

# FOREST EUROPE

## Status, lessons learnt and plans on criteria and indicators

*Stein M. Tomter*

**Regional Forest Information Week**

United Nations, Geneva – 21 March 2011



# FOREST EUROPE

## Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe

- High-level forest policy process in Europe
- Policies for sustainable forest management
- Ministerial commitments and follow-up actions
- Open platform for dialogue
- 21 years of cooperation



# Sustainable forest management in Europe

- **Definition of sustainable forest management in Europe**
- **Guidelines for sustainable forest management**
- **Guidelines for the conservation of the biodiversity**
- **Pan-European Criteria and Indicators for SFM**
- **Pan-European operational level guidelines for SFM**
- **Common approach to National Forest Programmes in Europe**
- **Assessment guidelines for protected and protective forest**



# Criteria & Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management

- Tools used to define, assess and monitor periodic progress towards SFM
- Original set of indicators was prepared as a follow-up to the Helsinki Conference (adopted 1995)
  - 6 criteria
  - 27 quantitative indicators
  - 101 descriptive indicators
- Revised set of indicators was endorsed by the Vienna Conference (2003)
  - 6 criteria
  - 35 quantitative indicators
  - 12 qualitative indicators

# Reporting for State of Europe's Forests 2011

- **Completeness of responses**
  - 46 member countries in FOREST EUROPE
  - 36 country reports on quantitative indicators
  - 10 desktop studies on quantitative indicators
  - 37 country reports on qualitative indicators
- **Completeness and quality of data**
  - reasonably good data on forest resources
  - several other indicators still of varying completeness and quality
- **However, quality of data has improved due to increased efforts on harmonised reporting**



# Lessons learned on C & I for Sustainable Forest Management

- Criteria and indicators has proved very useful to have a common system for the assessment of SFM, showing the trends and variation between countries and regions
- But: - there is still room for improvement
- Other instruments have to come in addition to C&I

# Future development of Criteria & Indicators

- **Further efforts on harmonised reporting**
  - e.g. European Forest Types
- **As new issues and questions arise or gain in importance, the set of C & I should be adjusted to provide answers to these**
- **At the same time, the indicators should not be altered unless there is an obvious reason to do so**

# Examples of fields for potential further development

- Requirements on climate change/carbon, biomass and environmental issues
- The ability of forests to act as carbon sinks in the long run
- Carbon sequestration in harvested wood products
- Efforts against illegal logging and related trade
- Valuation of forest ecosystem services

# FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference

- The FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference will be convened in Oslo, Norway, 14-16 June 2011
- Preparations are ongoing – and nothing is decided at this stage
- Of relevance to the work on C&I, is that in the draft decisions for Oslo Conference have been identified as potential areas requiring follow up actions:
  - further development of sustainable forest management and its tools
  - improvements in forest monitoring and reporting



## Possible pan-European actions

Further development of pan-European policies and tools for sustainable forest management could respond to the multiple roles forests and sustainable forest management play in tackling global challenges, taking into account biodiversity and climate change commitments, emerging threats to and pressure on forest resources

Improvements in forest monitoring and reporting, in collaboration with UNECE/FAO and other partners, should serve emerging needs as well as facilitate adequate, accessible and evidence-based forest information at all levels of policy making, and provide information on forest issues also to the broader public

