



Forest management and governance in a green economy: experience and emerging issues in the ECE Region

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Section



Outline of the presentation

- Background and definitions
- What is good forest landscape governance in a green economy?
- Experience and lessons learnt in the ECE region
- Conclusions and recommendations – for discussion

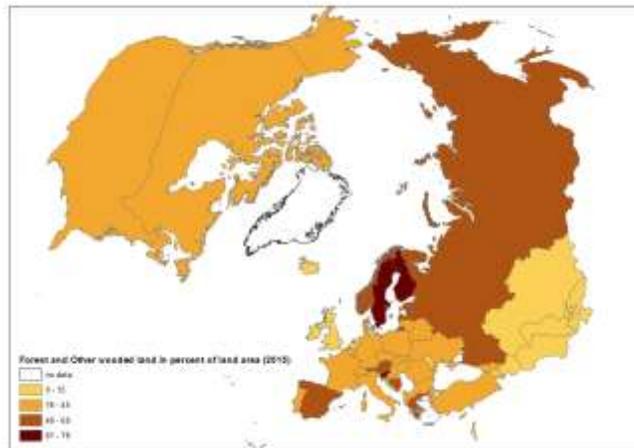


Background and definitions (see background paper)

- Forest sector in a green economy: improved human well being and social equity with reduced environmental risks and ecological scarcities: minimise carbon emissions, efficient resource use, socially inclusive
- Good governance: participatory, consensus-oriented, responsive, effective, efficient, equitable, inclusive, rule of law; corruption minimised, minorities taken into account, vulnerable heard
- Rovaniemi Action Plan (RAP)



The ECE Region



What would the forest sector be like in a green economy (source: RAP)?

- Wise and economic use of resources
- Contributes to mitigation of climate change
- Cares for and builds up workforce
- Reviews/improves forest education
- Takes all externalities into account, payment for ecosystem services
- Evidence-based decision making, transparent monitoring
- High user/consumer value
- Active participation of civil society and private sector



EXPERIENCE AND LESSONS LEARNED IN THE ECE REGION

The magnificent seven (green economy policy objectives)

- Promoting consensus, participation and transparency
- Internalisation of externalities, valuation of ecosystem services
- Green national accounts
- Evidence based policy making
- Market transparency and traceability
- A tenure regime adapted to a green economy
- Coherent approach to policies across sectors



Promoting consensus, participation and transparency

- Programmes and strategies, based on participation and transparency, especially National Forest Programmes
- In pan-Europe, practically all countries now have NFPs
- Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management now widespread
- NFPs and C&I need a lot of data, time and other resources



Internalisation of externalities, valuation of ecosystem services

- Core idea of a green economy
- Many different theoretical approaches, all needing a lot of data, not necessarily consistent
- Challenges: theory, lack of standard methods, political/cultural objections (« putting a price on nature »), data availability
- Not yet a standard policy tool



Green national accounts

- Another core concept of a green economy, removing distortion inherent in conventional national accounts (natural capital)
- Would probably make forest sector more visible and influential
- Guidelines and principles in place (EU, UN), case studies in hand: much more work needed before they become a standard tool for governance.
- But green national accounts are coming!



Evidence based policy making

- Always desirable! Criteria and indicators (for SFM) and certification developed and implemented in the region.
- Availability and quality of policy relevant data has much improved (gaps still remain)
- SFM C&I \neq monitoring forest sector in a green economy
- Are new analytical tools needed?



Market transparency and traceability

- Consumers should know whether the products they buy are sustainably produced and what is their impact on the environment
- Big progress with certification/Chain-of-Custody, Life Cycle Assessment
- New rules on market access (EUTR, Lacey Act)
- Hold the course!



A tenure regime adapted to a green economy

- Many features depend on tenure rules
- A robust system of payment for ecosystem services depends on an appropriate tenure regime
- Valuation and green accounts also affected.
- Tenure regimes unlikely to change in short term: design PES systems with existing tenure system in mind



Coherent approach to policy across sectors

- All policy is now cross sectoral: for forests, interaction with biodiversity, energy, rural development, climate change etc.
- Even more so in a green economy! Need for consultation, analysis, strategies etc.
- New policy tools to analyse intersectoral issues: valuation, PES, green accounts, carbon taxes => more complexity
- Increasingly recognised in forest sector policy



Three recent relevant ECE/FAO actions

- The Lviv Forum on Forests in a green economy: actions and challenges for the countries of Eastern Europe and Northern and Central Asia, 2012
- The Value of Forests: payments for ecosystem services in a green economy (study)
- Capacity Building in the Caucasus and Central Asia: Sustainable Forest Management for Greener Economies in the Caucasus and Central Asia (UNDA project)



How to assess governance of forest sector and the green economy?

- Ambitious and realistic strategies?
- Review of existing forest sector policy instruments in the light of a green economy?
- Availability and use of comprehensive and comparable information?
- Assessment of SFM?
- Improved communication with the public and policy makers?
- Improved communication with other sectors, and learning from them?
- Are policy instruments effective, efficient and equitable?
- Is the forest sector moving towards a green economy?



Key issues for the global forestry context

- Need for a comprehensive approach and better coordination between sectors
- Need for better information as a basis for evidence based policy making
- Need to review obstacles to valuation of, and payment for, ecosystem services



Proposed recommendations – for discussion

- Develop objective methods of monitoring « governance of the forest sector »
- Review consistency of policy instruments (forest and non-forest) and policy objectives
- Provide an adequate information base for future policy making
- Identify and remove obstacles to valuation of, and payment for, ecosystem services
- Actively support efforts to construct green national accounts



Thank you for your attention

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