

Webinar on Forest Certification by NCCF

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Introduction to Forest Certification & NCCF

By:

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#TogetherWeCan fight COVID-19

- To all participants, forestry fraternity, valued partners and stakeholders, we wish full safety and good health in these challenging times of COVID 19 pandemic
- Climate change, habitat fragmentation, land use changes, biodiversity loss and illegal wild life trade, among other factors, are often identified as possible reasons for zoonotic diseases and emergence of animal borne pandemic like the COVID-19.
- Health of the people and the health of the planet are inter-dependent, essentially one and the same thing and both can thrive in equal measure.
- Conservation challenges during and post COVID 19 call for :
 - ❖ Sustainable life styles
 - ❖ Reverse migration: back to the villages and hills
 - ❖ Decentralized economy; high priority to local industries, MSMEs
 - ❖ Green growth; focus on climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation
 - ❖ Prudent management of natural resources.

Certification promotes sustainable management of natural resources. May be, it contributes in a small way to keep at bay COVID like situations in future.

#TogetherWeCan fight COVID-19

- We are deeply concerned and impacted by the COVID 19 outbreak worldwide
- Health of people and health of planet are inter-dependent, essentially one and the same thing.
- To avoid such pandemics, we need sustainable life styles, green growth, decentralized economy and prudent management of natural resources.
- ***Certification promotes sustainable management of natural resources.***
- ***May be, certification contributes in a small way to keep at bay COVID like situations in future.***

World's Forests : Overview

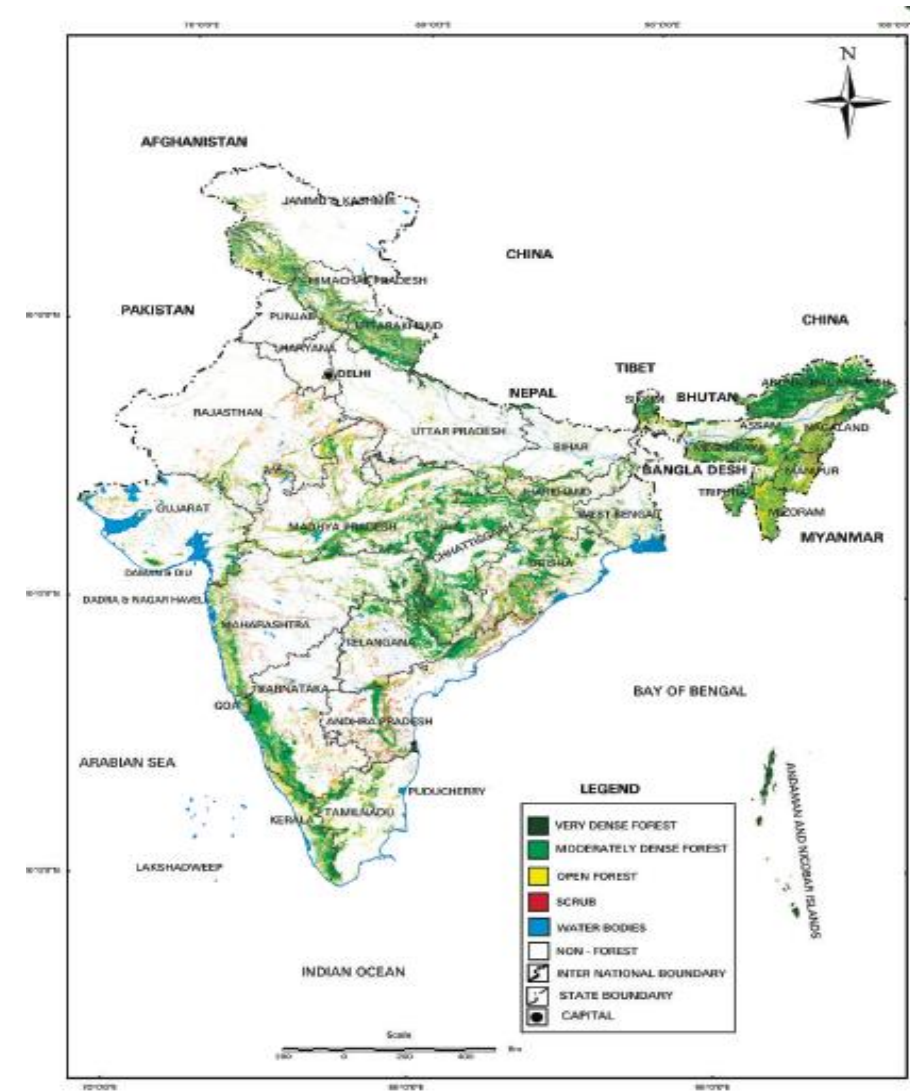
Forests cover **31%** of earth's surface area (~**4.06 billion hectares**)



	Country	Forest Area (Million ha)	%of World's Forest
1	Russian Federation	815	20%
2	Brazil	497	12%
3	Canada	347	9%
4	United States of America	310	8%
5	China	220	5%
6	Rest of the World	1870	46%
	Total	4059	

