



Regional Forest Information Week

State of forests and forest management in the UNECE region
in the context of current needs and challenges

United Nations, Geneva – 21 March 2011



Using C&I to assess SFM

By Kit Prins



Overview

- What are C&I for?
- Are they being used properly?
- How can we assess progress towards sustainable forest management?
- An experiment in SOEF 2011
- What next?



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Vienna Declaration 2003: “putting commitments into action”

“**promote** sustainable forest management by further implementing, applying, and if necessary improving, criteria and indicators for **monitoring, assessing and reporting** progress on sustainable forest management”

(similar language in many other documents)



By Kit Prins



How are C&I being implemented?

- Monitoring **Progress** (better data, more transparency, new measurements and statistics)
- Reporting **Progress** (regular SOEF, FRA, annual C&I reports, with all indicators reported together)
- Assessment **?** (“traffic lights” in SOEF 2007, FRA. But have other actors used these to assess SFM?)



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Assessment: what question to answer?

- Is forest management in X (country/region) sustainable, from all points of view? If not, where are the weak points, what should be changed?
- This is a difficult question to answer objectively, but it is the core of SFM, and should not be avoided
- Not answering the question has costs too, in distorted policy making, and persistent misunderstanding of the sector



By Kit Prins



Assessment of sustainable forest management should be:

- Balanced and comprehensive (all criteria, including qualitative)
- Transparent, objective and fact based
- At the level where policy is made (national or subnational)
- Understandable by policy makers
- Take account of specific situations (no single template or ideal model)
- Assess trends as well as situation



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An experiment in the assessment of SFM: part 3 of SOEF 2011, assessing SFM in Europe (1)

- “Key parameter” identified for each indicator: must be size independent (ratio, % change etc.).
- Qualitative parameters based on presence of institutions etc. (no judgement on policy choices).
- Key parameters assessed on scale from ▲ to ▲▲▲▲▲ or “No Data” (ND). Thresholds fixed by frequency distribution, official targets or common sense. All based on official data



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An experiment in the assessment of SFM: part 3 of SOEF 2011, assessing SFM in Europe (2)

- Aggregated to country group (weighted by land area, ND= ) , then by criterion, accompanied by commentary. No overall (Yes/No) SFM assessment.
- No assessment by country published
- Also look (separately) at “complex” challenges, involving several criteria (climate change, energy, biodiversity, green economy)



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Overview of preliminary results (accompanied by detailed commentary)

	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	Part A	Part B
	Forest resources and global carbon stock	Health and vitality	Productive functions	Biodiversity	Protective functions	Socio-economic functions	Overall policies, institutions and instruments for sustainable forest management	Policies, institutions and instruments by policy area
Russian Federation	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑↑
North Europe	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑↑
Central-West Europe	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑↑
Central-East Europe	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑
South-West Europe	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑
South-East Europe	↑↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑



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What next?

- Still data gaps and lack of comparability for some indicators
- Many dilemmas in choice of key parameters and in setting thresholds: choices made should be reviewed and discussed.
- Does the assessment necessitate changes in indicators (probably not) or enquiry format (probably yes, for qualitative indicators)?
- Share experience with other regions, and the global level



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Kit.prins@gmail.com



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