



Annual Report

2024-25



**NETWORK FOR CERTIFICATION AND
CONSERVATION OF FORESTS**

CONSERVE | CARE | CERTIFY



**2024
2025
ANNUAL REPORT**

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NETWORK FOR CERTIFICATION
AND CONSERVATION OF FORESTS



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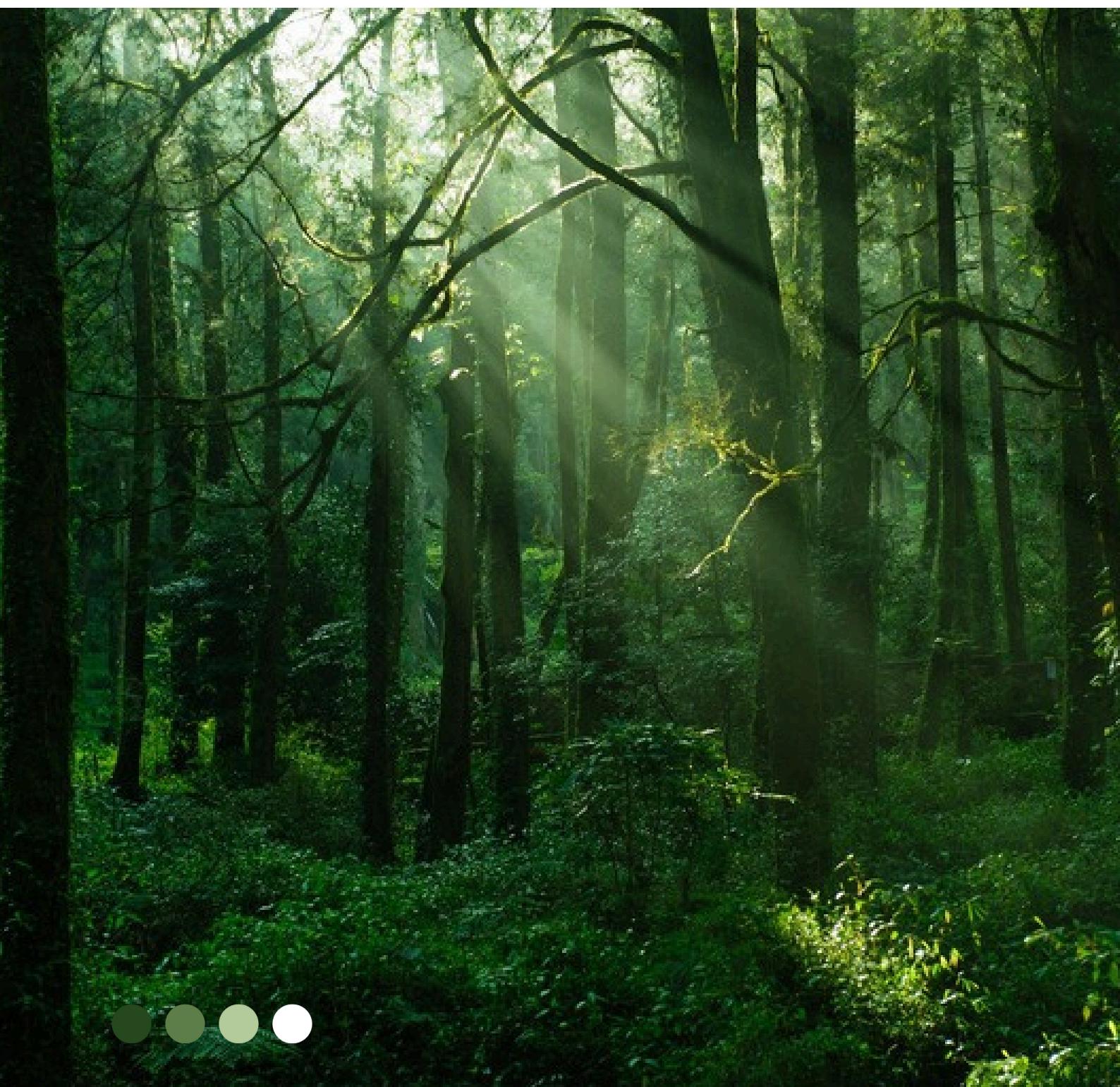


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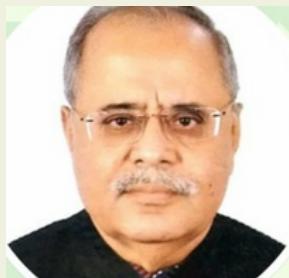
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Abbreviations

| | |
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| ANAB | ANSI National Accreditation Board |
| AYUSH | Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy |
| BEE | Bureau of Energy Efficiency |
| CAG | Certification Advisory Group |
| CB(s) | Certification Bodies |
| CDSCO | Central Drugs Standard Control Organization |
| CGIAR | Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research |
| CIFOR | Center for International Forestry Research |
| COC | Chain of Custody |
| CR-I | Carbon Registry-India |
| DPIIT | Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade |
| EPCH | Export Promotion Council of Handicrafts |
| FM | Forest Management |
| FSC | Forest Stewardship Council |
| FSI | Forest Survey of India |
| FTA | Forest, Trees, and Agroforestry |
| GHG | Green House Gases |
| GMOS | Genetically Modified Organisms |
| GSTC | Global Sustainable Tourism Council |
| HCSSC | Handicrafts & Carpet Sector Skill Council |
| HOFF | Head of Forest Forces |
| IAF | International Accreditation Forum |
| ICAO | International Civil Aviation Organisation |
| ICFRE | Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education |
| ICRAF | International Council for Research in Agroforestry |
| ILO | International Labour Organization |
| INSS | Indian National Strategy for Standardization |
| IPCC | Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change |
| IUCN | International Union for Conservation of Nature |
| LULUCF | Land use, Land use change and Forestry |
| MOEF&CC | Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change |
| NABCB | National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies |
| NWFP | Non-Wood Forest Products |
| NWFR | Non-Wood Forest Resources |
| NWPC | National Working Plan Code |

Abbreviations

| | |
|----------------|--|
| PA | Protected Area |
| PAWS | Protected Areas and Wetlands |
| PCCF | Principal Chief Conservator of Forests |
| PEFC | Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification |
| PTB | Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt |
| QCI | Quality Council of India |
| QPM | Quality Planting Material |
| R&D | Research and Development |
| RAT | Risk Assessment Tool |
| REDD+ | Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation |
| SDG | Standard Development Group |
| SFM | Sustainable Forest Management |
| STCI | Sustainable Tourism Criteria of India |
| TOF | Trees outside Forest |
| TOFI | Trees Outside Forests in India |
| UAF | United Accreditation Foundation |
| UNCCD | United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification |
| UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| UNIDO | United Nations Industrial Development Organization |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development |
| WHO | World Health Organization |



Chairman's Message

Dear Members

Over the past decade, the Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF) has strengthened its role as a credible civil society organization dedicated to promoting sustainability, certification, and responsible management of natural resources. Through collaboration with government agencies, industry, experts, and civil society partners, NCCF has advanced sustainable forestry, agroforestry, eco-tourism, and environmentally responsible production systems.

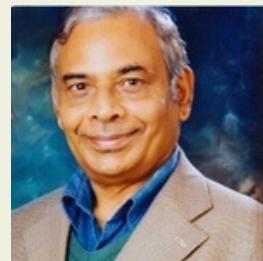
The year 2024–25 marked significant milestones, including the launch of the Trees Outside Forests (ToF) Standard and the revision of the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Standard in alignment with EUDR requirements, for PEFC endorsement. NCCF also formalized a collaborative MoU with the Meghalaya Forest Department to strengthen capacity building in forest certification and carbon projects.

These developments reflect the growing trust in NCCF's certification systems and its commitment to sustainability. I extend my sincere appreciation to all members and partners for their continued support and look forward to NCCF's continued progress in advancing responsible natural resource management.

Thank you, and best wishes.

Mr. Atul Bagai, IAS (retd)

Chairman, NCCF (January 2025- Present)



Chairman's Message

Dear Members

As you are aware over the past ten years, NCCF has continued to grow in the field of standards and sustainability of natural resources as a dedicated civil society and non-governmental organization. During its above journey it has united experts, industry leaders, NGOs, governments and professionals with a shared vision of conservation and sustainable management of natural resources such as forests, agroforestry and eco-tourism besides bringing in standards to improve quality planting material and environmentally friendly safe boards that are internationally recognized and are crucial for preserving biodiversity, mitigating climate change, and combating desertification. Throughout this journey, NCCF has worked to bridge the gap between policymakers and conservation practitioners by advocating for policy reforms, conducting consultations, and raising awareness on critical conservation issues.

The year 2024-25 saw the launching of Tree Outside Forests (ToF) Standard and you will be happy to note that the scheme has seen early adoption by some industries and the efforts are on to take it to more stakeholders and private tree growers.

Another notable achievement was the revision of our Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in line with EUDR standard. It is in the process of PEFC endorsement.

I am extremely happy to inform the members that NCCF has signed a collaborative MOU with Meghalaya Forest Department for Capacity Building on Forest Certification and Carbon Projects. A training workshop was held for Meghalaya officers and community forest stakeholders which was also attended by the chief secretary and other top forest officials. NCCF also conducted a series of other training on its schemes and capacity building that included ToF Auditor Training, Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Standard training and PEFC Chain of Custody Auditors' Training.



You will also be happy to note that as of March 2025, NCCF has a total of 14 Certification Bodies (CBs) registered for carrying out Chain of Custody (CoC) operations in India. There are currently 52 CoC-certified clients under NCCF, with the furniture sector leading, followed by the packaging sector.

Thus it has been a fruitful journey during the year that has just gone by and it is hoped that we would continue to march ahead in the years to come.

Thank you, and best wishes.

Mr. Avani Kumar Varma, IFS (retd)

Chairman, NCCF(October 2021- December 2024)



About NCCF

The Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF) was established in January 2015 as a registered society, bringing together experts, professionals, and stakeholders in the natural resources sector. NCCF's primary focus is the development of India-specific and globally recognized sustainability standards. In addition to standard-setting, the organization is engaged in policy advocacy, training, and capacity-building through multi-stakeholder collaboration.

NCCF plays a significant role in the global sustainability landscape as a member of the PEFC Alliance in India, holding administrative responsibility for the operationalization of the PEFC Scheme and the management of the PEFC Chain of Custody. The organization is also a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and holds Observer Status with the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) as a Civil Society Organization.

One of NCCF's major achievements is the development of the Indian Certification Scheme for Forest Management (FM) and Trees Outside Forests (TOF). The FM and ToF certification schemes has been endorsed by PEFC, positioning India alongside other Asian nations such as Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, China, Korea, and Thailand, which have developed indigenous forest certification systems.

NCCF is dedicated to advancing the competitiveness and global acceptance of India's wood and forest fibre-based industries. The organization is also engaged in the development of voluntary standards for Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFP), Ecotourism, Quality Planting Material, and Safeboards (safe emission levels of formaldehyde from composite wood). Currently, the Ecotourism standard is in the advance stage, the Quality Planting Material standard is in the consensus-building stage, and the NWFP standard is undergoing pilot testing. Additionally, NCCF is working on the development of standards for Biofuels, Protected Areas and Wetlands (PAWS), Biomass, and Land Degradation Neutrality.

NCCF has developed a Carbon Registry-India (CR-I) to provide a platform for carbon tracking and trading for verified net Green House Gases emissions reductions and removals enhancement with Sustainable Development Contributions. It would offer listing and tracking facilities for projects sequestering carbon and issuance of carbon credits. CR-I will also facilitate micro-scale projects and has the potential to provide a compatible platform for small landholder farmers to avail carbon credits and get linked to the carbon markets. The Registry will help in climate change mitigation and adaptation and aims to diligently follow up with India's NDCs.

The sustainability standards developed by NCCF have the potential to significantly contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), promote sustainable forest management, support international climate action commitments, and advance biodiversity conservation and land restoration efforts. These standards also fulfill the requirements of certified materials needed by the wood-based industries.



