A Platform for PSS in India

First Meeting of the Multi-Stakeholder Committee
India National Platform on Private Sustainability Standards
16 December 2016

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The context

- Private Sustainability Standards (PSS) have emerged as standards specifying requirements relating to a wide range of sustainability metrics, including workers’ health and safety, environmental degradation, respect for human rights, and others.
- With almost 500 standards/labels in 199 countries and 25 industrial sectors, the PSS system has become the market reality as a tool for sustainable supply-chain management, marketing and competitiveness, addressing the most pressing social, environmental, and financial challenges of our time.
- These standards are developed in partnership with a range of non-governmental actors such as civil society groups and businesses.
Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF)

- NCCF is a non-profit organisation, registered as a Society, to have a globally aligned certification program developed within India and addressing the concerns for sustainable management of forests and the plantations, while at the same time making the Indian wood and forest fiber based industry competent globally.

- The NCCF has got support from the key forest based stakeholders such as the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) through its premier institutes like Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Indian Council for Forestry, Research and Education (ICFRE) and Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institutes (IPIRTI), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Export Promotions Council for Handicrafts (EPCH), ITC Ltd etc.
Forest Certification:

A market based non-regulatory conservation tool designed to recognize and promote responsible forest management. Through certification, timber 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.

**Forest Management Unit (FMU) certification:**

A process leading to the issuance of a certificate by an independent party, which verifies that an area of forest/plantation is managed as per the defined standards.

**Chain of Custody certification (CoC):**

A process of tracking wood products from the certified forest to the point of sale to ensure that product originated from a certified forest.
Components of Forest Certification

Promoting the responsible management of forests worldwide

Environmentally Appropriate
Protecting and maintaining natural communities and high conservation value forests.

Socially Beneficial
Respecting the rights of workers, communities and indigenous peoples.

Economically Viable
Building markets, adding best value, and creating equitable access to benefits.

Source – FSC International Webs..
Why Forest certification...

- Major drivers and mechanisms for control of deforestation –
  - Management of conservation areas,
  - SFM
  - Conservation finance
  - Responsible trade – buyer side and supplier side
    - legislation like the US Lacey Act, EUTR, Illegal Logging Prohibition Act, 2011 (Australia) etc.

- Measurable contribution to protecting our forests
- Improved efficiency and productivity
Stronger reputation and brand image
Access to new markets
Strengthened stakeholders relationships
Pro-active risk management
International recognition – repeatable and measureable performance indicators
How does it work!!

Forest Management (FM) certification

Forest

Saw Mill

Factory

Processor

Retailer

Chain of Custody (COC) certification

Source - FSC International Webs.
Status of Forest Certifications

World wide:
- 484.6 million ha certified*
- 47,914 CoC certificates*

India:
- 0.81 million ha certified,
- 11 FM/CoC Certificates & 01 FM certificate
- 270 CoC certificates

* Area certified under both FSC and PEFC Certification schemes.
Global Forest certification schemes:

**International schemes:**

- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
- Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)
- Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)

**Regional & Country specific Forest certification Schemes:**

- American Tree Farm System (ATFS)
- Canadian Standards Association (CSA)
- Malaysian timber Certification Council (MTCC)
- China National Forest Certification Scheme (CNFCS)
- Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) etc.
A brief snapshot of the certified clients in the corporate world in India

**Paper Mills**
- International Papers
- APPM
- West Coast Paper Mills
- ITC PSPD
- JK Papers and many more...

**Printers and Packaging**
- Tetra pack
- Repro Printers
- Replica Printers
- Pragati Offset
- Uniply
- Archies
- Thomson printers and many more...

**Plywood Industry**
- Green ply
- Greenlam
- Associate Decor
- Century Ply
- Seshasayee Paper Boards
- A.K Panels and many more...

**Wooden Products Manufactures and Exporters**
- Handicraft & Furniture Industry
  - Hindustan Pencils – World’s second largest pencil manufacturer
  - Durian Industries
  - Basant and many more

* Please note that the above data is taken from FSC database and may subject to vary
## Certified Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Client (India)</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Area (ha.)</th>
<th>Forest type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bhamragarh Forest division, Maharashtra</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>3,67,732</td>
<td>Government owned Natural Forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uttar Pradesh Forest Corporation (UPFC)</td>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>4,02,296</td>
<td>Government owned Natural Forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tripura Forest development and Plantation Corporation</td>
<td>Tripura</td>
<td>7027</td>
<td>Government owned Rubber Plantations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kasu Brahmmananda Reddy National Park, Hyderabad</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>Government owned Protected Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Papers APPM</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>33636</td>
<td>Privately owned Group/SLIMF certification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JK Paper Mills</td>
<td>Odisha</td>
<td>4217</td>
<td>Privately owned Group/SLIMF certification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SARA (West Coast Paper Mills)</td>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>15092</td>
<td>Privately owned Group/SLIMF certification</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patneshwari Agri. Corporation limited – BILT Sewa Unit</td>
<td>Odisha</td>
<td>2304</td>
<td>Privately owned Group/SLIMF certification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loke Vaniki Kisan Samiti</td>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>Privately owned Group/SLIMF certification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITC PSPD</td>
<td>Telangana</td>
<td>36112</td>
<td>Privately owned Group/SLIMF certification</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tamil Nadu Paper Limited</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>2913</td>
<td>Owned by State Forest department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Ambadi Estate</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>688</td>
<td>Privately owned Rubber Plantation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Major Issues/challenges faced during the certification process

