

**Pilot Testing of the Forest Management  
Certification Standard (Version 1.0)**

**March 2017**

## Pilot testing of Draft NCCF FM Standard

After undergoing the public consultation for 60 days during (<http://nccf.in/past-consultations/>), NCCF released an EOI on website for the Pilot testing of the post consultation revised SFM Standard ( V1.1) for all the members for their participation in the pilot testing in capacity of an Auditor and Observer.

The Standard setting Process of the NCCF makes it mandatory to pilot test the draft standards in the field conditions. The overall objective of the Pilot is to test the draft 1 of the National Forest Management Certification Standards in the field and the outcome of the proposed Pilot would be to see the applicability of the standard on the field

Some Broad objectives of pilot testing were:

- To check the suitability, relevance and adaptability of the standard in the multitude of conditions and identifying the lacunae.
- To assess the applicability and degree of implementability of the standard in the variant conditions and to identify the gaps in the above objectives
- To identify Regional variants in the adaptability of the standard and to assign specific verifiers for region centric application and use.
- Contact / engagement of the disadvantaged stakeholders to solicit their comments and see the area of improvement
- Providing exposure to larger pool of potential auditors and standard implementers, to encourage familiarity with the standard.
- The field testing of the first draft of the national adapted Indicators will provide an additional opportunity to engage forest owners, companies, directly affected stakeholders and other interested parties in the national standard development process.
- 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.

After much deliberations, the following Forest divisions were shortlisted, approached and provided permission for the Pilot testing of the standard draft –

1. Dandeli Forest Division, Karnataka
2. Nagaon Forest Division, Assam
3. Hoshangabad Forest Division, Madhya Pradesh

ICFRE and WWF also nominated their representatives for the Auditing team in the capacity of the observers.

The areas were assessed and marked by the team as :-

Observable (O) :	evidence for conformance to the indicator is observable in the field . The FME may or may not be compiled with that indicator but the assessment team can check for conformance based on available information
Non Observable (NO) :	available information is insufficient to verify wheather the indicator can be verified on the field
Non applicable (NA) :	Not applicable in that particular division

Based on the reports submitted by the team, TWG meetings have been held (19<sup>TH</sup> May 2017 and 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2017) and discussed the changes in the standard ( including categorising the Criteria and Indicators as mandatory and prescriptive by the language re-drafting).

### **Way Forward - Consensus building and Finalisation of the standard**

The revised final draft will be circulated among the TWG for approval and later to the SDG for the approval and consensus building.

**Schedule of the Pilot testing and the tour diaries are attached along with the update.**

**Schedule for Pilot Testing of the Draft NCCF 's FM certification Standard**

<b>S.NO</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Assessor team</b>	<b>ICFRE representative</b>	<b>WWF representative</b>
1.	<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	Hoshangabad	21 March – 25 March 2017	A K Bansal, Ashish Mishra, Taruna	Dr. Yogeshwar Mishra Scientist-F Tropical Forest Research Institute P.O.-R.F.R.C., Mandla Road, Jabalpur (M.P.)	Mr Jyotirmay Jena Senior Project Officer, WWF-India, SML WWF-India, In front of Ashirwad Hotel, Binjhiya, Mandla, Madhya Pradesh- 481661
2.	<b>Karnataka</b>	Dandeli	7 March– 10 March 2017	A K Varma, A K Bansal, Deepali Rautela	Dr. N Ravi Scientist- D Tree Improvement and Genetics Division, Institute of Wood Science and Technology, Malleswaram, Bangalore	NA
3.	<b>North East</b>	Nagaon	20 March – 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	Manu Jose Mattam , Deepali Rautela	Sh. R.K. Kalita, Scientist-E and Head Forestry Extension Division Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat	Dr. Pranab J. Bora Sr. Landscape Coordinator, Kaziranga Karbi Anglong Landscape

**TOUR DIARY - DANDELI FOREST DIVISION,  
KARNATAKA**



NETWORK FOR  
CERTIFICATION  
AND  
CONSERVATION  
OF FORESTS

## PILOT TESTING OF THE FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION STANDARD (VERSION 1.0)



## Report on Pilot Testing of Draft Standards of FM –NCCF-V-01(Draft)

Haliyal Division/ (Uttar Kannada District) Karnataka

Haliyal Division lies in the Western Ghats of Karnataka with an area of around 92000ha with 11 ranges. It is a thick forested division and famous for Dandeli Teak which comes out of these forests which vary from evergreen forests to semi evergreen, moist deciduous and dry deciduous forests with all the associated species of above types like Canes, Terminalia, Chukresia, Rose wood, white cedar, bamboo, teak etc. The division also has two protected areas namely Anshi National Park and Dandeli Sanctuary, forming part of Kali Tiger Reserve, named after river Kali flowing through the division. There is a separate management unit under a CF to manage KTR which has a sanctioned management plan of its own.

