

Climate Change and Sustainable Forest Management – Contributions and Challenges. Perspectives of the MCPFE

Knut Øistad

Ministry of Agriculture and Food Norway

6 December 2008, Forest Day 2, COP 14, Poznan, Poland

MCPFE

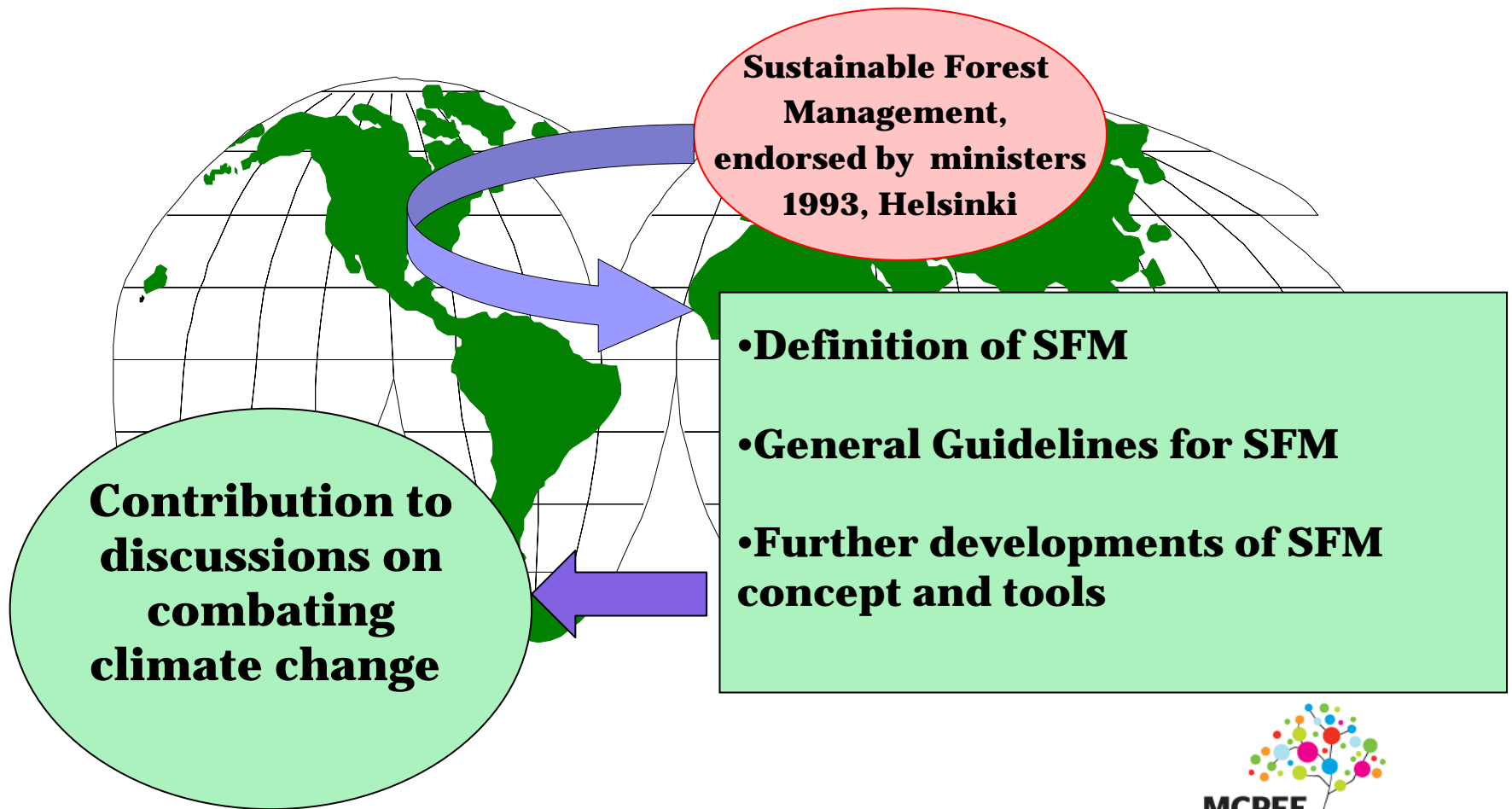
growing life



Content

- Tools for sustainable forest management developed by pan-European cooperation on forests, and adopted by ministers responsible for forests in Europe
- Challenges for forests in the context of combating climate change

Sustainable forest management (SFM) in Europe



**Sustainable Forest
Management,
endorsed by ministers
1993, Helsinki**

- **Definition of SFM**
- **General Guidelines for SFM**
- **Further developments of SFM
concept and tools**

**Contribution to
discussions on
combating
climate change**

European Forests Facts

- Europe's forest area continues to increase
- 98% of all European forests are covered by forest management plans
- The area of protected forests has expanded by about 12 million ha during last 5 years
- Total growing stock of forests in Europe is 112 billion m³ and increasing
- 53 gigatonnes of carbon stored in forest biomass, an increase of 2 billion tonnes since 1990

Source: State of Europe's Forests 2007



Sustainable Forest Management

regional concensus on definition

„The stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfil, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national, and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems”

(MCPFE, Helsinki Resolution 1, 1993)

Concept includes:

- **Reforestation and afforestation** (H1, Guideline 8, Action 14)
- **Degradation** (H1, Guideline 1)
- **Restoration** (L2, PEOLG)
- **Forest biodiversity protection** (H1, Guideline 6)

Regional tools for implementing SFM

- **6 Criteria and 35 indicators** for sustainable forest management (1998, indicators improved in 2003)
- **General guidelines** for SFM agreed by ministers (1993)
- **Assessment and reporting** on SFM periodically
- **Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines** for sustainable forest management (1998)
- **Pan-European approach to national forest programmes** (2003) and cross-sectoral cooperation
- In Europe **SFM consistent with ecosystem approach** (CBD) to forests (2005/2006)
- **Pan-European Guidelines for Afforestation and Reforestation** (2008)

Pan-European Guidelines for Afforestation and Reforestation

with a special focus on the provisions of the UNFCCC

- Prepared for consideration in afforestation and reforestation programmes that aim at carbon sequestration and reduction of CO₂ emissions including woody biomass production
- Guidance for implementing economically viable, environmentally sound, socially equitable, culturally acceptable afforestation and reforestation
- Specific pan-European issues in balancing afforestation and reforestation needs versus other land-uses
- May serve for developing and implementing CDM projects and other relevant international programmes

Forests and climate change – recent commitments

Warsaw Declaration and Resolution 1 (2007):

- Integrated response from the forest sector to climate change
- Holistic approach as contribution to mitigating climate change (UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol)
- Contribute to other policy processes related to climate change and energy
- Forest adaptation is a challenge and needs to be included in policy instruments
- Enhancing the role of the forest sector in energy production

A low-angle photograph looking up at a tree with bright green, heart-shaped leaves. The leaves are densely packed and catch the sunlight, creating a vibrant, almost glowing effect. The background is a clear, bright blue sky. The text "Thank you for your attention!" is centered in the lower half of the image in a black, serif font.

Thank you for your attention!