



REPORT ON THE MOBILE CONNECTIVITY

(South and North peripheral zones of Thimphu)

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Bhutan InfoComm and Media Authority

Royal Government of Bhutan

1. BACKGROUND

As directed by the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Communication during the consultation meeting on the RCP 6 enhancement, the team from BICMA has carried out the mobile network coverage drive test to assess the coverage of mobile network of both B-mobile (BTL) and Tashicell (TICL) in the North and South Peripheral area of Thimphu Thromde . Apart from the peripheral zones, the team has carried out network coverage drive test in Tango and Chari monasteries and Tandin Ney area.

As per the Covid-19 webpage of Royal government of Bhutan, the peripheral zones of Thimphu Throme is identified as follows:

- i. South Peripheral Zone
 - Debsi
 - RTC area
 - Gangchey and Nyezergang
- ii. North Peripheral Zone
 - Kabesa
 - Changtagang
 - Begana

2. FINDINGS

The findings of the drive test are based on result of drive test equipment (SwissQual Freerider) .

The color representation of signal strength:

- **Green** -Excellent (-65 to -50 dBm)
- **Blue** -Very good (-85 to -75 dBm)
- **Yellow** -Good (-95 to -85 dBm)
- **Orange** -Fair (-105 to -95 dBm)
- **Red** -Poor(-120 to -105 dBm)

Note* Red indicates unusable network strength while other color represents usable signal strengths.

2.1 Following are the summary findings:

1. There are no areas without mobile connectivity in the above mentioned places.
2. However, there are certain areas with poor network coverage as follows:

- a. There is poor 3G/4G network in settlements near the Babebesa-RTC junction enroute to RTC.
- b. Although there is a weak coverage enroute to Nyezergang Lhakhang (400-500 m from Nyezergang Lhakhang) under South Peripheral zone, there are no settlements along the route.
- c. Similarly, enroute to Changtagang under North Peripheral zone there is poor 3G/4G network. However, there are no settlements along the route.

3. RESULTS

3.1 South Peripheral Zone

a. Debsi area

There is good network (3G/4G) coverage of both the operators in Debsi area as given in the following two figures.



Figure 1 : 3G network coverage in Debsi

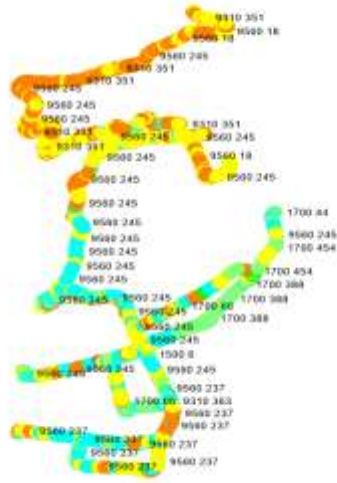


Figure 2: 4G network coverage in Debsi

b. RTC area

Except for poor 4G signal and unstable 3G network in settlement near RTC- Babesa junction, most of places around RTC area have access to good network (3G and 4G) of both the operators.

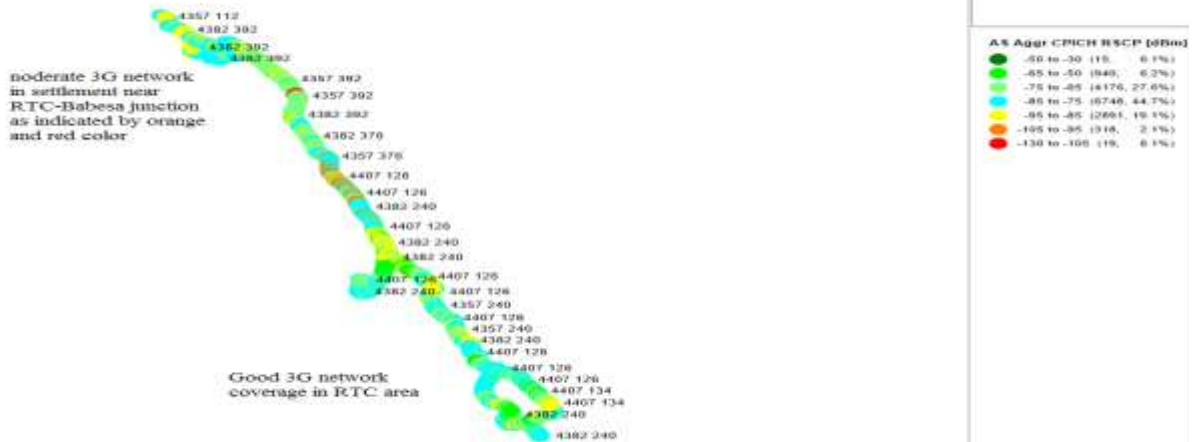


Figure 3: 3G network coverage in RTC area

The poor 4G signal in settlement near RTC-Babesa junction is indicated by red color in figure 4.

