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5.2.2. Identification of CWH should be based on parameters decided by the National Level Committee, based on the inputs of its scientific members. Additional site-specific ecological criteria decided by the Expert Committee should be clearly elaborated in the final proposal.

5.2.3. Since a proposal for CWH relates to a decision that the area *should* be kept inviolate for wildlife conservation, information on resource utilization by local communities, as well as human-wildlife conflict is also extremely relevant and must be taken into account.

5.2.4. Parallel to scientific identification of the CWH by the scientific experts in the EC, the EC will obtain from the Gram Sabha, the record of the rights vested in the forest dwellers living within national parks and wildlife sanctuaries as have been finally approved by the District Land Committee under sub-section (5) of section 6 of the FRA, 2006. This will enable the EC to examine and take an informed view on co-existence with modified rights, or on resettlement, taking into account the deliberations of the consultative process.

5.2.5. In cases where the record of rights is available: The EC shall take into account the rights of forest dwellers, and current and expected levels of forest use, and recommend co-existence with modified rights, or resettlement, on a site-specific basis. This complete proposal will be forwarded to the Chief Wildlife Warden, as per the requirements of 5.3 below, within the stipulated period of 6 months of the constitution of the EC.

5.2.6. In cases where record of forest rights is unavailable: The EC will inform the Conservator of Forests (WL) who will take up the matter with the Collector, Chief Wildlife Warden, and the State Government to inform them that practical identification of CWH, and recommending co-existence with modified rights or resettlement cannot be done in absence of availability of record of rights. The Chief Wildlife Warden shall request the District Collector to expedite the settlement of rights within the proposed CWH for final identification.

5.2.7. In cases where Record of Rights is not provided within 6 months: The Expert Committee will forward the area identified as CWH based only on scientific parameters to the Conservator of Forests (WL) and in turn the Conservator of Forests (WL) will forward the same to the Chief Wildlife Warden. A note should be attached indicating that no categorical determination of CWH boundaries could be made as the details of record of rights of the forest dwellers were not available to make recommendation for modification or resettlement of rights. The process as detailed from 5.2.8 would be once again initiated as and when details of record of rights of Forest Dwellers within the identified CWH become available duly approved by the District Land Committee under sub-section (5) of section (6) of FRA, 2006.

#### 5.2.8. Open Consultation by the Expert Committee

After obtaining the details of rights within the identified CWH, the Expert Committee shall hold extensive, open consultations with the forest rights holders, in their local precincts, with a one-third quorum of the Gram Sabha concerned, to solicit their views on the proposed notification of CWH. In particular, the Expert Committee shall: