

Report of the National Coaching Workshop “Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management for Georgia”

Tbilisi, Georgia, 29 November – 1 December 2017

Organized by the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section in partnership with the Forest Policy Division and the National Forest Agency of Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia under the UNECE/FAO project “Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia”, which is funded through the UN Development Account (UNDA).

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List of Abbreviations

APA	Agency of Protected Areas
CENN	Caucasian Environmental NGO Network
C & I	Criteria and Indicators
DES	Department of Environment Supervision
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations
FE	Forest Europe (Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe)
FLEG	Forest Law Enforcement and Governance
FLUIDS	Forest and Land Use Information and Decision Support
FPD	Forest Policy Division
FPS	Forest Policy Service
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GFW	Global Forest Watch
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
HCV	High Conservation Value
IUCN	the International Union for Conservation of Nature
LEPL	Legal Entity of Public Law
MoEPA	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture
MoENRP	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NFA	National Forestry Agency
NFC	National Forest Concept
NFI	National Forest Inventory
NFP	National Forest Program
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NTFPs	Non-timber Forest Products

SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SMART	Specific Measurable Achievable Realistic and Time-bound
TEEB	The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity
ToS	Team of Specialists
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
WB	World Bank
WRI	World Resource Institute
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

1. Introduction

1.1. Project Overview

This report gives an overview of the outcomes of the UNECE/FAO, UNDA National Coaching Workshop “Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management for Georgia”, which was held in 29 November – 1 December 2017 in Tbilisi, Georgia.

This national coaching workshop was part of the UNDA project designed to strengthen the national capacity of five countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia (Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan) to develop **national criteria and indicators (C&I) for sustainable forest management (SFM)**. The project builds upon existing processes and expertise in participating countries addressing country specific needs and will provide knowledge, capacity-building, training materials and advisory services for defining the scope and relevance of the information that is needed for the implementation of sustainable forest management at national level to support evidence-based policy making. The duration of the project is from June 2016 until December 2019.

Criteria and indicators can be used for monitoring the status and trends in the forest sector at a national level and eventually monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

National criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management will serve as a tool to communicate the relevance and importance of forests to environment, economy as well as society at national, regional as well as international level.

The key project stakeholders are government experts from national forest agencies, research institutes, forest related ministries and NGOs. In addition, the key partners include other international organizations or initiatives already operating in the countries.

2. Country Situation in Georgia

2.1. Brief Overview on Forest Governance

Forests are one of the most valuable natural resources in Georgia. They occupy about 40% of the country’s territory and have significant potential in production of wood and other wood products. Up to 98% of Georgian forests are natural origin. It has a great heritage in terms of biodiversity and can play a considerable role in terms of protection of ecosystems and eco-heritage both locally and globally. Georgia enjoys important position among the world’s 34 biodiversity hot spots, recognized for rich biodiversity. The country creates favourable environment for investment in the sector with its many resources still untapped. On the other hand, more than 20% of forests are protected, being given the status of national parks, protected areas etc. Georgian forests not only conserve the unique biological diversity, but ensure continuous delivery of vital direct or indirect benefits and resources to the population. This in turn facilitates the development of different fields of industry, the growth of the well-being of the population, poverty elevation and creates favourable conditions for the sustainable development of the country. The National Forest Concept of Georgia (NFC) was adopted by the parliament in 2013. NFC for Georgia defines the relation of the State with forests taking into account main services provided by forests and their values. The document serves as a basis for the development and improvement of the forestry sector related legislation, institutional set-up and other policy documents.

In 2013, with the purpose of protecting the country’s forests and increasing the effectiveness of their ecological, social and economic functions, a new stage of forestry reform was initiated. As a result, the

National Forestry Agency (NFA) was established as a Legal Entity of Public Law (LEPL), a new Forest Policy Service (FPS) was developed and the Department of Environmental Supervision (DES) established.

2.2. Present Challenges in Forest Sector of Georgia

As mentioned above, important steps were undertaken addressing the forest governance lately, nevertheless Georgian forest sector is facing complex problems that involve economic, social and environmental aspects. These problems are caused by different reasons: lack of viable system for sustainable forest management and professionally trained cadre in forest services, conflict of interests, illegal activities in the sector, lack of the expertise to sustainably plan the forest utilization and monitoring, also to provide the favourable conditions for private sector, as well as for rural communities and guarantee the multipurpose of forests and their sustainable ecologic, economic and social functions etc.

Forest Use - Existing practice of forest use disregards multifunctional and effective use of forest resources. Priority is given to firewood provision for population and the rest of the valuable forest resources are under-utilized. Forest use does not meet modern requirements of forest development and existing practice poses a threat to forest ecosystems.

Latest studies and forest inventories conducted at several forest districts, identified high dependency of the population on forests, especially in the rural areas of the country. During the last decade, numerous studies were implemented by different organizations providing significant information about the degree of the forest degradation caused by weak forest governance and high volume of illegal activities in the forest sector. Recent reliable data provided by the inventories conducted in Borjomi-Bakuriani¹ and Kharagauli forest districts (around 90 000 ha) from 2014 - 2015 show a substantial decrease of timber resources and high level of forest degradation since 1998, as well the resulted emissions account for up to 2 million tons of CO₂. It might be premature to draw conclusions on the state of Georgia's forests on the results obtained from two forest districts, but it is reasonable to expect at least the similar results in other forest districts.

Over the last two decades, illegal logging has been a problem in Georgia. Two major types of logging can be distinguished – for fuel-wood and for construction timber. The forestry statistics and data on the amount of legal logging are far from being reliable. Some experts have expressed doubts as to the annual volume of logging in the country. They argue that totally between 2.5 and 5.5 million m³ of timber have been logged in Georgia every year since 1991. When there is no system yet to collect statistical data all over the country, the central statistical office repeats the data from the previous years.

In addition to wood and environmental functions, Georgian forest ecosystems produce a great variety of non-wood forest products (NWFPs) such as fruit, berries, nuts, and bark. Other important NWFPs include mushrooms, medicinal plants, honey and decorative plants. Utilization of NWFPs by the people is free of charge. In general, non-wood products are not commercialized, due to white-spots in the legislation, as well as of lack of financing and difficulties in collection and processing.

Forests in Georgia have great potential to contribute to livelihoods and income creation to local population. Currently, there is no information about socio-economic value of forests, therefore, the national set of C & I for SFM is needed for systematic data collection and monitoring.

Georgia participated in the Global FAO Forest Resources Assessment 2015, but the data quality was insufficient or data was missing. Georgia did not respond to the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry questionnaire, but is the only country of the region participating and regularly reporting to the pan-European Criteria and Indicators process. The updated nationally validated and improved information on forests are expected to be available by 2020 through the planned National Forest Inventory (NFI).

¹ Progress Report 4, ANNEX 7, carbon baseline for Borjomi-Bakuriani forestry district (Adaptive Sustainable Forest Management in Borjomi-Bakuriani Forest District)

2.3. Overview of processes and results related to C&I of SFM

Since 2003, Georgia is a signatory country of “Forest Europe” (the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe) that develops common strategies for its 46 member countries and the European Union on how to protect and sustainably manage forests. FOREST EUROPE has led to achievements such as the Pan-European criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management. Georgia fully supports the proceedings towards the implementation of the commitments under the Ministerial Conferences and is prepared to implement them through national strategies, programmes and initiatives, furthermore considering the coordination of external substantial support and cooperation with partner organizations. Nevertheless, so far, Georgia has not developed a national reporting system to account for sustainable forest management. Georgia is now progressing towards such a national forest reporting system via a participatory process for the development of a national criteria and indicator set for sustainable forest management.

The need and potential of C&I for SFM was recognized as being a useful tool to measure progress towards national goals for SFM. Also, the development of C&I is seen as a way of engaging a wide range of stakeholders in the forest sector reform, so that a range of interests are reflected and more inclusive forest sector decision making is developed. A process for the national development of C&I for SFM in Georgia has begun in 2014 and this project and coaching workshop aims to build on and from this work to support Georgia in strengthening the process and outcome, assisting it to develop a comprehensive, effective and feasible national set of C&I for SFM. The process is being supported by the invited experts through GIZ IbiS project. Several workshops and consultation meetings took place since then with the participation of local and foreign specialists. During several workshops in 2017, the ecological, economic and social principle have been further specified by criteria and indicators. A draft document was also developed, describing the National Principles, Criteria and Indicators for SFM. In addition, a list of detailed management based criteria and indicators has been elaborated through several workshops and field visits by the expert’s group to support the planning, implementation and monitoring of ecosystem based forest management. These documents were used as a basis for the national coaching workshop conducted from 29 November – 1 December 2017.

3. National Coaching Workshop

This chapter summarizes presentations and group work exercises, as well as the outcomes of the national coaching workshop under the project - “Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia”.

3.1. Objectives of National Coaching Workshop

This workshop had the following **objectives**:

- a) **REVIEW.** To review progress, challenges and lessons with regards to status of forests and forest management, as well as national and international forest reporting in Georgia.
- b) **WHY and WHAT.** To ensure clarity on what the principles, purpose, processes and definitions, related to national C&I for SFM are.
- c) **HOW.** Drawing upon international and national best practice to strengthen skills on how to practically develop a national set of C&I.
- d) **PLAN.** To support developing the initial set of C&I for SFM, including a process plan of how to further advance, test and formulate it.

The workshop was aiming to reflect on the following **questions**:

1. Is the national C&I set covering all important aspects for the future management of Georgian

forests?

2. Is the proposed national C&I clear/specific enough?
3. What might be sources of information for the monitoring of the proposed indicators?
4. Identification of necessary future steps to further develop the list of national C&I based on the results of 3 day workshops.

Detailed information (program, presentations, news release, photos) about the workshop is available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=45760>

More information about the project can be found here: <https://www.unece.org/forests/areas-of-work/capacity-building/unda2016-2019.html>

3.2. Day 1, Preliminaries, objectives, background to SFM C&I and Setting the scene

Welcome and short opening remarks by the host country representative and UNECE/FAO

The morning session of day 1 started with opening remarks by the host country representative, Ms. Natia Iordanishvili, deputy head of National Forest Agency, followed by the project overview by Ms. Theresa Loeffler, project manager through presenting the project frame, examples of C&I processes, supporting materials for developing the set of national C&I for SFM.

Participant introductions, workshop objectives, compiled needs assessment and rules and norms. Introducing the Guidelines for the training

The compiled needs assessment, purpose, methodology and general rules of the workshop was presented by Mr. Vardan Melikyan, regional consultant of the project and workshop facilitator. He proposed a method of participant introductions (two person introducing each other), rules and norms and guidelines for the coaching workshop, also provided key lessons and recommendations from the regional workshop that took place in Armenia in November 2016 and the process plan for development of national level C&I in Georgia.

Introducing principles and practice of C&I development processes

Mr. Ekrem Yazici, deputy chief of UNECE/FAO Joint Forestry and Timber Section presented the basics on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management. He also described the alignment opportunities of SFM goals with national forest policy goals and SFM principles followed with the overview of role and contribution of global and regional forest related processes towards developing tools for monitoring, assessing and reporting on the state of countries' forests.

Overview of Georgian forests and forest sector

Mr. Koba Chiburdanidze, head of Forest Policy Division of Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture gave an overview on forests in Georgia, forest governance, forest policy directions and management results of recent years, explained the practice and actions done or ongoing towards enhancing forest information systems, as well as data availability and gaps. He also talked about country's engagement in international processes, particularly the "Forest Europe" process.

National Process for developing the C & I for SFM

Ms. Lika Giorgadze, chief specialist at Forest Policy Division explained the purpose and outcomes of the ongoing national process of developing C&I for SFM in her presentation. She gave an overview of lessons learned and the key principles and set of criteria developed during several workshops held in 2017.

Planned 1st National Forest Inventory (NFI) for Georgia

Mr. Lasha Dzadzamia, advisor at NFI team of IBiS programme - GIZ, made a presentation on the planned 1st National Forest Inventory for Georgia. In his presentation, he described the goals and expectations of NFI, including the phases, methodology, tools/technologies, ongoing and planned activities, as well as the main regional and global requirements for reporting in the sector. He also gave a detailed overview on which data the NFI will provide. This will be the primary source for data collection under the national C&I for SFM set.

Case Study from Turkey

Mr. Tamer Otrakcier, senior forestry consultant demonstrated the experience of Turkey in sustainable forest management and related processes of C&I for SFM. He showed a comprehensive picture with Turkey's alignment to international developments on forestry from 1997, including the objectives of forest strategy document and initiating the process of developing and implementation of C&I for SFM. He described Turkey's SFM C&I model and mechanism, including the National Forest Program and related experience of data collection, assessment, reporting and implementation. He also presented a decision tree that was used in Turkey to assess the feasibility and applicability of each indicator.

Group Work Exercises – Identification of Relevant Existing Documents in Georgia to Feed Into C&I Development for SFM

During this session, the participants were divided into three thematic groups (social-economic; ecological; forest governance) with the tasks to identify relevant documentation, as well as gaps in documentation and developing recommendations to fill gaps.

Table 1. Results of group work exercises for identification of relevant existing documents in Georgia and developing recommendations to feed into C & I development for SFM

Questions	Group 1 “Social-economic”	Group 2 “Ecological”	Group 3 “forest governance”
1. What key documents/information is available on this topic?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - national audit assessment of annual timber utilization; - national GDP reports; - ministry reports on employment; - reports of revenue service on timber export/import; - wood market study for Georgia (GIZ, 2016); - fuel wood consumption reports by CENN, IUCN, WB - Documents developed under the FLEG project (http://www.enpi-fleg.ge/); - country environmental analysis for Georgia by World Bank; - Environmental performance reviews for Georgia by UNECE; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Documents/publications developed under FLEG, WB, WWF, IUCN - http://www.enpi-fleg.ge/ - ENVSEC - https://www.osce.org/eea/89301 - GIZ projects - http://biodivers-southcaucasus.org/ - FLUIDS portal - http://geo.forest-atlas.org/ - FE papers on C&I for SFM - http://foresteurope.org/ - Convention on biological diversity; - Bonn convention; - TEEB studies - http://www.teebweb.org/countryprofile/georgia/ - FSC standards - scientific literature on Georgian forestry; - Harmonization of biodiversity indicators by M. Gvilava & A. Rukhadze; - Forest code and red list of Georgia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National forest concept; - NBSAP; - Forest code and forest related sub-legislative acts; - Forest inventory data and forest management plans; - Pan-European C&I for SFM; - Forest Europe guidelines; - UNFF resolutions, strategy and action plan; - FAO reports and guidelines on SFM; - Reports of state audit.

	- Methodology of total economic valuation on different forest types (2002).		
2. What is most relevant to feed into national C&I development?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest code; sub-legislative acts No. 241, 242 & 179; - National forestry concept; - Law on biodiversity (draft); - NBSAP; - Forest inventory data; - Red list; - Statistical data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National forest concept; - Forest code and forest related sub-legislative acts; - Forest inventory data and forest management plans; - Forest Europe guidelines; - FAO guidelines;
3. What are the key gaps in the documentation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information and actions towards rural people livelihood and illegal activities; - Gaps in GDP reports (e.g. tourism); outdated reports; - Valuation of ecosystem services; - No reports on hunting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weak legislation; - Not enough baseline information; - Emerald network; - Analysis/monitoring of forest management (illegal logging, grazing etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principles of SFM are not reinforced at legislative level; - Evaluation of forest management are not considered in regulatory documentation; - Collisions/contradictions; still existing matters with no regulations; - Not effective/sufficient use of scientific research outputs and evidence; - Having not reliable and non-effective forestry data base;
4. What recommendations to fill the gaps needed to develop adequate information?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop new reports and comprehensive surveys (relevant templates) for rural people livelihoods; - Examining related international documents to develop methodologies; - Elaborating the legislation on hunting based on FAO project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intensive communication and information update; - Developing central platform for data management; - Natural forest associations; - National, as well as local (detailed) forest inventory data and forest management plans; - Enhanced web-atlas on forests; - Raising awareness among decision makers and general public; - Adoption of new forest code; - Supporting developing professional forestry staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advancement of forest related legislation; - Enhance actions towards elaborating relevant strategies and action plans; - Developing the system for evaluating and assessing forest management at national level; - Strengthening the scientific support; - Studying the general framework, including the goals of internationally/regionally developed set of C&I; - Examine/review the issue as national context and identify the main national goals of C&I application for SFM; - Identifying key

			stakeholders and ensure their participation; - Define/determine the main challenges; - Study the experience of other countries; - Developing and testing key C&I for SFM in practice.
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Evaluation of Georgia’s 1st draft set of C&I for SFM

The workshop participants were asked to put the scores (min.1-max.5) and provide feedback on CRITERIA of Georgia’s 1st draft of C&I for SFM (totally 22 CRITERIA).

The core feedback and recommendations identified are the following: 1) number of criteria has to be reduced, some of them should be merged or removed 3) wordings of most of the criteria are too long and needs to be better formulated; 4) the criteria should be formulated according to one standard; 5) in general, all the criteria has to be modified / wordings to be improved.

3.3. Day 2, Practical C&I skills development

Recap of Day 1:

Morning session of day 2 started with presentation of key lessons learned from previous day. Six key topics were emphasized during the presentation: 1) Georgia is using the participatory method for developing the national set of C&I for SFM; 2) Criteria relates to WHAT is important to measure and indicator – HOW to measure progress and can be applied for both quantitative and qualitative criteria; 3) Planned NFI will cover about 90% of indicators demonstrated through the presentation by Forest Policy Division; 4) Agreed set of C&I should be tested; 5) The C&I for SFM represents a continues process; 6) Set and managed/regulated system for data collection and analysis is needed.

Georgia and “FOREST EUROPE”

Ms. Stefanie Linser, invited expert from University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU), started her presentation with the introduction of “Pan-European” process of C&I for SFM (from 1994 – 2017) under the framework of FOREST EUROPE. It was noted that the Process covers 46 European countries with a wide range of forest ecosystems and contains 6 criteria and 45 indicators, followed with the relevance and importance of forest related indicators for partner organizations or processes at cross-sectorial levels, including the means of communication e.g. Rural Development; Environment & Biodiversity; Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation; Water; Energy; Bio-economy. She provided her recommendations addressing the 1st draft of Georgia’s set of C&I for SFM and highlighted that the C&I developed by the regional processes (e.g. FOREST EUROPE) should be the basis for a national C&I set and can be complemented by sub-indicators or further indicators to satisfy the countries national needs. She provided the information on applications of C&I for SFM from global to local levels and gave examples on implementation of C&I in some European countries with more detailed information on Austria’s experience. Ms. Linser listed the key benefits of a global, regional or national set of C&I for SFM in order that the decision-makers may use them to: strengthen development of results-based forest policies and national forest programmes/strategies, and monitor their implementation; promote and provide incentives for transition to sustainable forestry practices; monitor, assess and report on SFM or the state

of forests, also to strengthen dialogue with the society and other sectors and demonstrate the contribution of forests.

Overview of Estonia's Experience with C&I for SFM

Mr. Mati Valgepea, invited expert from Estonian Ministry of Environment presented made a comprehensive presentation on the historical and current background, pillars, definitions, purpose, processes, benefits and challenges related with C&I for SFM in Estonia. He gave information on qualitative and quantitative indicators, their features and means of verification, the data flow pyramid and examples of C&I, as well as Estonia's experience on National Forest Inventory and its' results. It was highlighted that the best indicators should be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound (SMART). He also provided information about the learned lessons: full commitment to the integration of SFM principles into policies, tools and practices during the years of transition was the right choice; Conscious investment into human resources, innovative ICT solutions and well-established information management is crucial; Establishment of participatory process and involvement of stakeholders has been tricky but guaranteed balanced choices.

Introducing Principles and Practices of C&I Development Processes

Mr. Vardan Melikyan, regional consultant of UNECE/FAO project and workshop facilitator presented the processes, skills and methods to develop national C&I for SFM by demonstrating two main approaches: 1) "Bottom up" C&I development - stakeholder engagement methods to determine national stakeholder priorities for indicators and defining indicators correctly; 2) "Top down" C&I development - review, prioritisation and adaptation of International Criteria and Indicators.

Role playing "bottom up" national stakeholder engagement to define national priorities

This part of the workshop was aimed at identifying and bringing together analysis of different forest stakeholders to identify their priorities for forest sector performance. The facilitator explained the importance of having a set of priority indicators developed by multi-stakeholder groups via different exercises (group works). The 'bottom up' method of the selection of indicators aims to attract all stakeholders and development of indicators derived from national priorities, well-formulated, clear and measurable. The workshop participants were divided into four thematic groups (**Group 1** - Stakeholder identification and mapping; **Group 2** - Forest Dependent Communities; **Group 3** - Perspectives of private sector forest enterprises; **Group 4** – Perspectives of government based foresters) and the instructions for upcoming group work exercises were given accordingly, including the ways of identification and mapping the stakeholders to engage in the process of national C&I development.

Group 1 - Stakeholder identification and mapping

The objectives of the group was to identify relevant stakeholders for the development process of national C&I for SFM for Georgia and to map their dependency on the forest resources and outline the level of influence on forest management and on the decision-making process, as well as developing practical ideas how to get them involved and defining their roles in this process.

The group identified and mapped all relevant stakeholders in accordance to their dependency or being affected on forest resources, as well as their level of influence over decisions on forest management at national level (Table 2).

Practical Ideas and Methods How to Involve Stakeholders Proposed:

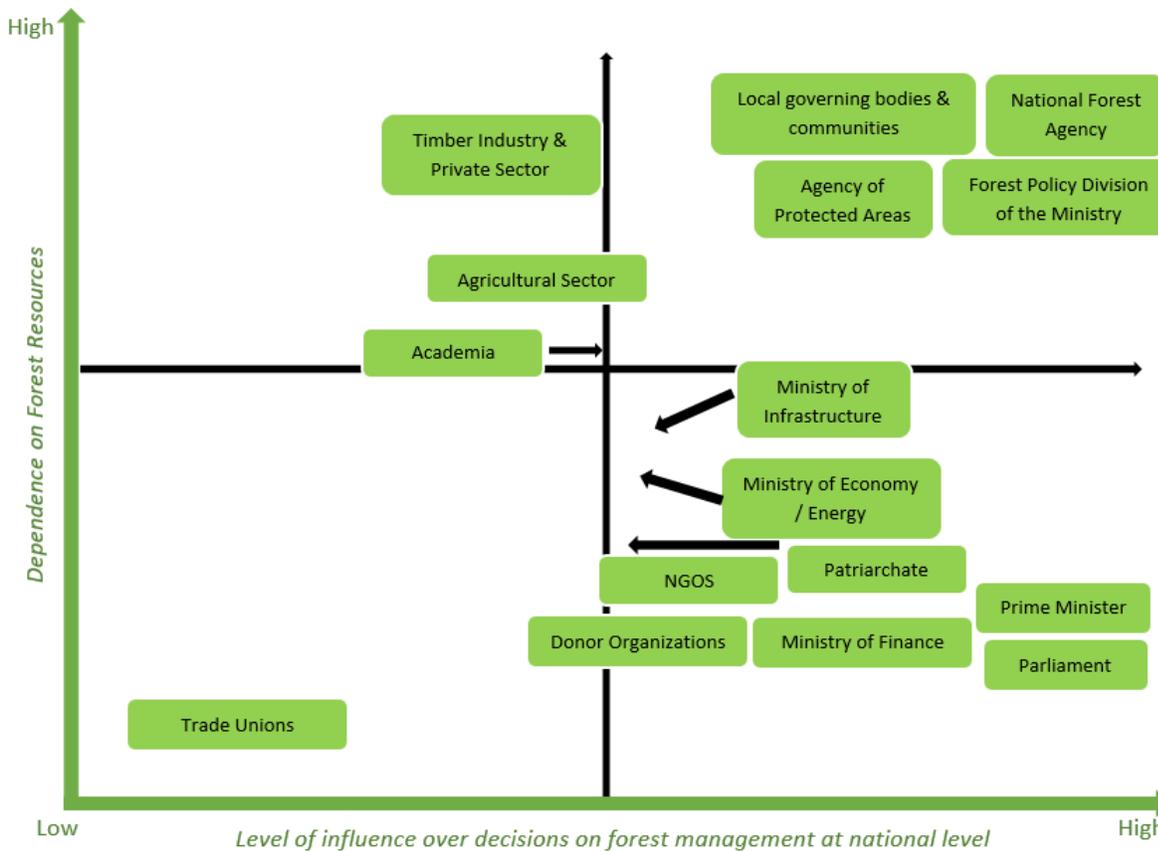
1. Setting up one permanent working group;
2. Organization of workshops at central and local levels;

3. Passing the information to all stakeholders and other related working groups through intense and effective communication, including dissemination of brochures in order to support the finalization/development of national C&I for SFM and reporting processes.

Identified roles:

1. Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture – Support in policy directions and developing qualitative indicators, as well as support in coordinating working groups, workshops and dissemination of information to stakeholders;
2. National Forest Agency and Agency of Protected Areas – With more emphasis to developing quantitative indicators considering their feasibility, in order that the indicators to be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound (SMART);
3. Municipalities and Private Sector– Reflecting their needs, assessing the situation and support the development of locally based indicators considering the ecological, social and economic aspects;
4. Academia and NGOs – Support in scientific and research based decisions in all aspects (ecological, economic and social) of SFM.

Table 2. Results of Group 1. Stakeholder identification and mapping according their dependency on forest resources and level of influence over decisions on forest management at national level.



It was also identified that several stakeholders (e.g. local governments; private sector; ministry of economy) are not yet involved in the developing process of national set of C&I and should be communicated and informed.

Group 2 - Forest Dependent Communities

The tasks for this working group was to conduct a problem analysis of forest sector for identifying positive solutions or effects that will be a priority from the perspective of forest dependence communities considering the policy/governance, social-economic and ecological aspects of forestry, in order to facilitate the development of relevant indicators.

The group highlighted the weakness of local governments and local communities (lack of knowledge, capacity and experience) in sustainable forest management, which is also complemented by overgrazing and overexploitation of forest resources for timber and fuel-wood, causing the forest degradation, soil erosion, loss of biodiversity, natural hazards and weakening the functional quality of hydrological networks. The following causes of the results and problems were emphasized: Lack of communication between the forest management bodies and local governments/communities; Conflict of interests; Income opportunities; Shortcomings in forestry legislation; No information on SFM, followed with the root causes/underlying reason of poor social-economic situation in municipalities and rural areas, including the lack of qualified personnel.

The following solutions were prioritized from the perspectives of forest dependent communities after the analysis of problems and their causes:

1. Need to support the staff communication skills development, as well as skills for public engagement through awareness raising and training activities;
2. Pilot projects for joint management with local government bodies and municipalities;
3. Properly organized system for public engagement, ensuring to providing necessary information and accountability to public;
4. Engage the local governments / communities in the process of elaborating forest management plans and forest zoning;
5. Improving the legislative framework;
6. Support the multifunctional forest use;
7. Support the biomass production for energy/heat from forestry and agricultural residues.

The developed indicators according to the solutions are the following:

1. Implementation of forest code in terms of municipal forestry management development;
2. Improved skills;
3. Number of qualified / trained personnel;
4. Number of trainings;
5. Number of meetings / workshops with the participation of local governments / communities;
6. Number of people engaged;
7. Number of joint decisions;
8. Effective system for public engagement (information and accountability) established;
9. Number of pilot projects;
10. Number of successful pilot projects;
11. Number of enterprises for biomass production for energy in municipalities.

Group 3 - Private Sector Forest Enterprises

The third group had to perform a SWOT analysis from the perspectives of private sector forest enterprises considering the day to day operations of them, also the enabling environment (government policy, legislation, market, supply etc.) followed with practical recommendations that build on strengths and address weaknesses, as well the recommendations that build on opportunities and address threats, in order to facilitate the development of relevant indicators.

Results of SWOT analysis:

STRENGTH: Cheap labour force; Licence holders mainly process the wood harvested in their own sawmills; High forest cover and raw material; Surrounded by countries with timber import interests (Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran); Hand crafted wood production by small (family) holdings;

WEAKNESSES: Dependence on timber import from Russia (raw material); Instable market for wood (supply issues); Breakdown of private sector wood production; Competition with the high demand for fuel-wood; Competition with illegal loggers; Low investment capacities; obsolete mechanization / technologies; No clear vision for future development and on future wood supplies; Poor forest road infrastructure.

Practical Recommendations That Build on Strengths and Address Weaknesses:

- 1) FSC certification of forest and timber products;
- 2) Introduction of ecologically sound silvicultural and harvesting techniques and systems;
- 3) Professional education of timber related (silviculture, harvest, processing) staff.

OPPORTUNITIES: latest arrangements to regulate licensing (no more licences will be granted); Fast developing sawmill technologies/mechanization for varied range of production; Big potential for NWFP utilization; Specializing to local needs; Growing public demand for industrial products (construction, furniture etc.); Potential for fast growing plantations (conditions and available sites);

THREATS: Huge network of illegal wood loggers; insufficient assurance from the government (limits, disarranged investments).

Practical recommendations that build on Opportunities and address Threats:

1. Introduction of political forest economic programme;
2. Verdict to export of round-wood;
3. Incentives for wood related investments;
4. Strict control of illegal harvesting and exports;

The following **five positive solutions** were prioritized by the analysis (from both effects and solutions to causes of the problems) from the perspectives of private forest sector enterprises:

1. System to reduce illegal activities and corruption;
2. Forest economic programme for forest industry, including NTFP and other services, together with legal governmental incentives;
3. Professional forestry education (silviculture, harvest, processing), including labour trainings;
4. Introduction of ecologically sound / modern silvicultural and harvesting techniques and mechanization, including the cable systems and improvement of road network;
5. Improvement of energy-heating supply for rural communities.

The developed indicators according to the solutions are the following:

1. Number of illegal activities and volume of wood harvested in this way;
2. Amount of finances for incentives through the state budget;
3. Investments in forests and forestry (total public and private investments in forests and forestry);
4. Trade in wood (imports and exports in wood and products derived from wood);
5. Number of educated personnel available on the labor market; Alternative: Forest sector workforce (number or persons employed and labor input in the forest sector, classified by gender and age group, education and job characteristics)
6. Road network (km/ha) (with sub-indicators: new roads constructed; maintained / rehabilitated)
7. Fire-wood consumption (m³/year); Alternative: wood energy – share of wood energy in total primary energy supply, classified by origin of wood;
8. Contribution of forest sector to GDP;

9. Multi-functional use of forests (classified by various types of forest use, other than wood, e.g. recreation in forests, NTFP etc. in terms of right of access, provision of facilities and intensity of use).

Group 4 - Government Based Foresters

The fourth group had to perform a SWOT analysis of different types of forest management from the perspectives of government based foresters, elaborate solutions according to the results of analysis and develop indicators as the expected outcomes of the solutions identified.

Firstly, the group started to identify and list the forest categories as followed: 1) Forest fund with functions of soil protection and water regulation, which also contains the green and resort zones; 2) Protected areas, which includes reserves, national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and natural monuments.

Results of SWOT analysis:

STRENGTHS in forest management practices were formulated as followed: Maintenance of soil protective and water regulation functions; Well-planned wood harvesting/cutting rules; Green zones – ensuring fresh air, aesthetics and leisure in rural areas; Resort zones – with functions of sanitary/fitness; All the above mentioned forest categories are regulated by relevant legislative frameworks; Existence of National Forest Concept; Forest management is decentralized in some districts; Foresters are provided with relevant equipment; Functional infrastructural network is developed; High index of biodiversity;

WEAKNESSES / CHALLENGES in forest management practice: Illegal logging activities inside the forest fund; Gaps in legal frameworks; Not effective law enforcement; non efficient equipment and infrastructure (mechanization, forest roads, protective tracks against wild fires etc.); limited number of forest rangers; Disproportional development of network of protected areas; Low level of professional education; non-sufficient funding of the sector; Nonexistence of forest inventories and management plans for nationwide; Lack of ecological awareness of local communities; Causes of climate changes; not enough activities addressing forest protection against pests, diseases and fires; Obsolete mechanization for wood harvesting operations and discarded occupational safety;

Practical recommendations to address the challenges were identified:

1. Improvement of the regulatory framework;
2. Strengthening the state supervision and monitoring;
3. Enhancing the number of foresters and forest rangers for forest districts;
4. Improving the professional education and institutional development;
5. Active cooperation with donor organizations for obtaining necessary resources;
6. Engagement of local governments and communities during the planning and implementation processes of forest related activities for raising awareness, including organizing the knowledge sharing meetings/workshops with communities by forestry specialists;
7. Share experiences of other countries and timely implementation of relevant activities;
8. Find sources to upgrade forest mechanization and strengthening the monitoring of implementing occupational safety.

The following **five positive solutions** were prioritized by the analysis (from both effects and solutions to causes of the problems) from the perspectives of government based foresters:

1. Increasing forest financing;
2. Improving legislation;
3. Institutional development;
4. Strengthening the state supervision and monitoring;
5. Improve the forest quantitative and qualitative conditions;

The developed indicators according to the solutions are the following:

1. Increased budget for forest managing bodies; Alternative: Forestry activities are sufficiently funded;

2. Harmonized forestry legislation with the principles of SFM;
3. Increased qualifications of employees at forest management bodies and suitable institutional structure, including the infrastructure;
4. Reduced illegal loggings;
5. Increased forest cover and improved forest conditions.

Following the working group presentations, the *“fishbowl method”* (lively self-moderating method that promotes listening and participation) was conducted to receive feedback and opinions on the developed indicators. During the discussion, the group members discussed the priority issues and directions for Georgia. Then all the participants of the meeting assessed the proposed indicators by prioritization and according to the correct formulation through the audience support.

Lastly, the similar indicators from each working group results were joined and the participants from each group gave scores for ranking.

Table 3. Individual assessment of developed indicators.

Consolidated Indicators	Total score	Ranking
Amount of finances for incentives through the state budget	4	4
Number of illegal activities and volume of wood harvested in this way	4.4	2
Road network (km/ha) (sub-indicators: sub-indicators: new roads constructed; maintained / rehabilitated annually	3.7	8
Fire wood consumption (m3/year)	4.2	3
Qualified personnel available on the labor market	3.6	9
Increased budget for forest management institutes / sufficiently financed forest activities	3.9	6
Increased forest cover and improved forest conditions	3.9	7
Reduced illegal cuts/activities	4.44	1
Increased capacity of forest management workforce, including suitable institutional structure and infrastructure/mechanization	3.6	10
C&I are harmonized in national legislation	4	5
Number of forestry decisions with public participation	3.4	12
Number of people engaged	2.9	18
Engagement of communities in development of forest management plans	3.6	11
Implementation of forest code in terms of municipal forestry management development	3	16
Conducted trainings / number of trained personnel	3	17
Affordable/accessible/available forestry education	3.4	13
Joint pilot project with local communities / municipalities and successful results	3.1	15
Effective system for public participation / Forest Information and Monitoring system	3.3	14

Reviewing international and regional Criteria and Indicator sets to select those that best match national priorities –a “top down” process exercise

The purpose of the method is to study the already developed international indicators and to bring them into line with the country's priorities. The participants were presented by guidelines for developing the C&I for SFM and indicators developed in different countries, based on which the indicators corresponding to Georgia's national priorities could be developed.

The "top-down" process implies the adaptation from internationally developed sets of C&I for SFM. It describes assessment of international (or regional) C&I and adapting them to the national context. It gives the possibility to review the sets of original C&I and deciding whether they can be valid for Georgia's conditions, also modifying them if needed.

3.4. Day 3, National C&I Development

Recap of Day 2:

Morning session of day 2 started with presentation of key lessons learned from previous day. Seven key topics were highlighted: 1) Knowledge gained about the experiences of other countries in the process of C&I development and their implementation; 2) Ongoing processes addressing the C&I for SFM globally; 3) Feedback and recommendations of Ms. Stefanie Linser towards the 1st draft of Georgia's set of C&I for SFM – "the C&I developed by the regional processes (e.g. FOREST EUROPE) should be the basis for a national C&I set and can be complemented by sub-indicators or further indicators to satisfy the countries national needs"; 4) Experience of Estonia in the organization of statistical "yearbook forest"; 5) "bottom up" national stakeholder engagement exercises; 6) Harmonization of identified indicators with SFM; 7) Common agreement on testing the identified indicators before their official adoption.

Reflection on the bottom up/top down process – lessons and recommendations for C&I development process in Georgia

Mr. Vardan Melikyan presented the analytical hierarchy process for guidance of national C&I development process, reviewed and prioritized all previous outputs of the workshop to feed into the development of a tentative set of C&I for different aspects of SFM and to develop a more detailed process plan of the national C&I development for 2018. The presentation included the practical recommendations on how to use the analytical hierarchy technique, the **key recommendations** listed below:

1. Aim to have as few indicators as possible to reliably set appropriate targets to monitor, report and assess forest management in a cost effective way.
2. Based on and built from as much as possible adapted existing systems and institutions for gathering forest or related information, it is always easier to adapt than create something completely new.
3. User friendly and concise, written in a simple and clear language that is accessible beyond foresters, concise and well laid out to make it easy to understand.
4. Specific and definite as possible in terminology used - to ensure common understanding avoiding different interpretations.
5. Must be practical and feasible to measure within normal government resources – not based on a dream of having lots of resources in terms of time, human resources and equipment. Keep it simple!
6. Best indicators should be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound (SMART).

