



Criteria and Indicators: Policy Tools for Sustainable Forest Management

Policy Brief



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

9 DECEMBER 2020, ONLINE



What are we talking about

SFM, C&I

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- SFM is “[a] dynamic and evolving concept [that] aims to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations” (UN, 2018).
- Criteria define the essential elements against which sustainability is assessed (FAO, 2015).
- Indicators are parameters which can be measured and correspond to a particular criterion. They measure and help monitor the status and changes of forests in quantitative, qualitative and descriptive terms that reflect forest values as seen by those who defined each criterion (FAO, 2015a).

28 years of C&I for SFM

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- Rio 1992, Agenda 21
- 11 regional and international C&I processes
- FAO Global FRA
- SDG 15
- Common understanding and language for SFM

Why do we need C&I for SFM?

Indicators as a basis for decision-making

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- To present implementation progress of UN Conventions
- To present the State of the Forests (GFRA, FOREST EUROPE, national reports)
- To reveal where action is needed
- encouraging dialogue and communication on key forest sector issues within the forest sector, between the forest and other sectors as well as with society

Benefits of having a national set of C&I for SFM

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Incorporates

- national stakeholder values
- common objectives, targets

Basis for

- national forest programmes
- monitoring and reporting
- forest-related communication

UNECE Guidelines for the development of national C&I for SFM

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- Concepts, definitions, tools, methods and reference materials to guide the development process of national C&I for SFM

Sustainability assessments with assigned targets

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- Objectively monitor progress towards SFM
- Targets or thresholds for each indicator
- SEMAFOR
- Austrian Indicator Set
-

Partnership in data collection

For international reporting obligations

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- **FAO Forest Resource Assessment (FRA)**
- **2012, Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ) partnership**
 - **FAO, UNECE, FOREST EUROPE, ITTO, the Montréal Process and the Observatory of the Central African Forests Commission.**
 - **103 countries, covering 88% of the global forest area**

Conclusions

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- The forest sector is a global leader in the development and use of C&I
- C&I are a powerful policy tool for generating understandable information that provides evidence of the effectiveness of policy measures and management practices
- C&I for SFM are increasingly adapted to address forest-related issues across other sectors like bioeconomy or climate change



Recommendations for national C&I development

Success means more than data availability

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- ongoing political and institutional commitment required
- true stewardship
- coordination unit
- clear derivation from political goals
- better linkages to official statistics
- efficient tools for monitoring, analysis and reporting,
- harmonised terms and definitions
- modification of policy and management actions in case that unsustainable forest management is indicated



Thank you!



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