

number of ECs may be formed. The State/Union territory may co-opt additional experts as members, if needed. The selection of non ex-officio members will be done by the Collector in consultation with the officer in charge of the National Park or Wildlife Sanctuary.

Keeping this in view, the following basic composition of the Expert Committee is proposed:

Officer in charge of the National Park/ Wildlife Sanctuary	Chairman
District Tribal Welfare Officer	Co-chairman
A representative from each Gram Sabha	Member
A social scientist with at least a Master's level qualification in Social science/anthropology	Member
Ecologist, with at least Master's level qualification in Wildlife Science/ ecology	Member
A representative of a Non Governmental Organization working in the field of Tribal Welfare	Member
Appropriately qualified representative of a scientific Institution having field level experience in faunal and floral ecology	Member
Member of local Panchayat	Member
Representative of Zilla Panchayat	Member
Range Forest Officer	Member-Secretary

## 5. PROCESS OF DETERMINATION OF CRITICAL WILDLIFE HABITATS:

### 5.1. Constitution of Expert Committee:

Every Conservator of Forests (WL) after due authorization from the State Government shall within 60 days from the issuance of this Protocol, notify an **Expert Committee**, as per the procedure specified in Para 4.1.2 of this Protocol for the purpose of identification of CWH in his/her jurisdiction.

### 5.2. Identification of CWH:

5.2.1. Each Expert Committee shall identify areas within National Parks and Sanctuaries required to be kept inviolate for the purpose of wildlife conservation. The identification of CWH shall be the joint responsibility of the qualified scientific institution, qualified ecologists, and other wildlife experts on the Expert Committee. These members should conduct necessary field visits and undertake identification of CWH, based on scientific and objective criteria.