



Implementing criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management

Pan-European Forum

Vienna, Austria 8-9 October 2013

Draft Agenda

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2. Adoption of the agenda
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4. National/sub-national perspectives on C&I implementation
5. Synthesis of the cumulative findings and lessons learnt from the past
6. The future of the pan-European C&I set in a changing policy environment
7. Conclusion and the way forward
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Registration: Registration desks will be open for the participants from 8:30

Meeting hours: 10:00 – 18:00

Lunch breaks: 13:00 – 15:00

Venue: University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU)

Address: Gregor Mendel Strasse 33, 1180 Vienna, Austria

Annotations:

1. Opening of the meeting

The Pan-European Forum on Implementing criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management in Europe will be opened by Prof. Dr. Barbara Hinterstoisser (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna), Matthias Schwoerer (Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, Germany) and Peter Mayer (Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape, Austria and former Head of the FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit Vienna).

2. Adoption of the agenda

3. Setting the context

Over the last two decades, criteria and indicators (C&I) have developed as powerful tools and are well-known for playing a central role in the implementation of sustainable forest management (SFM). Ever since their introduction in sustainability sciences, indicators have been deemed to be more than just simple data carriers. Given the developments since the adoption of the improved pan-European C&I for SFM in 2003, it is time to look back and exchange experience on achievements and challenges associated with C&I implementation at pan-European and national levels in the past 10 years.

This section will start with an introduction to the CI-SFM project (Hubert Inhaizer, EFI), its objectives and accomplishments so far, followed by a historical overview of the development of the pan-European C&I for SFM (Tanya Baycheva, EFI). The project is the first effort to provide an objective overview of the achievements of the pan-European set of criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management, and how they have been implemented at pan-European and national level.

Beside the development of the pan-European set, several different international processes and initiatives have developed criteria and indicators as a policy instrument to evaluate and report progress towards SFM. This session will provide a platform to exchange information on C&I development and implementation with other regions and initiatives. The focus will be on past experience, achievements and future challenges associated with criteria and indicators. Insights will be provided by:

- ITTO (Steven Johnson)
- FAO-FRA (Kenneth MacDicken)
- Montreal Process (Maria Palenova)

4. National/sub-national perspectives on C&I implementation

Since its introduction, the pan-European C&I have been used in a variety of ways in the different countries across Europe e.g. monitoring, reporting, data collection, communication, policy formulation and other fields of application. The major reasons for the variation in implementing C&I set across the countries comes primarily from the different national socio-economic conditions, as well as, legal, policy and institutional frameworks and a varying level of awareness, human capacities and resources available. The aim of this session is to share experiences and lesson from different countries on the use of indicators. There will be presentations from the following countries:

- France (Jonathan Saulnier)
- Montenegro (Dragan Roganović)
- Russia (Maria Palenova)
- Turkey (Alper Tolga Arslan and Ümit Turhan)

Sustainable forest management and criteria and indicators are also used at sub-national level. To stimulate discussions in this context, a case study from Germany will be presented (Francesca Ferranti, EFI).

In the framework of the CI-SFM project, the different modes of C&I implementation on national level have been explored. National assessments have been conducted to investigate to what extent the pan-European C&I, or national sets derived from it, are being implemented in 38 FOREST EUROPE signatories, and what factors influence the effectiveness of C&I. This section will include a presentation (Markus Lier, METLA) based on the project's findings and provide a platform for further discussions.

5. Synthesis of the cumulative findings and lessons learnt from the past

This session will include a presentation (Bernhard Wolfslehner, EFI) synthesising the cumulative findings and lessons learnt on the basis of the information and opinions collected and analysed during the project. It will provide a clear perspective on the current status of C&I implementation and the main trends associated with the various fields of applications. It will also lay down the basis for discussions about future developments, outlook, expectations and prospects.

6. The future of the pan-European C&I set in a changing policy environment

The discussion on implementation of criteria and indicators will move beyond a review of past achievements and associated challenges. In order to examine the future of the pan-European set in a changing policy environment, the major focus will be on

discussing needs and potentials for further improvement and enhancement of criteria and indicators and its applications.

The ultimate objective of this session will be to provide a platform for experts in the field to share their views and opinions and to stimulate discussions in relation to the expectations of institutions, organizations or processes which may have use or need for forest indicator information, inside and outside the forest sector. In particular, the focus will be on how the forest sector could supply information to their needs.

Facilitator will be Elena Estrada (FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit Madrid) and the members of this expert panel:

- Ivonne Higuero, UNEP
- Marcos Martín, European Biomass Association
- Aljoscha Requardt, CEPF
- Marilise Wolf-Crowther, EUROSTAT

This session will continue with a second expert panel, which provides a platform for discussions on the further development and implementation of the pan-European C&I for SFM. Attention will be given to the future structure and content of the pan-European set as well as the future of the set in a changing policy environment.

Facilitator will be Michael Köhl (Johann Heinrich von Thünen-Institut, Germany) and the members of this expert panel:

- Michael Berger, PEFC
- Stefanie Linser, Austria
- Stein Tomter, Norway

Criteria and indicators are also used in other sectors and more active interactions are needed to build cross sectoral solutions. The European Commission will soon start work on criteria for sustainable forest management, as detailed in the recently adopted new EU Forest Strategy. This will assure that the raw material (wood, woody biomass, etc.) is coming from a sustainable source, regardless of end use. To learn about the latest developments, the session will continue with a presentation (Steve Smith, European Commission), describing the EU's future approach, which seeks to be a consistent, rather than sectoral approach in the development of sustainability criteria.

7. Conclusion and the way forward

The data generated through forest C&I sets are scarcely used in national and European statistics outside the forest sector. One of the reasons is the use of concepts and definitions which are only partially harmonized with those for other sectors. The focus

of this session will be to explore the way forward of how the forest sector could supply information and how the pan-European C&I could be further integrated and adapted to address cross- sectoral data needs at the different levels. The section will start with presentations on the CI-SFM project's recommendations and outlook for future development of C&I, in relation to:

- Implementation of the pan-European C&I for SFM at national and sub-national level (Hubert Inhaizer, EFI)
- C&I for SFM implementation at pan-European level (Kit Prins, EFI)
- Outlook for further research (Bernhard Wolfslehner, EFI)

All presentations will be followed with plenary discussions to allow time for clarifications and identify additional issues, which were not covered by the CI-SFM project team.

The conclusions of the Forum will be summarised and made available after the Forum.

Participants will have the opportunity to comment before they are finalised.

8. Closing