

# Webinar on Forest Certification

## *Forest Certification -An Introduction*

**Maharashtra State Forest Department**

**Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests**

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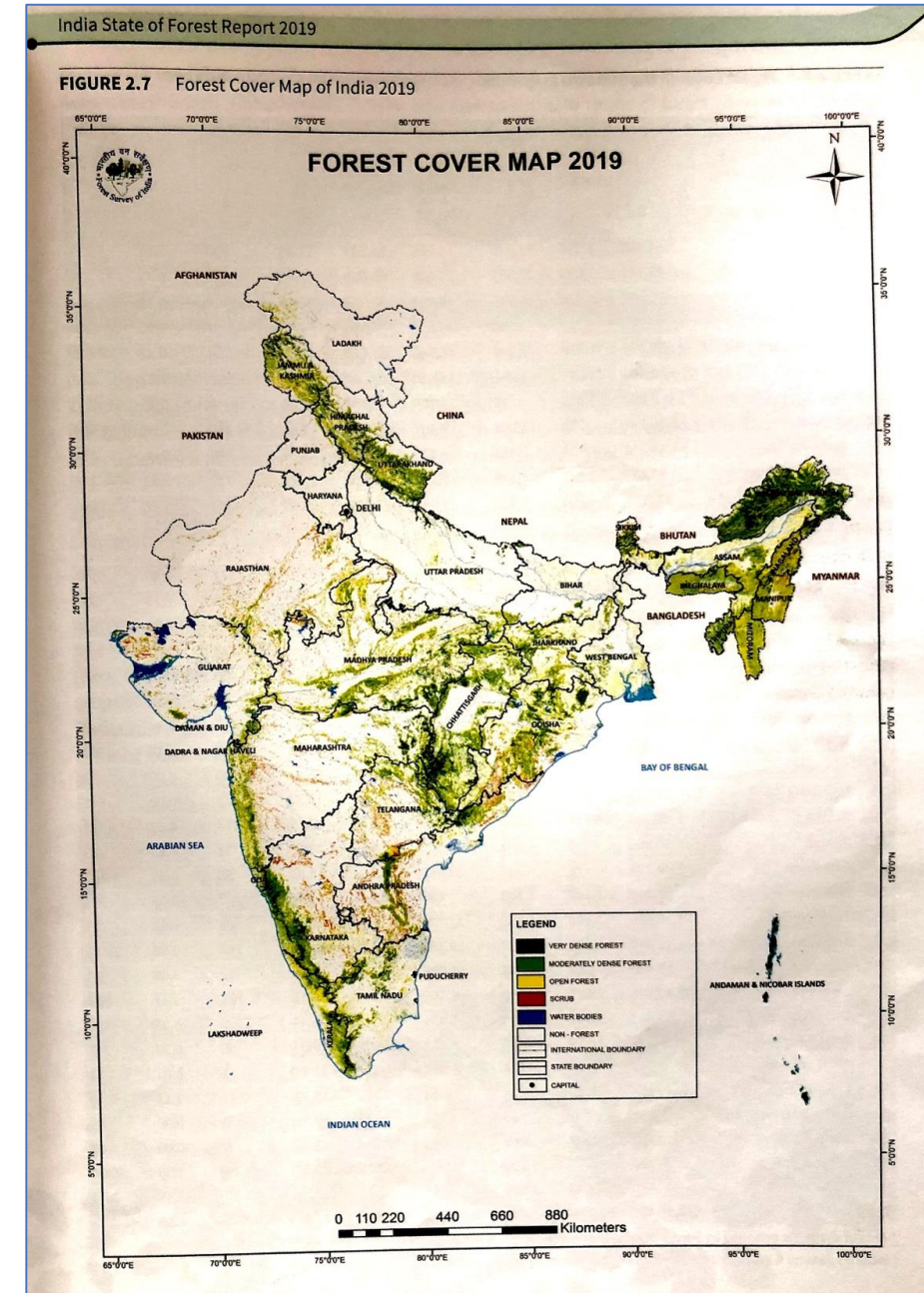
Chairperson, NCCF-NWFP SDG





