

Part I

Pan-European
Quantitative
Indicators
for Sustainable Forest Management

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Part I: Introduction

The Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management were developed as a common policy instrument to monitor, evaluate and report progress towards sustainable forest management (SFM). The Improved Criteria and Indicators, endorsed at the fourth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe in 2003 in Vienna, Austria, represent the consensus achieved by the European countries on the most important aspects of SFM.

The fulfilment of the criteria can be evaluated through a set of 35 quantitative and 17 qualitative indicators. The quantitative indicators, which are presented in this part, provide information on the status and changes of major aspects underlying SFM. This information is meant to facilitate the evaluation of the achievements towards each criterion's goals, and the subsequent progress in SFM advancement. The State of Europe's Forest 2011 attempts to cover trends from the last two decades. Most indicators present data for 1990, 2000, 2005 and 2010. However, for some indicators the information provided is narrowed to one or two reference points, mainly due to the limited availability of data.

Information on 28 (out of 35) quantitative indicators was directly provided by countries through the national enquiry. Part of the enquiry was pre-filled with data already reported by countries for FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010 and Eurostat. 36 countries, and therefore almost 99 percent of total forest and other wooded land in the FOREST EUROPE region responded to the enquiry and provided a national report. The secretariat prepared studies and improved the general information for countries that did not respond using available data.

Data for the remaining 7 indicators was provided by other organisations/processes. This data was verified and validated by countries to the most possible extent. Detailed information about data collection and processing is presented at the beginning of each criterion and in Annex 2.