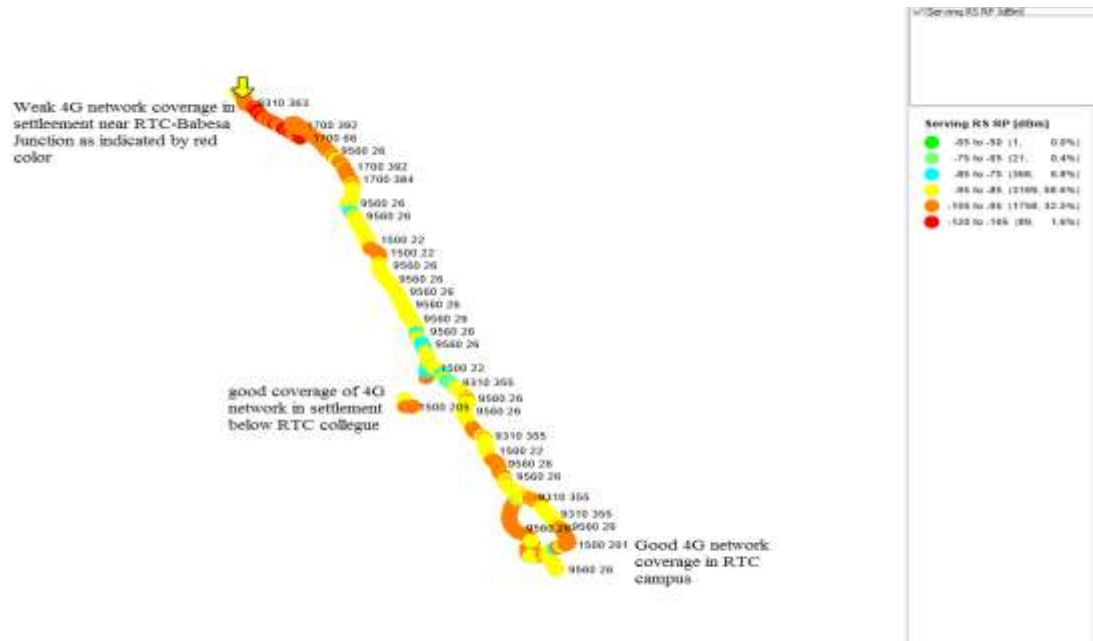


Figure 4: 4G network coverage in RTC area

c. Gangchey and Nyezergang area

There is good network coverage of BTL and TICL in Gangchey and Nyezergang areas except for a small stretch of about 400-500 m of weak 4G signal enroute to Nyezergang but there is no settlement.

