



## ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

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

Published by :  
Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF)  
Registered Office :EPCH House, Sector C, LSC , Pocket 6 & 7, New Delhi

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Cover Photo : Mr. Subhash Ashutosh, IFS  
(Water, a major yield of forest)



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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, detailing the activities of the organization with its audited financial statement.

The NCCF, a non-profit organization, came into existence in early 2015. It has already generated an impressive repository of work on the environmental, economic and social aspects of sustainable forest management.

We feel encouraged by the positive, forward-looking setting that is with us today. This takes into account new knowledge and understanding on forest conservation and certification. Increasing numbers are getting associated with responsible agriculture and sustainable logging. More and more, society is recognizing the need to have products with a lower carbon footprint. It is from this perspective that we have all been engaged in developing and contributing to the evolving national and international forestry agenda, keeping in view relevance to process, tangible value addition and acceptability to stakeholders.

The development of country specific guidelines and forest management certification standards by NCCF has been a major institutional effort. This has been made possible by close working ties with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, State Forest Departments, State Forest Development Corporations, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute, Export Promotion Council of Handicrafts, Quality Council of India, National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies, International Union for Conservation of Nature, International Network for Bamboo and Rattan, various tribal and women groups and other stakeholders.

Both natural forests and agroforestry contribute to conservation and consumption needs within the sustainable development framework of the country. Standards are being developed for trees outside forests keeping in view the fact that a significant part of the additional forest cover and wood products will come from social forestry and household farms. Building institutional bridges is helping fulfil our aim to develop certification standards and processes that are implementable and measurable.

Our endeavor in the NCCF has been to enhance collaboration between government agencies, the private sector, voluntary organizations and individual farmers representing relevant disciplines, including in areas like biodiversity, wildlife and medicinal plants. A linked question is how to make certification accessible to small forest holdings and low volume producers while having workable standards enabling benefits to local communities by tapping their own entrepreneurship.

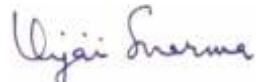
We must also ask ourselves whether our systems are adequately geared up to keep track of what is trending. To illustrate, if the Paris Agreement on greenhouse gas sinks and reservoirs and REDD+ refers to the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest stocks in developing countries, what are the implications of this for NCCF work.

The nature of NCCF is such that its work is bound to expand. Policy advocacy is one area. Another is in the field of natural capital accounting in the forestry sector, development of raw material banks for wood based industries, or ecological assessments, say, of wildlife or bird sanctuaries.

It is apparent that the NCCF is a well-endowed brains-trust. The question is how best can we be positioned to be contemporary and useful. In other words, what should be the orientation of the NCCF in the evolving national and international forestry management agenda.

Friends, NCCF's intellectual stimulus and substance comes from a spectrum of forestry specialists, entrepreneurs, social scientists, highly motivated professionals and committed stakeholders. There is a good balance of vision, practice and professionalism. NCCF's promise and potential for doing good to society, our ecology and sustainable forest management is more evident than ever.

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

## Abbreviations

CEE	Centre for Environment Education
CFCC	China Forest Certification Council
CII	Confederation of Indian Industry
CoC	Chain of Custody
CSE	Centre for Science and Environment
DONER	Development Of North Eastern Region
EPCH	Export Promotions Council for Handicrafts
EPCH	Export Promotions Council for Handicrafts
EUTR	European Union Timber Regulation
FM	Forest Management
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
FY	Financial Year
GACF	Global Alliance of Community Forest
GB	Governing Body
GICIA	Green Initiatives Certification & Inspection Agency
ICFRE	Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
IIFM	Indian Institute of Forest Management
INBAR	International Network for Bamboo and Rattans
INBAR	International Network for Bamboo and Rattans
IPIRTI	Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institutes
IPMA	Indian Paper Manufacturers Association
ITC	Indian Tobacco Company
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MoEFCC	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTCC	Malaysian Timber Certification Council

NABCB	National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies
NCCF	Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests
NTFPs	Non-Timber Forest Products
OXFAM	Oxford Committee for Famine Relief
PEFC	Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification
PSPD	Paperboards and Specialty Papers Division
SCS	Scientific Certification Systems
SDG	Standard Development Group
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
ToF	Trees Outside Forest
TWG	Technical Working Group
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

## Overview of NCCF

The Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF) came into existence to cater to the requirement of forest certification and sustainable forest management. NCCF has been joined by the key forest based stakeholders such as the institutions of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) like Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Indian Council for Forestry, Research and Education (ICFRE), Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institutes (IPIRTI), Export Promotions Council for Handicrafts (EPCH), ITC Ltd. Quality Council of India, Chemical and Allied Export Promotion Council of India Ltd., International Network for Bamboo and Rattans (INBAR), Green Initiatives Certification & Inspection Agency (GICIA), Indian Paper Manufacturers Association (IPMA), Greenply, Lok Vaniki Kisan Samiti, Forest Workers Associations, handicrafts industries, Dabur, Arya Vaidya Sala, Kottakal Paper & Plywood Industries and many more, with an objective to establish a country specific forest certification scheme.

### Objectives

- To develop National Standards for Sustainable Forest Management & Forest Certification that are compatible and conforming to the national statutes & 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 consideration to the unique needs of small and family forest owners
- To bridge the gap between policy makers and practitioners including entrepreneurs on issues that emerge 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.

## **The Standards and Procedures currently followed and being developed by the NCCF:**

### **1. Standard setting**

The Requirement for Standard Setting, a significant policy document has been approved and uploaded on NCCF's website. It serves as the "Constitution" for the standard development process being followed by NCCF.

### **2. Sustainable Forest Management Standard & Certification**

### **3. Group Forest Management certification**

### **4. Chain of Custody (CoC) Certification**

### **5. Certification and accreditation Procedures**

### **6. Administrative Procedure**

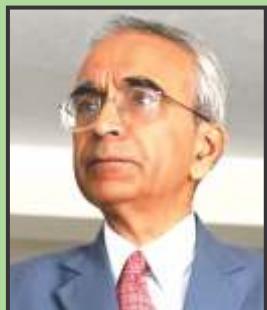
### **7. Complaints and Appeals Mechanism**

### **8. Logo usage Rules**

## GOVERNING BODY

The Governing body, comprising the Chairman and 8 members, is the governing body which decides the overall policies and direction in carrying out NCCF's activities. The members comprise representatives from the Central Ministries, Senior Retired

Civil Services Officers, Professional Foresters, private sector (timber industry associations), non-governmental organisations (social and environmental interests) and experts from certification bodies.



