

CANADIAN COUNCIL OF FOREST MINISTERS'
CRITERIA AND INDICATORS OF
SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT
INDICATOR REVIEW



FIRST TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING
15 March 2002, Web Conference

MEETING SUMMARY

DRAFT

INTRODUCTION:

Five Technical Working Groups for reviewing the indicators in the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers' (CCFM) framework of Criteria and Indicators (C&I) of Sustainable Forest Management held their First meeting via Web Conference on March 15, 2002. Each Technical Working Group has been assembled to review and revise the indicators under one of Criteria 1, 2, 3, 5, or 6 in the CCFM C&I framework.

Prior to this meeting, each Technical Working Group member had been sent a binder of background information, which included:

- A set of evaluation attributes for indicators;
- The final report from the 1999 evaluation of CCFM indicators;
- A synthesis of public input to identify values, issues and concerns with respect to sustainable forestry;
- Previous CCFM indicator reports;
- Information on the Montréal Process C&I; and
- A list of C&I related web sites.

The meeting was divided into two sessions. The first half of the meeting was held in plenary, while during the second half of the meeting, the participants broke up into their separate Technical Working Groups for breakout sessions.

The objective of plenary session was to:

- Provide general overview of CCFM framework of C&I of Sustainable Forest Management;
- Provide a brief history of the development of the CCFM C&I framework;
- Provide a general overview of the review process;
- Provide an overview of the 1999 evaluation of CCFM indicators; and
- Provide an overview of the focus group research to gather public input.

The objective of each breakout session was to:

- Provide more specific detail about the review process
- Provide a much more detailed examination of:
 - The values related to the criterion;
 - Current indicators in the CCFM framework;
 - Previous evaluations of the indicators; and
 - Indicators in other processes

PLENARY SESSION

The plenary session was facilitated by Mr. Simon Bridge while Mr. Jacques Carette, Dr. Peter Duinker, Mr. Dan Cooligan, Dr. Vic Adamowicz and Mr. Tom Niemann gave presentations.

Mr. Jacques Carette

On behalf of the CCFM C&I Task Force, Mr. Carette, Co-chair of the CCFM C&I Task Force, welcomed the participants to the first Technical Working Group meeting. Mr. Carette set the background for the meeting by describing who CCFM and the C&I Task Force, highlighting the international acceptance of C&I for sustainable forest management and reviewing some of the recent international activities on C&I. He also gave an historical perspective to the meeting by spending some time describing how the current framework was developed between 1993 and 1995, how the indicators were first reported on in 2000, and why the CCFM decided to review the current framework in 2001. Mr. Carette emphasized the importance of public involvement in the process and highlighted the three opportunities for public involvement, firstly through the focus group research, secondly through the Technical Working Groups and thirdly, through feedback on the revised framework.

Mr. Carette also stated the overall goal for the C&I review, which is to improve the relevance and efficiency of the indicators for reporting on and assessing progress toward sustainable forest management at the national level. In pursuit of this goal, Mr. Carette advised the groups to consider three things:

Firstly, the groups should consider how to use benchmarks with the indicators, but should not become bogged down in trying to identify benchmarks for all indicators. In some cases, the identification of benchmarks may require a much different process than is available here.

Secondly, that the groups use the evaluation attributes for indicators that have been supplied by the C&I Task Force, namely that indicators be: relevant to the criteria, measurable, understandable, can be forecast, and have reference values.

Thirdly, that the groups classify their indicators as either “core”, “supporting”, or “potential” indicators.

Finally, Mr. Carette thanked the members for giving their time to this process and wished them well in their discussions over the coming months.

Dr. Peter Duinker

Dr. Duinker gave a presentation entitled, “Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management in Canada: Progress and Problems in Integrating Science and Politics.”

Dr. Duinker began by providing his definitions of some commonly used terms, including criteria, indicators, goal, value and objective and the relationships between these. This was followed by a brief summary of C&I developments in Canada at local, provincial and national scales since 1990. Dr. Duinker examined the importance of science and politics in C&I processes and then dealt with a number of current problems and pitfalls in C&I frameworks. Some of the more common problems and pitfalls identified include: Identifying and naming indicators properly, looking at the functional roles of indicators, evaluating indicator quality, and generating indicator data.

Dr. Duinker concluded by giving some advice on ways to progress forward. This included being clear on definitions and terms, applying discipline in naming indicators, seeking a balance between economic, social and ecological indicators and keeping indicator sets small.

Mr. Dan Cooligan

Mr. Cooligan provided a general overview of the review process to the Technical Working Groups. This presentation was designed to address general issues about the review, while leaving more specific details to be dealt with in the TWG breakout sessions.