**Date - 7.3.2016**



Fig – Opening meeting

The team reached Dandeli in the morning. Then **conducted opening meeting** with the officers including CCF and DCF and other staff. After mutual introduction, briefed them about the purpose of the visit. Circulated the hard copy of the draft and explained and briefed them about Forest certification and the purpose of the pilot test. Later **visited Dandeli Depot** briefly then proceeded to **DCF office** at Haliyal where the team continued to discuss various aspects of the forest management in the division and NCCF draft document with them. Afterwards the details of field visits, logistics, transport, maps, list of documents etc were finalised in consultation with them.

Returned to Dandeli

On perusal of the **W.P.** it is found that it is in currency (Manjunath Chauhan -2013-14 to 2022-23 to achieve the objectives of conservation, protection and improvement of forests including management of teak, bamboo, NTFP, and acacia plantations. Encouraging JFPM is another objective. Extractions from forests is only through salvage logging of dead and fallen trees. Teak, Acacia and Bamboo from the

plantations are extracted as per method and cycle prescribed in the Plan which has following working circles:-

Bio-Diversity W.C	-	1951.81 ha
Improvement Working Circle	-	74028.80 ha
Teak Plantation W.C	-	6693.53 ha
Acacia auriculiformis plantation W.C	-	2974.61 ha
Bamboo overlapping W.C	-	69985.90 ha (Bamboo is recovering after gregarious flowering)
Sandalwood overlapping W.C	-	13215.99 ha
NTFP overlapping W C		
JFPM and Eco –tourism overlapping W.C	-	44559 ha -112 VFCs formed since 1992-11 has gone to W.L areas.
Wild life management-overlapping W.C	-	92003.61 ha

In addition to it there is a Horn Bill reserve of 52 sq. Kms for protection of Horn Bills.

Forest consolidation and Hangami lagan areas, maintenance of research and LTT plots etc are some of the other activities mentioned in the W.P.

**Date - 8.3.2016**

TEAM A (A.K.VARMA, DEEPALI RAUTELA)

**Haliyal Range**

**Tatwangi village** –FS no 77A- **Medri Bamboo** ( D. Strictus) **1984 plantation** 16 ha ;good stocking; being given subsidiary cultural operations like decongestion, soil working through mini JCB and fire protection by using blowers. Harvesting of 16575 bamboo done, out of which 7250 given to local bamboo dependent community called Medars.

Subsequently visited VFC area and interacted with the above **community ( 52 families in this village )** who though very happy by the gesture of the department in giving them bamboo, **wanted more training, new industry and better marketing support, besides making supply of bamboo regular.** They are facing tough competition from plastic fibre articles that have replaced bamboo articles to a great extent, shrinking its demand drastically.

Later saw the **bus shelter** constructed by the department under **VFDF**. This had made people very happy. The department has tried to reach out to people by painting this shelter with birds and wild animals along with appropriate slogans. In fact this was seen throughout the division.



Then the team went to the **village and interacted with JFPM and VFC members particularly with Self Help Group formed for women** who were being trained for tailoring with the help of a local NGO institution (RUDSIT) and VFC. The above NGO was also present through its programme coordinator namely.. A very good initiative which now requires to be pushed to the logical end with supply of sewing machines to each member and to sell the stitched clothes. There was a very good response for this initiative the trigger for which came from VFC and its president. **The above bamboo forest is also part of the VFC which has benefitted by the people's support.**

2. Visit to **Alnawar** town, which is a big timber merchant's hub. The team Interacted with **Saw Mill Owners' Association**. The issues raised varied from saw mill licensing, to drastic short fall in the availability of local timber to recently introduced e auction in the timber depots and the proposed GST vis a vis existing taxes like FDT etc. The number of saw mills has come down from almost 70 to barely one third due to above long pending issues. Mostly they depend **on import** of the timber which too is coming down due to ban by some exporting countries. Their interest in the proposed certification system was evident provided it could take care of the sustainability of timber trade.

