



# Online Workshop on Forest Certification for Maharashtra Forest Department

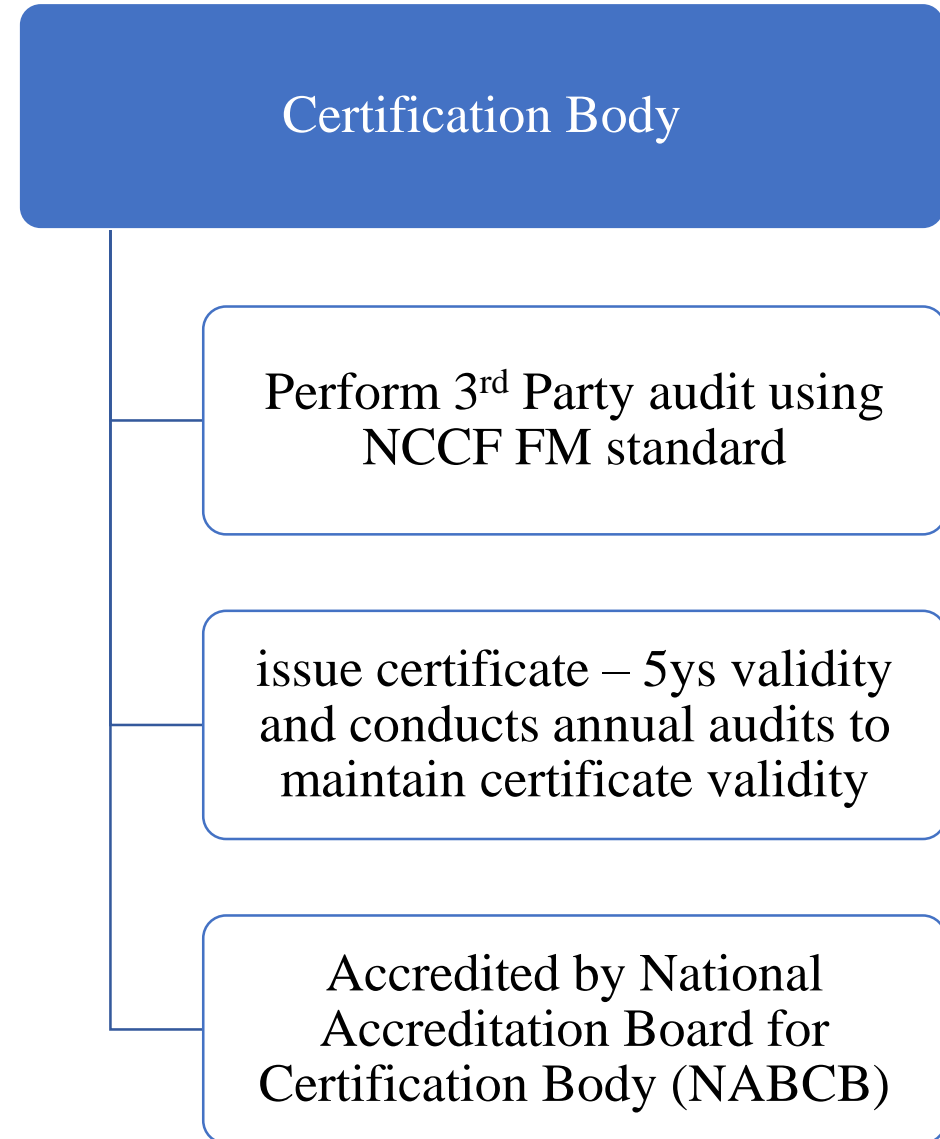