Aims and Objectives of NCCF

The primary aims and objectives of NCCF are as follows:

The key aims and objectives of NCCF include:

- **Development of Forest Standards:** Creating standards for forest management and certification in compliance with national legal frameworks and for timber, non-timber forest products (NTFP), and medicinal plant certification.
- **Climate Change Mitigation:** Designing mechanisms and guidelines to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable development.
- **Policy Advocacy:** Facilitating dialogue between policymakers, practitioners, and entrepreneurs on forest trade and ecosystem services.
- **Accreditation of Certification Bodies:** Developing a voluntary code for accrediting forest certification bodies to ensure credibility and competence.
- **Promotion of Forest Certification:** Uniting stakeholders to promote long-term conservation and security of forest resources through certification.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Developing frameworks for assessing forest conditions, management practices, and social and environmental impacts.
- **Public Awareness and Education:** Enhancing awareness about the benefits and processes of independent forest certification.
- **Support for Responsible Consumption:** Bridging the gap between responsible production and consumption, helping consumers make informed, environmentally responsible choices.
- **Issuance of Certification:** Processing applications for certification bodies and issuing logos for certified entities.
- **Training and Capacity Building:** Providing training in environmental planning, impact assessments, and related areas. **Industry Support:** Assisting industries in adopting sustainable practices to minimize environmental impacts and promote human health.



GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS

Members of the Governing Body

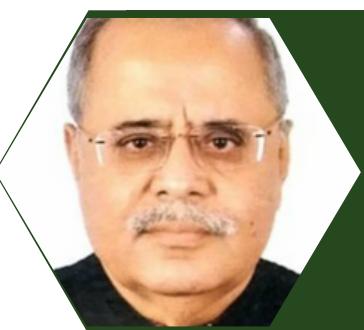
The Governing Body of NCCF, consisting of the Chairman and 12 members, is responsible for setting the overall policies and guiding the organization's activities. Its members include representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the Export Promotion Council of Handicrafts (EPCH), senior retired civil service officers, professional foresters, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has designated the Deputy Secretary of the Trade Policy Division to attend key NCCF meetings. The Governing Body serves as a strong foundation, bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders with a shared vision on a single platform.



Mr. A K Varma

CHAIRMAN (October 2021-December 2024)

Mr. Varma, a member of the Indian Forest Service (1974; Karnataka), retired as the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of the Forest Force of the Karnataka State Forest Department. He has held several important positions, including PCCF (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden in Karnataka. Mr. Varma has been actively engaged in forest management certification and the Chain of Custody Certification process, contributing as a peer reviewer, observer, co-auditor, and lead auditor. Currently, he is serving as the Chairman of NCCF and also leads the FM and Ecotourism Standard Development Groups within the organization.



Mr. Atul Bagai

CHAIRMAN (January 2025-Present)

Mr. Atul Bagai is a distinguished environmental leader and retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer with over four decades of experience in public service and international environmental governance. He has been serving as the Chairman of NCCF since January 24, 2025.

Prior to his appointment as Chairman of NCCF, he served for 24 years with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), including as Country Head of UNEP India, where he led the establishment and expansion of UNEP's India office and oversaw environmental programs across climate action, waste management, air quality, and resource efficiency.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Bagai served in the Indian Administrative Service for 17 years, holding senior positions in several central ministries and state administrations, including as Director in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. His work has spanned policy formulation, international negotiations, and collaborative initiatives on sustainable development and environmental governance.

Mr. Bagai has been recognised internationally for his contributions to environmental policy, including his role in supporting South Asian compliance with the Montreal Protocol and strengthening bilateral environmental cooperation.

Mr. A. K. Srivastava

Co-Chairman

Mr. A.K. Srivastava, a veteran professional forester, has worked at several key positions in the Government of India and with the J&K Govt; that include, Director-General of Forests & Special Secretary, Additional Director General of Forests (Forest Conservation), CEO of CAMPA, and Director, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, in the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change, PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden of Jammu & Kashmir,

Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, and Additional Commissioner (NRM) in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, apart from the field positions of CCF/CF and DCF in the State Forest Department. During his professional career, he had extensively travelled worldwide in connection with official meetings, conferences and international conventions etc.

Mr. Srivastava has been the ex-officio Chairman of the National Forest Advisory Committee (FAC), ex-officio Members of the FAC, National Biodiversity Authority, and the Animal Welfare Board of India. He has served as an Expert Member of the Monitoring Group, National CAMPA, MoEF&CC, and as Chairman of Green The Earth Trust, an organization focused on afforestation and environmental conservation.

Mr A K Srivastava was appointed as the first Executive Director of the NCCF in May 2015 and held that position till September 2019 and thereafter as the Director General of NCCF, until March 2023. He has been instrumental in laying a strong foundation of NCCF, with a large number of diverse stakeholders, worldwide, concerned with the management of environment and natural resources. During his tenure, NCCF developed various sustainability standards, including the first ever Indian certification standards for forest management and trees outside forest management, which got international recognition with the PEFC's endorsement.

Mr. Suneel Kumar Pandey

Secretary

Mr. Suneel Pandey currently serves as Vice President of Plantation and Raw Material at ITC-PSPD, where he leads a diverse team focused on plantations, social forestry, raw material procurement, sustainability, and biodiversity conservation. As a member of IFS, he previously worked as a Senior Forestry Specialist in the National Mission on Bamboo Applications (NMBA) and has successfully managed various business and development projects in areas such as technology development, enabling systems, policy and program implementation, CDM, and forest certification.

Ms. Ritu Jain

Treasurer

Ms. Ritu Kukreti Jain is an experienced professional with extensive experience in sustainability, environmental governance, and third-party evaluation and assessment. She has been actively involved in promoting responsible practices, policy development, and sustainable decision-making across multiple sectors, working closely with diverse stakeholders.



Mr. Sachin Raj Jain

Member

Mr. Sachin Jain is a sustainability expert with over 10 years of experience managing projects related to Forest Certification, Sustainability, Life Cycle Assessment, LEED v4 Environmental Product Declarations (EPD), Starbucks Ethical Sourcing, Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) FloorScore® certification, BIFMA level® certification, Climate Change Adaptation, Monitoring & Evaluation, Afforestation, Ecotourism, Sustainable Housing, Fisheries, and Ecology & Biodiversity Assessments. He is actively involved in several national and international associations and think tanks focused on Natural Resources Management and Sustainable Development. A founding member of NCCF, Mr. Jain currently holds the position of Convener-Treasurer on its Governing Body.



Mr. S K Upadhyay

Member

Shri Shrikant Upadhyay is a seasoned forestry and environmental expert with extensive experience in forest conservation, sustainable resource management, wildlife protection, and ecotourism. A retired Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer of the 1982 batch (U.P. cadre), he has led key national and international projects, including those supported by JICA and the World Bank.

He has served in various leadership roles, including Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Chief Wildlife Warden, and Managing Director of the U.P. Forest Corporation. He played a key role in formulating Uttar Pradesh's Ecotourism Policy and initiating forest certification in the state. Currently, he is the Co-Chair of the Ecotourism Standard Development Group at NCCF and continues to contribute to sustainable forest management and conservation efforts in India.



Mr. Bhowmik Sanghvi

Member

Bhowmik Harendra Sanghvi has completed his post-graduation in management studies from S. P. Jain Institute of Management, Mumbai. His work experience spans over 20 years in International Business, Procurement, General Management, and R&D, and he is currently working on digital transformation. He is currently President of Hindustan Pencils.



Mr. Himanshu Sharma

Member

Mr. Himanshu is a Senior General Manager – Commercial with over 27 years of extensive professional experience across diverse sectors, including FMCD, FMCG, Energy, Alcoholic Beverages, Mining, Textiles, and Pulp & Paper.

He currently heads the Commercial function at Star Paper Mills Limited, where he oversees key areas such as commercial management, procurement, contract administration, and supply chain operations within large, manufacturing and process-oriented organizations.

He holds an MBA in Finance, a Master's degree in Strategic Management, a Master's degree in Supply Chain Management, and a Master's degree in Commerce, bringing strong academic depth to his professional expertise.



Mr. Anil Jauhri

Co-Opted Member

Mr. Anil Jauhri is the former CEO of the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB), a constituent board of the Quality Council of India (QCI), and the national accreditation body for certification and inspection under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, from which he retired in July 2019 after over six years in leadership.

With more than 44 years of experience in quality, standards, certification, accreditation, and technical regulations, he has worked with the Bureau of Indian Standards and the Export Inspection Council. Throughout his career, he has supported regulators in developing systems for third-party inspection and certification in sectors such as food, oil and gas, and medical devices. He has also led the development of voluntary conformity assessment schemes across various sectors, including yoga, medical devices, food safety, and fire safety.

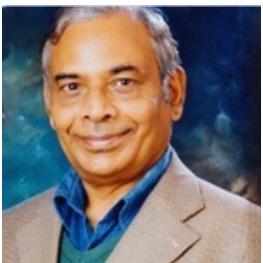
Currently, Mr. Jauhri holds several key roles, including serving as a member of the CDM Accreditation Panel of UNFCCC since 2007, as well as being involved with the Yoga Certification Board, Naturopathy Registration Board, and Ayurveda Training Accreditation Board set up by the Ministry of AYUSH. He is also a member of the Accreditation/Approval Committee of ASI GmbH and ASI North America for sustainability standards, an evaluator for ISEAL Alliance in London, and a member of the Steering Committee for the Global Carbon Council, Qatar. In addition, he chairs the Certification Advisory Group of the Network for Conservation and Certification of Forests and the Steering Committee for the Good Clinical Practices Professional Certification Scheme at CDSA_THSTI. He co-chairs various committees in the biomedical and regulatory sectors and serves on several advisory and governing boards related to sustainability, consumer organizations, and scientific research.



NCCF SDG EXPERT CHAIRPERSON

NCCF SDG

EXPERT CHAIRPERSON



Mr. A K Varma
Chairperson, SFM &
Ecotourism



Dr. Devendra Pandey
Chairperson, TOF and LDN



Mr. A K Bansal
Chairperson, NWFP



Dr. A. K. Gupta
Chairperson, PAWS



Mr. Abhijit Ghose
Chairperson, QPM



Dr. R R Rashmi
Chairperson, Biofuel &
Biomass



Mr. A K Goyal
Chairperson, Safeboards



Mr. Anil Jauhri
Chairperson, CAG and CRI



Mr. A K Varma

CHAIRPERSON,SDG,SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT(SFM) and ECOTOURISM STANDARD

Mr. Varma, a member of the Indian Forest Service (1974; Karnataka), retired as the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of the Forest Force of the Karnataka State Forest Department. He has held several important positions, including PCCF (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden in Karnataka.

Mr. Varma has been actively engaged in forest management certification and the Chain of Custody Certification process, contributing as a peer reviewer, observer, co-auditor, and lead auditor. Currently, he is serving as the Chairman of NCCF and also leads the FM and Ecotourism Standard Development Groups within the organization.

Dr. Devendra Pandey, IFS (retd)

CHAIRPERSON,SDG,TREES OUTSIDE FOREST (TOF) and LAND DEGRADATION NEUTRALITY (LDN) STANDARD



Dr. Pandey, an Indian Forest Service Officer and former Director General of the Forest Survey of India (FSI), has served as an expert reviewer for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report for Working Groups II and III. He is also a member of the Global Observation of Forest Cover and Land Dynamics panel (GOFC-GOLD).

Dr. Pandey has worked with several prestigious national and international organizations, including the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Mr. A K Bansal, IFS (retd)

CHAIRPERSON,NON-WOOD TIMBER PRODUCE (NWFP) STANDARD

Mr. Bansal brings over 43 years of experience in forest conservation, the development of the country's forestry sector, including the evolution of forest policies and legal frameworks, and international collaborations. He has been actively involved in shaping and implementing national policies related to forest conservation and management, sustainable forest management, forest certification, climate change adaptation and mitigation (REDD+), and forestry and forest product research and education.

He has contributed to the development of Joint Forest Management (JFM) through his work with JICA-assisted forestry projects in India since 2006. Additionally, he served as a short-term consultant to JICA, helping to develop a strategic capacity development project for the effective implementation of the Priority Forest Policy Agenda proposed by the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MOEF&CC).

A qualified International Lead Auditor for Forest Management Certification, Mr. Bansal currently chairs NCCF's Promotion, Communication, and Advocacy Working Group and leads the Non-Wood Forest Products Certification Standard Development Group.

Dr. A. K. Gupta, IFS (Retd.)

