

**National Standards for Sustainable Forest Management in Nepal**

**Facilitated by: Green Foundation Nepal's**

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## **National Standards of Sustainable Forest Management, Nepal**

### **Introduction:**

After initiation of community forestry in Nepal, sustainable forest management is discussed and practiced not only by foresters but also by peoples. Since, then sustainable forest management from perspectives of society, economic and ecology are discussed and practiced to some extent. In order to promote sustainable forest management from these perspectives, all Nepalese stakeholders join hands under the umbrella of Green Foundation and drafted this standards under the framework of PEFC.

In order to draft this standards, a notice for all interested stakeholders were published in national news paper for three chambers specifically social, economic and ecological. Then the group discussed and drafted the standards and finalized. There are nine broad standards, which cover social, economic and ecological issues including biodiversity conservation in Nepal as felt by the group.

Principle 1, deals with international conventions, treaties, agreement which should be honored and fulfilled in the process of forest management. Principle 2 deals with preparation of operational plan and 3 deals with monitoring of operational plan implementation in forest management. Principle 4 deals with sustainable forest management and production from forests. Principle 5 deal with ecological and social conservation.

Similarly, principle 6 deals with biodiversity conservation in local context. Principle seven is on protection of forests from natural and human disturbances. Principle eight is on rights of women, indigenous peoples and local communities. Principle nine is on provision of workers right and safety.

Law related into international and national contexts. Some of the major laws in national and international contexts include:

### **International Conventions and Treaties**

- Convention on Biological Diversity, 2049 BS (1992 AD)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), 2053 BS, amended, 2059 BS (1973 AD, amended 1979 AD)
- ILO Convention Article, 169 (Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989)
- UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)

## **National Documents**

### **Constitution of Nepal**

#### **Acts**

- CITES Act, 2074
- Environment Protection Act, 2053 BS (1997 AD)
- Forest Act, 2049 BS (1993 AD)
- Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 2056 BS (2000 AD)
- National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act, 2029 BS (1973 AD) (with amendments)
- Soil and Watershed Conservation Act, 2039 BS (1982 AD)

#### **Rules**

- Environment Protection Rules, 1997, (with amendments)
- Forest Rules, 2051 BS (1995 AD)
- Labor Rules 2050 BS (1993 AD)
- Local Self Governance Rules, 2056 BS (2000 AD)
- National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Rules 1974

## **Initial Draft of Principles and Criteria for SFM Nepal**

### **NP Cert: A Forest Certification System Promoted by Green Foundations**

#### **Principles of sustainable forest management**

- 1. FM should ensure compatibility with national and international laws, carbon and water.**
- 2. FM should prepare an appropriate forest operation plan**
- 3. FM should do appropriate monitoring and evaluations in order to assure proper implementation of operational plan and its outcomes**
- 4. FM should ensure sustainable forest management and production from forests**
- 5. FM should assure on ecological and social conservation aspects**
- 6. FM should focus and implement biodiversity conservation measures**
- 7. FM should protect forests from natural and human made disturbances**
- 8. Rights of women, indigenous peoples and local communities are ensured in forest management**
- 9. FM should respect and make provision of workers' rights and safety.**

## **Green Foundation Standards for Sustainable Forest Management Forest management Compatibility**

### **1. with national and international laws and agreement, 1.1 FMU should obey all national laws. Criteria**

1.1.1 It should obey acts, regulations, guidelines, issued by concerned government office.

I. Not incidence of violence of laws

i. Forest management plan should be approved or endorsed or recognized by the country's authority as per the country's legislation.

Indicator or verifier (I or V) tips to know how criteria is fulfilled: Provisions in forest operational plan and implementation of plan. A verifier could be court case, punishment records etc.

1.1.2 It should promote awareness on national laws related with forest management among its users / members/ local stakeholder.

I or V tips: Number of awareness forum or training conducted to users/members/ stakeholders/committee, Meeting minutes (merge with 1.1.8)

1.1.3 All forestry operations should be compatible to national laws by incorporating relevant operations in forest operational plan.

I. Necessary provisions should be included.

V tips: Approved Operational plan.

1.1.4 FMU should pay all royalty, taxes and fees which should be paid according to country's law

I. Provision on minute records and OP Provision

V: Receipt and papers of payment

1.1.5 FMU should be protected from illegal activities like encroachment, deforestation, making physical structures, etc.

I. Listing probable illegal activities provided in OP as well as issued by government.

V tips: Papers issued from government, Minutes records, and Monitoring report.