Mr. Cooligan began by outlining the reasons why the CCFM had decided to review the indicators. Since the framework’s development in 1995, data is now more available, information systems have improved, and that there is a desire to improve linkages to other C&I frameworks. Mr. Cooligan reiterated the goal of the review, namely to improve the relevance and efficiency of indicators for reporting on sustainable forest management at the national level. Mr. Cooligan also emphasized the importance of involving the public in the review and improving linkages to other frameworks to improve Canada’s ability to meet reporting obligations.

Mr. Cooligan also spent some time detailing the relationship between the CCFM, the C&I Task Force, the Technical Working Groups, the C&I Secretariat and the external experts. He also outlined the timeline for the review, including the dates and objectives of the second and third Technical Working Group meetings.

Finally, Mr. Cooligan reviewed the attributes that the C&I Task Force feels all indicators in the revised C&I framework should strive to possess, namely that they be relevant to the criterion, measurable, understandable, can be forecast and have reference values.

Dr. Vic Adamowicz

Dr. Adamowicz was a member of a 1999 ad hoc evaluation committee that examined the indicators in the current CCFM C&I framework and made recommendations on which indicators should be adopted for future reporting. Dr. Adamowicz described the process by which the indicators were evaluated, the results of the evaluations, and the recommendations made to the C&I Task Force by the committee.

The results of the evaluations showed that there is considerable overlap between the CCFM and Montreal Process indicators. About 80% of the indicators in the CCFM framework have an equivalent or similar indicator in the Montreal Process. However, the committee also found that while trying to report on the indicators, in many cases the data was either unavailable or inaccessible or else the indicator was worded poorly and the data requirements were difficult to define.

The committee concluded that 68 of the current indicators in the CCFM C&I framework be modified, that 13 be removed altogether and that only 2 be conserved in their current form. They also recommended that a technical committee be struck to revise the indicators and that this technical committee examine the linkages between the CCFM framework and other C&I processes to make them more mutually supportive.

The report of the 1999 ad hoc evaluation committee entitled, "Reevaluation of the 83 indicators in the CCFM Framework of Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management in Canada: Report of the C&I Evaluation committee to the CCFM C&I Task Force (Volumes 1 and 2)", was made available to the Technical Working Groups in their background material. Dr. Adamowicz advised the groups to use this report as a starting point in their deliberations on revising the indicators.

Mr. Tom Niemann

Mr. Niemann provided a general overview of the focus group research carried out to support the review of the CCFM C&I framework. Mr. Niemann described the methodology used to carry out the research and gave a brief summary of the results, but left detailed findings, specific to individual criteria, for the breakout groups to address.

The objectives of the focus group research were to identify any specific values, issues or concerns Canadians hold with respect to sustainable use of the forest, to categorize and prioritize the values, and to identify goals associated with those values. Fourteen groups were held across the country targeting seven sectors of society including: general public, recreationists, Aboriginals, woodlot owners/farmers, community leaders, ENGO leaders and timber and non-timber forest product producers. In total, 113 people participated.

Several common values were identified by the groups, including that forests: are important for wildlife, act as a carbon sink, are a source of recreation, preserve water and soil, and create jobs. There were also many common concerns by participants, including: the rate of cut, the number of jobs, the amount of value added wood processing, the use of herbicides, public involvement in decision making, air quality and protecting wetlands.

The results of the research were made available to the Technical Working Groups in their background material in a report entitled, "CCFM Criteria and Indicators Framework Review: Focus Group Research".

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

After the plenary session, the participants broke out into their separate working groups to discuss in more detail the values related to the criterion as identified by the focus groups, the current indicators in the CCFM framework, the 1999 evaluation of the indicators, and indicators in other C&I processes. Each breakout session was chaired by the Technical Working group chair, except for Technical Working Group 3 where an interim chair served.

During the Breakout sessions, the chairs also described in more detail the task of the working group and the timeline for the review. While revising the indicators, TWG members were asked to think about the issues in naming indicators that Dr. Duinker had addressed in the plenary, and to think about the type of data they would need for any revised indicators.

Finally, the group members were assigned the task of individually drafting a list of potential indicators for their criterion based on the values identified by Canadians, the current CCFM indicators, indicators from other programs, other long term issues of critical concern and the evaluation attributes for indicators given to the TWGs by the C&I Task Force. Group members were asked to submit their individual lists to the C&I secretariat by April 12, who will compile the lists for each Technical Working Group and then return them to the group. These compiled lists will form the starting point of discussions at the Second Technical Working Group meeting.