India's Forests

- ✓ Globally, India stands at 10th position accounting for **2% of Total Forest Cover** of the world
- ✓ As per India State of Forest Report 2019:
 - Forest Cover = 71.22 mha (21.67%)
 - Tree Cover = 9.50 mha (2.89%)
 - **Forest & Tree Cover = 80.72 mha (24.56% of GA)**
- ✓ Out of 6.5 Lakh villages in India, around 1.73 lakh villages are located in and around forests
- ✓ Protected Areas Network is 868 PAs spread over 16.5 mha (5.02 % of GA)
 - 104 National Parks
 - 550 Wildlife Sanctuaries
 - 87 Conservation Reserves
 - 127 Community Reserves



Forests and GDP

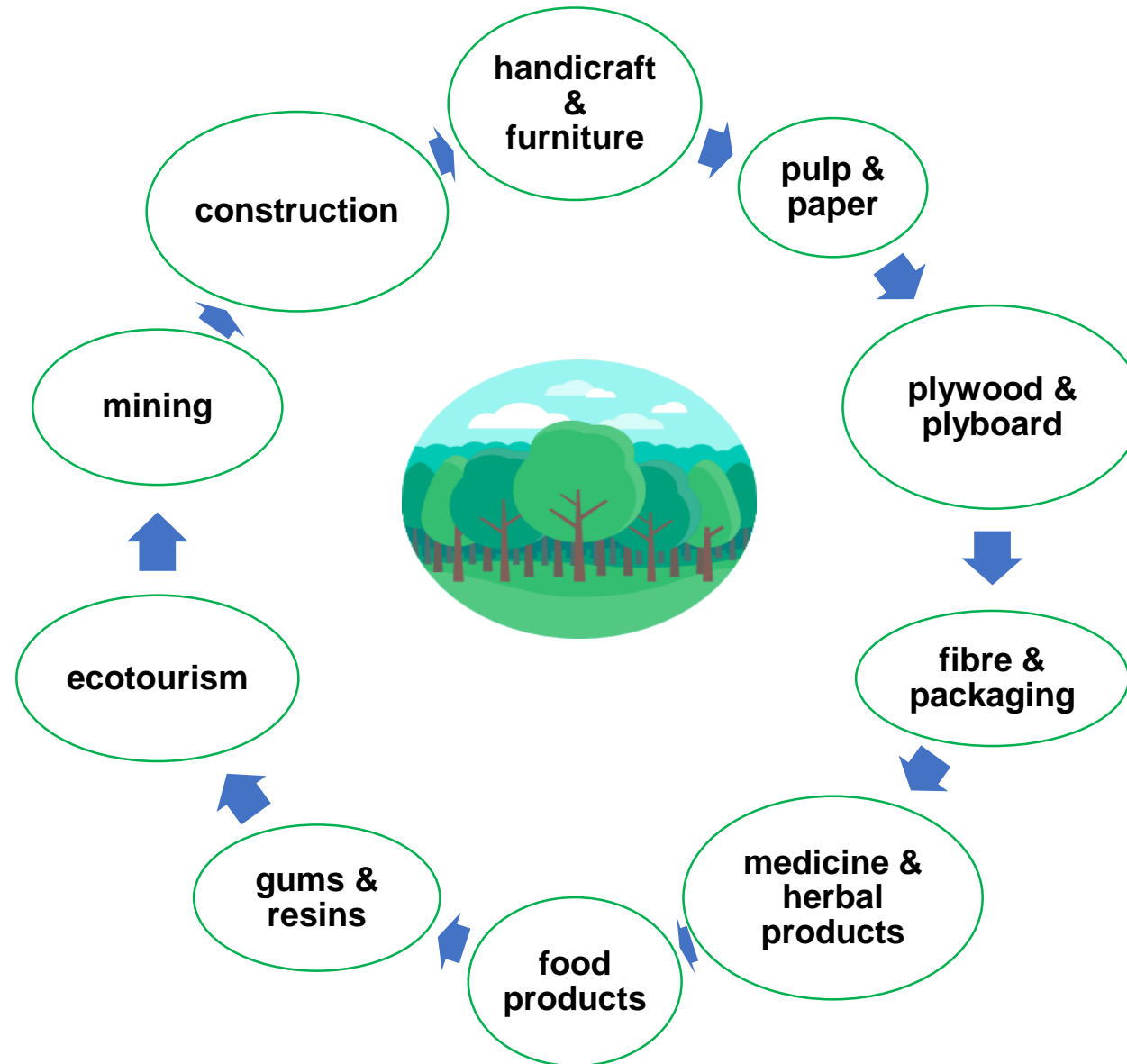
- ✓ **Forests in GDP ; 2.6% in 1950s ; 1.7% in 2010**

- ✓ ***We need to double the GDP contribution of forests to 3.4% by 2025??***

- ✓ **Reasons for low contribution:**
 - Higher growth of economy in other sectors
 - Less productivity of forests; Under valuation of forest products & ecosystem services
 - Reduction in import tariffs to let imports satisfy growing Indian demand for wood products

