



NETWORK FOR CERTIFICATION AND CONSERVATION OF FORESTS (NCCF)

Draft Standard for Non-Wood Forest Resource (NWFR)
Version (v0.0)/11-05-2020

NCCF-STD-NWFR- 0.0/2020
May 2020

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The official language of this document is English. Only Network for Certification and Conservation Forests can provide the Translations of this document.

Document Name: NCCF Non-Wood Forest Resource (NWFR) Certification Standard

Document Title: NCCF-STD-NWFR-0.0/2020

Approved By: Draft document || Pending

Date of Approval: DD/MM/YYYY || Pending (May 2020)

Foreword

Network for Certification of Conservation of Forests (NCCF) is a non-profit organisation established in January 2015, registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. NCCF has developed/developing globally benchmarked and India specific certification standards for various constituents of our natural resource base, viz forests, trees outside forests, non-wood forest produce, protected areas and wetlands, quality planting material, ecotourism, biomass & biofuels, etc. NCCF's FM certification standard is endorsed by Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) giving it an international recognition. NCCF is also engaged in policy advocacy on natural resource management and other emerging issues, capacity building, training and multi-stakeholder engagement.

Standard for Non-Wood Forest Resources (NWFR) is developed by NCCF is to benefit forest dwellers and local communities for whom extraction (collection/harvest) of NWFRs is an important source of livelihood. Moreover, commercial opportunities for NWFRs are emerging and certification can help and promote their marketing, ease of trade and facilitate market linkage while ensuring sustainability of NWFRs.

NCCF has developed certification standard for the NWFR through a Standard Development Group (SDG) following an open, transparent and consultative process. A transparent and open process takes with it all relevant stakeholders and evolve program for them with their participation. Their inputs and suggestions come from the practices followed by them and their experiences across the country. The set of stakeholders involved in the process includes resource owners, regulatory bodies, local communities, resource users, manufacturer, traders, institutions, experts, NGOs etc.

Linkage of livelihoods and conservation through the management in a way designed to make a profit from NWFRs continue to be challenge. Hence sustainable management of NWFR holds significance considering increasing market demand for them. The NWFR Certification Standard laid out in this document is broad based and globally aligned taking into account an inclusive ecosystem approach. It aims not only to ensure the sustainability of NWFRs but also takes into consideration the impact of NWFR management on livelihoods which provides multiple benefits to all sectors of global society. An attempt has been made to cover ecological, economic, social and cultural significance. Subject specific assessments have been made by SDG for the ease of implementation of the certification standard in India. The certification standard is purely voluntary and it is for the benefit of NWFR owners, traders, local communities, collectors interested in value addition. NCCF being the standard setting body is the owner of the NCCF NWFR Certification Standard and certification system.

The themes, criteria and indicators are intended to cover all relevant aspects of NWFR management but are subject to modification based on local, national and global changing conditions. NCCF has the liberty to review and revise the standard in whole or in parts based on changing future requirements. These changes shall be undertaken as and when warranted but at least once during five years period.

Contents

Foreword.....	3
Introduction	5
Scope of Standard	6
Notes and Clarifications	6
List of Abbreviations	7
Normative References	8
Theme A: Legal Compliance, Tenure and Use Rights.....	10
Theme B: NWFR Management	14
Theme C: Social and Environmental Impacts and Safeguards.....	20
Annex 1: Terms and Definitions.....	26
Glossary.....	27
Annex 2: HCV Explanatory Notes.....	42

Introduction

India is the tenth most forested country in the world. With an area of 80.73 million hectare, some 24.56% of the country's geographical area under forest and tree cover, we are blessed with abundant forest resources in this area. There is growing interest worldwide in India's natural foodstuffs, traditional medicines and herbs, handicrafts, etc.

Forest areas are a source of many produces both wood and non-wood. India being a growing economy there is substantial pressure on our natural resources. There is plenty of extraction of these NWFR, some are harvested within their sustainability limits and some other without any sustainability limits.

Non-wood forest resources are termed by many different names Non-Timber Forest Products, Non-Wood Forest Products, Minor Forest Products; these are the prevalent terms often used as synonyms.

The rich forests of our country offer all types of ecosystem services viz. *Cultural Services, Provisioning Services, Regulating Services and Supporting Services*. These NWFRs are part of *Provisioning Services*. Extraction (collection/harvest) of non-wood forest products is an important source of livelihood and contributes 20-40% towards family income for a large number of tribal population and forest dwellers. Major states having NWFRs in abundance are Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana. They cater to domestic as well as export market. The other states also have NWFRs, which may or may not be on an extensive scale, along with several instances of unavailability of concrete data on NWFRs.

Commercial opportunities for NWRs are emerging in present era of globalization and trade. The ease of trade is opening new markets; decentralization and democratization is enabling communities to have a greater role in management of resources. Sustainability is an important component for trade and commerce while simultaneously ensuring product quality and competitive pricing. Irrespective of resource sustainability a certification label can also provide ease of trade, international market linkage, ensuring ethical trade practices and equity to local community.

Scope of Standard

This document covers requirements for non-wood forest resource management standards applicable to Indian forests.

Forests

- As a standalone standard for forest area(s)

The terms and definitions used in the context of the standard is included in the annex of the document.

Classification of products is under two categories:

1. Plant origin:

- a. Algae, Fungi, Bryophytes, etc.
- b. Fruits and Seeds
- c. Flowers and Leaves
- d. Shrubs, Climbers and Reeds
- e. Roots, Rhizomes and Tubers
- f. Bark
- g. Whole Plants (excluding roots)
- h. Exudates, Gums and Resins
- i. Bamboo and Cane (Rattan)

2. Non-plant or animal origin

- a. Wild Honey
- b. Beeswax
- c. Lac
- d. Tassar

Note: This standard will be further used to develop additional requirements for applicability in already certified forest and trees outside forest area(s) and for NWFPs being cultivated in non-forest areas.

Notes and Clarifications

Application for Certification:

1. Certification has to be applied for by the entity, which has the legal ownership/management rights over the resources in that forest area, it shall include SFD/SFCs, MFP Federations, JFMC or Gram Sabha (Community Forest Resources) who are responsible for conservation and management of the resource. These entities shall have documented arrangement for extraction (collection/harvest) by Self Help Groups, Collectors, Cooperatives/Groups etc.
2. Certification may be applied by an entity, not having ownership/management rights over the resources in that forest area provided it has a documented arrangement (MoU, contract, agreement, etc.) with the resource owners/right holders.

Provisions of Biological Diversity Act:

1. ABS Guidelines, issued under the Biological Diversity Act, are applicable only for commercial utilization of biological resources as defined under the Act.
2. Collectors do not have any obligations of sharing benefits under the Act.

List of Abbreviations

ABS	Access Benefit Sharing
BMC	Biodiversity Management Committee
FPIC	Free Prior and Informed Consent
FM	Forest Management
INM	Integrated Nutrient Management
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
ITK	Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge
JFMC	Joint Forest Management Committee
ME	Management Entity
MoV	Means of Verification
MFP	Minor Forest Produce
MP	Management Plan
MU	Management Unit
NBA	National Biodiversity Authority
NCCF	Network for Certification of Conservation of Forests
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NWFP	Non Wood Forest Produce
NWFR	Non Wood Forest Resources
OTFD	Other Traditional Forest Dweller
PEFC	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification
SBB	State Biodiversity Board
SC	Schedule Caste
SFC (or SFDC)	State Forest Corporation (State Forest Development Corporation)
SFD	State Forest Department
SDG	Standard Development Group
SoC	Scope of Certification
SHG	Self Help Group
ST	Scheduled Tribe
UNCBD (CBD)	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Normative References

- Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act 2016 and Rules, 2018.
- National Working Plan Code 2014
- Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006
- Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Rules 2004
- National Forest Policy 1988
- Forest Conservation Act 1980
- Wildlife Protection Act 1972
- Indian Forest Act 1927
- NCCF Requirements for Standard Setting Process (NCCF-STD-SSP-01/2015)
- NCCF Group Management Certification Requirements (NCCF-STD-GM-01/2017)
- PEFC Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements PEFC – ST 1003
- PEFC ST 2002, Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products – Requirements

Draft NCCF-NWFR Standard Document Themes, Principles, Criteria

Theme	Principal	Criteria	Indicators
Theme A: Legal Compliance, Tenure and Use Rights	2	8	26
Theme B: NWFR Management	5	15	52
Theme C: Social and Environmental Impacts and Safeguards	3	16	68
Total	10	39	146

Principle 1: Compliance to Legal Regulations

Principle 2: Land Tenure, Use Rights and Responsibilities

Principle 3: Development and Implementation of a Management Plan for NWFRs

Principle 4: Inventory, Optimal Utilization and Sustainable Harvest Regimes for NWFRs

Principle 5: Monitoring and Review of Management Plan and Practices

Principle 6: Extraction (Collection/Harvest), Primary Processing and Storage of NWFRs

Principle 7: Tracking and Traceability of NWFRs

Principle 8: Rights, Benefits and Relations

Principle 9: Assessment of Socio-Economic Impacts

Principle 10: Environmental Impacts, Protection and Biodiversity Conservation

Theme A: Legal Compliance, Tenure and Use Rights (2 Principles, 8 Criteria, 26 Indicators)

Principle 1: Compliance to Legal Regulations

Criterion 1.1: National, state and local laws are identified and documented. Applicable administrative/regulatory requirements are fulfilled.

