



National Reporting on SFM in the Caucasus and Central Asia



FORESTS



**WORKSHOP ON FOREST MONITORING AND RESTORATION
IN THE CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA**

9 DECEMBER 2020, ONLINE



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- INTRODUCTION
- International forestry process
 - Definition of sustainable forest management
 - No agreed international convention on forestry
 - Agenda 21 Chapter 11, Rio Principles, IPF-IFF-UNFF decisions, NLBA on Forestry (2007) and UNSPF (2017) constitutes the framework for all countries for required actions towards SFM
 - Reporting is a challenge because of SFM's complicated nature that embeds ecologic, economic and social functions in an interlinked way
 - International efforts to develop SFM C&I have greatly contributed to the understanding of what SFM involves
 - C&I has become an important tool for assessing and reporting SFM

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- INTRODUCTION
- State of SFM C&I processes
 - Most countries have defined their national SFM C&I's but there are big differences in the implementations
 - The main question remained as how well SFM C&I reports described the state of forests and forestry, clarified complex issues, forecasted future trends and affected decision making mechanisms
 - There has been a progress with new programs, projects and national forestry inventories; UN organizations such as FAO and UNECE have spent great efforts to help countries in improvement their data collection and reporting systems
 - Still most of the reports based on outdated data and statistics
 - Developing countries in particular have problems in developing their SFM C&I and reporting systems because of the lack of technical and financial capacities

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- INTRODUCTION
- Situation in the Caucasus and Central Asian countries
 - The CCA Countries had an additional disadvantage that all of them gained their independence after the collapse of Soviet Union in 1991, a time when international forestry process started in a high momentum
 - Many systems, including the forestry sector, were disrupted.
 - The region countries were not able to maintain their forest management planning system; several lost their technical and financial resources to conduct regular forest inventories.
 - Most forest statistics are outdated, existing data is mainly based on local reports.
 - it was impossible to aggregate data to provide meaningful and reliable information about forests in the region.

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- **PROJECT: Accountability Systems for SFM in the CCA**
- **Project's scope and activities**
 - The project implemented in five region countries: Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan,
 - Except for Georgia, the project countries are low forest cover countries and no country had developed national SFM C&I before the project
 - The project provided the knowledge and necessary skills through training materials and advisory services that enabled countries to define and implement national SFM C&I.
 - The thinking behind the project was that proper monitoring, assessment and accountability systems would improve understanding of the status of SFM in the target countries, help them to identify what might need to be done to improve SFM and to take necessary corrective actions
 - The project targeted officials of forestry-related ministries and institutions.

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- PROJECT: Accountability Systems for SFM in the CCA
- Coaching workshops
 - Coaching workshops have shown that region countries have many commonalities as well as different priorities
 - SFM was in the heart of all discussions
 - It was recognized that there is no single SFM system and that almost all countries, including developed countries, have faced challenges in building SFM systems
 - It was agreed that the countries in the CCA can at least benefit from international experience and have the opportunity to adapt forest management in practical and affordable ways.

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- PROJECT: Accountability Systems for SFM in the CCA
- Coaching workshops: Technical point of view
 - The coaching workshops underlined the importance of relevance of indicators to the criteria
 - The second important issue was the applicability. It was agreed that in identifying indicators it was important to make sure that the data for the indicator was available or the country would be able to collect the necessary data
 - Verification issue was also handled. Participants were asked to give due care for the verification of data since unverified data might lead to incorrect and unfair conclusions.

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- **PROJECT: Accountability Systems for SFM in the CCA**
- **Second round national workshops**
 - The draft national SFM C&I sets prepared by countries were discussed with a focus on the relevance, specificity, availability and feasibility of potential indicators.
 - The progress was substantial. It was recognized that SFM C&I was not a tool for reporting only, but a dynamic and evolving process that leads to sustainable forest management.
 - Particular emphasis was put on using SFM C&I to communicate with policy makers, decision taking mechanisms, scientists, environmental organizations, entrepreneurs and the community about how forests can help to achieve SDGs.
 - It has been acknowledged that countries are free to develop their own SFM C&I implementation models but the essence of the concept should remain valid

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- PROJECT: Accountability Systems for SFM in the CCA
- Results
 - The national reports show that countries worked effectively between workshops, build links and cooperation with relevant institutions.
 - Following feedback from national stakeholders and guidance during workshops, all five countries finalized their national sets of SFM C&I.
 - The final drafts reflected different approaches
 - The Project countries started the process of designing fact sheets for C&I that would contain the definition of the indicators and sub-indicators; methodologies; data sources; responsible units; policy goals, thresholds; data collection frequency and more.