# India's Forest Wealth

- ✓ Globally, India stands at 10th position accounting for **2% of Total Forest Cover** of the world
- ✓ As per India State of Forest Report 2019:  
**Forest & Tree Cover = 80.72 Mha (24.56% of GA)**
- ✓ FFV 1.73 lakh of the total 6.5 Lakh villages
- ✓ **Protected Areas Network** 868 PAs spread over 16.5 Mha (5.02 % of GA) NPs, WLS, Conservation & Community Reserves
- ✓ **Maharashtra**
  - ✓ 2<sup>nd</sup> largest RFA, 5<sup>th</sup> largest FTC
  - ✓ **76% FA under Approved Working Plans (65% India)**
  - ✓ PA ~15% of RFA
  - ✓ FRA IR – 1lakh ha, CR – 10 Lakh ha. (**CFR -7 lakh ha.**)



# Forests and GDP

**Use of Natural Resources/Environmental costs not considered in GDP computations**

- ✓ **Forests in GDP - 2.6% in 1950s ; 1.7% in 2010**
- ✓ **Reasons for low contribution:**
  - Accounting method – Ecosystem Services?
  - Conservation oriented management practices
  - Low productivity of forests;
  - Unrecorded production
  - Higher growth of economy in other sectors
  - Import tariffs facilitating imports of wood & wood products
- ✓ **How to increase contribution:**
  - Improve management & accounting
  - Increasing productivity of forests
  - Correct valuation of forest products & ecosystem services
  - Promoting domestic wood-based industries
  - **Using Forest Certification as a improvement tool**



