

The implementation of Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management in countries of former Yugoslavia

STSM within COST Targeted Network 1401 CAPABAL carried out at Biotechnical Faculty, Ljubljana

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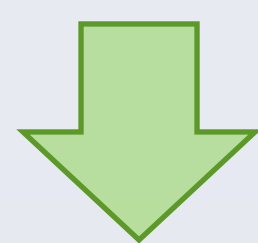
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INTRODUCTION: Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management

Sustainable Forest Management is a widely employed concept in forest policy and governance and it is often referred to as the way forward by international processes dealing with forest policy and management. Yet, a universally valid definition of Sustainable Forest Management has never been developed. Several policy and governance processes attempted a definition of this concept. Some of these definitions rely on the Criteria and Indicators approach.

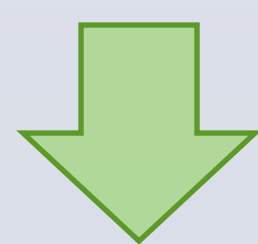
Criteria and Indicators are a hierarchy of assessment tools designed to collect and organize information and to make this information useful in conceptualizing, evaluating and implementing Sustainable Forest Management

FOREST EUROPE is an international process counting 46 states of the Pan-European area and the European Union as signatory parties. These include the countries of former Yugoslavia. FOREST EUROPE developed 6 criteria of Sustainable Forest Management specified by 35 quantitative and 17 qualitative indicators.



PROBLEM STATEMENT: why studying Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management in countries of former Yugoslavia

- The upcoming review of FOREST EUROPE Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (2016?) makes the study of current implementation achievements and obstacles useful.
- Countries of former Yugoslavia are rather unexplored areas for what concerns the study of forest governance processes.
- Among countries of former Yugoslavia figure Member States of the European Union (SLO, HR), countries which have started membership talks (MNE,SRB), candidate countries (MK) and potential candidates (BHI, XZ). This makes the comparison of forest governance processes diversified and interesting.
- Countries of former Yugoslavia are undergoing processes of transition for conforming their forest governance to the standards of the European Union. Analyzing their situation is relevant for understanding their needs in terms of this conformation.



OBJECTIVES

Capacity building

Building capacity in the context of the Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management among scientific researchers from academic and non-academic arenas in countries of former Yugoslavia

Scientific research

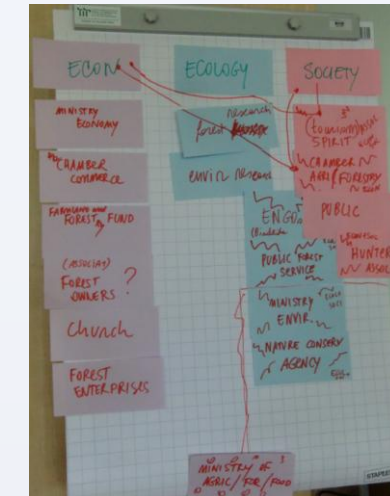
Exploring use and perceived usefulness of the Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management in countries of former Yugoslavia, as well as of other tools to measure and achieve Sustainable Forest Management

SLO and SRB as case study countries

METHODS



WORKSHOP for local researchers



Capacity building:

- Information on Criteria and Indicators
- Training for the analysis of the Criteria and Indicator's implementation

Scientific research:

- Researcher's consultation to analyze the forest sector and select stakeholders for a questionnaire
- Drafting of the questionnaire

QUESTIONNAIRE sent to stakeholders in SLO and SRB (government, forest owners, ENGOs, public forest service, environmental agencies, chamber of commerce, forest enterprises, tourism, hunters)

Scientific research:

Enquiry on use and perceived usefulness of the Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management, as well as on other tools to measure and achieve Sustainable Forest Management

RESULTS

- **High complexity of the forest sector** due to 1) multifaceted political setting which underwent and is still undergoing fundamental changes with respect to its internal organization and 2) ethnic, religious and cultural differences exacerbated by little communication among societal groups within and across states.
- **Two important milestones** in the recent history of the countries of former Yugoslavia: 1) period **after 1945** characterized by centralization and partial nationalization of forest resources and 2) period **after 1990** characterized by the braking of Yugoslav federation, ethnic, religious and political conflicts and decentralization and denationalization of forest resources
- Forest sectors in **SLO and SRB underwent different processes** after the braking of Yugoslavia, which result in two different sets of forest stakeholders to whom the questionnaire was distributed
- Implementation of Criteria and Indicators affected by historical condition of **forest owners who are not consulted** in decision making processes and are **not accustomed to hold forest responsibilities**, as well as **not trained to play on a competitive market**
- Sustainable Forest Management as broadly employed concept but applied through **tools inspired by regional traditions** (e.g. centralized forest planning) rather than international tools

Low to moderate acquaintance with Criteria and indicators by forest stakeholders; high perceived usefulness of Criteria and Indicators; use of Criteria and Indicators more in international and national processes (forest monitoring) than in local ones.

OUTPUTS

- **INCREASED CAPACITY** of local forest researchers to study Criteria and indicators
- **UNVEILED INFORMATION** on Criteria and Indicators' implementation
- **GUIDELINE FOR DATA ANALYSIS** which can be applied by local researchers to the study of Criteria and Indicators' implementation in countries other than SLO and SRB after the end of the STSM
- **PEER REVIEW SCIENTIFIC ARTICLE** set during the STSM and continued afterwards through a voluntary collaboration between researchers