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- **SELECTED KEY INDICATORS**
- **C1: Extend of forest resources**
 - Area of forest and other wooded land
 - Growing stock and increment (by forest type)
 - Carbon balance

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- **SELECTED KEY INDICATORS**
- **C2: Forest health and vitality**
 - Area of FOWL affected by pest and diseases (by severity)
 - Number of forest fires and area burned (by causes)
 - Number of illegal cuts and volume of wood removed
 - Area of FOWL damaged by overgrazing

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- SELECTED KEY INDICATORS
- C3: Forest biodiversity
 - Number and area of protected areas (by protection classes)
 - Forest tree species (by area and mixture)
 - Threatened species (by IUCN classes)
 - Area of FOWL by naturalness (natural, semi-natural and plantations)
 - Regeneration (natural and artificial)
 - FOWL affected by invasive species (by species)

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- **SELECTED KEY INDICATORS**
- **C4: Productive functions of forests**
 - Amount of wood produced (by UNECE product type)
 - Growing stock and increment in production forests
 - Amount of non-wood products collected (by product type)

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- **SELECTED KEY INDICATORS**
- **C5: Protective functions of forests**
 - Area of forest primarily managed for protection of land and/or water
 - Area rehabilitated to combat desertification or control erosion

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- SELECTED KEY INDICATORS
- C6: Socio-economic functions of forests
 - Value of marketed wood and non-wood products (contribution to GDP)
 - Export and import of wood and non-wood forest products
 - Revenue of forest enterprises and forest processing industry
 - Annual forestry investment
 - Employment (workers employed, jobs generated)
 - Contribution to rural livelihood (credits, grants, subventions and leases)
 - Recreation (number of forest recreation sites and visitors)

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- **SELECTED KEY INDICATORS**
- **C7: Legal, policy and institutional framework**
 - Forestry-related legislation (laws, regulations, decrees)
 - Forestry plans and programmes (national development plans, NFPs, strategy plans)
 - Forestry institutions (forestry-related units, organization, personnel)
 - Forestry financing
 - Forestry education and research

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RECOMMENDATIONS

- Countries may draw on the experiences of other countries to simplify the process to a level that can be applicable as well as meaningful enough to drive developments towards SFM
- A national supervisory system is necessary to streamline the process of data collection, monitoring, assessment and reporting
- A voluntary committee composed of the representatives of interested groups may take such a role. Such a scheme will enhance credibility and acceptance of the process
- Data need to be presented in a form that will be easily understood by outsiders and help policy makers and decision takers to reach informed decisions
- The data provider could include a commentary setting out the reasons or underlying causes behind any trend and adding proposals to improve the situation. This could take the form of a “figures and facts” sheet, where data providers explain concisely what figures are indicating, with supporting reasons.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

- It would be ideal if national reports are prepared through a national panel-workshop where panelists (focal points of each criterion) present the analysis of the related criterion (preferably in 5-year periods)
- Implementing SFM C&I at forest management unit level (FMU) is vital to achieving SFM overall. This can ease the burden on central government bodies.
- For the countries that might not be ready to scale-up the implementation at FMUs, it is recommended to begin testing in some pilot local units
- For the countries that are not planning to stretch over FMUs for foreseeable future, fact sheets will be essential.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

- Forest management plans play a key role in the SFM C&I process. They are the backbone of forest information systems. Improving forest management planning systems merits special attention.
- Forest management plans cannot provide all the data for SFM C&I and will need to be supplemented by national forest inventories, field surveys, biodiversity-related observation systems and other data collection means such as GIS systems
- Establishing GIS system is now affordable, the key challenge will be to recruit and retain the qualified personnel to run and maintain the systems.
- National SFM C&I can work effectively as a communication tool, wisely designed communication strategies could galvanize better coordination and cooperation

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■ TURKEY'S EXPERIENCE

- Turkey has been an active member of the Forest Europe
- In 1999, the Forest Europe SFM C&I set was tested
- It was understood that there was a huge gap in data availability
- It was clear that forestry departments was not aware of the changing SFM concept and they thought SFM C&I as a reporting tool only
- GDF has initiated a training program for all related middle level managers
- First national SFM C&I was identified through a workshop in 2003
- A concept note was prepared and made available for all stakeholders
- For the forest management unit implementation, a guideline was prepared and the moderators of the local level workshops trained

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■ TURKEY'S EXPERIENCE

- A total of 547 foresters and 1214 from other participated to the local level workshops, then the national report was prepared and sent to stakeholders for review and comments, then finalized and officially released in 2006
- Second round was implemented in 2007 in the same way and with wider participation, then the second national report was released in 2008
- The process was interrupted because of the major structural changes in forestry administration in 2011
- In 2017, the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs started the process again and National SFM C&I was renewed with wide participation of stake holders
- After a series of expert meetings, a draft was prepared and held in a national workshop with a result of a new SFM C&I set which comprised 6 criteria and 40 indicators.

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■ TURKEY'S EXPERIENCE

- A comprehensive guidelines for the implementation of SFM CI&I was prepared in 2018
- Because of the funding problems, the implementation of the SFM C&I was made at national level only and the national report was released in October 2020
- The forest department is planning to extend the implementation to the forest management unit level in the next round.

TURKEY'S EXPERIENCE – Indicator structure

INDICATOR 1.1: FOREST AREA AND OTHER WOODED LAND

Description: This indicator shows the distribution of all natural and artificial forest areas owned by state, private and legal persons by forest types and phase classes based on their ecological, economic and sociocultural functions and NCA.