- ✓ **How to increase contribution:**
 - Increasing productivity of forests
 - **Using Forest Certification as a management and improvement tool**
 - Correct valuation of forest products & ecosystem services
 - Promoting domestic Indian wood market
 - Checking import tariffs

Industrial Dependence on Forestry Sector



Key Objectives of Sustainable Forest Management

Forests are to be managed essentially for:

- ✓ **Forest Hydrology: Soil and Moisture Conservation**
- ✓ **Carbon Sequestration**
- ✓ **Biodiversity Conservation**
- ✓ **Providing Livelihoods**

Timber and other forest produce are by-products of forest management

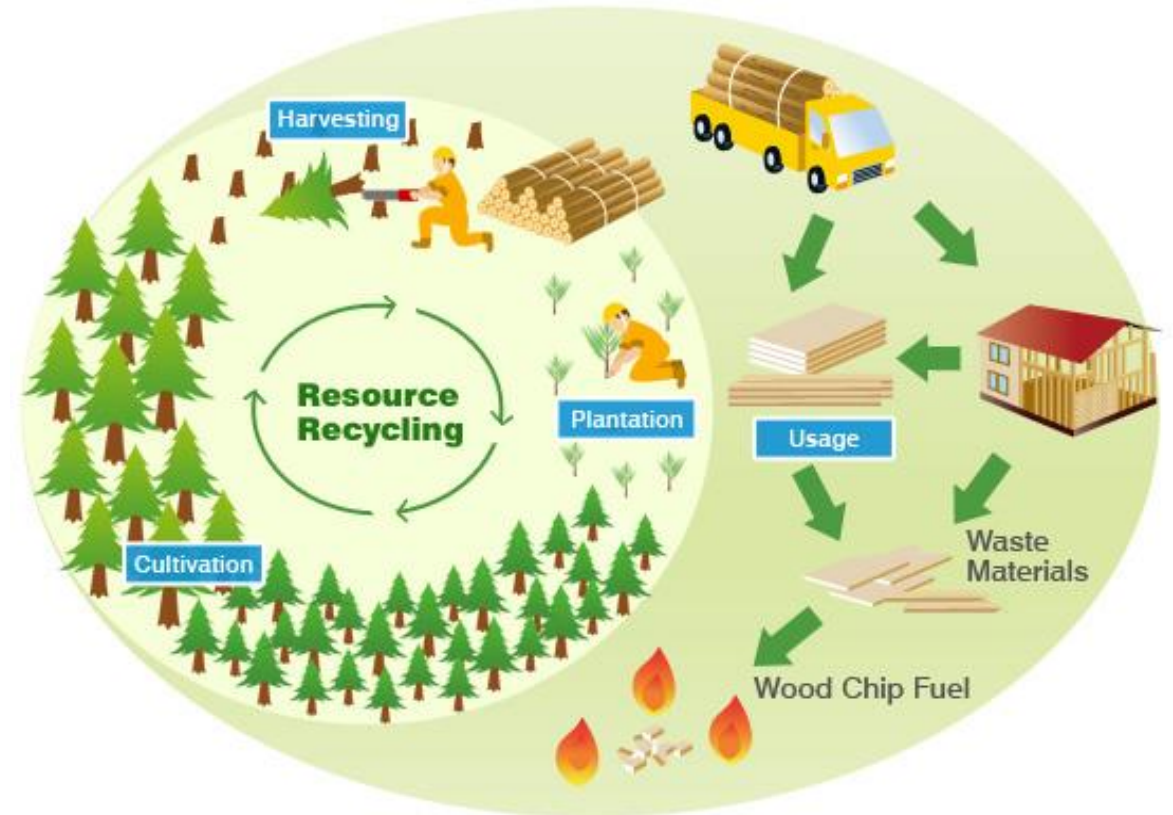
“We have to grow more wood and use more wood”

Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

SFM: management of forests on principles of Sustainable Development; balancing environmental, economic and social aspects

Elements of SFM (as per Non-legally binding Instruments of FAO)

1. Extent of forest resources
2. Biological Diversity
3. Forest health and vitality
4. Productive functions of forest resources
5. Protective functions of forest resources
6. Socio-economic functions of forest resources
7. Legal, institutional and policy framework

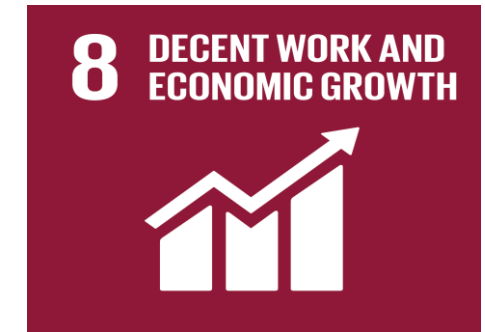


“National Working Plan Code 2014” promotes sustainable management of forests and biodiversity

SFM and India's International Commitments

- ✓ **Sustainable Development Goals:** Strengthen the positive contributions that forests play in achieving SDGs, particularly no poverty, zero hunger, climate action, life on land and combating desertification
- ✓ **Article 5 of Paris Agreement** recognizes REDD+ as a fundamental element, for tackling climate change as well as to conserve and enhance Biological Carbon Reservoir of forests and other ecosystems
- ✓ **Nationally Determined Contribution** additional 2.5 - 3 billion tons of CO₂eq. by 2030 through additional forest and tree cover
- ✓ **Bonn Challenge** restoring 21 mha of degraded and deforested land by 2030 (this was enhanced to 26 mha by Hon'ble Prime Minister during COP14 of UNCCD held at New Delhi in 2019)

SFM contributing to SDG Goals



SDGs are a call for action by all countries to promote prosperity while protecting the planet.



