Analysis and evaluation of the pan-European criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management

Aljoscha Requardt

At the 4th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) in Vienna in April 2003, the new improved pan-European criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management were officially adopted. Purpose of the catalogue is, as a common policy instrument, to monitor, evaluate and report progress towards sustainable forest management covering economical, ecological and social-cultural aspects, both on regional and national level. The criteria and indicators require specific data and information, which have to be reported on each national level.

REQUARDT (2003) shows by the example of the Principality of Liechtenstein how data availability and data consistency for the fulfilment of adequate data reporting could look like. The survey presents a detailed analysis and evaluation of the national data- and information-base of Liechtenstein. It expresses the ratio between the specific pan-European information demands and corresponding national data supply.

In his survey emphasis was laid on two major aspects. The most important issue was the development of a methodology how to analyse and evaluate data availability and compile available data in an adequate criteria and indicator report. The survey was focused mainly on the 35 quantitative indicators which are describing the six pan-European criteria. The qualitative indicators were also reported but in a minor broad way. Additionally to the analysis and evaluation of data availability and data reporting, further aspects for additional analysis and evaluation were presented. If examined additionally, these further aspects would enable a much more detailed analysis of national data system and data situation. Aspects like reliability, validity and comparability are seen as further important aspects which clarify in more detail applicability and operability of pan-European criteria and indicators on national level.

The main result of the case study of Liechtenstein was that the relation between international data demand and national data supply varies significantly and that the deficits in some of the indicator reports are enormous. In total, almost 200 individually required data attributes were proved and analysed. Of these attributes only 55% could have been reported in total. Reported data and information are partly subject to certain restrictions and do not always fulfil data requirements to a hundred percent. The data availability as well as the reasons for no data availability varies from indicator to indicator and even from criterion to criterion. Based on the data report available and documented data were also evaluated according to their data source as well as to their temporal and spatial resolution.

The analysis of data availability in addition with the analysis of data consistency allowed a comprehensive evaluation of the current data situation of the Principality of Liechtenstein. By this case study some of the major occurring obstacles like in reporting capacities and applicability as a monitoring tool could be presented. The results can not be directly compared to other national data situation in other countries, but it can be assumed that the relation between international demand and national supply shows same tendencies and obstacles like in Liechtenstein. It becomes obvious that a national implementation of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management requires an individual and thorough examination of specific national information systems as well as its further consideration in the developments and improvements of national data assessments. It seems as harmonisation and streamlining of national data assessments and international reporting burdens are one of the most important challenges and promising instruments.

MCPFE LIASON UNIT VIENNA: Improved Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management, Vienna 2003
MCPFE LIASON UNIT VIENNA: Background Information for Improved Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management, ELM, Vienna October 2002
MCPFE LIASON UNIT VIENNA Relevant Definitions used for the Improved Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management, ELM, Vienna October 2002


1 a.requardt@holz.uni-hamburg.de
Universität Hamburg, Zentrum für Holzwirtschaft, Arbeitsbereich Weltforstwirtschaft