

FOURTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ON THE PROTECTION OF FORESTS IN EUROPE

28 – 30 April 2003, Vienna, Austria



VIENNA LIVING FOREST SUMMIT DECLARATION

**EUROPEAN FORESTS –
COMMON BENEFITS, SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Living forests are a basis of life on Earth. By sustaining forests, we sustain life.
2. Forests create multiple benefits: they provide the raw material for renewable and environmentally friendly products and play an important role for economic welfare, biological diversity, the global carbon cycle and water balance. They are essential for providing environmental, protective, social and recreational services, especially in the light of an increasingly urbanised society. Forests are an important resource for rural development providing livelihoods for a diverse workforce, local communities, millions of forest owners as well as forest related enterprises. We, as policy makers, are responsible for achieving, in the forest sector and pro-actively with other sectors, a balance between the economic, ecological, social and cultural roles of forests in the context of sustainable development.
3. Forest sector policies contribute to sustainable development as a whole and are themselves often influenced by major cross-sectoral decisions. We are convinced that co-ordination and partnerships are crucial to further promote all benefits of forests in Europe and for the sustainable development of our societies.
4. The Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), as a regional policy process, has pursued the protection of forests by further strengthening the sustainable management of European forests since 1990. Being aware of the continuous process of implementing previous MCPFE commitments and the emerging new challenges, we commit ourselves to continue our efforts to that end and further contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.
5. Global commitments, most recently those of the WSSD¹, need to be translated for and implemented at the regional, national, and sub-national level. In this respect we underline the role of the MCPFE and other regional forest-related processes and agreements in implementing global commitments on the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests.

¹ World Summit on Sustainable Development

6. We also recognise our role in contributing to the development of forest-related commitments at a global scale.

As representatives of the Signatory States and the European Community, we commit ourselves to

Benefiting rural livelihood and urban societies

7. strengthen conditions for the economic viability of sustainable forest management and support the role of forests, forestry and forest-based industries in maintaining and developing rural livelihoods as well as in meeting the demands of urbanised societies,
8. promote incentives for the protection and sustainable management of forests, and remove incentives with a negative impact on forests and their biodiversity,
9. take measures to increase the sound use of wood from sustainably managed forests as a renewable and environmentally friendly resource,
10. take measures to maintain and strengthen the services of forests in providing protection from natural hazards,
11. fully reflect the social and cultural dimensions of sustainable forest management in forest-related policies,
12. address the challenges that forest owners are facing in Central and Eastern European Countries, especially those related to changes in forest ownership,

Building strong partnerships

13. improve understanding of how policies and strategies developed in other sectors strongly influence the forest sector and vice versa,
14. identify key cross-sectoral issues, actors and interactions and, on this basis, establish a dialogue to seek joint solutions; the resulting policy choices should both further sustainable forest management and sustainable development as a whole,
15. develop new and strengthen existing partnerships at the international and national level between governments, governmental organisations, civil society including non-governmental organisations and the private sector,
16. use national and sub-national forest programmes as a means for effective inter-sectoral co-ordination, reflecting a balanced decision making process,
17. take forest-related decisions based on science, take measures that support and strengthen research and increase interdisciplinary research,

18. continue the fruitful pan-European co-operation with all partners, especially with UNECE/FAO² and Environment for Europe/PEBLDS³, and increase co-operation with other regional forest processes,
19. further develop co-operation among countries with different socio-economic situations, especially with regard to Central and Eastern Europe,

Tackling global challenges

20. take effective measures to promote good governance and forest law enforcement, and to combat illegal harvesting of forest products and related trade, and contribute to international efforts to this end,
21. take concrete measures to contribute to the overall reduction of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere and promote the concept of sustainable forest management in relation to UNFCCC⁴ and its Kyoto Protocol,
22. take further steps to maintain, conserve, restore and enhance biological diversity of forests, including their genetic resources, in Europe and also on a global scale,
23. further support the United Nations Forum on Forests, with the assistance of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as key intergovernmental mechanisms to facilitate and co-ordinate the implementation of sustainable forest management at all levels,
24. further promote and contribute to the full implementation of the IPF/IFF⁵ proposals for action, the Multi Year Programme of Work of UNFF⁶ and its Plan of Action, as well as the CBD⁷ Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity and other global forest-related commitments,

Putting MCPFE commitments into action

25. promote sustainable forest management by further implementing, applying, and if necessary improving, criteria and indicators for monitoring, assessing and reporting progress on sustainable forest management; in this regard we endorse the use of the "Improved Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management as adopted by the MCPFE Expert Level Meeting, 7-8 October 2002, Vienna, Austria",

