

2010 National Report on Sustainable Forests

Project Update

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Overview

Multiple products:

- Hardcopy Report
- Partner reports and other associated reports
- Webtool

Timelines

Review Processes

Long-term Directions for Project

Hardcopy Report

- Primary deliverable included in the 2010 reporting process
- 5 Chapters
- 64 Indicators (Reported in Ch 2)
- Chapter content altered relative to 2003 (stress fact that this is the second report in an ongoing process)
- 2 pages for each indicator
- Design and layout improvements to aid navigation through document

Hardcopy Timeline

June 1 08

Draft Indicator briefs and background technical reports, C Lead reports

Sep 1 08

Final “draft” Indicator briefs and background technical reports, C Lead reports. Chapters

Nov 15 08

Review draft finalized and delivered to RSF

Dec - Feb

RSF external review

Oct 2009

Draft report delivered to UN-FAO World Forestry Congress in Argentina

Sep 2010

Final draft printed and available

64 Indicator Briefs

- 2 pages with graphics (instead of 1)
- Answers the following questions:
 1. What is the indicator and why is it important?
 2. What does the indicator show?
 3. What has changed since 2003?
 4. Are there important regional differences?
 5. Why can't the entire indicator be reported at this time? (optional)

64 Background Technical Reports

Focused on:

- Linkage to MP C&I TAC Recommendations
- Data sources and analysis techniques
- Ability of information to address the indicator's intent

Documentation of data, analysis, and issues for instituting replicable information reporting

Some room for discussion but we hope to use partner reports etc. for this

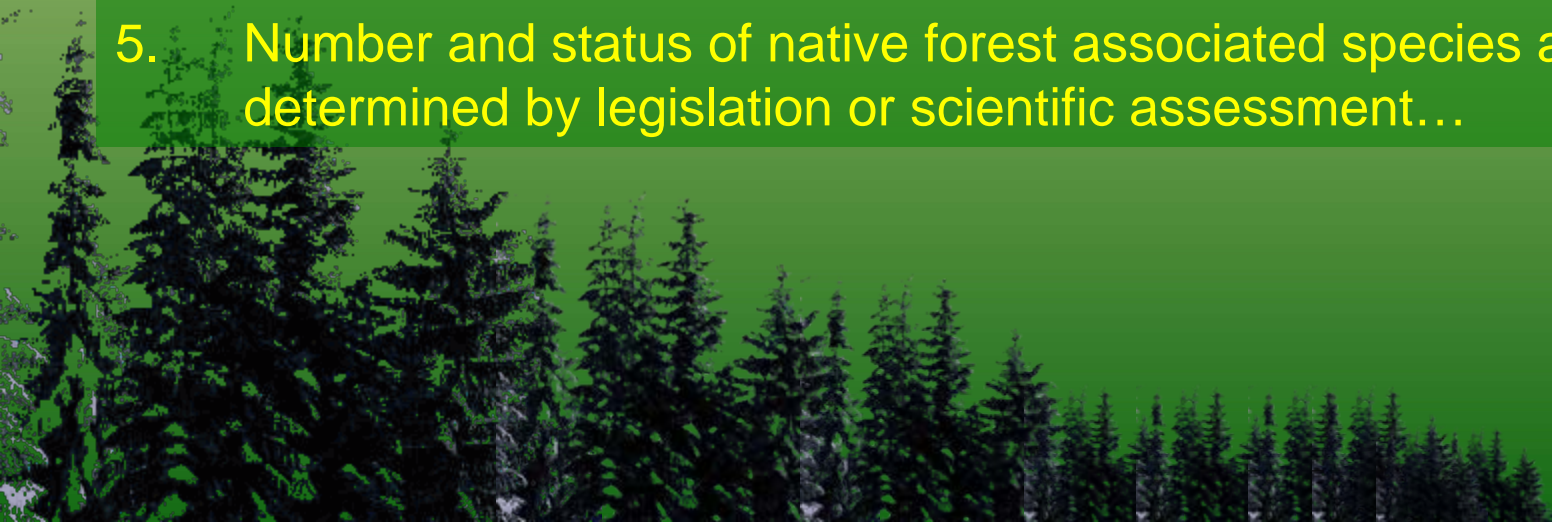
Criterion 1: Conservation of biological diversity 2003

