Guidelines for the conservation and implementation of social and cultural values in sustainable forest management

implementation of Vienna resolution 3 of the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forest in Europe
www.mcpfe.org

Working group
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Collaborating institutions
IUFRO, RG Forest and Woodland History, Task Force on Traditional Knowledge, United Nations Forum on Forest, UNESCO - WHC, WORLD BANK, EUROPEAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION, COUNCIL OF EUROPE - ELC,

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TASK:

Production of Scientific Guidelines for the implementation of Vienna Resolution 3,

including possible new Pan European indicators for Sustainable Forest Management

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Nine regional and eco-regional forestry processes involving 150 countries, whose combined forest area equals 97.5% of the total forest area in the world, have been established since 1992 with the aim of translating the concept of sustainable forest management into practice.
MCPFE – 40 member states
1 Quantitative Indicators

Criterion 1: Maintenance and Appropriate Enhancement of Forest Resources and their Contribution to Global Carbon Cycles

1.1 Forest area
Area of forest and other wooded land, classified by forest type and by availability for wood supply, and share of forest and other wooded land in total land area

1.2 Growing stock
Growing stock on forest and other wooded land, classified by forest type and by availability for wood supply

1.3 Age structure and/or diameter distribution
Age structure and/or diameter distribution of forest and other wooded land, classified by forest type and by availability for wood supply

1.4 Carbon stock
Carbon stock of woody biomass and of soils on forest and other wooded land

Criterion 2: Maintenance of Forest Ecosystem Health and Vitality

2.1 Deposition of air pollutants
Deposition of air pollutants on forest and other wooded land, classified by \( N, S \) and base cations

2.2 Soil condition
Chemical soil properties (pH, CEC, C/N, organic C, base saturation) on forest and other wooded land related to soil acidity and eutrophication, classified by main soil types

2.3 Defoliation
Defoliation of one or more main tree species on forest and other wooded land in each of the defoliation classes “moderate”, “severe” and “dead”

2.4 Forest damage
Forest and other wooded land with damage, classified by primary damaging agent (abiotic, biotic and human induced) and by forest type
Criterion 3:
Maintenance and Encouragement of Productive Functions of Forests (Wood and Non-Wood)

3.1 Increment and fellings
Balance between net annual increment and annual fellings of wood on forest available for wood supply

3.2 Roundwood
Value and quantity of marketed roundwood

3.3 Non-wood goods
Value and quantity of marketed non-wood goods from forest and other wooded land

3.4 Services
Value of marketed services on forest and other wooded land

3.5 Forests under management plans
Proportion of forest and other wooded land under a management plan or equivalent

Criterion 4:
Maintenance, Conservation and Appropriate Enhancement of Biological Diversity in Forest Ecosystems

4.1 Tree species composition
Area of forest and other wooded land, classified by number of tree species occurring and by forest type

4.2 Regeneration
Area of regeneration within even-aged stands and uneven-aged stands, classified by regeneration type

4.3 Naturalness
Area of forest and other wooded land, classified by "undisturbed by man", by "semi-natural" or by "plantations", each by forest type

4.4 Introduced tree species
Area of forest and other wooded land dominated by introduced tree species

4.5 Deadwood
Volume of standing deadwood and of lying dead-wood on forest and other wooded land classified by forest type
4.6 Genetic resources
Area managed for conservation and utilisation of forest tree genetic resources (in situ and ex situ gene conservation) and area managed for seed production

4.7 Landscape pattern
Landscape-level spatial pattern of forest cover

4.8 Threatened forest species
Number of threatened forest species, classified according to IUCN Red List categories in relation to total number of forest species

4.9 Protected forests
Area of forest and other wooded land protected to conserve biodiversity, landscapes and specific natural elements, according to MCPFE Assessment Guidelines

Criterion 5:
Maintenance and Appropriate Enhancement of Protective Functions in Forest Management (notably Soil and Water)

5.1 Protective forests – soil, water and other ecosystem functions
Area of forest and other wooded land designated to prevent soil erosion, to preserve water resources, or to maintain other forest ecosystem functions, part of MCPFE Class “Protective Functions”

5.2 Protective forests – infrastructure and managed natural resources
Area of forest and other wooded land designated to protect infrastructure and managed natural resources against natural hazards, part of MCPFE Class “Protective Functions”
Criterion 6:
Maintenance of Other Socio-Economic Functions and Conditions

