

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2016 - 2017**

**NETWORK FOR CERTIFICATION AND CONSERVATION OF FORESTS**



We must build an agenda for speedy yet sustainable economic growth that is inclusive of all, is respectful of individuals, responsive to innovation and responsible towards the future generations.

Shri. Narendra Modi  
Honorable Prime Minister of India

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## Chairman's Message



It gives me great pleasure to present the Annual Report of the Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests for 2016-17.

The NCCF, a non-profit multi-stakeholder organization, has done impressive work on the environmental, economic and social aspects of sustainable forest management. It has generated new knowledge and understanding on forest conservation and certification. Increasing numbers are getting associated with responsible forestry and agriculture. Our society is recognizing, more and more, the need to have products with a lower carbon footprint.

NCCF has been contributing to the evolving national and international forestry agenda. The development of country specific guidelines and forest management certification standards by NCCF has been a major institutional effort. The Annual Report highlights the significance of sustainable forest management as a conservation tool while outlining the manner in which certification works. NCCF's extended stakeholder outreach along with public consultation and pilot testing processes has been a major exercise.

NCCF's achievements have been made possible by close ties with the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, the State Forest Departments, the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, the Indian Institute of Forest Management, the Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute, the Export Promotion Council of Handicrafts, ITC, the Quality Council of India, the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan and the International Council for Research in Agroforestry, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development.

Both natural forests and agroforestry contribute to conservation and consumption needs, which should be done within sustainable development parameters. Standards are being developed for trees outside forests recognizing that a significant part of the additional forest cover and wood products will come from social forestry and household farms. Expanding agroforestry illustrates how good science is coming to the small farmers so vulnerable to eco-degradation, climate change and pressures, both biotic and a-biotic. Agroforestry contributes many times more industrial logs than notified natural forests. Agroforestry promotes gender equality, access to affordable energy, while promoting adaptation to climate change and preventing biodiversity loss.

Trees outside forests will help India meet the Paris Climate Agreement and Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) targets. The INDC target with a commitment to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5-3.0 Gt CO<sub>2</sub>e through enhancement of forest and tree cover by 2030 needs increase in tree cover in areas outside forests. NCCF is simultaneously expanding its standards development process for Trees outside Forests, Non-Wood Forest Products and Protected Areas and Wetlands to benefit forest dwellers and local communities by establishing a tracking and traceability mechanism in view of emerging commercial opportunities. This process has been initiated to develop a comprehensive institutional mechanism for scientific monitoring.

Our endeavour in the NCCF has been to build synergies between state and non-state entities taking into account the national priority of income growth of the most vulnerable, the fulfilment of basic minimum needs and the safeguarding of our environment. It is important to make certification accessible to small forest holdings and low volume producers to enable benefits to local communities by the tapping of their own entrepreneurship.

Committed forestry experts from India have provided critical knowledge to add to our understanding of forests. We in NCCF are well tuned into the changing nature of international debates and consensus building. We would like to make available our in-house knowledge on forest carbon accounting and the expanding REDD+ canvas that rewards not only growth in forests but also the protection of forests. REDD+ was shaped by specialists from various countries that includes those currently associated actively with NCCF.

NCCF has established itself well as a body of experts and as a think-tank in the field of certification and conservation of forests for sustainable development. NCCF's high-quality capabilities draw from its scientific temper and strong methodological approach based on rich national and international experience.

I welcome the active engagement of our distinguished members and of all stakeholders for achieving the objectives of the NCCF.



Vijai Sharma, IAS (retd)  
Chairman, NCCF

## Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests

NCCF is a multi-stakeholder not for profit organization which came into existence in January 2015, as a Society registered under the Societies' Registration Act 1860, with the objective of developing a globally aligned certification program in India and addressing the concerns for sustainable management of forests and trees outside the forest areas, while at the same time making the Indian wood and forest fibre based industry competent globally.

It is an institutional mechanism to ensure collaborative & streamlined efforts for forest and Tree outside Forest (ToF) certification, policy advocacy, conservation, improved wood based supply chain with legality and traceability elements and making consumers aware about sustainable product options.

### NCCF's Working Areas

- Standard Development
- Natural Resource Management
- Conservation
- Policy Advocacy
- Capacity Building
- Multi Stakeholder Engagement

### Objectives

- To develop country specific and internationally benchmarked National Certification Standards for Sustainable Forest Management, Trees outside Forests (ToF), Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFP), Protected Areas and Wetlands (PAWs), Ecotourism, Sustainable Mining, etc.; the standards also being compatible and conforming to the national statutes and legal framework.
- To provide a platform for bringing together forest based stakeholders to promote forest and forest produce certification schemes for the long term ecological security of forests.
- To provide a link between responsible production and responsible consumption and help the consumer to make socially and environmentally sound buying decisions.
- Promoting responsible trade in forestry sector and offering specific considerations to the unique needs of small and family forest owners while being quality used by large landowners.
- To bridge the gap between policy makers and practitioners including entrepreneurs on issues that emerges on trade and other related aspects of the forest products and services through a series of consultation meetings, awareness raising, conferences and workshops etc.
- To promote skill development in the forestry sector in the interest of sustainable harvesting and utilization of forest produce as also to promote economic and social welfare of the labourers, plantation workers, artisans, workers engaged in processing of wood, NTFPs and manufacturing of paper, plywood, veneers, panels, furniture and forest based handicrafts etc.
- Policy advocacy on important emerging issues concerning conservation of natural resources.

## GOVERNING BODY

The governing body, comprising Chairman and 12 other members, decides the overall policies and directions in carrying out NCCF's activities. The members comprise representatives from the Central Ministries- Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Textiles through the Export Promotion Council of Handicrafts (EPCH), Senior Retired Civil Services Officers, Professional Foresters, Private Sector (timber industry associations), Non-governmental organisations (social and environmental interests) and experts from certification bodies. NCCF's Governing Body is a strong foundation having the vision of the diverse stakeholders gathered on one platform.

### **Shri Vijai Sharma, IAS (retd), Chairman**

Shri Vijai Sharma is ex Chief Information Commissioner of India, ex Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and ex Hon'ble Member, National Green Tribunal (NGT).

