WHEREAS, Sikkim has had an age-old tradition of forging brotherhood relationship with trees, a cultural practice that establishes nature conservation as a way of life for the people;

AND WHEREAS, it is considered necessary and expedient to revive this practice in order to create a sense of responsibility in people towards caring and nurturing trees and plants;

NOW THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (c) of sub-section (2) of section 83 of the Sikkim Forests, Water Courses and Road Reserve (Preservation and Protection) Act, 1988 (6 of 1988), the State Government hereby makes the following rules, namely:-

1. (1) These rules may be called the Sikkim Forest Trees (Amity and Reverence) Rules, 2017.

(2) They shall extend to the whole of Sikkim.

(3) They shall come into force at once.

2. In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires-

(a) "Act" means the Sikkim Forests, Water Courses and Road Reserve (Preservation and Protection) Act, 1988;

(b) "Assistant Conservator of Forests" means an officer of that designation having jurisdiction over the land where a tree is to be registered under these rules;

(c) "Government" means the State Government of Sikkim;

(d) "Mitini relationship" means forging of a relationship with and regarding of a tree as a brother by a woman;
(e) "Mith/Mit relationship" means forging of a relationship with and regarding of a tree as a brother by a man;
(f) "private land" means a land shown as belonging to an individual in the cadastral records of the State;
(g) "public land" includes any government or community land.

3. The State Government shall allow any person to associate with trees standing on his or her private land or on any public land:
   (i) by entering into a Mith/Mit or Mitini relationship with a tree in which case the tree shall be called a Mith/Mit tree, or
   (ii) by adopting a tree as if it was his or her own child in which case the tree shall be called an adopted tree, or
   (iii) by preserving a tree in remembrance of a departed relative in which case the tree shall be called a smriti tree:
   Provided that if a tree standing on private land is not under the ownership of the person who wishes to enter into any relationship as mentioned in clauses (i) to (iii) above, the person shall execute an agreement with the owner in Form 1 and compensate him or her fully in terms of the market value of the timber or wood that is contained in it:
   Provided further that if a person desires to enter into a relationship with a tree located on public land then the permission of the owner in Form 2 shall be taken.

4. Any person who desires to associate with a tree as provided in rule 3 shall apply in Form 3 to the Assistant Conservator of Forests.

5. The Assistant Conservator of Forests shall verify the tree applied for in Form 3 through his subordinate officials after obtaining its details in Form 4.

6. The Assistant Conservator of Forests shall, after verification and finding to his satisfaction that the proposed tree is available for registration as a mith/mit or mitini, adopted or smriti tree under these rules, provide a date for the applicant to perform any ritual as may be considered necessary by him and then make an entry in a register which shall conform to the format provided in Form 5 and issue a certificate to the person in Form 6.

7. No person shall fell or damage a tree registered as mith/mit or mitini, adopted or smriti tree under these rules except with the approval of the Government which shall normally not be given except if it is posing danger as provided under the Sikkim Forests Private and Other Non-Forest Land Tree Felling Rules, 2006.

8. Felling of a tree registered under these rules in violation of the provisions of these rules shall be treated as a forest offence and will be punishable as provided under the Act.

Sd/-
Dr. Thomas Chandy, IFS
Principal Secretary-cum-PCCF
AGREEMENT

I, ___________________________, S/o/ D/o W/o _______________________________ resident of _____________________________, __________________________(Address) do hereby undertake this solemn oath of Adopting / forging “Mith/Mit” / “Mitini”/ “Smriti” bond with the ____________________ (Species) tree of girth ________________, situated at (GPS coordinates) ______E, ______N, ______elevation in the Private holding of _____________________________ vide plot no. _______________ under ____________ Block, on this _____________day of __________ month of __________ year on payment to him/her a sum of Rs.________________________ (Rupees________________________ Rupees_________________________) to compensate the market value for the same.

I further undertake that I shall protect and preserve this tree and shall not allow any harm to be caused upon it.

Dated:

(Signature of Land Owner)  (Signature of the Applicant)

Witness:
FORM – 2  
(See rule 3)

PERMISSION

We, ___________________________________________ (name of the institution/Department/agency which owns the land) do hereby agree to allow the __________________________ tree having girth _______________________ located at plot no. ______________ with GPS Coordinates ___________E, ___________W to ___________________________ (name of person interested to enter into relationship with tree) to enter into a Mith/Mit/Mitini relationship with it or to adopt the tree.

Seal  

In-charge of  
Institution/Department/Agency

Date:
APPLICATION FOR FORGING BOND WITH OR ADOPTION OF TREE

To,

The Assistant Conservator of Forest,
_______________ Subdivision,
Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management Department,
Government of Sikim,
_______________ Sikkim.

Dated:___________________

Sir/Madam,

I/We are interested in adopting the tree / forging bond with the tree with details as given under:

1. Name of applicant_____________________________________________________

2. Father’s/Husband’s Name_______________________________________________

3. Address _______________________________________________________________________

4. Location of the tree to be adopted (if known)
   ____________________________________________________________________________

5. Number of trees & species _______________________________________________

6. Reason for adoption / Type of Bond to be forged_______________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________

I/We agree to abide by the rules and regulations in this regard.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT
## TREE ADOPTION ASSESSMENT FORM

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Name &amp; Address of the Applicant</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Territorial Range/Division</strong></td>
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<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>Revenue Block</strong></td>
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<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td><strong>Status of Land</strong></td>
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<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td><strong>Plot/Khatyian No.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td><strong>Date of Initial Assessment</strong></td>
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<td><strong>7</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tree Details</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>a</strong></td>
<td><strong>Species (Local Name)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>b</strong></td>
<td><strong>Species (Scientific Name)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>c</strong></td>
<td><strong>Girth at Breast Height</strong></td>
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<td><strong>d</strong></td>
<td><strong>Approx. height</strong></td>
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<td><strong>e</strong></td>
<td><strong>Approx age</strong></td>
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<td><strong>8</strong></td>
<td><strong>Any Other Remarks</strong></td>
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<td><strong>9</strong></td>
<td><strong>Date of Assessment after 5 years</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>a</strong></td>
<td><strong>Girth at Breast Height</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>b</strong></td>
<td><strong>Approx. height</strong></td>
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* Photograph of the tree to be enclosed.

**Recorded By** :  
**Name** :  
**Designation** :  

Applicants Signature:  

Counter Signature:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>NAME OF THE TREE</th>
<th>Girth</th>
<th>Approx. Height of tree</th>
<th>GPS COORDINATES</th>
<th>LOCATION WITH PLOT NUMBER</th>
<th>FOREST RANGE/BLOCK</th>
<th>DATE OF DECLARATION</th>
<th>BOND TYPE</th>
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<tr>
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<td>LOCAL</td>
<td>SCIENTIFIC</td>
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GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
FOREST, ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Certificate

This is to certify the _______________________________ (name of the person) has entered into the solemn bond of Mith/Mit/Mitini with or adopted the _______________________________ tree of ________________ girth located on plot no. __________________________ with GPS coordinates __________________________ E, __________________________ W on this ______________ day of __________________________ month of __________________________ year.

The Department of Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management, Government of Sikkim acknowledges his/her efforts towards nature conservancy.

PCCF–cum-Pr. Secretary
Forest, Env. & Wildlife Management Department