

Part II

Pan-European
Qualitative Indicators
for Sustainable Forest

Management

Coordinating lead authors **Ewald Rametsteiner** and **Aljoscha Requardt**

Data collection, review and processing **Marion Briens** and **Tanya Baycheva**

Part II: Introduction

In addition to the quantitative indicators, qualitative indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) have been elaborated and endorsed. Qualitative indicators enable monitoring of the status and changes in policies, institutions and instruments, enhance accountability and transparency of policy-making, and allow a better understanding of the interplay between the state of forests and policy-making. They also support the strategic orientation of policies and, over time, help create more efficient and effective policies and institutional arrangements to govern SFM. Changes reported indicate the responses of policy makers to challenges and opportunities related to forests and the implementation of SFM.

The current set of qualitative indicators is in two parts. The first, Part A, describes the overall policies, institutions and instruments for SFM, covered through five indicators. These provide general information about the way forests are governed in a country. The second, Part B, is to inform about policies, institutions and instruments used to address specific topics, which correspond with the quantitative indicators for SFM. These are covered by 12 indicators.

In all, 37 countries (and the European Commission), which together account for more than 99 percent of total forest and other wooded land in the FOREST EUROPE region, have reported on the qualitative indicators. Compared with 2007, the response rate and data completeness and quality have significantly improved. As response rates differed for individual indicators, reflecting the availability of data in different countries, the number of responses is usually mentioned for the respective indicators. The report includes tables and boxes with examples from countries and supplementary information about particular policy activities that are quoted from the national reports.