



Strengthening Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (C&I for SFM) and their use in policy and practice in Africa

Jean-Claude NGUINGUIRI
Forestry Officer, FAO

Subregional Office for Central Africa (SFC), Gabon





Key role of C&I for SFM

Over the last 25 years developing C&I has been a “big thing”:

- The most important instrument for operationalising and promoting SFM and to develop a common understanding of SFM
- In Africa: regional C&I processes developed principles, criteria and indicators (PCIs) for SFM → joined efforts to strengthen monitoring and reporting

But fallen short to:

- Arrive at a commonly agreed set of C&I for SFM
- Use C&I as framework to shape policies & guide management practices at different levels
- Assess progress towards sustainability and improve communication outside forest sector

→ Possibility to further strengthen C&I for SFM at different levels, including context of SDG



Use of C&I for SFM in Africa

Project *Strengthening C&I for SFM and their use in policy and practice* (2014-2016; supported by the Government of Germany)

- **2014: national and regional overview and needs assessment** : >60 experts from 38 countries in Central, Eastern, Southern, and West Africa consulted
- **May 2015: C&I regional workshop in Douala (Cameroon)**: Organized by FAO, ITTO, COMIFAC, Ministry of Forests and Wildlife of Cameroon.

Aim: examine the various situations in Africa, share experiences, understand the strengths and weaknesses of the various initiatives using C&I, propose an approach for the coming years to boost the use of C&Is

65 participants (administrations, NGOs, research institutions, private sector and other stakeholders)

Use of C&I for SFM in Africa

- Improved understanding of the PCI concept at regional, national and local levels
- General recognition of the advantage of having appropriate tools to support evidence-based policy making and planning, promoting sustainable practices and to monitor and evaluate forest management



Use of C&I for SFM in Africa

- Since 1992, PCIs developed for the management of forest concessions for industrial timber harvest (ATO/ITTO PCIs) → Adopted in almost all ATO/ITTO member countries, used for the development of management plans, but monitoring systems not developed and implemented
- ATO/ITTO PCIs used as the basis for other PCIs as voluntary forest certification processes (FSC, PAFC, OLB, TLTV etc.), FLEGT legality grids or REDD+ verification systems
- Central Africa has a forest observatory – OFAC - , with a set of indicators providing information through the Congo Basin
- In non-ITTO member countries, generally PCIs have not been formally adopted by countries for the monitoring of forests



Use of C&I for SFM in Africa

A major disparity among the main African regions exists, explained partly by:

- The fact that the state is or is not the owner of the land (and forests on this land)
- The fact that the country is or is not a member of ITTO and has received some specific support
- The existence or absence of a National Forest Programme (NFP)
- The existence or absence of some form of institutionalized national forest inventory

The way forward to mobilize the full potential of C&I for SFM in Africa

15 suggestions made (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/ci/89368/en/>) including to:

- establish a permanent national multisector consultative framework on SFM to harmonize C&Is;
- develop generic PCIs for regions and countries that do not yet have them;
- encourage countries not yet equipped with PCIs to adopt and implement them and to promote their application by small and medium-sized enterprises through incentives and facilities for accessing finance, resources and markets;
- build up stakeholders' capacities for PCI use;
- build up national and local capacities for collecting, processing and disseminating information of forest management.

The way forward to mobilize the full potential of C&I for SFM

2 publications on the uses of C&I for SFM are being prepared to provide broad access to experiences and lessons learned:

- 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.*
- Using C&I to promote and provide incentives for the transition to sustainable forestry practices (access to use rights, finance, markets)

A global C&I workshop would be organized in March/April 2016 with Montreal Process, ITTO and others, hosted by Canada (to be confirmed) → **possibility of involvement of AUC, COMIFAC, ECOWAS...**

FAO has been working with other bodies on a set of indicators on SFM for the SDGs

Points for consideration

The Commission may wish to encourage the Governments to:

- develop generic C&Is for the region and to carry out specific adaptations, at national level, for the various modes of use of forests and forest resources, including areas outside the forest, for more integrated sustainable land management and promoting the use of C&I for the monitoring of forest-related contributions to SDGs
- establish a permanent national cross-sectoral consultative framework on SFM and land-use planning, incorporating the various ongoing processes (REDD+, FLEGT, etc.), in order to harmonize C&Is and simplify their use in monitoring and reporting

The Commission may wish to request FAO to continue its support to countries in building up stakeholders' capacities for C&I use, including their use by small and medium-sized enterprises



Thank you!