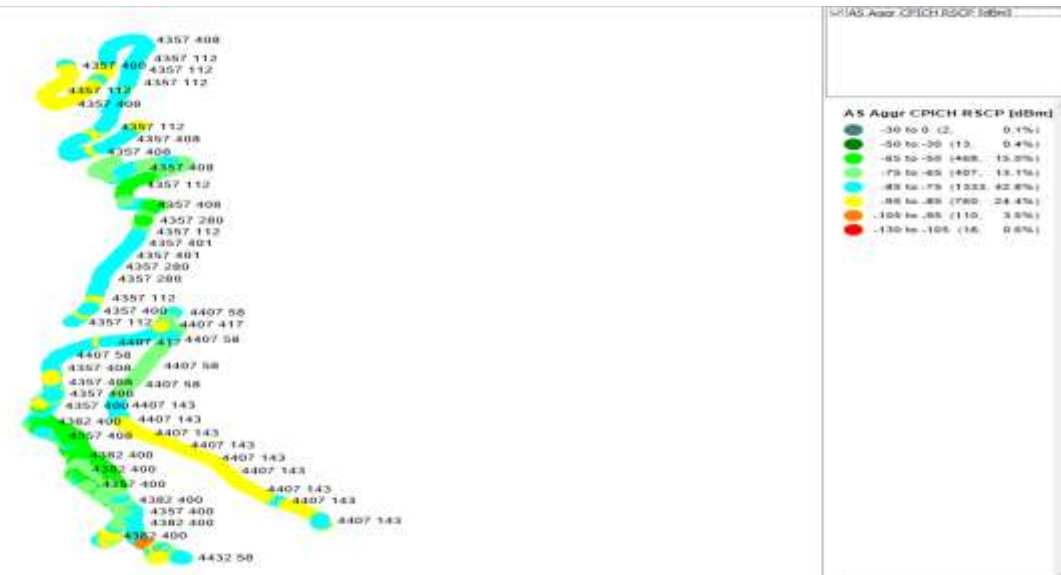


Figure 5: 3G network coverage in Gangchey and Nyezergang

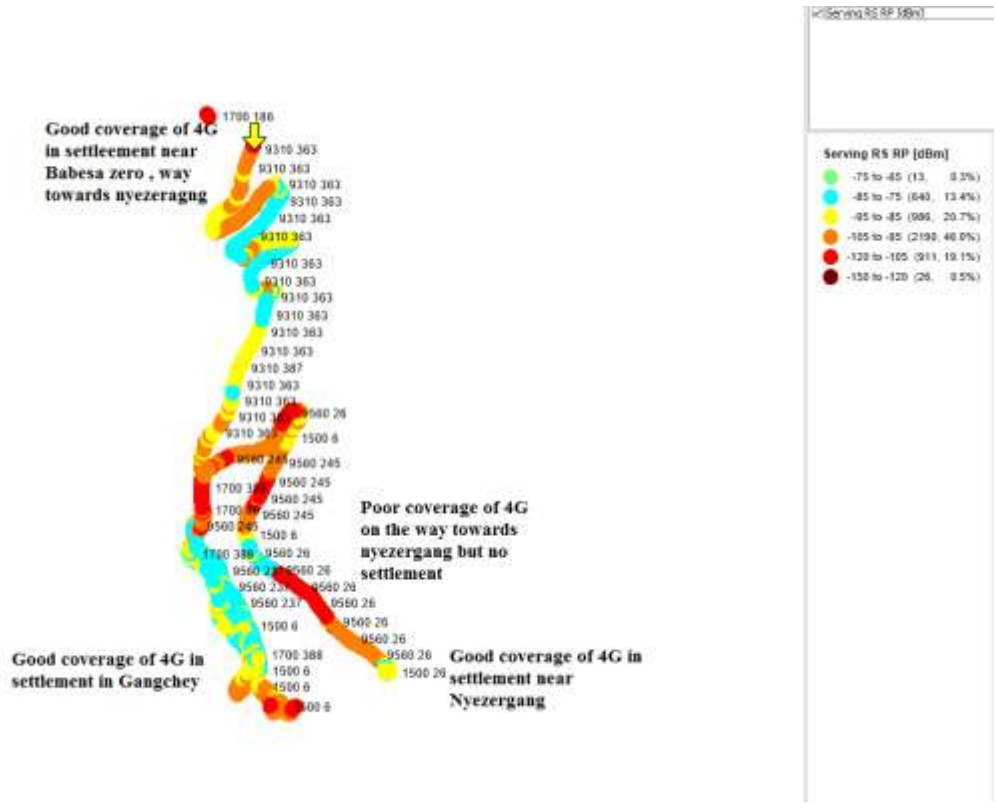


Figure 6: 4G network coverage in Gangchey and Nyezergang

3.2 North peripheral Zone

a. Kabesa, Changtagang and Begana area

It can be observed that there is good network coverage of both the operators in the above mentioned places.

