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No. 23011/16/2015-FRA
Government of India
Ministry of Tribal Affairs
(FRA Division)

R.No. F-280, August Kranti Bhawan,
Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi
Dated: 23rd April, 2015

To

The Chief Secretaries of all State Governments

Sub: **Guidelines under Section 12 with regard to recognition and vesting of Community Forest Resource (CFR) and its management under Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA)**

The undersigned is directed to state that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has in numerous occasions conveyed the importance of recognition and vesting of CFR rights under FRA. While some States have made efforts to recognise the community and CFR rights, the State Governments need to make further efforts to recognise the CFR rights which is still slow in a number of States for all potential forest land where such traditional rights exist and claims have been pending.

2. In view of the above, Ministry of Tribal Affairs issues the present guidelines pertaining to recognition of CFR rights and their subsequent management.

- i. As per Section 3(1) (i) and Section 5 of FRA, the authority to protect, regenerate or conserve or manage CFRs, is the Gram Sabha along with the committee for protection of wildlife, forest and biodiversity constituted under FR Rule 4(1)(e). The meaning of Gram Sabha shall be as defined in Section 2(g) and section 2(p) of the FRA.
- ii. Each Gram Sabha shall be free to develop its own simple format for conservation and management plan of the CFR which its members can understand with ease and may also comprise of the rules and regulations governing forest access, use and conservation.
- iii. The Gram Sabha and the Committee under FR rule 4(1)(e) shall be the authority to modify the micro plan or working plan or management plan of the Forest