



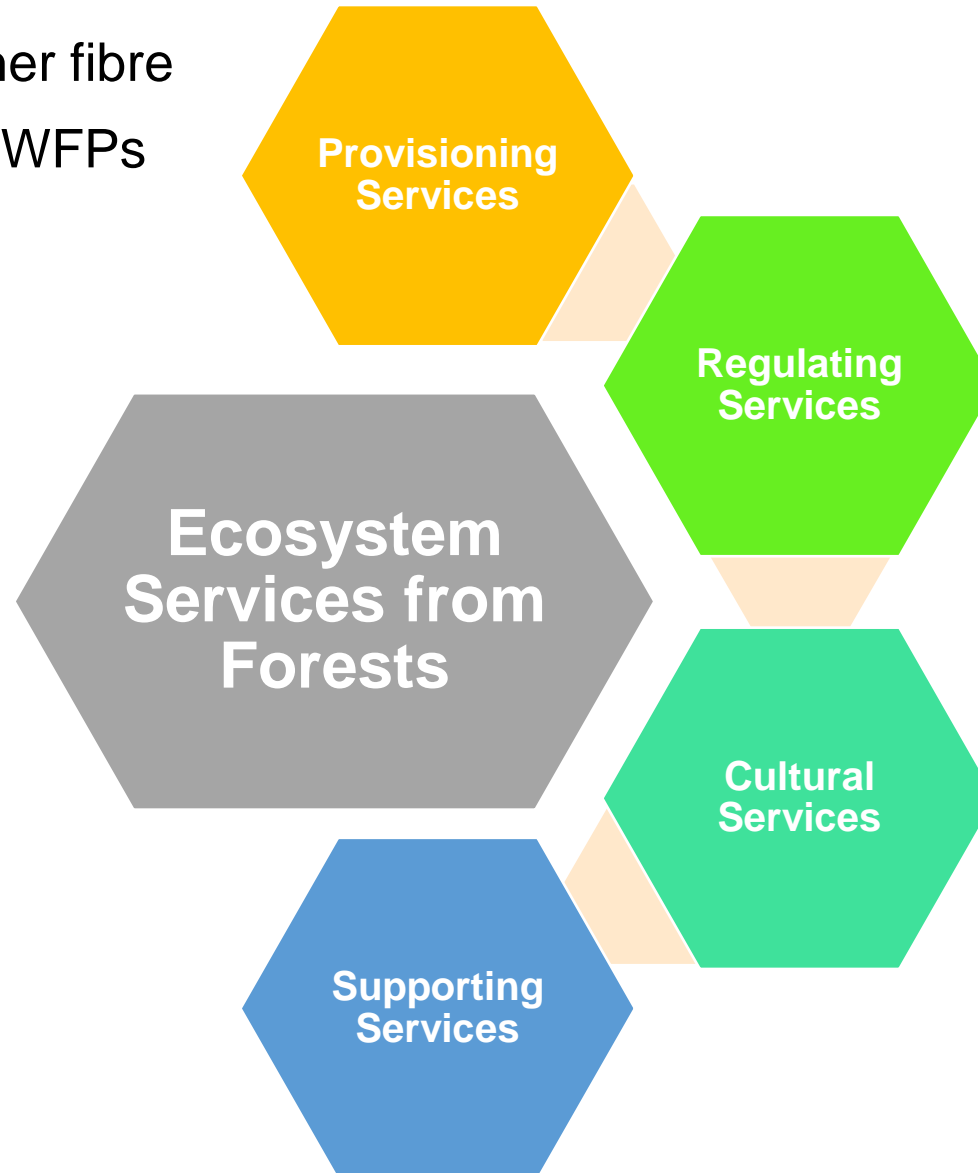
NCCF

NCCF Forest Management Certification Scheme

Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests

Member of PEFC Alliance from India

Certification: A Tool for Sustainable Forest Management



- ✓ Wood, bamboo & other fibre
- ✓ Food supplements, NWFPs
- ✓ Fodder/Fuel
- ✓ Fresh Water