	Indicator	Data status		
		Coverage	Currency	Frequency
1	Extent of area by forest type relative to total area			
2	Extent of area of forest by type and by age-class or successional stage			
3	Extent of area by forest type in protected area categories as defined by IUCN or other classification systems			
4	Extent of area by forest type in protected areas as defined by age-class or successional stage			
5	Fragmentation of forest types			
6	Number of forest-dependent species			
7	Status (threatened, rare, vulnerable, endangered, or extinct) of forest-dependent species at risk of not maintaining viable breeding populations as determined by legislation or scientific assessment			
8	Number of forest-dependent species that occupy a small portion of their former range			
9	Population levels of representative species from diverse habitats monitored across their range			

Complex criterion with mixed data sources and quality

Criterion 1: Conservation of biological diversity 2010

1. Area and percent of forest by forest ecosystem type, successional stage, age class, and forest ownership or tenure
2. Area and percent of forest in protected areas by forest ecosystem type, and by age class or successional stage
3. Fragmentation of forests
4. Number of native forest associated species
5. Number and status of native forest associated species at risk, as determined by legislation or scientific assessment...


















Criterion 1: Conservation of biological diversity 2010

.....etc.

9. Conservation of in-situ and ex-situ (new indicator)












Criterion 2: Maintenance of productive capacity of forest ecosystems 2003

10	Area of forest land and net area of forest land available for timber production			
11	Total growing stock of merchantable and nonmerchantable tree species on forest land available for timber production			
12	Area and growing stock of plantations of native and exotic species			
13	Annual removal of wood products compared to the volume determined to be sustainable			
14	Annual removal of nontimber forest products (e.g., fur bearers, berries, mushrooms, game) compared to the levels determined to be sustainable			

Good data coverage in 2003. Expecting similar in 2010

Improvements to nontimber forest products expected

Criterion 3: Maintenance of ecosystem health and vitality 2003

15	Area and percentage of forest affected by processes or agents beyond the range of historic variation (e.g., by insects, disease, competition from exocytic species, fire, storm, land clearance, permanent flooding, salinisation, and domestic animals).			
16	Area and percentage of forest subject to specific levels of air pollutants or ultraviolet B that may cause negative effects on the forest			
17	Area and percentage of forest land with diminished biological components indicative of changes in fundamental ecological processes and/or ecological continuity			

2010: Reduced to 2 indicators: biotic and abiotic disturbance.

Risk and incident mapping represent major innovations relative to 2003










Criterion 4: Conservation and maintenance of soil and water resources

18	Area and percentage of forest land with significant soil erosion			
19	Area and percentage of forest land managed primarily for protective functions (e.g., watersheds, flood protection, avalanche protection, riparian zones)			
20	Percentage of stream kilometers in forested catchments in which stream flow and timing have deviated significantly from the historic range of variability			
21	Area and percentage of forest land with significantly diminished soil organic matter and/or changes in other soil chemical properties			
22	Area and percentage of forest land with significant compaction or change in soil physical properties resulting from human activities			
23	Percentage of water bodies in forest areas (e.g., stream kilometers, lake hectares) with significant variance of biological diversity from the historic range of variability			
24	Percentage of water bodies in forest areas with significant variance from the historic range for dissolved oxygen, temperature, electrical conductivity, acidity (pH), and sedimentation			
25	Area and percentage of forest land experiencing an accumulation of persistent toxic substances			

Expecting improvements but must wait for C&I leads to report

Call for BMPs and management designation new to 2010































Criterion 5: Maintenance of forest contribution to global carbon cycles

	Indicator	Global Reporting		
		Coverage	Currency	Frequency
26	Total forest ecosystem biomass and carbon pool, and if appropriate, by forest type, age-class, and successional changes			
27	Contribution of forest ecosystems to the total global carbon budget			
28	Contribution of forest products to the global carbon budget			

No change in indicators since 2003

Improved reporting through inclusion of forest soils and downed woody debris

Criterion 6: Maintenance and enhancement of long term multiple socio-economic benefits to meet the needs of societies

29	Value and volume of wood and wood products production, including value added through downstream processing			
30	Value and quantities of production of nonwood forest products			
31	Supply and consumption of wood and wood products, including consumption per capita			
32	Value of wood and nonwood products production as a percentage of GDP			
33	Degree of recycling of forest products			
34	Supply and consumption/use of nonwood products			
35	Area and percentage of forest land available for general recreation and tourism, in relation to the total area of forest land			
36	Number and type of facilities available for general recreation and tourism in relation to population and forest area			
37	Number of visitors days attributed to recreation and tourism in relation to population and forest area			
38	Value of investment, including investment in fast-growing forest health management, planted forests, wood processing, recreation, and tourism			

