



INDIAN FOREST AND WOOD CERTIFICATION SCHEME (IFWCS)



A Snapshot of Forestry in India

Forest Cover Map (ISFR, 2021)



Forest and Tree Cover Statistics

0.71 m sq.km
Total Forest Cover

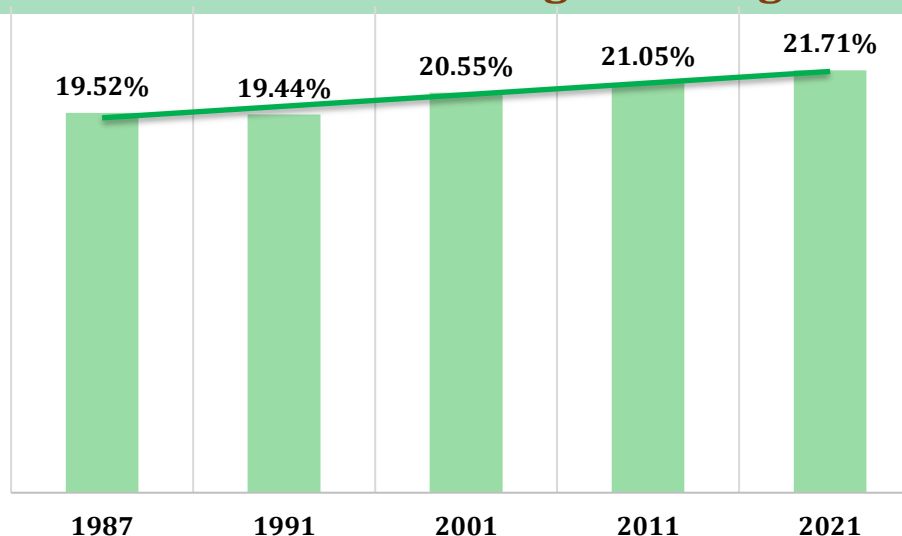
21.7%
% Area under Forest Cover

10th
Largest Forest Area in the World

3rd
Highest Net Gain in Forest Area between 2010-2020

24.6%
% Area under Forest and Tree Cover

Increase in Forest Cover over last 4 decades with economic growth & growing human population



1.425 Billion ↑
Human Population*

6.8% ↑
Projected GDP Growth Rate 2024-25

*Source: Forest Survey of India

**UN World Population Estimates



National and International level commitments to increase forest cover

National Forest Policy

Minimum of one- third of the geographical area under forest cover

Towards Land restoration

Bonn Challenge and **Voluntary National Contribution** under Global Forest goals

India's Bonn Challenge Commitment

- **Restoration** of **26 million Ha** of Degraded Lands by 2030
- **18.94 million Ha** of land has already been resorted

India's NDCs

- Additional carbon sink of **2.5 to 3 billion tons** of CO₂ equivalent by 2030
- **1.97 billion tons** of CO₂ already sequestered



Promotion of agroforestry and tree outside forests

National Agroforestry Policy, 2014

- Launched in **February 2014**
- India is the **first country** to adopt agroforestry policy
- Aims to **improve productivity and environmental sustainability** by integrating trees, crops, and livestock into the same plot of land.
- Facilitates annual investment of \$3.5 Billion to tree planting through CSR schemes

Sub-Mission on Agroforestry

Objective

Expansion of Tree Cover on Farmlands in a manner complementary with Agriculture crops

Inputs

Ensuring *availability of Quality Planting Material* (QPM), *extension* and capacity building support.