1.2 FM should have (to be discussed widely during consultative forum) legal authority for forest management

I or V tips: Papers issued from government.

1.2.1 FMU should have legal authority for forest management

1.3 FMU should respect all international laws.

1.3.1 FM should know what they can do and cannot do according to provisions of international convention which include CITES, CBD, ITTA, ILO-169, WTO , UNFCCC, UNDRIP, RAMSAR etc, where Nepal is party to the conventions.

I: provision in Op

V tips: Approved operational plan.

1.4. Approximate estimation of carbon within the FMU should be made as the base line and this should not be decreased during the process of sustainable forest management.

I or V tips: Compare forest carbon data in baseline inventory and succeeding reports. (to be discussed)

## **2. FM should prepare an appropriate forest operation plan**

2.1 The forest operational plan should have set of minimum requirements, which include:

- Objectives of forest management.
- Clear and detail boundary to recognize the physical land area.
- Inventory of major biological resource like wild flora and fauna, quantity and quality of timber and biomass.
- Process of forest management and/or silvi-cultural system
- Amount or volume to be harvest as timber and/or fuel wood and their site annually.
- Process and implementation of estimation of forest growth rate for products to be harvested.
- Identification of environmentally sensitive sites with FMU
- Protection measures to be implemented for rare, endangered and threatened species globally and national protected species.
- Use of machines and tools to be used during the process of harvesting and mode of transportation within the FMU.
- Provision of illegal activities.

Verifier: Approved operational plan

**2.2 In order to prepare forest management plan in the area dominated by indigenous people, the mechanism of free, prior, informed consent mechanisms (FPIC) should be applied.**

I or V tips: Review of operational plan and discussion with communities

**2.3 While preparing forest management plan mentioned as above (or taking decisions in production, protection and use of forests), FM should ensure involvement key forestry stakeholders in decision making in inclusive manner.**

I. Inclusive executive committee or V tips: meeting minutes/general assembly decision, management plan./constitution

**2.4 A detail management plan is implemented with above requirement (mentioned in 2.1).**

I. to be added appropriate or V tips: minutes and OP Physical Progress report.

**2.5 The operational plan should provision to protect all forest resources (NTFPs, trees, water, etc) and bio-diversity within FMU from means of destructions (insect, fire and other means).**

2.5.1 Operational plan should have clear information on detail provision on area of harvesting sites and species, estimated amount of harvest either in tree/plant number or in volume or in weight.

I or V tips: Check the contents or provisions in forest operational plan.

2.5.2 Operational plan should have clear information on conservation measures and specific needs indigenous peoples and local communities for their daily livelihood, religious and cultural needs

I or V tips: Check the contents or provisions in forest operational plan and mapping of the sites in operational plan.

2.5.3 Details on protection measures like

- Protection of trees, plants and wild animals
- Protection from pest and disease (should write in simple language)
- Protection from forest fire
- Protection of water resources and water ways
- Protection of existing cultural and religious features within the area of FMU
- Protection from unwanted human activities

I or V tips: Check the contents or provisions in forest operational plan.

This also should be in forest protection section.

2.5.4 Details of maintenance of biological diversity, soil and water conservation should be incorporated.

I or V tips: Check the contents or provisions in forest operational plan.

2.5.5 Details description on preservation of flora and fauna which must be preserved

I or V tips: Check the contents or provisions in forest operational plan.

2.5.6 Conservation plan of rare, endangered, threatened and protected species.

I or V tips: Check the contents or provisions in forest operational plan.

2.5.7 List the tools or techniques which will be used in harvesting forest products and prohibited for harvesting forest products.

I or V tips: Check the contents or provisions in forest operational plan and if tool used accordingly.

2.5.8 If the FMU is more than 100 ha then it should demonstrate local natural ecosystem in 5 percent of total area.

I or V tips: Check the contents or provisions in forest operational plan. Also check the provision in implementations.

2.5.9 Details on monitoring measures on harvesting and protection.

I or V tips: Check the contents or provisions in forest operational plan.

**2.6 Details on management model and /or process including strategy for re-growth of forest resources to be harvested.**

Indicator: Check the contents or provisions in forest operational plan and their implementation status with local community.

**2.7 FM has minimum financial resources for implementation of the operational plan activities without giving burden to poor indigenous peoples and local communities**

2.7.1 Estimate amount of resources needed for management of FMU.

I or V tips: Check in operational plan and interview with key officials in FM

2.7.2 Sources of resources sponsored for implementation of the plan

I or V tips: Check in operational plan and interview with key officials in FM

2.7.3 FM shall spent X percent (25%) of its income in sustainable forest management according to present legal provision of Nepal.

