



NETWORK FOR CERTIFICATION AND CONSERVATION OF FORESTS

Title: Theme D Sustainable and Economic Utilization of Forest Resources

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Theme D Sustainable and Economic Utilization of Forest Resources

This theme deals with the diverse and full utilization of forest produce and the establishment and development of a robust local economy, with an emphasis on use of forest products and services, along with inventorisation of the benefits associated with forests. Other issues proposed to be addressed in this theme include optimal utilization of forest produce by minimizing wastage, use of local resources for value addition to benefit local economy, establishment of written framework with guiding rules for sustainable extraction of NTFPs including rules related to nature and type of extraction, intensity and frequency extraction and subsequent fallow periods etc. Also, this theme takes in to consideration traditional management systems and their integration into the FME management, and ensures that forest management activities are designed and implemented, spatially and temporally, with due consideration to the impacts on the forest services. This theme also covers emerging aspects of biodiversity offsets, payment for ecosystem services, REDD+ etc.

Some of the suggested Principles and Criteria include:

Principle 7: Inventory of forest resources and sustainable harvest regimes for all timber, bamboo, NTFP etc.

Criterion 7.1: The FME shall undertake the inventory, survey and mapping of all forest resources (including timber as well as non timber forest products) within the defined forest area.

Criterion 7.2: The FME shall undertake assessment of growing stock of the defined forest area, as well as define the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC)/Annual Removable Volume (ARV) for all extractable forest produce

Criterion 7.3: The FME shall ensure that the rate and extent of forest produce extraction is maintained at levels that are permanently sustainable, and that annual removal of forest produce is well within the limits set by the AAC/ARV for each individual forest resource (i.e., either timber or non-timber)

Principle 8: Benefits from Forests – Economic, Social and Environmental

Criterion 8.1: The FME shall strive towards sound economic performance as well as long term economic viability of operations, while taking into account the full environmental, social and operational costs of production, and ensuring the investments and practices necessary to maintain and improve the forest resources, and ecological productivity of the forests.

Criterion 8.2: The FME shall ensure that management practices and decisions encourage the optimal utilization of forest resources, with emphasis on local value addition and processing, and strengthening of the local economy.

Criterion 8.3: The FME shall ensure that there is minimal damage to forest growing stock and other forest resources during forest management operations and shall minimize wastageduring harvesting, extraction and processing of forest resources. This would include post harvest waste, harvest residue and culling/removal of non commercial material from the forest.

Principle 9: Identification and use of Non-timber Forest services

Criterion 9.1: Forest management operations shall recognize, maintain, and, where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds. Such activities shall be regulated, monitored and controlled by the FME, as per the prevailing legislative/regulatory requirements, and with regard to the ecological carrying capacity of the defined forest area.

Criterion 9.2: The FME shall establish a written framework with guiding rules regarding extraction of NTFPs including rules related to nature and type of extraction, intensity and frequency of extraction and subsequent fallow periods. Records for the same shall be maintained and monitored by the FME.

Criterion 9.3: The FME shall endeavor, wherever possible, to identify non-traditional forest services and resources, and attempt to monetize these services for attaining greater resource use efficiency of the forests. Such services would include, but not limited to, REDD+, Biodiversity offsets, Payments for Ecosystem Services etc.

