Policy brief on C&I and decision making

Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting - MAR

FORESTS

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

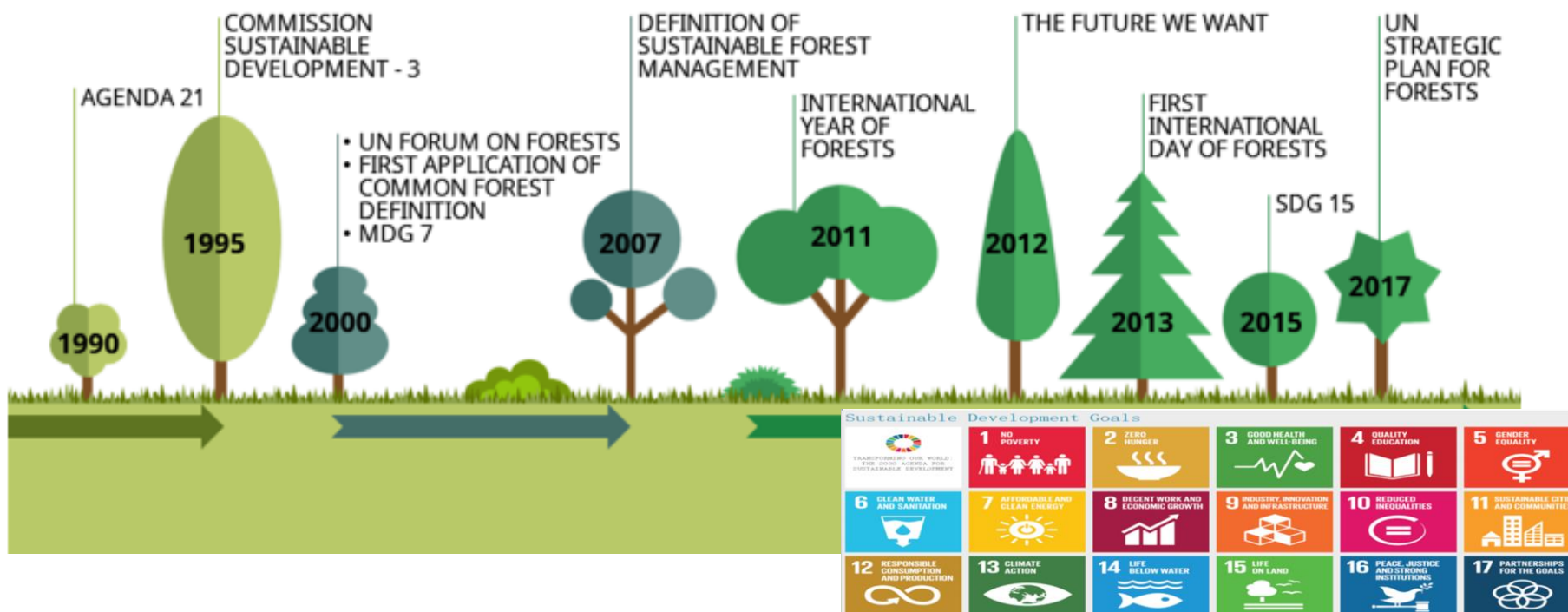**9 DECEMBER 2020, ONLINE**

The forest policy and management system
MAR part of it since the start

Milestones of forests in the international agenda

Prior to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, several other documents and initiatives recognized the importance of sustainably using and managing the world's forests. These include:

From SDG Academy

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Monitoring Assessment Reporting part of it from the beginning

- Since 2015, MAR to track progress towards Global Forest Goals and its targets

- UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-30 (Global Forest Goals 2017-2030 and Global Core Sets of forest-related indicators to publish in 2021)

- The Forest Instrument

- Voluntary national contributions to the UNFF

- UNFF15 –> 1st round of reporting = 50 MS reports = base for a flagship publication towards achieving GFG and targets in 2021

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MAR part of it from the beginning

- Member States and international organizations (incl. members of CPF):

- To develop adequate monitoring systems to share data and streamline reporting on forests

- To support and promote progress towards SFM (incl. C&I)

- C&I useful tool to generate information on forests at the national level and to report on the state of forests to international bodies, including the Forum.