SDG Goal 15 : Life on Land

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



SDG 15.2 (SFM) Target:

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

Indicator 15.2.1:

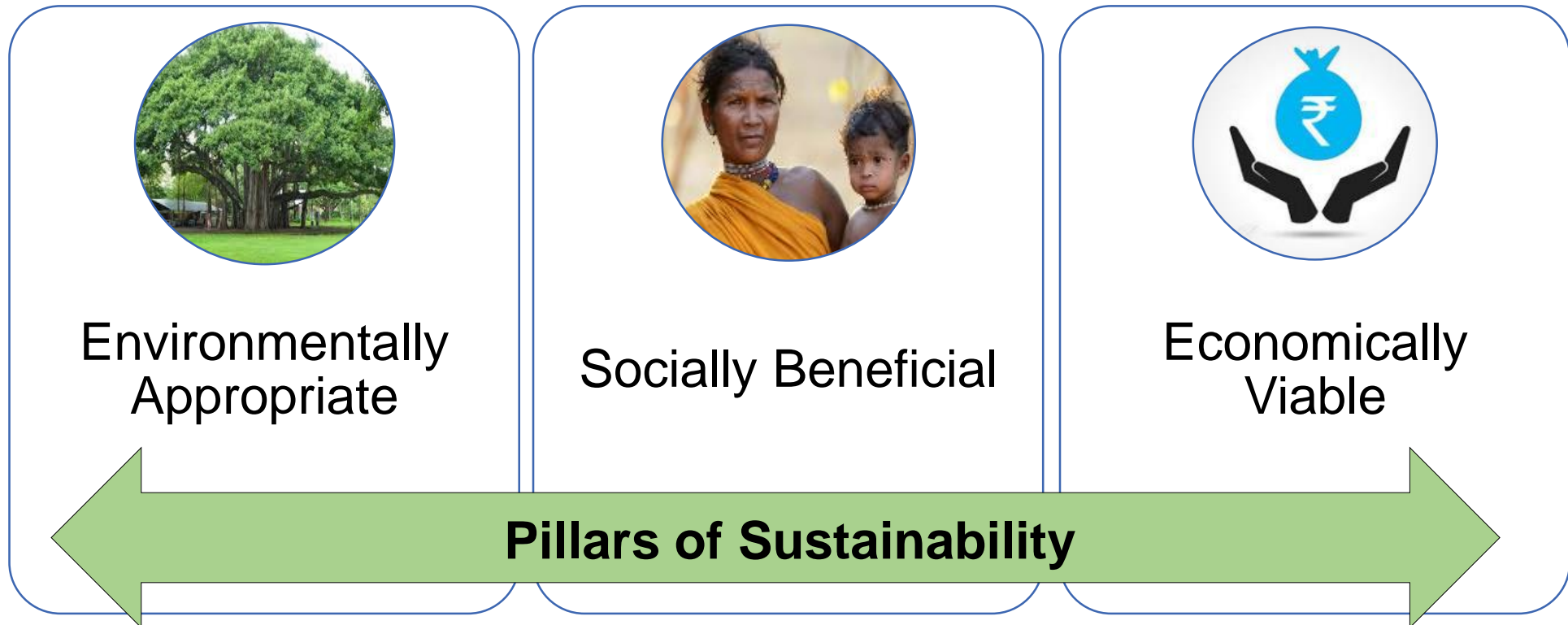
Progress towards sustainable forest management

Concept:

“Forest area certified under an independently verified certification scheme”

Certification: Emerging Tool for Sustainable Forest Management

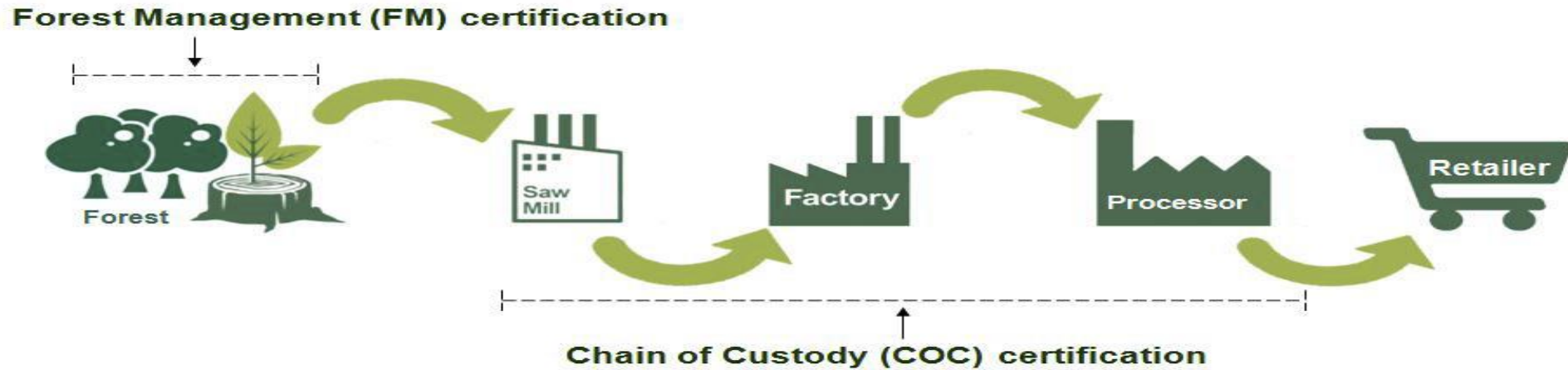
Forest Certification: *“A voluntary process whereby an independent third party (“certifier”) assesses **quality of forest management** and production against a set of requirements (“standards”) predetermined by a public or private certification organization”. (FAO)*