Indicator 1.1.1: ME shall have copies of all applicable national, state and local laws.
(MoV: list of all relevant laws; copies of all applicable laws)

Indicator 1.1.2: ME shall comply with all applicable laws, administrative/regulatory requirements.
(MoV: SoPs)

Indicator 1.1.3: ME shall initiate suitable actions to resolve case(s) of non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations (*Refer Indicator 1.1.1, and 1.1.2*).
(MoV: Records of violations of these laws and the remedial, punitive or mediatory actions undertaken to address them)

Guidance: The frequency and nature of regulatory violations, if indicative of widespread and systemic non-compliance, shall render the ME certificate liable for cancellation as per NCCF guidelines.

Criterion 1.2: Applicable provisions of binding international agreements and conventions (*like UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, ILO, etc.*) to which India is a signatory are documented and respected.

Indicator 1.2.1: ME shall have a list of applicable binding international agreements and conventions.

Indicator 1.2.2: ME shall comply with binding international agreements and conventions to which India is a signatory and implemented through appropriate institutional mechanism.

Guidance: All these agreements are enforced by means of legislation and conformance would be assessed based on compliance to applicable laws related to implementation of these agreements.

Criterion 1.3: Applicable fees, royalties, taxes and other charges are paid regularly.

Indicator 1.3.1: ME shall have an up-to-date list and copies of notifications related to payment of prescribed fees, royalties and taxes.

Indicator 1.3.2: ME shall maintain up-to-date records of all payments of fees, royalties and taxes and makes them available.
(MoV: evidence of payments of taxes, royalties and other charges, including payments under BDA.)

Guidance: There should be no evidence of chronic non-payment of any taxes, royalties or other charges.

Criterion 1.4: Management Unit is protected against unauthorized harvesting, hunting, settlement and other such activities and appropriate resources are provisioned for the same.

Indicator 1.4.1: ME shall have a documented procedure for protection of management unit from activities like unauthorized harvesting, fires, hunting, settlement, etc.

Indicator 1.4.2: ME shall have sufficient resources (*financial and human, and infrastructure*), to prevent unauthorized activities.

Indicator 1.4.3: If any unauthorized activities are detected, ME shall take appropriate action(s), in accordance with law.

Principle 2: Land Tenure, Use Rights and Responsibilities

Criterion 2.1: Management Entity has demonstrable evidence of clear, legally secure and long-term rights in the management unit. *(criterion indicates to a land-based activity undertaken by ME)*

Indicator 2.1.1: ME shall demonstrate evidence of rights and responsibilities in the MU.

Indicator 2.1.2: ME shall undertake a process of stakeholder identification, consultation and engagement.

Indicator 2.1.3: ME has identified and collected/obtained documents relating to the rights of the concerned stakeholders identified under *Indicator 2.1.2* in/over the management unit.
(MoV: e.g. land title/customary rights/lease agreements)

Indicator 2.1.4: ME shall respect and protect the rights of all concerned stakeholders over MU identified under *Indicator 2.1.2*.

Indicator 2.1.5: MU boundaries shall be clearly demarcated in the field and distinctly marked on maps.
(MoV: types of maps: digitized GIS maps)

Criterion 2.2: Rights, use rights and responsibilities of Scheduled Tribes, Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (STs & OTFDs) and other local communities over non-wood forest produce resource and operations are identified and recorded. *(criterion indicates to NWFR and other natural resource-based activities)*

Indicator 2.2.1: ME shall identify and document the rights, use rights and responsibilities related to NWFRs of STs & OTFDs and other local communities in the management unit along with relevant document thereof.
(MoV: notifications to the effect of rights settlement, orders of competent authorities)

Indicator 2.2.2: ME shall respect and protect the rights, use rights and responsibilities related to NWFRs identified under *Indicator 2.2.1* of STs & OTFDs and other local communities.
(MoV: usufruct agreements, etc.)

Indicator 2.2.3: ME documents and protects Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (ITK) and practices.

Criterion 2.3: Appropriate and legal mechanisms for resolving disputes over tenure claims and tenurial rights exist.

Indicator 2.3.1: ME shall have a written document on Dispute Resolution Mechanism, as per the provision(s) under the laws identified under *Criterion 1.1*. Preference is given to voluntary and conciliatory methods over adjudication/arbitration or other legal mechanisms.

Indicator 2.3.2: Disputes over land tenure and rights shall be resolved in a systematic manner through appropriate mechanisms *(as far as possible it should be culturally appropriate and mutually agreeable)*. Disputed areas shall remain out of scope of certification.

Indicator 2.3.3: ME shall record all such disputes including unresolved/ongoing disputes and action taken for their resolution along with outcomes.

Indicator 2.3.4: When/Where, STs & OTFDs and local communities have delegated their rights for use, in whole or in part, it shall be in a manner authorised by law and appropriate documents are maintained.

(MoV: any documented agreements or interviews with their representatives.)

Criterion 2.4: Institutional mechanism exists for implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, Rules and Access Benefit Sharing guidelines issued under the BDA.

Indicator 2.4.1: ME shall obtain approval for accessing NWFPs, if required.

Indicator 2.4.2: ME shall have a mechanism to ensure sharing of benefits with communities and regulatory bodies as per provisions of ABS Guidelines issued under the BDA.

Indicator 2.4.3: ME provides assistance to the concern authority in constitution and functioning of BMCs.

Indicator 2.4.4: ME has mechanism to ensure payment of fees, if any, levied by the BMCs.

Theme B: NWFR Management (5 Principles, 15 Criteria, 52 Indicators)

Principle 3: Development and Implementation of a Management Plan for NWFRs *(or a detailed chapter on NWFRs in case a Management Plan is already in place)*

Criterion 3.1: Written Management Plan covering the MU is prepared following precautionary approach w.r.t. conservation of NWFRs and use of NWFPs, and includes/covers the following components:

- a. Management objectives
- b. Land use and ownership status, a profile of adjacent lands, list of NWFPs and description of NWFRs, biodiversity, environmental limitations, area maps.
- c. Identification, inventory, survey, mapping and demarcation of NWFR areas including those relating to selected NWFPs. ***(selected NWFPs; NWFPs that are included in the Scope of Certification)***
- d. Human, capital, infrastructural, technological resource allocation to develop and implement a functional and effective NWFR management plan
- e. Extraction (collection/harvest) calendar of the selected NWFPs.
- f. Manuals/SOPs on extraction (collection/harvest) practices/principles focusing on sustainability of NWFRs. ***(details based on plant parts used for each NWFP to be included in MP)***
- g. Methods for fixing extraction (collection/harvest) limits for the selected NWFPs. Calculations for extraction limits maybe based on empirical methods and include guidance to reflect annual/seasonal/cyclic variations.
- h. Conservation, maintenance, enhancement and regeneration strategy/plan for NWFRs containing selected NWFPs. ***(details based on plant parts used for each NWFP to be included in MP)***
- i. Strategies for control of spread of invasive species, pests and diseases
- j. Process of monitoring & assessment of management impacts including those on resources, and review of management practices, if any
- k. Fire prevention, management and suppression plan
- l. Processing and value addition strategy/plan for the selected NWFPs
- m. List of WLPAs 1972 protected and CITES listed species present in area

Indicator 3.1.1: ME has a written management plan having the components a)-m) of the Criterion 3.1., duly approved by the appropriate authority.

Indicator 3.1.2: ME shall ensure that sufficient resources (human, financial, infrastructure and technical) are available and invested in preparation of a MP.

Indicator 3.1.3: MP is prepared in accordance with the National Working Plan Code.

Criterion 3.2: ME undertakes a process of stakeholder identification, consultation and engagement during the preparation of Management Plan.

Indicator 3.2.1: ME has identified affected or potentially affected stakeholders, by management operations in the NWFRs. (Indicator 2.1.2)

Indicator 3.2.2: ME undertakes a process of consultation and engagement with the identified stakeholders as under *Indicator 2.1.2* during the preparation of MP.

Indicator 3.2.3: ITK shall be used and incorporated in preparation of MP.

Criterion 3.3: Summary of MP is made available to public.

Indicator 3.3.1: Summary of MP is publicly available and wherever required, a copy is available in local language.

Indicator 3.3.2: ME shall review and update the summary of MP periodically or as and when there are changes in Management Plan.

Criterion 3.4: ME ensures proper implementation of MP.

Indicator 3.4.1: ME has identified and documented roles and responsibilities of managers, staff and workers for proper implementation of MP.

Indicator 3.4.2: ME shall communicate elements of MP to managers, staff and workers.

Indicator 3.4.3: Wherever necessary, ME shall use help from experts to provide necessary technical guidance in carrying out field operations.

Indicator 3.4.4: If ME is engaging subcontractors or outsourcing any portion of work, it shall ensure that all such works comply with requirements of MP specific to their works.

Criterion 3.5: MP should be periodically revised taking into account results of monitoring.

Indicator 3.5.1: MP shall be reviewed and revised every 10 year or earlier.

Indicator 3.5.2: Previous management plan practices are referred during revision of MP.

Indicator 3.5.3: Results and outcomes of monitoring are used to review/revise the MP, NWFR management prescriptions.