CHAIRPERSON, PROTECTION AND WETLANDS STANDARD(PAWS)

Dr. A. K. Gupta holds a Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge, along with an M.Sc. in Zoology, an M.A. in Sociology, an M.Sc. in Forestry & Allied Subjects, an MBA, a Post Graduate Diploma in Wildlife Management, and courses in Environmental Conservation and Forest Policy from IIM Bangalore & Maxwell School of Management, Syracuse, USA.



With nearly 40 years of experience in administration and fieldwork, Dr. Gupta has expertise in planning, formulation, negotiation, and implementation of projects. He has worked on national and international initiatives (USFWS, WWF, UNDP, GEF, KfW, GIZ) in areas such as biodiversity conservation, human-wildlife conflict, and sustainable natural resource management. After retirement, he served as a Senior Professional Fellow at WII, Dehradun, in 2019-2020.

Since February 2020, Dr. Gupta has been a Professor in Natural Resource Management, Biodiversity, and Wildlife at the University of Trans-disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology, Bengaluru. He is also the Honorary Director of the Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions and serves as the COO, Registrar, and Dean at the University.

Mr. Abhijit Ghose, IFS (retd)

CHAIRPERSON, SDG, QUALITY PLANTING MATERIAL (QPM) STANDARD

Mr. Abhijit Ghose has over 40 years of distinguished service in forestry, including 34 years in the Indian Forest Service. He has five years of experience at the highest level of governance, focusing on policy formulation, institutional development through partnerships with local communities, capacity building for all stakeholders, and research and development in forestry. Additionally, he has worked on combating desertification in the Thar Desert of Rajasthan and provided key consultancy services in the forestry sector at the national level.

Mr. A K Goyal, IFS (retd)

CHAIRPERSON, SDG, SAFEBOARDS STANDARD

Mr. A.K. Goyal, a retired IFS officer, concluded his career as Special Secretary in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj after 40 years in field forestry. He also served as Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), focusing on the Convention on Biological Diversity, wetland conservation, and forest management.

In addition, Mr. Goyal held key field positions in the Kerala Forest Department, including DFO, Conservator, and Additional PCCF. His work greatly contributed to environmental conservation and sustainable forest management.

Mr. Goyal chaired an Expert Committee that recommended modifications to the Biological Diversity Act and Rules. He currently serves as an Independent Director on the Board of Andrew Yule & Company Limited, a CPSU, and is a member of an Expert Panel for the empanelment of All India Services for Joint Secretary appointments to the Government of India. He also chairs the Standards Development Group of NCCF, which is focused on developing international standards for "SAFEBOARDS" related to formaldehyde emissions. His areas of expertise include law, administration, and e-governance.

Mr. R R Rashmi, IAS (retd)

CHAIRPERSON, SDG, BIOFUEL AND BIOMASS STANDARD

Mr. Rajani Ranjan Rashmi is a former member of the Indian Administrative Service (1983 batch). He served as India's principal negotiator for climate change discussions under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change for several years and has played a significant role in shaping climate change policy in India.



As Special Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, he was deeply involved in the development and implementation of policies on climate change, pollution, the Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS), and environmental clearances, in addition to serving as the Project Director for the Green India Mission.

Currently, he is engaged with the Centre for Global Environmental Research at TERI, where he works on climate change, mitigation and adaptation challenges, carbon markets, and related environmental policies and actions. He has served on the Sub-Committee of the Ministry of Finance on Climate Finance and has been a member of the Technical Advisory Body of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), recommending the use of emission units for CORSIA.



Mr. Anil Jauhri (Ex-CEO, NABCB)

CHAIRPERSON, CERTIFICATION ADVISORY GROUP (CAG) and CRI

Mr. Anil Jauhri is the former CEO of the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB), a constituent board of the Quality Council of India (QCI), and the national accreditation body for certification and inspection under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, from which he retired in July 2019 after over six years in leadership. With more than 44 years of experience in quality, standards, certification, accreditation, and technical regulations, he has worked with the Bureau of Indian Standards and the Export Inspection Council. Throughout his career, he has supported regulators in developing systems for third-party inspection and certification in sectors such as food, oil and gas, and medical devices. He has also led the development of voluntary conformity assessment schemes across various sectors, including yoga, medical devices, food safety, and fire safety.

Currently, Mr. Jauhri holds several key roles, including serving as a member of the CDM Accreditation Panel of UNFCCC since 2007, as well as being involved with the Yoga Certification Board, Naturopathy Registration Board, and Ayurveda Training Accreditation Board set up by the Ministry of AYUSH. He is also a member of the Accreditation/Approval Committee of ASI GmbH and ASI North America for sustainability standards, an evaluator for ISEAL Alliance in London, and a member of the Steering Committee for the Global Carbon Council, Qatar. In addition, he chairs the Certification Advisory Group of the Network for Conservation and Certification of Forests and the Steering Committee for the Good Clinical Practices Professional Certification Scheme at CDSA_THSTI. He co-chairs various committees in the biomedical and regulatory sectors and serves on several advisory and governing boards related to sustainability, consumer organizations, and scientific research.



NCCF SECRETARIAT

NCCF Secretariat

Mr. A M Singh, IFS (retd)

DIRECTOR GENERAL



Mr. Arvind Madhav Singh is a retired Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer from the 1986 batch of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre. He retired as the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of the Forest Force (HoFF) in the Forest Department of the Government of Assam, serving in this role from January 2019 to June 2021. Known for his dynamic personality, Mr. Singh holds a Master's degree in Geology from Lucknow University and an M. Phil. in Internal Strategy & Security from Chennai University.

Over his distinguished career spanning more than 35 years, he held various significant positions in both the Central and State Governments. These roles include PCCF & HoFF of Assam, Chairman of the Pollution Control Board of Assam, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) from 2013-2016, Inspector General of Forests (IGF) & Deputy Inspector General of Forests (DIG) in the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (2009-2013), and academic positions at the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA), Dehradun, where he served as Associate Professor (1999-2003) and Professor (2003-2007). At IGNFA, Mr. Singh conducted over 100 in-service courses for senior IFS officers and organized numerous theme-based training workshops.

Mr. Singh has presented papers on various contemporary forestry issues at international forums such as the Commonwealth Forestry Association, IUFRO, ITTO, World Forestry Congress, Indian Forest Congress, and Global Bamboo Summit. He also co-authored a book on Forest Certification, published by TERI.

He represented India in several global forums, including the United Nations Forum on Forestry (UNFF), FAO, World Forestry Congress, CITES, and the Commonwealth Forestry Association. From 2011 to 2013, he served as an expert member representing Southeast Asia in the ITTO in Yokohama, Japan. Mr. Singh is also a recognized expert in People & Forests, Sustainable Forest Management, and Forest Certification, both nationally and internationally, and is a member of various committees.

Currently, Mr. Singh is serving as the Project Director for the USAID-funded "Trees Outside Forests in India" project at NCCF, where he also oversees the ToF Certification Scheme along with the CR-I developed by NCCF.

Ms. Abhilasha Guleria

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Ms. Abhilasha Guleria is a forestry expert with nearly a decade of experience in the field. She holds a post-graduate degree in Wood Science and Technology from the Forest Research Institute (FRI) and an undergraduate degree in Forestry. She joined NCCF in August 2020 and has contributed to various projects, such as the development of the Safeboards certification scheme, the creation of the ToF Risk Assessment Tool, and overseeing the assessment of the ToF standard by PEFC. Ms. Guleria also led the Agroforestry Policy Research Project awarded to NCCF by ICFRE.



She served as Project Lead for the Agroforestry Policy Research Project awarded by ICFRE and is engaged in delivering USAID TOFI outcomes related to ToF, Quality Planting Material, and Non-Timber TOF Products certifications. Additionally, she oversees PEFC operations in India as part of NCCF's role as the National Governing Body for PEFC.



Ms. Ritika Bhardwaj

PROGRAM OFFICER

Ritika has an education background of Bachelor in Science Honors – Forestry and MSc. Environmental Science. She did her dissertation work in Calculation of Carbon Footprint at Himachal Pradesh University Shimla (Scope 1 & Scope 2 emissions). She also has a 1 year of experience in raising quality planting material for forest regeneration, making nursery beds, collecting seeds and caring for nursery planting.



Ms. Anjali

PROGRAM OFFICER

She holds a master's degree in environmental sciences (Environmental Biotechnology) from Banaras Hindu University and completed her graduation in chemistry and Botany from the University of Allahabad. She has previously worked in a data engineering company and as a Research Analyst in an Environmental Consultancy where she worked on different topics like Net Zero, Carbon Emissions and the Energy Scenario of India. She joined NCCF in September 2023 and currently working on the Trees Outside Forest(ToF), Quality Planting Material, Safeboards Certification Scheme and Non-Wood Forest Resources (NWFR) Certification Standards.



Ms. Ananya Sharma

PROGRAM OFFICER

Ananya Sharma holds a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Forestry and a Master's degree in Forestry with a specialization in Agroforestry, both from Dr. Y S Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan, HP. Her academic background equips her with a strong foundation in sustainable forest management and innovative agroforestry practices. Ananya's expertise lies in integrating agricultural and forestry systems to enhance environmental and economic outcomes. Joined NCCF in March 2024 and currently working on Forest Management(FM), Ecotourism and Protected Areas and Wetlands(PAWS) Standard.

Team Carbon Registry-India



Mr. Richard Bright

CEO, CARBON REGISTRY-INDIA

Richard Bright, CEO Carbon Registry-India(CR-I) by Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests(NCCF) is a seasoned IT and digital transformation leader who has been in the field for over two decades, efficiently managing custom software development & solutions, information technology operations and driving sustainability initiatives through digital transformation.

Before, joining NCCF in 2019, Richard served as the Director at Teleperformance (Digital Integrated Business Services), where he led global Software service delivery across nine countries. His tenure at Teleperformance was marked by his ability to navigate the complexities of the IT industry and deliver results that surpassed expectations.

He holds a master's degree in computer application and is a certified Prince 2 practitioner, Cisco professional, ITSM, Robotics & automation, and data analytics expert, trained in ISO 27001 LA, ISO 14064, ISO 9001, and adept in Life Cycle Assessment. He also has extensive exposure on ITGC, HIPPA, SOX, GRC, and SOC Compliance.

Richard's unique blend of expertise in technology, standard development, carbon markets, climate change mitigation & adaptation, policies, and regulations, enables him to provide guidance to organizations seeking to implement sustainable practices and make a positive impact. His leadership has been instrumental in driving sustainability initiatives and digital transformation and building a greener economy in India.



Mr. Mohit Kumar

Registry Administrator

Mohit Kumar joined NCCF in 2021 as Registry Administrator for Carbon Registry-India. He provides support to registry users with opening and using their accounts, including creating new project records and issuing, transferring, and retiring Marketable Carbon Units (MCUs). He performs completeness check and Know your Customer (KYC) procedures.

He coordinates with the CR-I finance team to track and process account holder invoices. Mohit holds a Bachelor of Commerce Degree from Delhi College of Arts & Commerce (University of Delhi).

Accounts and Human Resource Department



Mr. Shivam Sharma

ACCOUNTS EXECUTIVE

Mr. Sharma is a key resource person for NCCF's Finance and Accounts department and works as the Account Executive at NCCF. He holds an MBA degree in Finance from Amity University, Noida, and a BBA degree in Banking & Finance from Sharda University, Greater Noida. His primary responsibilities include overseeing the financial matters related to USAID TOFI Projects, Training and CBs.

Ms. Gurmeet Kaur

HUMAN RESOURCE

Ms. Gurmeet Kaur is a dedicated and result-oriented Human Resource Professional with an impressive educational background—a Master's in Human Resource Management complemented by a Bachelor's degree in Zoology, with a specialization in Fisheries from Mumbai University. With a remarkable 15-year tenure across diverse industries, Ms. Gurmeet has honed expertise in People Management.



Her extensive skill set encompasses the effective management of crucial HR functions, including Recruitment, HR Policy formulation and implementation, Training & Development, Performance Management Systems, HR Audits, Payroll Management, and fostering robust Employee Relations.

Currently serving as an invaluable HR personnel at NCCF, Ms. Gurmeet's primary role revolves around structuring and facilitating the organization's ability to meet its needs by efficiently managing the complete employee lifecycle. Her passion for driving organizational growth through streamlined HR strategies and practices underscores her commitment to elevating and optimizing the workforce for maximum effectiveness.