- Variety and variability of the breadth and scope of forest management practices and policies in India.
- Safety and health issues
- Workers rights – lack of clarity especially w.r.t temporary/casual/daily wage workers
- Environmental Impact Assessments/Social Impact Assessments
- Inadequacy of monitoring and reporting mechanisms
- Lack of availability of documentation and written procedures
- Usage of banned or restricted use chemicals in field operations and absence of procedures for handling their spillage/leakage/waste etc.
- Shortage of training of forest workers
- Lack of clarity on measures to improve forest productivity
- Identification, restoration and conservation of HCVs (High Conservation Values)
- No clear criteria specified for selection of species for plantation purposes
Impediments to Certification

- Lack of knowledge about the process of certification and its importance and relevance
- “We know how to manage our forests – we have been doing it for decades, we don’t need someone from outside coming and telling us how to do our job..!!”
- Fears of it being another additional ‘headache’ to attend to - in addition to the operational duties
- Lack of trust between stakeholders
- Cost effectiveness doubts – inability to quantify the ecological, social and management benefits vis-à-vis the economic costs – tendency to see only the monetary payback
- Lack of clarity in the process and inability of the present system of standards to align with the conditions of the subcontinent – in terms of practical and usable alignment
Need for National Forest Management Certification standards..

Total scope for certified forest area in India – more than 10 million ha.

Variation in Forest types, ecosystems & management regimes in India:

Forest types – Desert, rain forests, evergreen forests, dry and moist deciduous forests, scrub jungle, littoral and swamp forests, mangroves, alpine and high altitude forests.

Ecosystems – Rainforest, desert, montane, alpine, island, littoral, mangrove etc.

Management types – farm forestry, social forestry, agro-forestry, reserve forests, protected forests, village/community forests, sacred groves, private forests, plantations, shifting cultivation, forests & plantations managed based on raw material/NTFP outputs (e.g. for bamboo, resins, lac, tendu leaves etc.)

Indian forestry is a microcosm of forestry practices in South and South East Asia; the National standards for India would also address the concerns of certification and SFM for this region.
Works of NCCF in progress

- NCCF has developed country specific Draft Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Certification through a multi stakeholder Standard Development Group (SDG), represented by professional foresters, premier forestry research and academic institutions of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (ICFRE and IIFM), business groups, forest based industries, NGOs (social and environment related), workers and trade unions, and certification bodies etc.

- The draft standards 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, guidelines of UNFF for conservation of forests, key elements of Paris Agreement on Climate Change and also address several Sustainable Development Goals.
Works of NCCF in progress

- This draft document has been hosted on the NCCF website (www.nccf.in) for public consultation (http://nccf.in/ongoing-consultations/) for a period of 60 days (3rd October 2016 to 2nd December 2016) and was also discussed in the regional consultation meetings. The Draft will be adopted after undergoing pilot testing.

- Standards for Trees outside Forest (ToF) Certification are also under development. **ToF cater to a large portion of domestic demand of timber by handicraft, plywood, saw mills and pulp & paper industry.**

- Certification of ToF will open huge market for certified raw material under ownership of small and medium farmers providing them incentives.
Sustainable Development Goals and Forest Certification

- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) cover the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social, and environmental – with a strong focus on quality of life, justice, and equality, as well as the sustainable consumption, production, and use of natural resources.

- The SDGs are major drivers in efforts to halt deforestation and forest degradation worldwide, and strengthen the positive contributions that forests play in achieving sustainable development. The unsteady deforestation and forest degradation, and practicing sustainable forest management are important for regulating climate change and its impacts and protecting biodiversity.

- The elements of forest certification complement various elements of the SDGs. Forest Certification enables small land holders to manage their forests sustainably, eliminating poverty (SDG1) and promoting food security and sustainable agriculture practices (SDG2).
Certification promotes gender equality and helps in generating livelihood opportunities for the people living in and around forests and dependent on their resources (SDG 5 & 8).

The Certification label enhances the sustainable economic growth by providing international market and trade access and enabling people to consume responsibly (SDG 10 & 12).

Responsible management of forests provide measures which help to avoid emission from forest degradation (SDG13) and judicial consumption of resources (SDG14).

The process of Standard Development promotes multi-stakeholder partnerships facilitating the sharing of knowledge, expertise and financial resources at all levels (SDG17).
NCCF and India PSS Platform

- NCCF would like to be a part of the multi-stakeholder committee being constituted by QCI.

- NCCF would like to use the India PSS Platform for a better outreach with the Central and State Governments dealing with forestry, agro-forestry and ToF.
Thank You !!

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