

The United Nations General Assembly defines sustainable forest management (SFM) as a “dynamic and evolving concept, which aims to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations”. SFM is applicable in all types of forests in all geographic regions and embraces management for different purposes such as production, protection, conservation, or a combination of multiple objectives (multipurpose forest management).

The Sustainable Forest Management Toolbox



There is renewed international recognition of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) as an important component of sustainable development. However, despite positive trends over the past decade, SFM implementation remains a challenge. The slow progress towards SFM, particularly in developing countries, is mainly due to limited capacity, inaccessibility or unawareness of existing experiences and tools, and lack of enabling conditions to implement SFM.

There is a considerable body of collective knowledge and experience that can be shared and adapted to specific conditions to facilitate progress towards SFM. However, this knowledge and these experiences are not always available and accessible, and often do not present a comprehensive approach to SFM.

COFO 22

WORLD FOREST WEEK

23-27 June 2014
Rome, Italy





To better respond to the needs and recommendations of countries, FAO is developing a comprehensive technical package of tools, best practices, and examples of their application, referred to as the SFM Toolbox, to facilitate the implementation of SFM under varied contexts having primarily in mind the forest management unit and the landscape level. Its target audience is primarily (public and private) forest and land managers, and those who support them including extension services, civil-society organizations and non-governmental organizations as well as private sector associations.

The Toolbox is being developed as a web-based platform that is user-friendly, interactive and responsive to user's interests and needs. It includes:

- modules on SFM thematic areas, comprising (i) an overview of basic knowledge; (ii) more in-depth information; (iii) links to related tools; and (iv) links to SFM cases/examples and further references;
- a database of SFM tools and cases/examples that have been collated and arranged in an easy-to-access format; and
- a discussion forum.

The Toolbox uses knowledge references, tools and cases produced by FAO, Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) members, other partners and member countries. The scope of the Toolbox is global (for all types of forests), however it will be an evolving set that will also include regional and national resources.

The development of the SFM Toolbox aligns with FAO's mandate and role as a knowledge organization.

The content of the Toolbox has been developed by FAO-Forestry core experts (Headquarters and Decentralized Offices) and with the collaboration of key external experts in specific topics. In this phase, priority has been given to the development of the most relevant technical modules, while the full content of the Toolbox will continue to be developed in the second half of 2014.

The SFM Toolbox website, designed with the intention of allowing best interaction with users, is available at <http://www.fao.org/sustainable-forest-management/toolbox/>.

The SFM Toolbox will be launched at the 22nd Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) in June 2014. Following this, countries and partners will be invited to provide feedback and comments.

For more information contact:

Cesar Sabogal

Forest Assessment, Management & Conservation Division
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, ITALY

SFM-Toolbox@fao.org