khasmahal, J.L. No. 62, Sittong III Gram Panchayat, Kurseong Block, Darjeeling District	1	791	809	Banjho (Fallow)	2.41 acre
		790	810	Pokhari (Pond)	1.19 acre
		792	811	Banjho (Fallow)	8.31 acre
				Total area	11.91 acre

GPS co-ordinates of the Namthing Pokhari Biodiversity Heritage Site

The boundaries of the Biodiversity Heritage Site are subtended by GPS co-ordinates mentioned below :

Waypoint	Latitude (° N)	Longitude (° E)	Waypoint	Latitude (° N)	Longitude (° E)
1	26° 55' 42.7"	88° 23' 57.9"	17	26° 55' 36.4"	88° 23' 47.1"
2	26° 55' 42.1"	88° 23' 57.8"	18	26° 55' 37.8"	88° 23' 48.0"
3	26° 55' 41.3"	88° 23' 57.3"	19	26° 55' 38.8"	88° 23' 48.2"
4	26° 55' 39.3"	88° 23' 56.0"	20	26° 55' 40.1"	88° 23' 48.8"
5	26° 55' 38.9"	88° 23' 54.9"	21	26° 55' 40.4"	88° 23' 49.1"
6	26° 55' 38.2"	88° 23' 52.9"	22	26° 55' 41.1"	88° 23' 49.3"
7	26° 55' 37.1"	88° 23' 51.4"	23	26° 55' 41.4"	88° 23' 49.7"
8	26° 55' 37.2"	88° 23' 50.8"	24	26° 55' 42.5"	88° 23' 50.6"
9	26° 55' 37.1"	88° 23' 49.8"	25	26° 55' 42.6"	88° 23' 51.2"
10	26° 55' 35.8"	88° 23' 48.7"	26	26° 55' 42.5"	88° 23' 51.8"
11	26° 55' 33.5"	88° 23' 46.0"	27	26° 55' 42.7"	88° 23' 52.8"
12	26° 55' 33.6"	88° 23' 45.6"	28	26° 55' 43.1"	88° 23' 55.3"
13	26° 55' 34.1"	88° 23' 46.2"	29	26° 55' 42.9"	88° 23' 55.6"
14	26° 55' 35.0"	88° 23' 46.6"	30	26° 55' 42.9"	88° 23' 56.1"
15	26° 55' 35.2"	88° 23' 46.8"	31	26° 55' 43.2"	88° 23' 56.3"
16	26° 55' 36.1"	88° 23' 46.8"	32	26° 55' 43.5"	88° 23' 56.4"

Management of the BHS shall be done by a Namthing Pokhari Biodiversity Heritage Site Management Committee constituted by District Magistrate, Darjeeling involving Kurseong Block Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC), Darjeeling District Level BMC, Forest Department, Fisheries Department, Land and Land Reforms Department, Public Health Engineering Department, Irrigation and Waterways Department, experts in the relevant field, other stakeholders, along with representatives from West Bengal Biodiversity Board, with overall supervision of the District Administration.

This notification shall come into effect from the date of its publication in *The Kolkata Gazette*.

By Order of the Governor,

ROSHNI SEN

Principal Secretary to the Government of West Bengal