

*Part III*

***Sustainability***  
*Assessment* & ***Policy***  
*Challenges*

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Data sources Chapter prepared on the basis of information provided for Part I. Quantitative Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and Part II. Qualitative Indicators for SFM

### **Part III: Introduction**

Parts I and II of the *State of Europe's Forests 2011* (SoEF 2011) have described, in a highly structured and documented way, the status and trends of Europe's forests, essentially using information supplied by governments and international data providers, organised in accordance with the pan-European criteria and indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). Within this rigorous structure, it has not been possible to address two important questions:

- Is forest management in Europe sustainable?
- What are the main policy challenges and opportunities facing the European forest sector in 2011?

Part III addresses these two questions. First, this part presents an experimental method to assess the sustainability of forest management in Europe, with preliminary results, at the country group level. It is hoped that this approach will stimulate a widespread discussion on the nature of SFM and how to assess it, which will make further improvements possible in the future.

Second, this part identifies four major challenges and opportunities for the forest sector, all of which are highly complex, inter-sectoral and uncertain: climate change, energy, biodiversity and the green economy. For each, it synthesizes the relevant data made available for parts I and II and briefly summarises the main challenges facing policy makers.

It is hoped that these sections will serve to stimulate informed discussion and sound policy making at national and pan-European levels.