**2.8 FM will assure involvement of women, indigenous peoples, and local communities in process of overall forest management.**



2.8.1 Elaborate ways to involve women, indigenous peoples and local communities in overall forest management.

I or V tips: Check the contents or provisions in forest operational plan. Interview with stakeholders to know if the provisions are implemented.

2.8.2 Training needed on different field to the local communities who will be involved in the process of forest management.

I or V tips: Check in operational plan and interview with key officials in FM

## **2.9 FMU should have clear elaboration on rights and cultural features of indigenous peoples and local communities will be protected.**

2.9.1 Conservation of traditional rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.

I or V tips: Check the contents or provisions in forest operational plan. Interview with stakeholders if the provisions are implemented.

2.9.2 Conservation of special features within FMU

I or V tips: Check the contents or provisions in forest operational plan. Also check the provision in implementations.

## **2.10 FM should have statement of environmental and social impacts from implementation of operational plan**

I or V tips: Check the contents or provisions in forest operational plan.

## **3. FM should do appropriate monitoring and evaluations in order to assure proper implementation of operational plan and its outcomes**

### **3.1 Appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management, monitoring should be done periodically (5 years) in following features:**

- Overall stock and growth rate of the products to be harvested.
- Forests regeneration
- All harvesting and transportation operations within FMU.
- Maintain species wise record keeping on products harvested, site of harvest, and volume of harvest.
- Maintain records on whom the product was sold, how much, where the products was taken.
- To the extent possible, use sign in the product which cannot be altered (like hammer mark in timber)
- Use of chemical or pesticides
- Status of rare, endangered, threatened and protected species of flora and fauna

- Soil and water protection within FMU
- Susceptibility on forest fire and measure to protect fire.
- Forest encroachment and theft of forest products
- Overall health and vitality of forest resources
- Availability of traditional goods and/or services for indigenous peoples' and local communities
- Establishment of complain mechanism and review on complains of indigenous peoples' and local communities
- Implementation of activities which are necessary according to national laws.

I or V tips: Check in operational plan and interview with key officials in FM and interview with peoples living around the FMU

### **3.2 A good monitoring system in local context is prepared and implemented.**

3.2.1 Monitoring should be a part of forest management plan and should be included in operational plan itself.

I or V tips: Check in operational plan.

3.2.2 Monitoring should identify sites where conservation and/or improvement is needed.

I or V tips: Check in monitoring report and interview with officials.

### **3.3 FMU should prepare a summary of monitoring activities and made public by putting a copy in relevant place like key places around FMU, local government office, educational centers, etc**

I or V tips: Check if the report is prepared and ask with peoples living around FMU

## **4. FM should ensure sustainable forest management and production from forests**

### **4.1 An appropriate sustainable forest management system for productions is prepared and implemented**

4.1.1 Keep records on allocated area for production of specific goods or services.

I or V tips: Check in operational plan.

4.1.2 FM will identify and elaborate on use of sustainable management systems for the products, which FMU has been harvesting.

I or V tips: Check in operational plan.

4.1.3 Use of a safety factor while estimating products to be harvested to ensure against overharvesting

I or V tips: Check in operational plan, interview with officials and see document on estimation of safety factors.

4.2 NTFP harvesting plan should be prepared under the framework of forest operational plan

I or V tips: Check if the report is prepared.

**4.3 A record keeping system should be maintained to support sustainable productions.**

4.3.1 Maintain records of annual inventory on products which FMU has been harvesting.

I or V tips: Interview with officials and see document on estimation of safety factors.

4.3.2 Maintain species wise record keeping on products harvested, site of harvest, and volume of harvest.

I or V tips: Interview with officials and see documents are maintained.

**4.4 During forest operations waste and damages should be minimized.**

4.4.1 Minimize waste when products are harvested and transported

I or V tips: Interview with officials and see the harvesting sites.

4.4.2 Rehabilitate any land which can affect the production of FMU according to operational plan.

I or V tips: Interview with officials and see in the field.

**4.5 FM should conduct monitoring of sustainable forest management activities.**

4.5.1 Assure that rate of periodic harvest is not more than rate of periodic growth and/ or periodic increment.

I or V tips: See the provisions in operational plan, interview with key officials and further record on harvests.