Criterion 6: Maintenance and enhancement of long term multiple socio-economic benefits to meet the needs of societies

39	Level of expenditure on research and development and on education			
40	Extension and use of new and improved technologies			
41	Rates of return on investment			
42	Area and percentage of forest land managed in relation to the total area of forest land to protect the range of cultural, social, and spiritual needs and values			
43	Nonconsumptive forest use and values			
44	Direct and indirect employment in the forest sector and the forest sector employment as a proportion of total employment			
45	Average wage rates and injury rates in major employment categories within the forest sector			
46	Viability and adaptability to changing economic conditions of forest-dependent communities, including indigenous communities			
47	Area and percentage of forest land used for subsistence			

New Indicators:

38 Resilience of forest-dependent communities

44 The importance of forests to people

Criterion 6: Maintenance and enhancement of long term multiple socio-economic benefits to meet the needs of societies

New Indicators:

27 Revenue from forest based environmental services






















38 Resilience of forest-dependent communities

40 Distribution of revenues derived from forest management








































44 The importance of forests to people

Additional improvements to nonwood forest products also expected

Criterion 7: Legal, Institutional, and Economic Framework for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Management

48	Clarifies property rights, provides for appropriate land tenure arrangements, recognizes customary and traditional rights of indigenous people, and provides a means for resolving property disputes by due process			
49	Provides for periodic forest-related planning, assessment, and policy review that recognizes the range of forest values, including coordination with relevant sectors			
50	Provides opportunities for public participation in public policy and decisionmaking related to forests and public access to information			
51	Encourages best practice codes for forest management			
52	Provides for the management of forests to conserve special environmental, cultural, social, and/or scientific values			
53	Provide for public involvement activities and public education, awareness, and extension programs, and make available forest-related information			
54	Undertake and implement periodic forest-related planning, assessment, and policy review, including cross-sectoral planning and coordination			

Criterion 7: Legal, Institutional, and Economic Framework for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Management

55	Develop and maintain human resource skills across relevant disciplines			
56	Develop and maintain efficient physical infrastructure to facilitate the supply of forest products and services and to support forest management			
57	Enforces laws, regulations, and guidelines			
58	Investment and taxation policies and a regulatory environment that recognizes the long-term nature of investments and permits the flow of capital in and out of the forest sector in response to market signals, nonmarket economic valuations, and public policy decisions in order to meet long-term demands for forest products and services			
59	Nondiscriminatory trade policies for forest products			
60	Availability and extent of up-to-date data, statistics, and other information			
61	Scope, frequency, and statistical reliability of forest inventories, assessments, monitoring, and other relevant information			
62	Compatibility with other countries in measuring, monitoring, and reporting on indicators			
63	Development of scientific understanding of forest ecosystem characteristics and functions			
64	Methods to integrate environmental and social costs and benefits into markets, public policies, and national accounting systems			
65	New technologies and the capacity to assess the socioeconomic consequences associated with the introduction of new technologies			
66	Enhancement of the ability to predict effects of human intervention on forests			
67	Capacity to predict effects on forests of possible climate change			

Criterion 7: Legal, Institutional, and Economic Framework for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Management

Qualitative treatment common for C7. e.g.:

We'll know more about status of C7 indicators in June

Indicator 54. Extent to Which the Institutional Framework Supports the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forests, Including the Capacity To Undertake and Implement Periodic Forest-Related Planning, Assessment, and Policy Review, Including Cross-Sectoral Planning Coordination

What Is the Indicator and Why Is It Important?

The sustainability of forests is dependent on society's institutional ability to comprehensively evaluate trends and conditions in diverse sectors and to subsequently take responsive actions that will ensure the sustained use, management, and protection of forest resources and the communities that depend on them. Such actions are typically predicated on institutional conditions that foster well-focused and technically sound plans, assessments, and policy reviews that are sensitive to a range of forest values and that are coordinated with a variety of forest-related sectors.

What Does the Indicator Show?

Forest and forest-related public and private organizations in the United States have a long history of engaging in forest planning and assessment activities, as well as in undertaking periodic reviews of forest resource policies and programs. Organizational responsibility for planning is diverse, as is the nature of the planning activities carried out. Public agencies are especially active in planning and assessment efforts. These agencies at times create a fragmented planning environment wherein coordination is increasingly viewed as an important yet difficult task to meaningfully accomplish. Assessment activities are very often one-time agency efforts that respond to major issues involving controversy over proposed resource development or management. Some assessment activities, however, have become monitoring initiatives that are conducted on a continuous basis (air quality monitoring) or at periodic intervals (forest inventory and analysis). Whether the public and private institutional capacity for planning and assessment is actually being translated into meaningful plans and their subsequent implementation is largely unknown.

