Annex 2: Abstract submission template (to be uploaded to the submission portal)

**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION TEMPLATE**

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| Presenter’s full name (title, name, surname) | Dr. Yogesh D. Jadhav |
| Nationality | India |
| Gender | Male |
| Country of residence | India |
| Institutional affiliation | Barli Development Institute for Rural Women |
| Contact information including email and telephone | 180, Bhamori, new Dewas road , behind Rasoma lab, Indore – 452010 (M.P.)  Email: [ydjadhav@gmail.com](mailto:ydjadhav@gmail.com)  Ph: +919827557489 |
| Title of the abstract | **Building inclusive evaluation systems using peoples’ indicators – lessons from mapping indigenous forest management practices for achieving SDGs in central India** |
| Conference session | □ Stream A. Responsive National Evaluation Systems  **✓ Stream B. Inclusive National Evaluation Systems**  □ Stream C. Future Driven Systems and Approaches |
| Name(s), title(s) and institutional affiliation(s) of all other authors/contributors (if applicable) | NA |
| Preferred format: | **✓** **Formal presentation (maximum 10 minutes)**  **✓** Participation in a panel discussion where the experience can be shared  □ Participation in an interactive session where the example can be shared, without a formal presentation  □ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| I will need to apply for bursary support, if selected. | **✓Yes**  □ No |
| Language to be used for presentation | **✓ English** □ French □ Spanish □ Chinese |

**Abstract Text (max. 500 words)**

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| The tropical forests in the Indian sub-continent constitute a quintessential safety net for nearly 400 million people. In addition to providing non-timber forest products like wild flowers, foods and medicinal plants, the forests provide fuelwood to the indigenous communities. Although non-timber forest products contribute to nearly 50 per cent of the average annual income of about 30 percent of the rural and tribal populations, the local communities benefit from a perennial supply of fuelwood, mainly in the form of dead, dying or diseased trees and woody biomass collected from the forests.  Before the 1990s, the management of woodfuel for meeting rural energy needs was seldom regarded as a priority need, as woodfuel was supposed to be in plenty and an inexhaustible resource. There was neither a long-term policy nor any institutional mechanism for ensuring the sustainability of fuelwood as a source of renewable energy. Therefore a systematised mechanism for sustainable management, harvest and marketing of fuelwood was non-existant. Wood-fuel as an energy resource remained either undervalued or underutilised due to reasons like: lack of knowledge of sustainable management, unsustainable harvesting practices, wastages in harvesting and inadequate processing, lack of storage facilities and non-availability of ready market channels. Due to population pressures and growing demand for forest products (including fuelwood), the forests were subjected to unsustainable harvesting practices, causing widespread deforestation and degradation, hampering the progress of SDGs. This affected their long-term sustainability and resulted in significant losses of carbon stocks from forests. But since the enactment of the long-term policy of Joint Forest Management (1990), the rural communities have been following an adaptive co-management model, where the forests are being jointly managed through innovative community-state partnership institutions.  The paper draws on the inclusive evaluation approaches used during implementation of a sustainable forest management project in India (funded by ITTO, Japan), in which the sustainability of forests and its role in climate change mitigation (thus contributing to achieving the SDGs) was evaluated and monitored using the criteria and indicators with peoples’ participation. Using resource survey questionnaires, peoples’ indicators, focused group discussions and secondary data, the study tries to explore the potential of peoples’ indicators in evaluation of forest-based climate change mitigation interventions. The study also demonstrates a pragmatic model for concerned stakeholders, wherein people’s institutions are helping to build inclusive approaches to evaluate SDGs, climate change and other developmental interventions using people’s indicators, which may pave the way for its possible replication in other parts of the world. |