4.5.2 Through inventory, survey and mapping, FMU should confirm that minimum quantity of biomass is retained within the boundary of FMU.

I or V tips: See the provisions in operational plan, interview with key officials and further record on harvests.

4.5.3 Monitor mid-term periodic growth rate of forests to ensure that over harvesting is not done.

I or V tips: Interview with key officials and further reports.

4.5.4 Similarly monitor periodic growth rate of NTFP to be harvested so that stock in FMU has enough parental materials for re-growth. Or minimize risk of over harvesting.

I or V tips: Interview with key officials and further reports.

## **5. FM should assure on ecological and social conservation aspects**

### **5.1 FM should assure conservation of ecological components**

5.1.1 FMU should do local environment assessment against negative impact on soil, water, and biodiversity particularly rare, endangered, threatened and protected species.

I or V tips: Interview with key officials and further reports.

5.1.2 FMU should identify buffer area of 25 meter along the stream channels and water ways. (see in water induced disaster policy BS 2071)

I or V tips: Check provisions in operational plan, interview with key officials and field visit.

5.1.3 FMU should assure soil conservation especially during harvesting and transportation of trees.

I or V tips: Interview with key officials and field visit.

5.1.4 FMU shall carry out monitoring of negative impact of forest management like compaction of soil and erosion of soil in surface.

I or V tips: Interview with key officials and field visit.

5.1.5 FMU shall develop and implement procedures to control use of hazardous materials unless it is proven essential by a biochemist/ forester

I or V tips: Interview with key officials and field visit.

5.1.6 FM should encourage green road management and avoid soil erosion and landslides on forest land or near the forests.

I or V tips: Interview with key officials and field visit.

5.1.7 FMU should keep ecological functions intact, if possible enhanced and restored.

I or V tips: Interview with key officials and field visit.

### **5.2 FMU should assure conservation of products need and traditional culture of indigenous peoples and local communities**

5. 2.1 Products needed for use of indigenous peoples and local communities should be prioritized in operational plan.

I or V tips: Interview with people living around forest.

5.2.2 In the process of implementation of forest operations plan, products needed for traditional life system of indigenous peoples and local community should be prioritized in harvesting.

I or V tips: Interview with people living around forest.

5.2.3 FM shall ensure social equity in sharing economic benefits including benefits from products, employment, and recreation.

I or V tips: Review operational plan, discussion on implementation of plan, interview with people living around forest.

5.2.4 FM should allocate and spent 35% of the income from forests for up-liftment of women, indigenous peoples and local communities

I or V tips: Reports on forest operational plan implementation and interview with people living around forest

## **6. FM should focus and implement biodiversity conservation measures**

### **6.1 FM should prioritize bio-diversity conservation in written approved operational plan.**

6.1.1 FM should identify and map hot spots, and sensitive area from perspectives important biodiversity. Also put signs in sites.

I or V tips: Check the provisions in operational plan, interview with key officials and field visit.

6.1.2 FM should enhanced conditions of biological hot spots through written provision and implementation. A site plan for conservation should be prepared and annexed in the operation plan before initiation of certification process.

I or V tips: Check if the report is prepared.

6.1.3 Periodic monitoring should be done to ensure conservation of components of biodiversity hot spots.

I or V tips: Check if the report, interview with key officials and field visit.

6.1.4 Environmental assessment of FMU should deal specifically on such sites

I or V tips: Check the report and interview with key officials.

### **6.2 FM should focus to enhance knowledge on biodiversity conservation among women, indigenous peoples and local communities**

6.2.1 FM should involved and train women, indigenous peoples and local community in identification of importance of biological conservation in FMU.

I or V tips: Check the training report, interview with key officials.

6.2.2 The FM should not use genetically modified trees and plants.

I or V tips: Check the training report, interview with key officials or local knowledgeable persons.

**ITK: Indigenous traditional knowledge proven useful for forest management should be identified and conserved.**

## **7. FM should protect forests from natural and human made disturbances**

### **7.1 FM should identify and monitor natural or human made disturbance**

7.1.1 FM should identify natural disturbances like pest and disease, erosion by rain, water etc

I or V tips: Check the report, interview with key officials.

7.1.2 FM should identify human made disturbances like encroachment, illegal logging, forest fire, hunting and poaching

I or V tips: Check the report, interview with key officials.

### **7.2 FM should use environment friendly pest management and seek to minimize chemical pesticides.**

7.2.1 FM should document the procedure of using chemical pesticides

I or V tips: Check the report, interview with key officials.