Sub-indicator 1.1.1	Distribution of forest areas by forest types based on their functions
Unit of measurement	Hectare
Range of measurement	5 years
Data source	Forest management plans, Forest Information System (ORBIS), Inventory Operation System (ENVANIS)
Responsible unit	GDF Forest Management and Planning Department

Sample Table 1: Distribution of Forest Areas into Forest Types Based on Their Functions

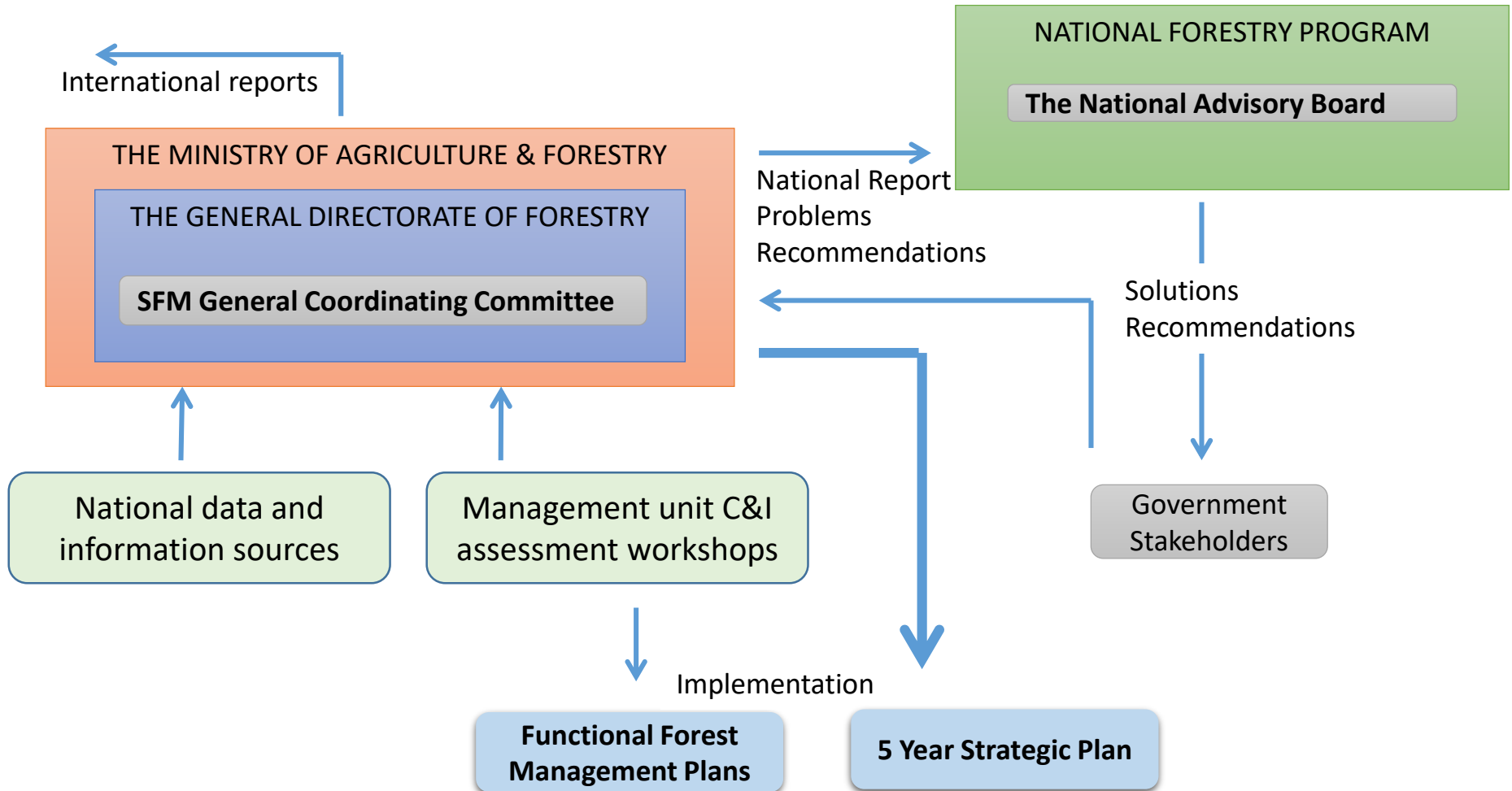
OWNERSHIP	FUNCTIONS	ORIGIN	Forest Area with Normal Crown Closure (ha)				Area of Forest Covered with Spaces (ha)				Forest Area Without Trees (ha)	Total Forest (ha)
			Coniferous	Deciduous	Mixed	Total	Coniferous	Deciduous	Mixed	Total		
State	Economic	Natural										
		Artificial										
	Ecological	Natural										
		Artificial										
	Sociocultural	Natural										
		Artificial										
Private/Legal	Economic	Natural										
		Artificial										
	Ecological	Natural										
		Artificial										
	Sociocultural	Natural										
		Artificial										
TOTAL AREA (ha)												

Note: NCA (The areas covered with trees and left outside the forests by the cadaster) will not be included in this table. An individual table will be prepared to show NCA.

TURKEY'S EXPERIENCE

SFM C&I Model

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Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Thank you!



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