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**Guidelines for Conservation, Management and Sustainable Use
of Community Forest Resources**

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Preamble

1. The present guidelines aim to facilitate Gram Sabha in managing their community forest resources in sustainable, equitable, democratic and transparent manner as per provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (hereinafter referred to as Forest Rights Act or FRA). These guidelines also recommend an enabling institutional set up consisting of stakeholders' representation in the "Community Forest Resources Committees" constituted by the Gram Sabha, and enunciate functions of these Committees to protect their wildlife, forests and biodiversity with due accountability, as per section 5 of the FRA, while ensuring that
 - (i) Adjoining catchment areas, water sources and other ecologically-sensitive areas are protected;
 - (ii) The habitat of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers is preserved from destructive practices affecting their cultural and natural heritage; and
 - (iii) The decisions taken in Gram Sabha to regulate access to community forest resources and stop any activity which adversely affects the wild animals, forest and the biodiversity are complied with
2. Complex varieties of resource tenure systems, resource characteristics, socio-economic conditions and local circumstances related to forest resources require that any national-level guidelines should deal with broad and general issues on the subject. These frameworks will need to be elaborated further and tuned (within its basic framework) at the district-level to meet the challenge of ensuring better livelihood opportunities for forest dwellers well integrated with long-term sustainability of forest, wildlife and natural ecosystems. These Guidelines are expected to serve as the instrument of sustainable development for the Gram Sabha different village-level institutions and the collectives of holders of forest rights through responsible decision-making for protection of biodiversity, wildlife and forests within and near the Community Forest Resources while providing enabling environment for the holders of forest rights to realize sustainable livelihood benefits from access to granted under FRA.
3. Democratic empowerment of local communities, equitable distribution of benefit flows, synergetic alignment of strengths and resources among multiple units and levels of responsive governance, internalizing the externalities related to pressure on natural resources, and respect for precious cultural and natural heritage should be key socio-economic aspects of responsible forest resource management, development and related wise use of usufructs from such forests. Precautionary principles, ecosystem approach, adaptive practices and application of the best

available technology integrated with traditional knowledge and conservation practices should be critical ecological features of the CFR management.

4. At the outset, it is clarified that all words and phrases used in the present Guidelines shall carry the meaning and definition ascribed to them under the Act and the Rules, unless specifically otherwise indicated.

CHAPTER -1

1. Provisions for managing forest resources in the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006

- 1.1 Section 3(1) of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (hereinafter referred to as Forest Rights Act or FRA) recognises and vests the forest rights and occupation of the forest land in individuals and communities of the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional forest dwellers (STs & OTFDs).
- 1.2 Such recognised rights of the communities include the responsibilities and authority for sustainable use, conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of ecological balance and thereby strengthening the conservation regime of the forests while ensuring the livelihoods and food security of the forest dwelling STs and OTFDs.
- 1.3 As per Section-2 (a) of the Forest Rights Act, the "community forest resources" means customary common forest land within the traditional or customary boundaries of the village or seasonal use of landscape (in the case of pastoral communities) including reserved forests, protected forests and protected areas such as Sanctuaries and National Parks to which the community had traditional access.
- 1.4 Section 5 of FRA provides for the holders of forest rights, Gram Sabha and village level institutions to protect wildlife, forests and biodiversity of the areas.
- 1.5 The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Rules, 2008 as amended by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in 2012, under Rule 4 (1) (e) provides that Gram Sabha shall constitute "Committees for the protection of wildlife, forest and biodiversity, from amongst its members, in order to carry out the provisions of section 5 of the Act."
- 1.6 Further, the Rule 4 (1) (f) provides for mechanism to monitor and control the Committee constituted under clause (e) which shall prepare a conservation and management plan for community forest resources in order to sustainably and equitably manage such community forest resources for the benefit of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers and integrate such conservation and management plan with the micro plans or working plans

or management plans of the forest department with such modifications as may be considered necessary by the committee.

- 1.7 Reference may also be made to the Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India in terms of Section 12 of the Act from time to time, and in particular to the Circular dated 23.4.2015 bearing F. No. 23011/16/2015-FRA.