### CHAIRMAN

*Mr. Vijai Sharma,  
IAS (retd)*



Mr. A. K. Varma  
Co- Chairman



Mr. Suneel Pandey  
Secretary



Mr. J. K. Jain  
Joint Secretary



Mr. Sachin Raj Jain  
Convener- Treasurer



Mr. I. V. R. Rao,  
Joint Treasurer



Mr. Sanjeev Kumar  
Member

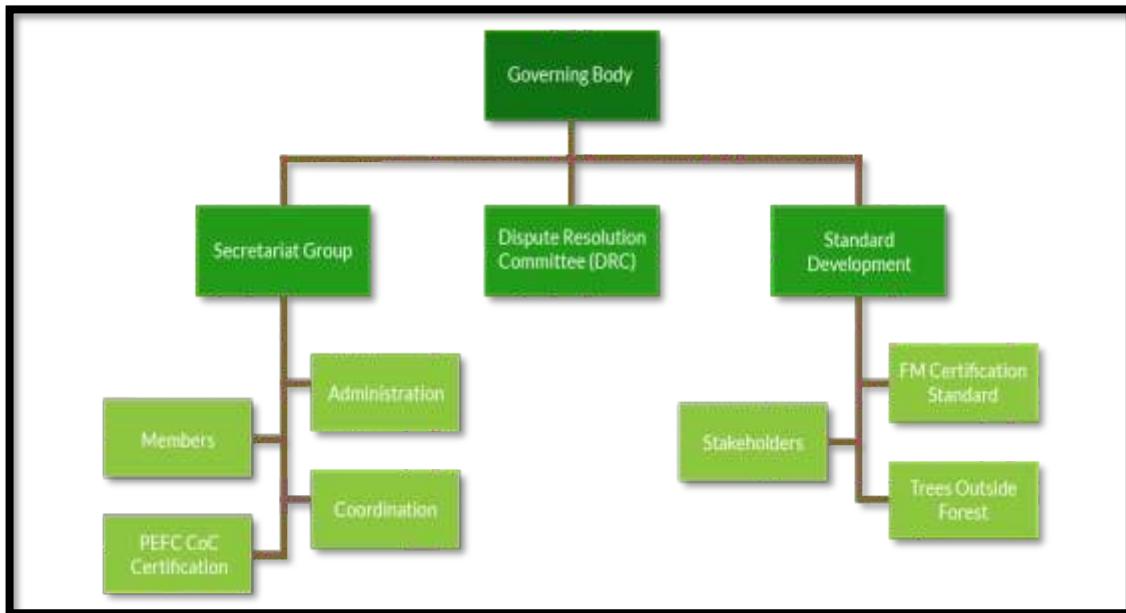


Mr. Rakesh Kumar  
Member



Mr. Devabrata  
Member

## Institutional Framework



### Secretariat



**Mr. A K Srivastava, IFS (retd)**  
**Executive Director, NCCF**  
**[executivedirector@nccf.in](mailto:executivedirector@nccf.in)**



**Ms. Deepali Rautela**  
**Project Coordinator, NCCF**  
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**Ms. Nidhi Rawat**  
**Associate, NCCF**  
**[associate@nccf.in](mailto:associate@nccf.in)**

## Membership of the Council

NCCF is a non-profit organization registered as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1864. There are members of NCCF in different categories viz. Subscriber members, Institutional, Ordinary and Associate members, drawn from diverse backgrounds and include representatives of environmental and social non-governmental organizations, the timber trade, forestry organizations, indigenous people's organizations, community forestry groups, retailers and manufacturers, and forest certification organizations, as well as individual forest owners and interested parties. Members have the right to attend the conferences, trainings, seminars, exhibition, workshops and other important events and meetings. NCCF, being a non-profit organization, will provide the benefit of 80G to its members/donors i.e. any amount of donation to NCCF will be applicable for Income tax deduction (the donor can claim deduction of that particular amount donated u/s 80G of the IT Act 1961. NCCF also approached Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare for their support and coordination in our initiative towards forest management.

**The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has nominated Mr. R. B. Sinha, Joint Secretary to the Governing Board of NCCF.** The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is represented in the Standard Development Group through the nominees of Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) and Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM). The NCCF has requested the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to nominate their representative to its Governing Body.

### Benefits of Membership:

1. The members of NCCF automatically become an officially important stakeholder for the organization and the process.
2. It is a not for profit organization and 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 draft standards
5. NCCF members may be elected as the member of the Governing Body.
6. Access to Research, Surveys, Knowledge Papers, Press Releases of NCCF.
7. NCCF 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.z

## Subscriber Members

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

## Co-opted Members

- ❖ Shri A M Singh, Ministry of DoNER, Govt of India.

## Government Members

- ❖ Shri. R B Sinha, Joint Secretary ,Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt of India.

## Institutional Members

- ❖ Indian Plywood Industries Research & training Institute (IPIRTI)
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Paper Ltd
- ❖ Indian Paper Manufacturer's Association
- ❖ Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Ltd
- ❖ Haryana Forest Development Corporation
- ❖ Hariom Education and Trainer
- ❖ Drona Institute of Technology
- ❖ Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts

