

Implementing Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management in Europe

Regional Workshop in Zagreb, Croatia 26-27 March 2013

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In the Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020, paragraph 24 a, the ministers decided on:

Further development of sustainable forest management and its tools

Responding to increasing attention and new scientific knowledge on the multiple roles that forests and sustainable forest management play in tackling global challenges, FOREST EUROPE will step up efforts and further consolidate the pan-European policies and tools for sustainable forest management, taking into account biodiversity and climate change commitments, emerging threats to and pressure on forest resources as well as the role of forest owners.

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FOREST EUROPE Work Programme

1. Further development of sustainable forest management and its tools

This action is an overarching element interlinked with the other actions in the work programme. It should build on and respond to the other actions, and also contribute to better coordination of policies and tools on forests and forest management at pan-European, European Union and national levels, including the development of a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe.

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To facilitate coordination and consolidation of forest policies, the further development of sustainable forest management and its tools should:

- Feed into the work by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe, e.g. on terms and definitions as well as reporting requirements.
- Facilitate further improvements in forest monitoring and reporting, including measurement of achievements on Goals and 2020 Targets for European forests.
- Identify differences and resemblances between concepts: sustainable forest management; sustainable use; sustainable management.
- Address new commitments and current challenges in a proactive and strategic way, in order to attain the full potential of forests and seize emerging opportunities and new knowledge
- Build on former FOREST EUROPE work, e.g. the Working Group on “Sustainability Criteria” for Forest Biomass Production, including Bioenergy, as well as other ongoing efforts.
- Be based on experiences in the preparation of the State of Europe’s Forests 2011 report (quantitative and qualitative indicators) and respond to the possible common data collection with FAOs FRA 2015 for quantitative indicators.

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EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THIS ACTION ARE:

The consolidation of pan-European policies for sustainable forest management, a further improvement of the pan-European Sustainable Forest Management Guidelines and an updated and focussed set of pan-European indicators, including the related background information (Vienna 2002), and possibly other tools for sustainable forest management.

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1.1 State of art:

FOREST EUROPE and EFI are working on the “State of the art” of the Implementation of former decisions on SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT in monitoring and reporting

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1.2 Expert group to propose improvements in tools for SFM (Madrid, 26 November 2012)

OUTCOMES

- There is no need to revise the concept/definition of SFM
- A more proactive communication is needed as well as to put SFM in a practical level.
- Main tools to be updated: the Operational Guidelines, mainly for verification and certification, and the C&I, for implementation and communication.
- Demands to be addressed: energy, biomass, biodiversity, climate change...
- Link with the LBA process. In line with the developing of C&I to follow the LBA commitments and also the Oslo decision 2020.

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Ideas on how to further develop the work based on the on-going work on the State of Art and the first meeting of the Expert Group

1. Develop a background paper – expertise input melting: Sustainable Criteria Biomass, and addressing the new developments on Biodiversity, Climate Change, Biomass, etc.
2. Consultant group / Ad-hoc group of 3-4 people to brainstorm the basis of work for the expert group. This group will be formed by experts from: UK, FI, EC, EFI
3. Expert Group: to have 1 or 2 meetings of the expert group till beginning 2014

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Thank you!

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