Federal institutional capacity for planning the use, management, and protection of forests has existed for many years, as has significant institutional capacity to undertake comprehensive examinations of present and prospective conditions that are likely to affect forest resources. Federal agencies respond to statutes (or administrative directives) that require direct and exclusive consideration of forests and to statutes that require development of broad multisector plans (air, water, wildlife) of which forests are but one part. Multisector type authority tends to fragment institutional capacity and the administration of forest activities.

State governments' institutional capacity to engage in some form of forest planning activities has existed since the early 1900s, although the character of these activities has changed dramatically over the years, as has the number and type of involved State government organizations. Over the last 20 years, nearly all States have prepared a statewide forest resource plan.

Private sector institutional capacity for land management planning is apparent in the development and implementation of management plans for private forests. In some cases, forest management certification programs require development of a management plan as a prerequisite for certification (e.g., certification of forest management practices by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative of the American Forest and Paper Association). In 1994, approximately 5 percent of nearly 10 million private landowners had a plan for managing their forest property, which combined, directed the use and management of forest on nearly 154 million acres of private forest.

Other Chapters for Hardcopy Report

Chapter 1: Introduction to Project and Report

Chapter 2: Presentation and Analysis of Indicators

Chapter 3: Significant Conditions and Trends

Chapter 4: Relationship to other efforts

Chapter 5: 2010 and Beyond

Chapter 1: Introduction to Project and Report

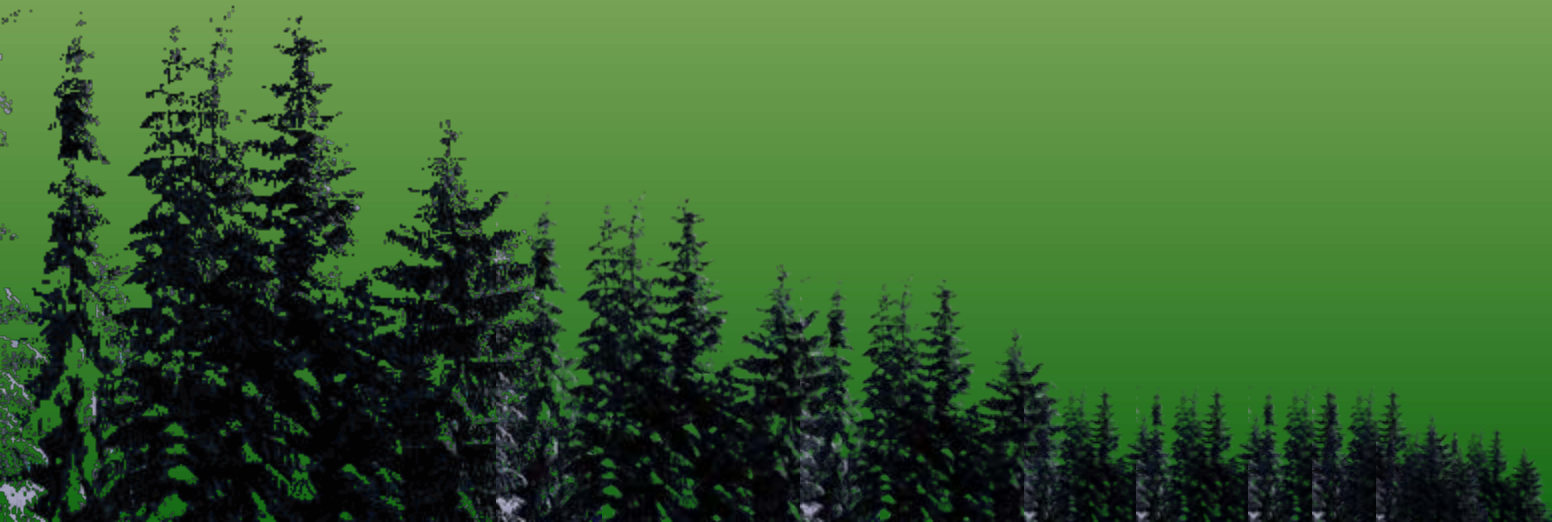
Describe project and process

- Define overarching purpose of project
- Introduce MP C&I concepts and provenance
- Introduce RSF
- Describe project outputs and organization of hardcopy report
- Briefly describe evolution of project within context of 2003 and ongoing reporting activity

