

Developing Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Management of Plantations

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A framework of Criteria and Indicators (C&I) for Sustainable Management of natural forests has been developed on the line of Bhopal – India Process and field tested with cooperation of various state forest departments. The C&I developed for the management of natural forests were meeting the requirement of management of tree resources outside the forest, which is covering more than 2.5 percent of the total geographic area of the country. For the development of C&I framework, a review of principles of plantation development, which is based on three pillars of development, namely ecological/ environmental, economical and socio-cultural values of the community was done. Multi stakeholder consultation approach was adopted in developing a draft set of C&I to meet all the issues of plantation management in India. The draft set is based on principles of plantation management namely, adequate policy and guidelines to facilitate forest plantations in India, Ecological gain and environmental security of landscape, Economic relevance/viability, Socio-cultural benefits/relevance. Based on the objectives of development, principles have been further divided into seven criteria and 42 indicators to measure the progress made under these criteria. Annotations of each criteria and indicators were developed and reviewed to enhance the scope of developed C&I framework. Verifiers were identified based on the objectives of plantation management, which includes conservation, productivity, marketing and social development. Descriptive norms for each indicator were also discussed in the developed framework to ensure the sustainable management of plantations in the country. Institutionalisation of C&I framework is a challenge before the country and for that a draft institutionalisation approach has been suggested. National task team chaired by Dr. Ram Prasad guided the process of developing C&I frame work.