² United Nations Economic Commission for Europe / Food and Agriculture Organization

³ Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy

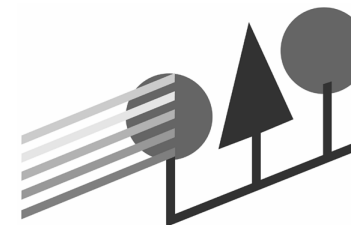
⁴ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

⁵ Intergovernmental Panel on Forests / Intergovernmental Forum on Forests

⁶ United Nations Forum on Forests

⁷ Convention on Biological Diversity

26. develop a work programme for the implementation of the commitments of this Fourth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and the reinforced implementation of previous commitments, in co-operation with all relevant organisations, institutions and processes.



MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE
PROTECTION OF FORESTS IN EUROPE

IMPROVED PAN-EUROPEAN INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

as adopted by the
MCPFE Expert Level Meeting
7-8 October 2002, Vienna, Austria

INTRODUCTION

Since the first set of Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) had been developed in the early 90s, experience has shown that criteria and indicators are a very important tool for European forest policy. In the meantime knowledge and data collection systems as well as information needs have gradually developed further. Thus, initiated through the Lisbon Conference in 1998, the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) decided to improve the existing set of Pan-European Indicators for SFM.

This document contains the improved set of quantitative and qualitative Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management.

An Advisory Group¹, representing relevant organisations in Europe, was formed to ensure that best use is made of the existing knowledge on indicators and data collection aspects in Europe and to assist the MCPFE during the improvement process. The Advisory Group consulted with a wide range of experts through a series of four workshops. These workshops ensured that the diversity of national situations and experiences as well as the work undertaken by various bodies in Europe were adequately reflected. The first MCPFE Workshop on the Improvement of Pan-European Indicators for SFM was held in March 2001 in Triesenberg, Liechtenstein. The second workshop took place in September 2001 in Copenhagen, Denmark, the third one in January 2002 in Budapest, Hungary. The fourth and final workshop was convened in May 2002 in Camigliatello Silano, Italy.

The indicators under all criteria, as presented in this document, are results of these four workshops and the work of the Advisory Group. The improved Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management have been adopted at expert level at the MCPFE Expert Level Meeting, 7-8 October 2002 in Vienna, Austria.

More detailed information on rationales, international data providers, measurement units, current periodicity of data availability as well as underlying definitions is given in the supplementary documents "Background Information for Improved Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management" and "Relevant Definitions Used for the Improved Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management".

¹ Members of the Advisory Group were: Mr. Michael Köhl (IUFRO/UNECE Team of Specialists TBFRA 2000), Mr. Thomas Haußmann (ICP Forests), Mr. Tor-Björn Larsson (European Environment Agency), Mr. Risto Päivinen (European Forest Institute), Mr. Derek Peare (IWGFS/Eurostat) and Mr. Christopher Prins (UNECE/FAO).

1. QUANTITATIVE INDICATORS

Criteria	No.	Indicator	Full text
C 1: Maintenance and Appropriate Enhancement of Forest Resources and their Contribution to Global Carbon Cycles	1.1	Forest area	Area of forest and other wooded land, classified by forest type and by availability for wood supply, and share of forest and other wooded land in total land area
	1.2	Growing stock	Growing stock on forest and other wooded land, classified by forest type and by availability for wood supply
	1.3	Age structure and/or diameter distribution	Age structure and/or diameter distribution of forest and other wooded land, classified by forest type and by availability for wood supply
	1.4	Carbon stock	Carbon stock of woody biomass and of soils on forest and other wooded land
C 2: Maintenance of Forest Ecosystem Health and Vitality	2.1	Deposition of air pollutants	Deposition of air pollutants on forest and other wooded land, classified by N, S and base cations
	2.2	Soil condition	Chemical soil properties (pH, CEC, C/N, organic C, base saturation) on forest and other wooded land related to soil acidity and eutrophication, classified by main soil types
	2.3	Defoliation	Defoliation of one or more main tree species on forest and other wooded land in each of the defoliation classes "moderate", "severe" and "dead"
	2.4	Forest damage	Forest and other wooded land with damage, classified by primary damaging agent (abiotic, biotic and human induced) and by forest type
C 3: Maintenance and Encouragement of Productive Functions of Forests (Wood and Non-Wood)	3.1	Increment and fellings	Balance between net annual increment and annual fellings of wood on forest available for wood supply
	3.2	Roundwood	Value and quantity of marketed roundwood
	3.3	Non-wood goods	Value and quantity of marketed non-wood goods from forest and other wooded land
	3.4	Services	Value of marketed services on forest and other wooded land
	3.5	Forests under management plans	Proportion of forest and other wooded land under a management plan or equivalent
C 4: Maintenance, Conservation and Appropriate Enhancement of	4.1	Tree species composition	Area of forest and other wooded land, classified by number of tree species occurring and by forest type
	4.2	Regeneration	Area of regeneration within even-aged stands and uneven-aged stands, classified by regeneration type