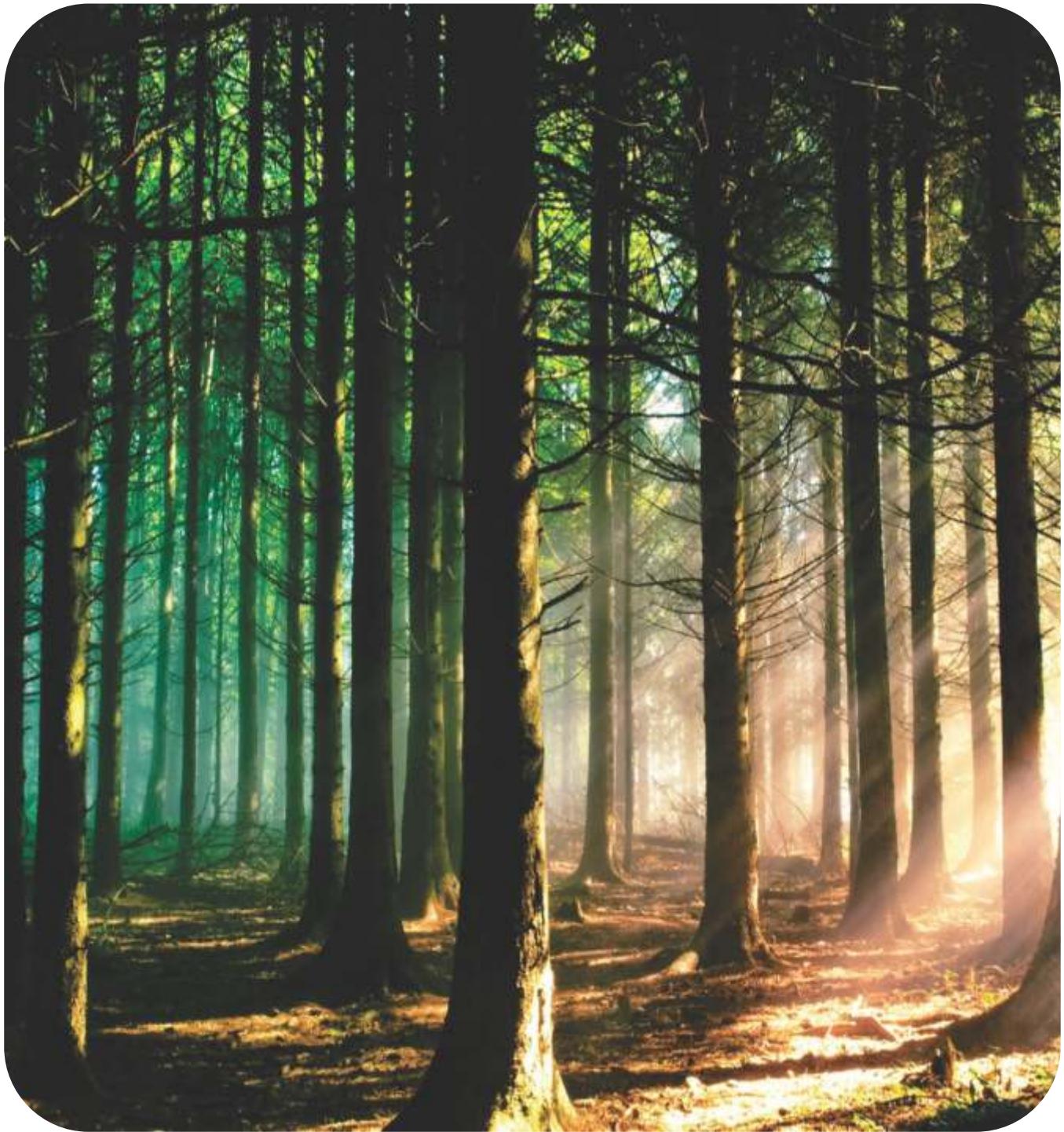
## Ordinary Members

- ❖ ITC Ltd
- ❖ Sripathi Paper & Boards Pvt Ltd
- ❖ Shining Handicrafts
- ❖ Marghoob and Brothers
- ❖ Sankalp International
- ❖ Servalakshmi Paper Ltd
- ❖ Dabur India Ltd
- ❖ AryaVaidyaSala, Kottakal
- ❖ S P Labels
- ❖ Star Papers
- ❖ Royal Wood Crafts
- ❖ Vishwanath Paper & Boards Ltd
- ❖ Printografik Packaging India Pvt Ltd
- ❖ Krishna Creative Cards Pvt Ltd
- ❖ DalmiaCemet (Bharat) Ltd
- ❖ GrupO JK
- ❖ Indian Art Furniture Pvt Ltd
- ❖ KudratGramodhyaySansathan
- ❖ A K Panels
- ❖ Seshasayee Paper and Boards Limited

## Associate Members

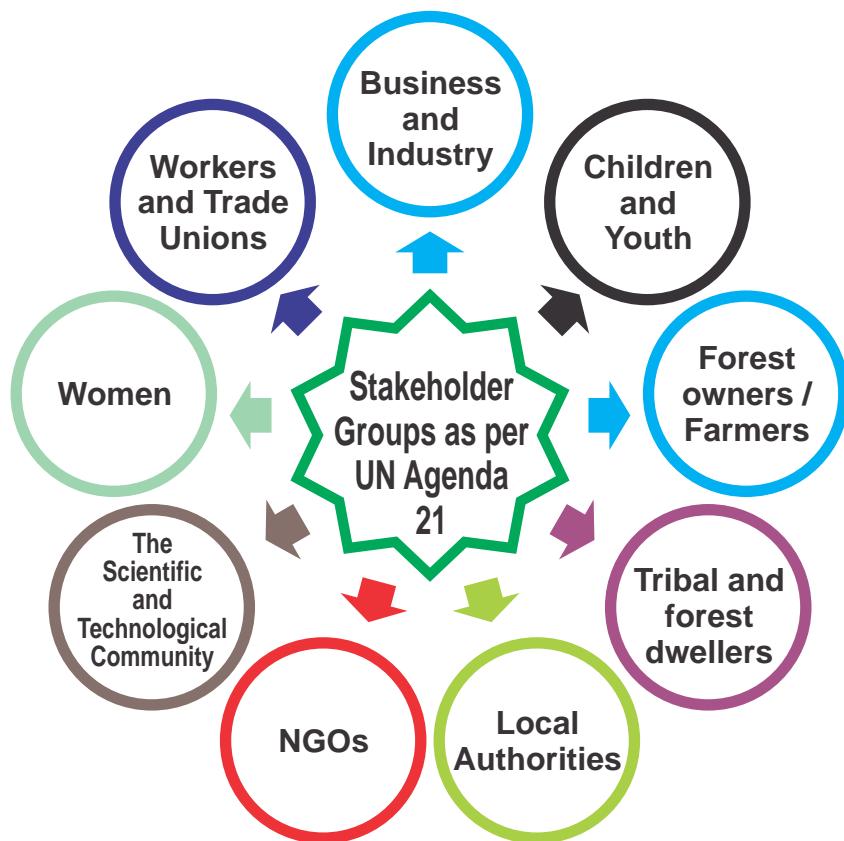
- ❖ Western India Plywoods Ltd
- ❖ Mr. Ambarish Choubey, IFS (retd)
- ❖ Mr. Manu Jose Mattam
- ❖ Ms. Neha Channa
- ❖ Mr. A K Srivastava, IFS (retd)

## Forest Certification



### Forest Management Standard Development Progress

NCCF has constituted a Standard Development Group (SDG) following the guidelines of UN Agenda 21 for developing the National Standards for Forest Certification and SFM. The SDG is represented by professional foresters, representatives from forestry research and academic institutions (ICFRE & IIFM), business, NGOs (WWF) (social and environment related), workers and trade unions, youth, women and tribal groups and certification bodies.