Indicator 3.5.4: ME re-undertakes a process of stakeholder identification, consultation and engagement, including ITK during revision of MP. (Refer *Indicator 2.1.2*)

Criterion 3.6: ME lays adequate emphasis on training and capacity building activities. These activities are centered around scientific practices of harvesting, primary processing and such other aspects related to the selected NWFPs.

Indicator 3.6.1: ME organizes periodic training programmes centered around sustainability, scientific practices of harvesting, primary processing, etc. of the selected NWFPs.

Indicator 3.6.2: Training programmes shall include managers, field staff and collectors/workers at regular intervals. A training calendar is prepared for this purpose.

Indicator 3.6.3: ME shall maintain records of training and capacity building programmes organized.

Indicator 3.6.4: ME ensures availability and use of training materials in local languages.

Principle 4: Inventory, Optimal Utilization and Sustainable Harvest Regimes for NWFPs

Criterion 4.1: ME undertakes periodic assessment of NWFRs, including total growing stock and regeneration in the NWFR areas having selected NWFPs.

Indicator 4.1.1: ME enlists all available NWFPs in the NWFR rich areas/regions.

Indicator 4.1.2: All selected NWFPs are inventoried (**both numbers and growing stock**) and quantification of resources is carried out at MU level.

Indicator 4.1.3: ME categorizes the selected NWFPs on a scientific classification and main parts used or uses in general.

Indicator 4.1.4: ME shall undertake periodic surveys of all NWFPs in the MU.

Indicator 4.1.5: ME shall assess replenishment/restocking rates of enlisted in *Indicator 4.1.1*, NWFRs in the MU based on size and intensity of management operations.

Criterion 4.2: ME maintains written guidelines/protocols for extraction (**collection/harvest**) to ensure sustainability of resource, harvest levels and good collection practices for the selected NWFPs. Guidelines provide rationale for extraction(collection/harvest) techniques and/or equipment to be used.

Indicator 4.2.1: ME maintains written graphic manuals/guidelines/protocols for extraction (**collection/harvest**), use of sustainable harvest techniques and good collection practices for the selected NWFPs to ensure sustainability of resource.

Indicator 4.2.2: ME has a functional institutional mechanism for registration of collector(s) of the selected NWFPs from the MU.

Indicator 4.2.3: ME assesses the selected NWFPs and makes strategic plan and implements it for ensuring viable *in-situ* population.

Criterion 4.3: ME ensures that rates and extent of NWFP extraction is maintained at levels that are within limits set for NWFRs/NWFPs in MP. Calculations for extraction limits maybe based on empirical methods and include guidance on annual/seasonal/cyclic variations.

Indicator 4.3.1: ME shall ensure that quantities of the selected NWFPs, to be extracted (collected/harvested) are based on scientific principles following the methods prescribed in MP.

Indicator 4.3.2: ME shall prepare harvesting calendar for the selected NWFPs and ensure that, quantities extracted (collected/harvested) are within permissible limits as per *Indicator 4.3.1*. Extraction (collection/harvest) quantities incorporate seasonal/annual/cyclic variations.

Indicator 4.3.3: Stock register of the selected NWFPs under is maintained.

Indicator 4.3.4: ME creates/spreads awareness about sustainable extraction (collection/harvest) practices for NWFPs amongst the stakeholders identified under *Indicator 2.1.2*.

Principle 5: Monitoring and Review of Management Plan and Practices

Criterion 5.1: Appropriate to scale and intensity of operations, NWFR MP should include data collected from research and monitoring.

Indicator 5.1.1: ME periodically gathers information on components a) – g) and maintains written records thereof.

Parameter	Periodicity
a. Quantities of the selected NWFPs extracted (collected/harvested)	annual/seasonal/cyclic nature
b. Occurrence and incidence of pests and diseases of the selected NWFPs	
c. Growth rates, regeneration and condition of NWFP resource.	at least once during certification cycle
d. Conservation status of the selected NWFPs.	
e. Environmental and social impacts of NWFP extraction (collection/harvest) and other operations	
f. Composition and observed changes in flora and fauna	
g. Presence of invasive species	

Indicator 5.1.2: ME ensures that data gathered under *Indicator 5.1.1* are analysed to provide input for refining management prescription(s) with a view to ensure sustainability of NWFR resources.

Indicator 5.1.3: ME shall contribute to or support research activities relevant for sustainable management of NWFRs.

Criterion 5.2: MP includes specific measures ensuring maintenance and augmentation of the selected NWFPs.

Indicator 5.2.1: Monitoring protocols for the selected NWFPs are developed including monitoring methods and frequency.

Indicator 5.2.2: Monitoring indicators are identified, including but not limited to, as listed in *Indicator 5.1.1 (a-g)*.

Indicator 5.2.3: MP shall have measures ensuring maintenance and/or enhancement of NWFRs. ME shall have provisions to encourage conservation of the selected NWFPs.

Indicator 5.2.4: ME shall take corrective measures based on periodic assessment/ direction of change for NWFRs.

Principle 6: Extraction (Collection/Harvest), Primary Processing and Storage of NWFPs

Criterion 6.1: NWFPs are extracted (collected/harvested) at a scale and rate within limits calculated as per the methods mentioned/prescribed in MP so as to maintain populations of NWFPs over long term. Extraction (collection/harvest) quantities incorporate seasonal/annual/cyclic variations.

Indicator 6.1.1: ME shall ensure adherence to guidelines/procedures/methods/SOPs for extraction (collection/harvest) of the selected NWFPs as per the MP (*Refer Criterion 3.1*)

Indicator 6.1.2: ME shall ensure that selected NWFPs are extracted (collected/harvested) at a scale and rate within limits calculated as per the methods mentioned/prescribed in MP to maintain populations of NWFPs over long term. Extraction (collection/harvest) quantities incorporate seasonal/annual/cyclic limits and variations.

Indicator 6.1.3: ME and its associated collectors/collection managers, have permissions from concerned/relevant agency for extraction (collection/harvest), possession, transit and sale of selected NWFPs.

Criterion 6.2: ME maintains written guidelines/protocols for post extraction (collection/harvest), processing and storage practices. Guidelines provide rationale for techniques and equipment to be used.

Indicator 6.2.1: ME has guidelines/protocols for post extraction (collection/harvest) primary processing and storage practices for the selected NWFPs. Guidelines also include rationale for techniques and equipment to be used.

Indicator 6.2.2: ME has guidelines/protocols for primary processing facilities for selected NWFPs including technology, infrastructure, health and safety, indoor storage conditions, temperature, humidity, etc.

Principle 7: Tracking and Traceability of NWFPs

Criterion 7.1: Appropriate to ME operations tracking and traceability process for NWFPs are in place.

Indicator 7.1.1: ME shall maintain a written procedure/SOPs for tracking and traceability of NWFRs.

Indicator 7.1.2: ME maintains appropriate records (*stock register, invoice, packaging list, etc.*) of extraction (collection/harvest), primary processing, packaging and storage of NWFPs.

Indicator 7.1.3: ME has procedure and system for invoicing packaged NWFPs with unique codes and labels.

Indicator 7.1.4: ME maintain and update records and details of registered collectors, vendors, traders, processors and end-users.

Indicator 7.1.5: ME has measures to ensure traceability (*internal and external*) from the point-of-origin to the point of sale, by ME (*manufacturer/trader*)

Criterion 7.2: NWFPs are transported with valid documents as per applicable rules and regulations.

Indicator 7.2.1: ME has written policy/guidelines for trade, transit, storage and primary processing of wild/planted NWFPs

Indicator 7.2.2: ME has written guidelines for transit of items with trade restrictions (*e.g. RET, CITES, etc.*) in conformity with the legal requirements.

Indicator 7.2.3: ME has details and maintains records of issued permits, challans, or transit pass.

Theme C: Social and Environmental Impacts and Safeguards (3 Principles, 16 Criteria, 68 Indicators)

Principle 8: Rights, Benefits and Relations

Criterion 8.1: ME recognizes and respects traditional and customary rights of Scheduled Tribes, Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (STs & OTFDs) and local communities.

Indicator 8.1.1: Legal, traditional and customary rights of STs & OTFDs and local communities are documented and respected by ME.

Indicator 8.1.2: Local/bonafide/primary collectors have clear roles and responsibilities to access, use and manage the NWFPs.

Indicator 8.1.3: ME has mechanism to safeguard the interests of STs & OTFDs and local communities, and their preferential extraction (collection/harvest) rights.

Indicator 8.1.4: ITK, practices, cultural and spiritual values are recognized, documented and respected.

Indicator 8.1.5: Sites of cultural, spiritual, heritage and religious significance are identified and protected.

Indicator 8.1.6: Institutional mechanisms for benefit sharing, and transparent participation, etc. is in place as per *Indicator 2.4.2*.

Criterion 8.2: Opportunities for employment, training and other services to STs, OTFDs and local communities are identified and provided.

Indicator 8.2.1: STs, OTFDs and local communities around the MU are identified.

Indicator 8.2.2: Identified STs, OTFDs and local communities, as under *Indicator 8.2.1*, are provided with employment opportunities for local level processing and value addition.

Indicator 8.2.3: Identified STs, OTFDs and local communities, as under *Indicator 8.2.1*, are provided with training and skill development opportunities for local level processing and value addition.