Criteria	No.	Indicator	Full text
Biological Diversity in Forest Ecosystems	4.3	Naturalness	Area of forest and other wooded land, classified by “undisturbed by man”, by “semi-natural” or by “plantations”, each by forest type
	4.4	Introduced tree species	Area of forest and other wooded land dominated by introduced tree species
	4.5	Deadwood	Volume of standing deadwood and of lying deadwood on forest and other wooded land classified by forest type
	4.6	Genetic resources	Area managed for conservation and utilisation of forest tree genetic resources (in situ and ex situ gene conservation) and area managed for seed production
	4.7	Landscape pattern	Landscape-level spatial pattern of forest cover
	4.8	Threatened forest species	Number of threatened forest species, classified according to IUCN Red List categories in relation to total number of forest species
	4.9	Protected forests	Area of forest and other wooded land protected to conserve biodiversity, landscapes and specific natural elements, according to MCPFE Assessment Guidelines
C 5: Maintenance and Appropriate Enhancement of Protective Functions in Forest Management (notably soil and water)	5.1	Protective forests – soil, water and other ecosystem functions	Area of forest and other wooded land designated to prevent soil erosion, to preserve water resources, or to maintain other forest ecosystem functions, part of MCPFE Class “Protective Functions”
	5.2	Protective forests – infrastructure and managed natural resources	Area of forest and other wooded land designated to protect infrastructure and managed natural resources against natural hazards, part of MCPFE Class “Protective Functions”
C 6: Maintenance of other socio-economic functions and conditions	6.1	Forest holdings	Number of forest holdings, classified by ownership categories and size classes
	6.2	Contribution of forest sector to GDP	Contribution of forestry and manufacturing of wood and paper products to gross domestic product
	6.3	Net revenue	Net revenue of forest enterprises
	6.4	Expenditures for services	Total expenditures for long-term sustainable services from forests
	6.5	Forest sector workforce	Number of persons employed and labour input in the forest sector, classified by gender and age group, education and job characteristics
	6.6	Occupational safety and health	Frequency of occupational accidents and occupational diseases in forestry

Criteria	No.	Indicator	Full text
	6.7	Wood consumption	Consumption per head of wood and products derived from wood
	6.8	Trade in wood	Imports and exports of wood and products derived from wood
	6.9	Energy from wood resources	Share of wood energy in total energy consumption, classified by origin of wood
	6.10	Accessibility for recreation	Area of forest and other wooded land where public has a right of access for recreational purposes and indication of intensity of use
	6.11	Cultural and spiritual values	Number of sites within forest and other wooded land designated as having cultural or spiritual values

Σ = 35 quantitative indicators

2. QUALITATIVE INDICATORS

A. Overall policies, institutions and instruments for sustainable forest management

A.1 National forest programmes or similar

A.2 Institutional frameworks

A.3 Legal/regulatory frameworks and international commitments

A.4 Financial instruments/economic policy

A.5 Informational means

B. Policies, institutions and instruments by policy area

Ind. No.	Crit.	Policy area	Main objectives	Relevant institutions	Main policy instruments used			Signific. changes since last Ministerial Conference
					Legal/regulatory	Financial/economic	Informational	
B.1	C1	Land use and forest area and OWL ²						
B.2	C1	Carbon balance						
B.3	C2	Health and vitality						
B.4	C3	Production and use of wood						
B.5	C3	Production and use of non-wood goods and services, provision of especially recreation						
B.6	C4	Biodiversity						
B.7	C5	Protective forests and OWL						
B.8	C6	Economic viability						
B.9	C6	Employment (incl. safety and health)						
B.10	C6	Public awareness and participation						
B.11	C6	Research, training and education						
B.12	C6	Cultural and spiritual values						

² OWL = other wooded land