

# Webinar on Forest Certification by NCCF

## 19 May 2020

### NCCF Forest Management Certification Standard (*PEFC endorsed*) and Modalities for taking up Certification

By:

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Chairperson, NCCF FM Standard Development Group



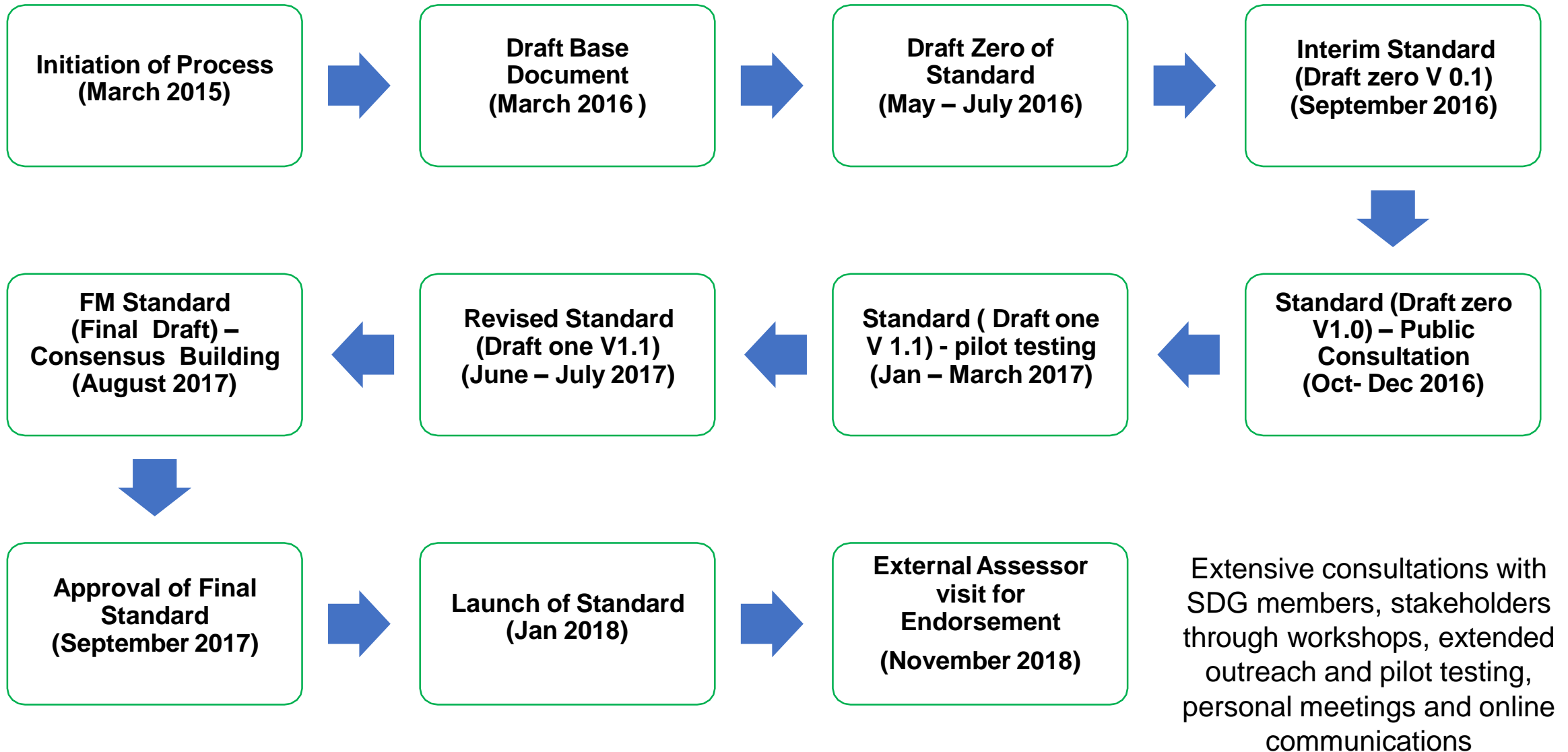
# Challenges using International Generic Standards

- ✓ **Generic nature of international standards** not suitable to:
  - diverse **legal** and **administrative** frameworks of forest management in India
  - diverse **social, cultural** and **geographical** conditions of forests in different States
  - Unsuitable in view of **diversity of forest types** and **variability** of FM in India
- ✓ **International Standards** imply higher costs (auditing, travel, logistics, etc.)