3. Visited **PALA section** which is notorious for **illegal timber felling etc**. The local staff has done excellent work in protection work by establishing **Protection camps**, and by digging **boundary** trenches to recover/prevent encroachments. The **Working plan wing has fixed boundary pillars. Elephant proof trenches** have been dug **to reduce conflict** with locals. The staff stated that the number of crop compensation cases have **come down** significantly after above efforts. All these works were seen by the team.

#### 4. **Bhagawati and Sambrani Ranges.**

Inspected **Range Nursery** where about 1 lakh miscellaneous local seedlings have been raised in poly bags for ensuing plantation in the coming rains. The nursery is well established and the staff stated that they **do not use any banned pesticides** etc. A very good initiative has been taken by the DCF for **recharging the bore well** which had seen drop of water table below 1000 ft due to continued successive draught.

**Fire protection work** like early burning and fire line tracing along with appointment of scores of forest fire watches were inspected in the above ranges. Also a tree top fire watch tower machan made of bamboo was also shown to the team.



Visited **Bhagwati Range Office** and discussed with office staff regarding record keeping and document.

Inspected neighbouring forest compartment where **water holes** have been dug for wild life, old **plantation of teak** (where thinning is not practised in the past resulting in heavy arrear), replanting of an old failed plantation with Terminalia spp which has come up very well.

Later met the **rehabilitated people** who have voluntarily moved out of tiger project area and are resettled near Bhagwati. Some of their demands like balance of the promised cash payment, power supply , piped drinking water etc were communicated to the concerned officers who assured that they are at it.

Towards the end of the day, the team inspected **old Acacia plantation** raised near the dam area which has come up well. Also inspected **solar fencing** done by an individual house holder under 50% subsidy scheme of Government (around 50acres cash crop protected against elephant depredation). This has reduced the Elephant –Human conflict.

Returned to Dandeli.

#### **March 8, 17 Field Visit (Team B – AK Bansal and Dr. N Ravi)**

Areas visited – **fire line clearance works, EPT/CPT works** at Handli & interaction with villagers/farmers about effective ness of EPT being dug on the boundary adjoining cultivated lands. It was learnt that the EPT is very effective against crop damage by elephants and that in some cases compensation claimed and verified in previous 2 years is yet to be paid.

**Water percolation trenches** under MGNREGA, at Handli VII-11 of Barchi range.

**Teak plantation in clear felled area** in compartment VII-10 of Forest Survey no. 47, Barchi range [5 ha. raised in 1933 marked (80 years rotation as per Working Plan changed in the current plan from the earlier prescription of 120 years but the working plan contains no analysis/reasoning fro the change, in 2016 felled 2016 – 352 trees yielded 46.900 cum timber, 264 cum fuel wood) & replanted 2 ha. with 3200

seedlings funded from Karnataka Forest Development Fund). Plantation journal maintained of plantation done in 2016 and has no details of earlier plantation raised in same area. It was learnt that there is no standard protocol for post harvesting operations including Subsidiary Silvicultural Operations & replantation.

**Whistling woodz river view Jungle Resort** (private) – Badgard village a good resort in private area on the bank of kali river.

**Barchi compound wall slogan paintings & Bus stop-renovation & paintings** – forest/wildlife awareness. Had interaction with VFC president Mr. Shankar Masurkar, Sindholi VFC.

**LPG/Water heater distribution** at Jagalbet of Jagalbet range. All houses has been provided LPG connection & Solar water heater (STs Govt. cost, others 50% cost by beneficiary). This has brought down fuel wood consumption and reduction in pressure on forest while improving health of the women. However actual survey/assessment of reduction in fuel wood and impact on forest is yet to be done.

**Acacia plantations**, JBB block 30-32 25 ha. (gross area 39 ha.) –planted three time over in 1996, 2003 and recently in 2014. The crop looks good but is not uniform due perhaps to casualty replacement in 2-3 years. The area has patches of natural mixed crop that has been retained resulting the reduction of plantable area.