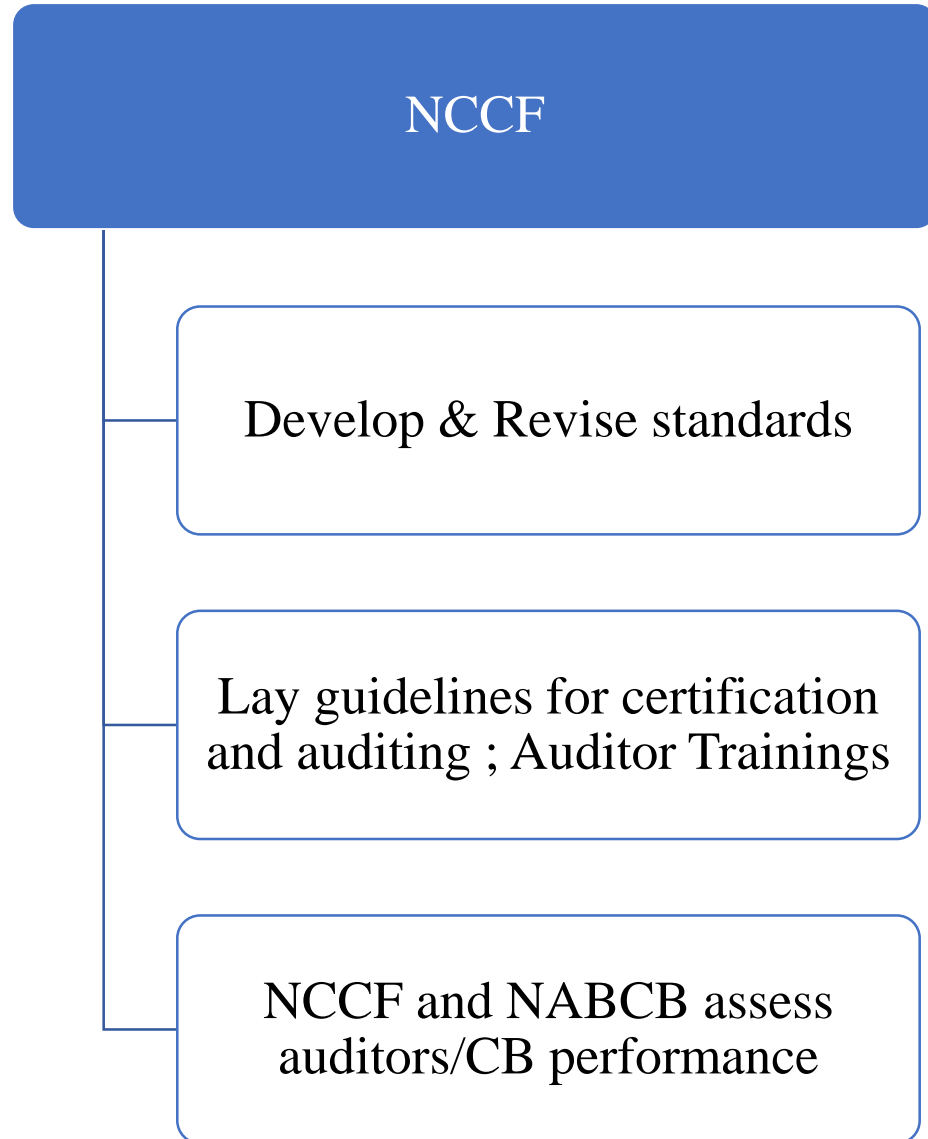
## Modalities and Certification Procedure for NCCF Forest Management Certification Scheme - (*PEFC endorsed*)

