

F. No. 3-6/2001-SU
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
(S. U. Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,
C.G.O. Complex, Lodi Road,
New Delhi – 110003.

Dated: 6th March 2006

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

It has been decided to constitute a Committee consisting of the following experts to frame the Policy guidelines for '**Certification Criteria**' towards 'Forest Certification' for Timber, Non-Timber forest Products etc.

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| 1. | Dr. C. Chandrasekharan, Ex-FAO Expert | Chairman |
| 2. | Dr. K.M. Bhatt, Prog. Coordinator,
Division of Forest Products, KFRI, Peechi | Member |
| 3. | Shri A.K. Singh, Managing Director, Chattisgarh,
Minor Forest Products Federation | Member |
| 4. | Prof. Vinod Mathur, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun | Member |
| 5. | Dr. Bala Prasad, Director, AYUSH, Ministry of Health,
Government of India | Member |
| 6. | Dr. Vimal Kothiyal, Head, Forest Products Division,
FRI, Dehradun | Member |
| 7. | Dr. Sudipto Chatterjee, Biodiversity Division,
World Wildlife Fund (WWF), India | Member |
| 8. | Dr. Manish Pande, Program Manager, SGS India | Member |
| 9. | Dr. S.S. Bisen, Ex-Head,
Non-Wood Forest Product Division, FRI, Dehradun | Member |
| 10. | Dr. Alok Saxena, Joint Director, FSI, Dehradun | Member |
| 11. | Shri Sanjay Kumar, DIG, NAEB, MoEF, GoI | Member |
| 12. | Dr. Ram Prasad, Ex-PCCF, Madhya Pradesh | Member Secretary |
| 13. | Prof. P.C.Kotwal, IIFM, Bhopal | Convener |

The Terms of Reference for the above Committee will be as follows:

- (i) The committee shall study the various International Certification Schemes and the processes of Sustainable Forest Management such as ITTO initiative on C&I, African Timber Organisation, Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes-PEFC, Montreal Process, TaraPoto Proposal,

Dry-Zone Africa Process, Near East Process, Lepaterique Process – Central America, Regional Initiative for Dry Forests in Asia – Bhopal India Process. In addition to the International Certification schemes namely FSC (Forest Steward Council), PEFC (Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes) and ITTO's phased approaches of forest certification & cost benefit analysis etc., the committee will also study the National certification schemes like MTCC. (Malaysian Timber Certification Council), LEI (Lembaga Eco-level Indonesia) etc.

- (ii) The committee will also study the implementation of C&I developed under Bhopal India Process at 8 FMUs in Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh under ITTO-IIFM Project to understand the applicability/problems of implementation of the 8 criteria and 43 indicators developed under this process and to accordingly formulate the certification criteria so as to meet the requirements of international processes and the local situation in the country. The committee will also study any certification projects undertaken so far in the country.
- (iii) The committee shall also study the certification projects undertaken in NTFP certification including MAP certification such as in Brazil and the Pilot projects in Nepal.
- (iv) The committee after studying all above, shall then recommend a set of Principles, Criteria, Indicators and Verifiers for Forest Certification in India which may be acceptable internationally but at the same time based on the conditions and situations in the country with respect to the management of forests and the inter-dependency of forest and the local communities.
- (v) The committee will recommend the **Certification Standards** for **Timber Certification** and for **NTFP Certification** separately i.e. principles, criteria, indicators and verifiers for each separately.
- (vi) The committee will also explain/define each term used in the certification standard such as principle, criteria, indicator, verifier, FMU, timber certification, forest, communities, auditor etc. as implied in the certification standard and application for forest certification in India.
- (vii) The forest certification standards shall reflect a balance approach between Ecological, Social and Economic aspects of Sustainable Forest Management.
- (viii) National Forest Working Plan code shall be strengthened to include various Criteria & Indicators (C&I) to facilitate the certification process.

- (ix) The Committee shall prepare a Draft National Forest Certification Policy in conformity with National Forest Policy focusing on natural forests and also the forest produce coming from agro-forestry, plantation-forestry etc., irrespective of their ownership.

The committee will take the necessary action as per the above 'Terms of Reference' and submit its detailed report to this Ministry within six months' time.

It is the responsibility of the convener to arrange and facilitate deliberation of the Committee with the help of Member Secretary.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

(Dr. Bipin Behari)
Deputy Inspector General of Forests