# Goods and Services from Forests

- Food supplements, MAP
- Fresh Water
- Wood, bamboo & other fibre
- Fodder/Fuel



Provisioning  
Services


Regulating  
Services


Ecosystem  
Services from  
Forests

Supporting  
Services

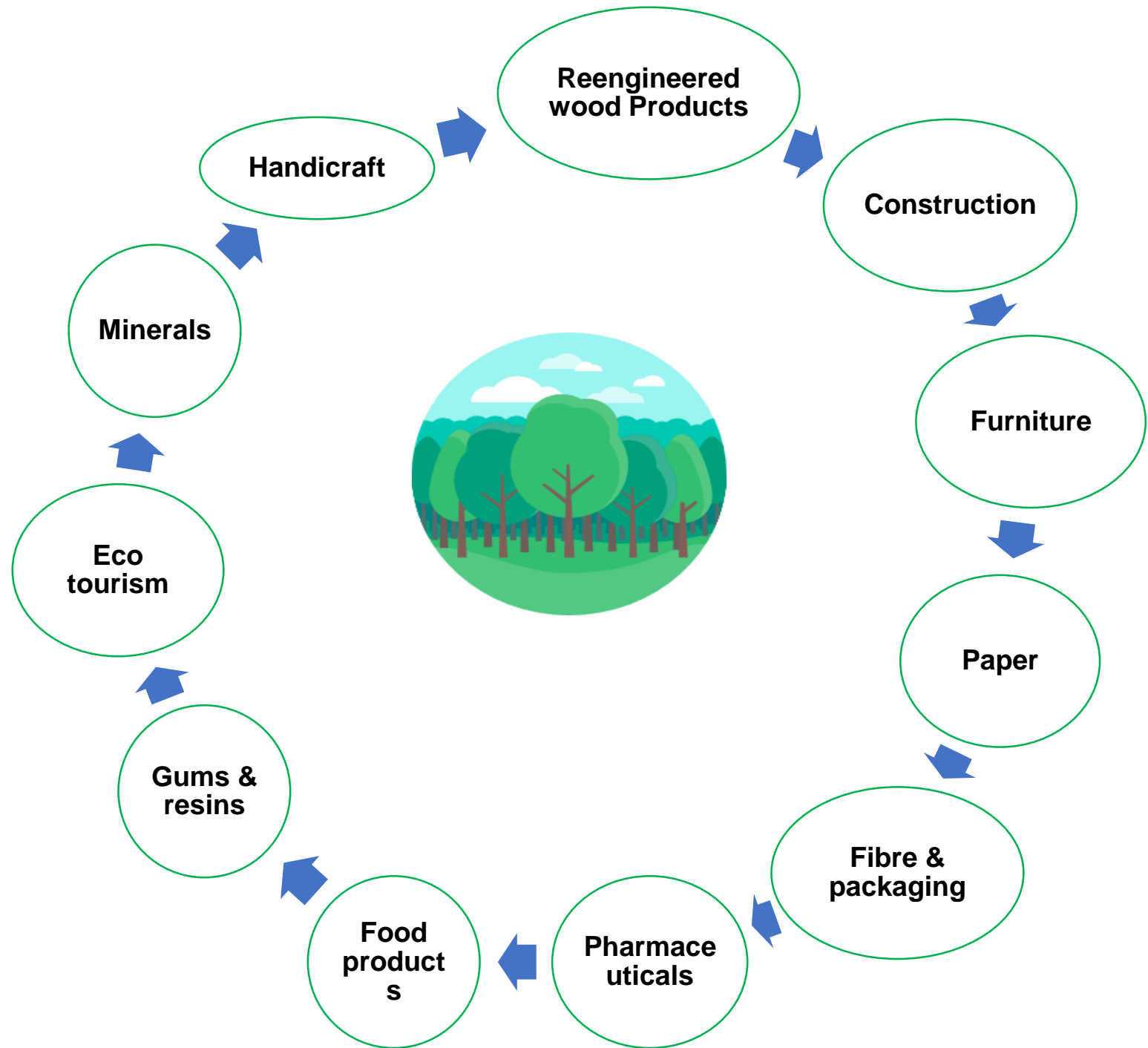
Cultural  
Services

- 
- Climate Regulation
  - Water Purification
  - Biological Control
  - Pollination
  - Air Quality Regulation
  - Waste Assimilation