Indicator 8.2.4: Organized groups such as women self-help groups/committees/societies/JFMCs/gram sabhas/BMCs/federations/CBOs, etc. are given preferences in various operations/activities.

Criterion 8.3: ME ensures that NWFR management operations do not threaten or diminish, either directly or indirectly, resources and rights of STs, OTFDs and local communities.

Indicator 8.3.1: ME ensures NWFR management operations, do not threaten, diminish or have a negative impact, either directly or indirectly, on resources and rights of STs, OTFDs and local communities.

Indicator 8.3.2: Mechanisms are in place to address and resolve grievances raised by local communities or other stakeholders.

Indicator 8.3.3: ME shall document issues raised by STs, OTFDs and local communities related to resources and rights, including impact of NWFR operations on neighboring areas.

Criterion 8.4: Written guidelines are prepared, in accordance with National/State labour laws, rules and regulations, for remuneration and benefits for permanent, temporary and contract workers.

Indicator 8.4.1: All workers shall be paid regularly as per applicable legal wages that may be, but not limited to, any one of the following:

- a. Minimum wages prescribed under the Code on Wages, 2019
- b. State Specific Wage Rates
- c. Piece Wage Rates/Volume based rates as per State notifications
- d. MGNREGA Wage Rates
- e. Wage agreements with workers (*formal, informal, verbal, etc. all such agreements are recorded*)

Indicator 8.4.2: ME does not discriminate among workers on the basis of age, caste, creed, race, region, religion and sex.

Indicator 8.4.3: ME shall ensure no engagement (*hiring or contracting*) of children below 14 years of age.

Indicator 8.4.4: Equal wages are paid for equal works.

Indicator 8.4.5: Workers are communicated with other benefits including PF, ESI, insurance, health cover.

Criterion 8.5: Roles, responsibilities, remuneration, welfare and benefits for employees.

Indicator 8.5.1: ME has written guidelines prepared for roles, responsibilities, welfare and benefits, in accordance with National/State laws.

Indicator 8.5.2: ME employees and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities in implementation of MP.

Indicator 8.5.3: ME employees and staff are provided with appropriate trainings and capacity building programmes commensurate with their roles and responsibilities.

Indicator 8.5.4: ME shall maintain records of trainings and capacity building programmes.

Criterion 8.6: ME complies with all ILO Core Conventions.

Indicator 8.6.1: ME shall respect and implement ILO Core Conventions.

Indicator 8.6.2: A safe working environment shall be fostered/maintained commensurate with the operational requirements:

- a) Complying with all relevant workplace health and safety laws
- b) Adopting working conditions that do not endanger health or safety
- c) Workers are made aware of health and safety aspects

Indicator 8.6.3: Records for accident along with remedial measures are maintained.

Indicator 8.6.4: Workers are made aware about the risks involved and preventive measures to avoid or minimize risks.

Indicator 8.6.5: Existing NWFP collection institutions/organisations shall have bargaining power and market access.

Principle 9: Assessment of Socio-Economic Impacts of Management Operations

Criterion 9.1: ME undertakes periodic assessment of socio-economic impacts

Indicator 9.1.1: ME shall undertake assessment (***based on scale and intensity of management operations and risks associated***) of socio-economic impacts of management activities related to NWFR.

Indicator 9.1.2: ME undertakes consultations with stakeholders identified under *Indicator 2.1.2* and with BMCs/SBBs.

Indicator 9.1.3: ME facilitates that collectors receive at minimum MSP for NWFPs as per prices fixed by government and receive benefits as per ABS guidelines under BDA.

Indicator 9.1.4: ME shall facilitate extraction (collection/harvest) of identified NWFPs by local communities for their bonafide use.

Indicator 9.1.5: ME shall identify and conserve NWFPs used by local communities, STs & OTFDs if their availability is in limited quantity in consultation with BMCs/SBB.

Indicator 9.1.6: Based on results of impact assessment, planned management operations shall be appropriately modified, adjusted or improved, to minimize negative impact.

Criterion 9.2: Results of evaluation of socio-economic impacts are incorporated in MP and its implementation. Planning of management operations involves consultations with all stakeholders, identified under *Indicator 2.1.2*, who are affected or could be potentially affected by them.

Indicator 9.2.1: ME has identified stakeholders, as under *Indicator 2.1.2*, impacted by management operations in the MU.

Indicator 9.2.2: ME incorporates results of socio-economic impact evaluation in planning of management operations, revision and implementation of MP.

Indicator 9.2.3: ME endeavors to mitigate concerns raised by stakeholders at planning stage of concerned activities including consultation with SBBs/BMCs

Criterion 9.3: To ensure economic viability, ME has defined harvest rates (***as per Criterion 4.2***) harvests are maintained at sustainable levels and resource inventory shows an increasing trend, or, at least, are maintained.

Indicator 9.3.1: Harvests are maintained within sustainable levels as defined in the MP and resource inventory shows an increasing trend, or, at least, maintained taking into consideration natural seasonal variation.

Indicator 9.3.2: ME shall undertake a periodic (***atleast once during validity of certificate***) review of management activities, including income generating activities, present and proposed investments, to ensure economic sustainability of ME.

Indicator 9.3.3: ME shall promote management operations such a way as to optimally utilise available resources, waste minimisation, waste utilisation and other similar activities.

Principle 10: Environmental Impacts, Protection and Biodiversity Conservation

Criterion 10.1: ME undertakes periodic assessment of environmental aspects.

Indicator 10.1.1: ME shall undertake independent assessment (***based on scale and intensity of management operations and risks associated***) of environmental impacts of management operations related to NWFR.

Indicator 10.1.2: ME shall consider impacts of management operation on biodiversity and ecological functions of area and undertake rehabilitation/restoration of ecological functions/values that may have been damaged/degraded due to past management activities.

Indicator 10.1.3: ME undertakes due consultation with stakeholders identified under *Indicator 2.1.2.*, SBBs and BMCs to assess availability, threat to, and conservation measures for NWFRs in the MU.

Indicator 10.1.4: Stakeholder consultation process shall be documented and conducted with free, prior and informed consent of participating stakeholders, identified under *Indicator 2.1.2.*

Criterion 10.2: ME undertakes management operations in a manner that maintains natural ecosystems, conserves biodiversity, protects water resources, prevents land degradation and restores degraded areas.

Indicator 10.2.1: Representative samples of existing ecosystems within landscape are protected; appropriate operations and uniqueness of affected resources are recorded on maps.

Indicator 10.2.2: ME shall ensure that specific measures for maintenance and/or enhancement of applicable conservation attributes consistent with precautionary approach are in place. Public summary of management plan includes these details.

Indicator 10.2.3: Rare, threatened and endangered species present in the area shall be protected and conserved.

Indicator 10.2.4: Natural mechanisms viz regeneration, biological control of weeds and diseases, are preferred to maintain and enhance the health and vitality of NWFR resources.

Criterion 10.3: High-conservation value (***refer HCV toolkit of WWF explained at Annex***) areas are, identified demarcated, conserved, maintained and monitored.

- a. global, regional or national significance including both high vulnerability and high irreplaceability of species and habitats
- b. critical significance for the livelihoods, wellbeing or cultural identity
- c. significant contribution to global persistence of biodiversity at the genetic and species level
- d. high biodiversity value, including habitat of significant importance to rare, endangered or threatened species, highly threatened and/or unique ecosystems; and/or areas associated with key evolutionary processes
- e. critical breeding sites, wintering sites, migration sites, migration routes or corridors
- f. sites critical for maintaining vulnerable catchments, checking soil erosion, and acting as barriers to destructive fires

Indicator 10.3.1: ME shall identify high-conservation values and areas. Identification and evaluations are documented.

Indicator 10.3.2: High-conservation value/areas are identified in consultation with key stakeholders identified under *Indicator 2.1.2* and taking into consideration relevant secondary data, field observations.

Indicator 10.3.3: In high-conservation areas, ME establishes conservation/biodiversity plots.

Indicator 10.3.4: Species, identified in these areas, are based on conservation values i.e. rare, endangered and threatened.

Indicator 10.3.5: Periodic monitoring of effectiveness of measures is employed to maintain/enhance HCVs. Results obtained are used to revise future management plan.

Indicator 10.3.6: Strategy and actions for maintenance, enhancement and reduction of threats is in place.

Criterion 10.4: Use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) is promoted.

Indicator 10.4.1: Chemical pesticide usage in nurseries, MU, and primary processing facilities shall occur within context of an integrated pest management program.

Indicator 10.4.2: Use of chemical fertilizers is minimized and organic and bio-fertilisers are preferred. Chemical pesticides are only used when non-chemical management has been proven ineffective.

Criterion 10.5: ME ensures use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers shall be strictly controlled under management supervision and within pre-defined parameters and with an aim to progressively reduce their use over time.

Indicator 10.5.1: Use of chemical pesticides, fertilizers and herbicides is minimised, and WHO Guidelines and Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants are followed. Use of WHO Type 1A and 1B pesticides is prohibited.

Indicator 10.5.2: Use of pesticides, fertilizers and herbicides restricted or banned by the government at national/state/local level is prohibited.

Indicator 10.5.3: Permissible limits are adhered to while using pesticides, fertilizers and herbicides.