APPENDIX 1: Attendance

TWG 1

Mr. Rory Thompson (Chair), Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
Dr. Sherman Boates, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources
Dr. John Innes, University of British Columbia
Dr. Rick Bonar, Weldwood of Canada, Ltd.
Dr. Brenda McAfee, Canadian Forest Service
Dr. Stephen Woodley, Canadian Heritage, Parks Canada

TWG 2

Mr. Dwayne Dye (Chair), Saskatchewan Department of Environment and Resource Management
Mr. Brian Haddon, Canadian Forest Service
Mr. Dave Fong, Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Forest Resources and Agri-Foods
Ms. Danielle Cantin, IUCN – The World Conservation Union
Dr. Daniel Kneeshaw, Université du Québec à Montréal
Dr. Brian Kotak, Tembec Paper Group – Pine Falls Operation
Mr. Tony Mercredi, Consultant, First Nations Issues

TWG 3

Dr. Celina Campbell (Interim Chair), Canadian Forest Service
Dr. Jim Fyles, McGill University
Mr. Henry Lickers, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne
Dr. Stephen Yamasaki, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Montréal Chapter
Mr. Jean-Pierre Jeté, Ministère des ressources naturelles du Québec
Dr. Mike Curan, BC Ministry of Forests
Mr. Mark Hubert, Forest Products Association of Canada

TWG 5

Mr. Tom Niemann (Chair), BC Ministry of Forests
Mr. Peter McQuarrie, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources
Mr. René Samson, Canadian Forest Service
Mr. Martin von Mirbach, Sierra Club of Canada
Ms. Sue Pickering (for Mr. Rick Groves), Tembec Industries Inc.

TWG 6

Mr. Dan Cooligan (Chair), Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Mr. Neil Simon, Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Forest Resources and Agri-foods
Dr. John Parkins, Canadian Forest Service
Ms. Jennifer Dunlap, New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources
Ms. Sue Welke, Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Dr. Luc Bouthillier, Laval University
Mr. Tom Tevlin, Forest Alliance of British Columbia

EXPERT ADVISORS

Dr. Peter Duinker, Dalhousie University
Dr. Vic Adamowicz, University of Alberta

C&I TASK FORCE

Mr. Jacques Carette (Co-Chair), Canadian Forest Service
Ms. Deirdre Zebrowski, Manitoba Conservation
Mr. Bill Mawdsley, Northwest Territories Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development

C&I SECRETARIAT

Simon Bridge, Kathryn Buchanan & Ivy Chan, Canadian Forest Service

APPENDIX 2: Meeting Agenda

Friday, March 15, 2002
via Web Conference

Plenary Session (Noon – 2:00 pm EST)

- Intro to Web Conferencing (5 min) (*Placeware Representative*)
- Introductions (5 min) (*Simon Bridge*)
- Welcome (10 min) (*Jacques Carette*)
- C&I for SFM in Canada (30 Min) (*Peter Duinker*)
- Overview of the review process (10 min) (*Dan Cooligan*)
- Questions (20 minutes)

General Information about Background Material

- 1999 evaluation of indicators in the CCFM C&I Framework (10 Min) (*Vic Adamowicz*)
- Gathering Canadian's Values, Issues and Concerns (10 min) (*Tom Niemann*)
- Questions (15 min)

Preparing to Move to Break-out Groups

- Moving to Breakout Groups (5 Min) (*Simon Bridge*)

Break (15 Min)

Break out into TWGs (2:15 pm – 4:00 pm EST) (*led by TWG chair*)

- Using the Web conferencing meeting place
- Introductions values relevant to Criterion
- Review of current indicators in Criterion
- Review 1999 evaluation of indicators for Criterion and reasons for modification
- Review similar Montreal Process Indicators for Criterion
- Further define task of TWGs - developing initial set of indicators before second meeting

APPENDIX 3: Plenary Session Presenters

Mr. Jacques Carette

Co-chair, CCFM C&I Task Force

Director General, Policy, Planning and International Affairs, Canadian Forest Service

Dr. Peter Duinker

C&I Task Force Expert Advisor

Professor & Director, School for Resource and Environmental Studies, Dalhousie University

Mr. Dan Cooligan

C&I Task Force

National and International Forestry Advisor, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

Dr. Vic Adamowicz

C&I Task Force Expert Advisor

Professor & Canada Research Chair (Economics), Department of Rural Economy, University of Alberta

Mr. Tom Niemann

C&I Task Force

BC Ministry of Forests

FACILITATOR

Simon Bridge

C&I Task Force Secretariat

C&I Policy Advisor, Canadian Forest Service