### **Shri Girish Agarwal, Co-chairman**

Shri Girish Agarwal is the member of NCCF and partner of the Sankalp International

### **Shri Suneel Kumar Pandey, Secretary-Convener**

Shri. Suneel Pandey, is presently Vice President-Plantation and Raw Material in ITC-PSPD, and leads a multi-disciplinary team involved in Plantations, Social Forestry, Raw material Procurement, Sustainability and Bio-diversity Conservation. During his tenure as IFS, he has also served as Senior Forestry Specialist in the National Mission on Bamboo Applications (NMBA) and has successfully handled different business and development initiatives in the areas of Technology Development, Enabling Systems, Policy & Programme implementation, CDM and forest certification.

### **Shri Sachin Jain, Treasure-Convener**

Shri. Sachin Raj Jain is the Managing Director of the GICIA, a third party monitoring and Evaluation Company and has principal responsibility for leading the company's Environmental Certification Programs. In 2007, SCS first engaged him for running their operation in South Asia, South East Asia and Middle East. He is an internationally recognized expert in auditing FSC-CoC & FM Certification. He has contributed and directed various projects on sustainability, climate change, monitoring, evaluation and afforestation like Climate Change Adaptation, evaluation of Project Elephant for Meghalaya, Green India Mission for Assam, Carbon Footprint Assessment for KBR National Park Hyderabad.

### **Shri Naveen Singh, Joint Treasurer**

He has cofounded and established many organization such as Drona International School (1986), Drona Engineering College (2009), Gyanodya School for Girls (2015).

### **Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare**

Joint Secretary (NRM) is the official nominee of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on the Governing Body of NCCF. Currently the Joint Secretary in charge NRM Division is Dr. Alka Bhargava, a senior IFS officer of Asaam cader. Earlier, this position was held by Shri R.B.Sinha, a senior IFS officer of M.P. cadre.

### **Ms. Rimple Jain Gupta, Member**

Ms. Rimple Jain Gupta has taken a Masters degree in Psychology. She is the founder and director of the NGO Kudrat Gramodyog Sansthan, which deals in the design and development of natural handmade products. She has worked in close association with the Bamboo and Fiber Board of Uttarakhand and the Watershed Management Directorate of Uttarakhand. Through her endeavours Ms. Rimple has provided a means to training and income generation to over 500 people in the Garhwal and Jaunsar regions of the state.

**Shri Rakesh Kumar, Member**

Shri. Rakesh Kumar conceptualized India's first state of the art infrastructure for Exhibition and Mart at Greater Noida and currently holding the position of Chairman of the Centre. He is the Chief Executive Officer of Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) in India. He is key architect of several important projects in India such as setting up of National Centre for Design & Product Development and creation of Handicrafts and Carpet Sector Skill Council (HCSSC) to bridge the skill gap in the handicrafts & carpet sector and provide over 2 million skilled manpower.

**Shri A K Varma, IFS (retd), Member**

A Member of Indian Forest Service ( 1974;Karnataka),retired on superannuation as Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force of Karnataka State Forest Department. He has also worked in various capacities including PCCF (wild life) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Karnataka and has been actively involved in the field of Forest Management Certification and Chain of Custody Certification process as peer reviewer, observer, co-auditor and lead. He is presently Member of the NCCF Governing Body and also chairing the Standard Development Group, SFM Standard of NCCF.

**Shri A C Chaubey, IFS (retd), Member**

Joined Indian Forest Service in 1977 and have experience of about more than 35 years in the field of forestry in various capacities in State and Central Government and participated in several international conferences as Member / Head of Indian Delegations. A strategic visionary with a clear sense of purpose and urgency when faced with diverse situational challenges during periods of rapid growth. Skilled at establishing operational excellence within culturally diverse environments, translating conceptual models into specific growth strategies, and planning/executing multifaceted global business development campaigns. He is the member of the GB, NCCF.

**Shri P.K. Garg, Member**

Shri. Pawan Kumar Garg, working presently with Star Paper Mills Limited, Saharanpur, U.P. as Sr. G M Commercial has vast experience of 39 years in Supply Chain Management and Commercial functions in Paper Industry, Textiles and FMCG Industry. He has been associated with development of Hi tech Clonal Nurseries and Agro Forestry. He has vigorously promoted Agro forestry in Western U.P. for the last 15 years and the results are quite visible and evident now. He is trained in best management practices like TPM, TQM, Six Sigma, Gemba Kaizen, PMS, ICRM, SCM etc. and is a member of Indian Institute of Materials Management, Chandigarh Branch and also Member of IPPTA.

**Shri Vineet Jain, Member**

He is the owner of Hariom Education and Trainer and member of NCCF GB.

**Shri AM Singh (IFS), Co-opted Member**

He is member of the IFS (1986; Assam Meghalaya Cadre), presently serving as Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (CAMPA & Planning) in Assam. He had worked as Joint Secretary to the Government of India in Ministry of DoNER and coordinated on developmental schemes in eight states of North Eastern Region. He had also served as IG, Project Elephant & DIG (SU) in the MoEF&CC. He was Professor in the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun and conducted more than 100 In-Service Training Course for Senior IFS Officers. He had represented India on various International Forums such as UNFF, FAO, IUFRO, Common Wealth Forestry Association, Word Forestry Congress etc. and also served as one of the Expert Members representing South East Asia in ITTO from 2011-13. He has co-authored a book on "Forest Certification" published by TERI. His educational qualification includes M.Sc(Geology), M.Sc(Forestry) and NDC (M Phil in National Security and Strategic Studies) from the National Defence College, New Delhi.

**NCCF Secretariat****Mr A.K. Srivastava IFS (retd.), Executive Director (Honorary)**

He is a Member of the Indian Forest Service (1980; J&K), ex Additional Director General and DG of Forests, Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change; had worked as Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) / Chief Wildlife Warden of J&K State, Managing Director, J&K State Forest Corporation, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Additional Commissioner (NRM, RFS & Extension), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and held many other responsible assignments concerning conservation of forests in J&K. His educational qualifications include M.Sc (Biochemistry), M.Sc (Forestry), MBA, University of Hull, UK and NDC (M.Phil. in National Security and Strategic Studies from the National Defence College, New Delhi.

**Ms Deepali Rautela, Assistant Director**

Have been associated with NCCF since 2015 and assisting the overall management/secretariat in furtherance of NCCF objectives .Coordinated the SFM- Standard Development Group (SDG) and supervising the other SDGs for PAWS, NWFP and is also member of the ToF Standard development process. She is an alumni of Fergusson college, University of Pune (in Environmental Sciences) and Delhi University , Hansraj College ( in Life Sciences).

