

Policy tools for sustainable forest management in Europe

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Sustainable Forest Management**

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FOREST EUROPE – regional policy process

Signatories:
46 European
countries + EU

Goal:
**sustainable forest
management
in Europe**

Observers:
48 countries
and
organisations



Milestones in forest policy development in Europe (1990 – ongoing)

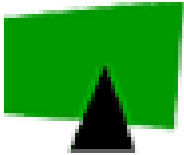


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STRASBOURG 1990



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1992



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Sustainable forest management

regional concensus on definition (1993)

„The stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their **biodiversity, productivity, regeneration** capacity, **vitality** and their potential to fulfil, now and in the future, relevant **ecological, economic and social functions**, at local, national, and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems”

(MCPFE, Helsinki Resolution 1, 1993)

Concept includes:

- **Reforestation and afforestation** (H1, Guideline 8, Action 14)
- **Degradation** (H1, Guideline 1)
- **Restoration** (L2, PEOLG)
- **Forest biodiversity protection** (H1, Guideline 6)

SFM policy tools and guidelines:

1. Guidelines for sustainable forest management and Guidelines for conservation of biological diversity (1993)
2. Criteria and Indicators (1998, revised 2003)
3. The Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management
4. Pan-European approach to National Forest Programmes (2003)
5. Pan-European Guidelines for Afforestation and Reforestation (2008)



Criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management in Europe

6 Criteria - formulated as policy goals

(closely related to 7 global thematic elements of sustainable forest management and other regional processes)

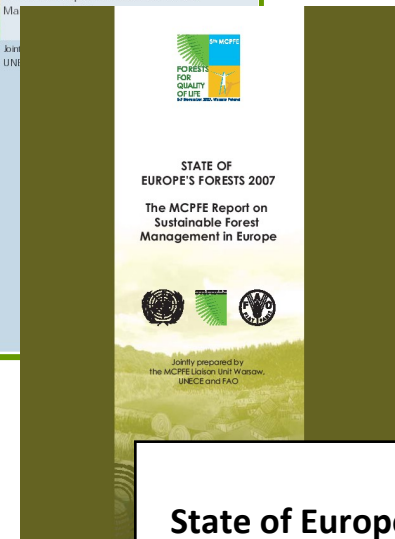
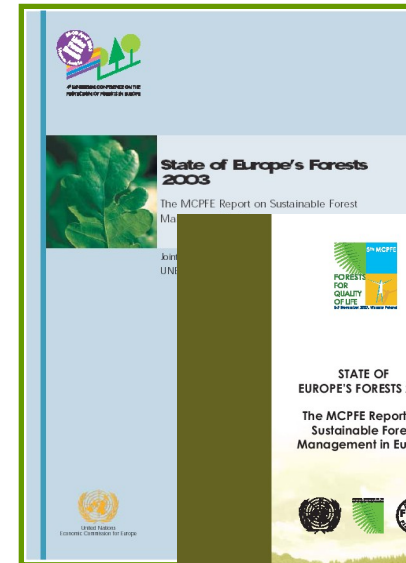
1. Forest Resources
2. Health and Vitality
3. Productive Functions
4. Biological Diversity
5. Protective Functions
6. Socio-economic Functions

Quantitative and qualitative indicators

- 35 Quantitative – structured by 6 criteria/ show changes over time
- 17 Qualitative – include policies, institutions and financial instruments
- Indicators chosen as a compromise between political relevance, data availability, cost effectiveness, technical feasibility, reliability
- Developed through a participatory process, contributions by scientific community, stakeholders, policy makers

State of Europe's Forests 2003-2007-2011

- Regular assessment on progress towards sustainable forest management
- Provide politically relevant information for FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conferences, 2003 – 2007 – 2011
- Serve as a main available information source about European forests and their sustainability
- Based on joint efforts of UNECE/FAO, FOREST EUROPE and national and international experts and organisations
- Best available information in common format across pan-European region –
... as always, with room for improvements



**State of Europe's
Forests
Report 2011**
under preparation

Improvements of C & I

- Indicators were agreed with the understanding that refinements and developments would be necessary

Recent reporting round:

- European forest types: State of Europe's Forests 2011 is pilot testing of new classification
- Data provision – aiming at more complete reporting by countries/others
- Consistency in approach across countries, clarifications in terms and definitions

Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management - PEOLG (1998)

- Elaborated to further promote sustainable forest management in Europe and implement at the field level of forest management planning and practices
- Follow the structure of the six pan-European criteria
- ‘Guidelines for Forest Management Planning’
- ‘Guidelines for Forest Management Practices’

National forest programmes

- strengthen synergies for SFM in Europe through cross-sectorial cooperation and NFPs (2003)

- Based on consensus achieved on national forest programmes (nfps) by IPF/IFF
- Common approach and shared principles of nfps in Europe
- Constitute a **participatory**, holistic, inter-sectoral and iterative process of policy planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation at the national and/or sub-national level in order to proceed towards the further improvement of sustainable forest management
- Up to now most of European states have put in operation nfp or equivalent

Pan-European Guidelines for Afforestation and Reforestation (2008)

(jointly developed by biodiversity and forestry processes)

- Address specific pan-European issues in balancing afforestation and reforestation needs with the requirements of other land-users, considering the conservation of sites of high ecological, landscape and cultural value
- Voluntary guidance for economically viable, environmentally sound, socially equitable and culturally acceptable afforestation and reforestation
- May serve as an example for developing and implementing CDM projects and other respective international programmes

Examples of issues identified for potential further developments

Based on FOREST EUROPE Open-ended ad-hoc working group on “sustainability criteria” for forest biomass production, including bioenergy, 2009

- Carbon flow
- Climate mitigation efficiency
- Life cycle analysis of wood products/substitution effects
- Vulnerability and adaptive capacity of forests responding to importance of forests related to climate change
- Nutrient balance
- Dead wood quantities in response to expected increased demands for renewable energy

Conclusions and recommendations (1)

- Use and implementation of SFM policy guidelines and tools contribute to achieving broader objectives, such as on climate change, biodiversity and others
- Raising awareness about SFM policy tools and guidelines on different fora is needed (e. g. climate change) in order to recognize their potential role and contributions, and to identify their possible application
- Cooperation and experience exchange on lessons learned and best practice of SFM should be further developed

Conclusions and recommendation (2)

- Need to further improve SFM tools and guidelines as a response to new challenges, emerging threats to and pressure on forests
- Adequate, accessible and evidence-based forest information at all levels requires further improvement of the basis for forest monitoring and harmonised reporting systems
- Need to recognise full value of forests goods and services and increasingly reflect it in relevant policies
- Further strengthen efforts for good governance and forest law enforcement



NORWEGIAN MINISTRY
OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

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Thank you.

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