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Global Core Set of forest-related indicators

- Many goals : MDG, SDG, Rio Conventions, Forest Instrument, UNSPF

- Need to coordinate the different forest-related indicators in various processes for clearer messages and reducing the reporting burden

- 21 indicators (limited number) to address the topics identified in high level political commitments to measure progress towards GFGs and targets

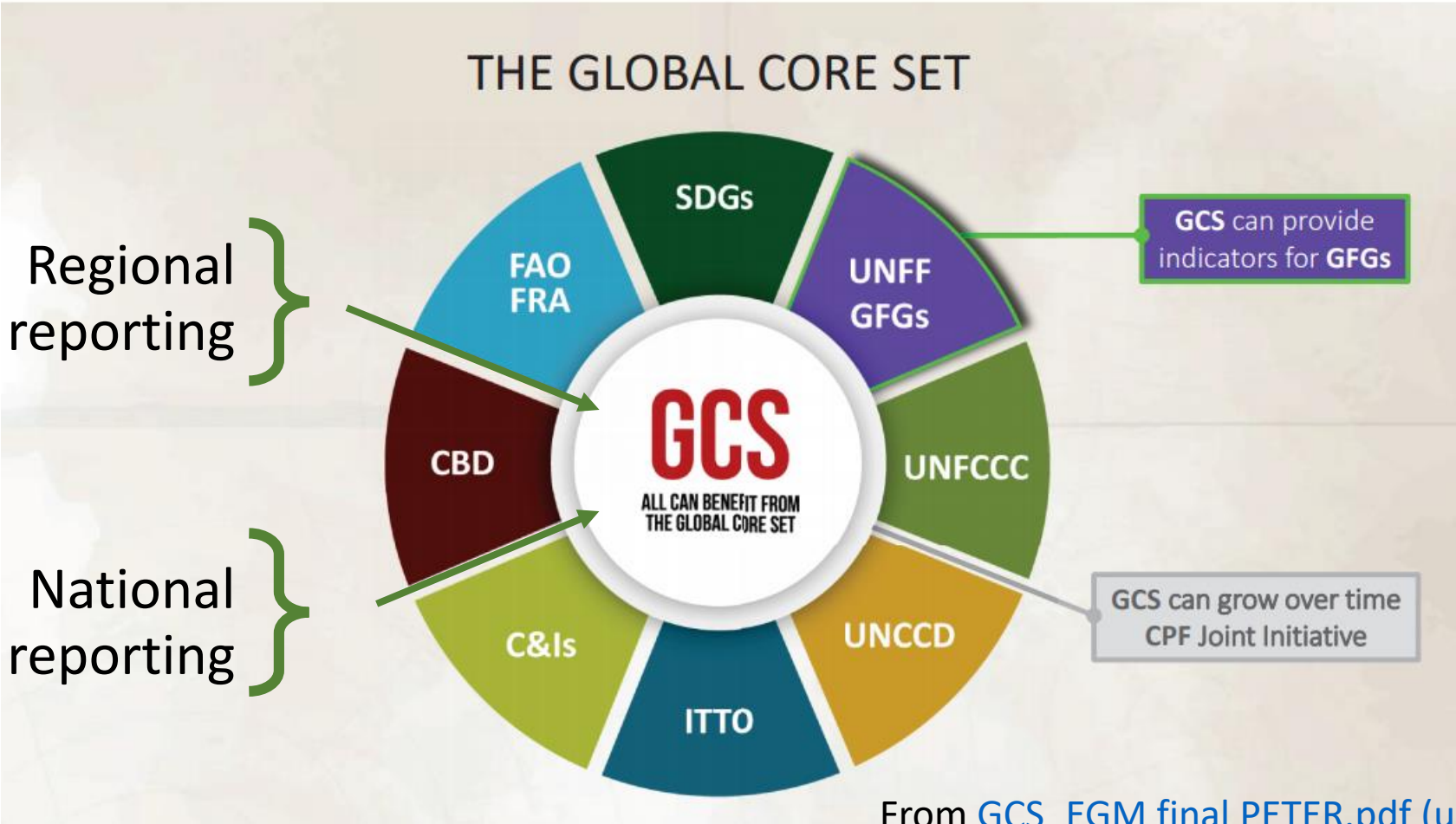# GSC links to seven thematic elements of SFM, and C&I