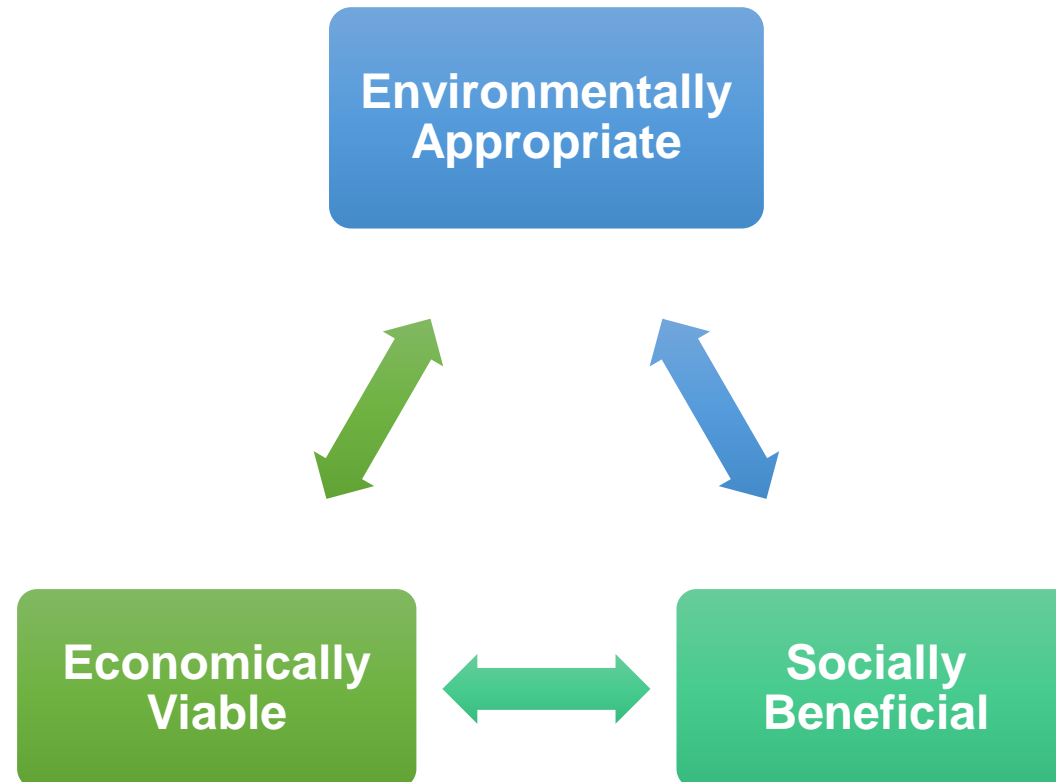
- ✓ Climate Regulation
- ✓ Water cycle
- ✓ Conserving Biodiversity
- ✓ Pollination
- ✓ Air Quality Regulation
- ✓ Combating desertification

- ✓ Nutrient Cycling
- ✓ Soil Formation
- ✓ Primary Production

- ✓ Aesthetic
- ✓ Spiritual
- ✓ Healing and Peace
- ✓ Educational
- ✓ Recreational

Certification: A Tool for Sustainable Forest Management

Forest Certification: “A *voluntary process whereby an independent third party assesses quality of forest management and production against a set of requirements – standards predetermined by a certification organization*”



Important Indicator under SDG Goal 15 : Life on Land

“Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”



SDG 15.2 (SFM) Target:

“By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally”

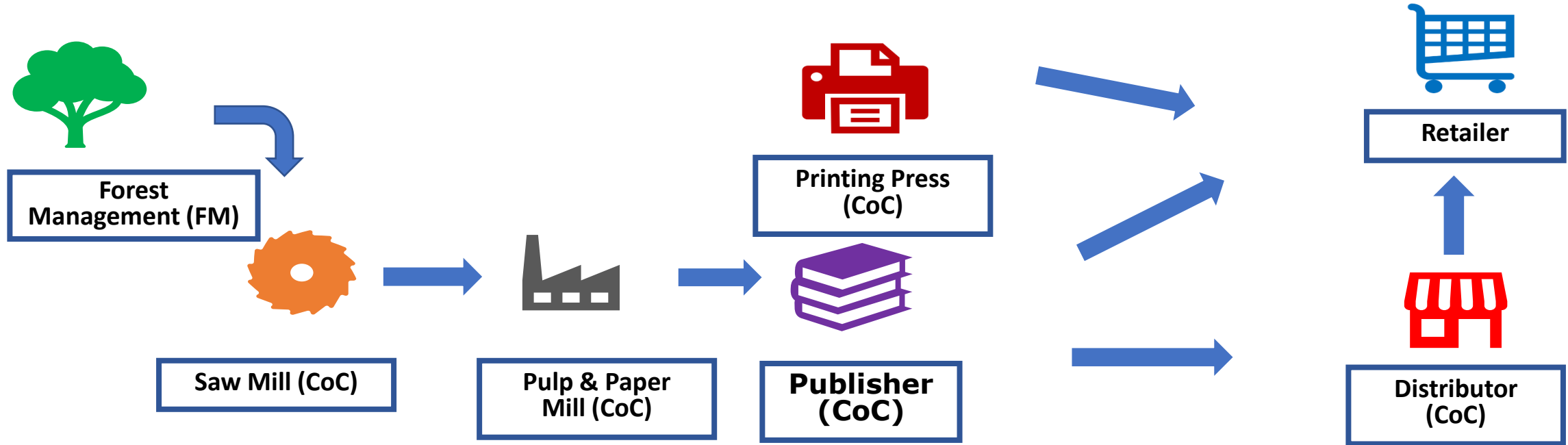
Indicator 15.2.1:

Progress towards sustainable forest management

Types of Forest Certification

Forest Management Unit (FMU) certification:

Process leading to issue of Certificate by an independent party, which assesses forest/ plantation against defined standards – Forest Managers, Private Owners



Chain of Custody certification (CoC)

Tracking wood products from certified areas to point of sale to ensure that the product is obtained from a certified source.