- 
- Nutrient Cycling
  - Soil Formation
  - Primary Production

- 
- Aesthetic
  - Spiritual
  - Educational
  - Recreational

# Forests contributing to Industrial Growth

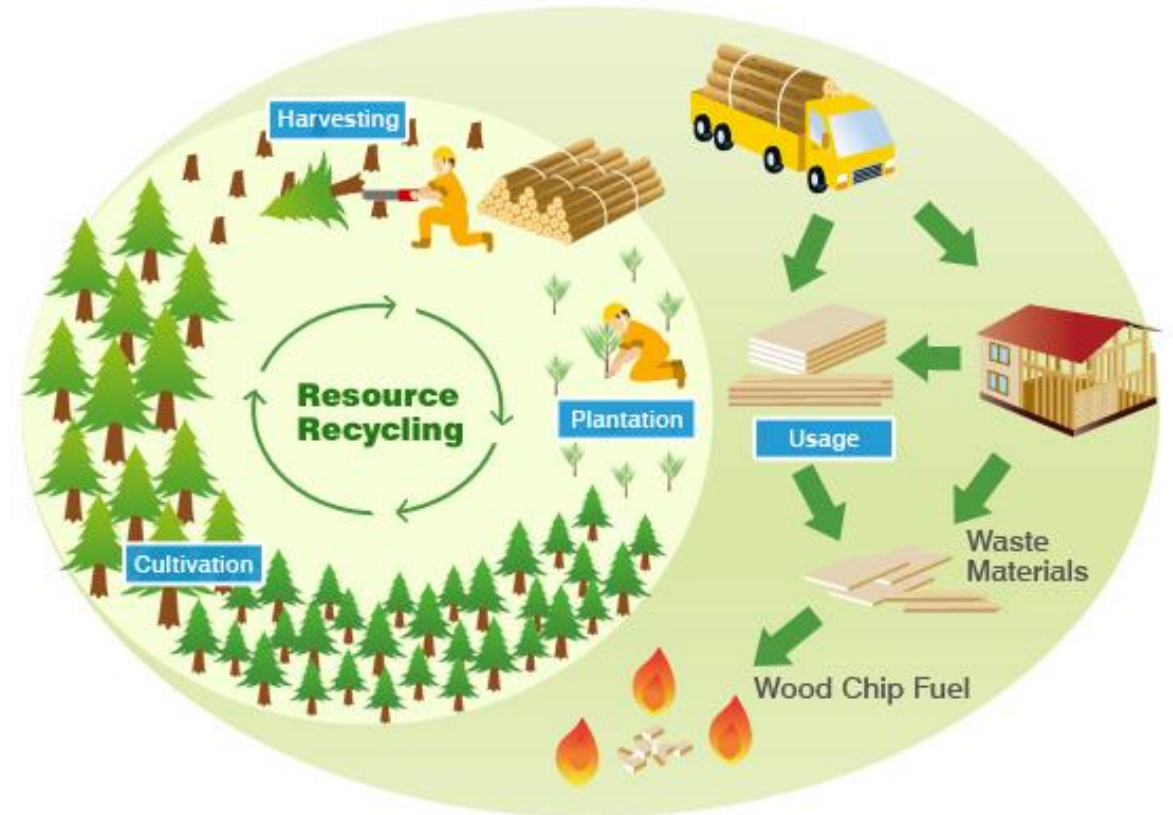


# Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

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

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

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



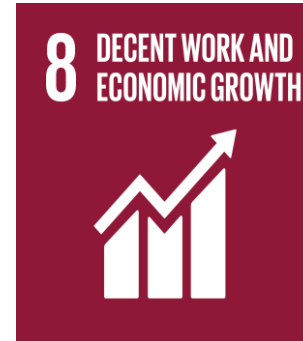
***“National Working Plan Code 2014” promotes sustainable management of forests and biodiversity***



# Role of SFM in meeting India's International Commitments

- ✓ **Sustainable Development Goals:** Strengthen the positive contributions that forests play in achieving SDGs, particularly no poverty, zero hunger, climate action, life on land and combating desertification
- ✓ **Article 5 of Paris Agreement** recognizes REDD+ as a fundamental element, for tackling climate change as well as to conserve and enhance Biological Carbon Reservoir of forests and other ecosystems
  - ✓ **Nationally Determined Contribution** additional 2.5 - 3 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub> eq. by 2030 through additional forest and tree cover
- ✓ **Bonn Challenge** restoring 21 Mha of degraded and deforested land by 2030  
(enhanced to 26 Mha by Hon'ble Prime Minister during COP14 of UNCCD, New Delhi, 2019)