**Taneighat Range Dept. nursery**

**Cane plantation** (handi benta - Calamus thwatessii) – Jalkati VFC (formed 1994, 25 ha in 2013-14 under NAP). There is a need and possibility of documenting traditional knowledge through preparation of PBRs. The villagers present during the visit informed about the presence of some important medicinal plants in the area. In addition to the cane plantation the VFC also has Acacia plantation 160 ha and 120 ha evergreen forests, an d4o ha Acacia was harvesting last year.

**Date - 9.3.2017**

**Team A** (A.K.VARMA and Dr Ravi)

Virmoli Range

1. Visited Phansoli Eco –tourism area and **EDC** with Project Director KTR and interacted with the EDC members ;Out of **240** families in this village which falls under above *KTR* jurisdiction,**29** families have directly benefitted by way of jobs as drivers, naturalists ,guides as well as 11 members have got their own vehicles to carry the tourists for safari etc. Besides solar power, gas chullahs are also distributed from out of revenue (last year Rs **90 lakh** accrued). Forest department has distributed **1200** gas stoves (free to SC/ST), besides constructing Anganwadi buildings. The villagers are **more aware** of need for forest protection .though the department **expects** full support and more cooperation in ongoing fire control measures, as this is fire season and this year being a drought year the fire hazards are real serious. The EDC members demanded **more power** for day to day activities as well as increase in Vehicle rent rates. They also wanted water pipe line to be laid and safari time to be enhanced besides

view lines to be cleared. Also they demanded more water conservation check dams for wild life. ( the department has constructed 10 check dams in Virnoli Range )

2. Visited **Kali Power Project area** and on the way inspected the surrounding HCV. **Some fire incidents noticed**

3. Visited **elephant proof wall area near** Ambikanagr where department (KTR authorities) have built around 88 meters of elephant proof wall of cement and nails, which has proved to be very effective in deterring frequent raids by the elephants to this village .Now people are happy, though they would like the wall to surround entire village, for which, the authorities said that they are awaiting further grants. The wall does look to be pretty strong and sturdy and seems to be an effective barrier. Interacted with lots of the villagers here who all had praise for the work. The unemployed youth wanted Eco-tourism to be started here too as they have no permanent job.

4. Visited **Protection camp** of the Gund range and interacted with the staffs that have been provided with **shelter, drinking water and torches** etc. Also inspected huge **elephant proof** trenches dug around the forests. The team was also **shown desilting** work of a tank undertaken by the department

5. Virnoli Range-**Treatment of Logged area** (210 ha- Moist Deciduous forest); this is 15-16 logged area. 31 trees logged and is being treated with **SMC works** along with regeneration by root suckers of Rose wood etc.

6. **FRA** area –FS no 106-beneficiary Ningappa ,was not present; checked the FRA record which showed forests rights vested with him in 2010; ( there are around 591 applications filed under FRA in this range )

7. **HCV** forest in Joida Range ( Do Napa SB 20);**Semi evergreen forest** ;inspected Cane ( Calamus spp) plantations raised in 30 ha plot during1998;other spp included Chukresia,Matti (Terminalia), Rose wood , Lakucha, Garcinia,Canes,Dalchini etc; Wild life included Tigers ,mouse deer, giant squirrel, king cobra, black panthers. This is a **watershed protection** forest and acts as catchment to Kaneri river which joins Supa Dam back water

**Date - 09.3.2017**

**Team A (A.K.Varma and Dr Ravi)**

1. **Interaction with Carpentry Association** at Dandeli; the association has 50-60members

Their main demand was about the quality class classification of timber not being as per standards of logs shown as of a particular quality are not so and in fact many times are inferior particularly in C I class; so they wanted classification to be exactly as per the actual conditions of the logs.

The DCF explained the process but noted the demand and agreed to give training to the depot staff.

They also wanted extra forester to be provided to facilitate verification and issue of transit permit which is a huge issue presently.

Lot of complaints regarding recently initiated E auction of Timber in the Depots. They clearly said it helps only the big merchants and small timber dealers have suffered affecting revenue. IT IS AN ISSUE TO BE ATTENDED AS THE RATES FETCHED FOR NON TEAK, NON ROSE WOOD LOGS has indeed gone down including no bid for smaller lots of other kind of wood. The DCF stated that they are sending the feed back to the head office.

