



Reviewing biodiversity indicators for sustainable forest management

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EFA and forest biodiversity activities

EUROPEAN FOREST ALLIANCE

Informal mechanism between the secretariats from:

- **FAO EFC**
- **UNECE COFFI**
- **European network INTEGRATE**
- **European Environmental Agency (EEA)**
- **FOREST EUROPE**

to inform each other on latest development to enhance synergies and to work on common topics and propose joint activities

Pan-European Criteria and Indicators - Biodiversity

CRITERION 4: MAINTENANCE, CONSERVATION AND APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IN FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

4.1 Diversity of tree species	4.6 Genetic resources
4.2 Regeneration	4.7 Forest fragmentation
4.3 Naturalness	4.8 Threatened forest species
4.4 Introduced tree species	4.9 Protected forests
4.5 Deadwood	4.10 Common forest birds species

Source: Madrid Ministerial Declaration Annex 1, 2015

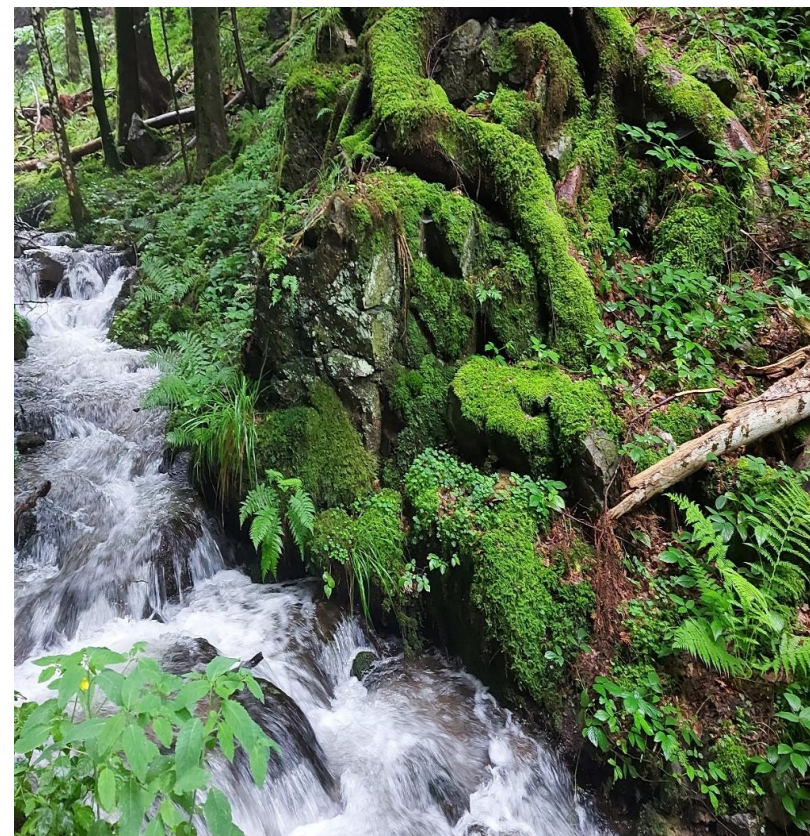
-> But current policy discussions lead to new data and information needs on the state and development of forest biodiversity incl. management approaches and their effects on biodiversity

Pan-European Criteria and Indicators - Biodiversity

- ...are "children of the time" in view of their development and data availability
- Pan-European forest biodiversity indicators helped to:
 - Find common definitions
 - improve monitoring instruments
 - allow for time series reporting
- Also...
 - Contains proxy indicators (e.g. protected areas)
 - Limited means for comprehensive assessment on the progress of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity

Needs for a closer look..

- Weakest indicators -> low data availability and quality
- Biodiversity monitoring has much improved, countries have now more and better data
- Many new/additional CBD indicators
- also in other forest C&I processes biodiversity is a major focus
- Biodiv. indicators are high on the political agenda, need to be in coherence with the main political instruments & goals



Need for biodiversity indicators

CBD

- working on post-2020 global biodiversity framework to halt biodiversity loss by 2030

EC Taxonomy regulation

- developing criteria for a sustainable finance scheme

EC Forest Strategy 2030

- developing new indicators and thresholds on forest biodiversity
- promoting use of satellite data

EC Regulation on nature restoration in Europe (proposal)

- proposing use of common indicators to assess the status of forests

FOREST EUROPE

- working on revisiting biodiversity indicators and key SFM indicators

Building on the existing framework...

Headings of Substantive Sections and Sub-Section Objectives Referred to in the New EU Forest Strategy for 2030 (Formulations Abbreviated for Easier Understanding. Table S2 in the Supplementary Materials Provides the Full Texts.)	Relevant Pan-European Indicators	Are pan-European Indicators Appropriate to Monitor Progress?
3.1. Protecting EU's last remaining primary and old-growth forests		
Protect 30% of EU land area of which 10% strictly	4.9 Protected forest areas	Yes
All primary and old-growth forests strictly protected	4.3 Naturalness 4.9 Protected forest areas	Partial
Common definition for primary and old growth forests and for the strict protection regime	4.3 Naturalness	Partial
Keep natural processes in primary forests, limiting extractive human activities	4.3 Naturalness 6.10 Recreation in forests	Partial
3.2. Ensuring forest restoration and reinforced sustainable forest management for climate adaptation and forest resilience		
Ensure all forests sufficiently biodiverse	All Forest biological diversity indicators 4.1–4.10	Partial
Essential management practices to support biodiversity and resilience	4.1 Diversity of tree species 4.2 Regeneration 4.6 Genetic resources	Partial
Management practices to ensure long-term environmental and socio-economic viability of forests	1.1 Forest area 1.3 Age structure and/or diameter distribution 4.5 Deadwood 4.9 Protected forests	Partial
Risk management practices to increase forest resilience	2.4 Forest damage	Partial
Caution on management practices which affect biodiversity and cause carbon loss	1.4 Forest carbon All Forest biological diversity indicators 4.1–4.10	Partial
No removal of stumps and roots	None	No
No logging during bird-nesting period	4.10 Common forest bird species	Partial



Lier et al., 2022

Outlook – Pragmatic solutions needed

- Deletion/revision of weak indicators
- Biodiversity monitoring is challenging and costly
-> selection of new/additional indicators fit for purpose
- Use increased data availability/new applied methods of countries and IDP
- Orientation on international and EU information needs
- Allow for target-based assessments
- **No need to be comprehensive, but to be representative!**



Thank you

Thomas Haußmann

Current chair of the European Forest Alliance

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