Types of Forest Certification

Forest Management Unit (FMU) certification:

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



Chain of Custody certification (CoC)

Process of tracking wood products from certified forest to point of sale to ensure certified origin of product

Forest – Primary & Secondary Manufacturers- Traders- Retailers

Chain of Custody Certifications

CoC certificates of wood and wood based industries (manufactures and traders)

- ✓ Furniture and handicrafts
- ✓ MDF, particle board, plywood and veneer sheets
- ✓ Paper and Paper products (Graphic paper, etc.)
- ✓ Pulp, Pulp dissolving
- ✓ Packaging material
- ✓ Printed material (Books, calendars, catalogues, posters, labels, wrappers, etc.)
- ✓ Boxes, cardboard, cartons and crates
- ✓ Wooden pallets, , wood planks and sawn wood
- ✓ Toys and games made with paper
- ✓ Textiles, bobbins, spools, rolls

International Policy Shift towards Certification

- ✓ Globally, about 13 million ha of natural forests are unsustainably logged every year
- ✓ Both producer and consumer countries can help ensure SFM

Two aspects of responsible trade management:

1. Demand Side:

- European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR)
- Forest Law Enforcement in Governance and Trade (EU-FLEGT), 2005
- Lacey Act, 2008, USA
- Illegal Logging Prohibition Act, 2011 (Australia)

2. Supply Side:

Forest Certification: a tool to guide foresters to improve their forest management practices, verified by independent auditors

Need for consumer awareness, people's movement and demand for certified products

Global Forest Certification Schemes

International schemes:

- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
- Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)

Regional & Country specific Forest certification Schemes:

- Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)
- American Tree Farm System (ATFS)
- Canadian Standards Association (CSA)
- Malaysian timber Certification Council (MTCC)
- China National Forest Certification Scheme (CNFCS)
- Sustainable Green Ecosystem Council (SGEC), Japan
- ***Indian Forest Certification Scheme: Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF); PEFC Endorsed Scheme***



Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification

Global, not-for-profit for certification

**Voluntary
mechanism**

**Alliance of
national forest
certification
systems**



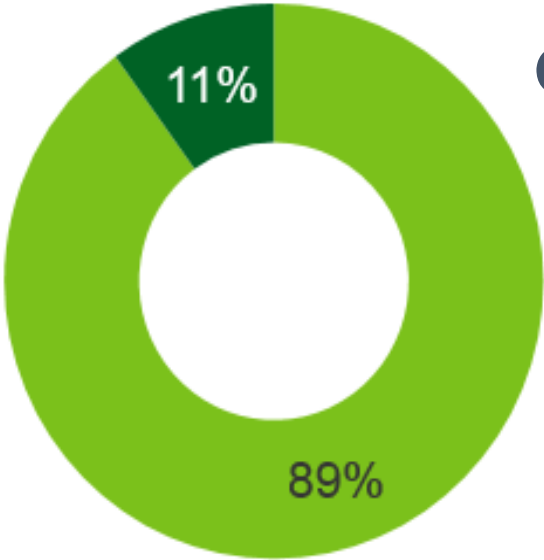
**PEFC
recognised
National
Schemes**

and many more.....