Further harvesting working of the forest corporation needs to be improved as per their demand .Also including brush wood in fire wood category be done away with. Lastly they wanted conversion ratio (out turn) for teak rose wood fire wood to be enhanced from present 25% as allowed by the DCF. They also pointed out as to **how teak borer** has been destroying teak trees making them hollow from inside and wanted the department to do something about it. They also demanded that a portion of FDT collected from them should be spent in improving road conditions in the Depots which become only slush and mud in monsoons making it extremely difficult to use for transportation. **THEY WANTED KSFIC SAW MILLS TO BE RE-OPENED AS THERE IS NO SAW MILL IN DANDELI FORCING PEOPLE TO GO UPTO ALNAWAR –ABOUT 30 KMS AWAY-FOR JOB SAWING WORK.**

## **2. Interaction with LAMPS ( Large scale Multi Purpose Cooperative Society) MEMBERS**

**Vanshri Girijan LAMPS is a NTFP collection society established in 2005.** The members belong to unique **Siddi** community. Mostly Honey is being collected . The training is given by horticulture society.The society is sarning profit , members are happy with functioning and the cooperation from the department and wanted now to be given logging worl also. They stated that the **collection of NTFP has become more profitable** since its inception, yet there **are concern** including theft, disapprance of NTFP trees, Fire etc. To check these, membersare being given I D cards.

**They agreed to a suggestion to look into maintainof and to explore more sustainable way of honey production and increase bee population. They also agreed to preserve local knowledge in this regard.**

### **List of the members who participated in the discussion**

Ms YakubSiddi-Chairman

Anthony Siddi-member

Savir-Secretary

Anthony Muber –member

Ibrahim Mulla Muber-member

Enthrale-member

**TEAM B (Mr. A K Bansal , Ms. Deepali Rautela)**

In the morning visited **Hornbill Conservation Reserve**, Dandeli (Govt. timber Depot area) along with Dr N Ravi, Deepali Rautela, and Mr Sashidhar, Naturalist, from JLR. This is a unique area with good population of hornbills and several other bird species and seen operation in **Dandeli Govt. timber Depot**.

### **Field Visit by Team B**

**Kogiban Research nursery & – dept. nursery.** Capacity 75000 & 3,00,000. Polybag seedlings of locally demanded/required species are being raised and used in departmental plantation as also for distribution to public (for which public survey to assess species wise demand is conducted in Oct/Nov.), and for tree for a child program. Seedlings are supplied to public at rates fixed by the State Govt. No specific records of chemicals (fertilizers, pesticides etc.) used maintained (other than the cash book entries). It was informed that cow dung manure and vermin compost, and cow urine is being used and also DAP and very small quantities of fungicide and insecticide if required. Some 2 year seedlings – in very large bags are raised for use in urban areas. Recently some old root trainers have been recd. In the nursery and are proposed to be used from next year. [Main species – Acacia, T tomentosa, T peniculata, S. cuminii, T arjuna, Kaya chinensis]

**Alur Clonal Seed Orchard** by Research wing (20 ha. established in 1983, 49 clones, 3038 grafts, - last seed collection in 1999, CPT works under TFC grant 2013-14 & SMC works in 2014-15), fire line have been cleared through the watchers in the range , It appears that the field personnel are not aware of the purpose of maintaining of the CSO whose very conservative value may be Rs. 40 Crores at current sale price of teak logs in e-auctions.

**Karka Forest check gate** of Dandeli range.

**KSFIC logging works** in RF - V-22 Compartment [area 230.92 ha. 306 trees enumerated/marked in 4 gbh classes – 60-90 cms, 90-120 cms, 120-150 cms, >150 cms, and handed over to KSFIC in Jan 2017 for felling within 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017 [so far felled 73 trees with 144 logs, 61.155 cum timber & 510 cum firewood] and then plantation to be done by the dept. - pitting has already been done. Felling and logging by KSFIC personnel to be done under the supervision of Kamgiri forester of the FD and logs transported to GTD Dandeli for auction by the FD). KSFIC basically works as a logging contractor.