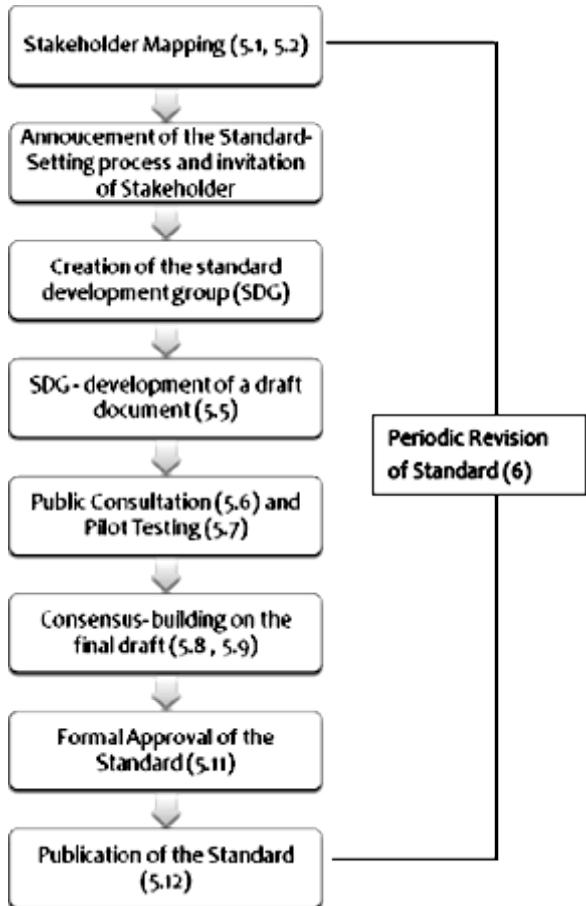
A Technical Working Group (TWG) of the Standard Development Group is mandated to draft the zero version of the National Standards for Forest Certification and SFM. The TWG has held 13 meetings so far and while developing draft standard is considering and taking into account all relevant works done by the institutions such as IIFM as well as domestic and international certification agencies in terms of the standards for the management of plantation and forests in the different agro-ecological regions of the country. The draft standards would be India specific; and would 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. The NCCF is confident of rolling out country specific standards for forest certification and SFM within next one year.



**Fig: Technical Working Group Meetings**

The activity sheet of SDG & TWG Meetings so far during FY 2015-16 is as under:

Meeting	Outcomes
1. Governing Body NCCF meeting – 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb 2015	Formation of SDG under the Chairmanship of Mr. Avani Varma
2. SDG cum Stakeholder Meeting – 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	Forest Grid Presentation and discussion – way forward
3. TWG Meeting – 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2015	Discussion on the process and operational guidelines
4. TWG Meeting – 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2015	Standard Base Document Structure- Discussion
5. TWG Meeting - 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2015	Standard Base Document Themes Discussion ; Framework for the process; discussion on hiring of interns for the data collection activity.
6. TWG Meeting – 25 <sup>TH</sup> August 2015	Themes Finalization and Online consultation process discussion and approval
7.TWG Meeting – 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2015	Review on the Theme A online consultation comments .
8. TWG Meeting - 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2015	Review on the Theme B,C online consultation comments
9. TWG Meeting - 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2016	Review on the Theme B, C D,E , F online consultation comments – compiled themes document .
10. TWG Meeting – 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2016	Extended Stakeholder Outreach exercise – methodology discussion



In the working draft of the standard, major issues relevant to forest certification have been grouped together into similar Themes designed and organized to conform to the 'triple bottom-line' approach of sustainability and responsible forest management, viz. socially responsible, environmentally sustainable and economically viable' forest management. These Themes are organized into Principles, which are the building blocks of the standard. The Principles are further elaborated by means of various Criteria for evaluation, with each Criterion corresponding to a particular aspect of the Principle, with the whole Principle being more than the sum of its participant criteria. As a further stage of refinement, Indicators have been developed for each criterion, to enable judging the performance in the field.

Fig : Framework followed by the SDG  
(as per the standard setting policy document)

Each theme was put for consultation among the SDG and stakeholders before being finalised.

Consultation	Timeline
1. Basic Draft of the Identified Themes	15 June – 26 June 2015
2. Theme A ( Principles & Criteria)	7 <sup>th</sup> September 2015 – 20 September 2015
3. Theme B , C ( Principles & Criteria) And National and International Law list	18 <sup>th</sup> November 2015 – 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2015 15 <sup>TH</sup> December 2015 -15 <sup>th</sup> January 2015
5. Theme D,E,F (Principles & Criteria)	22th December 2015- 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2016

The themes and its organization are as follows:

**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 management of High Conservation Values, tangible and intangible forest services, biodiversity, natural resource conservation and management etc.



*Courtesy : Dr Sandeep Tambe, IFS, IIFM*

## ToF Standard Development Progress



Courtesy : Pranjal Saxena ([pranjalsaxena@hotmail.com](mailto:pranjalsaxena@hotmail.com))

NCCF has taken the initiative to develop standards on responsible or Sustainable management of Trees Outside Forests (TOF). In India, where 95% of the total forest cover is under the ownership of central and state government, current estimates show that about 85 % requirement of wood and wood products in India is met from the trees grown outside forests. There fore, 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.

TOF has 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 forest management certification. NCCF has constituted a Standard development group (SDG) for developing a standard for TOF certification and the work is at an advanced stage.

## Conservation



## Natural Capital Accounting

NCCF has partnered with GICIA to collaboratively develop along with IUCN India, specifically its Leaders for Nature India program, a toolkit for natural capital accounting for forestry sector businesses in India. Our partner in industry to pilot and test this toolkit will be the Paperboard and Specialty Pulp Division of ITC Limited. The work is at an advanced stage of negotiation between the three organisations and will shortly be initiated after a formal agreement is signed. To develop this toolkit, NCCF, GICIA and IUCN India will be following the Natural Capital Protocol that has been developed by the Natural Capital Coalition.

The Natural Capital Coalition, formerly The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Business, is a global multi-stakeholder partnership/initiative/collaboration made up of organisations from the realms of research, science, academia, business, advisory, membership, accountancy, reporting, standard setting, finance, investment, policy, government, conservation and civil society. The Natural Capital Coalition aims to harmonize all approaches to Natural Capital Accounting. One of the aims of the coalition is to develop, test and encourage the use of a standardized Natural Capital Protocol and sector guides. The logical next step that NCCF is aspiring to achieve by undertaking this work is to go on to develop an official Natural Capital Accounting sector guide for forestry sector businesses.

