

## NCCF Side Event at UNCCD COP14

### Background

The 14<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties to the [United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification \(COP14\)](#) is taking place from 02-13 September 2019 at India Mart and Expo, in the Greater Noida area of New Delhi, India. Overall theme of the COP14 is “[Restore Land to Sustain Life](#)”. The primary agenda of the COP14 is to reverse land degradation and its outcomes while accelerating positive achievements for people and for ecosystems with a view to deliver on Sustainable Development Goals.

The impacts of unpredictable and extreme climatic conditions are now recurrent, more frequent and intense in many parts of the world. Instances of droughts, flashfloods and forest fires are every increasing. Families and communities are breaking up, losing their homes and sources of livelihoods. Land degradation working in tandem with climate change and biodiversity loss, may force up to 700 million people to migrate by 2050.

Desertification, land degradation and drought are huge challenges. Investments in the land and its stewards can open up vast opportunities for the economy and environmental resilience. COP14 is aiming to help countries achieve Land Degradation Neutrality by delivering tools and resources that are fit for purpose. Tools that are built on accurate and reliable science and data, participatory processes and compromise, benefit everyone. Countries can withstand future environmental challenges better by optimizing land management and massively scaling up sustainable practices and the restoration of degraded land.

Over a million species are on the verge of extinction, threatening global food security, largely due to habitat loss and land degradation. 3 out of every 4 hectares of land have been altered from their natural states and productivity of about 1 in every 4 hectares of land is declining. Poor land health is on the rise and is impacting 3.2 billion people all over the world.

UNCCD is reducing these impacts by promoting investment in the land to unlock opportunities for change, deliver hope and action, and help build a more sustainable path for the future.

### NCCF Side Event

Certification of Forests and ‘Trees outside Forests’ enhances the effectiveness of sustainable management of forests, agroforestry, urban forestry and other woodlots, making these ecosystems socially beneficial, environmentally appropriate and economically viable, and thereby reduces the rate of deforestation and land degradation and helps in combating desertification.

Forest certification also contributes to promoting SFM, REDD+, SDGs, NDC commitments and the objectives of various international commitments under the UNFCCC, UNCCD and UNCBD, etc. by enabling effective management of the Forest resources.

In the side event, NCCF will present its country specific and globally benchmarked sustainability certification standards developed for *Forests* and *Trees outside Forests* in India. We would also be presenting Carbon Registry-India, being developed by NCCF.

Forest Certification is a voluntary, non-regulatory and facilitative tool for continuous improvement towards sustainable forest management, including forest monitoring, tracing and labelling of timber and non-timber forest products. This adds value to findings of periodic monitoring which help forest department and other agencies to keep check on all desired outcomes from management activities.

Certification brings in enhanced credibility to our forest governance with international recognition, improves market acceptability, while also reducing illegalities in import and export of wood products and strengthens compliances to international conventions.

Certified forests are managed using environmentally safe techniques which includes - use of permissible pesticides, safe collection and disposal of toxic waste, controlling off site regeneration of exotic species, minimising negative impact on soil and water resources, conservation measures to conserve and preserve ecosystem services and identification and management of high conservation values. Certification safeguards social attributes by ensuring social equity and livelihood opportunities to locals, safety and health of workers, respect for rights of tribal and local communities and consultations with stakeholders.

NCCF FM Certification standard addresses all aspects and components of WP Code in its Principles, Criteria and Indicators making it easier to implement and comply.

In India, about 85% of industrial wood requirement is met from trees grown outside forests. TOF remains as an invisible resource to land use agencies. Developed through an open, transparent and consultative process, this certification standard is globally aligned but made simple with the view to help small and marginal farmers get price premium, apart from promoting sustainability of agroforestry, farm forestry, urban forestry, linear plantations.

Since desertification holds major impact on climate change, Carbon Registry-India aims to reduce the net GHG emissions through the projects which would be designed, developed and implemented as per the rules, requirements and procedures of the mechanism. Also, projects in the sectoral scope of Agriculture, Forestry and Land use change (AFOLU) could help in combating desertification, restoration of degraded land and improved use and management of land resources.

The side event will focus on the role of forest certification in combating desertification and how a sustainably managed forests and plantations can help in restoring landscapes and achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN).

For further details, connect to:

[UNCCD COP14 Website](#)

[Host Country Website](#)