## Advantages of a Domestic Scheme

- ✓ **Standard developed** is with respect to **Indian context** and **conditions**
- ✓ Driven by **national stakeholders**
- ✓ **Open, transparent and independent**
- ✓ **Local standard**, yet incorporating **global best practices**
- ✓ Nationally **adaptive** and **accepted**
- ✓ **Internationally Endorsed**
- ✓ **Economical** (e.g. domestic auditors, ease and flexibility in use)
- ✓ **Promote** and **facilitate** national and international **trade**
- ✓ Integration of **local needs** and expectations

# Standard Setting Process of NCCF-PEFC-FM Certification 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 fulfillment of the endorsement milestones. Any revision of the  
system has to be submitted to the PEFC Council for assessment.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Peter Latham".

Peter Latham, OBE,  
Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Ben Gunneberg".

Ben Gunneberg,  
Secretary General

## NCCF FM Standard Incorporates

- ✓ 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 **trainings** of staff and workers
- ✓ **Stakeholder engagement** in forest management operations
- ✓ **Continuous improvement** in management
- ✓ Unbiased **independent 3<sup>rd</sup> Party monitoring** and reporting to enable improvement
- ✓ Assessment of **environmental impacts** to plan remedial measures
- ✓ **Mitigation** of negative impacts on environment and society
- ✓ Adherence to **social and environmental safeguards**
- ✓ **Traceability and tracking** measures to verify source of product; eliminates illegal sourcing

## NCCF FM Standard Incorporates

- ✓ Practicing sustainable forestry: needs for present and future generations
- ✓ **Health and productivity** of forests
- ✓ **Forest regeneration** after harvest
- ✓ Protecting forests from damaging agents (such as wildfire, diseases and invasive species)
- ✓ **Protecting water bodies, riparian areas**
- ✓ Maintaining **water quality**
- ✓ Protection and promote **biological diversity**
- ✓ Preserving **ecologically, geologically or culturally** important lands
- ✓ Spreading **awareness** of sustainable forestry practices
- ✓ **Providing ecosystem services**
- ✓ Involving **forests dependent communities**
- ✓ Recognizing, respecting **rights & traditions** of indigenous and tribal people
- ✓ Supporting advances in SFM through **scientific research**
- ✓ **Value addition** and exploring new products and markets
- ✓ **Documenting** audits and publishing the findings

# NCCF-PEFC FM Standard

Theme	Description
Theme A	Legality and Land Tenure
Theme B	Written Forest Management Plan and its implementation and periodic review
Theme C	Impact of forest management activities in the social, economic and environmental spheres.
Theme D	Economic viability of forest management operations
Theme E	Socially responsible forest management, social and community rights and relations
Theme F	Ecological integrity and health of forests– conservation and management

**Themes: 6**

**Principles: 14**

**Criteria: 59**

**Indicators: 239**

# NCCF-PEFC FM Standard (T&P)

## **Theme A: Legality and Land Tenure**

**Principle 1:** Compliance to national, state and local laws and international treaties and regulations

**Principle 2:** Land Tenure, Rights and Responsibilities

## **Theme B: Forest Management Plan**

**Principle 3:** Development and implementation of a Management Plan/Working Plan

**Principle 4:** Monitoring, Assessment and Review of management plan and its implementation

## **Theme C: Forest Management Impacts and Effects**

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

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

## **Theme D: Sustainable & Economic Utilization of Forest Resources**

**Principle 7:** Inventory and sustainable harvest regimes for forest resources

**Principle 8:** Benefits from Forests

## NCCF-PEFC FM Standard (T&P)

### **Theme E: Socially Responsible Forest Management – social and Community rights and relations**

**Principle 9:** Community rights and relations – Forest management operations recognize the rights of local communities, forest dwellers and indigenous people/tribals and maintain and enhance their long term social and economic well-being.