CHAPTER-2

2. Implementation Mechanism and Structure

Community Forest Resource Committee (CFRC)

- 2.1 Where rights over community forest resources have been granted and/or where section 5 of the FRA is applicable as a result of any other rights granted under section 3 of FRA, the committee formed under Rule 4 (1) (e) may be called as Community Forest Resource Committees (CFRCs), which should carry out functions on behalf of and as assigned by the Gram Sabha.
- 2.2 The CFRC constituted by the Gram Sabha shall consist of not less than ten but not exceeding fifteen persons as members residing in its jurisdiction. Provided that
 - (a) Half of the members should preferably be holders of any right granted under FRA;
 - (b) Two members of Gram Panchayat nominated by the Gram Sabha to be ex-officio members;
 - (c) Not less than one-third of such members shall be women.
 - (d) One-third members to be represented by tribal.
 - (e) Two or more of these members should be able to read and write the proceedings of the Committee meetings; and
 - (f) The Gram Sabha by recording reasons thereof in the resolution passed for the purpose, may suitably modify condition (a) and (d) above in case of special circumstances such as absence of any member of Scheduled Tribe in the village.
- 2.3 The CFRC so constituted shall elect a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and a Secretary among its members in its first meeting convened within fifteen days of its constitution and intimate the same to Gram Panchayat.
- 2.4 The CFRC, if so desires, may also have an executive committee for day to day activities with a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, a Secretary and two executive members with at least one woman for any of 3 key posts from among these members. The Chairperson should be Scheduled Tribe Forest Dweller (STFD) or

Other Traditional Forest Dweller (OTFD) or where neither are present, a forest dependent person.

- 2.5 The tenure of the CFRCs will be co-terminus with the Gram Panchayat.
- 2.6 The functions and roles of different functionaries and its members shall be as approved by the Gram Sabha and further elaborated in the CFR Conservation and Management Plan (CFRCM Plan) approved as per the procedure. The CFRC shall be answerable and submit regular reports of its working to the Gram Sabha while carrying out functions on its behalf. The CFRC may seek and obtain support from any village-level functionary of the State Government.

Committee Meetings

- 2.7 The CFRC should meet regularly and at least four times during any financial year. Once in a quarter; the Quorum of the Committee shall be half of its members, and one third of the member presented should be women.
- 2.8 The Secretary shall inform date, time and venue of the meeting to all members of the CFRC, and circulate the agenda of the meeting at least seven days in advance. Fresh issues may be deliberated and decided by the CFRC in its scheduled meeting provided any member of the CFRC does not seek postponement of the deliberation on the issue not included in the agenda.
- 2.9 The Secretary, or any member advised to do so in his absence, shall promptly record the minutes of the CFRC meetings in the Meeting Register maintained for the purpose. These minutes shall be authenticated by the person chairing the meeting and the Secretary or the person performing his functions during the meeting.
- 2.10 The Chairperson, or Vice-chairperson in his absence, shall preside over its meetings. The Secretary, or Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson in his absence, of the CFRC shall submit report on all its decisions to the Gram Sabha in its subsequent meeting, and display the same on "Notice Board(s)" placed at prominent public place(s) within each hamlet of the village. The minutes of meetings shall be public documents and accessible to any member of Gram Sabha as well as any official of the State Government.

CHAPTER- 3

Relationship between Gram Sabha and CFRC and functions of CFRC

Powers of Gram Sabha

- 3.1 Gram Sabha has powers to monitor and control the CFRC as well as approve and modify its decisions as provided in clauses (f) and (g) of Rule 4 of the Forest Rights Rules, 2008 as amended from time to time.

3.2 Thus, the powers vested in the Gram Sabha include the following:

- (a) To make rules regarding sustainable harvesting, collection, sustainable use and disposal including sale of Minor Forest Products (MFPs) including medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) or any other forest produce lawfully permitted by the grant issued under the FRA;
- (b) To make rules and issue directions regarding utilization of proceeds realized from disposal of MFPs (including MAPs) or any other forest produce lawfully permitted by the grant issued under the FRA including those for protection, regeneration and management of the community forest resources or community natural resources in the village;
- (c) To make rules and issue directions for regulating powers, functions and activities of the CFRC;
- (d) To issue directions to the CFRC to prepare the CFR Conservation and Management Plan, monitor preparation of its draft, assessment (based on ecological, social, financial and other relevant parameters) of the draft prepared by the CFRC and approve the CFR Conservation Plan with such modifications, as deemed fit after examining the relevant assessment reports including socio-economic assessment received from the Gram Panchayat and its integration with the forest micro plans, forest working plans or forest & wildlife management plans as well as the advisory received from the concerned Assistant Conservator of Forests on the draft plan;
- (e) To make rules and issue directions regarding authorising the CFRC and regulating issue of transit passes for transport of forest products harvested from the CFR as per the grants made under FRA for the purpose (such transit passes will be valid for transport of MFPs and other authorised produce anywhere within the state boundary by a member of Gram Sabha or a person lawfully procuring such produce).
- (f) To make rules, issue directions to the CFRC (and other local institutions) or engage in activities for generating revenue, receiving grants and incurring expenditure related to management and development of community forest resources or community natural resources in the village while ensuring that the such decisions are not misused to create profit making opportunities directly or indirectly to persons involved in the decision-making process or anyone closely related to them;
- (g) To scrutinize, modify, approve, review, monitor and evaluate the annual plans and budget of the CFRC;

