

Madrid Ministerial Declaration

25 years together promoting Sustainable Forest Management in Europe

Adopted by the Expert Level Meeting on 1 July 2015 for consideration by the ministers at the FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference Madrid 20-21 October 2015

We, as representatives of the Signatories of FOREST EUROPE, at the Seventh Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, held in Madrid on 20-21 October,

1. ACKNOWLEDGING the achievements of FOREST EUROPE in its 25 years of existence and EMPHASISING the status of FOREST EUROPE as the voluntary high level political process for forests in Europe that has contributed to the strengthening and implementation of sustainable forest management in Europe.
1. REITERATING the vision that all European forests are vital, productive and multifunctional¹.
2. REAFFIRMING the mission of FOREST EUROPE to enhance the cooperation on forest policies in Europe under the leadership of ministers, and to secure and promote sustainable forest management with the aim of maintaining the multiple functions of forests crucial to society.
3. ACKNOWLEDGING that sustainable forest management is a successful framework concept whose implementation has increased benefits from forests to society in Europe and contributed substantially to addressing global and regional challenges, notably climate change and social and economic development.
4. REAFFIRMING that forests are important for sustainable development and TAKING NOTE of the important role that forests play in the well-being of European society.
5. RECOGNISING that European forests are vital in combating climate change and that adaptation of forests to climate change will be necessary to ensure a sustained mitigation effect and TAKING NOTE that the expanding forest area as well as sustainably managed forests in Europe provide carbon sequestration and storage in forest biomass and soils, as well as in forest products.
6. HIGHLIGHTING the protective role of forests for preventing land degradation and desertification by stabilizing soils, reducing water and wind erosion, and maintaining water and nutrient cycling in soils.

¹ FOREST EUROPE vision as in the Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020

7. WELCOMING the progress made on the implementation of sustainable forest management in the pan-European region, and an increase of the number of countries with improved national forest policy instruments, such as National Forest Programmes, as reflected in the State of Europe's Forests 2015 report; while ACKNOWLEDGING the need for further improvement of forest related information.
8. WELCOMING the progress made towards the achievement of the Goals for European Forests and the European 2020 Targets, emphasizing the need to continue working towards the FOREST EUROPE's vision, and ACKNOWLEDGING the need for further implementation and improved information on progress made towards the Goals and 2020 Targets.
9. REAFFIRMING the role and contributions of sustainably-managed forests to the green economy by creating green jobs and improving human well-being and social equity, while improving ecosystem services and significantly reducing environmental risks.
10. RECOGNISING that forest management must adapt to challenges such as increasing temperatures, the variability of rainfall, more extreme events, including storms, floods, fires, droughts, pests and diseases and that forests must be actively managed to secure their multifunctionality as well as increase their productivity in the context of a rapidly changing environment.
11. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the work undertaken at the global level concerning forests and sustainable forest management, and also progress made in the fields of climate change, biodiversity, desertification as well as sustainable development that may have a significant impact on forest policies.
12. WELCOMING the progress made in the achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests in the region while REGOGNISING the challenges ahead².
13. 14. FURTHER WELCOMING the ministerial declaration and resolution of the eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) beyond 2015 and the invitation addressed to the regional actors to strengthen the collaboration with UNFF within IAF.

As representatives of the Signatories of FOREST EUROPE, we commit ourselves to:

Addressing global challenges at the regional level

14. Raise awareness of the importance of forests in the post-2015 development agenda as a key contributor to sustainable development, and in particular of their contribution to the achievement of several of the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets.
15. Enhance the role of forests, sustainable forest management and the use of forest- based products in mitigating climate change.

² Ref. UNECE/FAO study "Forests in the ECE region: Trends and challenges in achieving the Global Objectives of Forests".