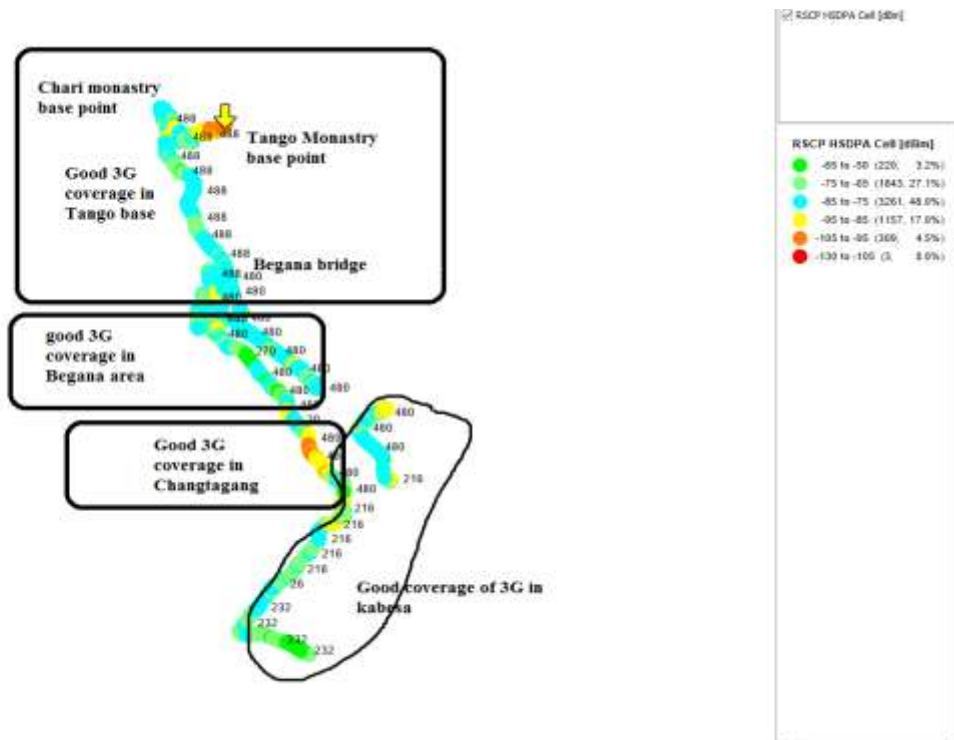


Figure 7: 3G coverage in Kabesa, Changtagang, Begana and Tango Monastery base point