The Gram Sabha shall at regular intervals and in any case not less than once in six months, undertake social and financial auditing of work done by the CFRC, conduct review and evaluation of the same and make suggestions for improvement and course correction.

Functions of Community Forest Resource Committee (CFRC)

- 3.3** CFRC shall function as the Executive Arm of the Gram Sabha for carrying out its responsibility and power under section 5 of the Act and shall at all times remain accountable and answerable to it for its action and decisions.
- 3.4** In order to fulfil its mandate to protect wildlife, forest and biodiversity, the CFRC is required to carry out essential protection activities. Such activities should also be addressed in the CFRCM Plan. An illustrative (but not exhaustive) list is given below:
- (a) To monitor and take necessary measures ensuring that the right holders respect the conditions and boundary of the forest rights granted to them, and regularly maintain boundary of such forest areas;
 - (b) To monitor and take necessary measures for protecting the forestland as well as forests, wildlife and biodiversity within and near community forest resources from encroachment and any other practice detrimental to such forests, wildlife, biodiversity, habitats, streams and water source areas and their catchment areas as well as ecologically sensitive areas within and near the Community Forest Resources;
 - (c) To monitor and take necessary measures to preserve natural and cultural heritage from any destructive practices affecting the same; and
 - (d) To ensure that all decisions taken in Gram Sabha for regulating access to the community forest resources are complied with.
- 3.5** The CFRC shall prepare a conservation and management plan for the community forest resource as per the objectives, principles and rules enshrined hereunder:
- 3.6** With due regard to sustainability assessment and rules frame by the Gram Sabha for protection and management of the forest, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and preservation of wildlife and its habitat.
- 3.7** The principal aims and objectives of the CFRCM Plan should be as under:
- (a) To protect Forests, wildlife, and biodiversity
 - (b) Catchment areas of streams and water bodies, water sources and other ecological sensitive areas within and near CFR are adequately protected;
 - (c) Habitat conditions of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers is adequately preserved from any destructive practices affecting their natural and cultural heritage;
 - (d) The decisions taken in Gram Sabha to regulate access to community forest resources including applicable prohibition of any activity adversely affecting wild animals, wildlife, forests and biodiversity are effectively complied with;

- 3.8 The Community Forest Resource Committee shall place the plan before the Gram Sabha for its approval and necessary modifications.
- 3.9 The Community Forest Management Committee shall implement the approved Conservation and Management Plan subject to the general monitoring and control of the Gram Sabha.
- 3.10 The Conservation and Management Plan will be co-terminus with the tenure of the CFRC and the details of the roles of different functionaries of CFRC including the Executive committee will be provided in the plan.

Planning and Preparation of CFR Conservation and Management Plan

- 3.11 The CFRC should carry out documentation of community forest resources (ecological), tenurial system (including the forest rights), and relevant socio-economic and traditional practices. The documentation should include aspects such as assessment of current status, regeneration capacity, pressure of demands on the resources, sustainable harvest potential of various forest products including MFPs, potential of bridging deficit of adequate regeneration of forest produce, etc., as well as issues related to CFR-based sustainable livelihood development.
- 3.12 Based on the documentation described in the preceding paragraph, the CFRC should prepare a CFR Conservation and Management Plan (CFRCM Plan) for their community forest resources as per objectives, principles and applicable regulations including those framed by the Gram Sabha with due regard to their sustainability assessment, and conservation of forests, biodiversity, wildlife and its habitat and water resources within and near their CFR.