Primary & Secondary Manufacturers, Traders, Retailers

Working Plan based Forest Management in India



- Scientific management of forests is based on Working Plans (Forest Management Plans) duly approved by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
- Working Plans formulated as per the prescriptions of National Working Plan Code 2014, which incorporates parameters to promote sustainable management of forests and biodiversity
- One of the preambles of National Working Code 2014 lays emphasis on assessment of forest management through forest certification schemes.
- Certification strengthens the Working Plan based forest management.

Benefits of Certification



Standard Development and Certification are emerging global movements supporting

- ✓ Sustainable development and Economic growth
- ✓ Value chains and Trade
- ✓ Livelihoods
- ✓ Consumer protection

enhancing

- ✓ Competitiveness
- ✓ Fostering technological development
- ✓ Meeting the requirements of health, safety, and environmental conservation

Forest Certification is increasingly recognized as an important tool and enabler of sustainability in forest management and meeting our international commitments under the the SDGs, UNFCCC, UNCBD and UNCCD.

Benefits of Certification



Environmental	Social	Management & Economic
<p>No use of banned Chemical Pesticides</p> <p>No negative impact on environment</p> <p>Management of High Conservation Value (HCV) Forests</p> <p>Safe collection and disposal of toxic waste</p> <p>Controlling off-site regeneration of exotic species</p> <p>Preserves water catchment and water bodies</p> <p>Protection of hill sides and slopes from erosion</p>	<p>Emphasis on occupational health and safety</p> <p>Ensures social equity and livelihood opportunities to locals</p> <p>Ensures legal labour wages and facilities</p> <p>Supports development of forest dwellers and communities</p> <p>Capacity building for women</p> <p>Respect for rights of tribals, local communities and forest workers</p> <p>Compliance with ratified ILO Conventions</p>	<p>Third Party, Market Driven</p> <p>Regular staff training</p> <p>Regular (Annual) monitoring of management activities</p> <p>Ensures legality and economic viability</p> <p>Control of illegal harvesting and wildlife crime</p> <p>Potential access to new markets</p> <p>Brand recognition, preference and value addition due to use of certification logo</p>

NCCF-PEFC Forest Management Certification Standard



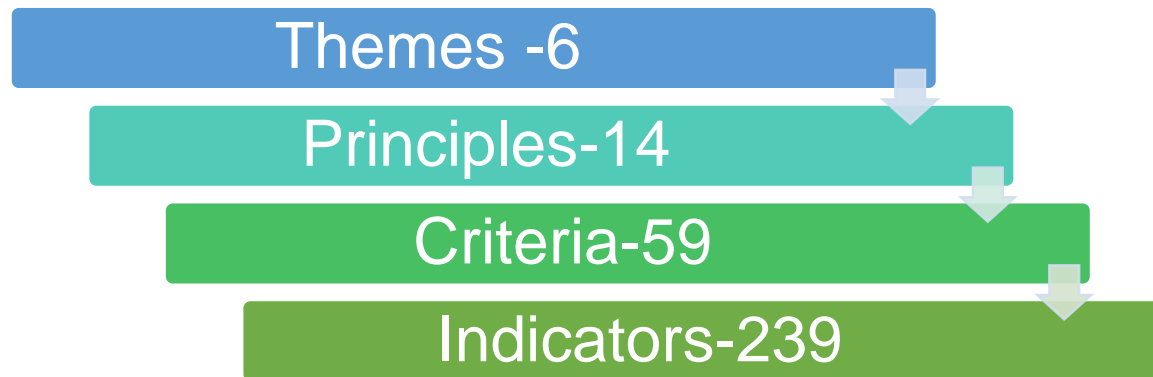
- Scheme got PEFC endorsement in **2019**
- This is the only available Indian Scheme of Forest Certification
- Developed by NCCF through a multi-stakeholder Standard Development Group
- Standard has been endorsed by the PEFC, giving it an international recognition.
- This scheme is being used by many states for certification



NCCF- PEFC FM Certification Standard



Themes	Description
Theme A	Legality and Land Tenure
Theme B	Written Forest Management Plan and its implementation and periodic review
Theme C	Impact of forest management activities in the social, economic and environmental spheres.
Theme D	Economic viability of forest management operations
Theme E	Socially responsible forest management, social and community rights and relations
Theme F	Ecological integrity and health of forests– conservation and management