**Mr Varun Grover, Group Coordinator**

A Post Graduate Diploma in Forestry Management form Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) and graduate in Mechanical Engineering. Previously interned with NCCF and joined full time in April 2017. He is currently coordinating the SDGs - PAWS, NWFP and ToF and is also assisting the secretariat in all other activities.

## Membership of the Council

Members of NCCF are from diverse backgrounds and include representatives of environmental and social non-governmental organizations, professional foresters, industry, forestry organizations, community forestry groups, retailers and manufacturers, forest certification organizations and individual forest owners. There are five membership categories as under –

### **Subscriber Member**

The founding members of the NCCF

### **Government Nominee Member**

The members nominated by the Central and State Ministries/Departments to the Governing Body of NCCF

### **Ordinary Member**

The entity(s)/bodies/Social Group entities/NGOs whether incorporated or not incorporated organization having minimum five year of establishment

### **Institutional Member**

Any academic or cultural body or local body constituted by local governing bodies, PSU , State Government including a university , department, research institute , registered society or trust interested in academic, cultural or social work in the Sector

### **Associate Member**

Any person having the requisite qualification and a body corporate /Proprietorship Firm/ Firm/Society/ Social Groups/NGO/Association of Persons (AOA) having interest in the activities related/associated with the Objects of NCCF and further intending to work with for the achievement of the Objects

## Benefits of Membership

1. The members of automatically become stakeholders for the organization and the process.
2. Being a not for profit organization and the membership money will be used towards development of National Standards for Forest Certification and various conservation activities.
3. Members have the right to attend the conferences, training seminars, exhibition, workshops and other important events and meetings.
4. Members may offer their comments and suggestions on the work being carried out in the society and the draft standards developed.
5. Members may be elected as Governing Body members by contesting in the society's periodic elections.
6. Access to Research, Surveys, Projects, Knowledge Papers, Press Releases of NCCF.
7. The society will provide a Platform for interaction and networking between government, private sector, academic and research institutions and voluntary organisations.
8. Members offering contributions to NCCF will be entitled for tax Exemption in the donations under 80G& 12A of IT Act.

## Member List

### Institutional Members

- ❖ Indian Plywood Industries Research & Training Institute
- ❖ Indian Paper Manufacturer's Association
- ❖ Haryana Forest Development Corporation
- ❖ Hariom Education and Trainer
- ❖ Drona Institute of Technology
- ❖ EPCH

### Ordinary Members

- ❖ ITC Ltd
- ❖ Sripathi Paper & Boards Pvt Ltd
- ❖ Sankalp International
- ❖ Star Papers
- ❖ PrintografiK Packaging India Pvt Ltd
- ❖ GrupO JK
- ❖ A K Panels
- ❖ Seshasayee Paper and Boards Limited
- ❖ Bloom Dekor Limited
- ❖ Nupur International

### Subscriber Members

- ❖ Mr. Avani Kumar Varma
- ❖ Mr. J K Jain
- ❖ Mr. Sachin Raj Jain
- ❖ Mr. I V R Rao
- ❖ Mr. Suneel Pandey
- ❖ Mr. Kh. Devbrat
- ❖ Mr. Sanjeev Agarwal
- ❖ Mr. Rakesh Kumar
- ❖ Mr. AK Bansal

## Associate Members

- ❖ Mr. Ambarish Choubey
- ❖ Mr. Manu Jose Mattam
- ❖ Ms. Neha Channa
- ❖ Mr. A K Srivastava
- ❖ Mr. Ram Avtar Singh
- ❖ Mr. Ranir Pal Saini
- ❖ Ms. Taruna Singh
- ❖ Ms. Richa Garg
- ❖ Ms. Deepali Rautela
- ❖ Ms. Anchal
- ❖ Ms. Nidhi Rawat
- ❖ Mr. Ankur Nautiyal
- ❖ Ms. Sakshi Nehra
- ❖ Mr. Shovans Das
- ❖ Mr. Abu bakar ansari
- ❖ Mr. Mohan Chander Pandey
- ❖ Ms. Teena Antil
- ❖ Ms. Ritu Jain
- ❖ Mr. Varun Grover

## Why Sustainable Forest Management Matters

Forests in the world cover around 31% of the world's land area, constituting the largest terrestrial ecosystems. More than 1.6 billion people in the world depend on forests for their livelihood, and use forest resources for fuel, timber, food, medicine and income generation.

Forests play an important role in India's economic development. It is one of the primary sectors that contributes significantly to India's economy providing a large variety of tangible and intangible benefits for the people at large and are a prime source of livelihood for millions of the poor people. India has a huge population living close to the forest with their livelihoods critically linked to the forest ecosystem.

Sustainable management of forests is broadly defined as the use and management of forests, forest resources and associated lands in such a manner as to meet the social, economic, ecological, cultural and spiritual needs of the present and future generations, while at the same time maintaining their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, health and vitality.



## Forests and India: Some Facts

- Globally, India stands at 8th position accounting for 2% of Total Forest Cover of the world.
- India is one of the 17 mega-diverse countries with 4 global biodiversity hotspots of the world and 16 major forest types
- Forests & Tree cover 80.20 million ha; 24.39% of Geographical Area; Forest cover: 70.82 million ha & Tree cover outside forests – 9.38 million ha (ISFR 2017)
- Out of 5.7 Lakh villages of the country, around 1.73 lakh villages located in and around forests.
- Total carbon stock in forests is estimated to be 7044 million tonnes.
- Protected Areas (PA) Network, comprising 764 PAs spreads over 16.2 mha (4.93% geographical area), including 103 National Parks, 543 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 73 Conservation Reserves and 45 Community Reserves.

## Forest Certification as a Conservation Tool

The wide spectrum of India's forests represents a microcosm for the whole of South Asia, and within itself a breath-taking diversity in terms of species, ecological zones, forest types, richness of biodiversity and a range of forest products and services. Judicious use of forests and their resources depend upon their sustainable management. Forest certification is an emerging market based non-regulatory conservation tool that promotes responsible forest management through establishment of scheme and standards which are socially beneficial, environmentally sustainable and economically viable. The components of

forest certification essentially complement various elements of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+). The Paris Agreement on Climate Change, to which India is a party, re-emphasised the significance of sustainable forest management through the REDD+.

### How Forest Certification Works?

It is a market based non-regulatory conservation tool designed to recognize and promote sustainable forest management. Through forest certification, forest management, harvest planning and practices are evaluated by an independent third party, according to standards that address environmental protection as well as social and economic welfare.