Sustainable Forest Management at the Core of India's Forestry Interventions

Evolution of Indian Forest Policy

1894

Prioritized
production of
Timber

1952

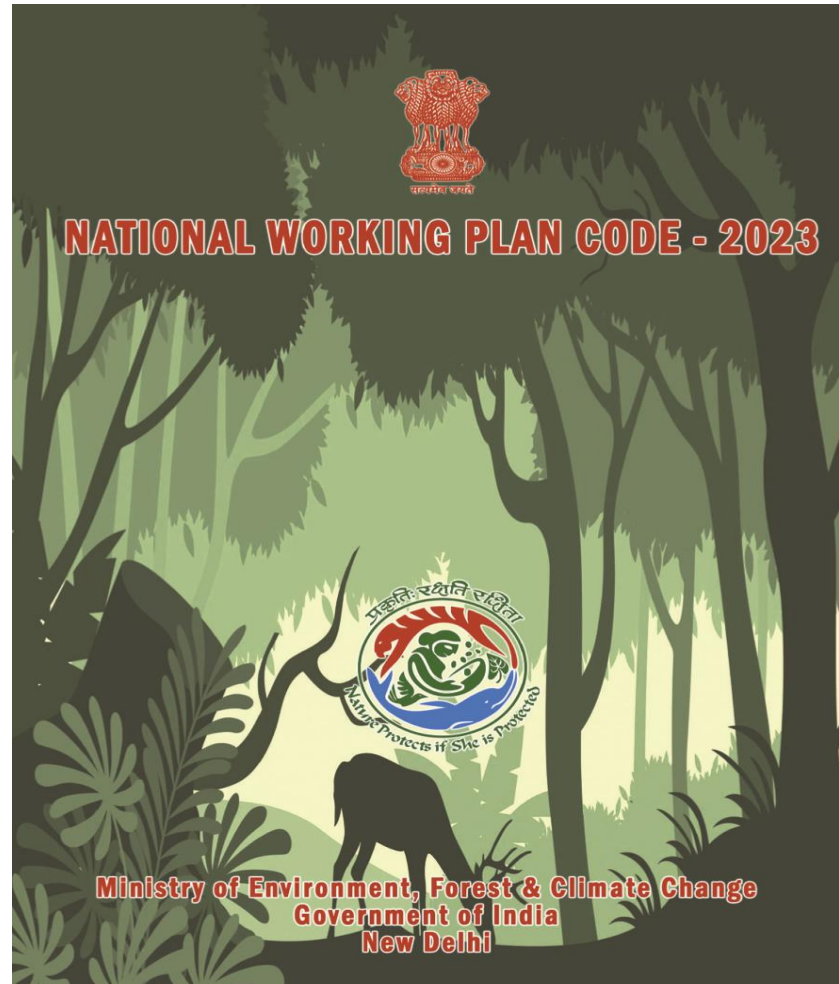
Focused on Timber
Production &
Conservation

1988

Emphasis on conservation
of forests and participatory
forest management

Working Plan

All forests in India are sustainably managed, based on a well-defined **Working Plan**



- Working plans have been in existence since 1800s and are **Long-term management plans** for forests and protected areas

- Well set **established institutional system** exists for monitoring forests and wildlife on multiple levels

- Imbibes principles of **sustainable forest management**

Working Plan Code-2023

Main instrument of **scientific management** of forests

Indian Forest Management Standards in place



Launching the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme

National Forest Certification Scheme, key features:

- Based on the Principles of Sustainable Forest Management
- Covers Forest Management, Trees outside Forest (TOF) / Agroforestry, Chain of Custody
- Uses National Working Plan Code as basis of formulating the scheme and FM standard
- **8 Criteria | 69 Indicators** in Indian Forest Management Standard
- **5 Criteria | 22 Indicators** for Trees Outside Forests/ Agroforestry



Scheme to be governed by the **Indian Forest Certification Council (IFCC)** under Additional General of Forests

Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) as Scheme Operating agency

IIFM Centre for Sustainable Forest Management and Forest Certification to act as the Secretariat

Accreditation of Certifying bodies by **Quality Council of India** and **National Accreditation board for Certifying Bodies**

IIFWCS intends to

Make certification cost effective

Reduce time frame

Make Indian standards globally acceptable

Bring certification amongst TOF farmers and tree growers

Promote procedure for group certification



Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS)



Program for Recognition and Accreditation of Sustainable Management Practices for Agroforestry and Natural Forestry Resources

IFWCS is at par with international and national Schemes and also meets the needs of the country given its specific context In terms of Certification Standard, and Accreditation and Certification processes

And therefore, is eligible for mutual recognition and market acceptance

Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme – IFWCS - (MoEF&CC)