Chapter 2: Presentation and Analysis of Indicators

Objectives:

- Describe C&I structure in detail
- Present data and analysis from C&I leads



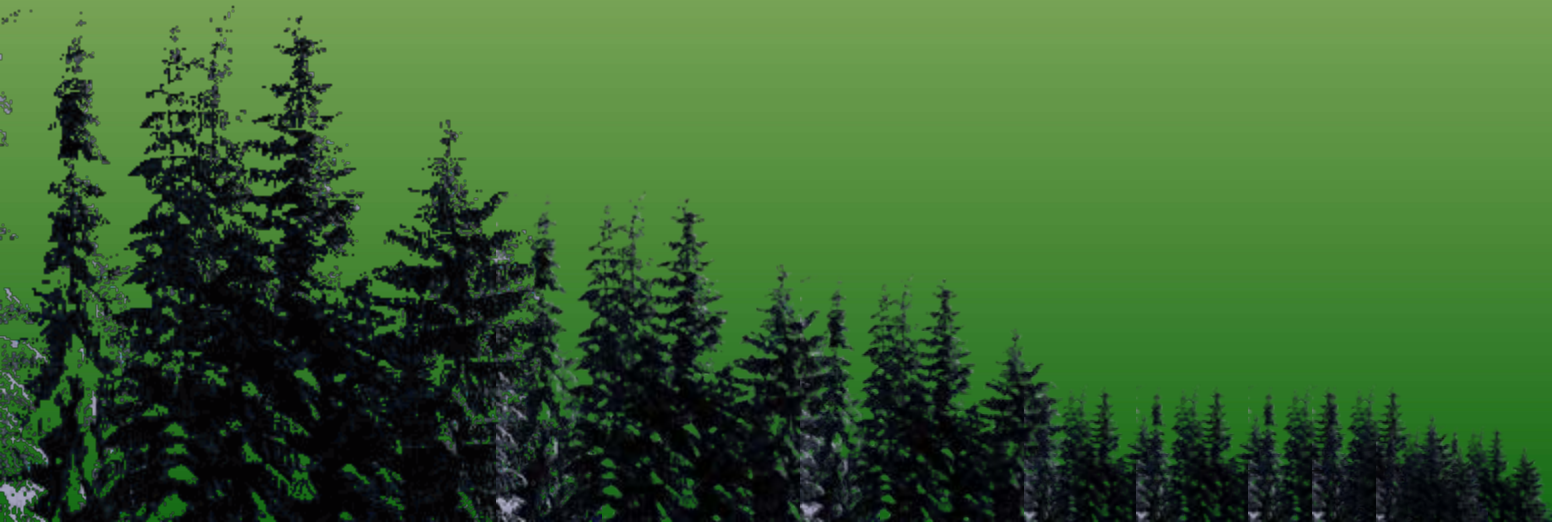
Chapter 3: Significant Conditions and Trends

- Identify and emphasize significant findings
 - by criteria
 - Relate same to context of forest sustainability across criteria
 - Discuss potential drivers
 - Stress change since 2003 report

Chapter 4: Relationship to other efforts

Describe use of sustainability C&I in multiple efforts at multiple scales

- MP C&I as common language and organizing principle linking information to decision making



Chapter 5: 2010 and Beyond

Identify progress made in the project and the road yet to be traveled

- Describe where we want the project to be in the long and medium term
- Briefly discuss relation of project to broader issue of forest sustainability
- Reminder of multiple products

Provide concluding remarks

Other Products: Partner Reports

Opportunity to provide

- expanded discussion of specific indicators (e.g. I.38)
- Synthesis work (e.g. climate change or RSF overarching interpretation)
- Other reports that don't fit in the main report (e.g. Tropical Forests Report)

Review and “Branding” an issue

Time line is ad-hoc as products become available

Other Products: Webtool

Dynamic delivery of data, text and documents

Dynamic mapping and graphics display (though perhaps more limited)

Based largely on Northern Area prototype

Ongoing management (not a dead site) allowing for continuous improvement of indicators and their communication

Timeline:

Sep 08 – Contract in place

Sep 09 – Site completed

2010 – Site up and running

Concluding Remarks: 2010 and beyond

Data Vs. Interpretation

Forest Service

Data and analysis

Webtool

Periodic Summary
reports

Special research
efforts (indicators
and synthesis)

Roundtable

Interpretation and debate

Synthesis Reports

Operationalizing the concept

Setting standards

Promoting C&I through
communication

Sharing information