Policy, Advocacy and Research



## Comments to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on the Compensatory Afforestation Bill- 2015

The Select Committee constituted by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to examine the Compensatory Afforestation Bill- 2015 invited comments of the stakeholders. The NCCF offered its comments to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. While strongly supporting the bill, NCCF commented that the said bill would encourage effective utilization of the funds by the States and Union Territory Governments for undertaking artificial regeneration (plantations), assisted natural regeneration, protection of forests, forest related infrastructure development, Green India Programme, wildlife conservation, human-wildlife conflict management and other related activities and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

## Seminars / Workshops

### Stakeholders Meeting on 17th March 2015

A meeting of the Stakeholders was held at India International Centre on 17th March 2015 to discuss the details of the Standard Development Process of NCCF. The future road map for the Standard development group was presented by the Secretary, NCCF and comments were sought from the participants. The meeting was attended among others by PEFC, MTCC, WWF representatives.



### SDG Meeting for Extended Stakeholders Consultation

It was decided by the NCCF to conduct a consultation meeting of the Standard Development Group (SDG) and extended stakeholders in the month of May 2016 at the Indian International Centre, New Delhi to present the stakeholders and members the chronological details of the Standard Development process and details of the Draft Themes, Principles and Criteria of the National Standards for Forest Certification and SFM with the objective of soliciting their comments.

## International Conference on Forest Certification – Positioning India

The process to develop India's forest certification system was launched on 16th March 2016 at the Ashok Hotel, New Delhi. The "International Conference on Forest Certification–Positioning India" which was co-hosted by NCCF and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), the world's leading forest certification system and the ITC Ltd. The conference brought together government, business, and civil society stakeholders to discuss the status of forests in India and to learn from the international experts about the benefits of certification of forests and trees outside forests for promotion of sustainable forestry.



Representatives from Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC), China Forest Certification Council (CFCC), ICIMOD, Global Alliance of Community Forest (GACF) Nepal, Roman Forum and domestic key forest based stakeholders such as Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and its Institutions like Indian Institute of Forest Management, ICFRE, Ministry of Agriculture & farmers welfare, Ministry of DoNER, State Forest Departments, handicrafts based organization and federations such as Export Promotions Council for Handicrafts (EPCH), ITC Ltd, International Network for Bamboo and Rattans (INBAR), certification agencies like Green Initiatives Certification & Inspection Agency(GICIA), SCS global services, Bureau Veritas, FSC, Social and Environmental NGOs and community organizations - Lok Vaniki Kisan Samiti, Forest Workers Associations, WWF, STADD, CEE, CSE and many more had attended the International Conference and enriched its proceedings. The launch also marked the initiation of the development of FM Certification standard and welcomed all the forest fraternity stakeholders to participate in the process.

## Recognition & Engaging stakeholders on forest issues

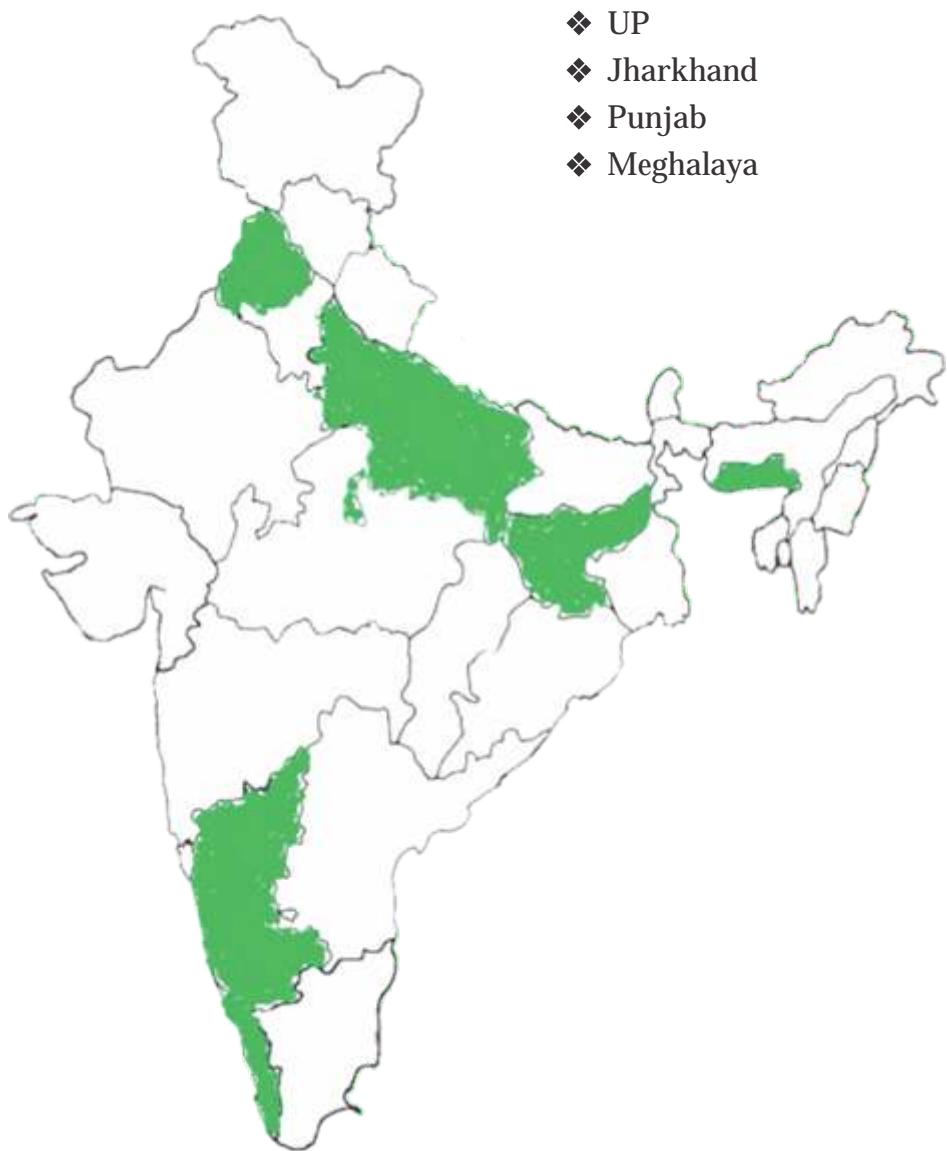


## State Forest Department's Nodal officers with NCCF

NCCF requested the State Forest Departments to nominate their nodal officers to the SDG of NCCF for their engagement and support in meeting our objectives and development of Standards for Forest Management.

The Forest Departments of the following states have nominated their nodal officers to the SDG – NCCF.

- ❖ Karnataka
- ❖ Tamil Nadu
- ❖ UP
- ❖ Jharkhand
- ❖ Punjab
- ❖ Meghalaya



## Extended stakeholder outreach exercise

Advance planning was done by the NCCF to conduct an Extended stakeholder outreach exercise during April 2016 to July 2016 to ensure the involvement of the disadvantaged stakeholders who could not be a part of the standard development process so far.