7.2.2 FM should ensure conformity with legal requirements when chemical pests are used

I or V tips: Check the report, interview with key officials.

7.2.3 FM should explain procedure of storage, handling, transportation and use and disposal of chemicals

I or V tips: Check the report, interview with key officials.

7.2.4 FM should provide training to use the pesticides

I or V tips: Check the report, interview with key officials.

### **7.3. FM should use smart green infrastructure for conservation of human made disturbances**

7.3.1 FM should implement measures to protect forest against human made fire

I or V tips: Check in field visit, interview with key officials.

7.3.2 FM should implement measures to protect forest from non permitted grazing

I or V tips: Check in field visit, interview with key officials.

7.3.3 FM should implement measure to protect forest from non permitted or illegal activities and also inform to concerned government agencies.

I or V tips: Interview with key officials and see if such letters are send to concerned officials

## **8. Rights of women, indigenous peoples and local communities are ensured in forest management**

### **8.1 FM should ensure that women, indigenous peoples and local communities control forest management for the products they are concerned, according to operational plan.**

8.1.1 There should be separate discussion with women, indigenous peoples and local communities to incorporate their needs in operation plan.

I or V tips: Check in operational plan, interview with key officials and indigenous peoples, further reports in the issue.

8.1.2 There should be proportion representation of women, indigenous peoples and local communities in decision making about the forest operations and benefit sharing.

I or V tips: Check in operational plan, interview with key officials and indigenous peoples, further reports in the issue.

8.1.3 In the minute of discussion, request and concerns of indigenous peoples and local communities should be documented.

I or V tips: Check in operational plan, interview with key officials and indigenous peoples, further reports in the issue.

8.1.4 As directed by government norms, appropriate percentage (35%) of income from forests should be spent in economic upliftment of women indigenous peoples and poor local communities.

I or V tips: Check in operational plan, interview with key officials and indigenous peoples, further reports in the issue.

8.1.5 Forest operational plan should also target to produce the products needed for indigenous peoples and local communities in relation to their daily livelihood, religious and cultural norms.

I or V tips: Check in operational plan, interview with key officials and indigenous peoples, further reports in the issue.

8.1.6 FM should conduct public auditing of all forestry operations especially financial information.

I or V tips: Check in operational plan, interview with key officials and indigenous peoples, further reports in the issue.

### **8.2 FM should assure that women, Indigenous peoples and local communities should have ownership in forest management.**

8.2.1 Rights of women, indigenous peoples and local communities should be clearly written in forest operational plan or other relevant document.



I or V tips: Check in operational plan, interview with key officials and indigenous peoples, further reports in the issue

8.2.2 In the process of forest management traditional rights of indigenous peoples and local communities should be honored and maintained.

I or V tips: Check in operational plan, interview with key officials and indigenous peoples, further reports in the issue.

8.2.3 FM should provide opportunities of equal access for employment first to women, indigenous peoples and local communities.

I or V tips: Check the report in the issue, interview with key officials and indigenous peoples, further site visit.

8.2.4 FM should ensure social equity while sharing benefits and services.

I or V tips: Various reports and discussion with local communities.

8.2.5 FM should establish conflict management mechanisms with respect to decision making in various decisions making process.

I or V tips: Various reports and discussion with local communities.

### **8.3.FM should optimize the benefits from forests by using ecotourism**

8.3.1 Ecotourism is one of the good service from which to indigenous peoples and local communities could get benefits, so to the extent possible FM should promote ecotourism.

I or V tips: Check in operational plan, interview with key officials and indigenous peoples, further reports in the issue.

8.3.2 FM should provide training to women, indigenous peoples and local communities/forest managers and owners where their capacity is not up to the required level in forest, production and ecotourism.

I or V tips: interview with indigenous peoples, further reports in the issue.

### **8.4 FM should identify and conserve especial sites which are cultural, religious and economic importance of indigenous peoples and local communities.**

8.4.1 Cultural, religious and economic sites of indigenous peoples and local communities should be identified with them, put in maps in forest operational plan.

I or V tips: Check in operational plan, interview with key officials and indigenous peoples and field visits.

8.4.2 There should be provision to protect these sites in operational plan.

I or V tips: Check in operational plan, interview with key officials and indigenous peoples and field visits.

**8.5 FM should honor and use indigenous technical knowledge possessed by indigenous peoples and local communities by documenting**

8.5.1 Document the skill and knowledge on forest management which indigenous peoples have.

I or V tips: Check in operational plan, interview with key officials and indigenous peoples and field visits.

