

F. No. 16-12/2005-SU  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment & Forests

Paryavaran Bhawan,  
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,  
New Delhi-110003

Dated: 15.06.06

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

In pursuance to the recommendations of the National Task Force on Sustainable Forest Management and the recommendations made at the National Workshop on Criteria and Indicators and subsequent approval of Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi, a **Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Cell** is hereby created under the Survey & Utilisation Division (SU Division) in the Ministry of Environment & Forests with effect from the date of issue of this O.M. with the following **Terms of Reference**:

- (i) To act as the **Nodal** point for all matters related to Sustainable Forest Management in the country and to encourage the development of National programmes aimed at sustainable utilisation and conservation of forests, and maintaining their ecological balance.
- (ii) To promote the development of practical methods, guidelines and strategies to apply the ecosystem approach in the management of natural forest areas, keeping into account the regional and ecological differences in the forest areas.
- (iii) To facilitate the common understanding of concepts, terms and definitions related to Criteria and Indicators and to strengthen the Criteria and Indicators process and Inter-process cooperation.
- (iv) To develop the mechanism for implementation of Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management and to strengthen the related communication and information management systems.
- (v) To promote the sustainable use of forest resources in order to enhance the conservation of forest biological diversity.
- (vi) To enhance and improve the technical capacity required at the national level to monitor SFM and biological diversity.
- (vii) To integrate the broad framework of the Sustainable Forest Management principles into the Working Plan Code of the Ministry.
- (viii) To create a synergy between the C&I developed through the Bhopal – India Process and the C & I developed by other agencies at the international level e.g. C & I developed by the ITTO.
- (ix) To create awareness and improve the knowledge base and to assist in development of infrastructure for accurate assessment and monitoring of Sustainable Forest Management.
- (x) To facilitate the setting up of similar Sustainable Forest Management Cells in all the State / UT Forest departments.

**The main functions of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Cell are:**

1. Co-ordinate developing C&I action plans with the State / UT forest departments.
2. Enable political and administrative environment toward C&I approach for SFM.
3. Institutionalise C&I approach through incorporation in the National Working Plan Code and its application in the states.
4. Apply C&I approach in the country in light of the Objective 2000 – certification of forest products (particularly NWFPs)
5. Create awareness and sensitize various stakeholders and enhance their capacities towards C&I approach.
6. Encourage research and development on various aspects of C & I such as development of sets of C & I at state level, determining standard values (Minimum Standard-MAS) for the indicators at national/state/FMU levels. Acceptable
7. Facilitate information/data collection on C&I and exchange from different State / UT Forest Departments in the country.
8. Encourage collection and dissemination of information to the stakeholders through newsletters and dedicated website etc.
9. Encourage participation of local communities through awareness, capacity building towards application of C & I at FMU level including monitoring and functioning of institutional framework.
10. Encourage incorporation of C&I approach in the training curricula of forest colleges/and teaching curricula of Universities and educational institutions.
11. Facilitate pilot studies in different forest types of the country to test the Bhopal-India Process and develop replicable models for SFM.
12. Ensure necessary infrastructure, financial and technical support for the proper implementation of the action plan at the national level.

This issues with the approval of Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi.

**(Dr. Bipin Behari)**  
Deputy Inspector General of Forests