### Need for a Nation Specific Forest Certification Scheme

There was a realization among policy makers and stakeholders that India needs to develop an independent forest management certification system which, while meeting the rigors of certification objectives and international benchmarking, is simultaneously conversant with the local conditions, practices and constraints that affect management of forests in India. The NCCF, through a multi-stakeholder Standard Development Group (SDG), has developed a country specific, yet internationally benchmarked Forest Management certification Standard. The standard will be an effective tool for management, monitoring, assessment and improvement of forest and plantation management practices, as well as forming the basis for Forest Management (FM) and Chain of Custody (CoC) certification to benefit forests and plantation owners, farmers, craftsmen, decentralized value addition/manufacturing units and trading units, by getting wood based products linked to the domestic and international markets through a credible certification network.

### Benefits of Nation Specific Forest Certification Scheme & Certification

- Domestic certification scheme provides flexibility in addressing the variability in forests and biodiversity.
- Provides traceability and legality mechanism thus control in illegal felling.
- Responsible trade – buyer side and supplier side
- Value addition - allows Non-tariff entry barriers and access to new markets
- Pro-active risk management
- Biodiversity conservation and Sustainable management of natural resources
- Helps in achieving the objectives of national schemes and international commitments such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Intended Nationally determined contributions (INDCs), United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), Green India Mission (GIM), Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), National Afforestation Programme (NAP)



*Courtesy: Somenath Mukhopadhyay (entry for NCCF-PEFC National Photo Contest)*



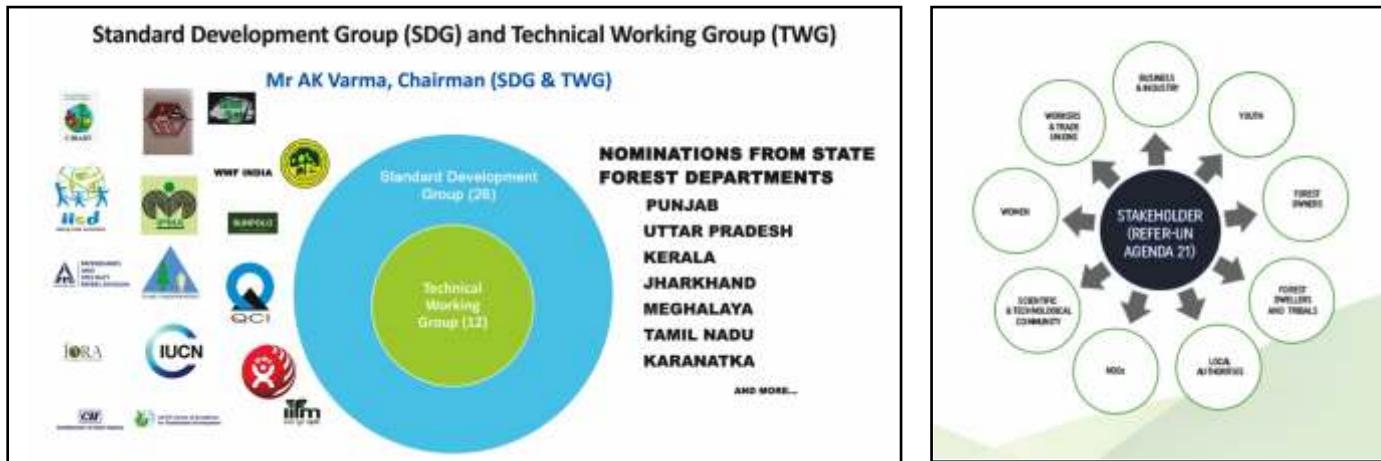
*Courtesy: Vikramaditya Rai (entry for NCCF-PEFC National Photo Contest)*



*Courtesy: Tripti Roy (entry for NCCF-PEFC National Photo Contest)*

### Forest Management Standard Development

NCCF constituted a Standard Development Group (SDG), under the chairmanship of Mr. A K Varma, IFS (retd), following the guidelines of UN Agenda 21, for developing the National Standards for Forest Management Certification. The SDG was represented by the distinguished professional foresters, representatives from the ICFRE and IIFM of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and State Forest Departments, State Forest Development Corporations, QCI, IUCN, WWF India, CII, IPMA, ITC Ltd., BWI India, EPCH, CAPEXIL, CIBART, IORA, ICRAF, CAFRI, ICIMOD, Carbon Check, IISD and many more.



The standard is India specific; and involve key elements of existing models in India viz the Bhopal India Process of the IIFM, the National Working Plan Code and the provisions contained in the National Forest Policy for promotion of afforestation, sustainable utilization of forest products and growth of the forest based industries.

In the standard, major issues relevant to forest certification have been grouped together into similar Themes, with the Themes further designed and organized to conform to the 'triple bottom-line' approach of sustainability and responsible forest management,. Themes are further organized into Principles, which are further elaborated by various Criteria for evaluation. As a further stage of refinement, Indicators have been developed for each criterion, to enable judging the performance in the field.

### Extended Stakeholder Outreach Exercise

An extended stakeholder outreach exercise was carried out by the IIFM interns to get insights from the disadvantaged stakeholders and spread awareness about the standard. Inputs were invited from the stakeholders through online engagement as well as intensive on filed visits and workshops organised across country.

The NCCF team comprising 2 officials each, were sent to the following states of India to interact with the different stakeholders classes

Bio-geographical Zone	States covered under each zone
West India	Gujarat, Rajasthan
North-Central India	Haryana, Punjab, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh
South India	Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana

The comments recorded via field interactions, emails and in written were presented in front of the TWG for further revision in the Draft FM Standard.



**Theme A :** This theme deals with the legality of the forest management enterprise and the legal status of all actions and activities attributed to it.

**Theme B :** This theme deals with formulation, updation and implementation of a written forest management plan and its monitoring.

**Theme C :** This theme deals with the impact of forest management activities in the social, economic and environmental spheres.

**Theme D :** This theme deals with the aspect of 'economic viability of forest management operations' and is concerned with the sustainable and productive utilization of forest resources, including both forest products as well as services.

**Theme E :** This theme is concerned with the aspect of 'socially responsible forest management' and deals with social and community relations as well as rights of forest workers as well as forest or forest based communities.

**Theme F :** This theme deals with the aspect of 'environmental and ecological sustainability' of forest management and deals with matters related to identification and

### Public Consultation

The modified draft version 1 of the standard was then shared widely for a 60-day public consultation. As a part of the consultation four consultation workshops were held across the country.

