



35th Session Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on
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Developments in assessment of sustainable forest management

Kit Prins/Roman Michalak



Outline of presentation

- Background
- Why assess SFM?
- Principles of proposed method
- How will it work?
- Next steps



Background

- L2 (1998): C&I « coherent set of tools to **assess** and assist further progress » towards SFM
- VD (2003): endorsed C&I for « monitoring, **assessing** and reporting progress on SFM
- Major question: is forest management in Europe sustainable? No objective answer yet!
- Steady improvement in data quality
- Attempts: « traffic lights », FRA 2010, SoEF 2011
- Assessment of SFM is on the programme of the ToS on Monitoring SFM: work of thematic group and ToS meetings in St. Petersburg and Geneva have refined concept



Why assess SFM at country level?

- Evidence based policy making
- Demonstration of confidence and strength of the sector - courage to self-assess and share with others
- Communication: a clear and credible story for the sector and the world
- Monitoring progress and learning from others
- Get maximum benefit from descriptive (quantitative and qualitative) SoEF data - putting quantitative data in context



Two specific questions to be answered

(all at level of country - or subnational level when forest policy responsibility at that level)

- What are the areas of concern with regards to sustainability?
- How are the areas of concern being addressed?



Principles of the proposed method

- Based on agreed pan-European criteria and indicators of SFM
- Objectivity and transparency
- Comprehensiveness (all criteria covered, all indicators considered)
- Take account of national circumstances: no single ideal situation, rather « areas of concern »
- Participation of national correspondents
- Address policies and institutions



Each pan-European indicator is assigned to one of three types:

- **Context:** descriptive, structural, impossible to change in the short to medium term
- **Assessment:** used to identify *areas of concern*, when they go over a *warning level*, leading to a *dialogue* with national correspondents
- **Background:** not usable because of data quality, lack of real meaning or other reasons



How will it work?

- Data collection as part of SoEF
- Calculation of size-neutral indicators, identification of countries/indicators where warning level surpassed
- Dialogue with national correspondents (measured **warning level is only first filter**, not final judgement):
 - Accuracy of data
 - Background and context
 - **Policy response**
- Publication of « areas of concern » - with policy response - and regional synthesis. No policy recommendations



Process and next steps

- Expert group and Team of Specialists on Monitoring SFM, 2011-2013
- Presented to the ELM in Madrid, March 2013
- Discussion at Working Party on Forest Economics, Statistics and Management, April 2013
- Approval by Timber Committee and EFC, December 2013
- Pilot implementation in context of next SoEF, 2013-2014



The Working Party is invited to:

- ***review the proposed method for assessing sustainability of forest management,***
- ***provide advice on the next steps and application of the method, possibly in the course of the current reporting cycle, on a pilot basis***