16. Continue efforts to adapt forests to climate change through sustainable forest management.
17. Strengthen the use of sustainable forest management tools developed by FOREST EUROPE³ particularly in the future climate change regime.
18. Promote the role of sustainable forest management in landscape restoration to contribute to sustainable development in a broader context and in the strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.
19. Enhance the sustainable use of goods and services from forest ecosystems and the development of agroforestry, which have the potential to make the rural population less vulnerable to the potential impacts of desertification and land degradation.
20. Monitor and report on the achievements in the implementation of the Goals and Targets of European Forests 20204.
21. Increase efforts to raise awareness on the multifunctionality of forests and the benefits they offer to society, as well as to increase the efforts on communicating the importance of sustainable forest management in managing and protecting forests in Europe.
22. Work towards integrated, holistic and cross-sector approaches with other related areas such as climate change, biodiversity, desertification water and plant health, and other sectors such as energy, agriculture, rural development and construction which may impact on the forest sector, in order to strengthen synergies.
23. Increase efforts to enable the mobilization of financial resources from all sources to support sustainable forest management inter alia through enhancing research and development of new products and services related to forests with the view to improve profitability of the forest sector.

Pan-European and National Actions

24. Provide regional inputs to the work of the International Arrangement on Forests through the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF).
25. Strengthen cooperation with relevant regional and global actors, inter alia, by requesting the Liaison Unit to carry out work to this end.
26. Endorse the updated pan-European indicators for sustainable forest management (Annex 1) as adopted by the Expert Level Meeting on 1st July 2015 in Madrid, Spain, and use them in forest policy, forest monitoring, as appropriate, and for collaboration with other sectors.

³ Such as Pan- European Criteria and Indicators for sustainable forest management, Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for sustainable forest management, MCPFE Approach to National Forest Programmes in Europe, Pan-European Guidelines for Afforestation and Reforestation.

⁴ Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020.

27. Further develop and update policies and tools for sustainable forest management in order to adapt them, where appropriate, to changing circumstances and to make them fit for addressing new regional and global challenges.
28. Invite other sectors to use the pan-European criteria and indicators for forest related assessments.
29. Use subsets of the pan-European criteria and indicators as appropriate for communicating the achievements of sustainable forest management, and explore the possibilities for various applications for them, notably in relation to other policy areas.
30. Work together as well as with relevant international organisations when appropriate on elaboration and implementing approaches for evaluation of sustainability in forest management.
31. Strengthen the fruitful cooperation and collaboration with other processes on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management, pursuing joint efforts to continue streamlining reporting requirements.

Annex 1 to Madrid Ministerial Declaration:

**UPDATED PAN-EUROPEAN INDICATORS
FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT**

**as adopted by the
FOREST EUROPE Expert Level Meeting
30 June – 2 July 2015, Madrid, Spain**

Introduction

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

Since the first set of Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management in 1998 and its improvement in 2003, experience has shown that criteria and indicators are a very important tool for European forest policy. Based in the improvement of knowledge and data collection systems as well as the current and upcoming information needs an update of the indicators is needed. Thus, the Expert Level Meeting (ELM) on January 2015 decided to update the existing set of Pan-European Indicators for SFM.

An Advisory Group, representing countries and relevant organizations expertise in Europe, was set up to facilitate the updating process, a participatory process to consult with countries and stakeholders was established (through two online consultations and a workshop) and a wide range of experts have been consulted. The first online consultation was conducted from mid-December to end of January, the second online consultation on March and the FOREST EUROPE Workshop on Updating the Pan-European Indicators for SFM was held on April 2015 in Madrid.

The updated list of indicators, as presented, is a result of this participatory process and the work of the Advisory Group. It is presented in the framework of the existing Criteria and structured following a linkage between the qualitative and the quantitative indicators' proposal.

The new indicators (2.5 Forest land degradation, 4.7 Forest fragmentation, 4.10 Common forest bird species) need to be further elaborated before implementation, and measurement methods should be subject to an in-depth review and discussion at the implementation stage. During the next reporting period, pilot projects to check the availability, feasibility and reliability of data of the referred indicators should be carried out.

Additional information on rationales, international data providers, measurement units, current periodicity of data availability as well as underlying definitions as contained in the supplementary documents "Background Information for the Updated Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management" and "Relevant Definitions Used for the Updated Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management"⁵ to be further developed.