Group work to develop both the tentative set for national C&I and the process steps and methods for C&I further development, testing and selection for Georgia

The workshop participants were distributed into three working groups (ecological, economic, and social) to assess and discuss the set of national criteria and, which was elaborated in 2016/2017 in Georgia. Participants were asked to take into account the set of C&I elaborated during the Day 2 (through the

“bottom up” approach), also to use the “top down” method, in order to cross-checking with regionally developed sets of indicators. They had to specify sources of information and percentage of access (quality & availability) to information. Group 4 was formed to update Georgia’s detailed process plan of the national C&I development for 2018 - 2019.

Group 1 – Ecology

Table 4. Results – Set of C&I developed under the ecological principle of SFM

Criteria <i>(Can be modified to national context but aim for some alignment with international criteria. Avoid overlap between criteria)</i>	Indicators <i>(Must reflect national priorities. Indicators should be simple and clear, be a complementary mix of both quantitative and qualitative (try to have both kinds for each criteria). At national level the best indicators should be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound (SMART). Avoid overlap between indicators.)</i>	Unit of Measure (if applicable)	Means of Verification / Measure <i>(The clearly identified concrete source of information/record that verifiably demonstrate that the target is being achieved.)</i>	Positive Assumption of Feasibility <i>(Confidence greater than 75% that indicator – information to verify it can be practically and feasibly assessed, within normal government resources. If less than 75% revise the indicator to something more achievable.)</i>
1. The forest cover of Georgia should be maintained or increased	1.1. Total forest area 1.2. Forest area available for wood supply / commercial forest 1.3. Protected forest area 1.4. Protective forest area 1.5. Recreation forest area	Ha	1.1 Aerial – orthophoto maps; NFI & FMP (forest management plans) 1.5 FMP; Zoning data; In case of use, studying the local/specific area	80 – 85% 1.5 85-90%
2. The natural biodiversity of forest shall be maintained and enhanced	2.1. Tree species composition 2.2. Abundance of introduced tree species and of invasive tree species 2.3. Abundance of threatened forest tree species / red list tree species 2.4. Structure of forest stands 2.5. Abundance of habitat trees 2.6. Abundance of dead wood 2.7. Genetic resources In addition: 2.8. The share of percentage of protected forests from the total forest area 2.9. Fauna will increase by increasing biodiversity.	2.1. ha/% 2.2. ha/% 2.4. layers 2.5. m ³ /ha; 2.6.m ³ / ha 2.7. Species, ha. 2.8.ha	Forest Management Plans (FMP); 2.9. according to the population or individual	2.1. 80-85%%

3. Vitality of forests shall be maintained and enhanced	3.1. Regeneration capacity of forest stands; 3.2. Signs of forest damage – (Forest area or individual trees with damage, classified by primary damaging agent - abiotic, biotic) 3.3. Signs of forest land degradation / Trends in forest land degradation 3.4. Biomass productivity	3.1. per ha; 3.2. %/ha 3.3. ha 3.4. m ³ /ha	3.1.NFI & FMP 3.2. NFI & FMP 3.3. NFI & FMP 3.4. NFI & FMP	NFI (70-80%) FMP (80-100%)
4. Protective functions of forests are maintained and strengthened	4.1. Signs of timber exploitation in protective forest areas 4.2. Zoning map available for the total forest area, indicating how well all protective functions are reflected 4.3. Protective forest in % of total forest area	4.1. %/ha 4.2. % 4.3. ha	FMPs	80 – 95%
5. Only minimum disturbance shall be caused by forest management operations	5.1. Crown cover by selective tree cutting 5.2. Reduction of standing timber volume 5.3. Damages in the remaining forest stand during harvesting operations e.g. in regeneration areas, at remaining trees and of the soil 5.4. Percentage of forest area used for infrastructure (e.g. forest roads, skidding trails, places where timber is stored, etc.) 5.5. Prevention of erosion (e.g. water-runoff) along forest roads, skidding trails and other forest infrastructure	5.1. Crown cover/ha; 5.2. m ³ /ha; 5.3. %/ha 5.4. %/ha 5.5. %/ha	FMPs	80 – 95%
6. Productivity of forests available for wood supply / commercial forests shall be	6.1. Forest area for wood supply / Commercial Forest area in % of total forest area 6.2. Standing volume of	6.1. % 6.2. m ³ / ha 6.3. m ³ / ha 6.4. ha	FMPs	80-95%

enhanced	timber and wood; 6.3. Increment of timber and wood 6.4. Distribution of natural and planted forests 6.5. Quantity and quality of harvested timber and wood 6.6. Quantity and quality of marketed non-timber forest products	6.5. m3, quality /ha 6.6. Kg/ha		
7. Contribution of forest resources to Global Carbon Cycles	7.1. forest above and below ground biomass 7.2. In litter and dead wood 7.3. In forest soil 7.4. In harvested wood products	T/ha	NFI; FMPs;	80-85%

Group 2 – Economic

Table 5. Results – Set of C&I developed under the Economic principle of SFM

Criteria <i>(Can be modified to national context but aim for some alignment with international criteria. Avoid overlap between criteria)</i>	Indicators <i>(Must reflect national priorities. Indicators should be simple and clear, be a complementary mix of both quantitative and qualitative (try to have both kinds for each criteria). At national level the best indicators should be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound (SMART). Avoid overlap between indicators.)</i>	Unit of Measure <i>(if applicable)</i>	Means of Verification / Measure <i>(The clearly identified concrete source of information/record that verifiably demonstrate that the target is being achieved.)</i>	Positive Assumption of Feasibility <i>(Confidence greater than 75% that indicator – information to verify it can be practically and feasibly assessed, within normal government resources. If less than 75% revise the indicator to something more achievable.)</i>
1. Promotion of timber and NTFP processing in Georgia	1.1 Number and capacity of sawmills, and the wood processing industry 1.2 Existence of legal-regulatory framework 1.3 Existence of various state programs 1.4 Number of illegal	1.1 Number/m3 1.2 Qualitative 1.3 Qualitative 1.4 N, m3	1.1 MoEPA, NAPR, Geostat, 1.2 No need to verify quality / experts judgment 1.3 No need to verify quality / expert judgment 1.4 MoEPA	1.1 90% 1.2 100% 1.3 100% 1.4 50%

	harvesting and harvested volume			
2. Contribution of forest sector to Georgian economy shall be increased, with consideration of all the principles of SFM	2.1 Contribution of forest sector to GDP/GNP 2.2 Total public and private investment in forestry 2.3 Net revenue of forest enterprises 2.4 Budget of forest management institutions 2.5 Forest roads (new construction and maintenance) 2.6 Employment (available personal work force included)	2.1 % 2.2 GEL 2.3 GEL 2.4 GEL 2.5 m/ha per year 2.6 N of persons	2.1 MoESD; MoF 2.2 MoESD; MoEPA; 2.3 Revenue Service; MoESD; MoF 2.4 MoEPA; MoF. 2.5 MoEPA; NFA; 2.6 Geostat, MoEPA	2.1 90% (shortcomings in methodology) 2.2 75% 2.3 75% 2.4 100% 2.5 100% 2.6 100%
3. The national demand for wood, wood products and fuel wood shall be considered in the strategic planning of sustainable forest management as well as export and import regulations.	3.1 Consumption of wood and products derived from wood 3.2 Wood and wood products 3.3 Share of wood energy in total energy supply 3.4 Round-wood quantity 3.5 Firewood consumption	3.1 m ³ /ton per person 3.2 m ³ /ton, GEL 3.3 % 3.4 m ³ , GEL 3.5 m ³ , GEL	3.1 Geostat; MoEPA; 3.2 MoF; Revenue Service; Custom Department; 3.3 MoESD 3.4 MoEPA; NFA; MoESD; 3.5 MoEPA; Geostat; MoESD.	3.1 80% (problem with derived prod.) 3.2 100% 3.3 100% 3.4 100% 3.5 80% (problem: What is legal and illegal?)
4. The commercial collection, marketing and processing of Non-timber forest products shall be promoted	4.1. Quantity and value of forest products	4.1. ton, GEL	4.1 MoEPA; NFA.	4.1. 30%
5. System of Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) to ensure the protective functions of forests. (should be negotiated with relevant sector ministries, which depend on these forest functions)	5.1. Regulation (Law)	5.1. Relevance to the principles of SFM, National Forest Concept and the Forest Code. 5.2. Number and Ratio/quality of forest management	5.2. MoEPA; MoF;	5.2. 100%

		activities financed through the income of PES		
6. Maintenance of other socioeconomic functions and conditions	6.1. Occupational safety and health (Frequency of occupational accidents and occupational diseases in forestry)	6.1. N & classification 6.2 GEL per family.	6.1. MoEPA; NFA; Ministry of Labor Health and Social affairs; 6.2. MoESD; Geostat	6.1. 80% (note: No info from private sector) 6.2. 50% (note: case studies / inquiries needed)