Indicator 10.5.4: Manufacturer's instructions are followed during application of pesticides, fertilizers and herbicides with proper equipment and training.

Indicator 10.5.5: Frequency and type of pesticides, fertilizers and herbicides used are documented as far as possible. Records are maintained for using hazardous substance and materials along with information on usage and disposal of containers.

Indicator 10.5.6: Fertilizer wherever applied, should follow SOPs as prescribed by national or regional departments, national environmental protection legislation, etc.

Criterion 10.6: Use of biological control agents is in compliance with India's regulatory framework and strictly controlled in accordance with internationally accepted scientific protocols.

Indicator 10.6.1: Wherever biological control agents are used, it is in accordance with India's regulatory framework, internationally accepted scientific protocols based on precautionary principle approach.

Indicator 10.6.2: Use of biological control agents is documented, minimized and monitored.

Indicator 10.6.3: Use of genetically modified organisms shall be prohibited.

Criterion 10.7: ME does not convert natural forests to plantations, nor natural forests or plantations to other land use except when the conversion occurs with prior approval as required under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

Indicator 10.7.1: Forest areas that have been converted (*either from plantation to non-forest use or from natural forest to plantation or to non-forest use*) since December 1994 and/or are scheduled for conversion shall be identified.

Indicator 10.7.2: No conversion of natural forests in the MU to plantations or non-forestry uses shall occur, except with prior approval required under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Indicator 10.7.3: Plantations areas, their original establishment dates and previous land use status of areas shall be recorded.

Indicator 10.7.4: ME shall have records of all approvals granted as per provisions of FCA 1980. Any area within scope of certificate, which has been converted without clear and unambiguous approval under the FCA, 1980, shall render certificate liable for termination.

Annex 1: Terms and Definitions

The Annex was adopted by the Governing Body of the NCCF on..... It defines the basic and fundamental terms relating to Non-wood forest resource (NWFR) certification and in particular to NCCF NWFR certification standard.

Document Code: NCCF-STD-NWFR-0.0/2020

Effective date: DD/MM/YYYY

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Glossary

Access Benefit Sharing (Fair and Equitable Benefit Sharing)

Sharing of benefits as determined by the National Biodiversity Authority. (*Source: Biological Diversity Act, 2002*)

Binding Agreement

A deal or pact, written or not, which is compulsory that it fulfils the requirements of the Section 10 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872 to its signatories and enforceable by law. Parties involved in the agreement do so freely and accept it voluntarily.

also

In context of international agreements or multilateral environmental agreements the ones to which India has ratified or acceded.

Biodiversity Attributes

Composition, Structure and Functions are the three primary attributes of biodiversity which are explained as follows:

- a) Composition: identity and variety of an ecological system. Descriptors of composition are typically lists of the species resident in an area or an ecosystem and measures of composition include species richness and diversity of species.
- b) Structure: physical organization or pattern of a system, from habitat complexity as measured within communities to the pattern of habitats (or patches) and other elements at a landscape scale.
- c) Functions: results of one or more ecological and evolutionary processes, including predation, gene flow, natural disturbances and mycorrhizal associations as well as abiotic processes such as soil development and hydrological cycles. Examples of functions include predator-prey systems, water purifications and nutrient cycling.

Each of these attributes is multi-scalar and incorporates both spatial and temporal dynamics. As a result, these attributes may also be examined at different scales including regions, landscapes and ecosystems. (*Source: Ecological Concepts, Principles and Applications to Conservation, 2008, Biodiversity BC*)

Biological Diversity (Biodiversity)

The variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems. There are three interrelated hierarchical levels of biodiversity: (a) Genetic diversity (b) Species diversity and (c) Ecosystem or Community diversity (*Source: Convention on Biological Diversity*)

Biological Diversity Act, 2002

An Act to provide for conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of biological resources, knowledge and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. (*Source: Biological Diversity Act, 2002*)

Biological Control Agents

Living organisms used to eliminate or regulate the population of pests such as insects, mites, weeds and plant diseases using other living organisms. (*Source: IUCN*)

Biological Resources

Plants, animals and micro-organisms or parts thereof, their genetic material and by-products (excluding value added products) with actual or potential use or value but does not include human genetic material. (*Source: Biological Diversity Act, 2002*)

Bio-Survey and Bio-Utilization

Survey or collection of species, subspecies, genes, components and extracts of biological resource for any purpose and includes characterization, inventorisation and bioassay. (Source: *Biological Diversity Act, 2002*)

Biodiversity Conservation

The act of protection, preservation, maintenance, sustainable use (conservation), recovery and enhancement of the components of biological diversity, where:

- a) *Conservation* is the sustainable use of resources and encompasses protection as well as exploitation;
- b) *Preservation* is an aspect of conservation meaning to keep something without altering or changing it;

Biofertilizer

Fertilizers containing living cells or latent cells of efficient strains of microorganisms that help crop plants' uptake of nutrients by their interactions in the rhizosphere when applied through seed or soil. They accelerate certain microbial processes in the soil which augment the extent of availability of nutrients in a form easily assimilated by plants.

(Source: *Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Agritech Portal, Organic Farming: Organic Inputs and Techniques: http://agritech.tnau.ac.in/org_farm/orgfarm_biofertilizertechnology.html*)

Biomass

The mass per unit area of living plant material including stem, branches, leaves, flowers, fruit, roots etc. (Source: *Essential Climatic Variables T12, Global Terrestrial Observing System, 2009*)

Capacity Building

A process of developing and strengthening human resource, scientific & technological capabilities, organizational & institutional capabilities. (Source: *WHO*)

Carbon Cycles

The flow of carbon in various forms, primarily as Carbon dioxide (CO₂) through atmosphere, terrestrial and marine biosphere, oceans and lithosphere by various chemical, physical, geological, and biological processes. (Source: *IPCC, 2014: Annex II: Glossary*)

Carbon Registry

A voluntary, online greenhouse gas (GHG) registration and emissions tracking system used by its members to transparently register verified, project-based emissions reductions and removals as serialized offsets; record the purchase, sale, banking and retirement of verified offsets, branded as Emission Reduction Tons (ERTs); and optionally report, in a separate account, verified GHG inventories. (Source: *American Carbon Registry (2010), American Carbon Registry Forest Carbon Project Standard, version 2.1*)

Carbon Sequestration

The uptake and storage of carbon in plants, terrestrial or marine reservoirs as well as geological formations. (Source: *IPCC, 2014: Annex II: Glossary*)

Carbon Sinks

It is a natural or artificial physical unit or reservoir that stores carbon for an indefinite period.

Carbon Stock

The quantity of carbon contained in a pool of any ecosystem, meaning a reservoir or system which has capacity to accumulate or release carbon. Carbon is stored in five different pools: (i) aboveground biomass; (ii) belowground biomass; (iii) litter; (iv) deadwood/woody debris; and (v) soil. (Source: *FAO Forestry Terms and definitions; CIFOR*)

Certificate

A document issued under the rules of a certification system, providing confidence that a duly identified product, process, or service, is in conformity with a specified standard or other normative document. (Source: ISO Guide 2)

Chain of Custody

All the changes of custodianship of forest based products, and products thereof, during the harvesting, transportation, processing and distribution chain from the forest to the end- use. (Source: Annex 1, Normative Document PEFC Terms and Definitions; 27 October 2006)

Change Matrix

The rate, degree or nature of change of forest resources for a particular site in a given time period. It could be as a result of present or past management activities and anthropogenic impacts in terms of diversity, species richness, relative abundance of species as well as the network of interactions among the different components in the forest ecosystem.

Climate Change

Climate change is defined as the shift in the average global temperature due to increase in Greenhouses Gases in atmosphere, consequences of which include, global warming, melting of icecaps, rise in sea level, acidification of oceans etc. (Source: Article 1, Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC))

Climate Change Adaptation

Actions taken to help communities and ecosystems to cope with changing climate condition. (Source: UNFCCC)

Adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates, harms or exploits beneficial opportunities. (Source: IPCC)

Climate Change Mitigation

The reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to achieve stabilization of GHG concentrations in the atmosphere and subsequently a cessation of further warming. (Source: 'Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards 2008')

Collective Bargaining

Negotiations which take place between an employer, a group of employers or one or more employers' organisations, on the one hand, and one or more workers' organisations, on the other, for:

- a) determining working conditions and terms of employment; and/or
- b) regulating relations between employers and workers; and/or
- c) regulating relations between employers or their organisations and a workers' organisation or workers' organisations (Source: International Labour Organisation convention no. 154)

Collector (also read as Primary Collector)

Collectors/gatherers as permitted legally for extraction (collection/harvest) of NWFP from the management unit.

Commercial Utilization

End uses of biological resources for commercial utilization such as drugs, industrial enzymes, food flavours, fragrance, cosmetics, emulsifiers, oleoresins, colours, extracts and genes used for improving crops and livestock through genetic intervention, but does not include conventional breeding or traditional practices in use in any agriculture, horticulture, poultry, dairy farming, animal husbandry or bee keeping (Source: Biological Diversity Act, 2002)

Conflict Resolution

A way for two or more parties to find a peaceful solution to a disagreement among them. The disagreement may be personal, financial, political, or emotional. When a dispute arises, often the best course of action is negotiation to resolve the disagreement.