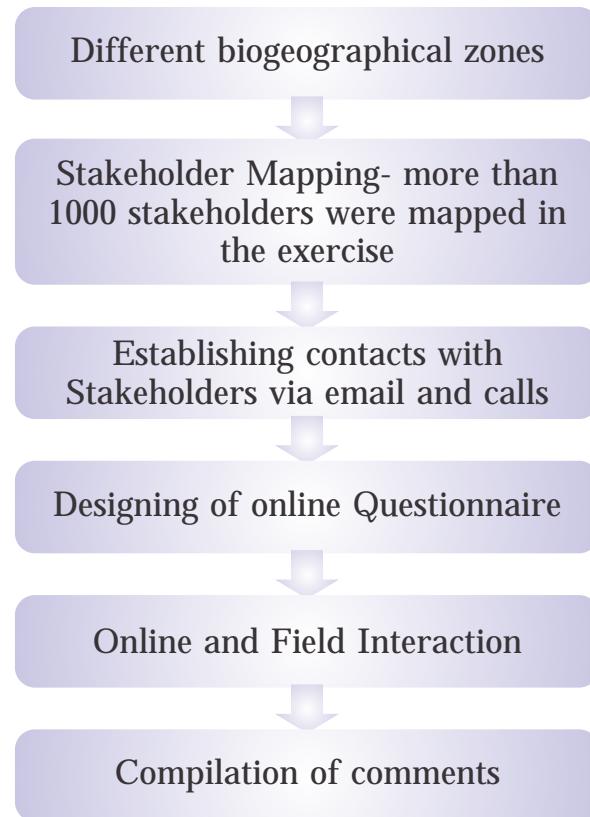
### **Objective :**

The objective of the exercise is to :-

- To broaden the canvas of the stakeholders involved ;
- To cater and record the observations of the disadvantaged stakeholders who otherwise could not be a part of the process but are relevant for the productive and successful implementation of the Scheme;
- With sustainable development being a prime focus in the world summits like CoP21, Rio declarations, Millennium Development Goals etc., involvement of public participation is considered an important aspect in the steady movement towards this direction;
- This exercise for standard development will generate awareness amongst the stakeholders about significance of the Certification;
- To cover all three aspects of sustainable forest management i.e. Social, Economic and Environmental;
- To develop and refine the Indicators and Verifiers.

With the approval of IIFM, the NCCF had selected five students of the IIFM's Post Graduate Diploma course in Forest Management Students for the Extended Stakeholder Outreach exercise. It was decided to begin the project in April 2016 and end by July 2016. The IIFM Associates will be trained and guided by the NCCF team for mapping the stakeholders and consulting such vast field consultations. The regional consultations will take place in three bio geographical regions of India – South, West and North. The regional consultation teams will record their findings, comments, suggestions and the data collected during the whole exercise will be submitted to the TWG- SDG for their review .

## Methodology to be followed :



## Participation in Conferences and meetings



## Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification

NCCF is the national governing body member of the PEFC Council enabling us to represent PEFC in terms of PEFC Certification in India.



PEFC Council – Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes, World Trade Center 1, 10 Route de l'Aéroport, CH-1215 Geneva 15, Switzerland – [www.pefc.org](http://www.pefc.org)

## Media :



**India making strides on the system development challenge!**

India is making strides on the system development challenge! The country is fast, the forests are clean, and with a population of over 1.2 billion, there are a lot of challenges to manage.

Today, the movement that is the forest is led by the Government and Conservation of Forests (NCCF), our National Member in India.

India has made significant strides, with a commitment to develop a forest-based economy and to increase its forest cover and forest space and to focus on end-to-end, all-range of forest products and services. PEFC is working to ensure that all these sectors are well-managed, as well as the demand for sustainable forest management to develop.

**The work begins:**

India PEFC is responsible for the development of the standards, the on-site audit and the audit. The audited processes will be developed through a multi-stakeholder group, including representatives from forest-based and associated industries, professionals, members, relevant industry bodies, groups, NGOs, IGOs, and academic institutions, as well as environmental, social and trade unions, and certified bodies.



**India Joins PEFC's Alliance**

India has become the newest country to join PEFC, making the 41 National Member in addition.

With PEFC's policy of 2014, and China has increased its voluntary commitment of new voluntary forest certification systems for the year, the addition of India is welcome to the PEFC's alliance of forest certification bodies (Confederation and Conservation of Forests (PEFC)), continuing that momentum in gathering pace for PEFC in the year ahead.

"It is fantastic to see India become the 99th country to join PEFC," said Peter Gammie, CEO of PEFC International, adding, "PEFC has already had over the last year 14 major milestones and milestones to facilitate the development of forest-based certification systems."

Forest certification will not only help protect natural forest resources, but also assist in creating awareness of the advantages of responsible, sustainable, which is especially important in a country with a rapidly growing middle class and a demand for resources," Mr. Gammie continued.

"PEFC is committed to advancing forest certification in India and in particular, our focus on PEFC's global platform. We appreciate the support that PEFC has received to be part with the formal acceptance of membership, and we look forward to further strengthening our efforts in developing our own national certification system," said Gammie.

"We would like to thank the members, from these institutions who are always part of



**India Launches Process to Develop Forest Certification System**

India is launching a process to develop a forest certification system for all enterprises to promote the sustainable management of its forest resources. The Forest Certification Committee of the Indian Council for Certification and Conservation of Forests (ICCF) has announced the launch of the process.

ICCF made a policy the 20th most forest countries, and also found a growing demand for environmental and sustainable use of forests. For example, the demand for a significant challenge, continued for 100% Forest certification and help to not only understanding sustainability in forest management, but also in creating awareness with companies and consumers about the importance of becoming and being responsible forest management.

This process is being joined forest certification system and business units in the International Conference on Forest Certification - India, organized by PEFC and ICCF, and others. This conference brought together government, business and society, particularly in discussing the status of forests in India and to gain their international experts about the benefits of forest certification systems at sustainable levels, in other countries.



**Forest Certification Moving Forward in India**

The Indian Council for Certification and Conservation of Forests is set to start a significant forest certification system with the active participation of the Indian Council for Certification and Conservation of Forests. The Indian Council for Certification and Conservation of Forests is set to start a significant forest certification system with the active participation of the Indian Council for Certification and Conservation of Forests.

India is a major forest and tree resource, supporting economy, and strategic product of international importance. There is a great opportunity to further protect India's forests, and to ensure, especially through forest certification, that India's forests are well-managed and developed in a sustainable manner.