# SFM contributing to SDGs



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



## SDG 15.2 (SFM) Target:

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



## Indicator 15.2.1 Progress towards SFM

### Sub indicators:

Forest area under long term  
Management Plan

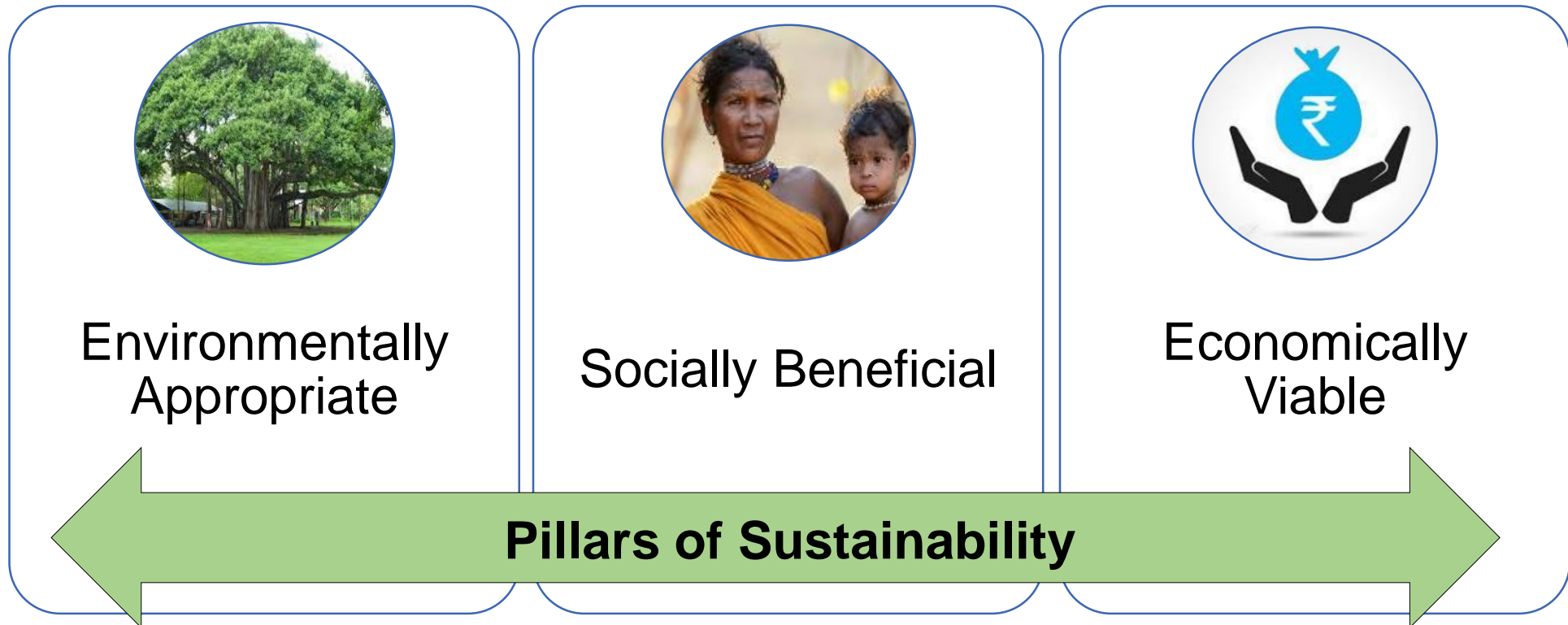
Forest area certified

...



# Certification: A Tool for Sustainable Forest Management

**Forest Certification:** “A voluntary process whereby an *independent third party* assesses **quality of forest management** and production against a set of requirements – **standards** predetermined by a certification organization”



# Components of a Credible Certification System

A credible certification system has **three distinct functions**, performed by independent organizations