Group 3 – Social

Table 6. Results – Set of C&I developed under the Social principle of SFM

Criteria <i>(Can be modified to national context but aim for some alignment with international criteria. Avoid overlap between criteria)</i>	Indicators <i>(Must reflect national priorities. Indicators should be simple and clear, be a complementary mix of both quantitative and qualitative (try to have both kinds for each criteria). At national level the best indicators should be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound (SMART). Avoid overlap between indicators.)</i>	Unit of Measure <i>(if applicable)</i>	Means of Verification / Measure <i>(The clearly identified concrete source of information/record that verifiably demonstrate that the target is being achieved.)</i>	Positive Assumption of Feasibility <i>(Confidence greater than 75% that indicator – information to verify it can be practically and feasibly assessed, within normal government resources. If less than 75% revise the indicator to something more achievable.)</i>
1. Prioritized employment opportunities in forestry sector for rural population living near forests	1.1 local people employed in forest management bodies 1.2 The number of people employed in forestry sector, classified according to gender and age groups	1.1. % of local people employed 1.2. %	NFA; MoEPA; Municipalities; Geostat.	+ 90%
2. Adequate forestry education and training system	2.1. Employed staff meets the requirements of their job duties 2.2 Easy access to forestry education for local people	2.1. % or Number of personnel relevant to their duties; 2.2. Number of local residents applied for forestry education /year	MoEPA; NFA; APA; DES; Ministry of Education; Municipalities;	90%
3. Suitable Working conditions in forestry sector	3.1. Frequency of accidents and injuries during forestry operations 3.2. Average salary and its compliance with the minimum wage	3.1. Classification and % 3.2. %	Ministry of Labor Health and Social affairs; MoEPA; NFA; APA; DES; Geostat.	80 – 90 %
4. Access to forests for everyone for non-commercial purposes is	4.1. Existence of regulations ensuring free and uninterrupted access to forests and use of forest resources for	Quality; Monitoring results of law enforcement;	MoEPA; NFA; APA; DES.	90 %

ensured as long as vitality of forest ecosystems is guaranteed	personal consumption	Public feedback;		
5. In access to natural resources, balance between all interested stakeholders shall be ensured, with giving certain priority to satisfying needs of local population	Livelihood of local people (income)	Income per capita (GEL) % of utilized natural resources by local communities		
6. Recreation in forests	6.1. The use of forests and other wooded land for recreation in terms of right of access, provision of facilities and intensity of use 6.2. Existence of forest functional zoning	6.1. Number of visitors/users 6.1. Recreational area per capita 6.3. Investments in recreational forest areas	NFA; MoEPA;	70%
7. The identity and culture of local communities, as well as traditional knowledge of forest use and protection shall be recognized and supported.				
8. Grazing areas in forests shall be allocated close to the settlements based on forest management plans	8.1. Consideration of grazing areas in forest management plans; 8.2. Average distance between grazing areas for common use and settlements 8.3. Integrated management plan of grazing areas and its' implementation	Reporting every 5 years; Km2;	MoEPA; Land use division; Municipalities;	80-90%
9. Stakeholders' rights to participate in decision making of forest	9.1. FMPs are approved through public administrative procedures;	9.1. Number of feedbacks of stakeholders' 9.2. Number of meetings with	MoEPA; NFA; Municipalities;	75-90%

management	9.2. Prior to issuing important decisions of public interest, draft documents are published; 9.3. Effective system for stakeholders' participation.	stakeholders; 9.3 Feedback from stakeholders reflected; 9.4. Councils in municipalities for monitoring the activities under MoEPA & NFA.		
10. Government agencies involved in forest related legal relations shall ensure publicity of and access to the information relevant to forest management	10.1 Annual publications on Forestry and forest conditions; 10.2. Effective web based Forest Information and Monitoring system 10.3. All the decisions made are published through relevant accessible sources 10.4. Effective platform for stakeholders participation		MoEPA; EIEC; NFA; APA; DES; NEA;	

The developed tentative frameworks of C&I for SFM were presented by each working group and they were assessed by the evaluation panelists which were formed individually for each group presentations.

The assessment criteria were:

1. Relevance of C&I to national context and stakeholders priorities
2. Completeness, logic and coherence of C&I to principle/objective and goal avoiding overlap between indicators
3. Clarify of indicator, rigorous and solid means of verification
4. Feasibility and cost effectiveness

Table 7. Assessment of tentative C&I frameworks developed by working groups

No.	Relevance of C&I to national context and stakeholders priorities	Completeness, logic and coherence of C&I to principle/objective and goal	Clarify of indicator, rigorous and solid means of verification	Feasibility and cost effectiveness	Total score
Group 1	8	8	8	9	8.25
Group 2	8	9	9	8	8.5
Group 3	8	9	9	9	8.75

Table 8. Assessment of elaborated process plan for national C&I development

No.	Good application of lessons from this training	Levels of stakeholder engagement planned, both with dependent and influential stakeholders, good use of participatory tools from this workshop	Logic flow of the process plan – is it the best sequence of activities to develop the best national C&I possible	Feasibility and cost effectiveness	Total
Group 4	10	9	10	10	9.75

4. Wrap up and next Steps (actions and support needs identified, workshop evaluation, closing remarks)

The core feedback and recommendations identified by the evaluation board members and other workshop participants are the following:

- 1) Recreation criteria in forests is quite difficult to evaluate and the indicator developed for it is unrealistic;
- 2) The national coaching workshop helped to identify shortcomings, which will be reflected in the ongoing process;
- 3) The process for developing C&I for SFM was taking place at the round table within the Ministry and the stakeholders were not involved sufficiently before this workshop;
- 4) The process plan is very clear and feasible;
- 5) The cooperation with the parallel process of updating and developing indicators for NBMS should be strengthened;
- 6) Number of criteria has to be reduced; some of them should be merged or removed;
- 7) Wordings of most of the criteria are too long and needs to be better formulated / wordings to be improved;
- 8) Coordination team should be established to lead and facilitate the process of developing C&I for SFM in Georgia. The team should meet in every three months to discuss the progress/status and upcoming events.

Group 4 – Process plan for developing the national C&I for SFM

The group had to revise and develop the Process Plan for developing the national C&I for SFM considering the following components: 1) Phases of process plan; 2) Activities and Outputs; 3) Who should be involved? 4) Time frames; 5) Support needs for the project. The first process plan was developed by the country representatives during the Inception Workshop of the Project in November 2016. Since then, the plan has been updated continuously by the national coordinator of the project. Further updates in the process plans are subject to adaptation if needed. The plan is dynamic and will be updated in course of the project.

Table 9. 2018-2019 process plan for developing the C&I for SFM (Note: The plan below already represents the updated version, took place during the Regional workshop from 20-23 February, 2018)

Planning the process for C&I enhancement – framework for country planning			
Phase in the effective project design process	Who should be involved?	Time frame (should be until second half 2019)	Identify any support needs for the project (see project support slide that follows to consider)
Goal 1.	Ensure the coordination of C&I development process		
Activity 1.1.	preparatory work - Consider recommendations from national coaching workshop 2017, regional workshop Feb. 2018 (bth UNECE/FAO) and individual experts;	Forest Policy Division	26.03.2018 - 30.03.2018
Activity 1.2.	Establishment of a formal coordination team (CT) for the final steps to elaborate the national C&I for SFM	Forest Policy Division; Biodiversity Division; National Forest Agency; Agency of Protected Areas; GIZ;	26.03.2018 - 7.04.2018
Activity 1.3.	CT meeting N1	Forest Policy Division; Biodiversity Division; National Forest Agency; Agency of Protected Areas; GIZ;	7.05.2018 - 11.05.2018
	CT meeting N2		6.08.2018 - 10.08.2018
	CT meeting N3		5.11.2018 - 9.11.2018
Activity 1.4.	Establishing a small technical working group for the finalization of the C&I set	Forest Policy Division;	26.03.2018 - 7.04.2018
	WG meeting N1: Introduction meeting in order to present draft C&I set, introduce work plan and distribute tasks and responsibilities.	Forest Policy Division; Biodiversity Division; National Forest Agency; Agency of Protected Areas; GIZ;	9.04.2018 - 13.04.2018
	WG meeting N2:	Consultations with relevant: Ministries; agencies; NGOs, academia etc.	9.07.2018 - 13.07.2018
	WG meeting N3:		1.10.2018 - 5.10.2018
Activity 1.5.	Sharing International Experiences - Involvement of UNECE/FAO expert and provision of inputs (esp. S. Linser)	UNECE/FAO expert (esp. S. Linser)	9.04.2018- 20.04.2018
			25.06.2018 - 6.07.2018
			17.09.2018 - 28.09.2018
Goal 2.	Stakeholder engagement, to gather Feedback from municipalities / local communities		
Activity 2.1.	Identification of relevant stakeholder-representatives, which were not sufficiently involved up to now, esp. for the negotiation of economic and social C&I	Representatives of the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MoEPA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Biodiversity and Forest Policy Department of Environmental Supervision (DES), forest related expert(s) 	26.03.2018 - 30.03.2018
Activity 2.2.	Identify questions, which should be discussed with stakeholder representatives	In addition, representatives of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Forest Agency (NFA) Agency of Protected Areas (APA) 	26.03.2018 - 30.03.2018
Activity 2.3.	Organizing NFP WG meetings with identified stakeholder representatives in pre-selected municipality / municipalities to collect their comments	National Forest Program (NFP) Working group (WG): In addition to the above mentioned institutions representatives from autonomous republic(s),	May, 2018

