



Legal framework

Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, has been enacted **to recognize the forest rights and occupation of forest land** in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers, who have been residing in such forests for generations



➤ Thus, the Act empowers the forest dwellers to access and use the forest resources in the manner that they were traditionally accustomed, to protect, conserve and manage forests, protect forest dwellers **from unlawful evictions and also provides for basic development facilities for the community**



Forest dwellers



- It means any **member or community** who has for **at least three generations** prior to the **13th day of December, 2005** primarily resided in and who depend on the forest or forests land for bona fide livelihood needs. **Forests are the places on the Earth where lots of trees, plants and animals live in association with each other. Some human beings also live inside the forests.** They are called adivasis.



➤ The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act of 2006 was **designed to safeguard the persons and strike a balance between their right to the environment and their right to life and livelihood..**

The ST and forest Dwellers act 2006



This Act may be called the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (2) **It extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir.**



The Act includes



- Community Forest Resource
- Critical Wildlife Habitat
- Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes
- Forest Land
- Forest Villages
- Gram Sabha



Community Forest Resource



- It 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;



Critical Wildlife Habitat



- It means such areas of National Parks and Sanctuaries where it has been specifically and clearly established, case by case, on the basis of scientific and objective criteria, that such areas are required to be kept as inviolate for the purposes of wildlife conservation as may be determined and notified by the Central Government in the Ministry of Environment and Forests after **open process of consultation by an Expert Committee, which includes experts from the locality appointed by that Government** wherein a representative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs shall also be included,.



Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes



- It means the members or community of the Scheduled Tribes who primarily reside in and who depend on the forests or forest lands for bonafide livelihood needs and includes the Scheduled Tribe pastoralist communities;



Forest Land



- It means land of any description falling within any forest area and includes unclassified forests, un demarcated forests, existing or deemed forests, protected forests, reserved forests, Sanctuaries and National Parks;



Forest Villages



- It means the settlements which have been established inside the forests by the forest department of any State Government for forestry operations or which were converted into forest villages through the forest reservation process and includes forest settlement villages, fixed demand holdings, all types of **taungya settlements**, by whatever name called, for such villages and includes lands for cultivation and other uses permitted by the Government;



Gram Sabha



- It means a village assembly which shall consist of all adult members of a village and in case of States having no Panchayats, Padas, Tolas and other traditional village institutions and elected village committees, with full and unrestricted participation of women.



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