Information Technology Department



Mr. Balbinder Singh

HEAD INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Mr Balbinder has over 17 years of experience in infrastructure services, networking, vendor management and service delivery. He has previously worked with Kuoni Travel (India)/SOTC - Head OTRS (Email management System) and ACD (Call Management system) and BTSOFT Travel ERP and Server Pan India management for over 300 users.

Mr. Pravin Kumar Chandra

DEVELOPMENT PLUS OPERATIONS (DEVOPS ENGINEER)

Mr. Pravin holds a Master's degree in Computer Applications From RGPV, Bhopal and brings with him over 12 years of experience in the IT Sector. He has extensive knowledge and expertise in Web & Software development, using .NET(C#), MS SQL, HTML, CSS, C#, JavaScript, Bootstraps, and WordPress.



With his strong skill set and experience, Mr. Pravin will be a valuable asset to our team. He has a proven track record of delivering high-quality solutions and is known for his attention to detail and dedication to NCCF.



STANDARD DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

NCCF's Multistakeholder engagement for the development of Sustainability Standards

NCCF follows a multi-stakeholder engagement approach in all its Standard Development activities.

The stakeholders are mapped taking reference from the **UN Agenda 21** Stakeholder Categories, are as under:

- Farmers
- Business and Industry
- Women
- Children and Youth
- Indigenous People
- Non- Government Organisations
- Local Authorities
- Workers and Trade Unions
- Scientific and Technological Community

A large no of independent experts are also associated with the Standard Development process and as members of the concerned Standard Development Group.





NCCF FORESTRY SCHEMES



NCCF's Forest Management (FM) Certification Standard

NCCF has developed the first-ever Indian Certification Standard for Forest Management and that has been endorsed by the leading international certification organization, the PEFC, giving it global recognition. This scheme is being used by many states for forest certification. It is based on six themes covering 14 Principles, 59 Criteria, and 239 Indicators. The standards are India-specific and involve the key elements of existing models in India, viz the Bhopal India Process of the Indian Institute of Forest Management, the National Working Plan Code 2014, and the provisions contained in the National Forest Policy for promotion of afforestation, sustainable utilization of forest products, and growth of the forest-based industries.

NCCF's Forest Certification Scheme was launched by the then Secretary, of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), and then Director General of Forests and Special Secretary in January 2018.

Compliance with the NCCF Forest Management Standard by a Forest Management Entity ensures:

- 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 training of staff and workers
- Stakeholder engagement in management operations
- Continuous improvement in management
- Protecting important sites with recognized significance
- Unbiased independent 3rd Party monitoring and reporting to enable improvement
- Compliance with NCCF FM Standards by a forest management entity ensures:
 - Measures to maintain/improve the health and vitality of forests/ToF
 - Mitigation of negative impacts on the environment and society
 - Adherence to social and environmental safeguards
 - Traceability and tracking to verify the source of product; eliminates illegal sourcing
 - Protecting forests/ToF from damaging agents (such as wildfire, diseases, and invasive species)
 - Documenting and record keeping; audits and publishing findings
 - No use of GMOs
 - Timely payment of wages

The main goal of PEFC Endorsement was to assess whether a national forest certification system complied with PEFC requirements and sustainability benchmarks, allowing certified entities access to global markets.

Benefits of Country-Specific Certification Scheme

- The Standard is developed keeping in view the Indian context and conditions.
- Driven by national stakeholders.
- It is open, transparent, and independent.
- Local standards incorporating global best practice
- Nationally adaptive and accepted
- Internationally endorsed
- Economical (domestic auditors and other aspects)
- Promotes and facilitates national and international trade
- Integration of local needs and expectations

NABCB, a constituent Board of QCI, under DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, which is a member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), is offering accreditation to the competent and independent certification bodies for this scheme, under a Mutually Recognition Arrangement (MRA) with the NABCB. NCCF FM Accreditation from NABCB demonstrates the competence level of the Certification Bodies (CBs) to perform FM certification audits as per internationally recognized ISO 17065 Standards and NCCF Standards. CBs are accredited based on the organizational and technical competence of an organization to conduct certification activities like auditing and report writing. To spread awareness about certification and Forest Management Certification Standard.

NCCF had earlier conducted sensitization workshops for the State Forest Departments of Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Tripura, Haryana, and Uttarakhand. During the year 2020, NCCF conducted sensitization workshops for Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, and Goa State Forest Departments, and about 300 forest personnel were trained over the past three years. This not only contributed to their capacity building for taking up forest certification but also helped them strategize the forest management plans efficiently to achieve the desired goals.

U. P. Forest Corporation undertook PEFC-NCCF Forest Management Certification and got certified 41 Divisions covering 4.5 lakh hectares of forest area. UPFC has been able to sell some 7000 cubic meters of PEFC-certified timber during 2020-21, with a price premium. Many other State Forest Departments are contemplating to take up forest certification using PEFC-NCCF Standard.

GIPL is the accredited Certification Body for the PEFC-endorsed Forest Management (FM) Standard under the NCCF scheme. The accreditation was granted on 26 June 2024 and is valid until 17 March 2028.

Sensitization cum awareness workshop in Meghalaya Forest department

In a significant step towards advancing sustainable forest management and climate action, the Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Meghalaya Forest Department in March 2024. The MoU was signed by Mr. R.S. Gill, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force (PCCF & HoFF), Meghalaya, and Mr. A.M. Singh, Director General, NCCF. This collaboration aims to strengthen sensitization and capacity-building efforts on forest certification and carbon project development within the state.

As a part of this initiative, a three-day sensitization and training workshop was successfully conducted from 24th to 26th June 2024 in Shillong. The workshop was inaugurated in the esteemed presence of **Chief Secretary of Meghalaya, Shri Donald Phillips Wahlang, IAS**, and **PCCF & HoFF, Shri Ranjit Singh Gill, IFS**, reflecting the strong institutional support and political will for implementing sustainable forestry initiatives in the state.

The workshop brought together senior forest officers, DFOs, and key field personnel from across Meghalaya. It focused on building awareness and technical understanding of forest certification standards, ecosystem service valuation, and carbon market opportunities—with a special emphasis on Trees Outside Forests (ToF), Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), and carbon credit mechanisms.

Technical sessions were led by national experts and covered topics such as:

- Components and global evolution of forest certification;
- Overview of PEFC and NCCF certification systems;
- Implications of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) on Indian forestry;
- Potential for carbon projects under voluntary and compliance markets;
- Due diligence systems and traceability frameworks.

The Meghalaya initiative marks a model example of a state-level collaborative approach towards achieving sustainability, improving forest-based livelihoods, and preparing for emerging international market requirements linked to legal and sustainable sourcing. The training laid a foundation for pilot implementation of forest certification schemes and carbon offset projects in the state and is expected to be scaled up in future phases.



Revision of the Forest Management (FM) Standard

In alignment with evolving global and regional environmental regulations, the Forest Management (FM) Standard, originally endorsed by PEFC in September 2017 and launched in January 2018, underwent a comprehensive revision process.

The revision aimed to ensure continued compliance with the EU Deforestation Regulation, relevant national legislation, and the updated versions of the PEFC Forest Management Standards (2018 and 2024). This process reinforces the standard's relevance and applicability in a rapidly changing regulatory landscape, enhancing its credibility and robustness. As part of the revision process, a 30-day public consultation was conducted from 9th February to 10th March 2025, providing stakeholders the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed changes. The consultation focused on the following key documents:

- Forest Management Certification Standard (NCCF-STD-FM-Revision-01-2024)
- Draft Accreditation and Certification Requirements for Certification Bodies under the PEFC- Endorsed NCCF FM and Trees outside Forests (ToF) Certification Scheme (NCCF-STD- ACR-02/2025)
- Draft Group Certification Standard (NCCF-STD-GM-02/2025)
- Requirements for Standard Setting Procedure (NCCF-STD-SSP-ToF 02/2022)

Following the consultation and incorporation of feedback, the revised documents were finalized and submitted to PEFC by the end of March 2025 for further review and endorsement. This revision marks a critical step forward in maintaining the standard's international relevance and ensuring sustainability alignment with emerging frameworks and expectations.

| NCCF Standard | In Alignment with |
|---|---|
| 1. NCCF Sustainable Forest Management Standard (NCCF -STD- FM - 2.0 - 2025) | PEFC Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements (PEFC ST 1003:2018) and PEFC Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements (PEFC ST 1003:2024) |
| 2. Group Certification Standard (NCCF -STD- GM - 2.0 /2025) | PEFC Group Forest Management – Requirements (PEFC ST 1002:2018) |
| 3. CB Requirement Document (NCCF -STD- ACR- 2.0 /2025) | PEFC Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against PEFC Endorsed Forest Management Standards (PEFC ST 1004:2024) |
| 4. Requirements for Standard Setting Procedure (NCCF-STD-SSP-ToF 02/2022) | PEFC Standard-setting – Requirements (PEFC ST 1001:2017) |

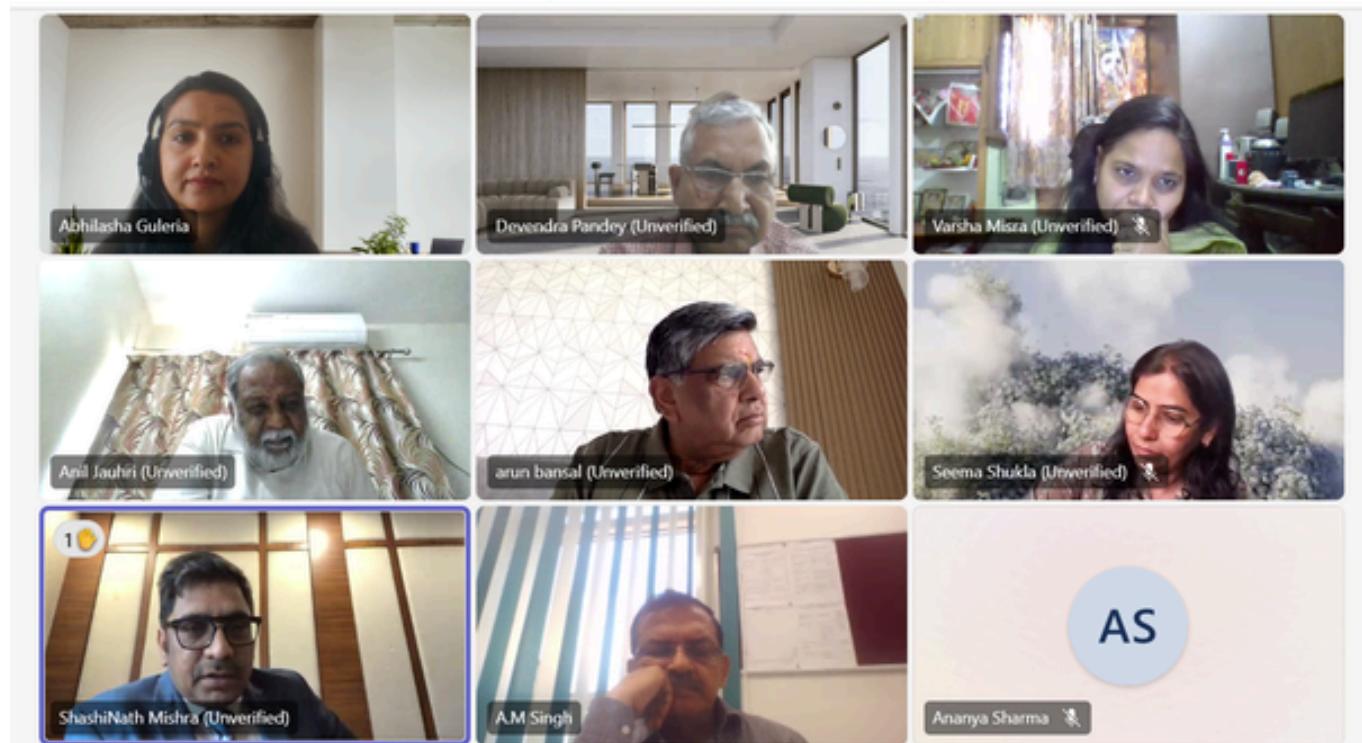
Consultation with Certification Advisory Group (CAG)

As part of the Forest Management (FM) Standard revision process, NCCF convened a meeting of the Certification Advisory Group (CAG) on 17 March 2025 to review and provide technical inputs on the proposed revisions. The meeting was held virtually and was attended by representatives from the Accreditation Body, certification bodies, and subject experts.