Date:- 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020

Presented by:- Ms Taruna, Lead Forest Management Auditor and SDG member, NCCF Forest Management Standard Development Group (SDG)



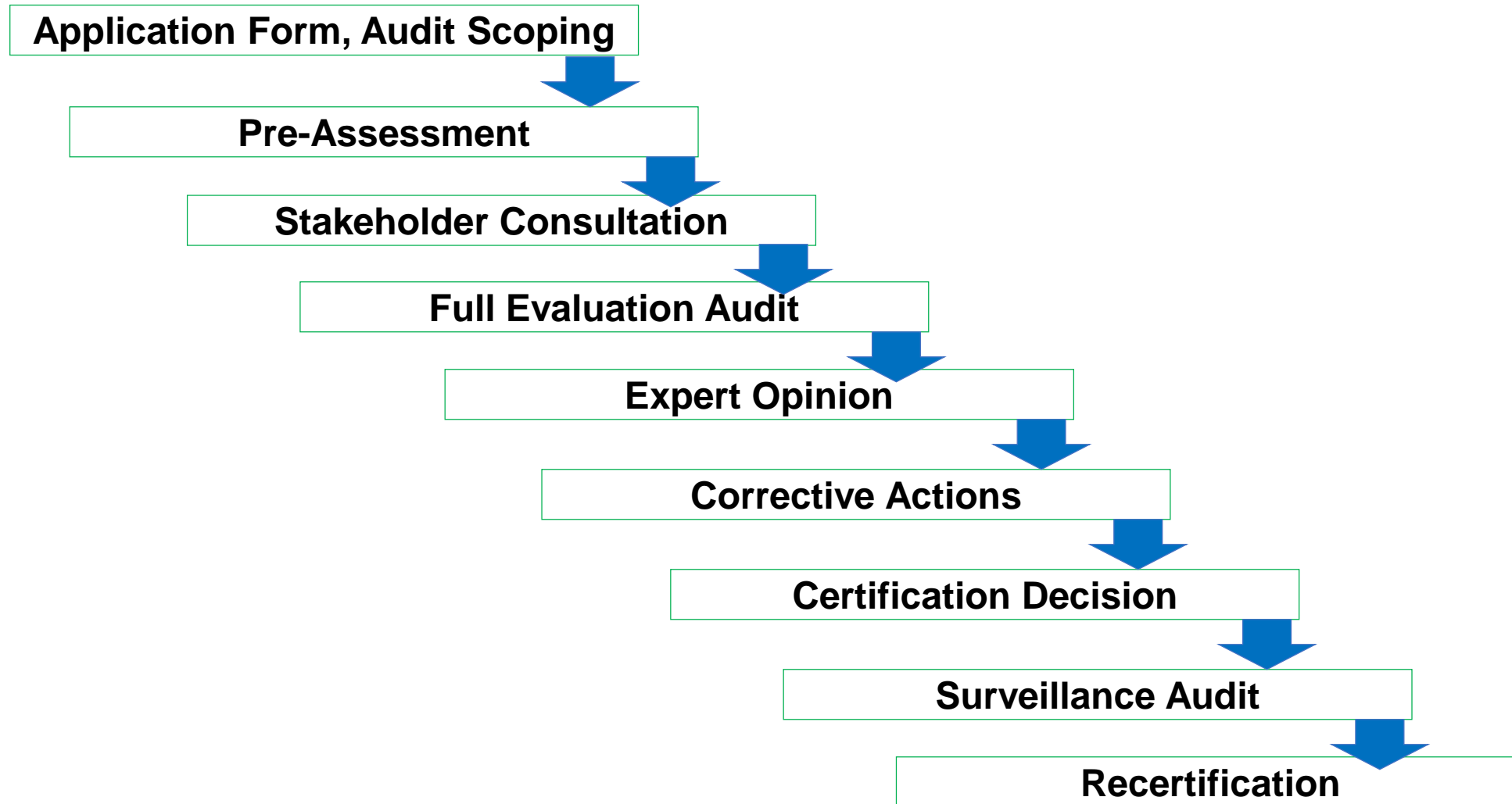
# Who's Who?



# Steps for initiating Forest Certification

1. Identify Forest Divisions with approved working plan -: Industry relevant spp.
2. Inform NCCF and seek assistance where required
3. Selecting a Certification Body for Audit
  1. Tender Process
  2. One-off basis
4. NCCF to share draft Tender document detailing technical requirements for bidder/CB
5. State Forest Department and NCCF
  1. Publish Tender on website
  2. Circulate Tender documents among accredited CBs
6. Setting up CB selection committee – representation from NCCF & NABCB to evaluate technical proposal received
7. Awarding Tender

# Forest Certification Process : Step by Step



# Audit Scoping for Forest Certification

The three type of FM Certificates available to organizations are:

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

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

## Pre-Assessment

- Technical meeting, Selection of sites, Audit planning, Gap analysis – Report detailing areas of strength and weakness

## Stakeholder Consultation

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

## Full Evaluation Audit

- Preparatory Communications and Document Review; Technical Meeting; Field Visits
- Visiting sites & locations – harvesting sites, new plantations, natural forest patches, ANR, nurseries, depots, water bodies, areas with conservation areas, JFMCs, primary processing unit. Wildlife corridors, tracking & tracing system for timber harvested, etc.
- Consultation with stakeholders, tribals, forest dwellers, workers, staff, etc.
- 5-6 days on field- depending upon NCCF audit man-days requirement as per forest area

## Reporting

- Convey evaluation results to applicant, peer reviewer, certification decision-making entity, stakeholders, and NCCF
- Submit Draft Report to client within **45 days** of audit for review
- Client to submit confirmation to CB on Draft Report within **30 days** of submission
- Final Report to client within **75 days** of date of audit.