In Bhopal in association with IIFM, in Bangalore facilitated by IWST, in Assam facilitated by the State forest department, and in Odisha facilitated by the Odisha State Forest Department and Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project and in New Delhi.



### Regional Workshops:

- In Bhopal in association with IIFM - 19th May 2016
- In Bengaluru facilitated by IWST - 25th October 2016
- In Odisha facilitated by the Odisha State Forest Department Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project
- In Assam facilitated by the State forest Department - 8th December 2016

### Pilot testing

To check the suitability, relevance and adaptability of the standard in the multitude of conditions and identifying the area of non-applicability of standard, the standard v1.1 was pilot tested in the field at Dandeli Forest Division in Karnataka, Hoshangabad Forest Division in Madhya Pradesh and Nagaon Forest Division in Assam for geographically varied forest systems. The core team of assessors consisting of the Auditors, representative from WWF and ICFRE assessed the areas against the standard requirements and presented their recommendations to the group

#### **The objectives of pilot testing were :**

- To gain better understanding of the practical impacts of draft standards at an early stage of its development.
- To encourage active involvement of forest managers, communities, JFM committees, tribal groups, women, forest based industries, certification bodies and other stakeholders in standards development.
- To identify regional variants in the adaptability of the standard and to assign specific verifiers for region centric application and use.
- To check the suitability, relevance and adaptability of the standard in the multitude of conditions and identifying the area of conformance, non -conformance and non-applicability of standard in diverse forest conditions.
- To engage with the forest owners, companies, directly affected stakeholders and the disadvantaged stakeholders in the national standard development process and also solicit their comments on the draft standard and see the area of improvement.
- Providing exposure to the potential auditors and standard implementers, to enhance their familiarity with the standard.
- Identifying the major sections getting non-conformance during the field testing but for whom

## Pilot Testing Site I: Karnataka

State	Karnataka
Division	Dandeli
Timeline	07 March 2017 to 10 March 2017
Assessor Team	Mr A K Varma Mr A K Bansal Ms Deepali Rautela
ICFRE Representative	Dr. N Ravi (Scientist- D), Tree Improvement and Genetics Division Institute of Wood Science and Technology (IWST), Malleshwaram, Bengaluru, Karnataka



**Pilot Testing Site II: Madhya Pradesh**

State	Madhya Pradesh
Division	Hoshangabad
Timeline	21 March 2017 to 25 March 2017
Assessor Team	Mr A K Bansal Mr Ashish Mishra Ms Taruna
ICFRE Representative	Dr. Yogeshwar Mishra (Scientist-F) Tropical Forest Research Institute (TFRI), Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh
WWF Representative	Mr Jyotirmay Jena, Sr. Project Officer, Satpuda Maikal Landscape (SML), WWF-India, Mandla, Madhya Pradesh



**Pilot Testing Site III: Assam**

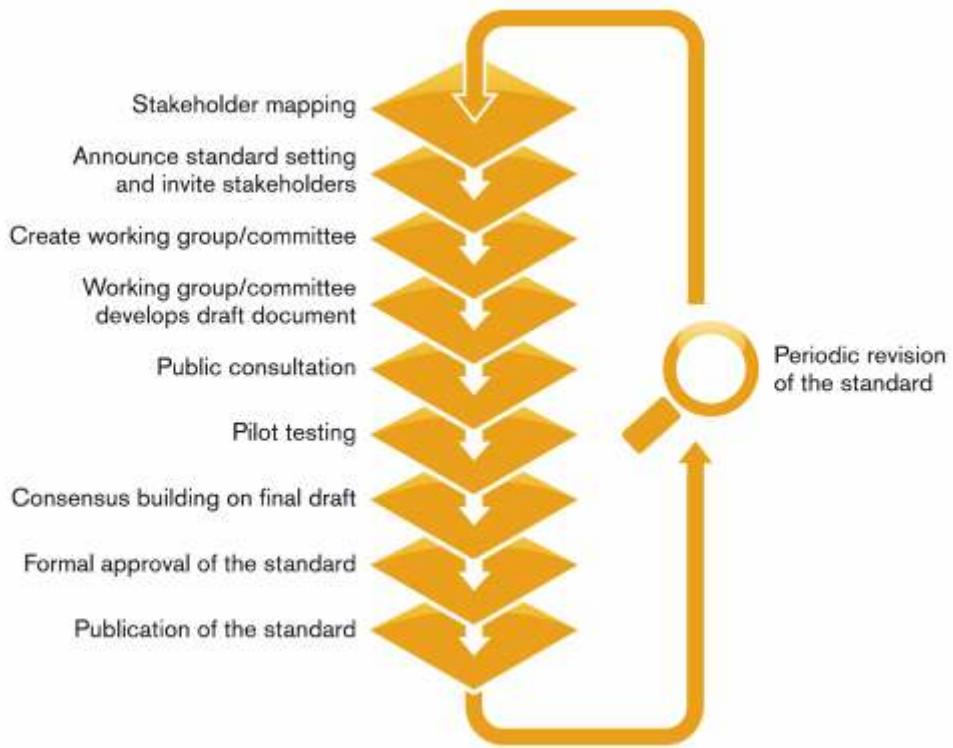
State	Assam
Division	Nagaon
Timeline	20 March 2017 to 25 March 2017
Assessor Team	Mr Manu Jose Mattam Ms Deepali Rautela
ICFRE Representative	Dr R.K. Kalita,(Scientist-E), Head Forestry Extension Division Rain Forest Research Institute (RFRI), Jorhat, Assam
WWF Representative	Dr. Pranab J. Bora, Sr. Landscape Coordinator Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong Landscape, WWF India, Assam



