



Implementing criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management

Pan-European Forum

Vienna, Austria 8-9 October 2013

Concept Note

I. Introduction

The Implementing Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management in Europe (CI-SFM) project is the first effort to provide an objective review of the achievements of the pan-European set of criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management, and of how they have been implemented at pan-European and national level. It will also identify challenges and develop recommendations for further developing the pan-European set in consideration of needs at both the pan-European and national level.

The pan-European Forum will provide a platform for discussion on the preliminary findings of the project and facilitate a discussion towards a common understanding on implementation of criteria and indicators. Furthermore, it will stimulate debate and provide the opportunity to bring additional inputs and perspectives to the review of developments over the past years, good practices and lessons learnt as well as remaining gaps and challenges, emerging issues and priorities for the future. The background document for this Forum is the draft project report "Implementing Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management in Europe", which will be finalised taking into account the results of the Forum.

II. Background

The pan-European set of criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management emerged from a multi-stakeholder participatory process, led by governments, formed by different forest stakeholders and experts representing different backgrounds, views, interests and information requirements. The pan-European set was first approved by the Ministerial Conference in Lisbon in 1998, and revised and improved in 2003 in Vienna. The pan-European set has served as the basis for FOREST EUROPE/UNECE/FAO State of Europe's Forests assessments in 2003, 2007 and 2011, and provided a framework for regional and national forest policy dialogue, formulation, analysis and monitoring. However, there is little research on-going on the use and impact of Pan-European criteria and indicators. Policy-makers and administrative bodies alike are interested in knowing whether their applications work, and whether their efforts in data collection and processing are useful and making a difference. End-users are interested in using criteria and indicator information for evidence based policy making.

III. Key discussion themes

Following the structure of the draft report, the agenda of the forum will be devoted to two major discussion themes: “the past” and “the future” of the criteria and indicator set. It will consider critical issues and challenges with a particular focus on the five major applications, outlined in the [working definition](#) of developed in the frame of the CI-SFM project.

- **“The past” - what happened over the last 10 years?**

The Forum will begin with an introduction to the CI-SFM project, setting the context of implementing criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management. There will be keynote presentations focussing on how criteria and indicators have been developed and used, the scientific discourse on methodology and application, the approach used to produce the outcomes of empirical part of the project, including the elaboration of a working definition of ‘implementing the pan-European set of criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management’. The agenda will pay particular attention to the project’s findings revealing the various perspectives (national, regional and expert consultations). In addition, country examples will be presented to demonstrate the use of the pan-European criteria and indicators at national level. The past achievements and challenges associated with implementing criteria and indicators at pan-European and national levels will be then summarized, allowing discussions related to the “future” of the pan-European set.

- **“The future” - what will happen in the future?**

In this Forum, the discussion on criteria and indicators implementation will move beyond a review of past achievements and associated challenges, to examine the future of the pan-European set in a changing policy environment (e.g. a possible Legally Binding Agreement on forests in Europe and its impact on the pan-European criteria and indicators). The major focus will be on discussing needs and potentials for further improvement and enhancement of criteria and indicators and its applications. In this context, there will be keynote presentations by the project team, by representatives from other criteria and indicators processes and by panels of experts facilitating dedicated discussions on criteria and indicators applications.

A wide range of stakeholders from the forest and other sectors is invited to attend and contribute to the Forum: e.g. policy makers, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, EU institutions, civil society organisations, industries, practitioners and scientists.

The Forum’s outcome will support the work of the FOREST EUROPE work on *“Further development of sustainable forest management and its tools”* and will be considered by the corresponding *“Expert Group to Propose Improvements in Tools for SFM”*.

Related project documents:

- [Draft report on “Implementing Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management in Europe”](#)
- [Practical information on the Forum](#)

Other related documents

- [Lisbon Resolution L2. Pan-European Criteria, Indicators and Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management.](#) Lisbon, Portugal, 1998
- [Improved pan-European criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management.](#) Vienna, Austria, 2002
- [FOREST EUROPE Work Programme: Pan-European Follow up of the FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference,](#) Oslo, June 2011