

OUTCOMES OF THE ASIA REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON STRENGTHENING CRITERIA AND INDICATORS (C&I) FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE & FOLLOW-UP WORK

Thang Hooi Chiew

**Mobilizing the Full Potential of C&I for SFM in the Asia-
Pacific Region**

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OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

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1. Background

- Over the last 25 years C&I for SFM have been a vital tool for developing a common understanding of key components of sustainable forest management, and have also stimulated improved monitoring.
- But have fallen short to:
 - (i) arrive at a commonly agreed set of C&I for SFM;
 - (ii) use C&I as framework to shape policies and guide management practices at different levels; and
 - (iii) assess progress towards sustainability and improve communication outside the forest sector.
- In this context, the Asia regional workshop on *Strengthening C&I for Sustainable Forest Management Policy and Practice* was held from 28-30 April 2015 in Manila, Philippines. A total of 59 participants attended.



- The workshop objectives were to:
 - (i) review the current status and major uses of C&I in Asia at regional, national, and local practice levels;
 - (ii) share and discuss experiences and lessons learned on the use of C&I as a tool for policy dialogue and communication; planning and implementation; monitoring, assessment and reporting; and promoting sustainable forest practices; and
 - (iii) explore and discuss priority actions for the further development and enhanced use of C&I.
- The Workshop was conducted in plenary and in working groups focusing on three thematic themes:
 - (i) C&I in the policy arena;
 - (ii) C&I for monitoring sustainability; and
 - (iii) C&I for promoting sustainable forest practices.



2. Results of the Workshop

- C&I have been used as a tool for:
 - (i) achieving a common understanding of SFM;
 - (ii) planning, implementing and monitoring results;
 - (iii) working in partnerships and in increasing participation; and
 - (iv) enhancing accountability and transparency.
- In Asia, the use of C&I needs to:
 - (i) review periodically in light of new knowledge and changing societal needs;
 - (ii) reduce the number of indicators, and develop simple sets adapted to users;



- (iii) harmonize C&I data sets (inter- and intra-agency coordination), and greater national commitment; and
- (iv) demonstrate benefits, and create incentives for using C&I for SFM at national level.

3. Workshop Recommendations

- The key recommendations to strengthen the use of C&I in policy, monitoring and practice were:
 - (i) link different regional C&I initiatives, and promote global partnership to facilitate C&I in policy;
 - (ii) facilitate policy dialogue with other sectors, and empower local communities in monitoring;
 - (iii) foster harmonization of C&I data sets, and demonstrate value and governance in the use of C&I;



- (iv) simplify, harmonize and streamline international reporting formats with a few common core indicators;
- (v) harmonize impact monitoring for various initiatives (SFM, legality, REDD+) involving government and development partners;
- (vi) enhance synergies and compatibility between VPA-TLAS and voluntary certification systems (standards, PCI and assurance systems); and
- (vii) provide capacity building for various stakeholders to strengthen the uptake and use of C&I.

More info @ <http://www.fao.org/forestry/ci/89189/en/>



4. Follow-up Work

- The outcomes from the Asia regional workshop together with those in Latin America, Africa and Near East have contributed to a vision and roadmap for *Mobilizing the full potential of C&I for SFM in policy and practice: the way forward* which was presented at the World Forestry Congress Global Forest Indicator Forum, held on 8 September 2015 in Durban, South Africa.
- In this regard, by 2020 it is envisaged that C&I for SFM are used by decision makers in policy and practice at all levels to:
 - (i) strengthen development of results-based forest-related policies, programs and plans, and monitor their implementation;
 - (ii) promote and provide incentives for the transition to sustainable forestry practices and forest management certification;
 - (iii) strengthen dialogue with other sectors and to demonstrate the contribution of forests and forestry to sustainable development and the well-being of society; and



- (iv) monitor and report on sustainable forest management, and contribute to measuring progress towards more sustainable natural resources and land use.
- Ten actions were also proposed for moving forward mobilizing the full potential of C&I for SFM to promote and demonstrate sustainability of forest management, namely:
 - (i) 3 actions by international and regional bodies covering further development of indicators to measure and report on SFM, and streamlining of C&I-related data collection;
 - (ii) 5 actions by national and/or sub-national governments covering the promotion of result-based forest-related policy and programs, and development of tools to provide incentives for investment in SFM;
 - (iii) 2 actions by non-governmental stakeholders covering the use of C&I as a stepping stone to forest certification, and for guiding operational managers in monitoring and reporting.