## **Standard Setting:** [Scheme – FSC, NCCF-PEFC]

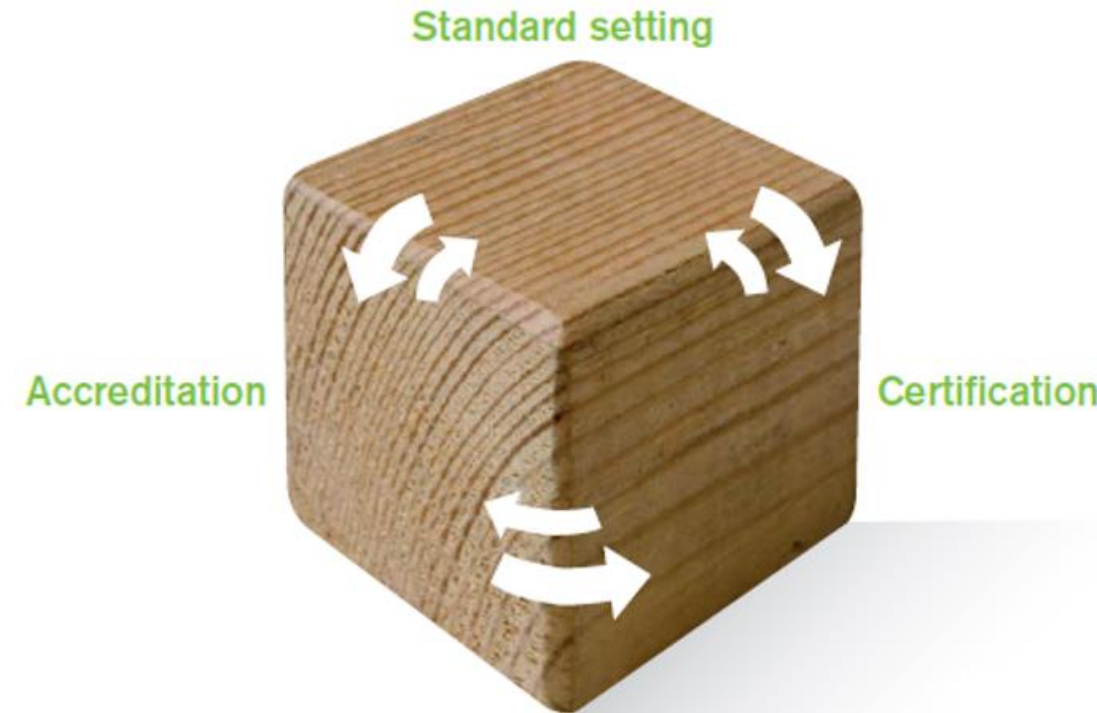
Multi-stakeholder process –  
defining certification requirements (P C I v)

## **Certification:**

Checking fulfilling “standard” requirements;  
by Certification Bodies

## **Accreditation:**

Assessing the competence of CBs;  
by an independent Accreditation Body  
[For India: National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies]

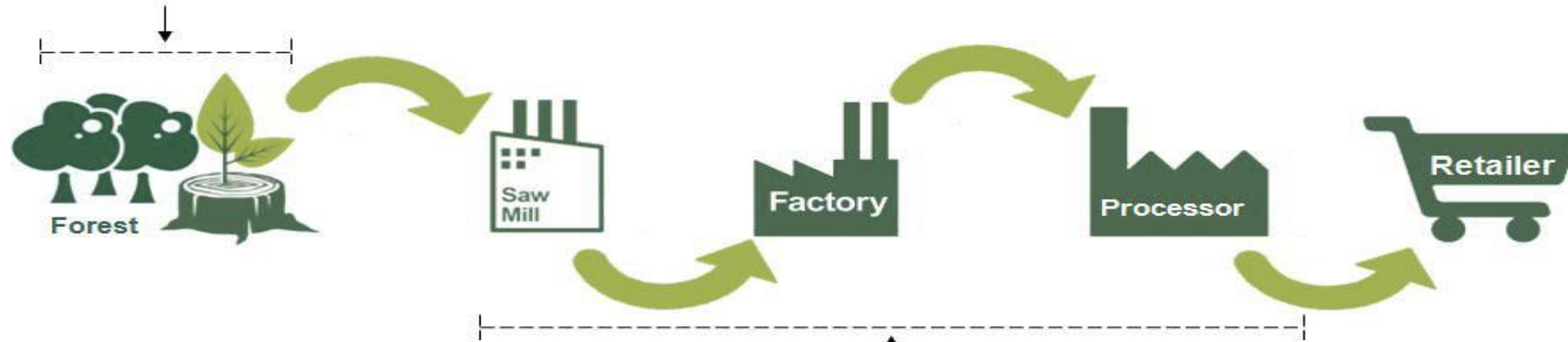


# Forest Certification system

## A: Forest Management Unit (FMU) certification

Process leading to issuance of Certificate by an accredited CB, which assesses forests as per the “standards” C I v – Owners, Managers, Right holders

