

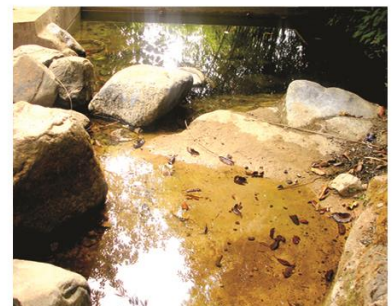
# MEGHALAYA SPRINGS PROTECTION INITIATIVE



*Meghalaya is heavily dependent on spring water for their household and irrigation use with a total of approximately 6861 number of villages dependent on these sources, which makes Spring-sheds extremely important. Spring-sheds provide many of us with our drinking water supply and aesthetic beauty.*



*Unfortunately changing land use, ecological degradation, exploitation and climate change are adversely affecting spring flow. Over the years, people who live near springs and visit springs have seen them degrade, in some places due to changes in the amount of water discharge and in others due to algae growth and decreased biological diversity that may stem from degraded water quality.*



*The Springs Initiative is working to promote awareness of the importance of springs, and to build capacities to protect and develop spring sheds across the State.*



## PROTECTING AND DEVELOPING SPRING SHEDS

- ❖ *Implementing for drinking water security*
- ❖ *Improving our understanding*
- ❖ *Advocacy by creating a policy focus*
- ❖ *Building capacity across the State*



*Roadmap to water security includes a participatory and scientific approach to spring management -*

- ❖ *Meghalaya launched the spring shed Management Initiative on World Water Day, 2015.*
- ❖ *A Hydro geological approach- The foundation of spring shed protection and ground water management is scientific in nature while identifying water sources and the ecosystems that feed them.*
- ❖ *Building understanding & capacity - Through applied research and training programs the initiative is through building skill centers and a unique knowledge base. From training of district government staff, to NGOs, Volunteers and para hydrologists, demystifying the hydrogeology and making it open source for a new generation of practitioners and decision makers.*
- ❖ *Spring mapping - The undertaking of an extensive springs mapping survey is to provide a better knowledge and understanding of the basic characteristics of these springs, study their conditions and then use action research to explore whether the dying springs can be revived through a spring shed development approach using geohydrological techniques. The data collected will also help Meghalaya plan spring shed protection activities.*
- ❖ *Interventions for rejuvenation of springs - Contour Trenches; Dug out pond; Check Dams, Water Harvesting Structures for ground water recharge and afforestation of the spring shed.*



### **So Far -**

**Detailed inventories of about 714 numbers of springs has been conducted in all the 11 districts of the state.**

**Training and awareness activities are being carried throughout in the state.**

**Pilot Projects taken up so far includes Catchment areas of Shillong Peak and Umtyngar aimed at increasing the discharge of the springs besides increasing the duration of discharge..**

