



Integrated Forest Management Learning Architecture (InForMar)



European Forest Institute (EFI)

InForMar Kick-Off Workshop

7-8 December, 2017

Bonn, Germany

Setting the stage for InForMar

Background information

Integrated forest management is seen as a key strategy to integrate nature conservation objectives under the concept of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). There is for example a long tradition of close to nature or multifunctional forest management approaches in parts of Europe, and there is an increasing interest in integrated management approaches. Yet, there are also many open political, economic and ecological questions relating to integrated management approaches under diverse forest conditions in Europe.

These questions range from the socio-economic feasibility of integrated forest management to its effects on forest biodiversity. They are also related to how forest management can contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this case, questions of particular interest relate to scale (e.g., integration at the level of individual trees/stands or at the landscape level), synergies and trade-offs specifically between wood production and nature conservation and methods to balance trade-offs.

Another key question relating to integrated forest management is the possibility to address climate change adaptation and (related) risks. Particularly as the natural capacity of forests to adapt to climate change is limited, active adaptation strategies may be required. This should entail improving our understanding as regards the potential of integrated forest management approaches to integrate nature conservation objectives in SFM, especially under conditions of climate change.

InForMar will address these questions by improving the understanding of current and future ecological, socio-political and economic driving forces of integrated forest management, including the development of a typology of such approaches. The project will demonstrate how successful these approaches are in integrating nature conservation in SFM also under conditions of climate change and related risks.

This will be achieved within the context of building and maintaining a learning architecture between scientists, policy makers and practitioners related to integrated forest management as a tool to combine both nature conservation and wood production, and to derive policy related conclusions for a favorable socio-political framework for integrated forest management approaches in Europe.

InForMar Kick-Off and Co-Design Workshop

All meeting participants will be invited to take part in two focused group discussions across the two-day workshop. The group discussions will employ different participatory and interactive approaches to allow for the collection of views and inputs on four basic and interconnected guiding questions concerning integrated forest management:

1. How is integrated forest management done in different contexts?
2. Socioeconomic and environmental driving factors: what will determine how integrated forest management works in practice?
3. What can be done to better implement integrated forest management in practice?
4. How can forest policy support the implementation of integrated forest management?

All inputs received during the discussions will be utilized by the European Forest Institute to refine the research and policy work in InForMAR in a manner that this work directly respond to the most urgent questions and is practice and policy relevant. In view of this, a set of main messages and conclusions based on the discussions under each question will be compiled in a workshop document that will also be shared with all the meeting participants to allow for comment before it is published online as an output from the kick-off workshop.

The 2-day discussion will be structured as follows:

Thursday, 7 December 2017	
16:45–17:00	Setting the stage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introducing the discussion groups and the guiding questions for the group work during day 1. - Presenting the format of each guiding questions - Q&A
17:00-18:15	Group discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Room 1: How is integrated forest management done in different contexts? - Room 2: Socioeconomic and environmental driving factors: what will determine how integrated forest management works in practice?
Friday, 8 December 2017	
9:00–9:30	Presenting results from the group discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rapporteurs from Room 1 and 2 summaries discussion from day 1. - Q&A
9:30–11:00	Continuation of Group discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Room 1: What can be done to better implement integrated forest management in practice? - Room 2: How can forest policy support the implementation of integrated forest management?
11:30-12:00	Presenting results from the round table discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rapporteurs from Room 1 and 2 summaries discussion from day 2. - Q&A

Discussion Format

1. How is integrated forest management done in different contexts?

Objectives: The session aims to collect experiences from participants on different types of integrated forest management practices in Europe. Forest conditions and management traditions vary enormously across regions. We want to understand how different approaches for integrated forest management developed and how the integration of nature conservation measures can be practiced in different management systems. The outputs of the discussion session will feed into the development of an integrated forest management typology.

Expected results: Examples of integrated forest management will be listed with key attributes that describe how management is operationalized (e.g. definitions of habitat trees, age or diameter threshold, number or % of retention trees, etc). Examples of different integrated forest management will be located on the European forest map (if defined to specific biogeographic regions) and attributed to type of forest ownership (in case relevant).

2. Socioeconomic and environmental driving factors: what will determine how integrated forest management works in practice?

Objectives: The session will introduce the meeting participants to a number of important driving factors and developments that may come to shape the European forest sector in the future, including a list of macro-level socioeconomic and environmental driving factors. The selected driving forces will set the stage for a discussion on how these would affect the implementation of integrated forest management, in particular for future practice.

Expected results: Participants will be asked to complement and expand the presented list of socioeconomic and environmental driving factors as well as to prioritize and group the respective driving forces in terms of their importance for integrated forest management. The main expected output will be a list of categorized and prioritized driving forces that would have to be successfully addressed to implement integrated management of forest resources.

3. What can be done to better implement integrated forest management in practice?

Objectives: The session will focus on how to better implement integrated forest management approaches in practice can be addressed from different perspectives. Discussion in the group will focus around framework conditions (e.g. legislative instruments, nature conservation strategies and concepts, set goals), support mechanisms (role of science, education and training, etc.) and the diverging demands of various actors towards forests. The session also intends to collect experiences of implementing integrated management in practice i.e. how was it done (process), what worked (success indicators), which challenges were met, what type of trade-offs are expected.

Expected results: Participants will be asked to identify and list key aspects that drive, support and affect practical implementation based on experience. Based on narratives provided during day one (question 1), the main expected output will be to identify key elements and conditions for successful practice implementation and to link those to challenges and trade-offs for integrated forest management.

4. How can forest policy support the implementation of integrated forest management?

Objectives: The session will focus on the type of support from policy systems that would be required to establish integrated forest management (e.g., policy questions, specific topics and outreach), based in part on the earlier discussion on socio-economic and environmental drivers. The discussion will principally consider what is missing in terms of forest policy support towards integrated forest management and to consider what can be done within the InForMar framework to address these issues. This will include a discussion on the creation of an

observatory of international and European policy making, including major science-based initiatives, related to integrated forest management by the InForMar project. The brainstorming will provide clarity on the way forward for the policy observatory.

Expected results: Participants will be asked to identify and prioritize a list of major policy-relevant questions relating to the integration of nature conservation in SFM. The main expected output will be a list of priority topics to be covered as part of developing the InForMar policy observatory. Meeting participants will also be provided the opportunity share information to be included in the observatory.

General structure

- Meeting participants will be allowed to choose two topics (one for each day) when registering for the meeting (see division in the table above).
- Each group will have a host to introduce the guiding question and the task at hand.
- Each group will have a rapporteur in charge of taking notes and summarizing the discussion at the end of the day.
- All contributions and inputs provided during the group discussion will be summarised in a meeting document containing main messages and conclusions for each topic.
- Given time restrictions during the meeting, participants will be allowed to complement the outputs from the discussion and to add any missing information once the draft meeting document is circulated.

Meeting output

All inputs received during the focused group discussions will be used by EFI to prepare a draft meeting document containing main messages and conclusions under each topic. All meeting participants will be welcomed to comment on the draft document and to submit their comments to EFI.

Submitted comments will be taken into account by EFI before the final document is published on the InForMar website.

Should you have any questions, please contact: filip.aggestam@efi.int.