Through developing India's forest certification system, in line with PEFC's principles, principles, standards, definitions, the relevance that certification achieves one more, more and more, and more, more, more.

The International Conference on Forest Certification - India, which takes place in New Delhi, 10-12 March 2016, is a great opportunity for the Indian government, industry, and civil society to enhance forest certification in India, and to work together to promote the development of forest certification in India.



**PEFC Milestone: We Welcome our 40th Member**

India has become the newest member to join PEFC, making the 41 National Member in addition, and can take the time to celebrate reaching the important milestone of 40 members in the world.

With PEFC's policy of 2014, and China has increased its voluntary commitment of new voluntary forest certification systems for the year, the addition of India is welcome to the PEFC's alliance of forest certification bodies (Confederation and Conservation of Forests (PEFC)), continuing that momentum in gathering pace for PEFC in the year ahead.

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"We would like to thank the members, from these institutions who are always part of

## Participation in the PEFC ToF and SFM revision task force

PEFC initiated the process for development of the Tree Outside Forests (TOF) Standards and the revision of the SFM and constituted a Task Force for this purpose. NCCF being the PEFC Governing Body Member for India, received the invitation to participate in the process. Mr. Sachin Raj Jain, Convener NCCF was

nominated from NCCF to join this Task Force of PEFC. So far, two ToF Task Force meetings have been held, in which NCCF has contributed significantly in the light of experience gained while simultaneously developing the National Standards for ToF.

### Press Release :



**The Telegraph**  
Home-grown tag for forest products

**THE HINDU BUSINESS**  
New body for forest certification

**HT Mint**  
Govt sets up forest certification body

**दैनिक जागरण**  
उद्योग क्षेत्र में कम होना चाहिए वनों का प्रयोग

## European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR) Training



The Department of Commerce had undertaken a capacity building project supported by the European Commission under which the Quality Council of India and its constituent Board, the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) were one of the major beneficiaries. A capacity building initiative for trade development in India was organised by European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR) and

certification in association with Quality Council of India. The program was a two day training program at Hotel Royal Plaza, New Delhi on 12th and 13th August 2015 on EUTR and the role of forest certification in EUTR. NCCF was also invited in the event and **Ms. Deepali Rautela, Project Coordinator, NCCF, participated in this program.**

## CSE Round table conference

The Centre for Science and Environment organized a one day meeting on "Involvement of Private Sector in Restoration of Degraded Forests" on 10th February, 2016 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. **Shri A.K. Srivastava, Executive Director, NCCF and Shri Sachin Raj Jain, Convener-Treasurer, NCCF** made a presentation on the draft guidelines of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on involvement of private sector in restoration of degraded forest lands and Shri Suneel Pandey, Vice-President, ITC (PSPD) and Secretary, NCCF made a presentation on the scenario of requirement and availability of raw material for paper industry in India and how certification may augment the availability of certified raw material.

## Hydro Power Workshop

Ministry of Power, Government of India, High Commission of Canada in India and NHPC Ltd., in association with Central Board of Irrigation and Power (CBIP) organized a two day workshop on "Best Practices for Sustainable Hydro Development" which was held at India Habitat Centre, Lodi Road, New Delhi on 21st- 22nd January 2016. The workshop was aimed at sharing knowledge and experiences of the experts, involved in hydropower development in India and Canada, in order to discuss various issues and challenges in the sustainable hydro development. The two days' workshop was divided into five technical sessions. Second and third technical session revolved around Environmental & Socio-Economic Management with an objective to Achieving Best Practices related to Water Resource Management, Socio-economic Impact Assessments and Mitigation measures. The session was chaired by Sh. G.S. Jha, Chairman, CWC and co-chaired by Sh. A.K. Srivastava, Ex. Additional Director General of Forests, Govt. of India.



## Global Bamboo Summit

The Global Bamboo Summit was organised at Indore on 8-10 April, 2016, where **Mr. Suneel Pandey, Secretary, NCCF** presented a paper on easing of access and regulatory regime, of bamboo to help in development of bamboo based value added products and application. Over the years, there is reduction in revenue generated by the State Governments on account of bamboo extracted from the forests. This is mainly on account of non-extraction/non-management of bamboo resources due to prohibitive access and regulatory conditions, increased transaction costs, reduced net price realization, and reduced consumption by the pulp and paper industry, leading to clump congestion and consequent reduction in productivity. Development of new technologies, products and applications provide opportunity for value addition of bamboo near the resource, as well as for increased employment and economic activities. Removal of bamboo as forest produce from section 2 (7) of Indian Forest Act and exempting all species of bamboo from the purview of section 41/42 of Indian Forest Act, would ease transit and felling restriction on bamboo in private land, and would still allow Forest Departments to retain powers

under section 26 of Indian Forest Act to prohibit unauthorized extraction of bamboo from the Forests. This would also provide:

- Increased pressure on forest department to improve productivity of bamboo, due to coming up of high productive bamboo plantations adjacent to the forests and in private land.
- Increase in productivity of forest bamboo due to enhanced demand, increased price realization for bamboo utilized in value added products and applications, and consequent viability extraction/clump management of forest bamboo.
- Improved supply of good quality raw material of bamboo for to enterprises/units for value added products and applications, with reduced transaction costs.
- To encourage commercial enterprises based on bamboo, to promote bamboo cultivation by farmers/private entrepreneurs for viable return, State Governments may issue order for relaxing transit restriction of bamboo of any species as well as relaxing felling restriction on bamboo in private land. Felling restriction in forest land may remain, if desired by the State Government to protect/regulate extraction of forest bamboo.

## Delegations and MOUs



## MoU with GICIA

NCCF has signed a MoU with **Green Initiatives Certification and Inspection Agency (GICIA)**, which is one of India's leading private sector agencies providing third party evaluation, assessment and monitoring services in the fields of environment, forestry, wildlife and climate change.

## Public consultation and consultation workshops

The Draft version zero of the Forest Management Certification Standard, after going through the revision process by the Technical Working Group based on the comments received from the Standard Development Group and other stakeholders, will be put up for the public consultation for a period of 2 months starting October 2016. During the consultation time, two consultation workshops in collaboration with ICFRE institutes will be organized at Bangalore and Guwahati. Following the public consultation and standards revision, the pilot testing of the standards will be done.

## Registration of 80 G and 12 A

NCCF has applied for registration under 12A of the Income Tax Act and issue of certificate for exemption/continuation of exemption u/s 80 G of the Income Tax Act.

## Trademark

NCCF has started the registration process for the trademark of the organization.