**Principle 10:** Workers rights – including permanent, temporary and contract workers at all levels

### **Theme F: Ecological Integrity and Health of Forests – Conservation and Management**

**Principle 11:** Ecology, biodiversity and Natural Resource Management – Conservation, Enhancement and Rehabilitation

**Principle 12:** Identification, Protection and Management of High Conservation Value Forests (HCVFs)/Special Sites for conservation

**Principle 13:** Forest ecosystem services – identifying, quantifying and valuation of both tangible and non-tangible ecosystem services

**Principle 14:** Biodiversity conservation – including measures for conservation and maintenance and rehabilitation of losses to biodiversity values arising out of management activities or occurring within the FME

## References: NCCF FM Certification Standard

- ✓ Guidelines of United Nations Forum on Forests : Implementing Non Legally Binding Instruments on Forests in India
- ✓ Bhopal India Process : Criteria and Indicators (IIFM)
- ✓ National Working Plan Code 2014 (NCCF-FM Certification Standard has synergy with it)
- ✓ National Forest Policy 1988
- ✓ Indian Laws and acts such as Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006, Biological Diversity Act 2002, National Forest Policy 1988, Forest Conservation Act 1980, Wildlife Protection Act 1972, Indian Forest Act 1927 and many more
- ✓ PEFC Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements PEFC – ST 1003:2010
- ✓ MTCC Criteria & Indicators for Forest Management Certifications
- ✓ SFI Sustainability Forest Management Standard
- ✓ FSC International Generic Indicators FSC-STD-60-004 V1-0 EN
- ✓ ITTO Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Forest Management of Natural Tropical Forests
- ✓ NCCF's Standard Setting Policy
- ✓ ILO's Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work 1998
- ✓ WWF High Conservation Value Toolkit Edition 1 (December 2003)