The goals of negotiation are:

- a) to produce a solution that all parties can agree to
- b) to work as quickly as possible to find this solution
- c) to improve, not hurt, the relationship between the groups in conflict

(Source: Section 6. Training for Conflict Resolution, Community Tool Box, University of Kansas: <http://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/implement/provide-information-enhance-skills/conflict-resolution/main>)

Continual Improvement

A process of enhancing the management system and performance to achieve improvements in economic, environmental and social aspects of forest management. *(Source: Annex 1, Normative Document PEFC Terms and Definitions; 27 October 2006)*

Conservation

The protection, preservation, management, or restoration of natural environments and ecological communities that inhabit them. Conservation is generally held to include the management of human use of natural resources for current public benefit and sustainable social and economic utilization.

Conservation Attributes

The physical, biological, ecological, social, cultural and/or aesthetic attributes of an area that make it significant to be conserved for posterity.

Convention on Biological Diversity

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) came into force at the end of 1993, now ratified by 196 countries, for whom it is now an international legally binding commitment to conserve biological diversity, to sustainably use its components and to share equitably the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.

It offers a comprehensive, global strategy for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. It aims to ensure a richer future, new and sustainable relationship between humanity and natural world for generations to come. *(Source: Sustaining life on Earth, Convention on Biological Diversity)*

Criteria

A category of conditions or process through which sustainable forest management can be assessed. A criterion is characterized by a set of related indicators, which are monitored periodically to assess change *(Source: Montreal Process, 1995; Bhopal India Process glossary of technical terms)*

Culturally Important Site (Cultural Site)

In context of NWFR, these are sites which have social, historical, cultural and religious significance and include protected trees/plants, trees which are worshiped and sacred groves.

Customary Use Rights

The rights and practices determined by the traditional exercise of a community or individual(s) as per the customs which may or may not have been codified. They differ from prescriptive rights i.e. the former are local usages, belonging to all the inhabitants of a particular place or district-the latter are rights of individuals, independent of the place of their residence. e.g., for certain tribal communities living inside forest areas, certain areas are traditionally used by them for flower or fruit collection or honey collection or for burial of their dead.

Degradation

A reduction in the capacity of a forest to produce ecosystem services such as carbon storage, wood and non-wood produce as a result of anthropogenic and environmental changes. Though there is no reduction in forest area, but it impacts the quality of forest, there is decrease in number of species, reduction in tree cover, timber and non-timber resources and/or the alteration of the forest structure. (Source: Thompson, I. D., M. R. et al, 2013. *An operational framework for defining and monitoring forest degradation. Ecology and Society* 18(2): 20.)

Degraded Forest

Land with long-term significant reduction of the overall potential to supply benefits from the forest, which includes carbon storage, wood, non-wood, biodiversity and other goods and services (definition based on FAO 2003).

Dispute Resolution

The process adopted to resolve a conflict, dispute or claim. Dispute resolution may also be referred to as alternative dispute resolution, appropriate dispute resolution, or ADR for short. Dispute resolution processes are alternatives to having a court (state or federal judge or jury) decide the dispute in a trial or other institution decide the resolution of the case or contract. Dispute resolution processes can be used to resolve any type of dispute including family, neighbourhood, employment, business, housing, personal injury, consumer, and environmental disputes. In addition, utilize the dispute resolution processes to assist government employees and private citizens resolve complaints and disputes in many areas including workplace, employment, and contracting matters.

(Source: American Bar Association, Section of Dispute Resolution:
www.americanbar.org/groups/dispute_resolution/resources/DisputeResolutionProcesses.html)

Eco-development

Development that is ecologically, socially and economically sustainable. It involves site-specific village level planning by villagers themselves to achieve sustainable development of village resources, alternatives to fuel, fodder and timber and schemes to provide job alternatives to individuals and families in order to reduce forest dependent livelihoods to sustainable levels and to ensure people's active participation in protection of Protected Areas' resources. (Source: Madhya Pradesh Forest Department)

Ecosystem Services

Ecological processes or functions having monetary or non-monetary value to individuals or society at large. (Source: IPCC, 2014: Annex II: Glossary)

Primarily there are four major ecosystems services:

- a) Cultural Services
- b) Provisioning Services
- c) Regulating Services
- d) Supporting Services

Cultural Services are the non-material benefits people obtain from ecosystems through spiritual enrichment, cognitive development, reflection, recreation, and aesthetic experiences including cultural diversity, spiritual and religious values, knowledge systems, cultural heritage values, recreation and ecotourism, etc.

Provisioning Services are described as the material or energy outputs from ecosystems. They include food, fibre, fuel, genetic resources, freshwater and other resources. (Source: *The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity*: <http://www.teebweb.org/resources/ecosystem-services/>)

Regulatory Services are provided by regulation of ecosystem processes including air quality regulation, climate regulation, water purification, pollination, disease regulation, etc. (Source: *The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity*: <http://www.teebweb.org/resources/ecosystem-services/>)

Supporting Services are those that are necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services.

Endangered Species

When used in the context of the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List, a taxon is classified as 'Endangered' when there is very high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future. (Source: *IUCN Red List*)

Endemic Species

Species that exist only in one geographic region. Species can be endemic to large or small areas of the earth: some are endemic to a particular continent, some to part of a continent, and others to a single island.

Exotic Species

Species occurring in an area outside of its historically known natural range as a result of intentional or accidental dispersal by human activities. Also known as alien or introduced species, exotic species (Source: *Convention on Biological Diversity glossary*)

Ex-situ Conservation

A conservation method that entails the removal of germplasm resources (seed, pollen, sperm, individual organisms, from their original habitat or natural environment. Keeping components of biodiversity alive outside of their original habitat or natural environment. (Source: *Convention on Biological Diversity Glossary*)

Evaluation

Evaluation is a selective exercise that attempts to systematically and objectively assess progress towards and the achievement of an outcome. Evaluation is not a one-time event, but an exercise involving assessments of differing scope and depth carried out at several points in time in response to evolving needs for evaluative knowledge and learning during the effort to achieve an outcome. All evaluations—even project evaluations that assess relevance, performance and other criteria—need to be linked to outcomes as opposed to only implementation or immediate outputs. (Source: *Handbook on Monitoring and Evaluating for Results, United Nations Development Program*)

Forest

a) Recorded Forest Area

Area recorded as a forest in the Government records. It is also referred to as "Recorded Forest Area." (India State Of Forest Report, 2019)

b) Reserved Forests

An area so constituted under the provisions of the Indian Forest Act or other State Forest Acts, having full degree of protection. In Reserved forests all activities are prohibited unless permitted. (India State Of Forest Report, 2019)

c) Protected Forests

An area notified as such under the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or other State Forest Acts, having limited degree of protection. In Protected Forests all activities are permitted unless prohibited.

d) Unclassed Forests

An area recorded as forest but not included in reserved or protected forest category. Ownership status of such forests varies from state to state (India State Of Forest Report, 2019)

e) *Ecological definition*

Complex ecological system in which trees are the dominant life form.

f) *Supreme Court of India definition*

“The word, forest” must be understood according to its dictionary meaning. This description covers all statutorily recognized forests, whether designated as reserved, protected or otherwise for the purpose of Section 2(i) of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. The term "forest land", occurring in Section 2, will not only include "forest" as understood in the dictionary sense, but also any area recorded as forest in the Government record irrespective of the ownership.”

g) *Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO)*

Land with tree crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of more than 10 percent and area of more than 0.5 ha. The trees should be able to reach a minimum height of 5 m at maturity in situ. May consist either of closed forest formations where trees of various storeys and undergrowth cover a high proportion of the ground; or of open forest formations with a continuous vegetation cover in which tree crown cover exceeds 10 percent. Young natural stands and all plantations established for forestry purposes which have yet to reach a crown density of 10 percent or tree height of 5m are included under forest, as are areas normally forming part of the forest area which are temporarily unstocked as a result of human intervention or natural causes but which are expected to revert to forest.

The term forest is further divided, according to its origin, into two categories: natural forest and plantation forest.

h) *Forest Cover*

All lands, more than one hectare in area, with a tree canopy density of more than 10 percent irrespective of ownership and legal status. Such lands may not necessarily be a recorded forest area. It also includes orchards, bamboo and palm.

i) *Social Forestry*

Growing, managing and protecting forests on barren/vacant common lands outside the forest areas for meeting needs of the local population, contributing to environmental amelioration as well as social, and rural development. The goods produced from such forests include wood, fuel, fodder, environmental services, etc. (*Tamil Nadu Agricultural University*)

Forest Inventory

A systematic collection of data on different parameters of forest resource for its assessment and analysis , including digitized maps which describes the location and nature of forest (including tree size, age, volume and species composition) as well as a description of other forest values such as soils, vegetation and wildlife features.