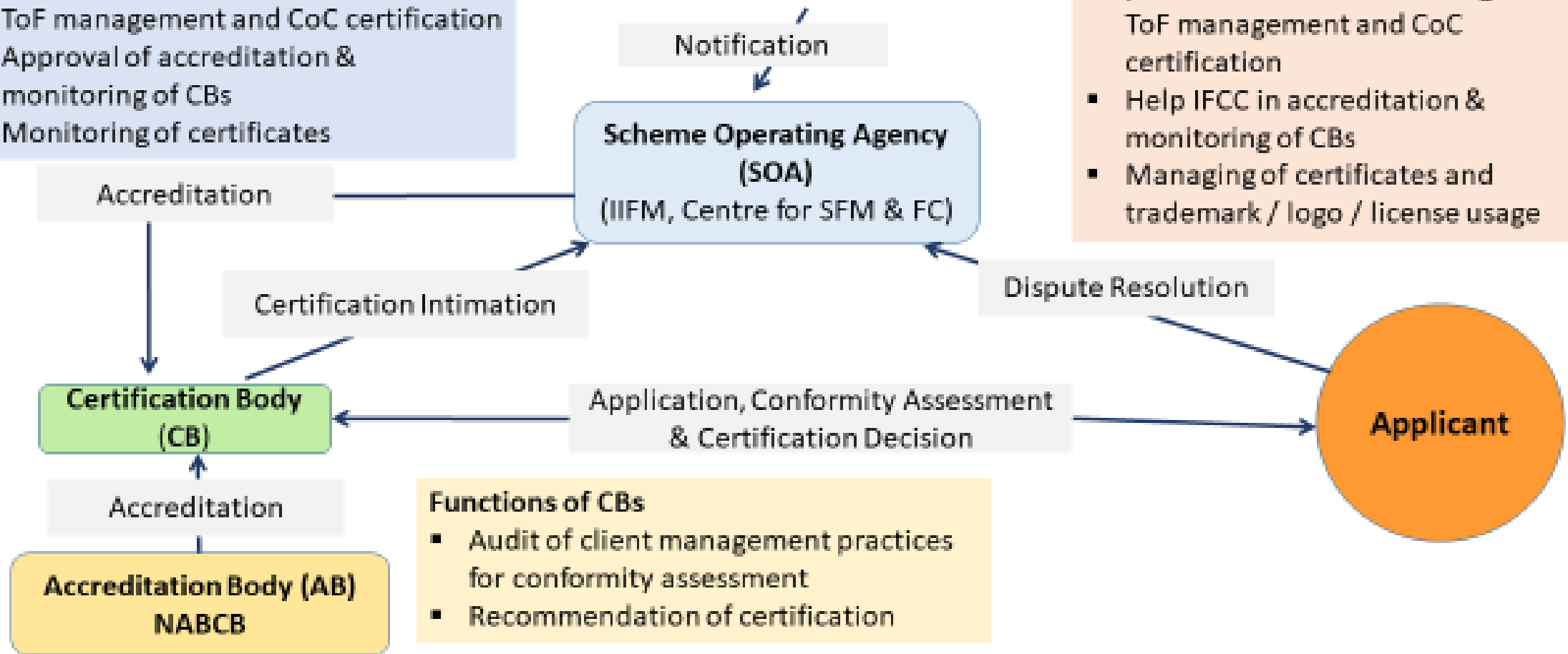
Functions of IFWCC

- Governance of IFWCS
- Facilitation in development and management of scheme
- Approval of standards, processes and procedures for forest management, ToF management and CoC certification
- Approval of accreditation & monitoring of CBs
- Monitoring of certificates

IFWCC
INDIAN FOREST CERTIFICATION COUNCIL
(The Governance of Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme)

Functions of SOA

- Designated as Scheme Operating Agency (SOA) for IFWCS
- Support the IFWCC to develop standards, processes and procedures for forest management, ToF management and CoC certification
- Help IFCC in accreditation & monitoring of CBs
- Managing of certificates and trademark / logo / license usage



Functions of CBs

- Audit of client management practices for conformity assessment
- Recommendation of certification



Current Certification Scenario in India

India has close to 0.6 Million ha of valid certified land.