8.5.2 While using their knowledge indigenous peoples should be prior informed and honored (compensated)

I or V tips: Check in operational plan, interview with key officials and indigenous peoples, further reports in the issue.

**8.6 FM should carry out social impact assessment before implementation of forest management plan against indigenous peoples and/or local communities.**

I or V tips: Check about the report, interview with key officials and indigenous peoples.

## **Workers' rights and safety**

### **9.1 FM should ensure safety features for workers as provisioned by the law of the country**

9. 1.1 FM should use workers according to laws prevailed in the country in working hours and wage

I or V tips: Interview with forest workers and further reports in the issue.

9.1. 2 FM should let workers to form union or **affiliate with any such union** by their wish

I or V tips: Interview with forest workers and further reports in the issue.

9.1. 3 FM should not use child labor in its operations

I or V tips: Interview with forest workers and further reports in the issue.

### **9. 2 FM should provide safety tools and protective gears, to the extent possible to its workers.**

I or V tips: Interview with forest workers and further reports in the issue.

### **9.3 FM should provide training to workers on use of safety tools and protective gears.**

I or V tips: Interview with forest workers and further reports in the issue.

### **9.4. FM should establish grievances/conflict and grievance/conflict resolution system of workers**

I or V tips: Interview with forest workers and further reports in the issue.

### **9.5 FM should honor the national and international laws which recognizes right of workers**

I or V tips: Interview with forest workers and further reports in the issue.

## **Different Term Used in the document**

### **Biodiversity**

The variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems. (adapted from Convention on Biological Diversity)

### **Biomass**

The total weight, volume or quantity of organisms in a given area. (adapted from International Union for Conservation of Nature terminologies)

Is defined as the total aboveground living organic matter in trees expressed as oven-dry tonnes per unit area. It is referred to as biomass density when expressed as mass per unit area, e.g. tonnes per ha. Excluded are stumps and roots (belowground biomass), foliage, flowers and seeds. Different procedures in estimating biomass will be followed for the different vegetation types. (adapted from Bhopal India Process glossary of technical terms)

### **Conservation**

The management of human use of nature so that it may yield the greatest sustainable benefit to current generations while maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations. (adapted from Biodiversity Glossary, Convention on Biological Diversity)

### **Criteria**

A category of conditions or process through which sustainable forest management can be assessed. A criterion is characterized by a set of related indicators, which are monitored periodically to assess change (Montreal Process, 1995) (adapted from Bhopal India Process glossary of technical terms).

### **Forest Inventory**

An assessment of forest resources, including digitized maps and a database, which describes the location and nature of forest cover (including tree size, age, volume and species composition) as well as a description of other forest values such as soils, vegetation and wildlife features. (adapted from Bhopal India Process Glossary of Technical Terms)

### **Forest Ecosystem Services**

Ecosystem services provided by forests, which included but are not limited to prevention of soil erosion, provisioning of freshwater, provisioning of fresh air, provisioning of timber and non-timber forest produce.

## **Forest Management Unit**

A spatial area or areas submitted for FSC certification with clearly defined boundaries managed to a set of explicit long term management objectives which are expressed in a management plan. This area or areas include(s):

- all facilities and area(s) within or adjacent to this spatial area or areas under legal title or management control of, or operated by or on behalf of The Organization, for the purpose of contributing to the management objectives; and
- all facilities and area(s) outside, and not adjacent to this spatial area or areas and operated by or on behalf of The Organization, solely for the purpose of contributing to the management objectives.

Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2 (adapted from FSC glossary of terms)

A clearly demarcated area of land covered predominantly by forest, managed to a set of explicit objectives and according to a long-term forest management plan. A forest management unit may cover several hundred hectares to fractions thereof. The entire area of the forest management unit will have to be clearly demarcated on the ground and usually also on a map. Under the broad objectives to which the entire management unit is subjected, subunits may be managed under different and separate management regimes. (adapted from Bhopal India Process Glossary of Technical Terms)

## **Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)**

The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples requires States to consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them (article 19). States must have consent as the objective of consultation before any of the following actions are taken:

- The adoption of legislation or administrative policies that affect indigenous peoples (article 19)
- The undertaking of projects that affect indigenous peoples' rights to land, territory and resources, including mining and other utilization or exploitation of resources (article 32).

