



## **NETWORK FOR CERTIFICATION AND CONSERVATION OF FORESTS**

**Title: Theme C Impacts of Forest Management Plan**

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**Post your Inputs/Comments to: [consultationsfm@nccf.in](mailto:consultationsfm@nccf.in)**

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## THEME C: IMPACTS OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Anthropogenic involvement in forest/plantation management activities results in modification of the ecological/social conditions of the existence of these forests and also the communities dependant on these forests. This theme principally deals with issues related to the effects of various management activities and their impacts on forest resources and the surrounding environment in which the Forest Management Enterprise (FME) is operating. This theme would include matters related to protection and conservation of soil and water resources which may be affected by management activities, Integrated Pest Management, control of use of chemicals and issues related to their storage and safety, exotic and/or invasive species and their control, assessment of forest resources to climate change vulnerability, resilience of the forests, adaptation and mitigation measures at the FME/FMU level etc. Also, matters related to the social impact of forest management operations are dealt here. This theme would also look at forests and climate change, including the impacts of climate change on forests ecosystems, as well as the potential of forest management activities to fulfill climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, which can dovetail with the National Action Plans on Climate Change (NAPCC).

Some of the suggested Principles and Criteria include

### **Principle 5: Forest Management Impacts – Social, Economic and Environmental**

Criterion 5.1: The FME shall undertake a social and environmental impact assessment to understand the impact of its management activities on the forest ecological environment, soil and water resources as well as on the local population in and around the forest management unit (FMU) or those dependent on the forest or forest resources for food, shelter or livelihood.

Criterion 5.2: Management planning and operations shall incorporate the results of evaluations of social impacts. The planning of management operations shall involve detailed consultations with all stakeholders who are affected or could be potentially affected by management operations. Special attention shall be paid to social issues of land acquisition, forest use rights, access rights etc.

Criterion 5.3: The FME shall ensure that forest management operations do not threaten or diminish, either directly or indirectly, the resources and use rights of the local dependent population. In case forest management operations lead to loss or damage to property, resources, livelihood or use rights of the local people, then there shall be mutually agreed upon procedures for resolving these grievances and providing a fair and equitable compensation to the afflicted parties.

Criterion 5.4: Various protective measures shall be undertaken in forest management operations so as to maintain the natural features of forest lands, protect water resources, and prevent land degradation

Criterion 5.5: The use of chemicals shall be strictly controlled and the environmental impacts caused shall be minimized accordingly. FME shall minimize chemical use required to achieve management objectives while protecting employees, neighbours, the public and the environment, including wildlife and aquatic habitats.

Criterion 5.6: Introduction of exotic species shall be strictly controlled and negative ecological impacts associated with invasive species shall be prevented

Criterion 5.7: Safeguards shall exist which protect rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats. Conservation zones and protection areas shall be established, appropriate to the uniqueness of the affected resources and the scale and intensity of forest management. Hunting, fishing, trapping and collection shall be controlled.

Criterion 5.8: Use of biological control agents shall be documented, minimized, monitored and strictly controlled in accordance with national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols. Use of genetically modified organisms shall be prohibited.

Criterion 5.9: Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including:

- a) Forest regeneration and succession.
- b) Genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity.
- c) Natural cycles that affect the productivity of the forest ecosystem.

Criterion 5.10: The FME shall not divert any forest land to plantations or non-forestry purposes, without the express permission for the same, obtained through the due process of law. Any such conversions that have taken place needs to be within the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

**Principle 6: Forests and Climate Change – contribution of Forest Management activities to climate change mitigation and adaptation, change in forest carbon inventories etc.**

Criterion 6.1: Forest managers shall undertake forest management operations in such a manner to progressively increase forest carbon levels and ensure that management operations along the life of the enterprise shall be carbon positive.

Criterion 6.2: The forest managers shall demonstrate a commitment to adapt and integrate climate positive activities in the conduct of the enterprise viz., minimizing fossil fuels usage by forest operations, utilization of renewable energy, resource optimization etc.

Criterion 6.3: The forest managers shall endeavor to align the forestry operations to the National Action Plans on Climate Change (NAPCC), subject to meeting the objectives of forest management. This would include, but not limited to, climate change mitigation actions and promoting climate change adaptation potential of dependent communities.

Criterion 6.4: The forest managers shall endeavor, over the long term, to undertake validation and verification of carbon mitigation actions against defined baselines as per internationally agreed mechanisms, and register the same in available national or international carbon registries.

#### **REFERENCES:**

- i. PEFC International Standard PEFC ST 1003:2010 –Sustainable Forest Management-Requirements: Criterion 2, 3 and 4 ,
- ii. FSC-STD-01-001 (Version 4-0) EN – FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship: Principle 4 :Community Relations and Workers Rights; Criteria 4.4-4.5
- iii. FSC-STD-01-001 (Version 4-0) EN – FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship: Principle 6 : Environmental Impact ; Criteria 6.1 – 6.10
- iv. SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard Objectives: Objective 2 – Forest Health and Productivity; Performance Measure 2.2
- v. China Forest Certification Council Forest Management Standard: Principle 3.3 – Local Community and Workers’ rights; Criteria 3.3.7 and 3.3.9
- vi. China Forest Certification Council Forest Management Standard: Principle 3.7 – Environmental Impact; Criteria 3.7.1 – 3.7.6
- vii. Australian Forestry Standard for Sustainable Forest Management AS4708-2013: Criterion 1 – Systematic Management; Indicators 1.2 – 1.6
- viii. Bhopal –India Process: Criterion 1-8
- ix. Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Sustainable Forest Management Standard CAN/CSA-Z809-08: Section 7.3.5 - SFM Plans; Section 7.4.2 –Training, Awareness, qualifications and Knowledge; Section 7.4.4 – SFM Documentation; 7.5.1 – Monitoring and Measurement; 7.5.4 – Internal audits