**Moulangi Eco Park** and interaction with VFC President Rajaram K Gude, and members [Ganpathi I Torvath, Vinodh Mainagol, Umesh T Gude, Smt manjula Nayar, Smt Basvva M Talavar, Smt Nilavva Suryavanshi), and the resource group handling water sports [Mahamadh Sarif Maldhar, Vinod C Patroth, Sarfaraj Sekh Najir Ahamadh, Nagraj J Umesh, Saddham Husen Mugutsab Coudri moulinge). It was informed that since its opening in October 2015, is being managed by the VFC under the guidance of the FD spear headed by the DFO himself - total revenue is Rs. 16.52 lakhs (entry fee, vehicle parking, activities for children and other visitors), Expenditure Rs 12.58 lakhs without any Govt. funds, LPG

connection has been given to all 100 HHs, Rs. 1.75 lakh loan has been given to 5 SHGs carrying interest of 2% PM – to be equally shared by the VFC & SHG. Water sport area has been leased to a specialized organization (also handling water sports for JLR) which provides water sports to the visitors and also provided safety cover. It was informed that there have been no accidents since the operation of the Eco Park by the VFC.

**Area settled under FRA Kunabi of Virnoli range** – there is only one ST family in the village and claimed land under FRA has been settled (has some standing trees, a small house. Other claims, by all the 41 ST claimants in the Range, have been settled with a total area of about 3 ha.

**Logged area treatment** compartment III-24 (area 216 ha. felling dead trees done in 2016 with 30 tree marked and felled), post harvest works - over 50% of the effective area – SMC works and promotion of root suckers of rose wood). 40 trenches per ha

**Donapa Cane Plantation** Joinda range (25 ha in 1998 grwoing well – are a has all characteristics of HCVF being rich in biodiversity in evergreen forest in the catchment of Kaneri river, and well protected but is not designated as such and no specific management plan prescription),

March 10, 17 - Visited Dandkaranya Eco Cartoon park under development at Dandeli and then to Vasco by road



### **Closing meeting**

After internal exchange of notes within the team members, final **closing meeting** was conducted with the CCF, DCF and other staff.

### **Conclusion**

*Thus the team visited at least one representative forest of each type covering all the 11 ranges, nurseries and few plantations -both old and new, clonal orchards, LTI plots, Research Plots, forest protection*

*camps, boundary demarcation areas, tribal areas, logging areas, thinning areas, Eco –tourism areas, HCV and archaeological areas and forests, FRA area, ESA and ESZ areas, encroachment areas, timber depots. Also the team inspected all types of works, interacted with all the relevant stake holders including staff, VFC and EDC members, Tribals group, women’s groups, youth group, local NGO, paper industry, local timber merchants and carpentry units, NTFP collectors and their society, relocated and rehabilitated families from Tiger projects etc. During the pilot, every where all the relevant documents were also checked and clarifications sought from the staff wherever required. Training, health and security issues of both the workers and the staff were also examined.*

*Generally the pilot was conducted and steered in line with the criteria and indicators of the draft so as to have proper and comprehensive assessment of these. While doing the above exercise the chief purpose of the pilot testing was always kept in the focus.*

**A.K.VARMA**

**17.05. 2017**

**TOUR DIARY – HOSHANGABAD FOREST DIVISION,  
MADHYA PRADESH**

## Brief report on Pilot testing of NCCF draft FM Standard in Hoshangabad Divisions 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017 (Detailed report already submitted – Tour Diary and Check list)

### Introduction

Forest area of Hoshangabad Forest Division lies between North Latitude 22°13'04" to 22°45'54" and East Longitude 77°19'56" to 78°41'21". Forest area of the division is approximately 17 % of Geographical area of the district and 35.4% Geographical area of the division. Half of the total forest area (112965.15 ha.) is hilly and lies in the Satpura mountain ranges. The forests type (as per the revised Champion & Seth Classification of forest types) are Southern Indian Moist Deciduous Slightly Moist Teak Forests (3B/C 1c), Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Dry Teak Forests (5A/C1-b), and Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Mixed Forests (5A/C-3).

Administratively the area is divided in 4 Sub-Divisions and 9 Ranges. Forests are managed as per the approved Working Plan (2013-14 to 2022-23 by Sh. H U Khan) covering all 13 RFs & 120 PFs extending over 1,12,118.672 ha. excluding the area handed over to the M.P. Rajya Van Vikas Nigam Ltd. Being a govt. Forest with very little population in vicinity, the stakeholders are limited. Consultations with local people takes place in the course of preparation of working plan once in every ten years but there is no specific system of stakeholder mapping and formal stakeholder consultations. The implementation of working plan is either directly undertaken or supervised by the trained personnel of the FME/FMUs.

