



Topic: 2nd SFM-EUDR SDG Meeting

Date: 7th May 2024

Time: 11:00am to 01:00pm

Meeting Mode: Zoom Conference

Background

SFM: The Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Standard received endorsement from PEFC on Sep 2017 and launched in Jan 2018. It underwent review from September 9, 2022, to September 2023 and is currently in the revision process from September 9, 2023, to September 9, 2024. Mr. A.K. Varma, nominated as a member of the PEFC SFM EUDR Task Force, has generously contributed his time to attend meetings and provide guidance to the Technical Working Group at NCCF. Consequently, we are adhering to a strict timeline to ensure compliance with EUDR for the SFM standard submission to PEFC by September 9, 2024.

Agenda for SDG Meeting:

Agenda 1: Setting the context by Ms Ritka Bhardwaj, Coordinator, NCCF

Mr. Ritika Bhardwaj welcomed all the SDG members.

Agenda 2: Meeting background by Mr. A. M. Singh, DG, NCCF

Mr. A. M. Singh greeted all the SDG members and provided an overview of the meeting's background. He proceeded to explain the on-going efforts to integrate the EUDR into SFM standards in alignment with the PEFC plan.

Agenda 3: Opening remarks by Mr. A.K.Varma, Chairman

Mr. A.K. Varma, greeted all the SDG members and invited them to share any remarks they may have regarding the EUDR-related aspects that PEFC and NCCF should take into consideration.

Agenda 4: Presentation and discussion on draft with SDG members

Ritika Bhardwaj presented the draft to SDG members, following guidance from Mr. Avani Varma, and systematically addressed the agreed-upon points from the TWG to the SDG members, who then provided their feedback.

Major Takeaways during the discussion:

Website update: Mr. A.K. Varma conveyed to the SDG members that list of SDG and TWG members for the SFM standard revision, along with other relevant details, has been published on the NCCF website.



Plantation/Planted Forests:

The TWG recommended excluding "alien/native species" from the definition of Plantation/Planted in NCCF-FM-STD 2017. However, Mr. Deepesh Kumar proposed adding exotic species. Subsequently, Mr. Devendra Pandey suggested including native/exotic species naturalized in the region.

In continuation of the definition, the term "one or few species" was suggested to be altered by the TWG, replacing 'few' with 'more'.

SDG members reached a consensus on both the decision.

Degraded: The TWG suggested removing the word "degraded" from the standard, and the SDG members unanimously agreed on this decision.

Cut-off Date: The TWG recommended retaining the cut-off date of 1994 exclusively, without considering changing it to 2010 or 2020. SDG members unanimously agreed on this decision.

Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, amended FCA 2023: Substituting the Forest Conservation Act 1980 with the amended 'Forest Conservation (Amendment) Act 2023' along with its full name, namely Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam.

Forest Degradation: The TWG proposed including a new point c. under 'Forest Degradation', specifying "Very dense forests undergoing transition to open forests or scrubland as per FSI." However, consensus among the SDG members was reached to instead add "decrease in tree canopy density below 40%".

Glossary: Regarding the aforementioned point, the SDG suggested incorporating definitions for 'very dense' and 'moderately dense' into the glossary.

Primary Forests: Consensus was reached by the SDG to include 'Primary Forests' within Indicator 12.1.1, with the addition of its definition to the glossary.

Agenda 5: Closing remarks by Mr. A. K. Varma, Chairman

At the end of the meeting, **Mr. A. K. Varma**, provided his concluding comments and thanked all the SDG members for attending the meeting.

Agenda 6: Thanking remarks by Mr. A. M. Singh, DG NCCF

Mr. A. M. Singh thanked all the members for joining the meeting. He expressed his gratitude to Chairman, SDG members, and all team members of NCCF for their consistent support and effective contribution in ongoing SFM standard revision.



Meeting Attendees:

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| Mr. Avani Kumar Varma, IFS (retd), | Chairman, NCCF |
| Mr. Arun Kumar Bansal, IFS (retd) | Chairperson-NWFR |
| Mr. Devendra Pandey | Chairperson ToF |
| Mr. A. M. Singh, IFS (retd) | Director General, NCCF |
| Mr. Deepesh Kumar Sharma | Regional Coordinator at EPCH |
| Representative | ICFRE_RFRI, Jorhat |
| Sumit Rai | |
| Dr. S K Gupta | WII, Dehradun |
| Ms. Ritika Bhardwaj | Project Associate, NCCF |
| Ms. Anjali | Project Associate, NCCF |