The CAG reviewed the revised FM and ToF certification framework, particularly focusing on accreditation and witnessing requirements for Certification Bodies. Detailed discussions were held on audit witnessing frequency, scope extension procedures, and reaccreditation requirements to ensure consistency with ISO/IEC 17065 and NABCB accreditation practices. The group emphasized a risk-based and balanced witnessing approach, recognizing the higher complexity of FM certification while allowing flexibility for ToF assessments.

The feedback and recommendations received during the CAG meeting were duly considered and incorporated into the final version of the revised FM and ToF certification framework, strengthening its technical robustness and implementation clarity.

The meeting was attended by members representing key stakeholder organisations, including NABCB, ACBI, TIC Council and NCCF. Prominent participants included Mr. Anil Jauhri (Chairperson, CAG), Ms. Varsha Misra (NABCB), Dr. Devendra Pandey (ToF), Mr. A.M. Singh (DG, NCCF), Mr. A.K. Bansal (Chairperson, NWFP) and Ms. Abhilasha Guleria (Assistant Director, NCCF).



Special General Body Meeting on FM Scheme Revision

A Special General Body (GB) Meeting was held on 25 March 2025 to review and approve the revised Forest Management (FM) Scheme prior to its submission to PEFC International. During the meeting, the Director General of NCCF presented an overview of the revision process, highlighting alignment with updated international guidelines, EU regulations, and PEFC requirements.

Members of the General Body acknowledged the comprehensive revision work undertaken and appreciated the structured stakeholder consultations, gap assessments, and technical reviews carried out during the revision process. The key revisions to the FM Standard, Group Certification Standard, Certification Body Requirements and Standard Setting Procedure were presented, along with an overview of notification procedures and compliance with emerging regulatory frameworks such as EUDR.

Following detailed deliberations, the revised FM Scheme was formally approved by the General Body for submission to PEFC International for endorsement, marking an important milestone in strengthening NCCF's certification framework.

The meeting was attended by Governing Body members including the Chairperson, Co-Chairperson, FM Standard Committee members, and NCCF Secretariat. Key participants included Mr. Atul Bagai, Mr. Avani Kumar Varma, Mr. A.K. Srivastava, Mr. A.M. Singh, and Mr. Anil Jauhri.

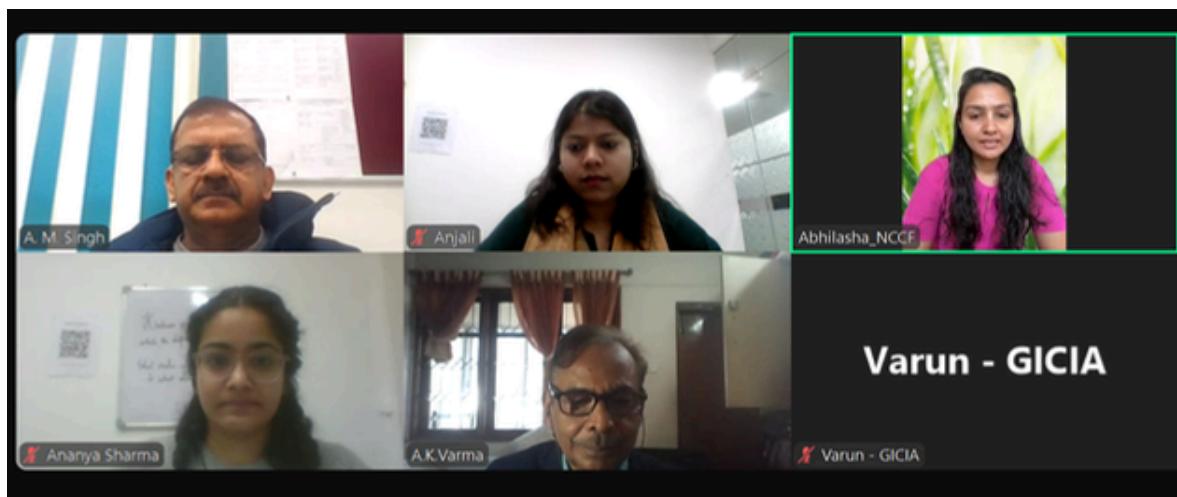


NCCF Organizes Training on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Standard – January 2025

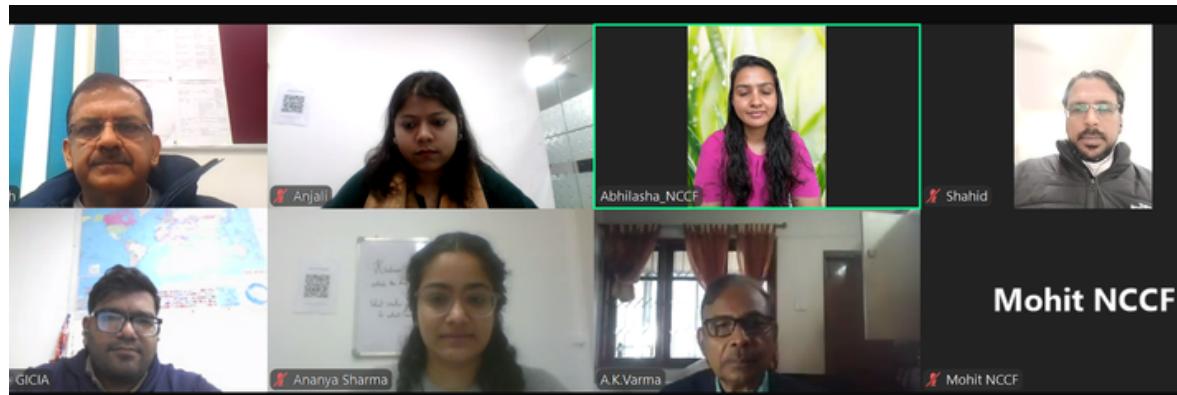
In a significant step toward promoting responsible forest governance, the Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF) conducted a comprehensive online training on the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Standard on 22nd and 23rd January 2025. This two-day capacity-building program was designed to deepen the technical understanding and practical application of India's SFM certification framework among forestry professionals, auditors, and institutional stakeholders.

The training was delivered by Mr. A.K. Varma, Chairperson of the SFM Standard, Mr. A.M. Singh, Director General of NCCF, Mr. S.S. Srivastava, an experienced Lead Auditor, and Ms. Abhilasha Guleria, Assistant Director at NCCF.

The trainers provided in-depth coverage of the SFM standard's structure, implementation guidelines, and the role it plays in promoting sustainable, transparent, and inclusive forest management across India. The training saw active participation from renowned organizations, including GICIA Pvt. Ltd., Macc Cert and the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), among others. The diverse participant profile ensured meaningful engagement and exchange of practical insights, making the program not only informative but also collaborative.



Varun - GICIA



Mohit NCCF



Trees outside Forests (ToF) Certification Standard

Tof- NCCF's Trees Outside Forests (ToF) Certification Scheme is the first of its kind, not only in India but anywhere in the world, and achieved endorsement by PEFC International in September 2023. The standard has been meticulously developed by a multi-stakeholder Standard Development Group, chaired by Dr. Devendra Pandey, ex-PCCF & HoFF, Arunachal Pradesh, and Ex-DG, FSI.

The standard focuses on the certification of wood sourced from non-forest lands, including agroforestry, farmers' lands, smallholders' plantations, block and linear plantations, and farm forestry. According to the report of a High-Level Expert Group on "Growing India's Agricultural Exports through Crop-Specific, State- Led Plans," constituted by the XV Finance Commission, around 72% of the industrial wood requirement is met from ToF, with only 5% coming from forests and the remaining 23% from imports.

Despite this substantial production of wood, Indian producers have been unable to fully tap into global markets to secure competitive prices for their products. The ToF Certification Scheme aims to bridge this gap by enabling the construction and wood sector industries to incorporate certified raw materials into their procurement policies and supply chain management. This scheme will provide much-needed recognition to the wood and timber produced by farmers on their lands, ensuring better market access and higher income for their agroforestry produce.

The NCCF ToF Certification Standard, structured around six comprehensive themes, is a landmark initiative that promotes sustainability, strengthens market linkages, and aligns Indian wood products with global best practices.



Benefits of ToF Certification

- Inclusion of small-holder farmers under Certified supply chains
- Certification mechanism to the suitability of Indian scenarios (ease of understanding and compliance to standards)
- Assured buying markets and linkage with WBIs
- Ensuring the right farm gate price for farmers
- Need for income benefits, enhancing the resilience of farmers
- Access to International markets with demand for Certified Produce
- Mechanism to Indian WBI to facilitate compliance with 'Due Diligence' of International Legislations and preparing in advance for upcoming reforms

The ToF Certification Standard, endorsed by PEFC, was **formally launched on August 21, 2024**, at the India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi. The launch event was graced by distinguished dignitaries, including:

- Mr. Franklin Khobung, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare
- Mr. Eduardo Rojas Briales, Chair, PEFC International
- Mr. Richard Laity, Manager – Asia Pacific, PEFC
- Senior retired Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers

The event witnessed strong industry participation, with notable stakeholders such as Hindustan Pencils Pvt. Ltd., Star Paper Mills Ltd., the Indian Paper Manufacturers Association (IPMA), and the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH), reflecting the growing relevance of the ToF standard in promoting sustainable practices across Indian industries.

Following the launch, the certification process was formally initiated for Hindustan Pencils Pvt. Ltd. and Star Paper Mills Ltd., marking a significant step forward in the operationalization of the ToF standard in India.



Visit to Saharanpur Site of Star Paper Mills

Following the launch of the Trees Outside Forests (ToF) Standard, NCCF and PEFC team took a visit to the Saharanpur site of Star Paper Mills. The visit provided an opportunity for in-depth discussions on the prospective implementation and certification under the PEFC endorsed NCCF ToF Standard.

Discussions were made on the current status of the ToF standard and on key aspects of the raw material sourcing and supply chain systems of the Star Paper Mills. The interactions also focused on the company's plantation support initiatives through nursery-based planting material, highlighting opportunities to align existing practices with the requirements of ToF certification.



NCCF Organizes Successful Trees Outside Forests (ToF) Standard and Certification Training for CBs and Auditors.

On October 8th and 9th, 2024, NCCF had the privilege of hosting the inaugural ToF Auditors Training, bringing together auditors, consultants, and industry professionals for an interactive learning experience.

Over the course of two days, participants explored key deliverables related to ToF resources in India, the standard development process, ToF standards, provisional approval and accreditation of certification bodies, group certification, and more. Our esteemed trainers—**Dr. D. Pandey, Mr. A.M. Singh, Mr. Anil Jauhri, Mr. S.S. Srivastava, and Ms. Abhilasha Guleria**—shared their expertise and insights, providing a comprehensive understanding of the Trees Outside Forests (ToF) Scheme and its various components.

The event fostered a collaborative environment where participants actively engaged in discussions, sharing valuable knowledge and best practices. The enthusiasm and commitment displayed by all made this training a truly enriching experience.



Jammu & Kashmir Poplar Farming Association (JKPFA) Visit

On 9 and 10 November, NCCF representatives Mr. A.M. Singh, Mr. Sachin Jain, and Ms. Abhilasha Guleria visited the Jammu and Kashmir Poplar Farming Association. During the visit, they conducted a comprehensive two-day workshop aimed at raising awareness among farmers about the concept of Trees Outside Forests (ToF) certification, its processes, and the significant benefits it offers for sustainable forest management. The team also visited and learned about multiple ToF plantations established in farmers' fields. The initiative successfully engaged local farmers and highlighted the importance of adopting certified practices to enhance both environmental sustainability and economic value.





Safeboards Standards and Certification Scheme

Safeboard- Composite wood products have emerged as the most widely used and dominant building materials over the last three decades, owing to their characteristics such as being lightweight, corrosion-free, insulating, and cost- effective. However, these boards pose a challenge to healthy indoor air quality due to the resins and chemicals used in their production, which emit Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) even years after installation.