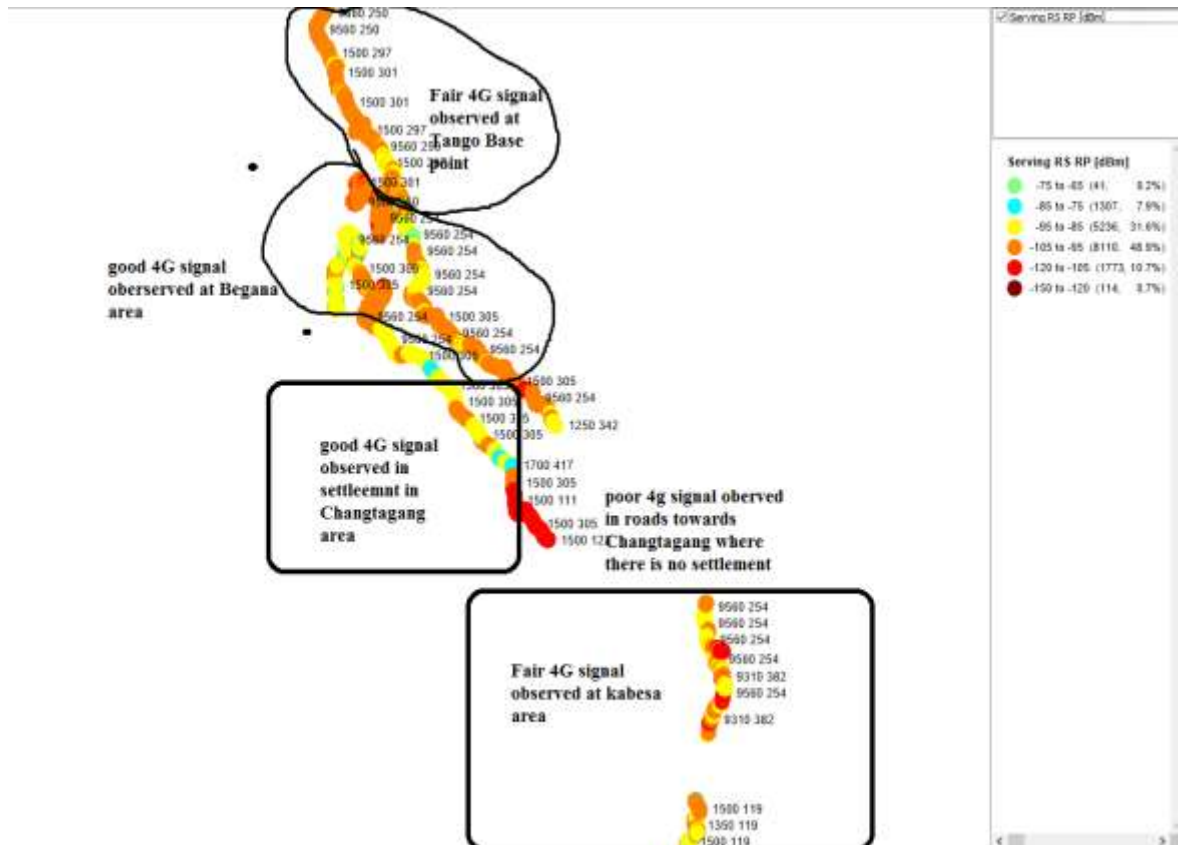


Figure 8: 4G network coverage in Kabesa, Changtagang, Begana and Tango base point

3.3 Tango, Chari Monastery and Tandin Ney

a. Tango Monastery & Chari Monastery

Both the above two monasteries have good network coverage of BTL and TICL as given in the following two figures.

