

**Reissuance of EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
FOR DEVELOPING OF RISK ASSESSMENT TOOL/Framework
FOR NCCF-ToF CERTIFICATION SCHEME (version 2)**

Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF), calls for participation of interested organisations for development of a Risk Assessment Tool/Framework as part of NCCF Trees outside Forests Certification Scheme.

Interested organisations shall submit their EoI along with details and financials as per Annex 1 and Annex 2. To below mentioned email address by 10 July 2020; 1700 hrs. (IST)

To email	dg@nccf.in
Copy email	certification@nccf.in
Subject	<Name of Organisation> Proposal for Risk Recognition Tool

Background

Trees outside forests (ToF) resource in India play a very important role in meeting the requirements of wood fibre of the country, especially the pulp and paper, plywood and composite products, handicrafts and furniture industry. Currently, ToF resource is estimated to meet more than 85% of the industrial wood requirements.

ToF is a versatile natural resource and as important as our natural forest. Their management is a bigger challenge because of widespread landscape, fragmentary nature and unincorporated information into any databases. Global attention on forest resources has increased manifold whereas our attention on tree outside forests has remain diffused as intrinsically these are multi-sectoral and multipurpose. It is believed that bringing ToF in purview of certification will eliminate the market barriers, support farmers and private tree growers for optimum price and also install some of the best management practices to grow and manage ToF.

NCCF has developed the certification standard for the ToF resource through the Standard Development Group (SDG) following an open, transparent and consultative process. The SDG comprise of a wide range of stakeholders viz, tree growers, wood based and paper pulp industries, research and academic institutions, experts, forest departments, NGOs etc. Besides a series of meetings, there have been online consultations, workshops, field visits, public consultations and finally pilot testing of the standard in the field.

NCCF Trees outside Forest Certification Scheme

There are 59 Criteria and 239 indicators for NCCF-PEFC Forest Management Certification Standard whereas in TOF Certification Standard only 28 Criteria and 98 indicators for block plantations and urban trees and forests (UTF) and 16 Criteria and 48 indicators for isolated/linear/scattered trees.

Occurrence of ToF is in two forms:

1. Block Formations

- a. Urban trees and forests
- b. Agroforestry

2. Non-Block Formations

- a. Scattered Trees
- b. Avenue Plantations/Multipurpose lots
- c. Along highways, railway lines, etc.

Implementation of NCCF-TOF Certification

The TOF certification process will be carried out by an “eligible/qualified third party” which will charge a fee for the time spent on verifying the required documents and assessing the conditions in the field. To eliminate or reduce the cost of certification specially for small and marginal farmers some strategy has been suggested in the following paragraphs.

Possible strategies to implement NCCF-TOF Standard

a. Industry / Supplier Driven

b. State specific agency (Social Forestry/SFC)

c. Cooperative/federation/NGO Driven

In this model, a number of farmers themselves may constitute a cooperative and can undertake management and certification process of their trees. This will reduce the individual cost of certification and will ensure better negotiating power for farmers to sell their wood to industries. NGOs working for farmer welfare can take a lead in organizing and supporting TOF certification.

d. Owners managing Urban trees and forests/roadside plantations

In this case, the responsibility for management and initiation of certification process lies with the concerned organizations like city/town administration, RWAs, Municipal Corporations, Forest Departments, Private, Societies, etc. The intent is to drive the programme by creating larger public awareness under which public will value sustainable establishment and management of these trees/plantations/forests. These organisations will be responsible for preparing management plan for managing urban forests/trees sustainably and also meet cost of certification. Urban trees and forests focus on recreation, aesthetic and amenity and pollution control roles and not meant for timber production.

e. Species wise certification

This model can be clubbed up with any of the above model and help in certification of species which are of commercial value in the state/area. This can help in planning and projecting future demand and supply of wood locally. This can help in increase in scope of certification as per demand and commercial utilization.

Scope of Work

1. Identification and assessment of risks in implementing ToF Certification Scheme
2. Risk Assessment Tool/Framework to identify and assess the levels of risk in complying with the requirements of the NCCF ToF Certification Scheme
3. To develop tool/framework using NCCF ToF Certification Criteria
4. To develop a risk classification/calculation criterion – high, medium, or low risk
5. List of ToF species which have been made equivalent to agriculture produce and have high commercial value
6. To develop associated verifiers, procedures, templates and forms like checklists, sampling techniques, etc.
7. To develop process map for issuance of verification note for harvested timber. The process to include prototype or HLL map to adopt online method for this process
8. Pilot test tool/framework
9. Training and capacity building to use agencies (Forest Department/Corporation/Farmers, traders/saw millers, etc.)
10. Any other required document as suggested by project proponent

Evaluation Eligibility Criteria:

S. No.	Assessment Criteria	Score
1	Minimum of 05 years of post-establishment experience	15
2	Work Domain (Part 1): Natural Resource Management	05
3	Work Domain (Part 2): Forestry/Forest Management/Chain of Custody Certification/Timber Legality	20
4	Experience in certification/III party evaluation/auditing/ similar projects	10
5	Valid Accreditations/Affiliations, etc.	05
6	Technical Proposal	25
7	Project Team	20
	TOTAL	100

Duration

The tool has to be delivered within 60 days from the date of assigning of the project.

Fee

Submission of Proposal against the EoI is free of cost.

Selection

Selection of the agency will be based on Evaluation Eligibility Criteria and Financial Proposal. A committee Chaired by Chairperson, NCCF-ToF Standard Development Group will be the deciding authority.

Final Score = 0.7* (Score for Evaluation Eligibility Criteria) + 0.3*(Score for Financial Proposal)

Note: In case of any dispute the decision of Chairperson, NCCF-ToF Standard Development Group will prevail.

About NCCF

NCCF, a not for profit organization, engaged in diverse activities like developing globally benchmarked and India specific certification standards, policy advocacy on natural resource management and other emerging issues, capacity building, training and multi-stakeholder engagement. NCCF is the National Governing Body (NGB) member of Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). NCCF has previously developed Certification Standard for Forest Management, which is internationally benchmarked, country specific and endorsed by the PEFC, giving this Indian Certification Scheme an international recognition.

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
(Wherever required attach extra sheets)**

Name of Organisation			
List of Accreditations/Memberships/Certificates/Affiliations			
Registration Details (PAN, GST, CIN)			
PAN No.			
GST No.			
Certificate of Incorporation/ Registration Certificate			
Details of similar projects/other works performed by organisation in past (Last 5 years)			
S. No.	Name of Scheme	Year of Initiation	No. of Clients
List of Resources Involved in Project (attach profile/CV)			
Any other information			
Signature of Head of Organisation and Seal of Organisation			
<i>Declaration: I hereby declare that the above information furnished by myself/my organisation is true to my knowledge.</i>			
Date			