NCCF FM Standard Incorporates



- Full conformance with **all applicable laws and regulations**
- Conformance with ratified **ILO Conventions**
- No use of **WHO banned pesticides**
- Respect, and upholding of **workers' rights and wages**
- Health and safety issues
- Clear **demarcation of land boundaries and maps**
- Regular **trainings** of staff and workers
- Stakeholder engagement in forest management operations
- Continuous improvement in management
- Unbiased **independent 3rd Party monitoring** and reporting to enable improvement
- Assessment of **environmental impacts** to plan remedial measures
- **Mitigation** of negative impacts on environment and society
- Adherence to social and environmental safeguards
- **Traceability** and tracking measures to verify source of product; eliminates illegal sourcing

NCCF's Engagement with States (2018-till date)



Workshops/Webinars

Punjab
✓ Madhya Pradesh
Chhattisgarh
Sikkim
Assam
Uttarakhand
Goa
Maharashtra
Haryana
Jammu & Kashmir

•Uttar Pradesh (C)
•Tripura (T)
•Jharkhand (T)
•Karnataka (T)
•Assam (T)

Tenders/Certified



NCCF is confident more States will take Certification



Uttar Pradesh Forest Corporation: India's First NCCF- PEFC FM Certification

UPFC has taken the lead to get NCCF's first certificate for Forest Management Certification, involving 41 forest divisions with an area of around 4.5 lakh hectares.

UPFC has shown the way to other State Forest Departments, State Forest development corporations and Forest enterprises to opt for this kind of certification.

NCCF-PEFC FM
Scheme
Documentation

Standard Setting

Chain of Custody Standard

Forest Management Certification Standard

Group Certification Standard

Certification and Accreditation Requirements

Administrative Procedures

Complaint and Appeal Mechanism

Logo Usage and Labelling

Accreditation accepted by the NCCF for FM



NCCF requires that forest management certification shall be carried out by certification bodies who are accredited by National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) (a member signatory of the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) for product certification).

The scope of the accreditation shall explicitly cover the NCCF FM Standard in its valid version and/or with reference to any future changes and amendments adopted by the NCCF and presented at the NCCF official website (www.nccf.in).

The FM certificates issued by the NABCB accredited Certification Body (and its affiliates) shall bear the (NABCB) accreditation body logo/symbol.

NCCF has a MoU with NABCB to provide accreditation to CBs, operating on NCCF-PEFC Scheme

Accreditation

✓ Provisional Approval for NCCF-PEFC FM Scheme will be provided by NCCF

Provisional Recognition Scheme: [Access here.](#)

✓ Regular Accreditation will be provided by NABCB

Accreditation and Certification Requirements for the CBs under NCCF FM Certification Scheme: [Access here.](#)

CBs currently for this Scheme:

1. GICIA India Pvt Ltd
2. Bureau Veritas India Pvt Ltd
3. CGCERT

For details write to Mr Varun Grover (varun.grover@nccf.in)

Requirements for FM Auditors

Educational and professional experience:

- Tertiary education (college or university qualification) in forestry.
- Five (5) years of professional experience in the forest sector
- Successful completion of IRCA-registered or equivalent ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 19011
- Successful completion of auditor training *of FM at NCCF
- Participation in audit
 - a. As observer in one evaluation audit
 - b. As observer in one surveillance audits
 - c. As Auditor under supervision of CB's approved Lead Auditor
- For maintaining the qualification of auditor, the CB shall ensure that auditor participated in two (2) on site audits every year

*NCCF will provide **provisional approval to the Auditors having experience and training completed for any other Forest Management Certification Scheme** operating in the Country. This is applicable until NCCF starts its Standard Training Program for Auditors. Once operated all the auditors will be required to undergo mandatory NCCF Training to continue their auditor status for NCCF FM Scheme*

NCCF FM Standard Training Program for Auditors



- ✓ First NCCF FM Auditor Training was conducted in December 2019
- ✓ No FM Auditor Training in 2020
- ✓ FM Auditor Trainings resume in 2021

Forest Certification Challenges in India

- ✓ **Certification is voluntary, not statutory**
- ✓ Lack of awareness about certification
- ✓ Lack of awareness about various certification schemes
- ✓ Inadequate government incentives for certified products
- ✓ Certification generally missing in public procurement policies
- ✓ Limited and uncertain benefits in domestic markets
- ✓ Huge gap between supply & demand side
- ✓ Hesitation from industry to demand wood for SFDs/SFDCs
- ✓ SFDs/SFDCs as largest stakeholders, have major role to play

Thank You!!

Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests

Contact:

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Chairperson, Standard Development Group, NCCF FM Standard