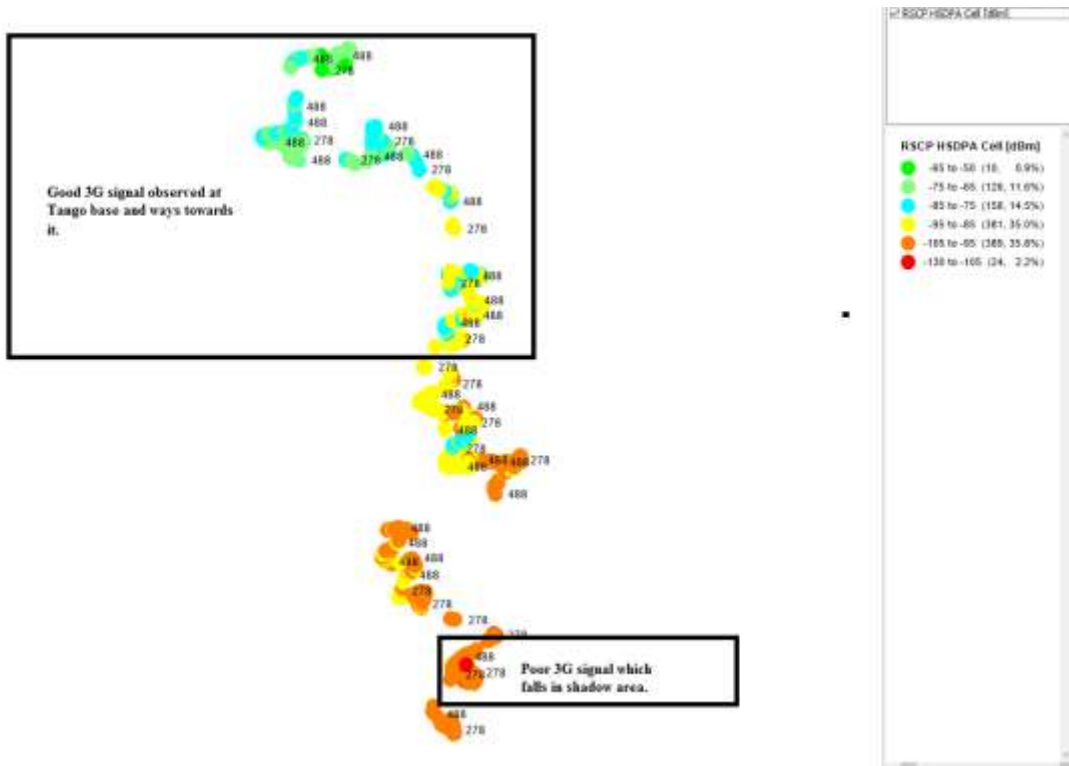


Figure 9: 3G network coverage in Tango Monastery

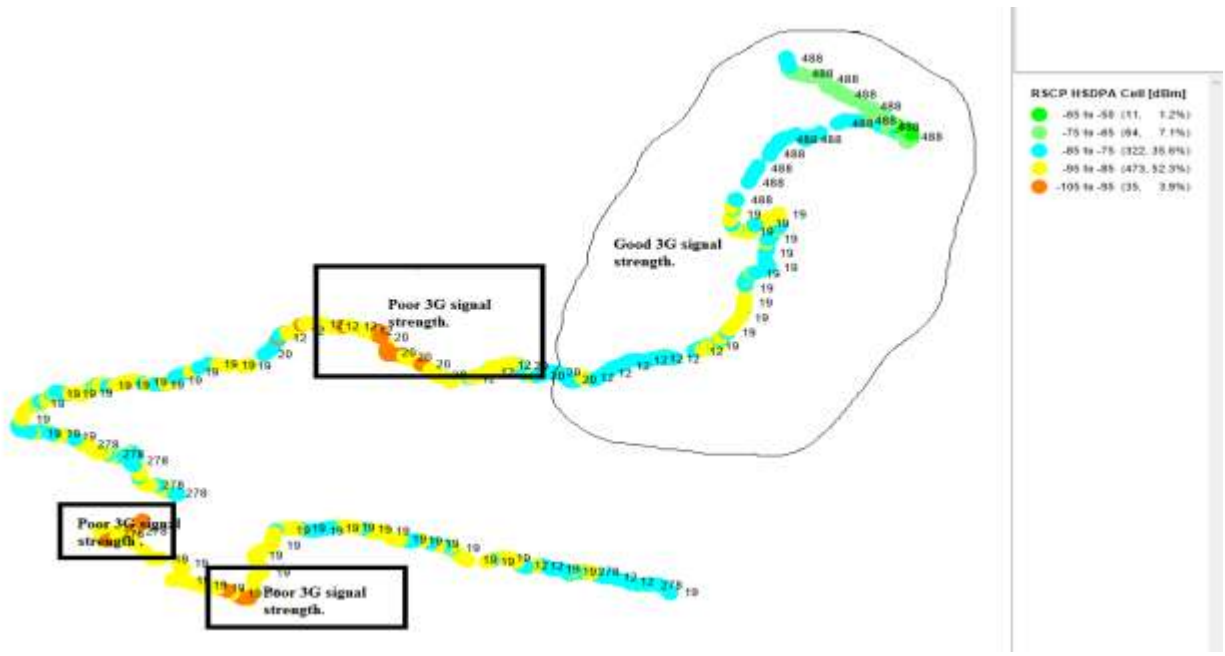


Figure 10: 3G network coverage in Cheri Monastery

b. Tandin Nye

There is good network coverage of both the operators along the route towards Tandin Nye and ELC School.

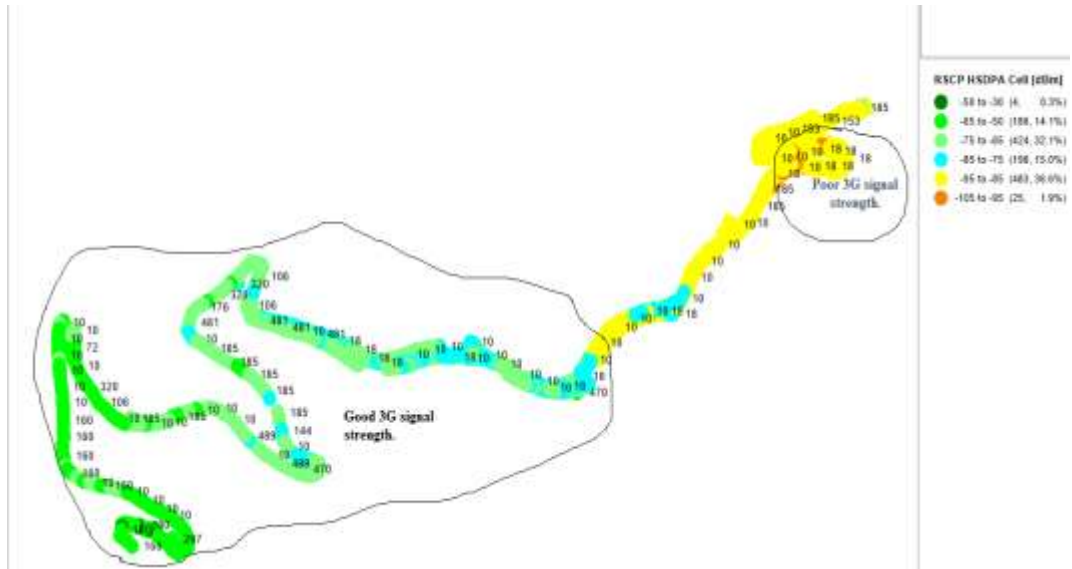


Figure 11: 3G network coverage around Tandin Nye