⁵ The final report of the Advisory Group, the supplementary documents and related information of the updating process can be found at: <http://www.foresteurope.org/content/updating-pan-european-set-indicators-sfm>.

	No.	Indicator
Forest policy and governance	1	National Forest Programmes or equivalent
	2	Institutional frameworks
	3	Legal/regulatory framework: National (and/or sub-national) and International commitments
	4	Financial and economic instruments
	5	Information and communication

Criteria	No.	Indicator	Full text
Criterion 1: Maintenance and Appropriate Enhancement of Forest Resources and their Contribution to Global Carbon Cycles	C.1	Policies, institutions and instruments to maintain and appropriately enhance 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 availability for wood supply
	1.4	Forest carbon	Carbon stock and carbon stock changes in forest biomass, forest soils and in harvested wood products
Criterion 2: Maintenance of Forest Ecosystem Health and Vitality	C.2	Policies, institutions and instruments to maintain forest ecosystem health and vitality	
	2.1	Deposition and concentration of air pollutants	Deposition and concentration of air pollutants on forest and other wooded land
	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

Criteria	No.	Indicator	Full text
	2.4	Forest damage	Forest and other wooded land with damage, classified by primary damaging agent (abiotic, biotic and human induced)
	2.5	Forest land degradation ⁶	Trends in forest land degradation
Criterion 3: Maintenance and Encouragement of Productive Functions of Forests (Wood and Non-Wood)	C.3	Policies, institutions and instruments to maintain and encourage the productive functions of forests	
	3.1	Increment and fellings	Balance between net annual increment and annual fellings of wood on forest available for wood supply
	3.2	Roundwood	Quantity and market value of roundwood
	3.3	Non-wood goods	Quantity and market value of non-wood goods from forest and other wooded land
	3.4	Services	Value of marketed services on forest and other wooded land
Criterion 4: Maintenance, Conservation and Appropriate Enhancement of Biological Diversity in Forest Ecosystems	C.4	Policies, institutions and instruments to maintain, conserve and appropriately enhance the biological diversity in forest ecosystem	
	4.1	Diversity of tree species	Area of forest and other wooded land, classified by number of tree species occurring
	4.2	Regeneration	Total forest area by stand origin and area of annual forest regeneration and expansion
	4.3	Naturalness	Area of forest and other wooded land by class of naturalness
	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
	4.6	Genetic resources	Area managed for conservation and utilisation of forest tree genetic resources (in situ and ex situ genetic conservation) and area managed for seed production
	4.7	Forest fragmentation ⁷	Area of continuous forest and of patches of forest separated by non-forest lands
	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

⁶ Requires to be further developed and checked under which Criterion (2 or 5) better fits.

⁷ Requires to be further developed and tested.

Criteria	No.	Indicator	Full text
	4.9	Protected forests	Area of forest and other wooded land protected to conserve biodiversity, landscapes and specific natural elements, according to MCPFE categories
	4.10	Common forest bird species ⁸	Occurrence of common breeding bird species related to forest ecosystems
Criterion 5: Maintenance and Appropriate Enhancement of Protective Functions in Forest Management (notably soil and water)	C.5	Policies, institutions and instruments to maintain and appropriately enhance of the protective functions in forest management	
	5.1	Protective forests – soil, water and other ecosystem functions - infrastructure and managed natural resources	Area of forest and other wooded land designated to prevent soil erosion, preserve water resources, maintain other protective functions, protect infrastructure and managed natural resources against natural hazards
Criterion 6: Maintenance of other socioeconomic functions and conditions	C.6	Policies, institutions and instruments to maintain other socioeconomic 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	Investments in forests and forestry	Total public and private investments in forests and forestry
	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

⁸ Requires further development and testing for consideration.

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	Wood energy	Share of wood energy in total primary energy supply, classified by origin of wood
	6.10	Recreation in forests	The use of forests and other wooded land for recreation in terms of right of access, provision of facilities and intensity of use

Σ = 34 quantitative indicators + 11 qualitative indicators (total 45 indicators)