Key states and their certification holders



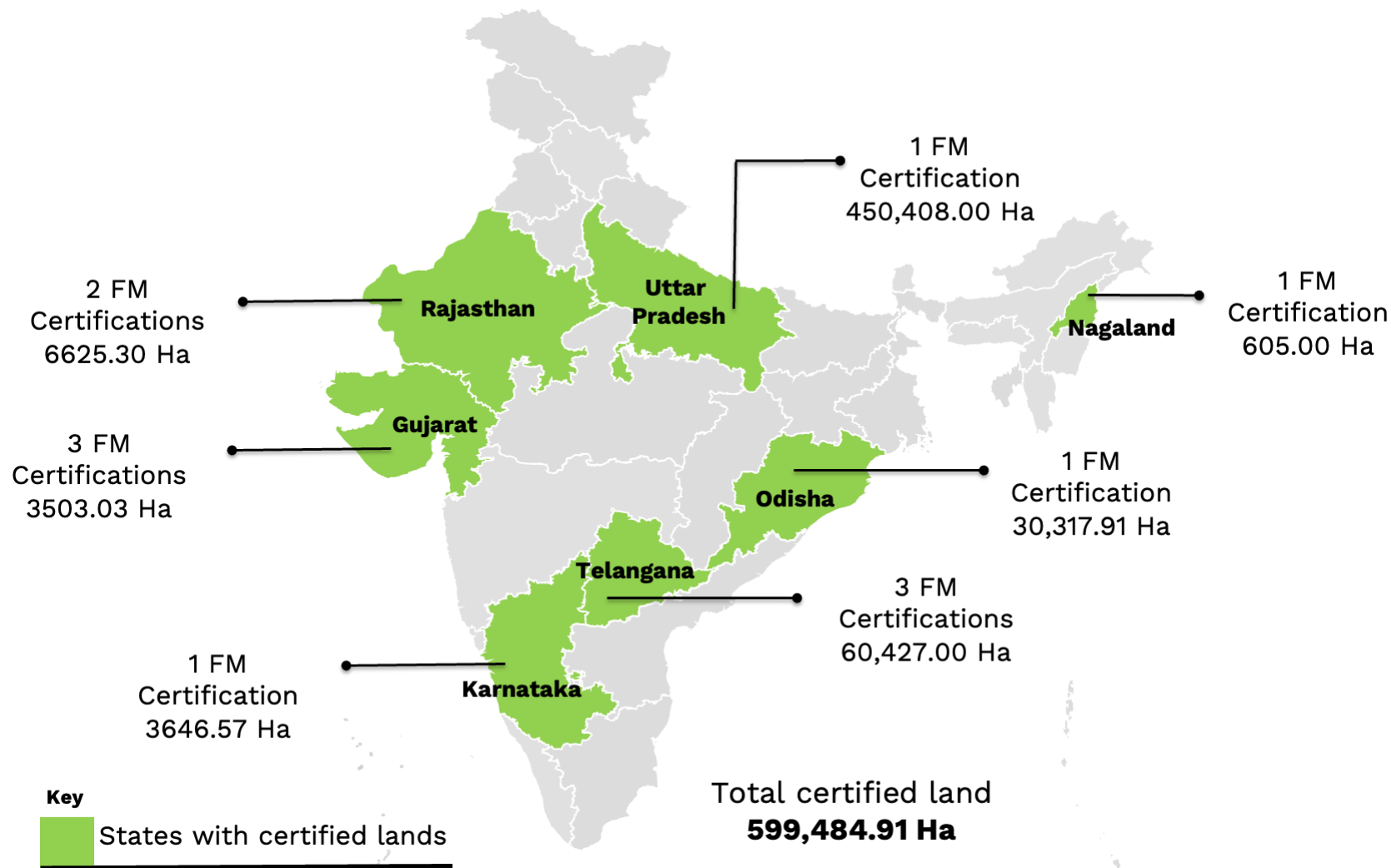
- TSFDC - 18,369 Ha
- Andhra Paper Ltd. - 25,583 Ha
- ITC Ltd. - 60,427 Ha



- JK Paper Ltd. - 30,317.91 Ha



- UPFC - 450,408.00 Ha



Insight into Forest certification and major issues

Forest Certification

Mechanism for **monitoring, tracing and labelling timber, and non-timber forest products**

Mainly of **two types** Forest Management (FM) & Chain of Custody (CoC)

Demand for certification is generally **Market driven**

Process of certification is **well established**



Forest Management (FM) Certification

Chain Custody (COC) Certification

Issues to be addressed

Monopolized by private players

Certification is **prohibitively Expensive**

Cumbersome and complicated processes

Inaccessible for Small landholders under Agroforestry



ACCREDITATION SYSTEM FOR IFWCS

The National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) under QCI

- Is member of International Accreditation Forum
- Accreditation, Compliance and Monitoring of Certification Bodies
- Proposed processes and procedures are at par with the international systems (FSC, PEFC, ISO)





Making Certification accessible and transparent

Forest Certification should be inclusive and easily **accessible to all, including small landowners** and agroforestry farmers.

- 1. Capacity building** for SFM and long term management of forests for countries
- 2. Set global benchmark standards** for forest certification for countries to adopt.
- 3. Examine existing certification programmes** based on these international standards
- 4. Benchmarking** of all Certification programmes across producing & importing countries
- 5. Enhance international cooperation between producing & importing countries** for acceptance of all forest certification schemes that are transparent and based on international standards.

Level playing field for producer and importer countries

Recognition of national certification schemes

Enable incentivization of small landholders and agroforestry farmers



Indian Forest Management Standard (IFMS)

of Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS)

- The Standard sets guidelines for sustainable forest management in terms of broad framework of
 - **Criteria,**
 - **Indicators, and**
 - **Verifiers** that recognizes that forests have **environmental, economic and social objectives.**
- Criteria are categories of conditions or processes by which SFM can be assessed, and each criterion is characterized by a set of **indicators** that can be monitored to assess change over time
- Each indicator is accompanied by **verifiers** which are the data or information for assessing its status or change over time.
- State Forest Department / Working Plan Officers can adapt these indicators and verifiers according to the specific situation and local needs of the Forest Division.



