

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOREST MANAGEMENT

Working Paper

CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCE MANAGEMENT IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

United Nations Conference on Environment & Development (UNCED, 1992) was a watershed event in the history of United Nations Organisation when it brought the global community on one platform to take stock of the degrading environment in the wake of rapid economic growth or industrialisation. During the course of this landmark Conference, the policy makers & the champions of Environmental Conservation agreed to adopt a future course of action which would be environment friendly. These deliberations resulted in many global historical treaties like Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) etc. On the subject of Forests, “The Statement of Forest Principles” was adopted by the global community. This document mooted the concept of “Sustainable Forest Management” (SFM) as against the traditional principle of “Sustained Yield” which governed the field of Forest Management then.

To implement the concept of SFM, which essentially was based upon the three pillars of Ecological, Economic & Social considerations, the tools of Criteria & Indicators (C & I) have come to be accepted globally over the years. C & I have also become the basis of Forest Certification all over the globe.

In India, the first set of C & I was developed for SFM in 1998 under the aegis of ITTO Project in Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal & was recognised as Bhopal-India Process.

The general sets of C & I for SFM are good enough to tell about the sustainability of the existing forest management practices & also about the desirable interventions to achieve the same. But, it does not address the need of specific sub-sectoral areas like NTFP, Plantations, Protected Areas, and Wood-fuel etc. In order to fill this gap, Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF), Govt. of India (GoI) constituted a team of experts to suggest “C & I for Sustainable NTFP Management” in India.

This paper endeavours to discuss the adopted methodology in this project & also the resulting framework of Principles, Criteria & Indicators to achieve Sustainable NTFP Management, as this is a major source of livelihood for millions of forest dependent families in India.

Key Words: Principles, Criteria & Indicators, Non-Timber Forest Produce, Sustainable NTFP Management, NTFP Certification.

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