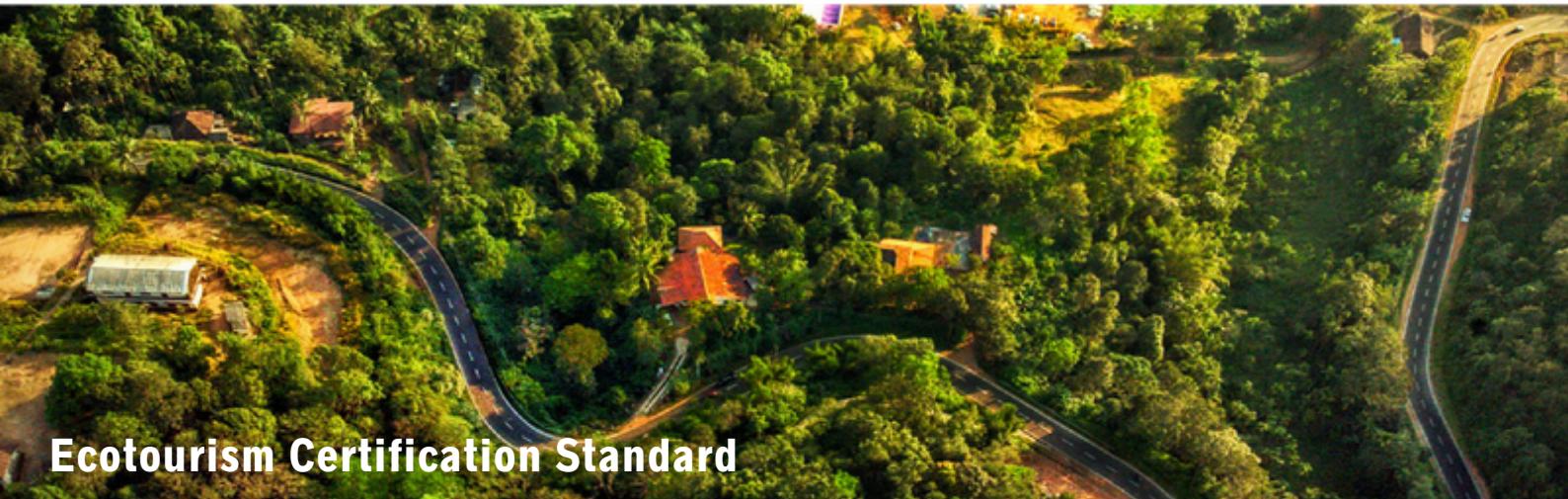
To address these concerns, the Safeboards Standards were developed through a Standard Development Group (SDG) under the Chairpersonship of Mr. A. K. Goyal, IFS (Retd), ex-Special Secretary to the Government of India. Pilot testing of the draft standards was conducted at two composite wood manufacturing sites: United Timber Works, a plywood manufacturer in Yamuna Nagar, Haryana, and Balaji Action Buildwell, a manufacturer of Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF), thin MDF, and particle boards, located in Sitarganj, Uttarakhand.

The successful completion of pilot testing concluded that all requirements of the Zero Draft of the Safeboards Certification Standards were fully verifiable, except for the correlation calculation factor, which was determined post-pilot testing. Following this, correlation values were incorporated into the Standards. Subsequently, NCCF officially launched the “Safeboards Standards and Certification Scheme” on November 26, 2021, with the approval of its Governing Body.

The scheme focuses on establishing technical criteria and safe levels of formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products such as plywood, block boards, particle boards, and MDF. By improving indoor air quality, the scheme addresses both human health and environmental concerns. It also aims to promote exports of wooden furniture, handicrafts, wooden toys, and cutlery, ensuring uniform technical regulations across manufacturing units for the production of safe products for both export and domestic markets.

The NCCF Certification Advisory Group approved the Provisional Approval Scheme for Certification Bodies (CBs) for the Safeboards Standards and Certification Scheme during its online meeting on January 27, 2022, chaired by Mr. Anil Jauhri, Chairperson, CAG (ex-CEO, NABCB). Certification Bodies were subsequently invited to seek Provisional Approval under the scheme.

As of October 25, 2023, NCCF awarded its first certification under the Safeboards Standards and Certification Scheme to Balaji Action Buildwell. This milestone demonstrates the scheme's viability and commitment to driving safer manufacturing practices while supporting the growth of the Indian wood and furniture industries.



Ecotourism Certification Standard

Recognizing the importance of responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment while benefiting local communities, and the need for an ecotourism certification standard, NCCF established a multi-stakeholder Standard Development Group. This group was formed under the leadership of Mr. A. K. Varma, IFS (retd), Former PCCF & HoFF, Karnataka. In 2022, Mr. C. B. Ramkumar, Vice-Chair of the GSTC, joined the initiative as Co-Chairman of the NCCF Ecotourism Standard and Certification Scheme.

The NCCF Standard is based on the four pillars of sustainability—Environmental, Social, Cultural, and Management principles—and is specifically designed for entities in the ecotourism sector. It emphasizes travel to natural destinations that minimize negative impacts, raise environmental awareness, and provide direct financial benefits to local communities for conservation efforts.

As part of the mandatory process for standard-setting, NCCF has completed the pilot testing of the draft Ecotourism Certification Standard at two significant ecotourism locations in India. The first pilot was held at Kali River Adventure Camp in Dandeli, Karnataka, from June 28-30, 2022, under Jungle Lodges and Resorts, Karnataka. The second pilot took place at Kathotiya and Kerwa Eco-Jungle Camps in Bhopal from August 25-26, 2022, under the Madhya Pradesh Ecotourism Development Board, Bhopal. The goal of these pilot tests was to assess the scope, applicability, and acceptance of the standard among ecotourism management entities, as well as to identify any gaps and challenges in its implementation.



Ecotourism Pilot Testing

In line with the NCCF Standard Setting Procedure, the draft of the Ecotourism Standard (ET) Version (V0.1)/29-09-2022 (NCCF-STD-ET-0.1/2022 29th September 2022) was finalized after active consultation with the SDG members through an open, transparent, and consultative process. This draft was then presented to the SDG for a Consensus Building Workshop on December 9, 2022. Feedback from this workshop was incorporated into the revised version of the standard, which is now the Ecotourism Standard (ET) Version (V0.1)/15-12-2022 (NCCF-STD-ET-0.1/2022 15th December 2022). This version will soon be presented to the NCCF Governing Body for approval in the coming months.

Additionally, NCCF participated in a Sustainable Tourism Workshop, jointly organized by the Madhya Pradesh Ecotourism Development Board (MPEDB) and the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC), in Bhopal on January 23-24, 2023. The workshop aimed to train officers from the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department and the Madhya Pradesh Ecotourism Development Board, including frontline staff, in developing sustainable ecotourism destinations.

NCCF is now an organizational member of the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) to expand its reach and enhance networking opportunities that promote sustainability within the global travel and tourism industry. The NCCF Ecotourism Standard and Certification Scheme aligns with the GSTC Destination Criteria v2.0, and NCCF plans to seek endorsement from the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) to gain international recognition, global visibility, and further outreach.



Ecotourism Pilot Testing



NCCF has developed a certification standard for Non-Wood Forest Resources (NWFR) through a multi-stakeholder Standard Development Group, chaired by Mr. Arun Kumar Bansal, IFS (retd), Former Additional Director General of Forests, MoEF&CC.

India is the 10th most forested country in the world, with a forest and tree cover of 8,09,537 sq km, which accounts for 24.62% of the country's geographical area. These forests are a primary source of non-wood forest products (NWFPs). The certification standard being developed will significantly benefit forest dwellers and local communities who depend on the collection and harvesting of NWFPs for their livelihoods. As commercial opportunities for NWFRs expand, the certification will help promote these resources in the market, facilitate trade, ensure better pricing for gatherers and cultivators, and create sustainable market linkages while maintaining the long-term viability of NWFRs.

The NWFR Standard is currently in the pilot testing phase. NCCF has received two Expressions of Interest (EoIs) from certification bodies to conduct pilot testing of the draft NWFR Standard.



Certification Standards for Nurseries and Quality Planting Material

NCCF is developing certification standards for Nurseries and Quality Planting Material (QPM) through a multi-stakeholder Standard Development Group, under the Chairmanship of Mr Abhijit Ghose, IFS (retd). Following the said Standard, woody perennials will be raised based on certain standards and can be evaluated by a third party on the basis of certain criteria and indicators as provided in the Standard. The Standard will also provide the protocols to address various risk factors. Assessment of the nurseries and the planting material, based on the Standard, will ensure the production of Quality Planting Material on a sustainable basis.

Quality Planting Material is also an essential input in creating plantations in and outside the forest for higher productivity and meeting the rising demand for timber in our country. The absence of certification standards deters investment. A certified QPM regime, therefore, is essential for the healthy and sustainable growth of the sector and for ensuring plenty of quality planting material that meets global standards. The standard will help the tree producers obtain better prices for their tree products, as well as secure markets, thereby reducing risk. It will be a win-win situation for the Nursery owner, as its products can be sold at a premium price in comparison to non-certified nurseries and certainly consumers (planters/farmers) will be benefitted from better productivity by planting QPM in their fields.

The draft Standard document was opened for public consultation from December 6, 2021, to February 3, 2022, and comments received have been addressed in the draft standard. The consensus building second TWG meeting was held on 5th April 2022. After discussion in the meeting a need for simplifying the draft was felt and accordingly the draft document has been revised now the draft also enables nurseries to assess by themselves and understand the improvement required to upgrade them.

For the next step, NCCF is planning for conducting pilot testing for QPM standard at three potential sites, such as: Saharanpur, Odisha and Tamilnadu. The EOI will be hosted soon in NCCF website, during which interested certification bodies will be invited to participate in the pilot testing.

In a nutshell, the objectives of QPM Standard are as follows:

- To determine different criteria and indicators for establishing nurseries for the supply of cost-effective Quality Planting Materials
- To meet the quality raw material demand of wood-based industries by reducing the country's import burden and increasing the productivity and revenue of plantations.
- To encourage continued R&D support for tree improvement programs through the development of location-specific quality planting materials



Protected Areas and Wetlands Certification Standard

India is recognized as one of the 17 mega-biodiverse countries in the world. Despite covering only 2.4% of the Earth's land area, it accounts for nearly 7% of the world's recorded species, both flora and fauna. The country's protected area network, which spans 1,73,306.83 km² (approximately 5.27% of India's geographical area), includes 1014 Protected Areas: 106 National Parks, 573 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 115 Conservation Reserves, and 220 Community Reserves.

The National Certification and Conservation Foundation (NCCF) has launched an initiative to develop a Certification Standard for Protected Areas and Wetlands (PAWs). This initiative is guided by a multi-stakeholder Standard Development Group (SDG), chaired by Dr. Jagdish Kishwan, IFS (retd). The PAWs Certification Standard is a voluntary program designed to create a robust institutional framework for the scientific monitoring of ongoing issues in Protected Areas and Wetlands. These challenges include poor forest health, the spread of invasive species, human-wildlife conflicts, poaching, illegal logging, encroachments, and other unauthorized activities. By using simple, practical, and adaptable parameters, this certification system will allow for consistent monitoring of the health, impact, and effectiveness of government-funded management practices, as well as the implementation of new government policies and directives related to Protected Areas.

Benefits of the PAWs Certification Standard:

- Cost-effective and accessible, being a domestic standard
- Easy to apply and use
- Applicable to conservation areas and important biodiversity habitats outside the official network of Protected Areas
- Versatile, allowing for multiple uses, applications, and assessments with a single standard
- Tailored for assessing conservation areas specific to the country
- Useful for evaluating the viability of conservation project proposals



Biofuel and Biomass Certification Standard

NCCF has initiated the development of a Certification Standard for Biofuel and Biomass (BioFM) to foster sustainable growth in the sector while ensuring that the country's essential biological resources are not overexploited. The Biofuel and Biomass (BioFM) Standard Development Group is led by Mr. R. R. Rashmi, IAS (retd), with Dr. Jagdish Kishwan, IFS (retd), serving as Co-chair.

The government is actively promoting the production of biofuels and biomass energy in both public and private sectors through initiatives such as the National Policy on Biofuels, 2018, by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG). Sub-section 5.25 of this policy mandates the establishment of standards and certification for various biofuels and their applications. Given the current landscape and the need for a certification framework, NCCF is working on developing the Biofuel and Biomass certification scheme.

