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Secretary
Government of India
Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Tanmay Kumar
Secretary
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and
Climate Change

D.O. No. 4-4/2020-FP (E-139662)

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Dear Chief Secretary,

The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, under the provisions of Section 3(1)(i) and Section 5, recognises the role of Gram Sabhas in the protection, conservation, and sustainable management of Community Forest Resources (CFRs), **which communities have traditionally protected and conserved for sustainable use.**

2. In this regard, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has issued detailed guidelines for the conservation, management and sustainable use of Community Forest Resources (CFR) vide letter No. 23011/09/2016- FRA dated 12.09.2023. For the purpose of facilitating coordination, capacity building, and timely operationalisation of Community Forest Resource Management Plans (CFRMPs), the Gram Sabha may forward the CFRMPs to the District Level CFR Monitoring Committees.

3. Further, the Community Forest Resource Management Plans (CFRMPs) need to be prepared and implemented in harmony with the approved Working Plans/Management Plans and the **District Level CFR Monitoring Committee can facilitate such institutional convergence with necessary coordination with the Forest Department** so as to synergise conservation objectives, avoid duplication of efforts, and promote sustainable forest management through participatory approaches.

4. Further, as per the provisions of the National Working plan Code, 2023, the nature and extent of individual forest rights recognised under FRA; the nature and extent/quantum of forest resources on which forest rights and community forest resource rights have been recognised; and the management practices prevalent are to be indicated in the working plan. As per FRA Rule 4 (1) (e) Gram Sabha shall Constitute Committees for protection of wildlife, forest and biodiversity, from amongst its member, in order to carry out the provision of Section 5 of the Act. Further, under Rule 4 (1) (f), the committee constituted shall prepare a conservation and management plan for CFR in order to sustainably and equitably manage such CFR

for benefit of forest dwelling ST and OTFD and integrate such conservation and management plan with micro plans or working plans or management plans of the forest department with such modifications in the CFRMPs, as may be considered necessary by the Committee. In cases, Community Forest Resource rights Under Section 3(1) (i) have been recognised but a CFR Management Plan has not yet been prepared, and where the revised Working Plan is under preparation by the Forest Department, the management practices to be incorporated in the Working Plan shall be documented in consultation with the Gram Sabha, and the relevant Gram Sabha resolution may be recorded as part of the consultation process.

5. The District Level CFR Monitoring Committee constituted as per MoTA guidelines dated 12.09.2023 para 8.1 (ii) will facilitate integration of CFRMP approved by Gram Sabha with the Working Plan/Management Plans of the Forest Department including any time during revision of Working plan.

6. In order to guide and review the process, the State Level Monitoring Committee constituted under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Rules, 2007, under the chairperson of the Chief Secretary may undertake the following:

- a. Prepare a State-level Action Plan, with defined timelines, to oversee the preparation of CFRMPs in consonance with the approved Working Plans and their integration with the Working Plans.
- b. Support implementation of Community Forest Resource Management Plans (CFRMPs) through effective convergence of resources available under various Central and State schemes including Forestry Funds as CFRR areas are often located within/encompassing a larger forest landscape; therefore, interventions supported through forestry funds at the landscape level can effectively complement and strengthen CFRR management.

The cooperation of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations is solicited to strengthen the role of community in forest governance.

Yours sincerely,



(Ranjana Chopra)



(Tanmay Kumar)

Chief Secretaries of all FRA implementing States/UTs

Copy to:

Principal Secretaries/Secretaries, Forest Department & Principal Secretaries/Secretaries, Tribal Welfare Department (All FRA implementing States/UTs)