6.1 Forest holdings
Number of forest holdings, classified by ownership categories and size classes

6.2 Contribution of forest sector to GDP
Contribution of forestry and manufacturing of wood and paper products to gross domestic product

6.3 Net revenue
Net revenue of forest enterprises

6.4 Expenditures for services
Total expenditures for long-term sustainable services from forests

6.5 Forest sector workforce
Number of persons employed and labour input in the forest sector, classified by gender and age group, education and job characteristics

6.6 Occupational safety and health
Frequency of occupational accidents and occupational diseases in forestry

6.7 Wood consumption
Consumption per head of wood and products derived from wood

6.8 Trade in wood
Imports and exports of wood and products derived from wood

6.9 Energy from wood resources
Share of wood energy in total energy consumption, classified by origin of wood

6.10 Accessibility for recreation
Area of forest and other wooded land where public has a right of access for recreational purposes and indication of intensity of use

6.11 Cultural and spiritual values
Number of sites within forest and other wooded land designated as having cultural or spiritual values
Structure of the guidelines

• 1. Introduction
• 2. Objectives
• 3 Strategies and actions
• 3.1 Strategies in National Forest Programmes
• 3.1.1 Actions in National forest programmes
• 3.1.2 guidelines for planning and management
• 3.2 Strategies and actions in Rural Development Plans
• 3.2.1 diversification of local economy and improving competitiveness (strategies + actions)
• 3.2.2 improving the landscape and the countryside (strategies + actions)
• 3.2.3 improving quality of life in rural areas
• 4. Additional Pan-European Indicators
• 4.1 Significance
• 4.2 Integrity
• 4.3 Vulnerability

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1. Introduction
scientific and political background

• Vienna resolution 3: “Preserving and enhancing the social and cultural dimension of sustainable forest management in Europe”.

• Sunne Conference (Sweden), June 2005, “Forestry and our cultural heritage”, 18 papers, 13 countries

• Florence Conference (Italy), June 2006, “Cultural heritage and SFM: the role of traditional knowledge”, 88 papers, 23 countries

• (2 volumes of proceedings; special issue of FORECO)

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The management and conservation of cultural, not only protects biodiversity that has been created by and is subject to human activity, but may also favours economic growth of rural areas by promoting local products, encouraging tourism development and eventually contributing towards higher quality of life for local populations.
The fact that cultural values currently play a limited role in SFM indicates the scant consideration given to the role of culture and history in the overall valuation of forests within the paradigm of sustainability developed. Failure to effectively and coherently address culture and history may very well be an emerging weakness that needs to be reconciled.
2. Objectives of the guidelines

- **Management and conservation**
  Actions to identify, include, and maintain significance of cultural values in NFP and RDP

- **Planning**
  Activities at management level to incorporate cultural values in forestry and rural development, harmonising and guiding transformation in socioeconomic development

- **Valorisation**
  Activities aimed at obtaining the maximum benefits from the implementation of cultural values at economical, social and environmental level

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Strategies in National Forest Programs

- Set up rules for the definition of CV and their management
- Recognition of CV of forests as essential element for cultural heritage
- Implementation of policies for protection and valorisation
- Identify requirements and provide legislation to incorporate CV in planning and management
- Include CV in educational programmes and training courses

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Strategies in NFP

• Set up of procedures for participations of stakeholders for the implementation of policies on CV

• Promotion of research on forest history and CV

• Revision of existing policies for incorporation of CV in RDP

• Inclusion of cultural values in planning and management

• Inclusion of CV in education and development of training courses on protection and management

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Actions in NFP

• Identify CV in the territory assessing their significance, integrity and vulnerability
• Manage the process of data collection
• Monitor the process of transformation
• Manage such process
• Ensure research
• To limit actual and potential negative impacts
• Define criteria and indicators for management
• Provide instruments for trasmission of information to and from national, regional and local levels
• Define planning tools and management techniques
Guidelines for planning and management

- Forest management should incorporate historical investigation as a standard methodology.
- Cultural values should be classified and assessed by current monitoring processes.
- There should be periodic evaluation of forest management in relation to CV.
- Forest management should minimize the risk of degradation and damage of CV.
- Forest management plans should assess significance, integrity and vulnerability of CV periodically.
Strategies and actions in Rural Development Plan and operational local levels

• EU Common Agricultural Policy 2007-2013
• Non member states

• Strat. 1: diversification of local economy and improving competitiveness
• Strat. 2: improving the landscape and the countryside
• Strat. 3: improving quality of life in the rural territory

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Strat. 1: diversification of local economy and improving competitiveness

- Traditional management practices based on cultural values can add value to the resources and services derived from particular landscapes. Such practices are more important for less productive areas where environmental and market conditions can restrict timber production.

