



<b>S. No.</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>No of Villages (Panchayat wards)</b>	<b>No of JFMC/EDC to be created</b>
1	South District	255	255
2	East District	275	275
3	West District	274	274
4	North District	103	103
<b>Total</b>			<b>907</b>

For better linkages with the Panchayats who are the constitutional bodies and reducing the multiplicity of local institutions in the village level, the Ward Panchayat Member shall function as the ex-officio JFMC President. This will ensure mainstreaming of conservation in the larger framework of developmental programmes of the government. The concerned Forest Block Officer shall be the member secretary of this village level JFMC. This village level JFMC shall also be the nodal agency for all programmes related to forests, Landuse and environment, medicinal plants, watershed, wildlife and biodiversity. The same village level JFMC shall also function as the village landuse committee, watershed committee, biodiversity management committee and implement all other forestry programmes of the state. They shall also receive collateral funding from government and other sources.

Based on the above state government directive, forest decentralization and universalization has to be initiated in a more systematic manner. This will involve restructuring of the existing 204 JFMC/EDC to panchayat ward level with the concerned ward panchayat member as the JFMC/EDC President and block officer as the member secretary in a consultative manner within a period of 6 months. For this the concerned CEOs of FDAs have to delineate the panchayat wards to avoid the duplication. A panchayat ward should not have both a JFMC and an EDC.

**By Order**

**(T.R. Poudyal) IFS  
PCCF cum Secretary Forests,  
Government of Sikkim.**