Role and Responsibilities of the Forest Department and other Line Departments of the State Government

- 3.13 It shall be the responsibility of the Forest Department to provide the CFRC with necessary technical and documentary material during the process of resource and resource use mapping, and while preparation of the Conservation and Management Plan
- 3.14 If the Forest Department does not provide the technical and documentary support sought by the CFRC, the Gram Sabha may forward a request in writing to this effect to the SDLC. The SDLC shall make every effort to enlist the cooperation of the Forest Department in this regard.
- 3.15 The Gram Sabha shall forward the Conservation and Management Plan prepared by the CFRC to the Forest Department seeking its inputs and feedback.
- 3.16 The concerned officer shall revert with suggestions and feedback within a period of four weeks, and the same will be placed before a meeting of the

Gram Sabha called for this purpose, where such officer may be present in person.

- 3.17 The Gram Sabha shall take such suggestions into careful consideration while finalizing the Conservation and Management Plan. However, if the suggestions are not received within the time frame fixed for this purpose, the Gram Sabha may proceed to finalise the Conservation and Management Plan without the benefit of such inputs, and the same shall not be called into question in future on this ground.
- 3.18 Where forest rights are recognised over a common resource across Gram Sabha areas, a joint meeting of the various CFRCs shall be facilitated by the SDLC where the Forest Department shall also participate and provide suggestions. Every effort shall be made to arrive at a consensus regarding the sustainable use of such resources in keeping with the principles of distributive justice and ecological security.
- 3.19 The Conservation and Management Plan thus approved by the Gram Sabha shall be incorporated by the Forest Department into its Working Plans, and also by other line departments into the planning and resource allocation for the area.
- 3.20 The Forest Department shall make every effort to facilitate the validation across State borders of transit passes for minor forest produce issued by the Gram Sabha concerned.
- 3.21 The State government shall made available through its departments, funds available under Tribal Sub-plan, MGNREGA, funds for forestry available with the Gram Panchayat, funds under CAMPA, and other finances to the CFRC for development of the CFR.
- 3.22 The State Government may also send proposals to Ministry of Tribal Affairs for development of CFR in terms of Rule 16 of the Rules.

CHAPTER- 4

Resource Mapping, Planning and Monitoring

4. Resource and resource use mapping

- 4.1 At the outset, and before embarking upon preparation of the Conservation and Management Plan, the CFRC shall conduct a detailed resource and resource use mapping exercise, in which it shall ensure that all sections of the village community actively participate.

- 4.2 The forest resources mapped should include descriptions of the forest and forest cover, the grazing lands, the various minor forest produce, the wildlife and biodiversity in the area, the water sources and their catchment areas, and any other lands and resources which form part of the community forest resource.
- 4.3 The forest resource use mapping should include the existing and traditional practices of the forest and forest resources, including forest fallows, grazing, fodder and fuelwood, minor forest produce extraction and rotational practices, fishing and other water based produce, irrigation and drinking water usage, and also the cultural uses of the lands, such as burial ground, temples, sacred groves, fair grounds, pathways and waterways, and so on.
- 4.4 The forest resources and resource uses shall be translated into (i) village map (ii) village social map and (iii) village resource map, and shall also be collated in a tabulated form, as given in **Annexure-I**.
- 4.5 In particular, the CFRC shall undertake a mapping of the village population and the forest resources on which they are dependent for their livelihood needs, as under:
- (i) The CFRC shall enlist forest right holders from the Gram Sabha who are dependent for their livelihood needs on the community forest resources identified above.
 - (ii) The Committee will make a list of the villagers and population dependent on the forest resources identified, including details such as number of families, cattle population, fuelwood requirements, etc..
 - (iii) The CFRC will compile annual demand of various forest produce e.g. fuelwood, fodder, timber (where right to timber is a traditional forest right), minor forest produce, etc. received/ collected by various forest rights holders from the forest resource.
 - (iv) The CFRC shall also assess the families' dependent for livelihoods on various MFPs, location of processing centres and nearby market(s) for various MFPs.
 - (v) The CFRC will make a list of traditional knowledge/ practices being followed by the community, including protection and conservation measures followed in the area.
 - (vi) The Committee will identify the area used for grazing of cattle, and also areas prone to degradation, such as through fire, soil erosion, landslides, and so on.
 - (vii) The Forest Department will provide all necessary support and technical assistance to the CFRC in compilation of the demand, various pressures and vulnerability of forests to fire, over-exploitation etc.

