EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR AUDITORS AND OBSERVERS
Pilot Testing for Draft Trees Outside Forests Certification Standard

NCCF calls for the participation of the interested and relevant stakeholders for the Pilot testing of the NCCF's Trees Outside Forests Certification Standard in the capacity of:-

1. Lead Auditor
2. Observer

Interested Candidates may submit their CVs to the following email address or post it to the address as under by 31ᵗʰ August 2018

Email	tof.mail@nccf.in
Address	**505, 5ᵗʰ Floor, Matrix Tower, Plot B4, Sector 132, (Opp. Jaypee Hospital), 201304 Uttar Pradesh**

Eligibility

- **Observer-** To observe the process of the Pilot Testing of the Standards; the observer, would be a person of significant experience and stature from the field of forestry, agriculture, knowledge and experience about certification will be preferred.
- Members of TOF SDG/TWG/NCCF

- **TOF Team members**
  The candidates must be a qualified auditor and those fulfilling the following profile can send in their CVs to be the TOF team members for this pilot test:
  a. Having auditing experience in the Forest Management Certification, Agriculture Certification schemes, any other related certification scheme etc.
  b. With significance expertise and experience in the field of sustainability certification preferably forest, agriculture
  c. Having experience in review of the Forest Management Certification Assessment reports of similar nature including FSC, PEFC or other conformity assessment scheme

Tasks

The whole process will be conducted under the overall guidance and supervision of the Chairman, TOF, SDG who would be in charge of the process as well as outcomes and their interpretation.

A training on the TOF certification standard will be conducted for the teams at the administrative office of NCCF to familiarise them with the standard. The auditors/observers willing to participate in the pilot testing will be expected to undertake the following tasks:

a. The team will contact the respective Pilot Testing Site/Area staff and coordinate with them regarding logistics and audit
b. Assess the LMUs against the Criteria, Principles and Indicators of the Draft TOF Certification Standard
c. Conduct the field test according the Work Plan
d. Prepare a draft Field Test Report in the official English language and submit the same to the NCCF
e. Review of pilot testing reports and compilation of all issues, comments and results of certification decisions

Conditions for participation

a. NCCF shall have the right to publish a report on the results of the pilot tests, which may include observations about the cost of implementation of the draft standard, as well as details about the ease or difficulty of implementation. This report shall be publicly available.
b. NCCF will bear the travel, boarding and logistics expenses of the auditors.
c. NCCF will pay a per diem honorarium to auditors for the pilot testing process.
d. No payments for participation shall be made to the observers, who have to make arrangements for their travel and logistics.
e. All local expenses will be borne by NCCF

Timelines

Expected start date – September 2018

Background

Tree outside Forest (TOF) is a versatile natural resource and as important as our natural forest. Their management is a bigger challenge because of wide spread landscape, fragmentary nature and unincorporated information into any databases. Global attention on forest resources has increased manifold where as our attention on tree outside forests has remain diffused as intrinsically these are multi-sectoral and multipurpose.

It is believed that bringing TOF in purview of certification will eliminate the market barriers, support farmers and private tree growers for optimum price and also install some of the best management practices to grow and manage TOF.

The SDG for TOF under the chairmanship of *Dr Devendra Pandey, ex PCCF & HoFF, Arunachal Pradesh and ex DG, Forest Survey of India* has prepared the Draft TOF Certification Standard through a consultative process, SDG meetings, online as well as through regional workshops.

The Standard Setting Process of the NCCF makes it mandatory to pilot test draft standards in the field conditions, before the standards are finalized and launched for use by the certification bodies.

Proposed Areas for pilot testing

The following states /divisions have been proposed by the TWG and accepted by the SDG and NCCF for pilot testing, subject to availability of funds and concurrence of the respective sites/areas

S.No	Pilot Testing Site
1.	Tamil Nadu News Print and Papers Limited
2.	Saharanpur and Yamuna Nagar
3.	Plantations along Indira Gandhi Canal (Bikaner belt)
4.	New Delhi

Pilot Testing

The primary objective of the Pilot Testing is:

a. Test the draft TOF Certification Standard **in the field** and gather the **outcomes** including:
   i. Is it possible to apply the standards in practices
   ii. Problems in implementation
   iii. Reasons for problem in implementation
   iv. Solutions to improve the situation

The secondary objectives of the Pilot Testing are:

a. To check the suitability, relevance and adaptability of the standard in the multitude of conditions and identifying the lacunae.
b. To assess the applicability and degree of implementabilty of the standard in the variant conditions and to identify the gaps in the above objectives
c. To identify regional variants in the adaptability of the standard and to assign specific verifiers for region centric application and use.
d. Contact / engagement of the disadvantaged stakeholders to solicit their comments and see the area of improvement
e. Supply SDG with the comprehensive report providing area of conformance, non -conformance and non-applicability of standard in diverse forest conditions.
f. Providing exposure to larger pool of potential auditors and standard implementers, to encourage familiarity with the standard.
g. Identifying the major sections getting non-conformance during the field testing but for whom conformance can be achieved after a specific interval and changes in the practices.

About NCCF

The Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF) is a non-profit organisation registered under the Societies' Registration Act, 1860, with the main objective of developing a globally aligned country specific voluntary certification programmes in India addressing the concerns for sustainable management of forests and the trees outside forests. We are also engaged in diverse conservation activities and policy advocacy on important matters concerning forestry, natural resource management, biodiversity conservation and emerging environmental issues.

It is an institutional mechanism to ensure collaborative, streamlined and participatory efforts are taken for development of Nation specific Forest Certification scheme and standards. The NCCF standards shall become tools for monitoring and assessment of Forest management practices within the country.

NCCF has developed Certification Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) through a multi-stakeholder Standard Development Group, represented by distinguished professional foresters, representatives from the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) and the Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Quality Council of India, distinguished professional foresters, representatives of the State Forest Departments and State Forest Development Corporations, IUCN, WWF, CII, Indian Papers Manufacturers Association (IPMA), ITC-PSPD, Export Promotions Council for Handicrafts (EPCH), Chemical and Allied Export Promotion Council of India (CAPEXIL),CIBART, certification bodies and many more.

The standard for Sustainable Forest Management developed by NCCF was released at New Delhi on 13th January 2018, through a National Conference on Forest Certification. Further, NCCF is simultaneously developing voluntary Standards for sustainable management of Trees Outside Forests (TOF), Non-Wood Forests Products (NWFPs) and the Protected Areas and Wetlands (PAWs).