Activity 2.4.	Reflecting the recommendations and information gathered in the document	municipalities, the NGO sector, the academia, the private sector, as well as independent experts (Supported by GIZ and CENN)	May, 2018	
Goal 3.	Elaboration of a standardized procedure / system concerning the monitoring of national C&I for SFM			
Activity 3.1.	Clarification of data requirements concerning the National C&I for SFM	Representatives of the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MoEPA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Biodiversity and Forest Policy • Department of Environmental Supervision (DES), forest related expert(s) In addition, representatives of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Forest Agency (NFA) • Agency of Protected Areas (APA) Responsible Units from other sectors, from which information will be needed (e.g. Ministry of Finance/Revenue Service, Geostat, Public Register, etc.) (Supported in close cooperation between GIZ and WRI/Global Forest Watch (GFW) and other linked projects/initiatives to foster synergies)	14 May - 15 June, 2018	
Activity 3.2.	Clarification of potential data sources			
Activity 3.3.	Clarification about data which should be available and accessible in the future central forest database "Forest Register"/Forest Information and Monitoring System (FIMS) and the FLUIDS web-based portal.			
Activity 3.4.	Clarification of concrete reports to be developed in the new FIMS & FLUIDS.			
Activity 3.5.	Clarification of information gaps concerning the national C&I and how this information could be gathered.			
Goal 4.	Elaboration of final set of C&I			
Activity 4.1.	Consideration of all recommendations in final formulation	Forest Policy Division Technical working group Coordination team (CT)	End of August 2018	
Goal 5.	Consideration of National C&I in the respective legal regulations			

Activity 5.1.	<p>Review and (if necessary) adjustment of respective legal regulations to ensure the consideration of National C&I for SFM</p> <p>especially: Regulation 241: Forest Protection, restoration and maintenance,</p> <p>Regulation 242: Forest Use,</p> <p>Resolution 179 on Forest Inventory, Planning and Monitoring,</p> <p>if necessary additional regulations.</p>	<p>Representatives of the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MoEPA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Biodiversity and Forest Policy • Department of Environmental Supervision (DES), forest related expert(s) <p>In addition, representatives of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Forest Agency (NFA) • Agency of Protected Areas (APA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Forest Program (NFP) Working group(s) (WG):In addition to the above-mentioned institutions representatives from autonomous republics, municipalities, the NGO sector, the academia, the private sector, as well as independent experts(Supported by GIZ) 	September, 2018	
Activity 5.2.	Bring stakeholders together and present National C&I of SFM and their consideration in legal regulations and monitoring system.	<p>Representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia (MoEPA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Biodiversity and Forest Policy • Department of Environmental Supervision (DES), forest related expert(s) <p>In addition, representatives of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Forest Agency (NFA) • Agency of Protected Areas (APA) <p>Responsible Units from other sectors, from which information will be needed (e.g. Ministry of Finance/Revenue Service, Geostat, Public Register, etc.)</p> <p>(Supported in close cooperation between GIZ and WRI/Global Forest Watch (GFW) and other linked projects/initiatives to foster synergies)</p>	November, 2018	
Goal 6.	Participation at National and Regional workshops on the final set of national C&I for SFM			
Activity 6.1.	Bring stakeholders together and present National C&I of SFM and their consideration in legal regulations and monitoring system.	<p>Stakeholders/representatives from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MoEPA) including representatives from BFPD and DES • Development partners supporting the forest sector • National Forest Agency (NFA) • Agency of Protected Areas (APA) • NGOs, Academia, private sector • Representatives from regions including the Autonomous Republic of Ajara <p>Representatives from UNECE/FAO and their designated team of Specialists (ToS)</p>	November, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of the National coordinator/facilitator • UNECE/FAO and designated Team of Specialists (ToS) • Synchronized translation (English-Georgian) • Expenditure for conference room and catering

Activity 6.2.	Presentation of the Georgian National Principles, Criteria and Indicators for SFM as well as the developed monitoring system in the framework of a regional workshop under UNECE/FAO project.	Stakeholders/representatives from: Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MoEPA) • Department of Biodiversity and Forest Policy • National Forest Agency (NFA)	2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel and accommodation expenses for Georgian representatives • Reporting on Workshop results
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As mentioned above, further updates in the process plans are subject to adaptation if needed. The plan is dynamic and will be updated in course of the project. On the way of achieving national forest related goals, important barriers are forest related legislation, institutional structure of the forest management bodies, outdated information on forests of Georgia and other aspects of forest management. The nationally developed set of C&I for SFM is being considered to be reflected while updating the forest related legislation, as well as to monitor the progress towards achieving the sustainable management of Georgia's forests with the main goal to establish a system of sustainable forest management that will ensure improvement of the quantitative and qualitative characteristics of country's forests, protection of biological diversity, and effective use of the economic potential of forests taking into account their ecological values, public participation in forest management related issues.

The ongoing reform of the forestry sector involves changes in forest management approaches, in particular, developing of relevant forestry bodies and establishing the model of sustainable forest management in the country, based on long-term benefits.

Annex 1. Draft set of SFM C&I (Note: Draft C&I below already represents the updated version, taking the inputs from the Regional workshop from 20-23 February 2018 into account).

C&I based on the ecological principles of SFM						
No	Criterion	No	Indicator	FOREST EUROPE indicators	Measurement units	
1.	The area covered by forest in Georgia should be maintained or increased.	1.1	Total forest area	1.1	Ha, % of total area of Georgia	
		1.2	Forest area available for wood supply / commercial forest	1.1	Ha, % of total forest area	
		1.3	Protected forest area	4.9		
		1.4	Protective forest area	5.1		
		1.5	Recreation forest area	6.10?		
2.	The natural biodiversity of the forests in Georgia shall be maintained and enhanced	The naturalness of forests available for wood supply / commercial forest as well as protective forest and recreation forest shall be assessed by e.g.:				
		2.1	Tree species composition	4.1	Based on identification of tree species (NFI)	
		2.2	Abundance of introduced tree species and of invasive tree species	4.4		
		2.3	Abundance of threatened forest tree species / red list tree species	4.8		
		2.4	Structure of forest stands		Vertical structure (NFI)	
		2.5	Abundance of habitat trees		Number and traits / characteristics of habitat trees (NFI)	
		2.6	Abundance of dead wood	4.5	Standing and laying dead wood (m ³ and decay class) (NFI)	
		2.7	Genetic resources	4.6		
		In addition:				
		2.8	Protected forest in % of total forest area (see indicator 1.3)			
3.	The Vitality of Georgia's forests shall be maintained and enhanced	The vitality of forests shall be assessed by e.g.:				
		3.1	Capacity of tree regeneration	4.2	Quantity of different tree species, according to height classes, damage and health; natural or artificial regeneration (NFI)	
		3.2	Signs of forest damage – (Forest area or individual trees with damage, classified by primary damaging agent - abiotic, biotic)	2.4?	causes and severity of damage of individual trees (NFI) see also 3.1	
		3.3	Signs of forest land degradation / Trends in forest land degradation based on repeated NFIs	2.5	Reason and severity of degradation (NFI)	

C&I based on the ecological principles of SFM

№	Criterion	№	Indicator	FOREST EUROPE indicators	Measurement units
		3.4	Biomass productivity	1.2 Growing stock?	NFI data?
4.	Protective functions of Georgia's forests are maintained and strengthened	In addition to the indicators mentioned under criterion 2. and 3.:			
		4.1	Signs of timber exploitation in protective forest areas		Number and decay status of stumps in combination with mapping of forest categories (NFI)
		4.2	Zoning map indicating all protective functions is available for the total forest area		First map will be elaborated in the framework of NFI
		4.3	Protective forest in % of total forest area (see indicator 1.4)		Ha, % of total forest area
5.	Only minimum disturbance shall be caused by forest management operations	For timber cutting activities, by defined rules, minimum disturbance shall be assessed, based on e.g.:			
		5.1	Canopy opening by selective tree cutting		NFI data?
		5.2	Reduction of standing timber volume	3.1 increment and fellings?	NFI data?
		5.3	Damages in the remaining forest stand during harvesting operations e.g. in regeneration areas, at remaining trees and of the soil	Part of 2.4 (human induced damages)	Severity of damage on individual trees through logging and skidding activities (NFI) Level of soil erosion and causes of soil erosion (NFI)
		For forest infrastructure, by defined rules, e.g.:			
		5.4	Percentage of forest area used for infrastructure (e.g. forest roads, skidding trails, places where timber is stored, etc.)	Part of 1.1	NFA infrastructure plans
		5.6	Prevention of erosion (e.g. water-runoff) along forest roads, skidding trails and other forest infrastructure		?
6.	The productivity of Georgia's forest area available for wood supply / commercial forests shall be enhanced	6.1	Forest area for wood supply / Commercial Forest area in % of total forest area (see indicator 1.2)	Part of 1.	Ha, % of total forest area
		6.2	Standing volume of timber and wood	1.2 Growing stock?	NFI data concerning volume of sample trees
		6.3	Increment of timber and wood	Part of 3.1 increment & fellings	NFI data from drilling sample trees
		6.4	Age structure in even aged forests and/or diameter distribution in uneven-aged forests	1.3	NFI data from drilling a. diameter measurement of sample trees

C&I based on the ecological principles of SFM

Nº	Criterion	Nº	Indicator	FOREST EUROPE indicators	Measurement units
		6.5	Quantity and quality of harvested timber and wood	Part of 3.1 (fellings)	NFA forest register data
		6.6	Quantity and quality of marketed non-timber forest products	Part of 3.3 Non-wood goods	?
7.	Contribution of forest resources to Global Carbon Cycles	Carbon stock and carbon stock changes			
		7.1	In forest biomass above and below ground	Part of 1.4 forest carbon	For above ground biomass NFI data (?), below ground biomass?
		7.2	In litter and dead wood	Part of 1.4	Dead wood concerning NFI data, litter?
		7.3	In forest soil	Part of 1.4	?
		7.4	In harvested wood products	Part of 1.4	?

