

CAMPAIGN FOR PROTECTING ADIVASIS, DALITS AND WOMEN'S FOREST RIGHTS AGAINST THE UNDEMOCRATIC IMPOSITION OF CAF ACT!

WHAT IS COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION

Vast areas of forests vested by the Forest Rights Act (FRA) with adivasis and other forest communities are routinely taken away and cleared without their consent for so-called 'development' projects. Compensatory Afforestation (CA) is a statutory process meant to compensate this loss of forests, by setting up plantations on non-forest private or common lands, or degraded forest areas. The funds for CA collected from private and public corporations that use forests for development projects are channeled to the forest bureaucracy, instead of Gram Sabhas who have the right to manage and conserve these forests, and who are most harmed by deforestation. Instead, the Forest Department uses these funds to set up plantations on the customary and common lands of forest

WHAT ARE CAMPA ACT AND RULES?

- 1) CAF Act, 2016 was passed to manage the Rs.42,000 crores Compensatory Afforestation funds (CAF)**
- 2) The CAF Act, 2016 provides all powers over CA Funds to Forest Departments through National and State Compensatory Afforestation Fund Authorities and even Consent of Gram Sabha is not required for use of CA funds on their land**
- 3) The CAF Act is in complete violation of FRA**
- 4) The CAF Rules are to be passed by end of 2017. Once it is passed the CAF Act will be in force.**

communities to displace and dispossess them again. The Central Government plans to pass the CAF Rules (under the CAF Act, 2016) by end of 2017 to give this CA Fund, now a massive Rs.42,000 crores, to the forest bureaucracy, without making Gram Sabhas a party to any decision-making or implementation of the Act. The FD will be further empowered to use these funds to violate the forests rights of communities through plantations, fencing off forests, forcing relocations, buying guns etc.

IMPACT ON ADIVASIS AND FOREST-DWELLING COMMUNITIES

CAF Rules will undo the gains of FRA in freeing adivasis and forest-dwelling communities from the tyranny of the Forest Department. Today, *it is one of the biggest threats to the historical rights of adivasi and forest dwellers communities to forests.*

- 1) CA illegally grabs community forests and lands belonging to adivasis and other forest-dwellers, and ignores customary rights and uses**
- 2) It de facto takes away the right of communities to protect and govern forests as provided by FRA, and returns this power to the Forest Department**
- 3) By taking away access to forests, CAF forces women to travel long distances to meet basic needs from forests.**
- 4) CAF will be used to fund forced relocation of adivasi and forest-dwellers from forests**
- 5) Passing of the CAF rules by end of 2017 must be stopped and the CAF Act needs to be repealed.**

OUR DEMANDS

- 1) The CA funds belong to Adivasis and Forest Dwellers as it has been created by destroying forests vested with them under FRA
- 2) Repeal the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 and transfer all CAF funds to FRA Gram Sabhas. The FRA Gram Sabhas will take responsibility of protecting forests and carrying out afforestation using this money.
- 3) Any work under CAF must have the Free, Prior and Informed Consent of FRA Gram Sabhas.
- 4) Stop displacing women, Dalits, adivasis, small farmers in name of forestry plantations and afforestation.
- 5) On forest land, no work should be undertaken under this Act unless the implementation of the Forest Rights Act is complete in the area and all villages therein have been given their titles to community forest resource rights.

WHAT CAN YOU DO

- 1) Encourage the Gram Sabha in your area to use its authority to pass a resolution asserting their legal rights and authority over IFR, CR and CFR; demand repeal of CAF Act and provide the CA Funds to FRA Gram Sabhas
- 2) Send a copy of this resolution to the Chief Minister's Office, State Level Monitoring Committee, Tribal Development Department,

Forest Department, Ministry of Tribal Affairs
and PMO

- 3) Approach your MP/MLA and opposition parties to demand repeal of CAF Act and oppose its implementation in its current form
- 4) Spread information in your community about the threat from CAF Act and Rules and encourage people to come together to oppose the Act

For more information, contact: