

Newsletter

1st Issue, 5 May 2015



IUFRO Working Party 9.01.05 – Research and development of indicators for sustainable forest management

Welcome from the Chair

By Stefanie Linser, EFICEEC-EFISEE

Dear members of the IUFRO Working Party 9.01.05, welcome to the first issue of a Newsletter to be distributed within our network of experts. It will strongly rely on your provision of relevant input to share within the Working Party. It will provide short information on ongoing indicator activities as well as on recent publications, and on upcoming events. I look forward to your valuable participation in and contributions to this Working Party to ensure its success.

C&I in arid and semi-arid forest ecosystems

By Mostafa Jafari, TPS for LFCCs and RIFR

Dry land forestry is an important and neglected issue. Although the forest cover in the 64 low forest cover countries (LFCCs) is low, the total forest area in LFCCs is nevertheless significant. Therefore, C&I for SFM need to be developed for all types of forests including forest ecosystems in low forest cover countries, particularly also as LFCCs are most vulnerable to climate change. Related C&I for SFM should comprehensively consider climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as the linkages between mitigation and agriculture, forestry and other land uses. Respective research is ongoing. More information is available at: <http://lfccsandclimatechange.pbworks.com/w/file/attach/84930475/LFCCsforUNFF-ECOWorkshop-DrJafari2014.pdf>

C&I for SFM developments in Europe

By Stefanie Linser, EFICEEC-EFISEE

The identification of C&I to generate knowledge about the status quo and measure changes of sustainable forest management becomes more and more important. We face major global problems and emerging challenges such as climate change, the continuing loss of biodiversity, deforestation and desertification, the need for a stable provision of renewable energy, and the further dispersal of invasive species. There are several processes and projects presently ongoing to develop and/or revise indicator sets to adapt them to these changing requirements and to improve their suitability as communication and information tool.

Pan-European Indicators for SFM

The FOREST EUROPE Expert Level Meeting (ELM) agreed in 2014 on the need to refine the current set of

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indicators to incorporate more effectively new knowledge and emerging issues. An Advisory Group started analysing the past and current use of the Pan-European indicators for SFM, the lessons learned, and the challenges and new demands that have emerged. Two online consultations with all member countries and stakeholder organisations as well as a Workshop contributed further input to the Advisory Group. The final set of the improved indicators will be presented to the next ELM in July 2015 for consideration and possible adoption. More information is available at <http://www.forest-europe.org/news/forest-europe-workshop-proposes-recommendations-updated-set-pan-european-sfm-indicators>

C&I for SFM for the Forest Strategy of the European Commission

The EC Standing Forestry Committee Ad-Hoc Working Group on SFM criteria and indicators was initiated in 2014 to identify objectives, ambitious and demonstrable sustainable forest management criteria and corresponding indicators that could be applied to all forests for the purpose of different EU policies, when there is a need to refer to sustainable forest management and its means of evidence. This approach shall ensure sustainability compliance for all forests and their products, including forest biomass, following a coherent set of requirements and use the same evidence base regardless of their end use. The Working Group's activities concerned the existing C&I for SFM as e.g. provided for by work carried out under FOREST EUROPE and other relevant policies, regulations and tools in place, and the analysis of their application in the EU. In a second step, the Working Group made recommendations on relevant criteria for SFM with clear, measurable and simple indicators suitable to monitoring the achievement of the 2020 objective of the Forest Strategy and means to facilitate the gathering and reporting on data for those indicators, facilitating synergies with international and other reporting obligations. The Working Group also examined and expressed views on approaches and tools, including a possible common EU-level approach, to provide and communicate the sustainable manage-

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ment of forests and their products, including forest biomass, irrespective of the end use. One online consultation with all EC member countries was also conducted. The activities of the Working Group are still ongoing. Results are expected for July 2015. More information is available at http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/fore/sfc_en.htm

Austrian set of C&I for SFM

A Working Group of the Austrian Forest Forum has recently improved the Austrian set of C&I for SFM which added 35 additional, national indicators to the 35 FOREST EUROPE indicators. Data, trends, agreed threshold degrees, targets and assessments are available for all indicators. The report in German contains an English summary. Furthermore, 15 key indicators were extracted from the set and presented in a brochure which will be available in several languages. More information is provided at <http://www.bmlfuw.gv.at/forst/walddialog/dokumente/indikatoreno.html>

FAO project on strengthening C&I for SFM in policy and practice

By Mostafa Jafari, TPS for LFCCs and RIFR

For the project Strengthening C&I for SFM in Policy and Practice (2014-2015) the FAO organises different regional workshops and various thematic meetings. The Global FAO C&I Expert Workshop (January 2015) aimed to provide guidance on the way forward towards a widely shared vision and roadmap for strengthening the use of C&I in policy and practice. The experiences, needs and potential for main uses of C&Is and work on further developing harmonized indicators for monitoring and reporting were discussed by 46 experts working with C&I at global, regional, national and practice levels. The group consists of experts and members of secretariats of all active regional C&I processes and other forest policy processes, of global forest-related conventions and processes and of local and management practice levels. The experts underlined that forest indicators are a crucial tool to promote and demonstrate sustainability, from global to practice levels, and that more work is necessary to make use of their full potential. The workshop provided operational guidance on the way forward towards a widely shared vision and roadmap towards strengthening the use of C&I in policy and practice at different levels, and how to further contribute to harmonize forest-related monitoring and reporting. The experts identified the following three areas of work as crucial:

1) Strengthen effective monitoring and reporting of forest contributions to Sustainable Development Goals and Targets, UNFF and relevant Rio Conventions;

- 2) Further develop practical C&I tools that provide added value for different user groups and purposes, promoting sustainable practices;
- 3) Contribute to developing integrated sustainability assessments across different land uses.

More information is available at:
<http://www.fao.org/forestry/ci/en/>

Publications

Papers submitted for the World Forestry Congress:

Jafari, M.: The role of C&I for SFM in Low Forest Cover Countries.

Payn, T., Barnard, T., Cox, S., Millard, L., Novis, J., Reid, A.: Sustainable Forest Management Developments in New Zealand seen through the lens of the Montréal Process Criteria and Indicators (C&I) framework.

Linser, S., Wolfslehner, B., Pölzl, H.: The genesis of the Pan-European Criteria and Indicators for SFM and their further development towards emerging policy needs.

Upcoming events

11th Session of the UN Forum on Forests, 4-14 May, 2015, UNHQ, New York, USA <http://www.un.org/esa/forests>

Science-Policy Interaction Platform on Forests supporting the UNFF with research, 6 May, 13:15-14:30, CR2 → *Input on the importance of indicator research was submitted to the IUFRO panelist.*

XIV World Forestry Congress, 7-11 September 2015, Durban, South Africa
<http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/world-forestry-congress>

7th FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, 20-21 October 2015, Madrid, Spain <http://www.foresteurope.org/>

Event reports

FOREST EUROPE C&I Workshop, April 2015: [Recommendations for an updated set of the pan-European indicators for SFM](#).

FAO project on strengthening criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management in policy and practice, January 2015: [Expert Workshop summary report](#).