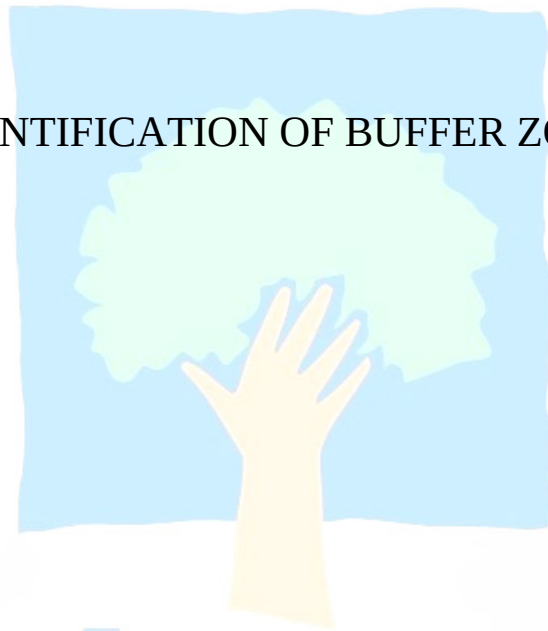


INDUS TREE CRAFTS FOUNDATION

IDENTIFICATION OF BUFFER ZONES



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1. Introduction

- This document outlines the identification process for buffer zones within the FSC® Forest Management Group Certification Project of Indus Tree Crafts Foundation. The purpose of this document is to assess the necessity and feasibility of establishing buffer zones in the project area, particularly in the context of the bamboo plantations managed by the participating farmers.

2. Assessment of Buffer Zones:

2.1 Definition and Purpose of Buffer Zones:

Buffer zones are areas designated around the core zones of a project, intended to provide additional protection to critical habitats and mitigate the impact of adjacent land use activities. They play a crucial role in conserving biodiversity by maintaining ecological balance and providing transitional habitats for wildlife.

2.2 Evaluation Criteria:

The identification of buffer zones in the project area was evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Land Availability:** The extent of available land for establishing buffer zones.
- **Ecological Significance:** The ecological value of the areas where buffer zones could potentially be established.
- **Land Use Patterns:** The existing land use and management practices in the project area, particularly in the bamboo plantations.

3. Findings:

3.1 Limited Land Availability:

The bamboo plantations within the project are situated on very limited land, organized into block and border configurations. Due to the small scale of these plantations, there is insufficient space to designate additional buffer zones. The existing land is fully utilized for productive purposes, leaving no residual areas that could serve as buffer zones.

3.2 Concentrated Land Use:

The bamboo is planted in a concentrated manner, with clearly defined boundaries. The plantation structure, combined with the small size of the land parcels, does not allow for the creation of buffer zones. The primary focus is on optimizing the available land for sustainable bamboo cultivation.

3.3 Biodiversity Management without Buffer Zones:

Given the specific conditions of the bamboo plantations, biodiversity conservation objectives are being met through sustainable land use practices and careful management. The absence of buffer zones does not compromise the ecological integrity of the project area, as other conservation measures are in place.

4. Conclusion:

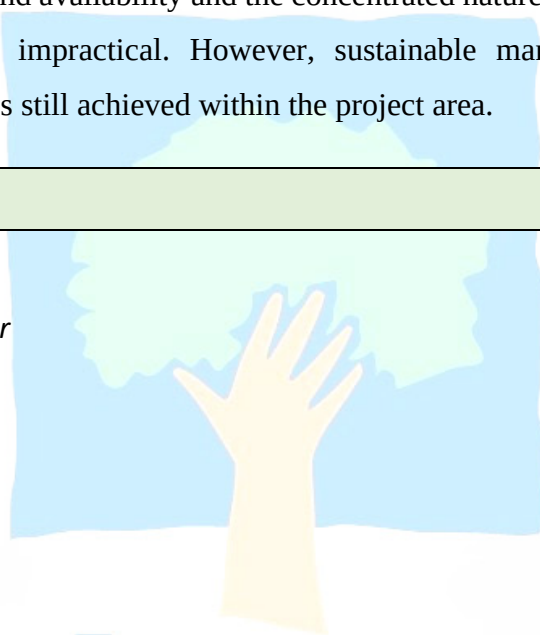
- Based on the assessment, no buffer zones have been identified or established within the bamboo plantation areas of the FSC Forest Management Group Certification Project of Indus Tree Crafts Foundation. The limited land availability and the concentrated nature of the plantations have made the creation of buffer zones impractical. However, sustainable management practices ensure that biodiversity conservation is still achieved within the project area.

5. Authorized Signatory:

Name: Remya Devan

Designation: Project Manager

Indus Tree Crafts Foundation



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