### Forest Management (FM) certification



### Chain of Custody (COC) certification

## B: Chain of Custody certification (CoC)

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

Forest – Primary & Secondary Manufacturers- Traders- Retailers

# International demand for products from Responsibly Managed Forests

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

## Two aspects of responsible trade management:

### 1. Demand Side:

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

### 2. Supply Side:

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

**Need for consumer awareness, people's movement and promoting use of certified products**



# Forest Certification Schemes: Worldwide Voluntary

## Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

Standard setter and sets its own global standards

Standards are Governed by their own members

Fixed Principles and Criteria



## Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)

Not a standard setter but mutually recognizes the National Schemes – endorsement process

Standards are governed by individual country's stakeholders

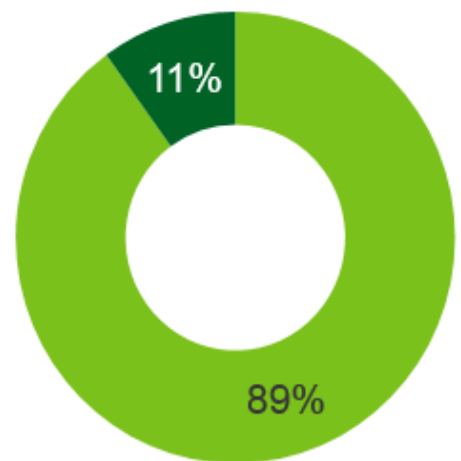
Has endorsed **46** National SFM Certification schemes  
China, Malaysia, Thailand, USA, Canada, Indonesia etc.  
and India

**NCCF is the member of PEFC for developing  
(internationally benchmarked) SFM standard for India**

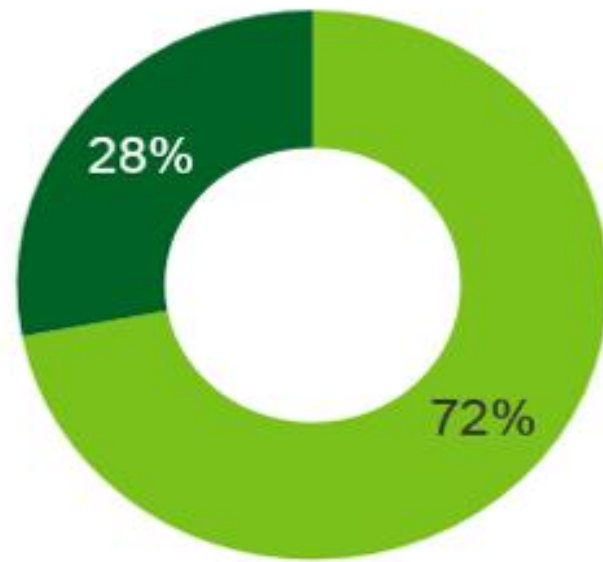


# Forest Certification - Global Situation

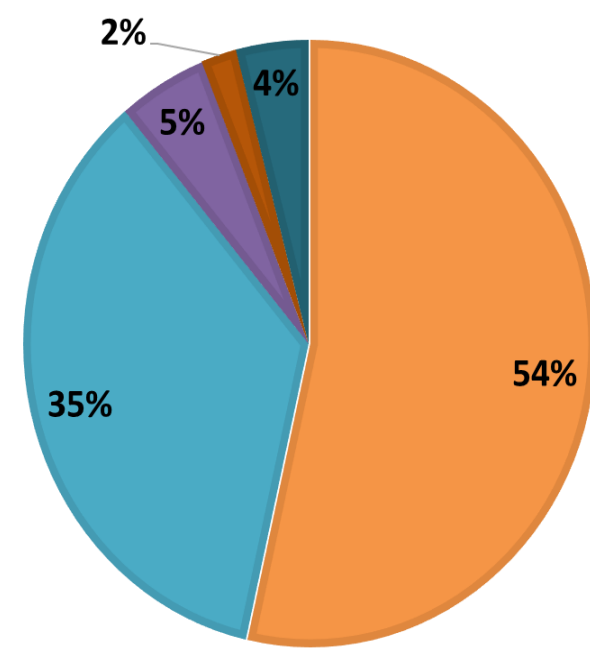
Globally, 525 million hectares (11%) of forests are certified



