Implementing Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management

Pan-European Forum

Vienna, Austria 8-9 October 2013

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Recommendations for implementation at pan-European level

1. Formulate objectives for a revised C&I set

- Base implementation and revision on **explicit, agreed objectives**
- **Widespread consultation** led by FOREST EUROPE or LBA
- Invite a wide range of **stakeholders**, including from **other sectors**
- **Open and transparent process**
- Should consider **option of not revising** the set
- Formulate objectives **BEFORE revision process starts**

The project team proposes draft objectives to start the discussion (based on project working definition)

- Provide a **framework for dialogue and communication**
- **Monitor and report** on state and trends of the sector
- Provide structured information and analysis making it possible to **assess progress towards SFM**, identify emerging issues and areas of concern
- Provide **tools for policy makers**, improve sector governance
- Provide structure and framework for **research**
- Provide information and assessment to **other sectors and regions**

2. Revise the pan-European set: why?

- Changed circumstances, experience gained
- Ambiguity about objectives
- Lack of logical framework
- Sometimes unfavourable cost/benefit ratios
- Weak impact in some areas (communication with other sectors)

2. Revise the pan-European set: How?

- **Whole structure**, not just list of indicators
- **Relations** qualitative/quantitative indicators, and links between indicators
- **Composite indicators**?
- Team recommends **NOT to revise criteria themselves**: cost of reopening delicate process would be excessive compared to likely benefits, global framework
- Process should be **open, participatory and science based**

2. Revise the pan-European set: principles

- All indicators should contribute to agreed objectives
- Logical framework, if possible
- Start from existing set and relevant experience
- Weak data is not, in itself, a reason to drop an indicator if it is meaningful and has potential
- Generate enough information to achieve objectives, not more
- Consider cost/benefit ratio of each indicator and the whole set
- Priority to filling major gaps and inadequacies, not increasing reliability of adequate data sets

3. Develop harmonised methods to assess sustainability, using C&I

- Many experts encouraged the use of C&I to assess (not just describe) progress towards sustainable forest management
- There have been some efforts at national level, and ECE/FAO will carry out a pilot survey for next SoEF.
- The team considers this should be developed
- This involves choice of indicators and identification of thresholds for « areas of concern »
- Assessment of SFM is difficult to do objectively, but necessary as policy support and communication

4. Develop understanding and use of the qualitative indicators

- So far, approach has been purely descriptive, but analysis is needed.
- Two questions should be asked:
  - What are the links between qualitative and quantitative indicators? Can trends in certain quantitative indicators be linked to specific policy instruments?
  - What types of policy instruments have been most effective and efficient in achieving the stated objectives?

5. Develop subsets of indicators or composite inicators to address specific policy questions

- The pan-European set is comprehensive and balanced, and therefore not focused on any particular policy issue
- Subsets of indicators, or composite indicators, for particular issues, may be necessary
- For certain regions or limited time periods, or for policy analysis
- Revise set with this in mind

6. Build bridges to other sectors

- C&I for SFM data little used by other sectors, partly because they are not in a format suitable to those sectors

- To remedy this, during revision, the forest sector should approach institutions and processes which might be « clients » for the data.

- Their needs should be taken into account during the revision (but balanced against against cost of changes proposed to meet these needs)

Discussion

- Please review these recommendations and propose changes and additions
- Thank you

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