# **Synergy between NCCF-FM Certification Standard & National Working Plan Code 2014**

**NCCF FM Standard incorporates all aspects and components of WP in Principles, Criteria and Indicators**

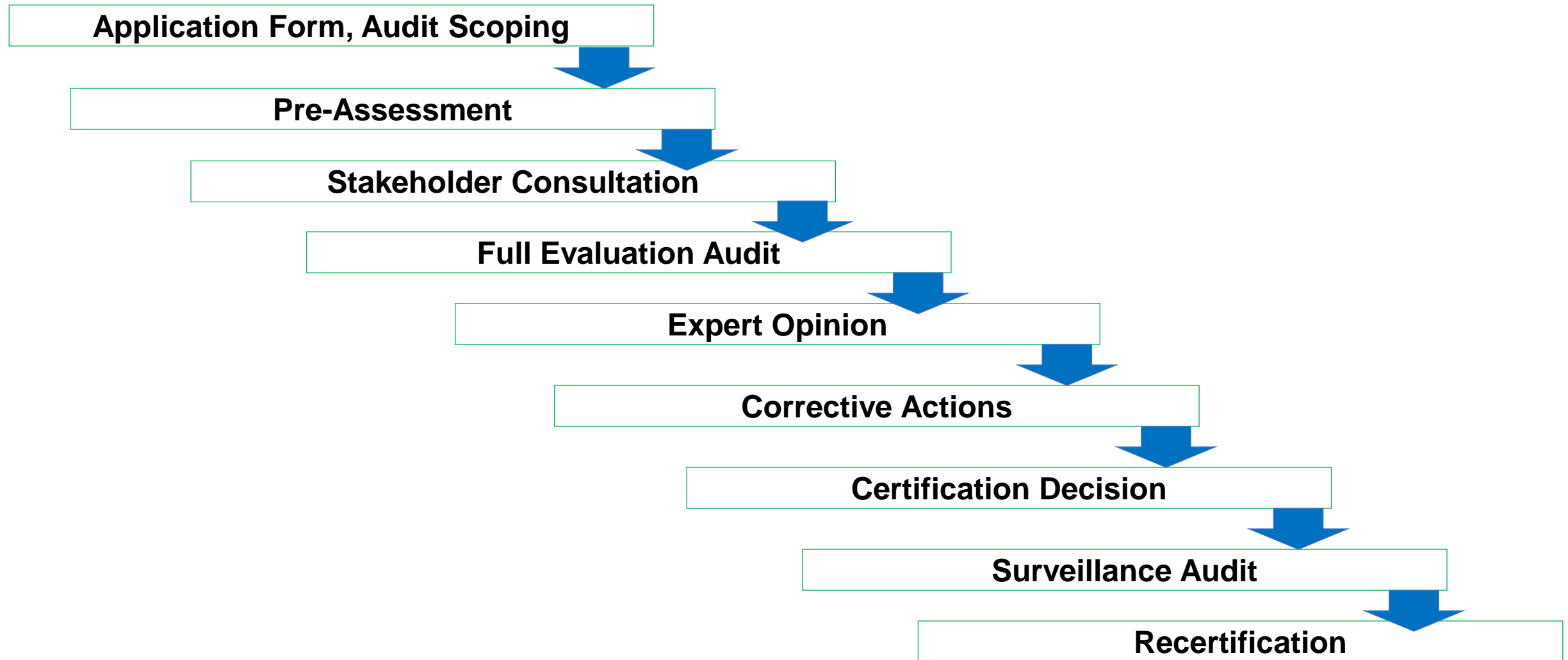
**Additionally it provides for:**

- ✓ Brand Image : Global recognition
- ✓ Periodic monitoring, evaluation and assessment by Independent third party
- ✓ Compliance to internationally benchmarked forest management practices
- ✓ Compliance to International Laws, Treaties and Agreements
- ✓ Ensures active engagement of Stakeholders in planning, implementation monitoring and evaluation
- ✓ Incorporates components of welfare, health and safety of people, labour and staff
- ✓ Added thrust on forest hydrology, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation
- ✓ Value addition, exploring new products and markets

## Modalities of NCCF-PEFC FM Certification

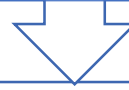
- ✓ Calling for **tender** from reputed accredited CBs: it is **procurement of services**
- ✓ Accreditation of CBs should be with NABCB as well as approved by NCCF
- ✓ Either only FM certificate or FM and CoC both could be opted together
- ✓ **Certificate validity will be for 5 years**
- ✓ After successful contractual signing and awarding of the work to a CB
- ✓ CB would take up **audit** as per mutually agreed time frame etc.
- ✓ CB considers **certain norms prescribed** by NCCF regarding **minimum number of audit man days, percentage sample areas to be covered**, activities to be seen and assessed etc. depending on extent of area to be covered
- ✓ NCCF keeps tab on audit qualities etc. of CBs apart from other mandatory regular checks and verification of internal management systems of the latter
- ✓ NCCF also conducts **auditors' training** regularly
- ✓ NCCF does hand holding of auditees wherever requested
- ✓ There are many other aspects which are matter of details

# Forest Certification Process : Step by Step



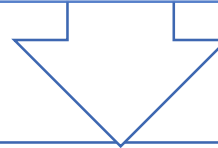
## Pre-Assessment

Technical meeting, Selection of sites, Audit planning, Gap analysis, Preparatory Communications



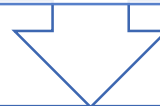
## Stakeholder Consultation

Consultation with various stakeholders; CB shall inform NCCF at least 45 days; NCCF shall release a **30 days** stakeholder announcement via NCCF Website



## Full Evaluation Audit

Preparatory Communications and Document Review; Technical Meeting; Field Visits



## Reporting

Convey evaluation results to applicant, peer reviewer, certification decision-making entity, stakeholders, and NCCF

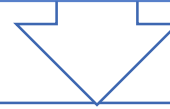
Submit Draft Report to client within **45 days** of audit for review

Client to submit confirmation to CB on Draft Report within **30 days** of submission

Final Report to client within **75 days** of date of audit.

## **Non-Conformities and Corrective Action Requests**

CB records all conformities and non conformities against requirements of NCCF-FM Standard; Major & Minor Nonconformities; Observations; Corrective Action Requests (CARs) raised



## **Certification Decision**

Decision by CB after review of Audit Report; by competent Technical Reviewer; 5 years Certificate Validity; NCCF/PEFC Logo Usage



## **Surveillance Audit**

CB conducts surveillance audits at least once a year



## **Re-Certification**

Re-Certification before current certificate expires and after completion of a new certification contract



## **Special Audits**

CB can carry out short-notice and unannounced audits, if required



## **Suspending, withdrawing or reducing scope of certification**

CB shall conform with requirements of ISO/IEC 17065; CB shall advise NCCF in writing;

# Audit Scoping for Forest Certification

The three type of FM Certificates available to organizations are:

**Single-FMU type; Multi-FMU type & Group Forest/Plantation Management Certification**

Type of Certificate	Attributes	Remarks
<b>Single- FMU</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Forest Management Entity (FME) manages and controls all forest management operations of a single Forest Management Unit (FMU)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Forest Division: owning and managing entire area in a Forest Division</li><li>• Single working plan &amp; administrative unit</li><li>• E.g. Bhamragarh Forest Division</li></ul>
<b>Multi-FMU</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Large forest management entity or enterprise that is managing multiple FMUs under same management objectives</li><li>• Easier and comparatively cheaper for large enterprises</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Forest Corporation managing multiple Corporation divisions.</li><li>• Multiple working plans or multiple administrative units</li><li>• E.g. CCF Managing various Forest Divisions</li></ul>
<b>Group Certification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Certification of a Group Managing entity (e.g. Forest Corporation) managing various group members (e.g. Forest Divisions managed by Forest Department)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Forest Corporation certifying various Forest divisions with shared responsibilities.</li><li>• Additional requirements of NCCF group certification standard to follow</li></ul>

