

Introduction and overview

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1992ko Nazio Batuen Ingurugiro eta Garapenari buruzko Konferentzia egin zenetik, ekimen ugari plazaratu da, bai maila orokorrean eta bai eskualde eta nazio mailetan ere, baso-baliabideen gestio eramangarriaren inguruko kontzeptuaz, irizpideez, adierazleez, jarraibideez, egiaztapenez eta praktika errealez. Eramangarritasunaren kontzeptua bera eztabaida gogorren gaia izaten jarraitu da, baina funtsean basoen gestioaren bidez baso-oihanek ematen dizkiguten zerbitzu, produktu eta gainerako etekinei eustea bilatzen da. Baso-gestio eramangarriaren irizpide eta adierazleak baso batetik bestera eta eskualde batetik bestera, hein batean, aldatzen badira ere, beraien artean arazoizko eta aurreikusteko moduko antzekotasuna izaten haien artean. Nolanahi ere, desberdintasun handiak gertatzen dira mundu mailako, eskualdeko edo tokiko eskaletan halakoek hartzen duten garrantziari dagokionez.

Giltz-Hitzak: Iraupen-adierazleak. Tokiko – eskualdeko - mundu mailako eskalak.

Desde la Conferencia de Naciones Unidas sobre Medioambiente y Desarrollo en 1992, ha habido gran cantidad de iniciativas globales, regionales y nacionales para desarrollar el concepto, criterios, indicadores, directivas, certificación y práctica real de una gestión sostenible de los recursos forestales. El concepto de sostenibilidad en sí mismo sigue siendo objeto de fuertes debates pero esencialmente se busca con la gestión forestal mantener el rendimiento de todos los servicios, productos y demás beneficios que nos proporcionan bosques y selvas. Si bien los criterios e indicadores de gestión forestal sostenible varía un tanto de un bosque a otro y de una región a otra, hay una razonable y previsible similitud entre ellos. Sin embargo, hay grandes diferencias en cuanto a su relevancia en las escalas globales regionales y locales.

Palabras Clave: Indicadores de mantenimiento. Escalas locales - regionales - globales.

Depuis la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'Environnement et le Développement en 1992, il y a eu un grand nombre d'initiatives globales, régionales et nationales pour développer le concept, les critères, les indicateurs, les directives, la certification et la pratique réelle d'une gestion soutenable des ressources forestières. Le concept de soutenabilité en soi continue d'être l'objet d'intenses débats mais on cherche essentiellement, avec la gestion forestière, à maintenir le rendement de tous les services, produits et autres bénéfiques que nous fournissent les forêts. Bien que les critères et les indicateurs de gestion forestiers soutenables varient légèrement d'une forêt à l'autre et d'une région à une autre, il existe une similitude raisonnable et prévisible entre elles. Pourtant, il y a de grandes différences quant à leur importance sur les échelles globales régionales et locales.

Mots Clés: Indicateurs d'entretien. Echelles locales – régionales – globales.

Since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992 there have been a large number of global, regional and national initiatives to develop the concept, principles, criteria, indicators, guidelines, actual practice and certification of sustainable forest management. The concept of sustainability itself continues to be debated vigorously but essentially it seeks management of forests to maintain the output of all the services, products and other benefits that they can supply.

A good working definition is that of the Inter-Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, 1993 (the "Helsinki process"):-

Sustainable management means 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.

The other major processes that seek to identify criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management include:-

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) (the first organization to introduce formal criteria and indicators for particular tropical forest types)

The Montreal Process (for temperate and boreal forests)

The Tarapoto Proposal (for Amazon forests)

African Timber Organization (for African tropical forests)

The Lepaterique Process (FAO/CCAD Expert Meeting for Central American forests) (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Comision Centroamericano de Ambiente y Desarrollo)

UNEP/FAO Expert Meeting (for African dry forests) (United Nations Environmental Programme)

FAO/UNEP Expert Meeting (for Near East forests)

In addition FAO and ITTO held an Expert Meeting on the harmonization of criteria and indicators among the various processes while the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) reviewed and tested at several field sites more than 1100 criteria and indicators that had been proposed by the various processes. A comprehensive review of all of these processes and their objectives and outputs was provided by Grayson and Maynard (1997).

While criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management vary somewhat between regions and forest types, there is a reasonable and predictable similarity among them. The European set of criteria is typical:-

1. Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of forest resources and their contribution to global carbon cycles

2. Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality

3. Maintenance and encouragement of productive functions of forests (wood and non-wood)

4. Maintenance, conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems

5. Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of protection functions in forest management (notably soil and water)

6. Maintenance of other socio-economic functions and conditions

However, there are great differences between the relevance of such criteria (and their many supporting indicators) at the global, regional and local scales. A major meeting in Melbourne, Australia, during August 1998 will address the forest management unit level and particularly the interface between researchers and stakeholders in forest management. This meeting will be organized by the Task Force on Sustainable Forest Management of the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO); IUFRO is one of the oldest international non-governmental organizations (originating in 1892) and it comprises 700 member institutions in 100 countries with approximately 15,000 scientists collaborating in 276 research units that address specific topics. The Executive Board of IUFRO is encouraging all the Union's research units to address their collaborative research to refining criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management.

Although criteria and indicators are intended to provide monitoring systems for international and national progress towards sustainable management within the procedures of the United Nations Intergovernmental Forest Forum (IFF), they are also implicit in systems of certification of such management by independent certifying companies. This brings market forces to bear on the forest manager although perhaps only 10 per cent of the world's marketed wood will be certified as originating from sustainably managed forests.

REFERENCE

Grayson, A.J. and Maynard, W.B. (Eds.) (1997). *The world's forests - Rio+5: international initiatives towards sustainable management*. Commonwealth Forestry Association, Oxford, UK, 147 p.