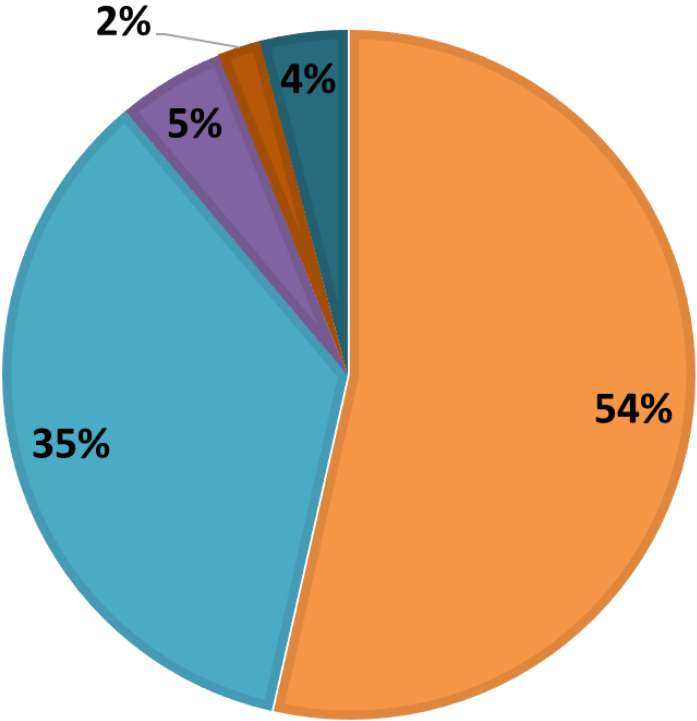


Global certified forest area

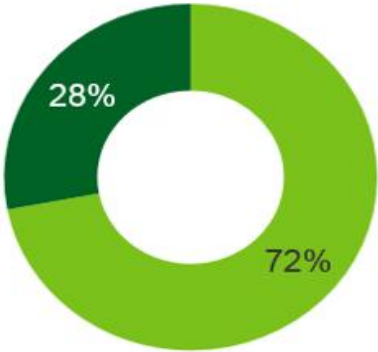
Globally, 525 million hectares (11%) of forests are certified



11% of the world's forests are certified



North America Europe Asia Central and South America Oceania



28% of the world's industrial roundwood supply is certified

89% of world's forests are still uncertified

Benefits of Certification

Standard Development and Certification is an emerging global movement that supports:

- ✓ sustainable development
- ✓ economic growth
- ✓ trade
- ✓ livelihoods
- ✓ value chains
- ✓ consumer protection

While enhancing

- ✓ competitiveness
- ✓ fostering technological development
- ✓ meeting the requirements of health, safety, and environmental conservation

Benefits of Forest Certification (in more detail)

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

Forest Certification Initiatives in India

- ✓ MoEF constituted a **Committee on Certification** under chairmanship of Dr Maharaj Muthoo, a veteran professional forester and expert on certification
- ✓ The Committee in its report recommended various measures to promote forest certification in India.
- ✓ **An important recommendation was to have an internationally benchmarked and India specific certification scheme.**
- ✓ **NCCF**, a non-profit organisation, registered as a society has developed the Indian scheme of Forest Certification

Status of Forest Certification

Globally over 525 million ha (11%) of forest area certified* and 52,143 CoC certificates *

India*:

- **1.02 million** ha certified
- **12 FM** certificates issued till date
 - ✓ State Forest Corporations
 - ✓ Farm forestry initiatives
 - ✓ Rubber plantations
 - ✓ Bamboo Plantations
- **665 Chain of Custody** certificates
 - ✓ Pulp & Paper Industries
 - ✓ Wood and wood based industries (plywood, furniture, MDF, handicraft, etc.)
 - ✓ Printings and Packaging's
 - ✓ Saw Mills

*Area certified under both FSC and PEFC Certification schemes



NCCF: not-for-profit organization established in 2015



- ✓ NCCF is the only Member of PEFC Council for India
- ✓ NCCF is a Member of IUCN
- ✓ NCCF has got Observer status of UNCCD after CoP14

NCCF: Managing PEFC Administration in India

PEFC Council Member

- NCCF became the member of PEFC Council in 2015
- NCCF is 40th member of PEFC Council
- PEFC has 53 national members, with 46 endorsed national certification systems



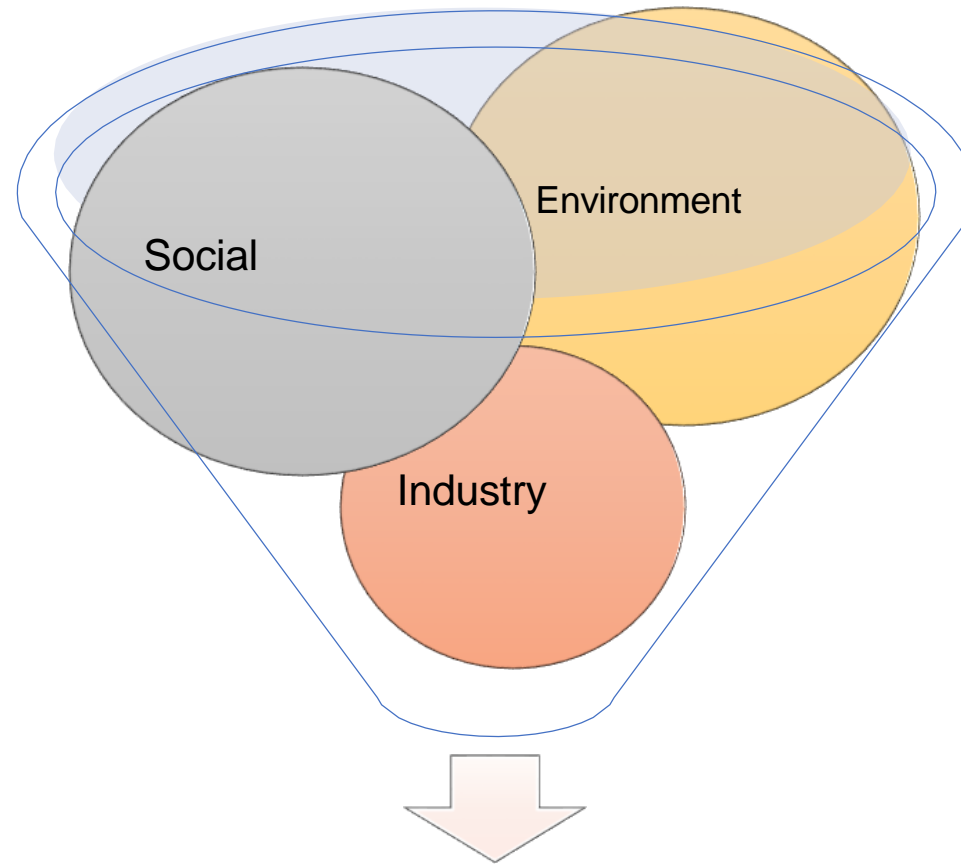
NCCF's Stakeholders associated with development of Standards