## Acknowledgement

The Governing Body thank the officers of the NCCF Secretariat, Members of NCCF, all stakeholders and research and academic institutions for their continuous support in meeting the objectives of NCCF. The Governing Body particularly thank the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification, Geneva, Export Promotion Council of Handicrafts, Quality Council of India, NABCB, State Forest Departments of various states, certification bodies viz. SCS, GICIA, Voluntary Organizations like WWF, IUCN, CAPEXIL, Industry Members viz. ITC limited, GREEN PLY, Industry Associations like International Paper Manufacturing Association, CII, youth and women organizations viz. OXFAM, Centre for People Forestry, and all other stakeholders for their consistent support and guidance to NCCF in its endeavour to meet its objectives.

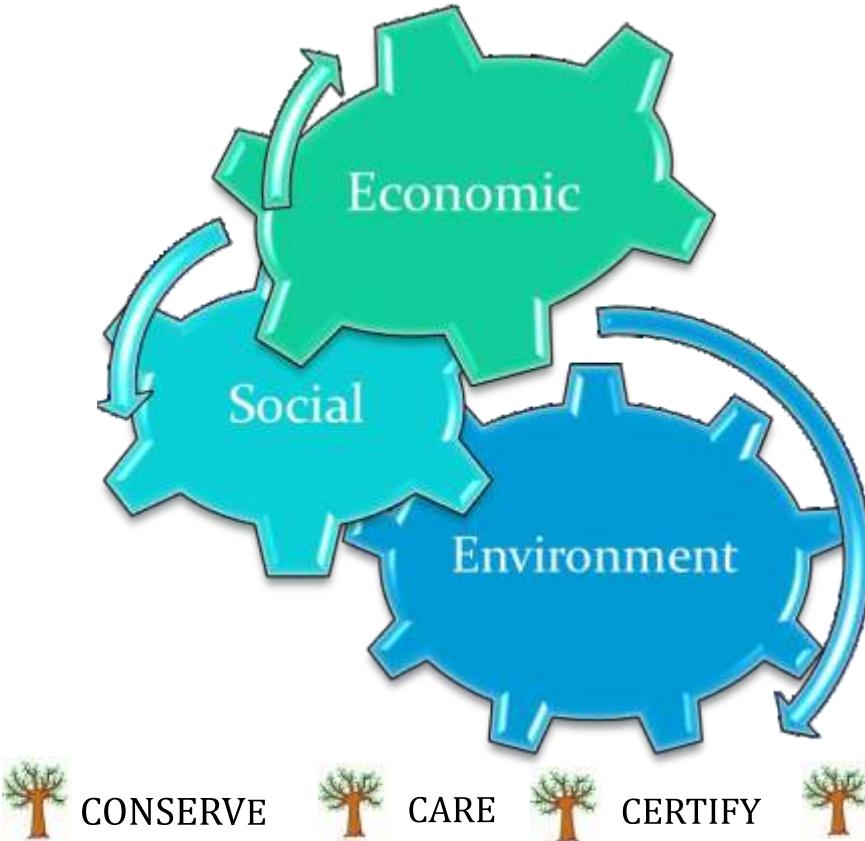
## Financial Statements

Balance Sheet For The Year Ending 31.03.2016

Particulars	As on 31.03.2016 (Rs.)	As on 31.03.2015 (Rs.)
<b><u>SOURCES OF FUNDS :</u></b>		
Income & Expenditure A/c	(15,91,619.00)	(4,41,146.00)
Development of National Certification and Standard	21,52,062.00	-
<b><u>Loan Fund :</u></b>		
Green Initiatives Certification & Inspection Agency / Sachin Raj Jain	6,97,544.00	4,11,891.00
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>12,57,987.00</b>	<b>(29,255.00)</b>
<b><u>APPLICATION OF FUNDS :</u></b>		
<b><u>Fixed Assets</u></b>		
Computer	19,285.00	27,550.00
Less: Depreciation	11,571.00	8,265.00
	7,714.00	19,285.00
<b><u>Current Assets, Loans &amp; Advances</u></b>		
Fees Receivable	14,750.00	25,500.00
Prepaid Expense	-	672.00
Cash in Hand	865.00	1,325.00
Andhra Bank A/c 4544	3,489.00	1,12,480.00
Andhra Bank A/c 6930	21,61,194.00	-
	<b>( A )</b>	21,80,298.00
<b><u>Less: Current Liabilities &amp; Provisions:</u></b>		
Expenses Payable	9,11,025.00	1,88,517.00
Duties & Taxes	1,500.00	
Fees Received in Advanced	17,500.00	
	<b>( B )</b>	<b>9,30,025.00</b>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS ( A - B )</b>	12,50,273.00	(48,540.00)
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>12,57,987.00</b>	<b>(29,255.00)</b>

Income & Expenditure Account For The Year Ending 31.03.2016

Particulars	As On 31.03.2016 (Rs.)	As On 31.03.2015 (Rs.)
<b>Income</b>		
Admission Fees- (Subscriber Mem.)	-	10,000.00
Admission Fees- (Associate Mem.)	2,000.00	-
Admission Fees- (Institutional Mem.)	6,000.00	-
Admission Fees- (Ordinary Mem.)	15,000.00	-
Annual Subscription Fees (Associate Mem.)	3,000.00	-
Annual Subscription Fees (Institutional Mem.)	22,500.00	-
Annual Subscription Fees (Subscriber Mem.)	45,000.00	25,000.00
Annual Subscription Fees (Ordinary Mem.)	50,000.00	-
Donation	1,00,000.00	1,00,000.00
Interest Received	9,407.00	-
	2,52,907.00	1,35,000.00
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Advertisement	-	75,157.00
Audit Fees	20,000.00	20,000.00
SDG Expenses	2,48,418.00	23,136.00
Conveyance Exp.	1,80,000.00	-
Fees & Subscription	1,000.00	-
Salary	5,72,108.00	3,11,226.00
Society Registration Expense	-	1,00,000.00
Tour & Travelling Expense	-	38,171.00
Books & Periodicals	8,584.00	-
Business Promotion Expense	2,489.00	-
Interest On TDS	864.00	-
Legal Expense	8,000.00	-
Office Expense	9,157.00	-
Honorarium	2,10,000.00	-
Printing & Stationery	9,711.00	-
Professional Fees	40,000.00	-
Bank Charges	955.00	191.00
Web Designing	80,523.00	-
Depreciation	11,571.00	8,265.00
	14,03,380.00	5,76,146.00
<b>Excess of Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>(11,50,473.00)</b>	<b>(4,41,146.00)</b>



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# CERTIFICATION OF FORESTS

REPORT  
5-16



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NETWORK FOR  
AND CONSERVATION



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