Forest Dwellers (Forest Dependent Communities)

The members or community of the Schedule Tribes and pastoral communities who primarily reside in and depend on forests or forest lands for bona fide livelihood needs. In addition there are “Other traditional forest dwellers” who reside in forest for more than three generations prior to 13th December 2005 for their bona fide livelihood needs. (*Source: The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006*)

Forest Management

The branch of forestry concerned with the operational management of forest resources and the overall administrative, economic, legal and social aspects and with the essential scientific and technical aspects, especially silviculture, protection and forest regulation. (*Source: Bhopal India Process Glossary of Technical Terms*)

Forest Restoration

The purpose of forest restoration is to restore a degraded forest to its original state – that is, to re-establish the presumed structure, productivity and species diversity of the forest originally present at a site. (Source: FAO)

Forest Villages

Settlements which have been established inside forests by forest department of any State Government for forestry operations or which were converted into forest villages through forest reservation process and includes forest settlement villages, fixed demand holdings, all types of *taungya* settlements, by whatever name called, for such villages and includes lands for cultivation and other uses permitted by the Government. (Source: *The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006*)

Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

The principle that an individual or a community has the right to give or withhold their consent to proposed projects that may affect the land they own, occupy or otherwise use. (Source: *Glossary. 'Plan Vivo Standard 2012 Draft for Consultation'. 2012*)

Free implies that there is no coercion, intimidation or manipulation.

Prior implies that consent is to be sought sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of activities and respect is shown to time requirements of indigenous consultation/consensus processes.

Informed implies that information is provided that covers a range of aspects, including the nature, size, pace, reversibility and scope of any proposed project or activity; the purpose of the project as well as its duration; locality and areas affected; a preliminary assessment of the likely economic, social, cultural and environmental impact, including potential risks; personnel likely to be involved in the execution of the project; and procedures the project may entail.

Consent refers to collective decision made by rights-holders and reached through customary decision-making processes of affected peoples/communities/stakeholders. Consent must be sought and granted or withheld according to unique formal or informal political-administrative dynamic of each community. (Source: *Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' Rule of Law, Equality and Non-Discrimination; UN-REDD Guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent*)

Genetic Diversity

The variation in the amount of genetic information within and among individuals of a population, a species, an assemblage, or a community. (Source: *United Nations, 1992*)

Genetically Modified Organisms

An organism in which the genetic material has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally by mating and/or natural recombination. (Source: *Based on FSC-POL-30-602 FSC Interpretation on GMO (Genetically Modified Organisms)*).

Growing Stock

Volume or probable yield of various non-timber forest produce from a forest stand in a given area of forest or wooded land. It may vary from standard methods, statistical suggestions to participatory rural appraisal techniques.

Greenhouse Gas Project (GHG Project)

GHG project refers to activity(s) that alter the conditions identified in the baseline scenario which cause greenhouse gas emission reductions or greenhouse gas removal enhancements. (Source: *ISO 14064 Part 2*)

Habitat

A place where an organism lives and/or the conditions of that environment including the soil, vegetation, water, and food.

Areas comprising customary habitat and such other habitats in reserved forests and protected forests of primitive tribal groups and pre-agricultural communities and other forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes (Source: *The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006*)

Health of Forest

Forest condition that is naturally resilient to damage; characterized by biodiversity, it contains sustained habitat for wood, non-wood produce, fish, wildlife, and humans, and meets present and future resource management objectives. (Source: *Bhopal India Process Glossary of Technical Terms*)

High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF)

All forests contain environmental and social values, such as wildlife habitat, watershed protection, archaeological sites, etc. Where these values are considered to be of outstanding significance or critical importance, the forest can be defined as a High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF). (Source: *ProForest, the High Conservation Value Forest Toolkit, Edition 1, December 2003*)

Forests having any of the following values:

HCV 1 - Species Diversity. Concentrations of biological diversity including endemic species, and rare, threatened or endangered species, that are significant at global, regional or national levels.

HCV 2 - Landscape-level ecosystems and mosaics. Intact forest landscapes and large landscape-level ecosystems and ecosystem mosaics that are significant at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.

HCV 3 - Ecosystems and habitats. Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, habitats or refugia.

HCV 4 - Critical ecosystem services. Basic ecosystem services in critical situations, including protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.

HCV 5 - Community needs. Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities or Indigenous Peoples (for example for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water), identified through engagement with these communities or Indigenous Peoples.

HCV 6 - Cultural values. Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or Indigenous Peoples, identified through engagement with these local communities or Indigenous Peoples. (Source: *FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2; FSC glossary of terms*)

Illegal Land Use

When a piece of land is used by an owner/lessee for a different purpose than specified or mentioned in the land use scheme, registration document/ agreement, etc. it is called illegal land use.

Indicator

A quantitative or qualitative parameter which can be assessed/measured in relation to a criterion. It describes objectively and unambiguously a relevant element of a criterion. (Source: *PEFC terms and definitions*)

Indigenous Species (also called native species, or autochthonous species)

A species that has been observed in the form of a naturally occurring and self-sustaining population in historical times. (Source: *Bern Convention 1979*)

Species or genotypes which have evolved in the same area, region or biotope and are adapted to the specific predominant ecological conditions at the time of establishment. (Source: *Compilation of Forestry Terms and Definitions, Internal Report no. 6, 2002, European Forestry Institute*)

Integrated Nutrient Management

It is the management of soil, nutrient, water, crop, and vegetation tailored to a particular cropping and farming system, undertaken with the aim of improving and sustaining soil fertility, land productivity and reducing environmental degradation. It aims to optimize the condition of the soil, with regard to its physical, chemical, biological and hydrological properties, for the purpose of enhancing farm productivity, whilst minimizing land degradation. (Source: *Food and Agricultural Organization; <http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/thematic-sitemap/theme/spi/scpi-home/managing-ecosystems/integrated-plant-nutrient-management/ipnm-what/en/#a>*)

Integrated Pest Management

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an eco-friendly approach which aims at keeping pest population at below economic threshold levels by employing all available alternate pest control methods and techniques such as cultural, mechanical and biological with emphasis on use of bio-pesticides and pesticides of plant-origin like Neem formulations. (Source: *Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Integrated Pest Management*)

Invasive Species

Species that are non-native to a particular ecosystem and whose introduction and spread cause, or are likely to cause, socio-cultural, economic or environmental harm or harm to human and ecological health. (Source: *FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010, Terms and Definitions*)

Species not native to a specific location region (an introduced species) and has a tendency to spread to a degree believed to cause damage to the environment, human economy or human health. (India State Of Forest Report)

Landscape

A geographical mosaic composed of interacting ecosystems resulting from the influence of geological, topographical, soil, climatic, biotic and human interactions in a given area (Source: *International Union for Conservation of Nature Glossary of Definitions*)

“Landscape approaches” seek to provide tools and concepts for allocating and managing land to achieve social, economic, and environmental objectives in areas where agriculture, mining, and other productive land uses compete with environmental and biodiversity goals.”

Leased Land

A piece of land or land parcel granted against a contract for use or occupation for a specified time duration for a specified payment.

Legal Boundary (Forest Area Boundary)

Boundary of a MU, defined in the forests and/or land revenue or any other records of the government.

Local Bodies

Panchayats and Municipalities, by whatever name called, within the meaning of clause (1) of article 243B and clause (1) of article 243Q of the Constitution and in the absence of any Panchayats or Municipalities, institutions of self-government constituted under any other provision of the Constitution or any Central Act or State Act. (Source: *Biological Diversity Act, 2002*)

Local Community

Communities of any size that are in or adjacent to MU, and also those that are close enough to have a significant impact on the economy or the environmental values of the management unit or to have their economies, rights or environments significantly affected by the management activities or the biophysical aspects of the FMU. (Source: *FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2, FSC glossary of terms*)

Local Level Processing

Simple basic processing, storage and other similar activities of non-wood forest produces at initial acquisition from their source area.

Management Plan

Documented information based on the data, reports, surveys, management practices, records and maps that justify, specify objectives, actions, regulate and control arrangements and activities concerning the management within or in relation to land supporting non-wood forest resources and services for a set period of time carried out by any manager, staff or organization.

Working Plan, a written document for a specified area describing the status of existing forest and biodiversity, climatic, edaphic and biotic factors, assessing the impact of past management practices and deciding suitable management interventions and prescribing management practices to conserve and efficiently utilize the forest resources. It aims at continuity of policy & action and controlling treatment of a forest. (Source: *National Working Plan Code, 2014*)

Management Entity

An individual or organisation that is responsible for, or is interested in or helps in, the management, planning and supervision of NWFP operations in a forest area. This individual or organisation may or may not have legal ownership/management rights over the resources in that forest area.

- In case where the entity, has the legal ownership/management rights over the resources in that forest area, it shall include SFD/SFCs, MFP Federations, JFMC or Gram Sabha (Community Forest Resources) who are responsible for conservation and management of the resource. These entities shall have documented arrangement for collection by Self Help Groups, Primary Collector Cooperatives/Groups etc.
- In case where the entity, doesn't have the legal ownership/management rights over the resources in that forest area, it shall have a documented arrangement (MoU, contract, agreement, etc.) with the resource owners or right holders.

Management Unit

A clearly demarcated forest area managed to a set of explicit objectives and according to a long-term forest management plan by a management entity (as defined above). A management unit may cover several hundred hectares to fractions thereof. The entire area of the management unit will have to be clearly demarcated on the ground and usually also on a map. Under the broad objectives to which the entire management unit is subjected, subunits may be managed under different and separate management regimes. (Source: *Bhopal India Process Glossary of Technical Terms*)

Monitoring

Monitoring can be defined as a continuing function that aims primarily to provide the management and main stakeholders of an ongoing intervention with early indications of progress, or lack thereof, in the achievement of results. An ongoing intervention might be a project, programme or other kind of support to an outcome. (Source: *Handbook on Monitoring and Evaluating for Results, United Nations Development Program*)

Nagoya Protocol

The *Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS) to the CBD* is a supplementary agreement to the CBD and entered into force on 12 October 2014. It provides a transparent legal framework for the effective implementation of one of the three objectives of the CBD: the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. (Source: *About the Nagoya Protocol, Convention on Biological Diversity*)

Net Carbon Uptake

The quantity of carbon absorbed or sequestered by the trees over a period of time.

