



Working definition of implementing the pan-European set of criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management (For use in this particular project)

Background

The term "implementing criteria and indicators" is often used, but has not yet been formally defined, at least in the pan-European context. "Implementing" may be understood as putting into practice agreed objectives or methods. However, despite an extensive academic literature on C&I, there is no formal official text defining the objectives of the pan-European set. The nearest approximation is Lisbon resolution L2, from 1998¹.

However, in the interest of clarity and structure, and after discussion inside the project team and with the advisory group, the following working definition has been drawn up and will be used during the project. In the light of experience gained during the project, the final recommendations of the project will address the question of whether the working definition is useful or not, and whether it should be modified for further work on implementing C&I.

Working definition of "Implementing criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management", to be used during the project

Use the pan- European criteria and indicator set, or a national set derived from it - and specifically the information structured according to it - to achieve one or more of the following applications:

1. *Provide a framework for dialogue and communication between policy makers, inside and outside the forest sector, and other relevant stakeholders, on SFM and forest policy development,*
2. *Monitor and report on the state and trends of the forest sector,*
3. *Assess progress towards sustainable forest management and identify emerging issues*
4. *Formulate, implement, monitor and evaluate national or subnational forest programmes, policies and/or plans,*
5. *Provide information and/or assessment to indicator sets outside the forest sector e.g. for sustainable development or biodiversity, or the forest sector in other regions e.g. Montréal Process.*

Notes on the working definition

The pan-European set of criteria and indicators may be implemented at several levels: pan-European, national and subnational. The level of implementation is always specified in the analysis prepared by the project, but the focus is at the national level, as well as at the subnational level in those countries where responsibility for forest policy is at this level.

"Forest sector" is the area covered by the pan-European set of criteria and indicators, including the quantitative indicators in all six criteria and the qualitative indicators.

¹ The revised indicators were only endorsed by an Expert Level Meeting, not formally approved by ministers in Vienna, and contained no formal definition of objectives.