### Activities Carried out

#### *I. Field Visit*

Opening meeting was held on the day of arrival with the CCF and other senior officers and closure meeting was held with DFO Hoshangabad on the last day of the visit. The field team visited areas as follows -

- **Plantation Areas:** - timber harvesting area, Avenue Plantation, Bamboo Plantation areas
- **Research Areas and Nursery:** Bamboo research and facility center and Nursery at Khakrapura Research & Nursery and at Betul
- **Forest Villages** - Dhekna & Naya Chicha
- **Village Forests Committees and R&R Areas:** - New Ratibandar forest village for rehabilitation of relocation of families from Satpura Tiger, Satpura Tiger Reserve.
- **Water harvesting and conservation structures** – water harvesting structure for wildlife Itaari Reserve Forests
- **Sites of Historical, cultural and archeological importance** - Rock Paintings - Ranikaf comptt and Bhimbetka
- **Wild life Protection camp** - Bitallai, Gularghat.,
- **Forests Depots-** Taku timber depot
- **VFPC** - Mahuadhana, Van Surakshya Kendra, Manakpur,

## *II. Stakeholders Consulted:*

The team ensured an insightful and proactive interactions with various stakeholder's holder in the Hoshangabad Forest Divison. A list of stakeholder categories consulted includes -

1. Forest / Wild Life Managers including women personnel.
2. Forest operations staff and forest workers including women
- 3 Timber Depot Manager and workers
4. Nursery manager and workers
5. Residents of forest villages
6. Village Forest Protection Committee office bearers and members – including women,
7. People relocated from Satpura Tiger Reserve- which also includes Tribes previously living in Core area of Satpura Tiger Reserve
8. Director of Satpura Tiger Reserve
9. Former M.P Eco-Tourism employee

## **Pilot Testing Findings:**

The team visited representative/sampled forests were selected after discussion with CCF, Hoshangabad and various management interventions. Team interacted with key stakeholders as mentioned in previous section.

Generally, the pilot testing was undertaken wrt various criteria and indicators in the draft standard and major criteria and indicators needing relook are as follows.

**TOUR DIARY – NAGAON FOREST DIVISION, ASSAM**



# Pilot Testing of the Forest Management Certification Standard (Version 1.0)

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March 2017

## Tour Diary – Nagaon Forest Division

Opening Meeting – 22.3.2017 with the forest department; WP (under drafting)

1. Ms. Deepika Choudhary , DFO – Nagaon
2. Mr. Kadam , ACF
3. Mr. K K Deuri , ACF
4. Mr. Manu Jose Mattam , TWG – SDG
5. Mr. R K Kalita , ICFRE Nominee
6. Mr. Dr. Pranab J. Bora , WWF representative
7. Ms. Deepali Rautela, NCCF

### About the Nagaon Division

- a. Total Area – approx. 30,000 ha
- b. Social forestry and wildlife is a different wing
- c. Total 9 Ranges ( 6 – territorial functional range and 3 wasteland ( 1 protection and 1 consolidation )

District	Name of Reserve Forest	Area in Hect.
Morigaon	<b>Western Range</b>	
	Sonaikuchi	5303
	Killing	445.0
	Kholahat	6164
	Borbari	55.0
	Duadoloni	5.0
	<b>Morigaon Range</b>	
Teteli Boghora	1807.0	
Nagaon	<b>Kathiatoli Range</b>	
	Daboka (Part)	4382
	Kafitoli	292.0
	Bamuni	155
	<b>Kampur Range</b>	
	Borpani	3173.0
	Lutumari	2040
	Pilkhana	166.0
	1 <sup>st</sup> Addition to Jakota	139.0
	Hirapuja	228.65
	<b>Northern Range, Salona</b>	
	Bagser RF	3367.0
	Swang RF	2645.0
	Kamakhya RF	518
	North Dijoo RF	1002
South Dijoo RF	1306	

- d. WP under drafting stage
- e. Last WP was till 2010
- f. Major objective – Conservation/ Protection, prevention from illegal logging and mining , wildlife control
- g. Inventory of flora and fauna – biodiversity committee has their own inventory.