The NCCF BioFM certification scheme aims to meet the policy's requirements by ensuring the environmental, social, and economic sustainability of biomass sources and their entire supply chain, in compliance with established criteria. This certification will offer third-party verification, confirming that feedstock is sustainably produced and processed, thereby fostering the development of sustainable market linkages. It will also support the government, policymakers, and stakeholders in implementing incentive-based mechanisms and aligning with existing policies and plans, strengthening the sector's needs.

In summary, the benefits of this standard include:

- Ensuring biofuels and biomass are sourced in an environmentally safe, socially acceptable, and economically viable manner.
- Contributing to the reduction of GHG emissions by decreasing reliance on fossil fuels.
- Establishing traceability and legal sourcing for certified materials.
- Promoting the consistent improvement in the quality and quantity of biofuels and biomass.
- Expanding marketing opportunities for certified entities in the biofuel and biomass sector.
- Supporting the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the production, processing, and use of biofuels and related products.



PEFC Chain of Custody (CoC)

The PEFC Chain of Custody (CoC) certification ensures traceability of forest-based products at each stage of the supply chain, from certified sources to the finished product. It supports legal and responsible sourcing of timber and other forest products and helps organisations demonstrate compliance with national and international market requirements. Under the NCCF-PEFC framework, the CoC scheme is being increasingly adopted by manufacturers, traders and exporters across the country.

As on 31 March 2025, there were 50 active PEFC CoC certificates under the NCCF scheme, reflecting steady growth in the use of credible certification systems in India.

Industry-wise Distribution under PEFC Certification Scope

- Furniture: 22 industries
- Pulp and Paper: 12 industries
- Textile: 8 industries
- Wood Procurement: 6 industries
- Printing: 2 industries

NCCF and PEFC Successfully Conduct Initial PEFC Chain of Custody Auditors' Training 2024

NCCF, in collaboration with PEFC International, successfully conducted the PEFC Chain of Custody (CoC) Auditors' Initial Training on 2–3 September 2024 in online mode. The programme was designed for auditors, reviewers, and certification decision-makers involved in conducting audits against the PEFC Chain of Custody Standards.

The training commenced with a welcome address by Mr. A. M. Singh, Director General, NCCF, who introduced the expert trainers from PEFC International, namely Mr. Rob Shaw, Ms. Linda Matole, and Ms. Ambra Scodro. The programme witnessed participation from multiple Certification Bodies across several countries, including India, Egypt, Canada, UAE, Croatia, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

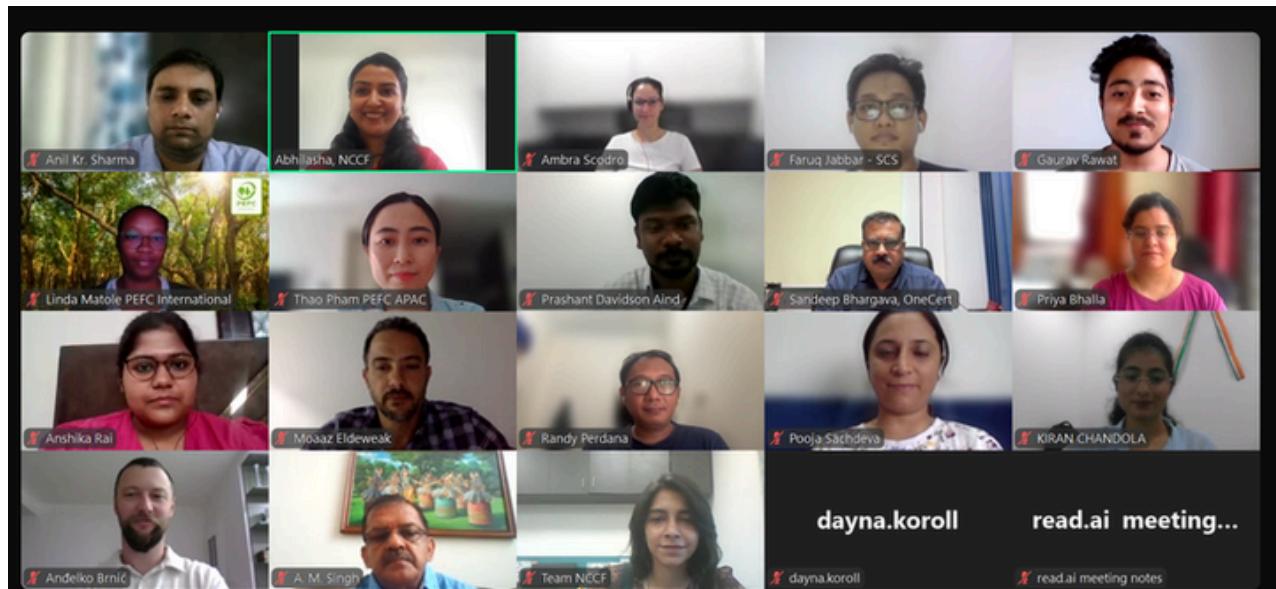
An overview of NCCF, its certification schemes, and the significance of PEFC Chain of Custody certification was presented by Ms. Abhilasha Gueria, Assistant Director, NCCF.

Our expert trainers from PEFC International, who are part of the PEFC Pool of Experts, led the sessions, covering:

- PEFC Chain of Custody Documentation
- Scope and Management System
- Due Diligence System
- Multi-Site Certification
- Compliance with PEFC Chain of Custody and Trademarks Regulations
- PEFC-EUDR DDS Module

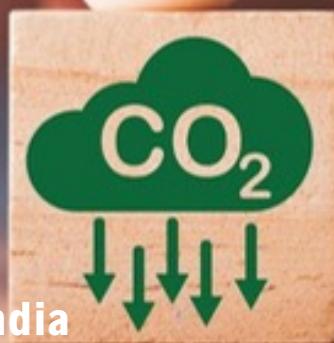
The programme included presentations and case-based discussions to provide participants with practical understanding of audit implementation. Successful completion of the training qualifies auditors to conduct PEFC Chain of Custody certification audits and also served as an important refresher for existing auditors.

The training concluded with congratulations to all participants and acknowledgment of their role in strengthening PEFC Chain of Custody certification globally.





CARBON REGISTRY- INDIA



Carbon Registry-India

The Carbon Registry-India (CR-I) is a pioneering initiative that marks a significant step in India's voluntary carbon credit market. Launched on September 16, 2021, by the Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF), CR-I was created to support India's climate commitments and contribute to global sustainability efforts. As the first national platform of its kind, CR-I facilitates the issuance of carbon credits to eligible greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction projects, driving essential climate finance to projects that mitigate and remove emissions. This platform aligns with the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) outlined in the Paris Agreement, promoting sustainable practices and supporting the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

CR-I provides a range of benefits to project developers across various sectors, including nature-based solutions, energy, and other industrial scopes. By offering a transparent and accountable system for listing, monitoring, and verifying projects, CR-I helps reduce the complexities faced by project implementers and ensures their emissions reductions are recognized and rewarded. This incentivization is crucial for fostering small-scale and innovative interventions that contribute to long-term sustainability. Additionally, CR-I's framework encourages industry players to adopt and integrate low-carbon practices,

Registering your project with Carbon Registry-India (CR-I)

Start by designing your project, whether it's a renewable energy, reforestation, or energy efficiency initiative. Engage with local stakeholders to align with their needs, then create a comprehensive Detailed Project Document (DPD). Submit your project for a project listing with the CR-I. CR-I will gather public feedback through a 30-day consultation. Next, choose an empaneled Validation and Verification Body (VVB) to review and validate your project. VVB will submit a formal Request for Registration (RfR) to the CR-I for final evaluation. With these steps completed, your project will receive CR-I's official registration and a path to generating carbon credits.



CRI Governing Council



Anil Jauhri, Chairman, Ex-CEO, NABCB & Member CDM Art 6.4 Expert & Accreditation Panel



Prof. Indumathy Namby, IIT, Chennai



Dr. Suruchi Bhadwal, Senior Fellow and Director, TERI



A M Singh, DG NCCF, Retd. IFS, PCCF & HoFF Assam



Manish Dabkara, President, CMAI



Richard Bright, CEO, CR-I



Sachin Raj Jain, Convener, NCCF

CRI Advisory Board



Reflecting on a Year of Institution Building and Global Engagement

April 2024 – March 2025

As we closed the financial year in March 2025, it was evident that the preceding twelve months had been both formative and defining for Carbon Registry-India (CR-I). From the early months of summer 2024, when we began consolidating our governance and standards roadmap, to the close of winter 2025, marked by our first registered project and new international partnerships, the year reflected steady progress towards building a credible, India-aligned carbon market institution.

The year began in April–May 2024 with a strong emphasis on capacity building and ecosystem readiness. In collaboration with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), CR-I conducted an onsite training programme for the Meghalaya Forest Department. This engagement reinforced a belief that continues to guide our work—that durable carbon markets must be anchored in state capacity, local institutions, and practical understanding of implementation on the ground.

As the monsoon months of 2024 unfolded, CR-I turned inward to strengthen its institutional foundations. The onboarding of Mr. Anil Jauhri as Chairman of CR-I marked an important milestone, bringing seasoned leadership and governance depth at a time when the Indian carbon ecosystem is entering a critical growth phase. During this period, we also initiated structured requirement gathering for the revision and enhancement of the CR-I Standard, recognising the need to remain aligned with evolving global frameworks while retaining national relevance and cost efficiency.

The post-monsoon period, from August to October 2024, was characterised by outward engagement and technical consolidation. CR-I initiated dialogues with industry bodies such as the PHD Chamber of Commerce and commodity boards including the Spice Board and Coffee Board of India, expanding the conversation on carbon markets beyond energy into agriculture, forestry, and export-oriented value chains. Concurrently, we undertook CORSIA and international registry gap assessments and advanced discussions on methodological workstreams such as MFRS—critical steps in preparing CR-I for interoperability and future market integration.

A defining moment of the year came during November 2024, when CR-I participated in COP29 in Baku. COP29 underscored both the promise and the gaps in the global climate architecture. While progress on Article 6 and carbon market rules reaffirmed the importance of high-integrity registries, discussions on climate finance, adaptation, and loss and damage highlighted the continued challenges faced by developing economies such as India.

For CR-I, COP29 was not merely a forum for observation, but a platform for opportunity identification. Engagements during the conference revealed concrete prospects for new carbon methodologies—ranging from hybrid retrofitting of maritime vessels and transport sector interventions, to digital resource-efficiency solutions and advanced tree health monitoring technologies for agroforestry. These innovations point towards a future where carbon markets extend well beyond conventional nature-based solutions, embracing technology-enabled, measurable, and scalable interventions.

Equally important were dialogues with international standards bodies, forestry certification programmes, and representatives from Africa and South Asia exploring the establishment of domestic carbon registries. These interactions positioned CR-I as a potential knowledge and infrastructure partner for emerging carbon ecosystems, reinforcing India's role as both a market participant and a solutions provider. Discussions around accessing multilateral funding—from mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund—also highlighted the growing need for domestic capacity to structure credible, investment-ready proposals.

As winter set in during early 2025, CR-I moved decisively from preparation to execution. The registration of CR-I's first project, Shayadri, marked a significant operational milestone, signalling readiness to support real projects and real outcomes. This period also saw further institutional consolidation through proposed organisational restructuring and the signing of new collaboration agreements.

Looking ahead, the lessons of this year are clear. India's carbon market will be shaped not only by policy and price signals, but by institutions that are credible, adaptive, and grounded in national priorities. CR-I enters the coming year focused on finalising standard revisions, scaling project registrations, advancing new methodologies identified through global engagement, and continuing to build trust across government, industry, and international partners.

The journey from spring 2024 to spring 2025 has laid strong foundations. The work ahead will be about scale, integrity, and impact—and CR-I remains committed to enabling India's transition through a transparent and robust carbon market ecosystem.





**NCCF
GOVERNANCE**

9th Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The 9th Annual General Meeting of the Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF) was held on 25 February 2025 with the required quorum present. The meeting served as an important forum to review the organisation's performance, financial matters, and progress under its certification schemes.

During the meeting, Mr. Atul Bagai was appointed as Chairman of NCCF with the approval of the members. Members considered and approved the Annual Report for 2023–24, which outlined key activities, programme developments, and operational progress. Updates were also shared on the Forest Management (FM) Scheme, the Trees Outside Forests (ToF) Scheme, and other ongoing initiatives of NCCF.