- Landscape resources represent a unique factor of competitiveness for each country or region that cannot be reproduced by a competitor in another country. Timber or non-timber products produced in a specific cultural landscape can increase their market value if the producer appears to care for the conservation of the cultural identity of that landscape.

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Strat. 1: diversification of local economy and improving competitiveness (7 actions)

- **General guidelines:** Any development initiative should take account of the cultural identity of the places they affect. This is in order to prevent any possible damaging effects of actions.

  1. make obvious the link between local products to cultural landscapes using marketing techniques
  2. establish advisory services informing owners
  3. promote good practices for the conservation of CV

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Strat. 1: diversification of local economy and improving competitiveness
(7 actions)

4 – support entrepreneurs that promote the conservation of cultural forestry and agro-sylvo-pastoral systems

5 - support cooperation between primary and secondary producers to use traditional products and TK

6 - subsidize restoration and conservation

7 - support the use of wood and non wood products compensating additional cost derived from their use instead of modern technologies

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Strat.2 – improving the landscape and the countryside

• The long relationship between human and nature activity has produced distinguishable landscapes for their biological diversity, ecological functions but also their aesthetic qualities. These landscapes have been shaped as such due to cultural differentiation between societies.

• Strategies should try to counter-balance not only the high rate of abandonment of traditional practices, but also the consequences of inappropriate policies favouring abandonment, the globalisation of landscapes, and the disappearance of traditional knowledge.
Strat.2 – improving the landscape and the countryside
(9 actions)

1 - promotion of studies for the identification, inventory and develop “state of knowledge” reports

2 - restoration and management of traditional landscapes

3 - restoration of sites having cultural significance

4 – conservation of desappearing traditional forest management practices

5 – conservation of practices at single tree level

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Strat.2 – improving the landscape and the countryside (9 actions)

6 - restoration of artefacts (tools, machinery, structures for logging etc.)

7 - protection of veteran trees resulting from human influence

8 - maintenance of plantation of trees outside forests as trees in mixed cultivation of field margins

9 - restoration and management of landscape patterns resulted from agro-sylvo-pastoral systems

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Strat. 3 – improving the quality of life in rural areas

• The conservation and development of cultural values play an important role for the attractiveness of forest and woodland landscapes for both, visitors and local populations.

• The appreciation of rural areas is related not only to intrinsic environmental qualities (e.g. air, soil, vegetation etc.) but also to perceptions about the identity of a place. The sense of identity of a place is created by economic, social and cultural aspects, through time and space. Often this sense of identity is made up by meanings often assigned on specific landscapes features. The preservation of such features contributes towards higher quality of life for local populations through material and immaterial means.

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Strat. 3 – improving the quality of life in rural areas (6 actions)

1 – development of information centers

2 – support land owners to promote products and services from their woods linked to cultural values

3 – support to marketing of cultural heritage

4 – support to recreational and cultural initiatives informing on local CH

5 – restoration of site and infrastructure for the enhancement of cultural identity

6 - create and support training courses for foresters, administrators and public on the conservation and management of cultural heritage

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4. Additional Pan-European indicators

4.1 significance
Term expressing important values represented by a number of qualities that can be described by indicators.

1 - landscape patterns
2 - single historic land uses
3 - material evidences
4 - documentary evidences
5 - biocultural evidence
6 - cultural traditions
7 - traditional knowledge
8 - social perception
9 – aesthetic values

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4.2 integrity

the state of protection and management of cultural heritage

1 - extension of cultural landscapes
2 - integrity of landscape patterns
3 - integrity of single historic land uses
4 - integrity of material evidences
5 - integrity of documentary evidences
6 - integrity of bio-cultural evidences
7 - integrity of cultural traditions (ceremonies)
8 - integrity of traditional knowledge
9 – integrity of social perception
10 – integrity of aesthetic values

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4.3 Vulnerability
the fragility of cultural factors due to the process affecting significance and integrity

1 - vulnerability of landscape patterns
2 - “ of single land uses
3 - “ of material evidences
4 - “ of documentary evidences
5 - “ of bio-cultural evidences
6 - “ of cultural traditions
7 - “ of aesthetic values
Factors affecting vulnerability

1. forest activities
2. agricultural activities
3. industrial activities
4. urban development
5. demography
6. climate changes