











Implementing Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management

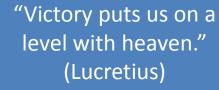
Pan-European Forum

Vienna, Austria 8-9 October 2013











"A lot of work went into this defeat."

(Malcolm Allison)



So, where do we stand? – A synthesis

- Literature review
 - a database of more than 100 documents
- National and subnational enquiries in 38 countries
- Outcomes of 3 regional workshops
- Group of 40 international C&I experts



Does the Pan-European set of criteria and indicators serve as a framework for dialogue and YES, because communication?

- increased awareness and understanding of sustainable forest management – at least within the forest sector and among those interested in forestry issues
- stimulus and support for communication within the forest sector in terms of mind-setting and streamlining the forestry debate
 - integrated science into political debate (to a certain extent)
- facilitated deliberation and consultation between policy makers and stakeholders -> promoting stronger stakeholder participation in the forest policy process
- shaped structure and content of forest-related issues
 - increased transparency and accountability of data provision



Dialogue and communication – needs for further improvement

- Pan-European C&I set considered too complex and forestry-centristic
 - barriers to communication (public, other sectors)
- C&I too static to identify key issues and newly emerging topics
- conceptual shortcomings
 - no conceptual framework to think in systems
 - weak links between quantitative and qualitative indicators
 - and on individual indicator level…



Does the Pan-European set of criteria and indicators serve as an adequate tool for SFM YES, because monitoring and reporting?

- C&I have shaped and stabilized international reporting, used as a reference for national applications of monitoring and reporting on SFM
 - important for long-term development of monitoring instruments
- improved the comparability of forest information among European countries by setting a common reporting framework
- helped to improve availability and quality of data and information
- progress and adaptation of monitoring instruments based on C&I can be observed (incl. scientific discourse)



Monitoring and reporting – needs for further improvement

- full data availability hardly impossible, though considerable burdens for data collection agencies (esp. sub-indicators and parameters)
- problems in ensuring acceptable data verification and validation
- institutional challenges in monitoring and reporting
 - maintenance and regularity of monitoring instruments
 - provision of capacities, education and training increasingly questioned
 - lacking coordination among national data providers



Does the Pan-European set of criteria and indicators serve as a tool for assessing progress PARTLY, because towards SFM?

- reported data for the periods 1990-2010 give insight into time trends and benchmarks among countries
- indirectly, because C&I and PEOLG have certainly influenced certification schemes (most notably PEFC), which provide reference frames and stipulate assessment procedures at regional/local levels



Assessment – needs for further improvement

- assessment only in pilot phase (SoEF 2011), far from complete
- lack of clear and explicit objectives, thresholds and trade-off information
- development of balanced method needed including:
 - overcoming structural and conceptual shortcomings of indicators for SFM assessment, such as systemic components and causal indicator linkages, key indicators/parameters and composite indicators/parameters
 - agreement on a common interpretation of indicators at the pan-European level, i.e. what is considered as a positive or alarming development or what can be regarded as acceptable

better coherence and commerceness of C&I data for assessment



Does the Pan-European set of criteria and indicators facilitate the development and adaptation of national policy YES, because instruments?

- serve as a reference framework for many SFM-related policies in many instances -> accepted tool to stimulate and promote SFM a t national level
- safeguard a normative and comprehensive framework for multifunctional forest management
- via its implicit normative power of the SFM concept, increased political commitment to accept and support C&I, and integrate them into national policy instruments has been observed
 - national forest programmes
 - integrated into national legislative and/or policy instruments in

some cases



Adaptation of national policy instruments – needs for further improvement

- still wide variation in methods and quality of implementation onto the national level
- maintaining adequate resourcing and capacities for C&I implementation and development in monitoring is a major challenge
- selective and interest-driven use of C&I observed
- weak links between policy and FMU levels put question-mark on impact of policies on the ground



Does the Pan-European set of criteria and indicators generate information of inter-sectoral and international relevance?

- collaboration and attempts for harmonization among C&I processes in the field of SFM do exist and there is at least communication ongoing on conceptual questions (e.g. with Montréal Process, Global Forest Resources Assessment).
- the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire brings together FAO/FRA, ECE/FAO, Forest Europe, Montréal Process, Observatory of Central African Forests- OFAC, and ITTO for harmonized data collection in 2014-2015
- there are few examples of linkages between different sectoral processes on nat. level
 - e.g. with biodiversity reporting for CRD
 - pan-European level (e.g. Sww.ef.inreamlining European Biodiversity



Intersectoral and international exchange—needs for further improvement

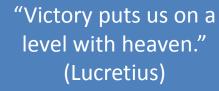
- data generated through forest C&I sets are scarcely used in national and European statistics outside the forest sector
 - use of concepts and definitions which are only partially harmonized with those for other sectors
 - data are not considered relevant or are not expressed in a form which is usable by the other users than from forestry
 - lack of political recognition of forestry issues in other sectors -> hence information generated through forest-based C&I has only marginal visibility
- communication deficits on cross-sectoral data needs
 - weak reactiveness to information needs outside the forestry world



Does the pan-European set of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management need YES, because to be revised?

- explicitly defined goals and objectives for the pan-European set or individual indicators are missing, which creates difficulties to achieve a consistent approach to implementation of C&I for SFM at pan-European and national levels
- lack of data and explicit thresholds to a time dimension or evolution over time may impose a limited use of the indicators as an indication of progress towards SFM
- individual indicators may decrease in relevance and may have to be adapted, supported or replaced by others to meet the current or emerging needs
- it is important to maintain flexibility and the ability to revise the indicator set quickly in response to new challenges and policy developments inside

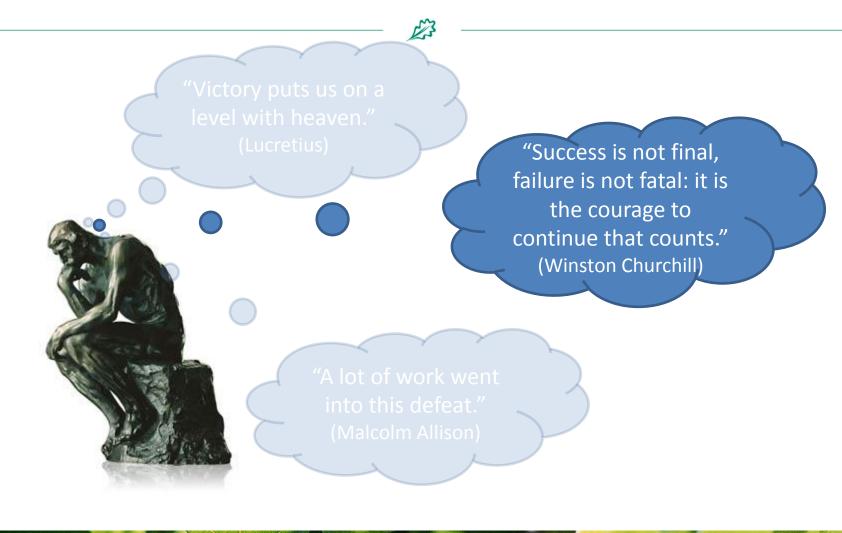






"A lot of work went into this defeat."

(Malcolm Allison)





Thank you for your attention!

bernhard.wolfslehner@efi.int

5.10.2013 www.efi.int