Social

- BWI
- STADD
- Forest officers in individual capacity
- Development Alternatives
- Satpuda Foundation
- TRIFED
- Uthaan Trust

Industry and association

- ITC PSPD
- CII
- EPCH
- Greenply
- Century Plywood
- IPRITI
- IPMA
- QCI
- EPCH
- TNPL
- CBs



NCCF Stakeholders

Environment

- ICFRE
- IIFM
- WWF
- IUCN
- WTI
- WII
- TNC – India
- TERI
- TRAFFIC
- ICRAF
- CAFRI
- INBAR
- GIZ

Ministries

- MoEFCC
- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- Ministry of Commerce
- Ministry of Textiles

and many more..

Development of NCCF's Sustainability Standards

Forest Management Certification Standard (*launched and endorsed by PEFC*)

Trees Outside Forest Certification Standard (*ready for launch*)

Non Wood Forest Produce Certification Standard (*In Progress*)

Protected Areas and Wetlands Certification Standard (*In Progress*)

Quality Planting Material Certification Standard (*In Progress*)

Ecotourism Certification Standard (*In Progress*)

Biofuel and Biomass Certification Standard (*In Progress*)

Development of Carbon Registry-India (*In Progress*)

NCCF-PEFC Forest Management Certification Standard

- ✓ This is the only **Indian Scheme** of **forest certification** in India
- ✓ Developed by NCCF through a **multistakeholder standard development group** chaired by Mr Avani Varma (ex PCCF&HoFF, Karnataka) following the standard setting process
- ✓ The standard has themes, criteria, principles and indicators, details being presented by Mr Avani Varma in this webinar
- ✓ Standard has been **endorsed by the PEFC**, giving it an **international recognition**

NCCF-PEFC FM Standard

CERTIFICATE OF ENDORSEMENT



This is to certify that the

NCCF FOREST CERTIFICATION SCHEME

submitted by the PEFC National Governing Body
member in India

NETWORK FOR CERTIFICATION AND CONSERVATION OF FORESTS

was verified as meeting the PEFC Sustainability
Benchmarks and subsequently endorsed by
the PEFC Council General Assembly
on **27 February 2019**.



This endorsement is subject to ongoing PEFC Council membership,
continued compliance with the PEFC Sustainability Benchmarks and
timely fulfilment of the endorsement milestones. Any revision of the
system has to be submitted to the PEFC Council for assessment.

Peter Latham, OBE,
Chairman

Ben Gunneberg,
Secretary General

NCCF Trees outside Forest Standard

- ✓ NCCF has developed **Trees outside Forest (ToF)** Certification Standard, by a multi-stakeholder Standard Development Group, chaired by Dr Devendra Pandey
- ✓ ToF Certification Scheme is ready for launch
- ✓ Dr Pandey is making a presentation in this webinar

Current Status of NCCF-PEFC Certifications

Forest Management (1 Certificate)

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh Forest Corporation; 41 Divisions; 4.5 lakh ha.

Chain of Custody (31 Certificates)

- ✓ Pulp & Paper, Packaging, Furniture, Textile, etc.

Few Names of Industries:

- ✓ Durian Industries Ltd.
- ✓ Birla Cellulosic (A Unit of Grasim Industries Ltd)
- ✓ Eximcorp India Pvt Ltd
- ✓ Hindustan Pencils
- ✓ BILT Graphic Paper Products Limited
- ✓ Huhtamaki Foodservice Packaging India Pvt. Ltd.
- ✓ Welspun India Limited

Components of a Credible Certification System

A credible certification system relies upon three separate functions, performed by independent organisations:

Standard Setting:

process of defining certification requirements in collaboration with stakeholders (eg: NCCF)