# Selection of a Certification Body

**Application Form:** Interested Forest owners → download copy of Application form NCCF website and submit it to [sfm@nccf.in](mailto:sfm@nccf.in)

Inviting proposals from Eligible Certification Bodies (CB)

## **Option 1:**

NCCF to share list of accredited CBs and SFD calls for Technical and Financial Bids

## **Option 2:**

SFD/SFC request NCCF to invite Proposals from eligible CBs → NCCF forms a CB selection panel with member from SFD/SFC, National Accreditation Board CB (NABCB) → panel selects the CB and transfers all communications and documents to SFD/SFC

## **Option 3 (Nomination Basis):**

Option used & recommended by NCCF only when a few accredited, credible, experienced and expert CBs available to conduct NCCF-FM Certification. Under this option, State Forest Department/State Forest Corporation can directly engage a credible and accredited CB.

## Some Impact Findings & Status of Certification

- ✓ **UPFC** have shown keen interest and got an area of 4.5 lakh ha in 41 forest divisions certified under **NCCF-PEFC FM Certification** recently .
- ✓ **Tripura FDC** has also floated tenders and are reportedly negotiating with qualified CB.
- ✓ **Certification in India** has shown **positive impact** on management system improvement (Eg: UPFDC, Tripura and others in past)
- ✓ Certification has resulted in increase of revenue up to 8-10% as buyers are willing to pay for the certification brand
- ✓ Study in Indonesia has shown that a certified forest has 31% less air pollution and 5 % less deforestation.

# Certificate for UPFC



## CERTIFICATE



AWARDED TO

**UTTAR PRADESH FOREST CORPORATION (UPFC)**

Aranya Vikas Bhawan, 21/475, Indira Nagar, Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)

**For compliance with NCCF-STD-01 Forest Management Certification Standard**

**CERTIFICATE CODE: GIPL-FM-0001**

**Valid from: 13 February 2020**

**Expiry Date: 12 February 2023**

**Scope of Certificate:** This certificate covers 41 Forest Divisions (450400.31 ha) (Refer addendum for names)

**Applicable standard(s):** NCCF-STD-01 Forest Management Certification Standard

**Products/Species:** Refer addendum

This certificate itself does not constitute evidence that a product supplied by the certificate holder is NCCF FM certified. Products offered, shipped or sold by the certificate holder can only be considered by the scope of this certificate when the certification claim is clearly stated on sales and delivery documents and the validity of the certificate and list of products included in scope can be found and verified on website. The certificate shall remain the property of GICIA India Pvt. Ltd. and this certificate and all copies or reproductions of this certificate shall be returned to GICIA India Pvt. Ltd. immediately upon request.

Authorized Signatory

Ujjesh Kulkarni, CEO

Validity of this certificate may be checked with GICIA India Pvt Ltd.  
505, 5th Floor, Matrix Tower, B - 4, Sector - 132, Noida - 201304 (U.P.), India  
Phone: 0120- 6750612/13

1. Use (Addendum to list the sites)

2. This certificate is valid for a period of 5 years subject to successful completion of annual Surveillance Audits after the initial certification



## Market demand in India

- Demand for certified wood from users and exporters of products of sandalwood/rose wood/red sanders etc.
- Export of handicraft and wood makers of Chanpatna (near Bangalore), Jaipur, Saharanpur etc. due to legal requirement in Europe, USA and many other countries
- Bamboo artisans for export of their finished goods
- Ethical wood, legally procured wood
- Consumer (ethical and quality) preference in domestic market
- Paper Mills
- Timber users in building, housing, construction and infrastructure sector
- State Forestry departments as a management improvement system
- Positive impact on forest management and locals livelihood etc.



**Launch of NCCF  
16<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at New Delhi**

**Launch of FM Standard at National  
Conference on Forest Certification  
13<sup>th</sup> January 2018, New Delhi**



# Thank You!!

## **Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests**

### **Contact:**

Mr Avani K Varma

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Email: [info@nccf.in](mailto:info@nccf.in)