### Synopsis of the Process

Meeting/Event/Phase	Date	Remarks
Governing Body , NCCF Meeting	21 <sup>st</sup> February 2015	To initiate the process under the Chairman ship of Shri A K Varma
<b>Stakeholder Mapping and engagement exercise</b>		
Launch of the NCCF and announcement of the Standard Setting Process	16 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	Through International Conference on Forest Certification- Positioning India at New Delhi
Stakeholders Mapping and Notifications for Participation	January-March 2015	The EOI was circulated via emails, website in two cycles.
1 <sup>st</sup> International and National SDG Meeting	17 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	To discuss the way forward and take inputs from the other National Scheme owner
<b>Formation of the SDG &amp; TWG Groups</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup> TWG Meeting	13 <sup>th</sup> April 2015	To discuss the process and guidelines acceptance
<b>Creation of Draft Base Document</b>		
2 <sup>nd</sup> TWG Meeting	20 <sup>th</sup> May 2015	To discuss the structure for the base document
Basic draft of the identified themes was circulated to the members via email	15 <sup>th</sup> June – 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2015	
3 <sup>rd</sup> TWG Meeting	4 <sup>th</sup> July 2015	
4 <sup>th</sup> TWG Meeting	25 <sup>th</sup> August 2015	Draft Themes Finalization and Online consultation process discussion and approval
Online consultation of Theme A	7 <sup>th</sup> September-20 <sup>th</sup> September 2015	Through email and website
5 <sup>th</sup> TWG Meeting	3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2015	to review and approve the Theme A
Online Consultation of Theme B , C (Principles & Criteria)	18 <sup>th</sup> November-30th November 2015	Via emails and website
6 <sup>th</sup> TWG Meeting	5 <sup>th</sup> December 2015	To review and approve theme b & c
Online Theme D, E ,F (Principles & Criteria) and National	22 <sup>nd</sup> January-17 <sup>th</sup> January 2016	Via emails and website
7 <sup>th</sup> TWG Meeting	30 <sup>th</sup> January 2016	To review and approve Theme D, E ,F
8 <sup>th</sup> TWG Meeting	20 <sup>th</sup> February 2016	To review the themes and discuss the extended stakeholder outreach exercise
Compiled document draft circulation to all the SDG members	14 <sup>th</sup> March-16 <sup>th</sup> March 2016	Via email
<b>Extended Stakeholder Outreach Exercise</b>		
EOI to all the members for participation in the Outreach Exercise	7 <sup>th</sup> April 2016	
2 <sup>ND</sup> SDG Meeting	7 <sup>th</sup> May 2016	To update about the process and way forward
Field visits and outreach exercise	April – June 2016	
9 <sup>th</sup> TWG Meeting	18 <sup>th</sup> June 2016	To review the observations of the outreach exercise
10 <sup>th</sup> TWG Meeting	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2016	To review the base draft
Circulation of the Base Draft Version zero to the members for review	27 <sup>th</sup> July 2016	
3 <sup>rd</sup> SDG Meeting	20 <sup>th</sup> August 2016	To present and discuss the changes in draft
11 <sup>th</sup> TWG Meeting	23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2016	To discuss the comments and review
Circulation of the Draft 0 for comments from SDG	27 <sup>th</sup> September 2016	

Public Consultation		
<b>Public Consultation of the Draft Standard</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> October – 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	
<b>Consultation Workshop at Bangalore</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	
<b>Consultation Workshop at Odisha</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	
<b>12<sup>th</sup> TWG Meeting</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	To discuss the plantations within forests and the Pilot testing
<b>Consultation workshop at Guwahati</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	
<b>13<sup>th</sup> TWG Meeting</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	To review the draft post consultation and Pilot testing preparation
Pilot Testing		
<b>EOI for participation in the Pilot testing was put on web and circulated via email</b>	January 2017	
<b>Liaison with the State Forest Departments</b>	Dec 2016- Jan – Feb 2017	
<b>Pilot Testing</b>	March 2017	
<b>Report preparation and Submission</b>	March 2017	



Standard Setting Process

### Trees outside Forests (TOF) Standard Development

<b>Start Date of Project</b>	29 June 2016
Chairman, SDG&TWG, TOF	Dr Devendra Pandey, ex PCCF & HoFF, Arunachal Pradesh and ex DG, Forest Survey of India
<b>Status of Standard Development</b>	TOF Standard Zero Draft Document under Developed
<b>Meetings</b>	07 Technical Working Group 01 Standard Development Group
<b>Stakeholder Mapping</b>	Continuous process and adding relevant stakeholders
<b>Email</b>	tof.mail@nccf.in

NCCF has taken the initiative to develop standards on Sustainable management of Trees Outside Forests (TOF) under the Chairmanship of Dr. Devendra Pandey. In India, 95% of the total forest cover is under the ownership of central and state governments. On the contrary the current estimates show that about 85% requirement of wood and wood products in India is met from the trees grown outside forests. The concept of TOF is not new in the country and targeted efforts to promote, expand and increase production from this resource may hold promise. This sector is likely to get benefitted through development of national standards for forest certification and sustainable management of forests/ agroforestry systems.



*Courtesy: Sujan Sarkar (entry for NCCF-PEFC National Photo Contest)*



*Courtesy: Anindya Phani (entry for NCCF-PEFC National Photo Contest)*

TOF has a significant contribution in fulfilling industrial raw material demand and bringing them in purview of certification will eliminate the market barriers and will formally include TOF in the scope of certification. NCCF has constituted a Standard development group (SDG) for developing a standard for TOF certification and the work is at an advanced stage.

### Objectives of developing the TOF Standard

- To enhance and expand the purview of forest certification by bringing the Trees grown outside forest under it.
- To establish framework for certification of small land holders farm forestry and agro-forestry plantations, which are mainly grown for subsistence, food and wood security and identified environmental benefits
- To help farmers manage their trees responsibly so that they are not left out in growing need of certified raw material.
- To help and encourage timber based industries to include certified TOF raw material in their procurement policies and supply chain management.
- To give consumers an assurance that the product is made from wood coming from responsibly managed TOF.

### Non Wood Forest Products (NWFP) Standard Development

<b>Start Date of Project</b>	Yet to Begin
Chairman, SDG&TWG, NWFP	Mr. AK Bansal, Former Addl. DG Forests, MoEF & CC
<b>Status of Standard Development</b>	Concept Stage
<b>Meetings</b>	Internal Discussions
<b>Stakeholder Mapping</b>	Ongoing
<b>Email</b>	nwfp.mail@nccf.in

NCCF is planning to initiate the standard development process for development of certification standards for Non Wood Forest Products (NWFPs) under the Chairmanship of Mr. AK Bansal to evolve the extraction and use of the non-wood forest produce resources within the sustainability limits benefitting the forest dwellers, local communities and others involved in collection of NWFPs by establishing a tracking and traceability mechanism for these resources. The commercial opportunities for NWFPs are emerging in the present era and certification can help and promote ease of trade and facilitate market linkage and ensuring ethical trade practices.



