

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOREST MANAGEMENT

Working Paper

SFM, Forest Certification and Climate Change Regulations-The Confluence of Concepts

*H.S Gupta and **L. Pradhan

ABSTRACT

The forest sector is undergoing a massive metamorphosis and is trying hard to respond to diverse and often apparently conflicting stimuli. It is facing a increasing pressure to meet the sustained or rather enhanced demand for its product and services. On the other hand, the sector is trying to evolve logical management and compliance tools to secure these public goods and services (particularly those associated with the environment such as carbon storage) in a sustained manner. Also the role of forest in climate amelioration through its mitigative and adaptive ways is assuming very important role in the context of climate change mitigation (Kyoto Protocol) and other related voluntary efforts for ensuring GHG mitigation. The “Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) can contribute towards preserving forests and its biodiversity, thereby strengthening their resilience and enabling them adapt to and mitigate for climate change impacts. According to a recent FAO report, sustainable forest management is key to maintaining the forest carbon stock, leading to desirability for obtaining Sustainable Forest Management certification. This way the forest owners and managers of certified forest can also contribute to combating climate change. While forest-certification systems such as FSC, PEFC etc were developed with the major aim of supplying certified sustainable timber products to market, the climate change has significantly broadened the scope of such a wide range of economic “products” that might be derived from forests to include wood for energy production to carbon sequestration for climate mitigation. The paper attempts to explore the linkages between SFM, forest certification and climate change regulation -their supplementary and complementary role.

* Professor Faculty Technical Forestry, IIFM ,Bhopal

** Research Associate, ICCF, IIFM, Bhopal