

## **ITTO publishes a new edition of its criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management**

**E**ARLIER this year ITTO published a third edition of its criteria and indicators (C&I) for the sustainable management of tropical forests in its three official languages—English, French and Spanish\*. The first edition was published in 1992 (as *Criteria for the sustainable management of natural tropical forests*) and the second (as *Criteria and indicators for the sustainable management of natural tropical forests*) in 1998.



ITTO is aware of the potential impacts of revisions to its C&I, which will have implications for any national sets based on them. The revised C&I therefore do not include wholesale or wide-ranging changes but attempt to reduce duplication, improve conciseness and enhance clarity.

The new edition incorporates the latest information on C&I and takes into account recent developments in forest policy. It follows a comprehensive review of the C&I undertaken by ITTO following expert meetings convened by ITTO, FAO and others in 2002 and 2004. These expert meetings recommended, among other things, that countries start reporting on their forest management using a streamlined set of indicators for which data were already available, and that a global set of common thematic areas of sustainable forest management (SFM) closely aligned with the existing seven criteria of ITTO should be adopted. The revised C&I take both recommendations into account.

Moreover, the new edition takes into account the experiences of the many ITTO producer member countries that are implementing national C&I based on the ITTO framework. In cooperation with its producer member countries, ITTO has also been convening a series of national-level workshops on the application of the C&I; stakeholder consultations in the first 14 of these that took place between mid-2002 and the end of 2004 informed the revision process and helped to simplify and streamline reporting requirements.

The main objective of the revision is to improve the effectiveness of the C&I as a tool for monitoring, assessment and reporting on forest management in ITTO producer member countries at both the national and forest management unit (FMU) levels. Compared with the 1998 edition the revised C&I are characterised by the following:

- the seven criteria defined in the 1992 and 1998 C&I have been maintained but the wording has been simplified and standardised, taking into account

other international C&I processes. The introductory description of each criterion has also been revised and simplified;

- the number of indicators is now 57, compared with 56 in the 1998 C&I. Fourteen indicators have been relocated within other criteria or indicator groups in order to achieve a more logical sequence. Two indicators have been deleted and three ('forest condition'—2.6; 'log tracking'—4.7; and 'indigenous knowledge'—7.13) added. Most indicators have been simplified;
- specific changes have been made so that the revised C&I can be applied to forest management in both natural and planted forests. Therefore, the specific reference to natural forests in the 1992 and 1998 versions has been removed from the title;
- the most important change to the C&I in this new edition is the inclusion within the document (Chapter 3) of simplified reporting formats for indicators at the national and FMU levels. Previously these had been contained in separate documents, with the national-level reporting format listing 89 items to be considered by countries when preparing their national reports on forest management. In the revised C&I the reporting elements are mostly presented in the form of tables, with fewer descriptive elements and clearer instructions. The results of the national C&I workshops suggest that most of the information requested in Chapter 3 is available in most ITTO producer countries or can be made available with minimal additional effort;
- the applicability of each indicator at the national and FMU level is indicated in the document. Therefore, the C&I can also be used by concessionaires and other forest managers for internal monitoring at the FMU level;
- an annex containing key definitions has been added and other annexes updated.

The revised C&I offer a simpler and more comprehensive tool for ITTO member countries to monitor their forest resources and to report on progress towards SFM on a regular and on-going basis. To support these efforts, ITTO is continuing its training program on the use of its C&I at the national level, as well as funding projects (such as those described in the following pages) designed to institutionalise the use of the C&I in tropical forest management.

To obtain a copy of the revised C&I contact: Mr Collins Ahadome, ITTO Information Officer, [ahadome@itto.or.jp](mailto:ahadome@itto.or.jp)

\*ITTO 2005. Revised ITTO criteria and indicators for the sustainable management of tropical forests including reporting format. *ITTO Policy Development Series No 15*. ITTO, Yokohama, Japan.