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Thematic element of SFM		No of GSC indicators
1	Extent of forest resources	3
2	Forest biological diversity	2
3	Forest health and vitality	2
4	Productive functions of forest resources	4
5	Protective functions of forest resources	1
6	Socioeconomic functions of forest resources	4
7	Legal, policy and institutional framework	6

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International forest processes for which MAR is important to have

THE GLOBAL CORE SET

Regional reporting

National reporting

SDGs

FAO FRA

CBD

GCS
ALL CAN BENEFIT FROM THE GLOBAL CORE SET

C&Is

ITTO

UNFF GFGs

UNFCCC

UNCCD

GCS can provide indicators for GFGs

GCS can grow over time CPF Joint Initiative

From GCS_EGM final PETER.pdf (un.org)

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Criteria and Indicators part of GSF

- Many various sets of C&I in the world that are used by particular regional SFM processes (e.g. Forest Europe, Montreal)

- Global organizations and their activities (FAO-GFRA, ICP-Forests, FSC, CEPF, ITTO, ..)

- Member countries with national sets derived from the set of process/scheme

The use of national C&I for SFM be used in MAR

- describe, monitor, assess and report on national forest trends, on progress towards SFM

- reflect a holistic approach to forests as ecosystems, highlighting the full range of forest values, cross-sectoral assessments

- facilitate policy dialogue and the development and implementation of forest related policies and plans

- guide forest management practice, identify the changes in forest management

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MAR a format for voluntary national reporting

- Reporting format structured around the 6 Global Forest Goals and targets

- Reports are mostly "qualitative/narrative nature"
  - Standard questions on actions (legislative, institutional, financial and technical)

- Reporting should consider terms and definitions from as well as FRA and SDG review cycles
  - Data sharing/streamlined format/synchronized data => reduced reporting burden
  - Complement with quantitative data from FAO/FRA (FRA 17 out of 21 GCS) - ITTO and other international databases

- 2015 is used as a baseline

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Regional reporting based on MAR

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- **AFRICA: African Forest Forum (AFF) | African Union (AU) | Economic Community of the Central African States (ECCAS)**

- **Amazonian Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)**

- **Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)**

- **Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat**

- **FAO: Overview-Consolidated response | African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) | Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) | European Forestry Commission (EFC) | Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC) input | Near East Forestry and Range Commission (NEFRC) input | North American Forest Commission (NAFC) input**

- **FOREST EUROPE**

- **UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section**

- **International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR)**

- **RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests**

- **Secretariat of the Tehran Process for Low Forest Cover Countries (LFCCs)**

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- Individual, civil society, administrations, government, business sector, research, education and training ….involved in actions of relevance to MAR:

- Legislative

- Institutional

- Financial

- Technical and scientific aspects

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Steps to develop a MAR in a country?

- **No one fits it all solutions**

- The basis

  - Ensure technical support
  - Support capacity building
  - Avoid overload burden on reporting
  - Ensure funds for implementation

see United Nations Forum on Forests » National reporting or *Sustainable forest management, monitoring, assessment and reporting in Asia-Pacific (fao.org)*

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MAR help translate the international goals into country actions

For forests

- Highlight forest's important role in achieving SDGs
- Produce synergies among forest institutions to reduce fragmentation in forest governance
- Attract finance in forests
- Share experience and best practices

For national reporting

- Country actions can be recognized internationally, and contribute to achievement of international goals (SDGs etc)
- Attract funds in NFP's implementation
- Enhance national forest governance
- Promote international cooperation

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Thank you!

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