Criteria - Indicators - Verifiers

Criteria 1	Indicator	Verifier	Periodicity
Extent and Condition of Forest and tree cover	1	8	Every year
	2	3	10 years
	3	5	2 years
	4	3	10 years
	5	5	5 years
	6	6	Every year
	7	4	Every year
	8	4	Every year
	9	6	Every year
	10	2	Every year
Sub Total	10	46	

Criteria 2	Indicator	Verifier	Periodicity
Maintenance, Conservation and Enhancement of Biodiversity	1	3	5 years
	2	3	5 years
	3	6	5 years
	4	3	5 years
	5	2	10 years
	6	3	5 years
	7	4	5 years
Sub Total	7	24	

Criteria 3	Indicator	Verifier	Periodicity
Maintenance and Enhancement of Forest Health and Vitality	1	4	5 years
	2	6	Every year
	3	3	Every year
	4	5	5 years
	5	5	2 years
	6	5	5 years
	7	5	Every year
	8	3	5 years
Sub Total	8	36	

Criteria 4	Indicator	Verifier	Periodicity
Conservation and Maintenance of Soil and Water Resources	1	3	2 years
	2	3	5 years
	3	3	Every year
	4	4	5 years
	5	3	5 years
	6	1	Every year
Sub Total	6	17	

Criteria 5	Indicator	Verifier	Periodicity
Maintenance and Enhancement of Forest Resource Productivity	1	3	5 years
	2	3	5 years
	3	1	5 years
	4	1	5 years
	5	1	
	6	4	Every year
	7	7	Every year
	8	4	Every year
	9	2	Every year
Sub Total	9	26	



Criteria 6	Indicator	Verifier	Periodicity
Optimisation of Forest Resource Utilisation	1	3	5 years
	2	3	5 years
	3	5	5 years
	4	4	5 years
	5	4	5 years
	6	7	5 years
	7	2	5 years
	8	4	5 years
	9	2	2 years
Sub Total	9	34	

Criteria 7	Indicator	Verifier	Periodicity
Benefits to local people - social, and cultural values	1	3	Every year
	2	3	2 years
	3	4	5 years
	4	1	5 years
	5	4	Every year
	6	2	Every year
	7	3	5 years
Sub Total	7	20	

Criteria 8	Indicator	Verifier	Periodicity
Policy, Legal and Institutional Framework	1	3	5 years
	2	1	5 years
	3	6	5 years
	4	7	5 years
	5	4	Every year
	6	2	Every year
	7	5	2 years
	8	5	5 years
	9	5	5 years
	10	6	2 years
	11	3	2 years
	12	3	5 years
	13	1	Every year
Sub Total	13	51	

Total Criteria	8
Total Indicators	69
Total Verifiers	254



Standard for Sustainable Management of Trees outside Forest of Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS)

1. This standard is applicable for tree owners such as individual farmers, farmer groups and other entities in the timber or Non-Wood Produce (NWP) value chain who share and adhere to common principles of sustainable plantation/agroforestry management.
2. Applicable to diverse types of plantations/agroforestry systems.



CRITERIA – INDICATORS – VERIFIERS

Criteria 1	Indicator	Verifier
Maintenance and increase in the extent of area under ToF	1	2
	2	3
Sub Total	2	5

Criteria 2	Indicator	Verifier
Maintenance, conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and ecosystem services through ToF	1	2
	2	2
	3	7
	4	4
	5	2
Sub Total	5	17

Criteria 3	Indicator	Verifier
Conservation, maintenance and enhancement of productivity and vitality of ToF	1	3
	2	4
	3	2
	4	2
	5	3
	6	3
	7	5
	8	4
Sub Total	8	26

Criteria 4	Indicator	Verifier
Socio-economic and cultural benefits of ToF	1	6
	2	2
Sub Total	2	8

Criteria 5	Indicator	Verifier
Adequacy of policy, legal provisions and guiding documents for the establishment of trees outside forest	1	6
	2	2
	3	4
	4	4
	5	4
Sub Total	5	20

Total Criteria	5
Total Indicators	22
Total Verifiers	76



CHAIN OF CUSTODY CERTIFICATION

- Provide reliable and verifiable information that forest and tree based products are sourced from IFWCS certified sustainably managed forests and / or plantations.
- Allow organizations to demonstrate their strong commitment to the Indian Forest Management Standard as contained in NWPC 2023.
- Facilitates the transparent flow of goods made from such materials throughout the value chain.



Thank You