Policies for sustainable forest management in Europe

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FOREST EUROPE

• High-level forest policy process in Europe
• Common opportunities and challenges related to forest and forestry in Europe
• Policies for sustainable forest management
• Political commitments and follow-up actions
• Open platform for dialogue
• Partnership with other forest organisations
• 22 years of cooperation
Signatories: 46 European countries + EU

Goal: sustainable forest management in Europe

Observers: 48 countries and organisations
Milestones in forest policy development

HELSINKI 1993  VIENNA 2003  OSLO 2011

Ministerial Conferences

Sustainable forest management

Regional concensus on definition:

"The stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfil, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national, and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems"
Policy guidance and tools for sustainable forest management

- Policy guidelines for sustainable forest management
- Criteria and Indicators
- The Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management
- National Forest Programmes
Sustainable forest management criteria

6 criteria – elements of sustainable forest management

Maintenance and enhancement of;

1. Forest resources and contribution to global carbon cycle
2. Health and vitality
3. Productive functions
4. Biological diversity
5. Protective functions
6. Socio-economic functions
Indicators

- 35 quantitative – structured by 6 criteria
- 17 qualitative – policies, institutions and instruments
- Political relevance, data availability, cost effectiveness, technical feasibility, reliability
- Developed through a participatory process, contributions by scientific community, stakeholders, policy makers
- Evaluated in the near future

• *Basis for developing national indicators*
Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management

- Elaborated to further promote sustainable forest management implementation at the field level
- Follow the structure of the six pan-European criteria
- Guidelines for management planning and practices

- Framework of recommendations for sustainable forest management
National forest programmes

- Common approach towards nfps in Europe
- Based on global consensus

- Constitute a participatory, holistic, inter-sectoral and iterative process of policy planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation at the national and/or sub-national level in order to proceed towards sustainable forest management

- Most of European states report they have put in operation national forest programs or equivalent
FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference
Oslo 14-16 June 2011

- Hosted by Norway, co-chaired with Spain
- Attended by ministers and high-level representatives from 46 countries
Two decisions adopted by the ministers

- Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020
- Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe
European Forests 2020

- Vision for forests in Europe
- Eight Goals for European Forests
- European 2020 Targets
- Mission of FOREST EUROPE process
- European and National Actions
Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe – WHY?

• Threats to forests; climate change, damages from storms, floods, fire, drought, pests and diseases

• Forests and sustainable forest management contribute to climate change mitigation, protection of biological diversity, water and soil, provide renewable raw material and energy

➤ Ensure that all forests in Europe are sustainably managed and raise awareness about importance of forests

➤ A legally binding agreement will reinforce and strengthen the implementation of sustainable forest management
Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe

• Decided to develop a holistic legally binding framework agreement for forests in Europe
• Based on existing FOREST EUROPE commitments and other relevant international commitments
• Defined subjects to be included
• Established a Negotiating Committee
• Negotiations open to FOREST EUROPE Signatories and former USSR states
• Goal to complete before 30 June 2013
Final remarks

• Policy framework and guidance for implementation of sustainable forest management – already in place (FOREST EUROPE)

• Countries are committed to these

• Expect strengthened policy framework in some few years time with the establishment of a legally binding agreement
Thank you for your attention!

More information:
www.foresteurope.org