Courtesy: Ashok K Biswal (entry for NCCf-PEFC National Photo Contest)



#### Objectives of developing the NWFP Standard

- Ensures resource sustainability
- Product specific certification to address limits and thresholds values for different plant and animal origin products.
- Maximize socio-economic benefits and benefit sharing with the forest dwellers, local communities and others involved in collection of NWFPs.
- Tracking and traceability mechanism for NWFPs.
- Promote ethical sourcing and enhance brand equity.
- Ensure use traditional knowledge and practices in management of NWFPs resources.
- Sustainable Commercial use of the NWFPs

### Protected Areas and Wetlands (PAWs) Standard Development

<b>Start Date of Project</b>	Yet to Begin
Chairman, SDG&TWG, PAWs	Dr Jagdish Kishwan, PCCF & HoFF, Jammu & Kashmir DG, ICFRE and Chancellor FRI University Addl. DG Wildlife, MoEFCC
<b>Status of Standard Development</b>	Concept Stage
<b>Meetings</b>	Internal Discussions
<b>Stakeholder Mapping</b>	Ongoing
<b>Email</b>	paws.mail@nccf.in

NCCF is simultaneously initiating the Standard Development process for Protected Areas and Wetlands (PAWs) under the Chairmanship of Dr. Jagdish Kishwan in mid-2017. India is committed to mainstream National Biodiversity Targets 2012-2020 and the PAWs Standard is a voluntary step in that direction to develop a robust and comprehensive institutional mechanism for scientific monitoring of the health of Protected Areas. NCCF's objective for certification Standard development for PAWs is to put in place a simple, usable and generic certification standard applicable to complete range of PAs and Conservation areas wetlands in the country without undermining existence and significance of existing Standards



Courtesy: Anudeep Agarwal (entry for NCCF-PEFC National Photo Contest)



## Policy , Advocacy and Research

### **CITES Related Policy Advocacy**

In early 2017 The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), called for moving all the species of Dalbergia including Dalbergia latifolia (Rosewood) and Dalbergia sissoo (Sheesham) to Appendix II of CITES, resulting in Indian exporters of wooden handicrafts using the said species to necessarily obtain CITES permit for exporting the finished products to global markets. NCCF proactively advocated with the Ministry to perform NDF study before reaching a final decision as livelihood of millions of people is dependent on the extraction and trade of the mentioned species.

### **Draft Policy Paper on Promoting Sustainable Trade of Wood And Wood Based Industries**

NCCF prepared and presented the policy paper on promoting sustainable trade of wood and wood based industries to Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare. The paper presented the figures of the domestic consumption and production of wood products in the existing wood markets in India, the Projected wood demand and supply in India, International Trade and potential of “make in India “ in wood sector.

The paper also highlighted the current policy gaps limiting the growth of the wood and wood based products for increase of trade and commerce in India and suggested recommendations to the central ministries of the Government of India for making the situation favourable.

### **Assistance to the Nepal Certification Standard Development Process**

Nepal is in process of developing their nation specific forest certification scheme. In the same regard, Mr. Sachin Raj Jain, Convener NCCF visited the office of GFN to guide them about the standard development process. As a part of this continued support, a representative from the GFN visited the NCCF office to understand the system requirements and the development process. The NCCF continues to provide the support to their Standard Development Process.

## Workshops

Apart from 60 days online consultation of the Draft Forest Management Certification Standard, three regional consultation workshops were held PAN India. The agenda for the workshop was to

1. Sensitise the stakeholders about Forest Certification and the Standard Development Process
2. To present the NCCF Draft Forest Management Certification Standard and seek their inputs

### a. Bhopal

**Date :** 19th May 2016

**Venue :** Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

In collaboration with Indian Institute of Forest Management. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr G.A. Kinhal, Director IIFM and attended by representatives from Madhya Pradesh Forest Department and faculties of the institute.



*Consultation Workshop, Madhya Pradesh*

### b. Bengaluru

**Date :** 25th October 2016

**Venue :** Institute of Wood Science and Technology at Bengaluru, Karnataka

In collaboration with the Institute of Wood Science and Technology. The workshop was inaugurated by Shri Vijay Bhaskar, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department, Government of Karnataka and attended by Shri Surendra Kumar, Director, IWST, Shri R.S. Suresh, PCCF & HoFF, Karnataka.



*Consultation Workshop, Bengaluru*

**c. Bhubaneswar**

**Date :** 11th November 2016

**Venue :** Conference Hall, Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, SFTRI Campus, Ghatikia, Bhubaneswar

Facilitated by Odisha state Forest department and Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project. The workshop was inaugurated by Shri S.S.Srivastava, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests &HoFF, Govt. of Odisha. Dr.(Mrs) Meeta Biswal, IFS, Additional Project Director, Odisha Forestry Sector Development was the Guest of Honour.



*Consultation Workshop, Odisha*

**d. Guwahati**

**Date :** 8th December 2016

**Venue :** Conference Hall, NEDFI House, G S Road, Guwahati, Assam

Facilitated by Assam State Forest Department. The workshop was inaugurated by Shri D Mathur, then PCCF &HoFF, Assam, Shri A.K.Singh, PCCF, Assam, Shri A.M. Singh, APCCF, Assam, and Mr. BS Kharmowphlong, APCCF were the guests of honour.



*Consultation Workshop, Assam*

## Participation in Conferences and meetings

### **National Symposium on “Agroforestry for environmental challenges, sustainable land use, biodiversity conservation and rural livelihood options”**

December 3-5, 2016

The Indian Society of Agroforestry in collaboration with ICAR- Central Agroforestry Research Institute, Jhansi, and the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) jointly organized a National Symposium on “Agroforestry for environmental challenges, sustainable land use, biodiversity conservation and rural livelihood options” during December 3-5, 2016 at Jhansi. Main themes of the symposium were: i) Agroforestry systems for climate resilient agriculture, ii) Agroforestry for food security and rural livelihood options, iii) Bio-resource and energy management ; and iv) Socio-economic and Policy issues in agroforestry . Keeping in view significance of Agro forestry in certification, Mr. A K Srivastava, Executive Director (Honorary), was invited to attend the symposium and share his thoughts through a presentation on activities and plans of the NCCF.

### **A Platform for PSS in India - First Meeting of the Multi-Stakeholder Committee India National Platform on Private Sustainability Standards**

16 December 2016

Quality Council of India in collaboration with the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards has set up the Indian National Platform on Private Sustainability Standards (PSS) to facilitate dialogue between stakeholders, enhance market access opportunities and maximize sustainable development benefits for the PSS. It further collaborates with Standards/ Accreditation Bodies across economies for promoting VSS for mutual benefit.

