



## Project description

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### *Implementing Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management*

Criteria and indicators (C&I) have emerged as a powerful tool in promoting sustainable forest management (SFM). Since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) of Rio 1992, several different international processes and initiatives have developed criteria and indicators as a policy instrument to evaluate and report progress towards SFM. In the pan-European context the FOREST EUROPE process developed a pan-European C&I set, which consists of 6 criteria and 35 quantitative indicators (describing the forest status and changes) as well as 17 qualitative indicators (describing the national forest policies, institutions and instruments towards SFM). By now, the pan-European set has served as the basis for State of Europe's Forests assessments in 2003, 2007 and 2011, and provided the basis for regional and national policy formulation, analysis and monitoring. However, the picture about how the pan-European set has been implemented remains rather vague.

The project aims to fill this gap and will provide an objective review of the achievements of the pan-European Criteria and Indicators (C&I) for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), and of how they have been implemented at the European, national and subnational levels and by other sectors. The project will also identify challenges and develops recommendations for improving the C&I set in consideration of European and national level needs. The outputs will be a state of the art report, a set of national implementation reports, sub-regional/national workshops and a pan-European Event, and a final summary report, including recommendations for improving the C&I set. The project is coordinated and conducted by the European Forest Institute (EFI), in close cooperation with FOREST EUROPE LU, UNECE/FAO and relevant experts.

To be completed by: December 2013

Budget: € 695.680

The **specific objectives** of the project are to a) analyse the implementation of C&I for SFM in the 46 signatory states of the FOREST EUROPE process and b) strengthen the process and the use of C&I, not only as a tool for monitoring and reporting, but also for policy making at national and European level. The main background documents of the project is the MCPFE (2002) "Background Information on Improved Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management", as adopted at the MCPFE Expert Level Meeting, 7-8 October 2002 in Vienna; and the FOREST EUROPE/UNECE/FAO State of Europe's Forest reports 2003, 2007 and 2011. The project includes quantitative and qualitative indicators alike.

### Project structure:

The project consists of seven **Work Packages (WPs)**:

- ① WP1: Project management and dissemination
- ② WP2: State of the art of the development and implementation of C&I for SFM and resulting
- ③ WP3: National assessments and reports on C&I implementation
- ④ WP4: Regional/National Workshops on C&I development and implementation
- ⑤ WP5: pan-European Forum on C&I implementation
- ⑥ WP6: Final report and recommendations on C&I further development and implementation
- ⑦ WP7: Networking and web platform on C&I for SFM

The coordinating unit is the EFICIENT-OEF Office (located in Nancy, France and Freiburg, Germany). In addition the following EFI units are involved in the implementation: EFI Headquarters (Joensuu, Finland); EFIATLANTIC (Bordeaux, France); EFIMED (Barcelona, Spain); and EFICEEC (Vienna, Austria). The project also benefits from the experience and contribution received from other institutions, like the Finnish Forest Research Institute (Joensuu, Finland) or the Institute for World Forestry (Hamburg, Germany)

### Advisory Group:

In addition to the implementing project team, an Advisory Group (AG) was established. The AG will support the project activities while assuring the scientific quality and the necessary cooperation and communication with the related stakeholders. The AG will also provide guidance to the main outputs of the project, i.e. the state of art report, the final report, and the organisation of workshops. The members of the AG are listed below:

- Michael Köhl (Institute for World Forestry)
- Myriam Martin (FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit Madrid)
- Roman Michalak (UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber section)
- Jari Parviainen (Finnish Forest Research Institute)
- Matthias Schwoerer (FOREST EUROPE General Coordinating Committee)

### Platform for other externally funded C&I projects and related initiatives:

Cooperation with and synergies to ongoing or other newly started C&I for SFM related projects, as initiated under the FOREST EUROPE working programme, will be facilitated. The project will serve as a platform to interlink other ongoing C&I related projects and initiatives in Europe, and facilitate a) networking, closer communication, and exchange between C&I experts in Europe and b) building the bridge from sub-national and national level initiatives to the pan-European process. This will be mainly achieved through active science-policy interface, oriented networking and communication with experts and relevant stakeholders, and through the establishment of a technical web platform on C&I-SFM (for more details, see WP7). The project will investigate options to engage other partners to provide

additional supplementary contribution to the project, like for instance, assisting in co-organising and hosting technical workshops.

The following Work Packages (WP) have been designed to reach the objectives of the project:

### **1 WP1: Project management and dissemination**

The technical management includes all aspects of communication, collaboration and coordination to meet the technical and quality targets of the project. It will be responsible for project meetings, the organisation of workshops, and the timely submission of deliverables.

### **2 WP2: State of the Art of C&I development and implementation**

The State of the Art report, on the development, implementation and future challenges of the pan-European C&I for SFM provides a historical overview of the different developments at European, national and other sectors level, develops a working definition of “implementing C&I”, and evaluates the achievements of the pan-European C&I process. In addition to literature reviews, contacts are taken with expert representatives of other C&I processes and activities, which are related to forests.

### **3 WP3: National assessments and reports on C&I**

They determine to what extent the C&I are being implemented at national and subnational levels, and in what ways (e.g. monitoring and data collection, national forest reports, policy formulation, communication). This WP will also investigate the factors of effectiveness and fields of application of C&I, but also identify its challenges and future prospects at national and subnational levels.

### **4 WP4: Regional C&I Workshops**

Regional workshops will help increasing awareness on the development and use of C&I and facilitate information exchange about relevant experiences among the signatory states of FOREST EUROPE.

Preliminary, three regional workshops are foreseen to be implemented during spring 2013, covering the following geographical regions:

- Western Balkans;
- Central and Eastern Europe;
- Western Europe.

Each regional workshop will last a day and a half, and will be based on the project philosophy and the actual progress of the project to date. During the preparations the project team will consider the information gathered under WP2 and WP3, in order to address the emerging topics and issues in the particular region related to C&I. The number of participants is expected to be between 15-25 people,

representing research, national and sub-national authorities and implementing bodies, forest practice and other forest related sectors.

#### **5 WP5: pan-European C&I Forum**

A pan-European Forum of 2 days will be organised during the final project phase. It will bring together the regional analysis and the experiences collected from the national reports and allow the presentation and the discussion on the preliminary findings of the project. This event is preliminary scheduled on 8-9 October 2013 (to be confirmed).

#### **6 WP6: Final report and recommendations**

The final report will summarise the results of the project. It includes the results of the research carried out under WP2 and WP3, which compiles the national and regional approaches for implementation of criteria and indicators among the FOREST EUROPE 46 signatory countries. The outputs from the regional workshops and the pan-European Forum (WP4 and WP5) will also be incorporated.

#### **7 WP7: Networking and web platform on C&I for SFM**

The networking activity started with the project kick-off meeting. The [ci-sfm.org](http://ci-sfm.org) web site will be accessible for the project duration and will be kept online after the project finalization as well. It will serve as a platform to interlink ongoing C&I related projects and initiatives in Europe, and facilitate:

- a) Closer communication and exchange between C&I experts
- b) Building bridges from sub-national and national level initiatives to the pan-European C&I process.

The platform will aim at fostering the collaboration between forest and other environmental sectors and indicator systems applied.