The audited financial statements for the year 2023–24 were presented and approved. Members also appointed the statutory auditor for the financial year 2024–25. Discussions focused on strengthening governance, improving scheme implementation, and ensuring the continued growth and sustainability of NCCF's certification programmes.

The meeting was attended by Governing Body members and representatives from government departments, certification bodies, forestry organisations, and sustainability institutions. Key participants included Mr. Atul Bagai (Chairman, NCCF), Mr. Himanshu Sharma (Star Papers), Mr. Arun Kumar Bansal (Member, NCCF & PEFC Board Member), Mr. Rohit Pandit (Secretary, IPMA & Member, NCCF), Mr. Rajesh Rawat (EPCH), Mr. A.M. Singh (Director General, NCCF), along with members of the NCCF Secretariat.





ISO TRAINING

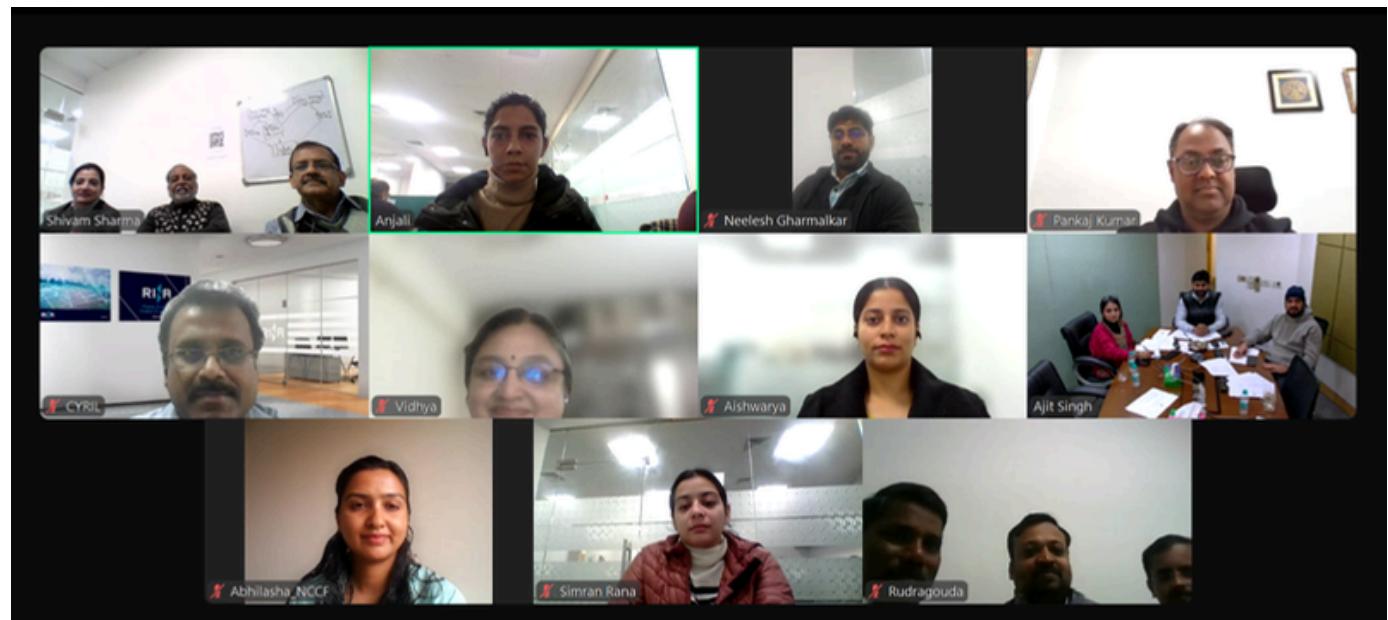
NCCF Organizes Successful ISO 17065:2012 Training for Auditors

NCCF organised a three-day training programme on ISO/IEC 17065:2012 from 8 to 10 January 2025 in Noida and in virtual mode. The programme was designed to strengthen understanding of internationally prescribed requirements for certification schemes and conformity assessment processes.

The training was conducted by eminent experts **Mr. Anil Jauhri, former CEO of NABCB, and Ms. Vani Bambri Arora, an experienced accreditation assessor.** Key sessions covered accreditation frameworks, certification scheme models, conformity assessment processes, management system requirements, and related international standards.

The programme witnessed participation from multiple Certification Bodies (CBs) and professionals from diverse sectors. It fostered an interactive and collaborative learning environment, where participants actively engaged in discussions, exchanged best practices, and gained practical insights. The high level of participation and interaction made the programme a successful and enriching learning experience, contributing to enhanced technical competence among the participants.

The programme was a successful and enriching learning experience, contributing to enhanced technical competence, improved awareness of compliance requirements, and strengthened implementation of quality certification practices among participants.





MEMBERS OF NCCF

MEMBERS OF NCCF SOCIETY

With sincere gratitude, we express our appreciation to the dedicated members of NCCF, whose technical expertise, knowledge contributions, and inherent value significantly contribute to fostering positive change and inspiring confidence in a sustainable future.

| Class of Members | Name of The Members |
|------------------------------|---|
| Subscriber Members | 1. Mr Avani Kumar Varma 2. Mr JK Jain 3. Mr Sachin Raj Jain 4. Mr IVR Rao 5. Mr Suneel Pandey 6. Mr KH Devbrat 7. Mr Sanjeev Agarwal 8. Mr Rakesh Kumar 9. Mr A K Bansal |
| Institutional Members | 1. Indian Plywood Industries Research & Training Institute (IPIRTI) 2. Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Paper Ltd (TNPL) 3. Indian Paper Manufacturer's Association (IPMA) 4. Haryana Forest Development Corporation (HFDC) 5. Star Paper Mills 6. Indian Arts Furniture Private Limited 7. ITC Ltd. 8. GC Consultancy 9. Sardar Patel Trust 10. Printografik Packaging India Pvt Ltd. |
| Individual Members | 1. Mr. Ashish Kumar Srivastava 2. Ms. Jyotsna Sitling 3. Mr. S K Upadhyaya 4. Mr. Atul Kumar Gupta 5. Nupur International 6. Sankalp International 7. Seshasayee Paper and Boards Ltd 8. Sripathi Paper & Boards Pvt Lt |

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| Class of Members | Name of The Members |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Co-Opted Member Members | 1. Mr Anil Jauhri |
| Government Nominee Members | 1. Joint Secretary/ Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare 2. Deputy Secretary, TPD, Ministry of Commerce and Industry |
| Student Members | 1. Tushar Gupta 2. Arjun Jain |



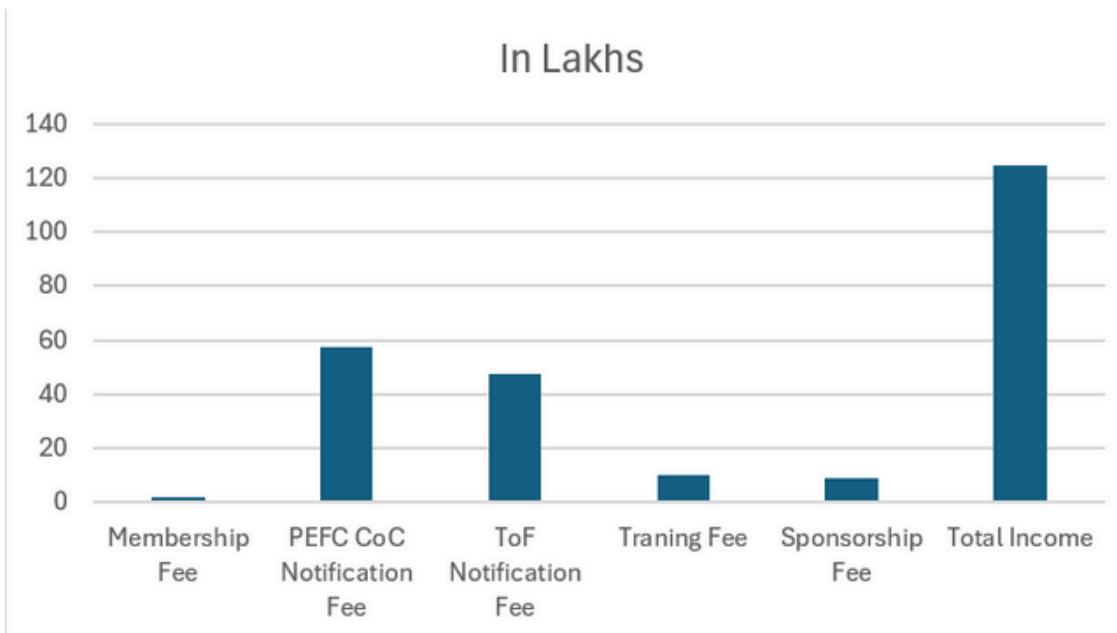
FINANCIAL REPORT

2024-25

Financial Summary 2024-2025

Income in INR

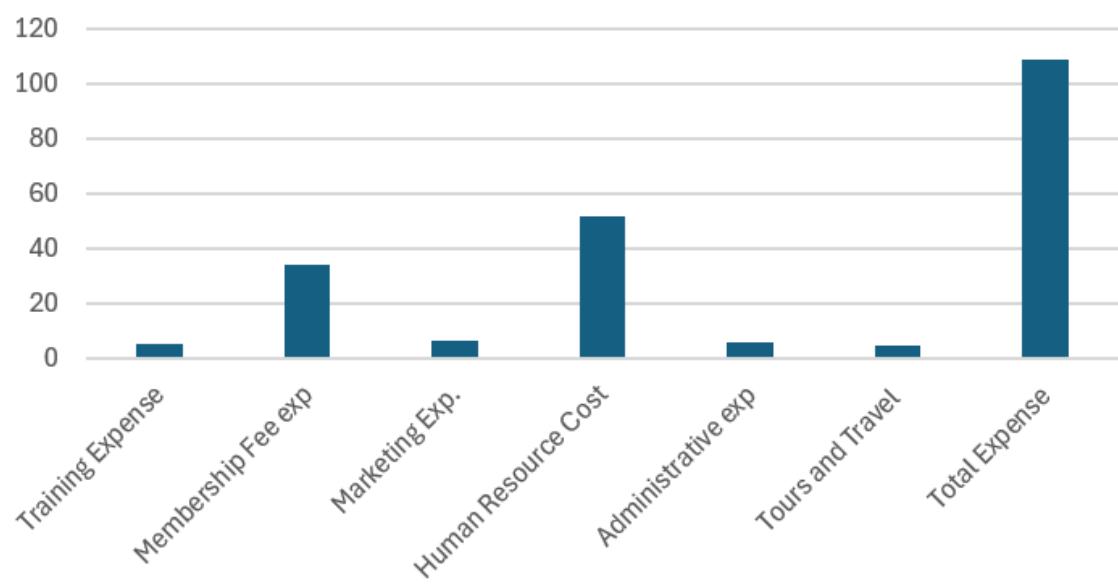
| Income Heads | Amount (In Lakhs) |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Membership Fee | 1.79 |
| PEFC CoC Notification Fee | 57.59 |
| ToF Notification Fee | 47.28 |
| Training Fee | 9.71 |
| Sponsorship Fee | 8.46 |
| Total Income for F.Y 24-25 | 124.85 |



Expenses in INR

| Expense Heads | Amount (In Lakhs) |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Training Expense | 5.15 |
| Membership Fee exp | 34.47 |
| Marketing Exp. | 6.34 |
| Human Resource Cost | 52.03 |
| Administrative exp | 6.22 |
| Tours and Travel | 4.74 |
| Total Expense for F.Y 24-25 | 108.96 |

In Lakhs





Acknowledgement

The Governing Body of NCCF acknowledges and expresses gratitude towards NCCF's members, employees, stakeholders, civil society organizations, research and academic institutions, and international bodies for their unwavering support in advancing NCCF's objectives. The Governing Body extends its appreciation to the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, State Forest Departments of various states of India, scientific and academic institutions, and various government and non-government agencies for their significant support and cooperation.

The contributions of every member of the NCCF family are recognized and valued, and their continued cooperation and guidance are solicited for NCCF's future endeavors.



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CONSERVE | CARE | CERTIFY



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