Newsletter

IUFRO Working Party 9.01.05 –
Research and development of indicators for sustainable forest management

Welcome from the Coordinator

By Stefanie Linser, EFICEEC-EFISEE

Dear members of the IUFRO Working Party 9.01.05, welcome to the sixth issue of our Newsletter which provides news about our WP session at the IUFRO Congress in Freiburg/Germany as well as information on regional and global indicator activities.

I want to thank you for your active participation and interest in this IUFRO Working Party and wish you joyful holidays and a very happy new year 2018!

Session of our Working Party at the IUFRO 125th Anniversary Congress in September 2017

At the IUFRO 125 Anniversary Congress in September 2017 in Freiburg/Germany our IUFRO Working Party conducted a very well attended session on *"The potential contribution of forest related indicators to global issues".*

Photo: S. Linser

Tim Barnard from the Montréal Process TAC kindly chaired through the session. The following eight presentations were jointly prepared by 20 of our WP members and further experts and were a fruitful basis for the plenary discussion with questions on assessment of SFM based on indicators, global core set of indicators, biodiversity index and certification.

- Linser et al.: 25 years of C&I for SFM - Did they make a difference?

- Wolfslehner et al.: Forest sustainability indicators in the new light of a bioeconomy

- Kazana & Kazaklis: Forest related indicators to assess sustainability impacts of policy options on the Greek forests

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- Huber et al.: Another brick in the Great Green Wall? Criteria and Indicators to monitor Forest and Landscape Restoration in Burkina Faso

- Geburek et al.: The Austrian Forest Biodiversity Index

- Somogyi: Requirements for appropriate sustainability indication

- Pülzl & Wolfslehner: Indicators - a task for citizen's science?

- Hontelez & Ruiz-Garvia: Including forest certification indicators in promoting and monitoring implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

Related papers are in processing and will be referenced in coming newsletters.

This session gave our WP members and the interested IUFRO science community, associated policy makers and stakeholders the opportunity to share experiences and learnings.

FOREST EUROPE Indicator Activities

The second meeting of the FOREST EUROPE Expert Group on the Implementation of the Updated pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management was conducted at 17-18 October 2017 in Vienna, Austria. The Expert Group focused on the elaboration of subsets of indicators for sustainable forest management, such as rural development, environment and biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, energy, bioeconomy and headline indicators. Further information can be found at http://foresteurope.org/event/12682/

A survey was also carried out by FOREST EUROPE and EFICEEC in all pan-European countries on national sets of Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management. 23 countries or 50 % of the FOREST EUROPE member states replied that they have a na-

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tional set of indicators for SFM. 4 countries replied that their national set is under development. 12 countries of the FOREST EUROPE member states answered that application of SFM indicators at their national level is not intended. Only 7 countries (15%) did not reply to the survey. Further information on the process of elaboration, the structure of the sets, data availability and many more details will be presented at   http://foresteurope.org

Montréal Process Indicator Activities

The Montréal Process Working Group on Criteria and Indicators for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests held its 27th meeting in New Zealand, November 14-17, 2017.

Countries shared their progress and achievements related to the application of criteria and indicators and implementing Sustainable Forest Management. Highlights included progress in preparing country reports, new strategic frameworks for data collection, analysis, and streamlined reporting, and utilization of Montréal Process criteria and indicators at regional and sub-regional levels.

The Working Group directed the TAC to prepare a synthesis report on C&I for Boreal and Temperate Forests to be presented at the next World Forestry Congress 2021. More information is available at: https://www.montrealprocess.org/Resources/Criteria_and_Indicators/index.shtml

ITTO Indicator Activities

ITTO also recently revised its set of Criteria and Indicators for the sustainable management of natural tropical forests which included various developments to ITTO, both external (e.g. emerging governance initiatives, climate change, SDGs etc) and internal (e.g. a series of country workshops promoting uptake of the C&I, various country projects to implement the C&I). To provide more clarity, the indicator set has been revised to 58 indicators.

ITTO plans to undertake another reporting cycle using the revised C&I in the 2018-19 biennium and to publish a third Status of Tropical Forest Management report. More information is available at: http://www.itto.int/feature04/

Global Core Set of forest related indicators

The process to agree on a global core set of forest related indicators has been moving forward from the World Forestry Congress in 2015. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) set up a Task Force which guided the process in a number of meetings, workshops and online consultations. In mid-December 2017 the Task Force finalised a draft Global Core set for approval by the CPF and presentation at the forthcoming UNFF13.

The set of 21 indicators is intended to contribute to measure progress towards sustainable forest management, to measure progress in implementing the UN Forest Instruments and the UN Strategic Plan for Forests, notably the Global Forest Goals and their associated targets and to measure progress towards SDG targets as well as other internationally agreed goals on forests in other instruments.

The Global Core Set is not another set of indicators to compete with the many sets already in place. The set intends also to reduce the reporting burden and improve data quality by harmonising the terms used.

Recent indicator-related publications

Mcginley, K., Cubbage, F. (2017): Examining Forest Governance in the United States through the Montréal Process Criteria and Indicators Framework. International Forestry Review, 19(2):192-208. http://www.bioone.org/doi/full/10.1505/146554817821255123

Wolfslehner, B., Linser, S., Pülzl, H., Bastrup-Birk, A., Camia, A,; Marchetti, M. (2017): Monitoring and assessing the sustainable forestbased bioeconomy. In Winkel, G. (ed.): Towards a sustainable European forestbased bioeconomy – assessment and the way forward. What Science Can Tell Us 8, 2017. European Forest Institute. http://www.efi.int/files/attachments/publications/wsctu_8_2017.pdf

The extensive list of 193 indicator related publications by the 35 Working Party experts is available on our IUFRO website at http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-9/90000/90100/90105/publications/