C&I based on the economic principles of SFM

Nº	Criterion	Nº	Indicator	FOREST EUROPE indicator	Measurement units
1.	Promotion of timber and NTFP processing in Georgia, for the purpose of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> added value gained from production in Georgia additional work places / income opportunities in Georgia 	1.1	Number and capacity of sawmills and secondary wood processing carpentries		Information from Dep. of supervision?
		1.2	Existence of necessary legal/regulatory framework		
		1.3	Existence of various state programs (such as 'Produce in Georgia', etc.)		
2.	Contribution of forest sector to Georgian economy shall be increased, with consideration of all the principles of sustainable forest management	2.1	Contribution of forest sector to GDP	6.2	
		2.2	Total public and private investments in forest and forestry	6.4	
		2.3	Net revenue of forest enterprises	6.3	
3.	The national demand for wood, wood products and fuel wood shall be considered in the strategic planning of sustainable forest management as well as export and import regulations	3.1.	Consumption per head: of wood and products derived from wood	6.7	
		3.2.	Imports and exports of wood and products derived from wood	6.8	
		3.3	Share of wood energy in total primary energy supply, classified by origin of wood	6.9	

C&I based on the economic principles of SFM

№	Criterion	№	Indicator	FOREST EUROPE indicator	Measurement units
		3.4	Roundwood Quantity and market value of roundwood	Part of 3.2	
4.	The commercial collection, marketing and processing of Non-wood forest products shall be promoted	4.1.	Quantity and market value of non-wood goods from forest and other wooded land		
5.	Options for Payment for Ecosystem Services to ensure the protective functions of forests should be negotiated with relevant sector ministries, which depend on these forest functions	5.1.	Value of marketed services on forest and other wooded land	3.4	
		...	Additional proposed indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of Forest in hydropower watersheds • Number of important forest recreation areas outside of protected areas under the authority of APA • Status of Forest in watersheds important for mineral springs • Status of forest in watersheds providing drinking • Status of forests protecting settlements, roads and other infrastructures against avalanches, mud flows, etc. • Investments needed to rehabilitate degraded forests in watersheds, which are important for other sectors • Investment for e.g. rehabilitation of degraded forest areas, maintenance and protection of forests, forest road construction, etc. needed to ensure protective functions of forest, which are important for other sectors • Financial share of other sectors, which depend on healthy forest ecosystems, provided for the appropriate management of those forest areas 		

C&I based on the social principles of SFM					
Nº	Criterion	Nº	Indicator	FOREST EUROPE indicator	Measurement units
Job opportunities – working conditions					
1.	Employment in the forest sector shall be available to any interested person. In the case of similar qualification, priority should be given to interested representatives of the rural population living in the vicinity of the forest	1.1.	Percentage of rural population living in the vicinity of the forest employed in the forest management body.		
		1.2	Transparent rules concerning the selection process are in place		
2.	Staff employed in the forest sector has adequate qualification (operational)	2.1	Assessment of qualification of employees based on their education		
		?	?		
3.	Working conditions in the forest sector shall be “decent”, they shall ensure gender equality and provision of occupational safety and health	Classified by specifics of work			
		3.1	accidents and injuries during forestry activities	Part of 6.6 (includes also deaths)	Accidents, injuries and deadly accidents per year
		3.2	Average amount of working salary and its compliance with the minimum basket of goods (minimum wage) in the country		
		3.3	The number of persons employed in the forest sector and employable persons, classified according to gender and age groups	6.5	
Access to natural resources (including recreation in forests and grazing rights)					
4.	Everybody’s access to forests for non-commercial purposes shall be ensured as long as vitality of forest ecosystems is guaranteed	4.1	Existence of regulations ensuring free and uninterrupted access to forests and use of non-wood forest resources for personal consumption		
5.	In access to natural resources, balance between all interested stakeholders shall be ensured, with giving certain priority to satisfying needs of local population	5.1	Existence of relevant regulations		
6.	Recreation in forests	6.1	The use of forests and other wooded land for recreation in terms of right of access, provision of facilities and intensity of use (concerning the area of recreation forest see indicator 1.5)	6.10	

7.	The identity and culture of communities residing in the vicinity of forests (local population) as well as traditional knowledge of forest use and protection shall be recognized and supported.	7.1	Active participation of local population in the management planning for forest districts and the implementation of agreed management activities		?
		7.2	Consideration of existing traditional knowledge during forest use and other forestry activities		
		7.3	Existence of relevant regulations		
8.	Grazing areas in forests for the rural population living in the vicinity of forests shall be allocated close to the settlements based on forest management plans	8.1.	Consideration of grazing areas in forest management plans		
		8.2.	Average distance between grazing areas for common use and settlements		
Consideration of the transparency principle in forest management					
9.	Stakeholders shall have a right to participate in planning and decision making pertaining forest management	9.1	Forest Management Plan shall be approved through public administrative procedure		
		9.2	Prior to issuing important decisions of public interest, draft documents are published		
		9.3	Effective system for concerned bodies expressing their positions is created		
10.	Government agencies involved in forest related legal relations shall ensure publicity of and access to the information relevant to forest management	10.1	All the decisions made are published through relevant accessible sources		
		10.2	Effective system of issuing public information is created		
		10.3	Access to monitoring results = data in the FIMS and / or FLUIDS		
		10.4	Existence of reporting system and public access to reports		

Annex 2.

List of Participants

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Annex 3. Agenda of the national coaching workshop

	Wednesday 29th November	Thursday 30th November	Friday 1st December
M O R N I N G S E S S I O N	<p>Registration at 8.30. Start sharp at 9.00.</p> <p>I. Preliminaries, objectives, background to SFM C&I and setting the scene 9.00 – 9.45 1.1 Welcome and short opening remarks by Natia Iordanishvili, NFA Georgia and Ekrem Yazici, UNECE/FAO, followed by a project overview from Theresa Loeffler UNECE/FAO.</p> <p>9.45-10.30. 1.2 Participant introductions, workshop objectives, compiled needs assessment and rules and norms. Introducing the Guidelines for the training. <i>Presentation</i> Vardan Melikyan (Facilitator).</p>	<p>Start sharp at 9.00. 9.00 - 9.15 Recap of previous day. <i>Presentation by participants.</i></p> <p>II. Practical C&I skills development. 9.15-10.30 2.1 Georgia and FOREST EUROPE, Stefanie Linser (tbc). <i>Presentation, Q&A.</i></p> <p>2.2 Introducing principles and practice of C&I development processes. <i>Presentation.</i></p> <p>2.3 Role playing a generic ‘bottom up’ multi-stakeholder process to develop priority indicators. <i>Presentation and Exercise.</i></p>	<p>Start sharp at 9.00. 9.00 - 9.15 Recap of previous day. <i>Presentation by participants.</i></p> <p>III. National C&I development 9.15-10.30 3.1 Reflection on the bottom up/top down process – lessons and recommendations for C&I development process in Georgia. <i>Presentation and Exercise.</i></p> <p>3.2 Group work to develop both the tentative set for national C&I and the process steps and methods for C&I further development, testing and selection for Georgia. <i>Presentation and exercise.</i></p>
	Break 10.30-11.00	Break 10.30 -11.00	Break 10.30 – 11.00
	<p>11.00-11.30 1.3 Overview of the background, definitions, purpose, processes, benefits and challenges with C&I for SFM. tbc. <i>Presentation, Q&A.</i></p> <p>11.30-12.00. 1.4 Overview of Georgian forests and forest sector, forest information systems, data available and gaps, engagement in the FOREST EUROPE process. Koba Chiburdanidze (tbc), <i>Presentation, Q&A.</i></p>	<p>11.00-12.30 Session 2.3 continues with a focus on good Criteria and Indicator definition.</p>	<p>11.00 – 12.30 Session 3.2 continues</p>
	Lunch 12.30 to 13.30	Lunch 12.30 – 13.30	Lunch 12.30-13.30
	<p>1.5 Georgia's national criteria and indicator set for sustainable forest management. Lika Giorgadze (tbc). <i>Presentation, Q&A.</i></p> <p>1.6. Case study of national C&I development in Turkey. Tamer Otrakcier, Turkey. <i>Presentation, Q&A.</i></p>	<p>2.4 Reviewing international and regional Criteria and Indicator sets to select those that best match national priorities – a ‘top down process’ <i>Exercise.</i></p>	<p>13.30 - 15.00 3.3 Presentation of tentative C&I frameworks and process plans for peer review against criteria such as relevance, feasibility etc. <i>Presentation with peer review exercise.</i></p>
	Break 15.00- 15.30	Break 15.00-15.30	Break 15.00-15.30
	<p>1.7 Reviewing and familiarisation with the Georgian C&I for SFM set. <i>Exercise</i></p>	<p>Session 2.4 continues.</p>	<p>3.4 Setting up/reviewing the national working group to take the process forward. <i>Exercise.</i></p> <p>IV. Wrap up and next steps Next steps and support needs identified. Workshop evaluation. Closing remarks. <i>Presentation.</i></p>
	Close 17.30	Close 17.30	Close 17.30