



Implementing Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management

Advisory Group meeting Minutes summary

Freiburg, Germany - March 22, 2012

Advisory Group (AG) members present: Michael Köhl (Institute for World Forestry), Myriam Martin (FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit), Roman Michalak (UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber section), Jari Parviainen (Finnish Forest Research Institute).

EFI project team: Hubert Inhaizer (project leader), Tanya Baycheva, Patrice Harou, Christopher Prins, Paul Rougieux, Andreas Schuck.

Introduction

After a round introduction where each participant introduced themselves, Mr. Hubert Inhaizer presented an overview of the project. It included project objectives, project structure and work packages (WP). Of particular interest in this first advisory group meeting where the WP2 including the proposed working definition on implementing C&I and the WP4 and WP5 where coordination is needed with other initiatives.

Work Package 2 State of the art report

Ms. Tanya Baycheva presented the table of content of the state of the art report. During her presentation, members of the AG and project team raised the issues below.

The working definition (WD) on implementing Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (C&I for SFM) was presented and discussed at length. The AG members endorsed the presented elements of the WD and agreed on a final version¹, which will be used during the project period. The document will provide base for the foreseen WP2 expert interviews and for the enquiry under WP3.

Besides the WD the elements of the table of content was discussed, particularly the analysis of the available and foreseen information. Several methods for evaluating the C&I set have thus been proposed, like including a “traffic lights/flags” system, which was suggested to sort out countries; 3 periods were distinguished in the criteria and indicator process: Before1995 / from 1995 until Now / Future. It is known that only few countries fully apply the C&I set, according to the reporting for SoEF 2011 enquiry on qualitative indicators. Other countries must have some indicators related experiences whether they have applied the full set or not. The detailed implementation status will be explored under WP3.

¹ Available online: <http://www.ci-sfm.org/documents.html>

During the report progress, the project team will contact AG members and share the list of persons to be interviewed. A two-level interview will involve the experts who are interacting with the C&I set. Further clarifications of the interview questions and selection process of interviewees are needed before more input can be given on this part.

Work Package 3 National assessment

The main aims of this WP are to: gather first hand information from the Forest Europe signatory states, avoid any unnecessary duplication on data collection, and develop synergies with other initiatives, if applicable. This WP is linked with other work packages, particularly **WP2** and **WP4**.

Implementation and timeline: a list of distribution should be developed with the advisory group. Primary contacts would be the main contact for Forest Europe (the expert group). Contributions are voluntary; sufficient time should be given and phone calls will be set-up to help interviewees understand questions. Connection and harmonized activities are required with the Forest Europe work programme. It is essential to reach the potential impact of the project. Timing, nature of actions, and meeting will be discussed in advance with the Liaison Unit in Madrid (LUM).

Work Package 4 Regional Workshops

Regional workshops are planned to be organized in the upcoming months. Involvement of EFI offices (beside the EFICIENT-OEF, EFI-HQ, the Policy Advice office in Barcelona, EFICEEC, and EFIATLANTIC), and of the Forest Policy and Economics Education and Research (FOPER) network is to be determined. Content of the regional workshops will be a topic for the next AG meeting (the number and scope of regional events will be discussed)

Work Package 5 Pan-European Conference

Collaboration with the LUM is to be further discussed and options for further support will be explored, as well as potential extra budgetary sources. Schedule for the conference will be discussed in more details at the 2nd AG meeting.

Work Package 7 Networking and web-platform

The content and structure of the C&I web-platform was presented. The possibility for a forum on C&I to stimulate discussion and exchange of information among C&I experts was discussed. The platform should also include innovative and unique solutions which are not available anywhere else, for example maps.

Update and maintenance should be completed during all the project lifetime. The web platform will be maintained beyond the project lifetime as well. In order to achieve these goals, EFI communication and IT team will be involved. Other partners (e.g. the Forest Europe Liaison Unit, UNECE/FAO Forest and Timber Section, EUROSTAT, or other organisations - also from outside Europe) who could be interested in the project will be sought and contacted to increase the success of the platform project.