In certain circumstances, there is an obligation to obtain the consent of the indigenous peoples concerned, beyond the general obligation to have consent as the objective of consultations. For example, the Declaration explicitly requires States to obtain consent of indigenous peoples in cases of:

- The relocation of indigenous peoples from their lands or territories (article 10)
  - The storage or disposal of hazardous materials on indigenous peoples' lands or territories (article 29)
- Furthermore, indigenous peoples who have unwillingly lost possession of their lands, when those lands have been "confiscated, taken, occupied or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent" are entitled to restitution or other appropriate redress (article 28).

Prior implies that consent is to be sought sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of activities and respect is shown to time requirements of indigenous consultation/consensus processes.

Informed implies that information is provided that covers a range of aspects, including the nature, size, pace, reversibility and scope of any proposed project or activity; the purpose of the project as well as its duration; locality and areas affected; a preliminary assessment of the likely economic, social, cultural and environmental impact, including potential risks; personnel likely to be involved in the execution of the project; and procedures the project may entail. This process may include the option of withholding consent. Consultation and participation are crucial components of a consent process. (adapted from Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' Rule of Law, Equality and Non-Discrimination Branch:

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/IPeoples/FreePriorandInformedConsent.pdf>)

### **Genetic Diversity**

The variety of genes within a particular population, species, variety, or breed. (adapted from Convention on Biological Diversity Glossary)

### **Growing Stock**

Volume of all living trees in a given area of forest or wooded land that have more than a certain diameter at breast height. It is usually measured in solid cubic metres (m<sup>3</sup>). It includes the stem from ground level or stump height up to a given top diameter, and may also include branches above a certain diameter. Free implies that there is no coercion, intimidation or manipulation.

### **Health of Forest**

Forest condition that is naturally resilient to damage; characterized by biodiversity, it contains sustained habitat for wood, fish, wildlife, and humans, and meets present and future resource management objectives. (adapted from Bhopal India Process Glossary of Technical Terms).

### **Indicator**

A quantitative or qualitative parameter which can be assessed in relation to a criterion. It describes objectively and unambiguously a relevant element of a criterion. (adapted from PEFC terms and definitions)

A quantitative or qualitative variable which can be measured or described, and which provides a means of judging whether a Management Unit complies with the requirements of an FSC Criterion. Indicators and the associated thresholds thereby define the requirements for responsible forest management at the level of the Management Unit and are the primary basis of forest evaluation. Source: FSC-STD-60004 V1-0 (adapted from FSC glossary of terms)

The fulfilment of a criterion is evaluated by using indicators. A typical indicator is a measure of an aspect of the criterion or a measurable quantitative or descriptive variable which when compared to previous

measurements demonstrates changes or trends. The indicator has to be judged on a scale of acceptable standards of performance, which may vary widely from region to region and from time to time. Some aspects of criteria cannot be quantified. Their fulfillment can only be judged through the existence and effective implementation of a regulatory framework. By repeatedly measuring the fulfillment of the criteria, countries can evaluate whether forest management is moving towards or away from sustainability. Also, they can be used as a tool for reporting on the implementation of the commitments made and thus whether the objectives set are being met. (adapted from Bhopal India Process glossary of technical terms)

A quantitative measure of an effect, which does not in itself signify whether the change is good or bad. (adapted from Compilation of Forestry Terms and Definitions, European Forestry Institute)

A quantitative measure of change, used to determine whether a criterion has been fulfilled. (adapted from Compilation of Forestry Terms and Definitions, European Forestry Institute)

Indigenous Species (also called native species, or autochthonous species)

Species or genotypes which have evolved in the same area, region or biotope and are adapted to the specific predominant ecological conditions at the time of establishment. (adapted from Compilation of Forestry Terms and Definitions, Internal Report no. 6, 2002, European Forestry Institute)

Tree species which have evolved in the same area, region or biotope where the forest stand is growing and are adapted to the specific ecological conditions predominant at the time of the establishment of the stand. (adapted from Compilation of Forestry Terms and Definitions, Internal Report no. 6, 2002, European Forestry Institute).

### **Management Plan**

The collection of documents, reports, records and maps that describe, justify and regulate the activities carried out by any manager, staff or organization within or in relation to the Management Unit, including statements of objectives and policies. Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2 (adapted from FSC glossary of terms).

