

### Recommendation

Diversion of forest land of Lai KRF and Pailapathal RF in Latehar range of Latehar Forest Division for relocation of Kujrum, Latu and other villages from Palamau Tiger Reserve (PTR), Daltonganj, Jharkhand is an ambitious and important proposal as it is going to benefit one of the first Tiger Reserve under Tiger Project and the only National Park in Jharkhand. The proposed site is a dense forest of 0.5 to 0.6 vegetative density, is rich in floral and faunal diversity and also falls in notified Eco-sensitive Zone (ESZ) of Palamau Wildlife Sanctuary, Betla National Park and Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary. However as communicated by Deputy Director, Palamau Tiger Project, South Division in spite of these facts and also Latehar Forest Division having degraded forest land, this being a voluntary relocation scheme, they have selected this site as the proposed site of Lai-Pailapathal RF is found desirably suitable by the villagers among the alternatives being considered. Deputy Director, Palamau Tiger Project, South Division has also communicated that relocation of Latu and Kujrum villages will result in making more than 300 ha land (extent of forest land to be evacuated by the villagers reflected by individual and community rights under FRA is more than the land being diverted) in core area of Palamau Tiger Reserve free from human interferences and thereby providing an inviolate area which will be developed as meadow and will be available for a wide range of wildlife. Therefore taking in consideration the bigger goal of wildlife conservation, this proposal can be recommended, provided the following conditions get fulfilled:

- 1) Rehabilitation/resettlement plan and complete tree enumeration to be completed after in-principle approval.
- 2) As the proposed area falls in ESZ, it is important to ensure that felling of trees is restricted to minimum numbers in the diverted forest land and strict enforcement of all relevant guidelines be ensured.

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