

Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests

Call for participation in the Trees outside Forest Standard
Development Process

10/1/2016



Background

Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF), is a not for profit organisation established in January 2015 by key forest based stakeholder with the key idea to develop country specific Forest certification standards and system through extensive consultative process with the stakeholders and work towards the promotion of credible forest certification and conservation schemes/projects in India and later in South Asia. We intend on promoting these policy changes which can integrate commercial operations with conservancy and reforestation activities.

Improved economic contributions from the forest sector in the future are likely to hinge on improved governance. Forests influence patterns of economic development supporting livelihoods, helping structure economic change, and promoting sustainable growth. The forestry and allied sectors, including timber, furniture, plywood (and other engineered products) and pulp and paper, represent a significant section of the Indian industry, in terms of revenue generation, employment as well as contribution to foreign exchange. India is a net importer of forest fiber, but there is a significant section of Indian industry which is based on the export of forest based produce. In the present scenario, sustainability of resources as well as certification of forest based products act as trade barriers, especially when concerned with exports to the First world countries.

The NCCF had initiated the process of developing the Standards for Certification of Forest Management in March 2015 through a multi stakeholder Standard Development Group (SDG), represented by professional foresters, premier forestry research and academic institutions of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (ICFRE and IIFM), business groups, forest based industries, NGOs (social and environment related), workers and trade unions, and certification bodies etc. While developing upon the working draft of the FM certification Standard , NCCF had reached out to the disadvantaged stakeholders and the forest departments through extended stakeholder outreach exercises across some sections in India. The Draft Forest Management Certification Standard (Version 1.0) has been hosted on the website of NCCF (<http://nccf.in/ongoing-consultations/>) for a period of 60 days for widespread public consultation .

Why NCCF

India has an area of about 8,11,875 hec area certified in India under FM and more than 400 Chain of Custody certifications. There are several mainstream operational Forest Management Certification schemes available on a global level.. However, the aforementioned Forest Management Certification schemes are by design generic in nature so as to be applicable on a global level without any specificity to particular countries for long, and as such are not pragmatic enough for uniform application by all countries within their jurisdictions as they may have different physio-geographical structures and climatic conditions. In addition, the certification systems also need to incorporate available best practices in the country, to benefit forest managers as well as the forests, in terms of adoption and replication of such best practices. This can only be ensured through country specific standards and



systems. There was felt a need for the development of a home-grown certification program, which, while meeting the stringent global requirements of sustainability, would also be sympathetic to the forestry and resource management concerns within India. The NCCF was conceived out of this thought process, to have a globally aligned certification program, which was developed within India and addressing Indian concerns, while at the same time making the Indian forest fiber based industry competent globally.

Trees Outside Forests Standards Initiative :-

As we are already aware that in India about 95% of the total forest cover is under the ownership of central and state government and majority of industrial demand of wood and wood products in India are met from the trees grown outside forests. Realising the significance of the ToF sector in India and keeping with the objective of our organisation, NCCF launched an Initiative to develop standards on Responsible/Sustainable management of Trees Outside Forests (TOF). This sector is likely to get benefitted through development of national standards for forest certification and sustainable management of forests/ agroforestry systems.

The Forest Management and the Chain of Custody certifications are co-dependent on each other and the objective of the concept of Certification is not fulfilled until the raw materials being procured and entering the chain are certified .**In view of above, NCCF hereby calls for the nomination for members at individual, industrial and institutional level to be a part of Standard development group (SDG) for developing a standard for TOF certification. SDG is an apex body involved in development and improvement of the standard. The body will have prerogative to monitor, control and supervise the standard development process. Considering your organisation is a prominent stakeholder in this filed, we would be delighted to you have in our panel**

Subject to your confirmation , we request you to Provide your particulars in the format of Annexure 1 along with relevant enclosures and send it to tof.mail@nccf.in .



Annexure 1

Expression of Interest Application Form

Contact details	
Name	
Address	
Contact person	
Telephone number	
Email address	
Fax	
Name of institution organization/s*	
Address	

Please attach your CV while submitting the EoI form.

*If any individual is nominated by an institution then he/she should submit a declaration for the same on organization letter head.

Terms and Conditions:

In consideration to my selection as a member for Standard Development Group of Trees outside Forests (TOF) Certification, I agree to the following:

1. All information provided in this application form should be factually correct.
2. The members of SDG shall meet once in a month at a place as may be pre-decided by the members. In case of need the members can hold the meeting as and when required depending upon the situations and necessity.
3. Members have to attend atleast three standard development meeting pertaining to TOF certification. In case, he/she does not attend atleast three meetings then NCCF is free to reckon-off he/she from the Standard development Group.
4. NCCF is not liable to pay travel or logistics expenditure of any SDG member.
5. To collate the outcomes of assessment reports.
6. To guide and support TWG members to develop and formulate TOF Certification standard.
7. The Council shall not compensate any member for the time devoted and towards professional fees /expenses of any member

I acknowledge the requirements for the participation as set forth in this application.

Date:

Place

Sign_____