## Non-Conformities and Corrective Action Requests

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

## Certification Decision

- Based on audit findings certification decision is taken; Certificate issued for 5 years Validity; NCCF/PEFC Logo Usage

## Surveillance Audit

- CB conducts 4 annual surveillance audits to maintain certificate validity

## Re-Certification

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

## Special Audits

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

## Suspending, withdrawing or reducing scope of certification

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

Select one: ☐ Major CAR ☒ Minor CAR ☐ Observation

FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):

Deadline

- ☐ Pre-condition to certification/recertification  
☐ 3 months from Issuance of Final Report  
☒ 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation)  
☐ Observation – response is optional  
☐ Other deadline (specify):

NCCF Indicator:

2.1.2. The FMU boundaries shall be clearly demarcated in the field and distinctly marked on maps.

**Non-Conformity:** The audit team while visiting two Forest Divisions observed that fences of Sales Depot and nursery were damaged at many places, providing easy access to thieves and wild animals. Premises of both the Sales Depot and Nursery are located in the elephant corridor, and thus prone to damage by elephants and other wild animals. Incursion by wild animals especially elephants pose serious threat to the FME property and to the lives of staff working in the depot and nursery. Damage due to trampling of nursery seedlings by wild animals including elephants is common in the Nursery.

**Corrective Action Request:** The FME shall ensure that measures are in place and well taken to ensure that no illegal and unauthorized activities take place inside the FME's operations and interfere with its management and protection objectives.

FME response  
(including any  
evidence submitted)



Select one: ☐ Major CAR ☒ Minor CAR ☐ Observation

FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):

Deadline

☐ Pre-condition to certification/recertification

☐ 3 months from Issuance of Final Report

☒ 12 months or next audit (surveillance or re-evaluation)

☐ Observation – response is optional

☐ Other deadline (specify):

NCCF Indicator: 8.3.3. The FME shall have written field guidelines for retention of harvest residue (lops and tops, limbs, slash etc.) as well as other biomass on site while considering economic, social and environmental factors (e.g. organic and nutrient value to future forests and the increased combustible fuel load build-up in forests).

**Non-Conformity:** The FME has not any written guidelines for the retention of the harvest residue.

**Corrective Action Request):** The FME shall have written guidelines for retention of harvest residue as well as other biomass on site.

FME response  
(including any  
evidence submitted)

GIPL review

Status of CAR:

☐ Closed


☐ Upgraded to Major

☐ *Other decision (refer to description above)*

## Some Impact Findings & Status of Certification

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

# Certificate for UPFC

	<h2>CERTIFICATE</h2>	 
<p>AWARDED TO</p> <h3>UTTAR PRADESH FOREST CORPORATION (UPFC)</h3> <p>Aranya Vikas Bhawan, 21/475, Indira Nagar, Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)</p> <p>For compliance with NCCF-STD-01 Forest Management Certification Standard</p> <p><b>CERTIFICATE CODE: GIPL-FM-0001</b></p> <p><b>Valid from: 13 February 2020</b> <b>Expiry Date: 12 February 2025</b></p> <p><b>Scope of Certificate:</b> This certificate covers 41 Forest Divisions (450405.31 ha) (Refer addendum for names)</p> <p><b>Applicable standard(s):</b> NCCF-STD-01 Forest Management Certification Standard</p> <p><b>Products/Species:</b> Refer addendum</p>		
<p><small>This certificate itself does not constitute evidence that a product supplied by the certificate holder is NCCF FM certified. Products offered, shipped or sold by the certificate holder can only be considered by the scope of this certificate when the certification claim is clearly stated on sales and delivery documents and the validity of the certificate and list of products included in scope can be found and verified on website. The certificate shall remain the property of GICIA India Pvt. Ltd. and this certificate and all copies or reproductions of this certificate shall be returned to GICIA India Pvt. Ltd. immediately upon request.</small></p>		
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Authorized Signatory</b>  <b>Upendra Kishwan, CEO</b></p>		
<p style="text-align: right;"><small>Validity of this certificate may be checked with GICIA India Pvt Ltd. 505, 5th Floor, Matrix Tower, B - 4, Sector - 132, Mohda - 201304 (U.P.), India Phone: 0520- 6750612/13</small></p>		
<p><small>1. Use (Addendum to list the sites) 2. This certificate is valid for a period of 5 years subject to successful completion of annual surveillance audits after the initial certification</small></p>		