An indicative list of information about forest resources and forest resource uses to be collected for CFRCM Plan is given in **Table 1 of Annexure-II**.

4.6 Identification of potential, opportunities and problem areas in forest:

After mapping the forest resources and the existing resource use practices, the CFRC shall undertake to identify the potential and opportunities for sustainable development of the existing forest resources, and the likely problems and challenges which may arise, through a participatory process which engages the knowledge and experience of the members of the Gram Sabha. The CFRC shall also identify the possible strategies for surmounting the challenges and achieving the potential gains in a sustainable and equitable manner.

4.7 Analysis of issues, and strategy and action plan to address the identified issues:

This section should include all key issues of CFR management and identification of their root causes collectively in participatory manner. Local government officials, non-government organizations and experts should also be involved in such exercises.

- (a) The CFRC will list out all forest right holders in the CFR, and document livelihood dependence of these right holders on CFR.
- (b) The CFRC will also list out the adjoining villages and the population (other than holders of forest rights) dependent on the CFR, and will record relevant details such as number of such families, their dependence on CFR for the forest produce, pressure of local cattle population on forests, etc., to work out the demand and nature of pressure on these forests.
- (c) The CFRC will document annual demand of various forest products - fuelwood, fodder, timber, Minor Forest Produce etc. - collected or obtained from the CFR by the forest rights holders and other user groups from the CFR.
- (d) The CFRC will document various MFPs used and traded, persons engaged in such activities, location of nearby market(s) and processing centres for various MFPs and other forest products.
- (e) The CFRC will comprehensively document traditional knowledge/ practices related to protection, conservation and utilization of forest resources in the CFR area followed by forest right holders and other community members.
- (f) The CFRC will identify the forest area used for grazing of cattle and area prone to fire and other drivers of degradation along with its severity and seasonality.

The abstract of forest rights-related information should be collected in the format given below in Table 2 of Annexure-II.

- 4.8 The CFRC may consider the format given in **Annexure III** for its draft CFRCM Plan or suitably modify it based on local requirement. It should include plan will managing the tenorial issues related to CFR as well as roles and responsibilities of different functionaries of the CFRC and Gram Panchayat.

4.9 Approval, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of the CFRCM Plan

- 4.9.1 Two copies of draft CFRCM plan will be submitted to the Sarpanch with a request to forward one copy of the same to the Forest Department for their advisory on socio-economic and ecological implications, respectively. Their advisory notes along with suggested modifications in the draft must be received within one month of submission of the draft. The advisory notes along with responses of the CFRC will be submitted before the Gram Sabha while the CFRC shall present and read out the CFRCM Plan before the Gram Sabha for its approval and necessary modifications. A copy of draft CFRCM Plan will be kept for seven days at a public place for any member of Gram Sabha to study it and offer their suggestions. The Gram Sabha in its subsequent meeting should take informed decision regarding necessary modification and integrating the CFRCM Plan with the micro-plan and forest working plan (or management plan, as the case may be) as envisaged in Rule 4 of the Forest Rights Rules. The Gram Sabha may approve the CFRCM Plan with such modifications as deemed appropriate, or if required, direct CFRC to submit a revised draft of the Plan after incorporating the changes approved by the Gram Sabha.
- 4.10 The CFRC shall be responsible for implementing the approved CFRCM Plan subject to the monitoring and control of the Gram Sabha.
- 4.11 The CFRCM Plan should be prepared and approved for five years. It should be reviewed on regular interval or on reconstitution of CFRC. Gram Sabha should also monitor implementation of the Plan at least twice a year.
- 4.12 Monitoring and Evaluation: The CFRC shall be responsible for continuous monitoring of its implementation and timely evaluation of the Plan using relevant and robust indicators. The CFRC should also submit annual report on completion of the financial year to Gram Sabha on the subject including the following details.
- Incidences of illegal felling and encroachments,
 - Status of forests and Plantation works,
 - Lopping regime,
 - Soil and water conservation works,
 - Controlled /regulated grazing,
 - Fire incidences,
 - MFP harvesting,
 - Bamboo harvesting,
 - Boundary pillars,
 - Spring recharge,
 - Lantana /weed eradication,
 - Reducing degradation in catchment area and water source area,
 - Removal of firewood,
 - Generation of forest-based livelihood opportunities,

- Implementation of regulations issued by the Gram Sabha including action taken by CFRC against misuse, if any, of forest rights, etc.,
- 4.13 The condition of forests should be periodically re-assessed every three years for the purpose of adaptive management.
- 4.14 State support for forest protection, technical knowhow such as technical support for multiple-use forestry, monitoring and enforcement of the sustainable use and conservation norms and marketing should be made available to the Gram Sabha and the CFRC especially in the early stages. The State Forest Department and the Revenue Department will need to play an important role in capacity building of the CFRC and Gram Sabha so that sustainable, equitable and effective management of CFR could be achieved along with better livelihood opportunities for the forest dwellers.