More info @ <http://www.fao.org/forestry/ci/90348/en/>

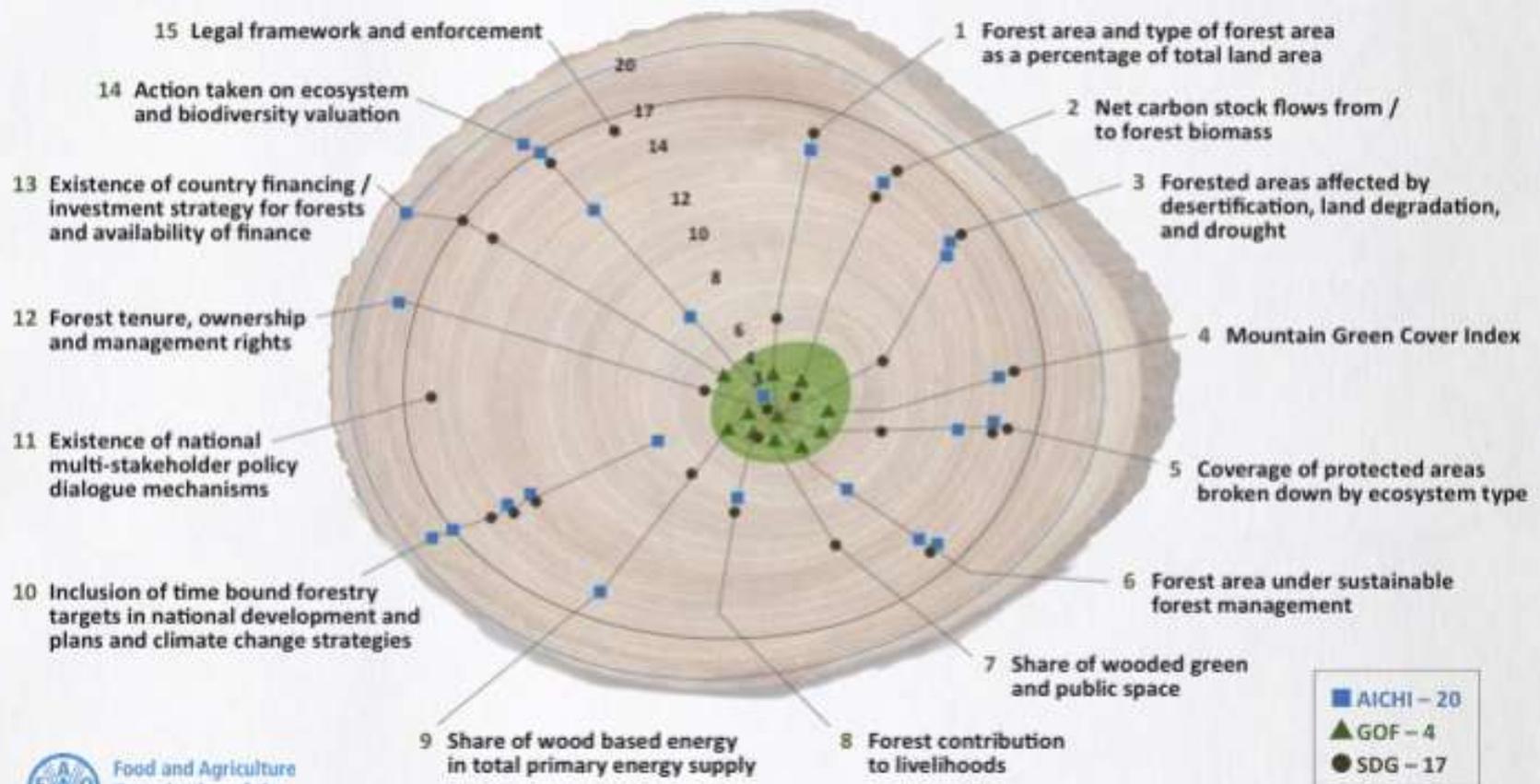


5. Work in-Progress

- Two publications on the uses of C&I for SFM are being prepared to provide broad access to experiences and lessons learned, namely:
 - (i) **Use of C&I in policy & planning:** “Experiences and Lessons in using C&I for SFM to strengthen Results-Based Management (RBM): *Guidance for country-level Forest Administrations to strengthen results-based policy, planning and monitoring*”; and
 - (ii) **Use of C&I to incentivize sustainable practices** (access to resources, finance, markets): “Using C&I to promote and provide incentives for the transition to sustainable forestry practices (access to use rights, finance, markets)”.
- FAO has been working with other bodies on a set of indicators on SFM for the SDGs, in particular SDG 15.2 which will be discussed by the UN Statistics Commission in early March 2016.
- A global C&I workshop is being organized in May by FAO, the Montreal Process, ITTO and FOREST EUROPE, hosted by Canada. A C&I event will also be organized at COFO/World Forest Week in July 2016.



An initial draft set of global forest indicators related to key global forest-related goals, objectives and targets



THANK YOU