# Thank You!!

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**Contact:**

Ms Taruna

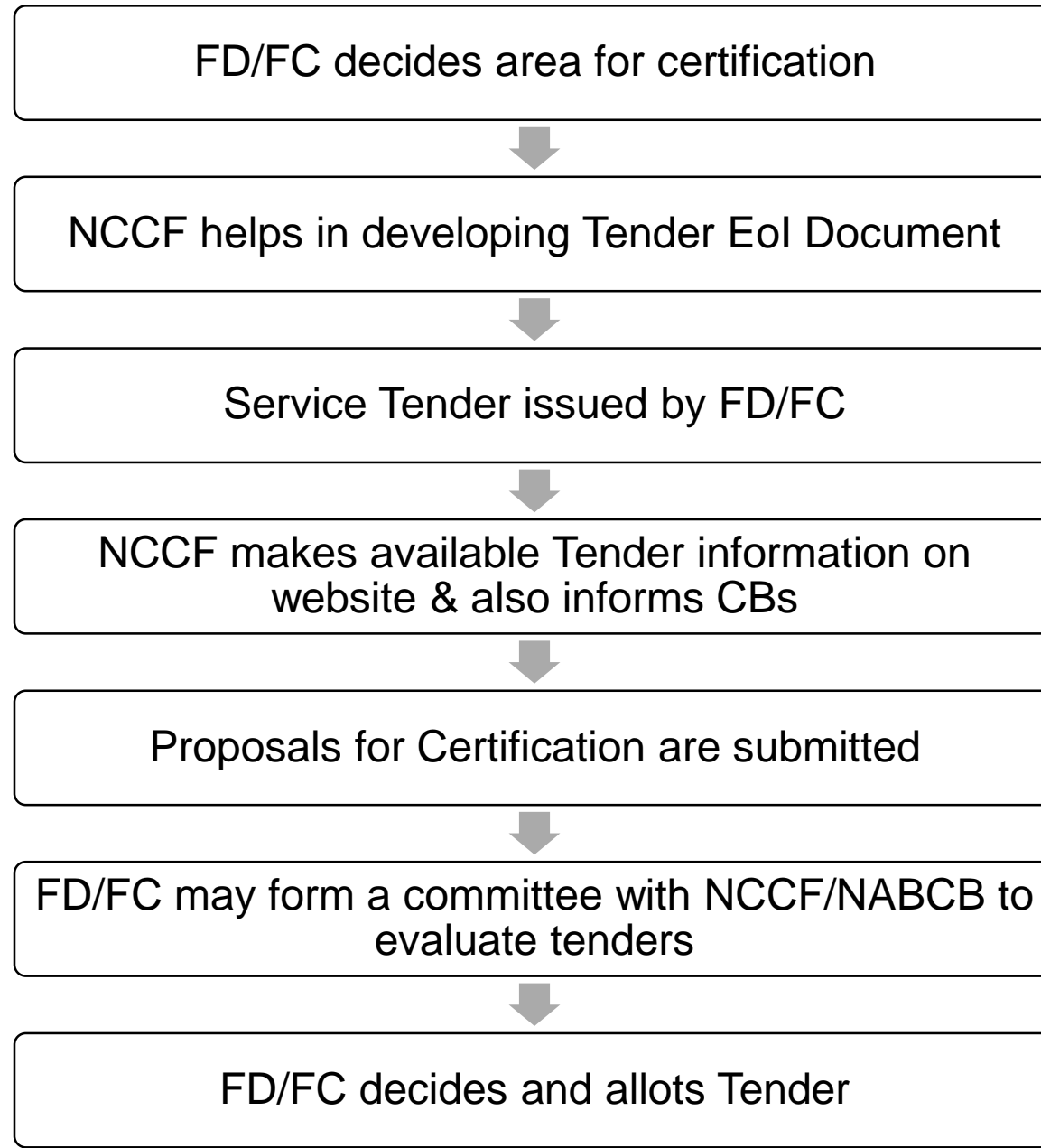
Email: [taruna@gicia.org](mailto:taruna@gicia.org)

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

## Modalities of NCCF-PEFC FM Certification

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

# Tendering Process





# Selection of a Certification Body

Inviting proposals from Eligible Certification Bodies (CB)

## **Option 1:**

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

## **Option 2:**

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

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

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