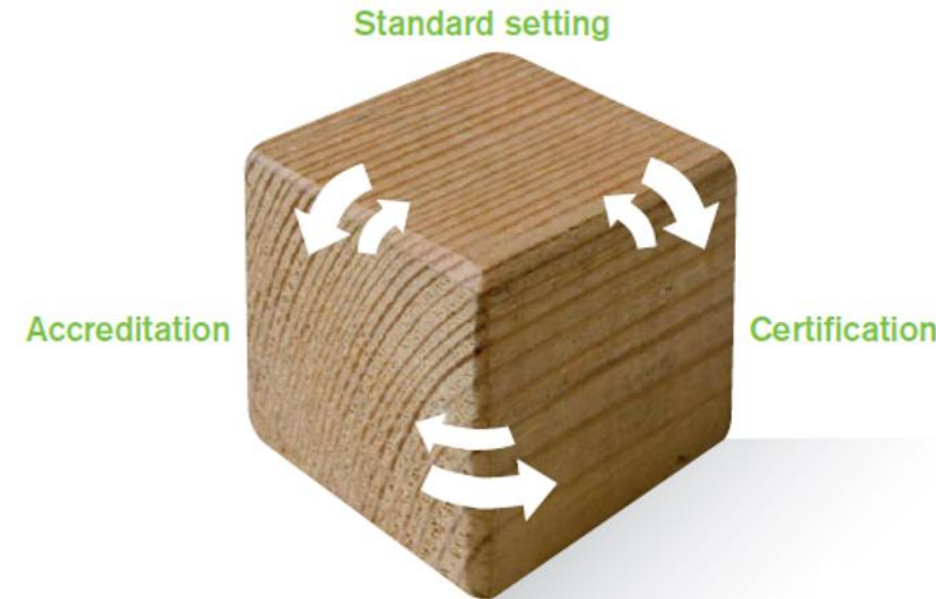
Certification:

process of checking whether an organization fulfills certification requirements; carried out by Certification Bodies

Accreditation:

process of assessing competence of CBs; carried out by an Accreditation Body.

[For India: National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (**NABCB**)]



Who is pushing for Certification?

- ✓ **Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change**
- ✓ **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare**
- ✓ **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**
- ✓ **Ministry of Textile**



Meeting Financial Resources for Certification

- ✓ **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Rules, 2018 :**

“Forest certification and development of certification standards are eligible activities for utilising State Compensatory Afforestation Funds.

{5(3)(k) of CAF Rules 2018}”

- ✓ **Forestry Projects under Externally Aided Funding** through JICA, UNDP, World Bank, GIZ, USAID, DFID, etc. are trying to promote certification

- ✓ **SFDs/SFDCs may use their own budgetary resources for certification**

Advisory from MoEF&CC to State Forest Departments on Forest Certification

- ✓ **Director General of Forests, has written to all SFDs to initiate forest certification in some divisions, having economic activities, like extraction of timber, NWFP and bamboo etc.**

He has suggested:

- *Forest certification is **voluntary, non-regulatory** and **facilitative tool** to promote SFM*
- *Includes **forest monitoring, tracing and labelling** of **timber and non-timber forest products***
- *Certification brings in enhanced **credibility** to our **forest governance** with **international recognition** and improves **market acceptability** of our forest products*
- *Forest Certification helps in **reducing illegalities** in **import and export** of wood products and strengthens **compliances** to international conventions*
- *Accounts for **social, environmental and economic well-being** of workers and local communities with **transparency and inclusiveness***

MoEF&CC vide letter dated 11th December 2019 requested states to report progress on Forest Certification.

NCCF Organized Certification Workshops in States



Punjab



Madhya Pradesh



Assam



Sikkim



Karnataka



Chhattisgarh



Tripura



Uttarakhand



Haryana

NCCF FM Certification – In Pipeline

1. Ludhiana Forest Division, Punjab
- 2.1 Forest Division, Andaman & Nicobar
- 3.1 Forest Division, Jharkhand
- 4.1 Forest Division, Uttarakhand
- 5.1 Forest Division, Assam
- 6.1 Forest Division, Maharashtra
7. Multiple Forest Divisions, Sikkim

Certification issued for NCCF FM Certification

1. 41 Forest Divisions in Uttar Pradesh
2. Tripura has initiated certification of 2 divisions
3. Karnataka has initiated certification of 1 division

Forest Certification Challenges in India

- ✓ **Certification is voluntary, not statutory**
- ✓ Lack of awareness about certification
- ✓ ***Low level of people's sensitisation and conviction; movement required***
- ✓ Inadequate government incentives for certified products
- ✓ Certification generally missing in public procurement policies
- ✓ Limited and uncertain benefits in domestic markets
- ✓ **Certification cost is high, particularly for farmers/small producers, MSMEs**
- ✓ SFDs/SFDCs as largest stakeholders, have major role to play

Recommendations to promote Certification

Mainstreaming forest certification should be on top of the sustainability agenda- globally, nationally and locally

Need of a policy guideline on forest certification

Promote forest certification in collaboration with central ministries, state governments, industry and other forest-based stakeholders

NCCF ready to provide necessary technical assistance to State Forest Departments and stakeholders on forest certification

Gradual reduction in import of wood

Rapid enhancement in domestic production of wood and wood products outside reserve forests, through agroforestry, urban forestry, linear plantations, woodlots etc

Grow More Wood and Use More Wood

Thank You

Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests

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