11% of the world's forest are certified



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



North America Europe Asia Central and South America Oceania

Data as of September 2019

# Total Certified Areas in India

Organisation	State	Area (ha.)	Type
<i>Uttar Pradesh Forest Corporation (UPFC)</i>	<i>Uttar Pradesh</i>	<i>4,50,000</i>	<i>Government Forests comprising 41 Territorial and SF Divisions</i>
M.P. Rajya Van Vikas Nigam	Madhya Pradesh	1,02,785	Government Plantation Forest – 02 Forest Divisions
ITC PSPD	Telangana	37,089	Private Group/SLIMF certification
International Papers APPM	Andhra Pradesh	33,636	Private Group/SLIMF certification
JK Paper Mills	Odisha	4,217	Private Group/SLIMF certification
SARA (West Coast Paper Mills)	Karnataka	6,862	Private Group/SLIMF certification
New Ambadi Estate Pvt Ltd	Tamil Nadu	688	Private Rubber Plantation
Tamil Nadu Paper Limited	Tamil Nadu	3,131.28	Privately owned Group/SLIMF certification
<b>Total area certified</b>		<b>6,38,408</b>	
<i>Tripura Forest development and Plantation Corporation (NCCF FM certification in process)</i>	<i>Tripura</i>	<i>7027</i>	<i>Government owned Rubber Plantations</i>

## Chain of Custody (31 Certificates)

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

Few Names of Industries:

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

# Benefits of Forest Certification

Environmental	Social	Management & Economic
Pesticides etc. controlled use - No to WHO banned	Emphasis on occupational health and safety	Independent validation of / Improve implementation of Working Plan &
Safe collection and disposal of plastics, toxic wastes	Ensures social equity and livelihood opportunities to local communities incl. tribal and other forest dwellers	Regular (Annual) monitoring of key activities
Enhanced Management of Eco sensitive zones and High Conservation Value (HCV) Forests	Enhanced worker productivity amenities, for workers/legal wages	Focused Training and Capacity Building Managers / Front line Staff / Workers
Prevention of water, air and soil pollution	Capacity building for local communities and women	Brand recognition, preference and value addition due to use of certification logo
Preserves water catchment and water bodies	Compliance with internationally recognized labour laws	Potential access to new markets



## Forest Certification Initiatives in India

- ✓ MoEF (2007) National Forest Certification Committee headed by Dr. Maharaj Muthoo, a veteran professional forester, and Forest Certification Expert
- ✓ The Committee recommended measures to promote forest certification in India.
- ✓ MOEF (2011-12) Initiated the process for establishment Indian Forest Certification Council but ...the idea was shelved after significant progress
- ✓ NCCF, a Network of professionals and experts, has developed an internationally benchmarked Indian Forest Certification Scheme endorsed by PEFC and launched in 2018.

CAF Rules 2018 {5(3)(k)} *Forest certification and development of certification standards* are eligible activities for utilizing State Compensatory Afforestation Funds.

May & December 2019 – DGF & Special Secretary, MOEF&CC has written to all SFDs to initiate forest certification in some divisions, having economic activities, like extraction of timber, NWFP and bamboo etc.

## Forest Certification way forward

### **Certification is voluntary and needs promotion / facilitation**

- ✓ Sensitizing the Forest Managers – tool for achieving SFM, systemic improvements, social & other benefits
- ✓ Awareness creation among key stakeholders including wood Product Industries
- ✓ Outreach to industrial houses using certified timber  
Maharashtra is producing app. 90-95 '000 CUM timber annually including Teak, Shisham, Kendu.  
Also sizable quantities of bamboo (many bamboo areas settled under CFR)
- ✓ Government need to give preference to certified wood products in public procurements - part of green initiatives

# Thank You

**Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF)**

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