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Monitoring can be defined as a continuing function that aims primarily to provide the management and main stakeholders of an ongoing intervention with early indications of progress, or lack thereof, in the achievement of results. An ongoing intervention might be a project, programme or other kind of support to an outcome. (adapted from Handbook on Monitoring and Evaluating for Results, United Nations Development Program)

Evaluation is a selective exercise that attempts to systematically and objectively assess progress towards and the achievement of an outcome. Evaluation is not a one-time event, but an exercise involving assessments of differing scope and depth carried out at several points in time in response to evolving needs for evaluative knowledge and learning during the effort to achieve an outcome. All evaluations—

even project evaluations that assess relevance, performance and other criteria—need to be linked to outcomes as opposed to only implementation or immediate outputs. (adapted from Handbook on Monitoring and Evaluating for Results, United Nations Development Program.

### **Natural Forest**

Forestland composed of indigenous trees, not planted by man, which is further classified using the criteria of forest formation (or type), degree of human disturbance or modification, and human interference. (adapted from Glossary of Center for Sustainable Forest Management & Forest Certification, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal)

### **Natural Regeneration**

The renewal of a forest stand by natural seeding, sprouting, suckering, or layering seeds may be deposited by wind, birds or mammals. (adapted from Glossary of Center for Sustainable Forest Management & Forest Certification, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal)

### **Non-Timber Forest Products**

Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) are any product or service other than timber that is produced in forests. They include fruits and nuts, vegetables, fish and game, medicinal plants, resins, essences and a range of barks and fibres such as bamboo, rattans, and a host of other palms and grasses. (adapted from Factsheet on Forests and Non-Timber Forest Products, Centre for International Forestry Research: <http://www.cifor.org/publications/corporate/factSheet/NTFP.htm>)

### **Protected Area**

An area of land and/or sea especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources, and managed through legal or other effective means. A protected area can be under either public or private ownership. (adapted from Biodiversity Glossary, Convention on Biological Diversity).

### **Regeneration**

Forest regeneration is the act of renewing tree cover by establishing young trees naturally or artificially, generally, promptly after the previous stand or forest has been removed. The method, species, and density are chosen to meet the goal of the landowner. Forest regeneration includes practices such as changes in tree plant density through human-assisted natural regeneration, enrichment planting, reduced grazing of forested savannas, and changes in tree provenances/genetics or tree species. "Human-assisted natural regeneration" means establishment of a forest age class from natural seeding or sprouting after harvesting through selection cutting, shelter (or seed-tree) harvest, soil preparation, or restricting the size of a clear-cut stand to secure natural regeneration from surrounding trees. (adapted from Special Report - Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry: [http://www.ipcc.ch/ipccreports/sres/land\\_use/index.php?idp=235](http://www.ipcc.ch/ipccreports/sres/land_use/index.php?idp=235))



**Soil Erosion**

A change in the soil health status resulting in a diminished capacity of the ecosystem to provide goods and services for its beneficiaries. (adapted from Food and Agricultural Organization's Soils Portal: <http://www.fao.org/soils-portal/soil-degradation-restoration/en/>)

**Species Diversity**

The abundance of the number of species within a particular area.

**Stakeholder Consultation**

A two-way process of dialogue between a project implementer and the stakeholders of the project. (adapted from Stakeholder Engagement: A Good Practice Handbook for Companies Doing Business in Emerging Markets, International Finance Corporation)

**Sustainability**

It refers to the adequate access, use and management of the natural resources, to ensure that the men and women of present and future generations are able to meet their basic needs on an uninterrupted basis. Pattern of behavior that guarantees for each of the future generations, the option to enjoy, at the very least, the same level of welfare enjoyed by the preceding generation. Emphasis is placed on the intergenerational equity of development.

**Sustainable Management**

Management through which the present potential of the resources is used in the best possible way, and does not reduce the availability of the resources. (adapted from International Union for Cons Glossary)

**Sustainable Forest Management**

Sustainable forest management is the process of managing forest to achieve one or more clearly specified objectives of management with regard to the production of a continuous flow of desired forest products and services without undue reduction of its inherent values and future productivity and without undue undesirable effects on the physical and social environment (adapted from Glossary of Center for Sustainable Forest Management & Forest Certification, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal)

**Water Resources**

The sum total of all sources of water available in the forest area, including streams, rivers, ponds, surface and underground water. The term here is in reference to water that is extractable and usable for man and wildlife.

Stakeholder's views, comments and proposal for change

<b>Name/Position/ Organization:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Document:</b>

<b>Principle</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Original sentence</b>	<b>Observation/comments /proposal for change</b>	<b>Justification of proposed action</b>