

## Recognition of Community Forest Rights

### Why in news?

The Chhattisgarh government has become only the second state in the country to recognise Community Forest Resource (CFR) rights of a village inside a national park.

### What is a Community Forest Resource?

- The community forest resource area is the common forest land that has been traditionally protected and conserved for sustainable use by a particular community.
- The community uses it
  - to access resources available within the traditional and customary boundary of the village
  - for seasonal use of landscape in case of pastoralist communities
- Each CFR area has a customary boundary with identifiable landmarks that may include forest of any category - revenue forest, classified & unclassified forest, deemed forest, DLC land, reserve forest, protected forest, sanctuary and national parks etc.

### What are Community Forest Resource rights?

- The Community Forest Resource rights are provided under [the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers \(Recognition of Forest Rights\) Act](#).
- It provides for recognition of the right to “protect, regenerate or conserve or manage” the community forest resource.
- It allows the community to formulate rules for forest use by itself and others and thereby discharge its responsibilities.
- CFR rights, along with Community Rights which include nistar rights and rights over non-timber forest products ensure sustainable livelihoods of the community.
- These rights give the authority to the Gram Sabha to adopt local traditional practices of forest conservation and management within the community forest resource boundary.

### What is the significance of the recognition of CFR rights?

- To undo the historic injustice meted out to forest-dependent communities due to curtailment of their customary rights over forests
- To recognize the community’s right to use, manage and conserve forest resources
- To legally hold forest land that these communities have used for cultivation and residence
- To underline the integral role that forest dwellers play in sustainability of forests and in conservation of biodiversity
- To make forest dwellers a part of management of the protected forests using their traditional wisdom

### What about Chattisgarh’s recognition?

- The Chhattisgarh government recognised, for the first time, the community forest resource (CFR) rights of a village located inside a national park.

- The CFR rights of Gudiyapadar hamlet comprises of 403 hectares of forest area and consists of four reserved forest compartments inside the Kanger Ghati National Park.
- According to the Chhattisgarh government, it has recognised more than 4,000 CFR titles till mid-May.
- Kanger Ghati National Park is the second national park, after Simlipal in Odisha, where CFR rights have been recognised.

## References

1. <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/in-a-first-chhattisgarh-recognises-cfr-rights-of-village-in-side-national-park-7936375/>
2. <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-what-are-community-forest-rights-why-do-they-matter-7939921/>