Non-Conformity

Situation in which the audit evidences indicate that operations are not carried out in compliance with a certification criterion. (Source: Annex 1, Normative Document PEFC Terms and Definitions; 27 October 2006)

Non-Wood Forest Produce (also refer non-timber forest products, minor forest produce)

Any product other than wood that is produced in forests and includes fruits and nuts, vegetables, fish and game, medicinal plants, resins, essences and a range of barks and fibres such as bamboo, rattans, and a host of other palms and grasses. (Source: Center for International Forestry Research)

All non-timber forest produce of plant origin including bamboo, brush wood, stumps, cane, tussar, cocoons, honey, wax, lac, tendu or kendu leaves, medicinal plants and herbs, roots, tubers and like. (Source: The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006)

Non-Wood Forest Resource Area

Area from where non-wood forest produce grows and is subsequently harvested for use.

Other Traditional Forest Dweller

Any member or community who has for at least three generations prior to the 13th day of December 2005 primarily resided in and who depend on the forest or forests land for *bona fide* livelihood needs. For the purpose of this clause, 'generation' means a period comprising of twenty-five years. (Source: The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006)

Plantation (Planted Forests)

Trees, forest or other wooded land of introduced species, and in some cases native species, established through planting or seeding mainly for production of wood or non-wood goods.

Note 1: Includes all stands of introduced species established for production of wood or non-wood goods.

Note 2: May include areas of native species characterised by few species, intensive land preparation (e.g. cultivation), straight tree lines and/or even-aged stands.

Note 3: Application of the definition requires consideration of national forestry terminology and legal requirements (Source: Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements, PEFC ST 1003:2010)

Precautionary Approach

A principle which states that lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental damage to habitats or species when there is a threat of serious or irreversible environmental degradation. (Source: IUCN Glossary)

Rare Species

Species that are uncommon or scarce, but not classified as threatened. These species are located in geographically restricted areas or specific habitats or are scantily scattered on a large scale. They are approximately equivalent to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (2001) category of Near Threatened (NT), including species that are close to qualifying for, or are likely to qualify for, a threatened category in the near future. They are also approximately equivalent to imperiled species (Source: IUCN, (2001). IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria: Version 3.1.; FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2; FSC glossary of technical terms)

Regeneration

The act of establishing or enriching vegetation on barren or degraded land/forest naturally or artificially.

a) Artificial Regeneration (AF)

Establishing or enriching forests by artificial methods through seeds or vegetative prorogation. (Source: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/005/Y4171E/Y4171E39.htm>)

b) Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR)

Regenerating secondary forest by protecting and nurturing the mother trees and their wildlings inherently present in the area. It aims to accelerate, rather than replace, natural successional processes by removing or reducing barriers to natural forest regeneration such as soil degradation, competition with weedy species, and recurring disturbances (Source: *Assisted Natural Regeneration of Forests, Food and Agricultural Organization: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/anr/en/>*)

c) Natural Regeneration (NR)

Regeneration of a forest by natural seeding, seed dispersal, coppicing, suckering, etc. without any human intervention. (Source: *Glossary of Centre for Sustainable Forest Management & Forest Certification, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal*)

Scale, Intensity and Risk

Scale refers to the relative size or extent of the FMU and its operational and management activities such as silviculture operations, road building, etc. It also helps in identification and estimation of threshold levels with respect to the activities.

Intensity is based on the level of management activities within the FMU. It is a measure of the force, severity or strength of the impact of a management activity on environmental, social or economic values. In the context of forest management, intensity refers to site disturbing activities, such as disturbance caused by harvesting machinery, removal of trees, soil preparation, planting, use of fertilizers, use of pesticides, etc.

Risk refers to the likelihood or probability of an event with negative consequences or an unacceptable negative impact, caused by any activity in the FMU, to result in a non-compliance at Criteria level. (Source: *Scale, Intensity and Risk (SIR) Guideline for Standard Developers, FSC-GUI-60-002 V1-0*)

Scheduled Areas

‘Such areas as the President may by order declare to be Scheduled Areas’ – as per paragraph 6(1) of the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India. The specification of “Scheduled Areas” in relation to a State is by a notified order of the President, after consultation with the Governor of that State. The same applies in the case of any alteration, increase, decrease, incorporation of new areas, or rescinding any Orders relating to “Scheduled Areas”. At present, Scheduled Areas have been declared in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan. Refer: *Constitutional provision under Article 244 (1) of the Constitution of India. (Source: The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006)*

Scheduled Tribes (or forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes)

Members or community of the Scheduled Tribes who primarily reside in and who depend on the forests or forest lands for *bonafide* livelihood needs and includes the Scheduled Tribe pastoralist communities. (Source: *The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006*)

Snags

The Standing dead trees serving as nesting habitat to birds, mammals, insects, etc. and other organisms. (Source: *Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Snags, Coarse Wood Debris, and Wildlife, Jim Bottorff, DNR Stewardship Wildlife Biologist, 2009*)

Threatened Species

An umbrella term for any species categorised as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. (Source: IUCN, 2012)

Any species that is likely to become extinct within the foreseeable future throughout all or part of its range and whose survival is unlikely if the factors causing numerical decline or habitat degradation continue to operate. (Source: Specially Protected Areas Protocol, 1997)

Stakeholder

An individual, group of individuals or an organization with a common interest, concerned with or affected (covers impacted and/or affected stakeholders) by the operation of an organization, who might experience a direct change in living and/or working conditions caused by implementation of a standard, or a stakeholder who might be a user of a standard and therefore is subject to the requirements of the standard. (Source: ISO 14004, PEFC terms and definitions).

Stakeholder Consultation

It is a dialogue between stakeholders and project implementer. (Source: Stakeholder Engagement: A Good Practice Handbook for Companies Doing Business in Emerging Markets, International Finance Corporation)

Stakeholder Identification

Identifying and listing of project stakeholders representing the different classes including but not limited to UN Agenda 21.

Sustainable Extraction Limit

The sustainably permissible levels of extraction (collection/harvest) of any non-wood forest produce, either by volume or weight, ensuring that the rate of extraction (collection/harvest) does not exceed the calculated rate of long term regeneration and growth.

(Note: Volume that may be extracted (collection/harvest) in any one year. When impact of timber harvest on NWFP is considered, extraction limit will be reduced in most cases, in comparison with a situation in which timber production is the sole consideration. It will depend upon the degree to which timber harvest complements or competes with NWFP production.)

Sustainable Forest Management

The process of managing forest to achieve one or more clearly specified objectives of management with regard to the production of a continuous flow of desired forest products and services without undue reduction of its inherent values and future productivity and without undue undesirable effects on the physical and social environment (Source: Glossary of Center for Sustainable Forest Management & Forest Certification, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal)

Sustainable Use

Use of components of biological diversity in such manner and at rates that does not lead to the long term decline of the biological diversity thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspiration of present and future generations (Source: Biological Diversity Act 2002)

Tenure Claims (Tenure Rights)

A legal claim made on tenure of land and/or natural resources by an individual or group of individuals. Refer to the relevant sections of The Indian Forest Act 1927, The Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 and The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006.

Threatened Species

An umbrella term for any species categorised as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. (Source: IUCN, 2012)

Any species that is likely to become extinct within the foreseeable future throughout all or part of its range and whose survival is unlikely if the factors causing numerical decline or habitat degradation continue to operate. *(Source: Specially Protected Areas Protocol, 1997)*

Unauthorised Activities

An act or practice by a person without a charter, license, permit, registration, or other authority issued or granted by appropriate regulatory authority for which such a charter, license, permit, registration, or other authority is required under the law. (harvesting, hunting, settlement)

Usufruct

Forest produce which comes out of the natural process such as fallen branches, leaves, fruits, and whose harvest does not adversely affect the suitability of the forest resources.

Value Added Products

Products which may contain portions or extracts of plants and animals in unrecognizable and physically inseparable form. *(Source: Biological Diversity Act, 2002)*

Water Courses

The natural or artificial channels through which water flows is called water courses. These may include estuaries, rivers, streams, canals, waterway, etc.

Annex 2: HCV Explanatory Notes (WWF ProForest Toolkit, HCV Network)

Access: <https://proforest.net/proforest/en/files/hcvf-toolkit-part-1-final-updated.pdf>

HCV 1

Concentrations of biological diversity including endemic species, and rare, threatened or endangered species, that are significant at global, regional or national levels.

HCV 2

Landscape-level ecosystems and mosaics. Intact forest landscapes and large landscape-level ecosystems and ecosystem mosaics that are significant at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.

HCV 3

Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, habitats or refugia.

HCV 4

Basic ecosystem services in critical situations, including protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.

HCV 5

Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities or indigenous peoples (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc.), identified through engagement with these communities or indigenous peoples

HCV 6

Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or indigenous peoples, identified through engagement with these local communities or indigenous peoples.