CHAPTER 5

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

- 5.1 A single consolidated account should be operational in each CFRC to carry out day-to-day activity of the Committee and implementation of the CFRCM Plan. However, special funds may be created as approved by the Gram Sabha for specific purposes. The Gram Sabha shall make procedural rules on the fund management, and have full control over the budget and expenditure. These funds will be deposited in savings bank account in the name of CFRC in a nearby suitable nationalized bank or post office and operated jointly by two office bearers as decided by the Gram Sabha. The accounting procedure shall be as applicable to the accounts of Gram Panchayat as Panchayati Raj Rules/regulation.
- 5.2 The fund for the CFRC can have following sources:
- a. Agreed upon contribution from sale of forest produce towards management of CFR;
 - b. Grants for developmental activities received from the State Governments;
 - c. Funds or grant received from other agencies for development works;
 - d. Funds provided by forest development agencies;
 - e. Funds received from Gram Sabha or any other Govt. agency; and
 - f. Any other receipts (Grants, contributions and donations from reputed institution, etc.)
- 5.3 Auditing and accounting procedures related to financial management of the CFRC shall be those prescribed for Gram Panchayat as per Panchayati raj Rules/regulation.

- (a) The office bearers involved in all finance related activities, are responsible and accountable to the Gram Sabha and the CFRC.
 - (b) All the expenses will be in line with the rules laid down, authorized and recorded in the proceedings of the CFRC meetings.
- 5.4 Other important issues related to Accounts
- a. The Secretary need to record all the receipts and payment details in the ledger and cash book of the CFRC.
 - b. For the payment of wage, the same should be made through direct bank transfers or by cheque. In order to maintain transparency, cash payments should be avoided.
 - c. In every meeting, the CFRC will review the accounts of the previous month in a date fixed for the same.
 - d. The Secretary will have to present a copy of the monthly account statement to the CFRC.
 - e. The Gram Sabha may authorise any govt. official or its member to inspect the accounts of the CFRC any time.
 - f. The annual revenue and expenditure of the CFRC should be presented within three months on completion of the financial year in the Gram Sabha.
 - g. At the time of closing the books of accounts, the CFRC through its Secretary will request the Gram Sabha to arrange for audit of its account. On receipt of such request letter from the CFRC, the Gram Sabha will authorize the audit as per provisions of the Panchayati Raj regulations.
 - h. The CFRC will be responsible for any misuse/ fraud of the funds at their disposal.
- 5.5 Expenses from CFRC Fund
- a. The CFRC funds will not be utilized for the direct or indirect personal benefit to any members.
 - b. Travel allowance to be paid to any member of CFRC for participating in a meeting or any other work on behalf of or for CFRC.
 - c. Purchase of stationary and postages as per the requirement.
 - d. Publicity expenses and payments made for prizes or awards in events organized for achieving objective of CFRCM Plan by the CFRC.
 - e. Purchase of relevant reading material including magazines and periodicals.
 - f. Expenditure incurred for the development of nursery and plantation.
 - g. Security / protection works.
 - h. Audit of accounts.

- i. Eco-development activities.
 - j. Other different, hidden or unforeseen expenses
 - k. Expenditure incurred on any other forestry and developmental activity as per approved Conservation and Management Plan.
 - l. Maintenance of community assets created out of project intervention.
- 5.6 The CFRC may engage itself, as approved by the Gram Sabha as per applicable rules, in creation of a Corpus Fund for management of income generating activities. This fund can be utilized for the specified purpose by following rules and regulations outlined for the same with prior approval of the Gram Sabha.
- 5.6 The CFRCM Plan should include general proposals and outline of the budget to guide CFRC while preparing annual budget proposals.

