

SFM assessment in SoEF



Why assessment?

We should not forget:

- **C&I = C&I of Sustainable Forest Management**

In other words: without an assessment, the indicators indicate nothing

Why assessment?

- **Quantitative and qualitative indicators should characterise **sustainability** of the management, **nothing more** is required**

In our draft of Qualitative Questionnaire

- we skipped some qualitative indicators due to their unclear links to sustainability (e.g., lessons learned, ...),
- however, reducing the number of indicators still remains a challenge (we have no mandate to reduce quantitative indicators)

SoEF 2011

- Part III (45 pages, incl. Annexes):
Sustainability Assessment & Policy Challenges
 - the form of a separate study
 - just "light assessment" – many figures were not commented
 - pictograms of "trees" (1–5, more means better)
 - just the sub-regions of PE region were assessed, not particular countries

SoEF 2015

A step back:

- no assessment
 - maybe except for a couple of short comments in each indicator chapter

SEMAFOR

System for the Evaluation of the Management of Forests

- Probably still requires some development and tuning
- Main problem: **no threshold is universal**, for example:
 - "no negative change" is applicable to medium forest cover, but not to high and very low
 - (in other words: no trend can continue forever)
 - trends vs. approximation to optimal values
- Some indicators are probably unsuitable for the assessment of sustainability
 - (we have no mandate to update the set)

SoEF 2020?

- LUB idea based on discussions with experts from signatory countries:
 - SoEF **should** be more concentrated on SFM assessment; however, it is politically sensitive
 - of course, we can just promote the idea of assessment amongst signatories
 - maybe the assessment should be an integral part of indicator chapters

SoEF 2020?

- To increase the acceptability of the concept, maybe we should implement it in several steps, some of them in SoEF 2020, the others later:
 1. To explain how each indicator relates to sustainability and what trend would be **generally** desirable (similar to FRA 2015)
 2. To explain the most important **pros and cons** of the indicator
 3. To decide which indicator can be assessed and which not
 4. Start with assessment of PE region and its sub-regions (groups of countries), not with countries
 5. Continue with the assessment of overall sustainability and the assessment of countries

SoEF 2020?

- Provisional analyses of some indicators made by LUB are available on FOREST EUROPE website
 - www.foresteurope.org → working areas → SFM policies and tools → SFM criteria and indicators → then chose a criterion a indicator (if active)
 - please, feel free to send us comments
- We would feel honoured if some of our ideas were adopted by the authors of SoEF

Thank you for your attention