The first meeting of the Multi Stakeholder Committee on PSS was held on 16th December 2016. NCCF also attended the meeting and presented a brief about its activities about developing standards for certification of forests and trees outside forests. The certification has to be a market driven mechanism. As Private Sustainability Standards (PSS) is specifying requirements relating to a wide range of sustainability metrics, including workers' health and safety, environmental degradation, respect for human rights etc, NCCF expects the PSS platform to provide useful inputs and suggestions for finalization of the standards and its effective implementation

## PEFC Week

The annual PEFC Week event took place on 14- 18th November 2016 at Bali, Indonesia. Mr. Sachin Raj Jain, Convener, NCCF and Mr. Suneel Kumar Pandey, Secretary, NCCF participated as the NCCF representative in the proceedings.

## Participation in the PEFC ToF and SFM revision Task Force

NCCF is part of the Working Groups of PEFC formed for revision of the PEFC SFM and other scheme standards. PEFC have further initiated the process of development of Tree outside forests standard development through a separate Task Force. NCCF is member of the working groups and Task forces. Mr. Sachin Raj Jain, Convener, NCCF, nominated representative of NCCF has been actively participating in the whole process providing/ representing the views from the Indian context taking into consideration the NCCF ToF standard development process as well.

## Acknowledgement

The Governing Body thank the NCCF's employees, members, stakeholders and academic institutions for their continuous support. The GB also thank the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, State Forest Departments of various states in India and concerned government agencies for their co-operation. The Governing Body appreciate and value the contributions made by every member of the NCCF family.

## Financial Statements

### NETWORK FOR CERTIFICATION AND CONSERVATION OF FORESTS

#### Balance Sheet For The Year Ending 31.03.2017

Particulars	Schedule	As on 31.03.2017 (Rs.)	As on 31.03.2016 (Rs.)
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDS :</b>			
Income & Expenditure A/c	1	(35,18,573.85)	(15,91,619.00)
Development of National Certification and Standard		1,98,643.00	21,52,062.00
<b>Loan Fund :</b>			
Green Initiatives Certification & Inspection Agency / Sachin Raj Jain		13,98,144.00	6,97,544.00
GICIA India Private Limited		1,21,197.00	-
<b>Total Funds</b>		<b>(18,00,589.85)</b>	<b>12,57,987.00</b>
<b>APPLICATION OF FUNDS :</b>			
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Computer		48,714.00	19,285.00
Less: Depreciation		29,228.40	11,571.00
		19,485.60	7,714.00
Sound Recorder		9,000.00	-
Less: Depreciation		1,350.00	-
		7,650.00	
		<b>27,135.60</b>	<b>7,714.00</b>
<b>Current Assets, Loans &amp; Advances</b>			
Fees Receivable	2	73,750.00	14,750.00
Prepaid Membership Fees Expense		3,14,370.63	-
Cash in Hand		2,379.00	865.00
Andhra Bank A/c 4544		49,793.00	3,489.00
Andhra Bank A/c 6930		1,48,643.00	21,61,194.00
		<b>5,88,935.63</b>	<b>21,80,298.00</b>
<b>Less: Current Liabilities &amp; Provisions:</b>			
Expenses Payable & Creditors	3	23,87,539.08	9,11,025.00
Duties & Taxes	4	29,122.00	1,500.00
Amount Received in Advanced	5	-	17,500.00
		<b>24,16,661.08</b>	<b>9,30,025.00</b>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS (A - B)</b>		(18,27,725.45)	12,50,273.00
<b>Total Funds</b>		<b>(18,00,589.85)</b>	<b>12,57,987.00</b>

**NETWORK FOR CERTIFICATION AND CONSERVATION OF FORESTS**
**Income & Expenditure Account For The Year Ending 31.03.2017**

<b>Particulars</b>	<b>As On 31.03.2017 (Rs.)</b>	<b>As On 31.03.2016 (Rs.)</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Admission Fees- (Subscriber Mem.)	2,000.00	-
Admission Fees- (Associate Mem.)	18,000.00	2,000.00
Admission Fees- (Institutional Mem.)	2,000.00	6,000.00
Admission Fees- (Ordinary Mem.)	8,000.00	15,000.00
Annual Subscription Fees (Associate Mem.)	2,000.00	3,000.00
Annual Subscription Fees (Institutional Mem.)	40,000.00	22,500.00
Annual Subscription Fees (Subscriber Mem.)	20,000.00	45,000.00
Annual Subscription Fees (Ordinary Mem.)	80,000.00	50,000.00
Life Time Mem. Fees (Associate Mem.)	1,90,000.00	-
Life Time Mem. Fees (Ordinary Mem.)	1,25,000.00	-
Life Time Mem. Fees (Subscriber Mem.)	1,50,000.00	-
Donation	1,49,000.00	1,00,000.00
Foriegn Exchange Fluctuation	5,133.68	-
Interest Received	-	9,407.00
	<b>7,91,133.68</b>	<b>2,52,907.00</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Standard Development Group Expenses	76,783.69	2,48,418.00
Accrediation Committee Meeting	4,039.00	-
Annual General Meeting	26,284.90	-
Governing Board Meeting Exp.	6,015.23	-
Internal Meeting	3,765.00	-
Audit Fees	20,000.00	20,000.00
Conveyance Exp.	2,00,008.00	1,80,000.00
Fees & Subscription	-	1,000.00
Salary	10,40,684.00	5,72,108.00
Maintenace Exp. (Feather Info.P Ltd.)	52,045.00	-
Tour & Travelling Expense	2,04,279.71	-
Membership Fees Exp.	6,15,060.15	8,584.00
Rent Exp.(Feather Info.P Ltd.)	1,49,191.00	2,489.00
Interest On TDS	3,638.00	864.00
Sponcership Fees	1,25,000.00	8,000.00
Office Expense	1,690.00	9,157.00
Telephone & Internet Exp.	9,488.00	2,10,000.00
Printing & Stationery	54,432.00	9,711.00
Professional Fees	84,000.00	40,000.00
Bank Charges	1,331.00	955.00
Web Designing	9,771.00	80,523.00
R/Off	4.45	-
Depreciation	30,578.40	11,571.00
	<b>27,18,088.53</b>	<b>14,03,380.00</b>
<b>Excess of Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>(19,26,954.85)</b>	<b>(11,50,473.00)</b>



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