

Policies for sustainable forest management in Europe

EUROSAI WGEA seminar
15-16 May 2012, Oslo, Norway

Arne Ivar Sletnes, member of the FOREST
EUROPE General Coordinating Committee



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



FOREST EUROPE – regional policy process

Signatories:
46 European
countries + EU

Goal:
**sustainable forest
management
in Europe**

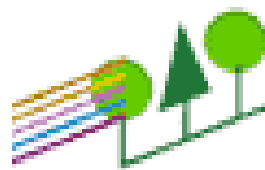
Observers:
48 countries
and
organisations



Milestones in forest policy development



HELSINKI 1993



VIENNA 2003



OSLO 2011

Ministerial Conferences

STRASBOURG 1990



LISBON 1998



WARSAW 2007



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 implement 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