Fig – Dharamtul Range

	<p><b>Date – 22.3.2017</b></p>
<p>1</p>	<p>Dharamtul – Western Range          ( Mr. Pankraj Kalita – RFO)          (Timber depot staff – Mr. Mishra Kumar Deori - HQ staff and Mr. Dharmeshwar Nath – Depot Officer)</p> <p>5 RF are there in this range –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Sonaikuchi – 5216 Ha</li> <li>b. Kholahat – 6092 ha</li> <li>c. Killing – 445 ha</li> <li>d. Borbri – 45ha</li> <li>e. Dhua doloni – 5 ha</li> </ol>

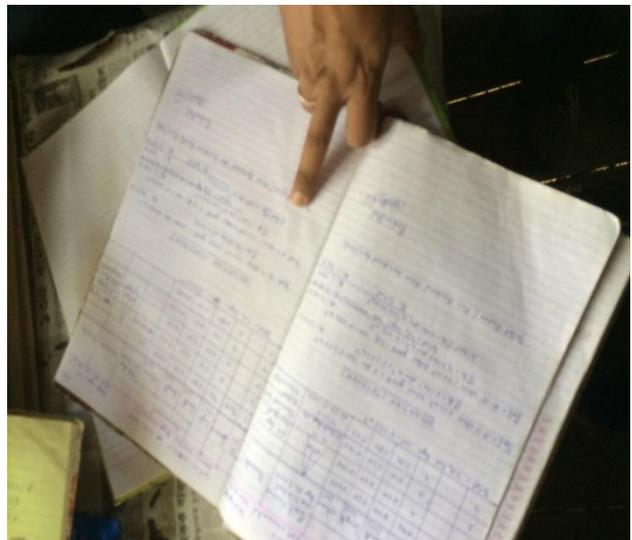




Fig – Timber depot

2	Visit to Baignabari JFMC and interaction with the JFMC head . (Interaction with – Ms. Monkhusi Manta ( Member/President – JFMC)
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Fig – Visit to JFMC and interaction

3	Visit to Deoshal Nursery, Nakhula beat , Jagi road ( Incharge – Beat officer Mr. Dulal Chandra Bora)
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4	Visit to Kampur range ( Mr. Ghana Hazarika – Range officer )  Borepadhai and borpani RF
5	Interaction with the Village Moinapathar, Borbill)  ( Mr. Lakhan Basumatary – Panchayat President) ( Mr. Dho nera)



Fig –Kampur range and interaction with village people

	<b>Date – 23.3.2017</b>
1	Kathiotoli Range office ( Mr. Abdul Roef Ahmad- FRO) 3 RF and 1 Proposed a. Dabuka – 5359 ha b. Kafitoli – 292 ha c. Bamboli – 154.8 ha

	d. Kondoli – 650 ha ( PRF)
2	Success story – Visit to Dabuka R F , moratoli JFMC (Mr. Shashindra Bora, Member Secretary ) ( President – Mr. Dilip Boro) ( Scaler – Mr. Someshwar Hazarika)



Fig – Dabuka RF ( Succuss story)

3	Visit to nearby beat office and agar private plantations of AZMAL group
4	Visit to Salna Range Sapanala Beat office ( Mr. Tonkeshwar Daka, Beat Officer)
5	Visit to Natural Sal Forest and interaction with Forester
6	Visit to Salna range office ( Northern range) 5RF and 3 JFMC ( at premature stage)  ( Mr. Abdul Rehman , Forester)
7	Private agar plantations near salabari beat office ( south ) ( Mr. Dhruvajyoti Gayan , Beat officer)



General observations:

- Management plan – still a work in progress..
- FME and assessment team not sure whether the FME shall have sufficient manpower and/or resources to implement the management plan
- Objectives of management not yet defined
- At present all attention is concentrated on high profile areas viz., areas adjoining Kaziranga etc. and fund flow is restricted to specific projects, e.g.. Project Elephant, ASFDP etc. only these project areas show improvement in infrastructure and an increase in plantations/density; other areas do not receive any attention
- FME staff work in dangerous conditions, especially threats from wildlife as well as poachers and extremists. Health and safety is a major issue, with very little resources being allocated to the same.