CHAPTER 6

Disputes between Gram Sabha and their settlement

- 6.1 The Conservation and Management Plan prepared by the CFRC and as approved by the Gram Sabha, shall be forwarded to the Sub-Divisional Level Committee (SDLC) at the earliest opportunity.
- 6.2 In case of any dispute between two or more Gram Sabhas regarding the nature and extent of their community forest resources and/or the forest rights exercisable therein, such dispute shall be examined by the Sub Divisional Level Committee.
- 6.3 The SDLC shall give the authorised representatives of the Gram Sabhas an opportunity to be heard and shall make every effort to mediate the dispute and arrive at an amicable and lasting solution between the parties. No appeal shall lie against a mediated solution to which all concerned parties are agreed.
- 6.4 In the event the dispute cannot be amicably settled, even after due efforts, the SDLC shall take a decision and reduce the same to writing, along with detailed reasons for the same. A copy of the decision along with reasons shall be provided to all the concerned Gram Sabhas.
- 6.5 If any of the Gram Sabhas are aggrieved by the decision of the SDLC, they can approach the DLC, which shall take a final decision in this regard, after making all efforts to arrive at a mediated and amicable solution.

Violations of the Conservation and Management Plan

- 6.6 Where any violation of the Conservation and Management Plan, or damage to the community forest resources, is brought to light, these shall be brought before the Gram Sabha immediately.
- 6.7 After conducting a short preliminary examination, the Gram Sabha may forward its recommendation to the State Level Monitoring Committee to initiate action in terms of under Sections 7 and 8 of the Act.
- 6.8 In addition, the Gram Sabha may also initiate necessary complaint under any other extant law, including the Indian Penal Code, the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, the Indian Forest Act, 1927 (or relevant State forest law), the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, the Biodiversity Act, 1986??, the existing Panchayati Raj laws, and any other law in force.
- 6.9 The Gram Sabha may delegate its power to initiate such complaint against violations aforesaid to the CFRC. The CFRC shall be authorised to take necessary follow-up action as well.
- 6.10 The CFRC shall inform the Gram Sabha of developments in such proceedings at regular intervals, and as and when called upon to do so.
- 6.11 After receiving such complaint from the Gram Sabha or the CFRC, as the case may be, the concerned authority shall initiate necessary action as per extant law without any delay, and in any event not later than one week.

Details to be included in the survey for assessment of the CFR and MFPs of the Gram Sabha and sustainable harvesting potential

Part I: Introduction

1. Description about the CFR area — accompanied by a map.
2. Area - includes forest divisions , ranges ,compartments, total area , RF or PF etc.
3. Forest and vegetation type of the CFR Area
4. Ecological and Cultural significance of the area
5. Description of Title/Right holders and Tribe name etc
6. Types of Rights under FRA along with duties and responsibilities
7. Socio economic status of the village/right holders location of village in CFR area

Part II: Current Status of CFR (use and management)

1. Pre CFR Management practice
 - a. FD practice—fire-lines, plantations etc
 - b. Any other use of other agencies like irrigation, electricity, fisheries dept etc
2. Current status of CFR Area
 - a. Local use of forest – past and present usage pattern
 - b. NTFP (Non timber forest produces) – What, when, where it is collected
 - c. Name and quantity of NTFP collected per year
 - d. A description of the NTFPs and the NTFP resource species targeted for management
 - e. Fish and other aquatic resource use—What, when and where collected
 - f. Name and quantity collected per year
 - g. Cultural and religious use of CFR Area
3. Resource inventory of the CFR area
4. Flora and Fauna of the CFR area
5. Religious and Cultural Places in CFR area

Table 1: Mapping of Forest Resources and Forest Resource uses

<i>Title of description</i>	<i>Explanatory notes to write the description</i>
Identification	Give name of Gram Panchayat/ Gram Sabha along with local name of forests, Beat, Range and Division
Geographical / political location	This section should describe the location of village and CFR.
Area (in Hectares)	Describe total area of forests in the village, community forest resources and distribution of forest types and dominant species associations, as also area of special nature such as blanks, rocky outcrop, bamboo patch, etc.
Situation	As accurate as possible including its geo-reference polygons using GPS, etc.
Boundaries	Describe nature of boundaries in north, south, east and west directions along with details of boundary pillars, ridges, spurs, streams, etc.
Natural and created Resources	It will deal with the available natural resource and other man-made structures created in the village.
Legal Status	Legal status of the forests should be described as reserved forests, protected forests, protected areas, and any other types of forests; it should also describe nature of nearby forests and tree cover areas , etc.
Nature of forests rights	Comprehensive documentation and listing of all forests rights granted in the village to STs and OTFDs as well as to any group not resident in the village
Vegetation characteristics of CFR	
Major association of species	
Regeneration status	Regeneration status may be observed and recorded and mapped for major tree species in robust classes such as adequate/ moderate/ poor/ absent, etc.
Bamboo resources	
Grazing	
fodder resources	
Plantation	
General topography and land feature	

