



## Preface

In recent years the concept of sustainable forest management has received an unprecedented level of attention. Policies from other sectors increasingly formulate demands which relate to the world's forests. Policies on climate change and renewable energy, raw material supply or the protection of mountains, waters, soils and specific species are just such examples. Modern forest policy tries to accommodate these multiple demands with the concept of a multifunctional approach to forests and sustainable forest management. In doing so, the forest sector can look back on 300 years of experience and development – practical and scientific – of the concept of sustainable forest management. This includes a clear definition (MCPFE, Helsinki, 1992), criteria and indicators (regional processes and ITTO) and guidelines at all levels. There is hardly any other sector with such a track record on sustainability for the sake of future generations.

Nevertheless, new challenges emerge and there are differences between countries throughout Europe and worldwide in both forests and forest management.

The agreement on pan-European criteria and indicators was an unquestionable milestone, which received high attention and expectations from governments and stakeholders. However, questions are now being raised about whether we are able to make a difference with this particular tool, especially in the light of the abovementioned new and emerging challenges, and whether we use it to its full potential.

The Oslo Ministerial Conference in 2011 called on its goals and 2020 targets for European forests to ensure, through sustainable management, the multiple forest functions and the enhancement of the lasting provision of goods and services of all

European forests. To this end, it was decided to take European and national actions to ensure the further development of sustainable forest management and its tools.

This EFI project on *Implementing criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management* in Europe was initiated to help preparing the ground for further work under FOREST EUROPE. It addressed this complex question with two clearly formulated objectives: (a) to analyse the implementation of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management in the 46 signatory states of FOREST EUROPE, and (b) to strengthen the process and the use of criteria and indicators, not only as a tool for monitoring and reporting, but also for policy making at national and European level.

In this report, the project team guides us through the various development phases and uses of this important tool starting from the general conceptual base and finishing with an analysis of the pan-European experiences accumulated in the last 10 years and further back.

We are confident that the project results will provide solid background information for future decisions, including on a potential revision of the set of criteria and indicators and on improving their use as a tool to facilitate the implementation and communication of the concept of sustainable forest management at all levels.

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The first assignment was to form an Advisory Group (AG) with the overall responsibility for advising and providing guidance on the project and its deliverables. This involved a major commitment of time and effort of the members including not only participating in a number of advisory group meetings, but also reviewing all successive drafts, and recommending additional reference materials. Special thanks go to all of the AG members: Elena Estrada, Michael Köhl, Myriam Martín, Roman Michalak, Jari Parviainen and Matthias Schwoerer.

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the pan-European criteria and indicators. Special recognition is also due to the many experts who supplied valuable information during the interviews. The project convened three regional workshops (i.e., in Zagreb, Budapest and Estoril) and the pan-European Forum (in Vienna) with the continued support of the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia and local institutions such as the Faculty of Forestry in Zagreb, the Hungarian National Food Chain Safety Office, the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences of Vienna and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management. All the participants who attended the workshops and the Forum deserve recognition for their efforts and fruitful ideas.

This publication is the result of the dedicated and continuous work of the whole project team: Tanya Baycheva, Markus Lier, Kit Prins, Andreas Schuck, Bernhard Wolfslehner, Christelle Rambour, Paul Rougieux, Francesca Ferranti, Giovanni Santopoli, and Marina Minovska. Special thanks also to Helga Pülzl, Patrick Huber, Filip Aggestam and Marieke van der Maaten-Theunissen for providing their expertise and in-kind contributions.

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## Abbreviations and acronyms

AG	Advisory Group
ATO	African Timber Organisation
C&I	Criteria and indicators
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CDDA	Common Database on Designated Areas
CFRQ	Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire
CICI	International Conference on the Contribution of Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management
CIFOR	Centre for International Forestry Research
CPF	Collaborative Partnership on Forests
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
DG	Directorate General
DPSIR	Driving Forces-Pressures-State-Impacts-Responses
EC	European Commission
ECCI	Expert Consultation on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management
EEA	European Environment Agency
EFI	European Forest Institute
EU	European Union
EUFGIS	European Information System on Forest Genetic Resources
FA	Forest Administration
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FMU	Forest Management Unit
FRA	Forest Resources Assessment
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
GCC	General Co-ordinating Committee
ICP	International Co-operative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests
IEA	International Energy Agency
IFF	Intergovernmental Forum on Forests
IGO	Intergovernmental Organisation
IPF	Intergovernmental Panel on Forests
IPGRI	International Plant Genetic Resources Institute
ISCI	Intergovernmental Seminar on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IUFRO	International Union of Forest Research Organizations
JFSQ	Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire
JRC	Joint Research Center
JWEE	Joint Wood Energy Enquiry
LBA	Legally binding agreement
LBI	Legally binding instrument
LU	Liasion Unit
LULUCF	Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry
MCPFE	Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe
NFI	National Forest Inventory



NFP	National Forest Programme
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NLBI	Non-legally binding instrument
NWG	Non-wood goods
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OFAC	Observatory of Central African Forests
PEFC	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification
PEOLG	Pan European Operational Level Guidelines
REC	Regional Environmental Centre
REDD	Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RES	Renewable energy sources
SEBI	Streamlining European Biodiversity Indicators
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SIA	Sustainability Impact Assessment
SoEF	State of Europe's Forests
TBFRA	Temperate and Boreal Forest Resources Assessment
UN	United Nations
UNCDD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
USA	United States of America
USSE	Union of Southern European Forest Owners
WRI	World Resources Institute