Development of new Forest Ecosystem Services related indicators
Considerations presented by the United States
27-Nov-12

Ecosystem Service Indicators Database (ESID)

The ESID was created by the World Resources Institute to make ecosystem service metrics and indicators readily available for use in policy dialogs and decisions, in ecosystem assessments, and in natural resource management decisions. ESID is an online searchable database where users can find—and contribute—indicators that have been used to apply ecosystem services approaches or hold promise for doing so. Indicator descriptions and other supporting information about how the indicator has been or could be applied are also provided. ESID includes about 700 indicators from over 20 sources contributed by WRI and UNEP-WCMC. http://www.esindicators.org/

This website provides access to an incredible array of Ecosystem Service Indicator thinking across the globe. Some particular highlights that correlate with the MPC&I can include:

- employment in the forest sector,
- biomass production & consumption,
- non-point pollution into water bodies from forestry practices,
- dependence on ecosystems for livelihoods
- ecosystem extent (together with extent of forests)
- changes in landcover over time
- and many, many more

Merely taking this website at face value, it exposes a vast array of ecosystem service indicators that can be associated with existing MPC&I. An important question is: "What Criterion or Indicator do MP countries assess as the most important to measure for ecosystem services?"

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Indicators Framework

Of particular importance and relevance is also the Ecosystem Services Indicators Framework which has its origins in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. This is the best and most comprehensive representation of the indicators framework we've seen.
http://www.esindicators.org/files/esid/Framework%20discussion%20for%20download.pdf

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment's discussion on direct and indirect drivers may be useful thinking for the DPSIR discussion. The ES indicators framework consists of 9 elements grouped in four categories that has some parallels to the MPC&I framework.

- Ecosystems, Services, and Benefits (shown in green)
    - Ecosystem Condition and Biodiversity

- Ecosystem Functions
- Services
- Benefits
- Human Well-being (shown in blue)
  - Human well-being
- Policy Strategies and Interventions
  - Policy strategies and interventions
- Drivers and Pressures
  - Indirect drivers
  - Direct drivers
  - Pressures