<i>Title of description</i>	<i>Explanatory notes to write the description</i>
Soil	Texture, depth, permeability, drainage, surface compaction, humus, etc.
Soil erosion	Heavy/ moderate/ mild/ no erosion and mapped
Presence of water bodies	Name, type, extent, seasonality of the water body may be explored and recorded. Quality of water in terms of suitability as drinking water or other usage should be ascertained.
Source of water	Status of streams flow during different months, etc.
Problems	
Grazing	
Fire	
weeds	
Encroachment	
man-animal conflict	
Biodiversity status	In terms of brief description as well as relevant biodiversity indices
Traditional knowledge and Practices	
General Observations	
(i) Condition of forests	
(ii) Water availability	

Table 2: Nature of forest rights granted to communities and individuals in the CFR areas and assessment of flow of benefits from such forests

<i>S.N.</i>	<i>Types* of rights granted</i>	<i>Quantum of rights admitted</i>	<i>Availability</i>	<i>Availability in deficit/ excess</i>	<i>Planning to bridge gaps</i>
1	Grazing				
2	Fodder				
3	Fuelwood				
4	Thatching materials				
5	Fencing materials				
6	NTFPs				
7	Water resources				Spring management
8	Fishing				
9	Cultivation				
10	Habitation				

*The list is indicative (not exhaustive) and should include all types of community and individual forest rights granted in the CFR

Annexure-III

Suggested Format for CFRCM Plan (may be suitably modified by CFRC) Conservation and Management Plan- Broad outline

Period of the Plan CFR Management Plan

1. Vision
2. Objectives of management
3. Problems and issues if any for management
4. Area demarcation within CFR (use zone, non use zone, plantation zone, water zone , reed and bamboo zone, gene pool zone and MFP collection zones, Fish breeding zones, etc with Maps)
5. Resource Use from CFR area
 - i. Own use
 - a. MFPs and Fish (List of species, how much to collect, where to collect, when to collect)
 - b. Harvesting mechanisms for each MFP and Fish
 - c. Recording of harvest by each right holder
 - ii. Use for cash/sale
 - a. MFPs and Fish (List of species, how much to collect, where to collect, when to collect)
 - b. Harvesting mechanisms for each MFP and Fish
 - c. Recording of harvest by each right holder
 - d. Record of sale by each right holder
 - iii. Agreements on amount of harvest/collection area/sale etc by Gram Sabha/Right Holders.
 - iv. Plans for MFP and Fish harvesting practices
 - v. Rationale for species selection and rate of harvest
 - vi. Description and justification of harvesting techniques and equipments used
6. Protection and Restoration
 - a. Demarcation of Restoration Area for flora/fauna and terrestrial/aquatic habitat
 - b. Demarcation of gene-pool area for no or limited use
 - c. Identification of species to be planted in restoration area

- d. Protocol of Plantation or ANR as required
- e. Any other measure for protection and restoration (list them and give detailed activity like fire protection)

7. Organization and Administration

(i) Structure

- a. Management Structure as decided by Gram Sabha
- b. Composition of nominated CFR Management Committee

(ii) Responsibilities

- a. Role of Management Committee
- b. Responsibilities of Gram Sabha and Right holders
- c. Tasks assigned to Committee and Right holders
- d. Operation of joint tasks
- e. Overall regular reporting to Gram Sabha and other line agencies

(iii) Convergence and Synergy Building

- a. Building linkages with other line agencies
- b. Agreement on joint tasks/responsibilities
- c. Schedule of joint tasks
- d. Joint meetings on building synergies with other line agencies
- e. Convergence of CFR plan with other plans
- f. Development of joint workplans if required

(iv) Amenities

- a. Office
- b. Equipment
- c. Communication
- d. Incentives and Awards

(v) Budget

- a. Yearly Workplan and Budget

(vi) MAPS (Most of the sections will be accompanied with maps)
